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Swine –Origin Influenza A (H1N1)

Near the close of the 25th CVS, the CDC released information on 2 cases of a novel influenza A (H1N1) in California. Since then over thousands of confirmed or probably cases in the US have been reported by the CDC. Anecdotal reporting by PASCV members in the eastern US suggests that the CDC case numbers likely underestimate the true number of cases. On June 11, 2009, the World Health Organization raised the worldwide pandemic alert level to Phase 6, indicating that a global pandemic is underway. Up to date information can be obtained from the CDC website <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>. The CDC website contains many guidance documents on this novel H1N1 virus including topics such as detection and prevention, patient management and treatment, infection control precautions, and laboratory safety. The WHO website at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html> also contains world-wide statistics and maps of H1N1 activity.

State Public Health Laboratories have new RT-PCR reagents that are specific for novel H1N1. Testing must be coordinated with state labs before specimens are sent.

Upcoming months undoubtedly will prove challenging to our health care system as novel H1N1 activity spreads throughout the US. It is important that PASCV members to share experiences with commercial reagents to optimize recognition of this novel emerging virus.

Vaccine trials are poised to begin at 8 NIH-funded vaccine centers throughout the US. These are located at Saint Louis University, Baylor College of Medicine; Emory University; University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore; Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati; Group Health Cooperative in Seattle; University of Iowa; and Vanderbilt University. They will be joined by Duke University Medical Center and Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.

Report on the 25th Clinical Virology Symposium, April 19-22, 2009 Daytona Beach, Florida

Dr. Steven Specter, Chair of the CVS, reports that the attendance for the 2009 CVS was approximately 1100, a slight decline from 2008. Vendor support remained high with 76 exhibitors registered. The Molecular Virology Workshop, sponsored by PASCV, had 315 registered attendees. The 26th Clinical Virology Symposium will be held April 25-28, 2010 in Daytona Beach, Florida. It will be preceded by the Molecular Virology Workshop which will be held at the same location on April 23-24, 2010.

Abstracts of the 2009 CVS can be accessed at
<http://pascv.ivdnews.net/>

PASCV News

The annual PASCV business meeting was held on Sunday April 19, 2009 in the Ocean Center, Daytona Beach, Florida. Highlights are:

Membership. As of December 31, 2008, PASCV membership numbered 562; 39% are doctoral level and 61% are non-doctoral level. Eighty-eight percent of members are from North America. The remaining members are from 32 countries outside North America.

Advantages of PASCV membership. PASCV membership entitles members to a \$50 reduction in the registration fee for the Molecular Virology Workshop (\$110 for PASCV members, \$160 for non-members). Annual membership dues are \$25. Also, PASCV members receive a reduced subscription price (\$99) for the Journal of Clinical Virology, the official journal of PASCV and the European Society for Clinical Virology.

Membership Directory on line. A feature on the PASCV website (www.virology.org) is the membership directory. To access, log onto the website, select "membership", then "member services, web interface". Under member login, enter your email address and password. (Follow instructions to retrieve a temporary password if you don't remember your password). You can edit your profile, search for an individual member, or list the entire membership by typing an asterisk (*) in the box for last name. Only active members, who have paid dues for 2009, are listed.

Membership dues. Reminder: Annual membership fees were due January 1, 2009. You will not be considered an active member of PASCV if annual dues are not paid.

Finances. As of December 31, 2008, the PASCV account balance was \$59,236.63. Major expenses are annual travel awards to the CVS, support of the South American Clinical Virology Symposium, and fees to maintain our web database and mailserver. The major sources of income for PASCV are the Molecular Virology Workshop and membership fees. A full financial report is available from Dan Wiedbrauk, PASCV President (Wiedbrad@trinity-health.org).

Journal of Clinical Virology Report. Christine Ginocchio, Editor of JCV, reported that the impact factor has increased from 2.63 to 3.468 and that the Journal ranking has increased to 7th out of 25 in the virology category.

There is a new guide to authors on the journal website and a new feature called the VIROQAS for Virology Question and Answer Scheme. This is an extension of a scheme already available to members of the UK Clinical Virology Network. Each issue will have a clinical case deemed to be of interest or imparting an important learning point. The reader has the opportunity to consider their diagnostic approach and which tests they would perform. A diagnosis and an expert commentary are provided in

the same issue. We encourage the members of PASCV to submit their interesting cases to joy.kean@ggc.scot.nhs.uk who will be coordinating the consideration of the cases and submitting them on-line. This is an excellent opportunity to share our interesting cases with our colleagues. The hope is that 6 case histories per year will be submitted from PASCV.

There were 460 submissions to JCV in 2008 with a 53% rejection rate. Thirty-eight percent were submitted from Western Europe, 19% from Asia, 15% from North America, and 15% were from the Middle East. The average time from submission to production is 6-7 weeks.

Upcoming special editions include a supplement in May on human papilloma virus detection. Other upcoming supplements will be on congenital cytomegalovirus (CMV) and zoster vaccination. Nine articles on HHV-6 will be spread out over 3-4 issues and 4 review articles will be published on transplant-related BK virus, Epstein Barr virus, CMV, and quantitation of respiratory viruses.

III International Clinical Virology Symposium will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from November 8 – 10, 2010. Marcela Echavarría, Ph.D., a councilor of PASCV and our Latin American Correspondent, is the program Chair. The meeting website is <http://www.cemic.edu.ar/investigacion/virologia.asp>

The Lancet Conference on Influenza in the Asia-Pacific will be held August 21-23, 2009 in Qingdao, China. Registration fees (not hotel or airfare) will be waived for the first 10 members of PASCV who contact Dan Wiedbrauk (Wiedbrad@trinity-health.org). The meeting website is: <http://www.asiaflu.thelancetconferences.com>

PASCV/APHL Ad-hoc Committee

An ad-hoc committee of PASCV and APHL members met on April 17, 2009 to discuss development of a "white paper" on the design of clinical trials of commercial molecular diagnostic tests for detection and quantitation of viral diseases, particularly for CMV. The goal is to publish a white paper reflecting current thinking of PASCV and APHL on design of clinical trials of commercial products that may be submitted to the FDA for clearance as in vitro diagnostic products.

Travel Award Winners

A total of 11 Travel Awards to the CVS were bestowed:

Mario Escobar Award sponsored by the CVS and presented by Dr. Steven Specter, Symposium Chairman

Rashmi Chowdhary, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow, India.

Abstract title: Century's biggest challenge in eradicating poliomyelitis from India: Assessing the role of oral polio vaccine and proposing future policies for highly endemic areas.

Herman Friedman Award sponsored by the CVS and presented by Dr. Steven Specter, Symposium Chairman

Kimberley Vaughan, Dynacare Laboratories, Milwaukee, WI.

Abstract title: Elevated HIV-1 viral load obtained by real time PCR resulting from specimen collection.

Edwin Lennette Award Sponsored by Diagnostic Hybrids, Inc.

Paul Lephart, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY.

Abstract title: Traditional nasal swab and self-collected nasal mucous specimens are comparable for influenza virus detection by three methods of testing: Quidel Quickvue Influenza A+B antigen assay, cell culture, and PCR.

Edith Hsiung Award Sponsored by Diagnostic Hybrids, Inc.

Mona Al-Dabbagh, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia. Abstract title: A novel rhinovirus (Rhinovirus C): Clinical spectrum of disease in children.

PASCV Sponsored Travel Awards

Veronica Constantini, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA.

Abstract Title: Challenges of a commercial ELISA assay for routine screening of noroviruses.

Eric Reisdorf, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, Madison, WI.

Abstract Title: An outbreak of human Coronavirus-OC43 in a Wisconsin long term care facility.

Susan Butler-Wu, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Abstract Title: Development of a multiplex assay for the rapid detection of *UL54* mutations conferring drug resistance in human cytomegalovirus.

Jayne Ballantyne, Walden University, Minneapolis, MN

Abstract Title: Correlation between high-risk human papilloma virus types in women with abnormal cervical pathology and the United Nations' human development index.

Dana Schmidt, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN.

Abstract Title: Multicenter evaluation of the Versant HIV-1 RNA 1.0 assay with the Versant kPCR molecular system.

Danny Jang, St. Joseph's Health Care, Hamilton, Ontario

Abstract Title: Detection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* in Surepath liquid-based PAP samples by Aptima Combo2, ProbeTec, and Amplicor assays.

Maria Adamo, National University of Cordoba, Cordoba, Argentina

Abstract Title: Human parvovirus B19: etiological agent of febrile exanthems in Cordoba, Argentina, Years 2006-2008.

Future Meetings

The Lancet Conference on Influenza in the Asia-Pacific

August 21-23, 2009

Qingdao, China

<http://www.asiaflu.thelancetconferences.com>

3 Symposia sponsored by the Macrae Group. For more information visit

<http://www.themacraegroup.com>

3rd Global Clinical Trial Operations Summit

September 21-22, 2009 in Princeton, NJ

<http://www.gtcbio.com/conferenceDetails.aspx?id=127>

2nd International Congress on Exacerbation of Airway Disease, November 13-15, Los Cabos, Mexico

XII International Symposium on Respiratory Viral Infections, January 28-31 2010, Taipei, Taiwan

26th Clinical Virology Symposium

April 25-28, 2010 in Daytona Beach, FL

<http://www.virology.org/CVS.html>

2010 Molecular Virology Workshop

April 23-24, 2010 in Daytona Beach, FL

III International Clinical Virology Symposium and Advances in Vaccines

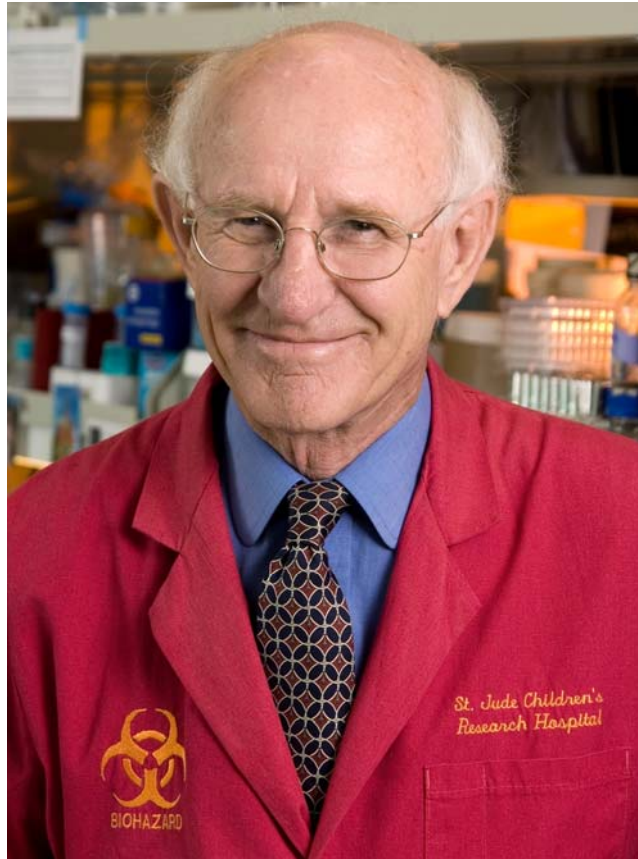
November 8-10, 2010, Buenos Aires, Argentina

www.virology2010.com

Visit the ESCV website at: www.escv.org for additional information on upcoming meetings.

2009 PASCV Award Recipients

Ed Nowakowski, Senior, Memorial Clinical Virology Award Sponsored by BION Enterprises, Ltd.



Robert G. Webster, PhD, FRS

Dr. Robert G. Webster is Professor in the Division of Virology, Department of Infectious Diseases at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and holds the Rose Marie Thomas Chair. A native of New Zealand, Dr. Webster received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Microbiology from Otago University in New Zealand. In 1962, he earned his Ph.D. from the Australian National University and spent the next two years as a Fulbright Scholar working on influenza in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Dr. Webster is Director of the Center of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance. His interests include the emergence and control of influenza viruses, viral immunology, the structure and function of influenza virus proteins and the development of new vaccines and antivirals. The major focus of his research is the importance of influenza viruses in wild aquatic birds as a major reservoir of influenza viruses and their role in the evolution of new pandemic strains for humans and lower animals. His *curriculum vitae* contains over 500 original articles and reviews on influenza viruses. He has trained many scientists who now contribute to our understanding of the evolution and pathogenesis of influenza.

Dr. Webster is a Fellow of the Royal Society, London and a member of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.

Diagnostic Virology Award
Sponsored by BD Diagnostics



Guy Boivin MD, MSc, FRCPC

Dr. Guy Boivin is a medical microbiologist/virologist and an infectious disease specialist working at the "Québec City University Hospital Center" (CHUQ-CHUL) in Canada. Dr. Boivin is also a professor of medical biology (division of microbiology) at Laval University and a senior researcher in virology at the "Research Center in Infectious Diseases" of the same University.

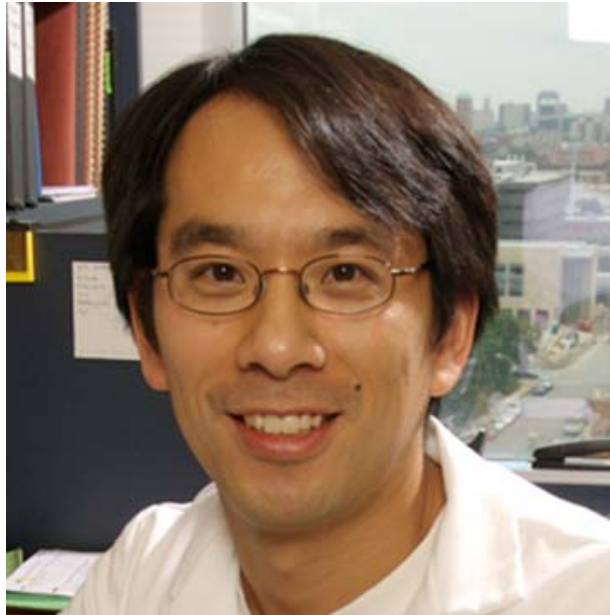
Dr. Boivin holds a MD from Laval University, a master (MSc) degree in microbiology from University of Montréal and a 3-year specialized research training (Fellowship) in Molecular Virology from University of Minnesota.

Dr. Boivin is currently the holder of the Canada research chair on Emerging Viruses and Antiviral Resistance (2006-13). He is also the director of the Canadian Center of Excellence on Herpesviruses and he holds numerous research grants from governmental health organizations (Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Quebec Health Research Foundation) and private companies. His main research interests concern the diagnosis, pathogenesis and treatment of viral diseases caused by herpesviruses (mainly cytomegalovirus and herpes simplex virus) and respiratory viruses (mainly influenza virus, human metapneumovirus and human respiratory syncytial virus) and the mechanisms of resistance to antiviral drugs.

Dr. Boivin is member of several distinguished societies including the American Society for Microbiology, the American Society of Transplantation, the Canadian Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, the Canadian Society for Clinical Investigation and the Quebec AIDS and Respiratory Diseases Networks.

In addition, Dr. Boivin has published more than 150 peer-reviewed manuscripts and presented more than 200 communication abstracts since 1993. He is on the Editorial board of the Journal of Infectious Diseases, Herpes Journal and the Canadian Journal of Infectious Diseases.

Young Investigator Award
Sponsored by Remel, Inc.



David Wang, Ph.D.

David Wang received his B.S. degree from Stanford University in Chemistry in 1992 and his PhD in Biological Chemistry from MIT in 1998. During his postdoctoral training at UC San Francisco, he worked with Don Ganem and Joseph DeRisi to develop the first pan-viral DNA microarray (ViroChip) designed for detection of both known and novel viruses. The first successful application of this approach was during the SARS epidemic of 2003, when the ViroChip was used to help identify SARS as a novel coronavirus.

Since 2004, he has been an assistant professor in the Departments of Molecular Microbiology and Pathology and Immunology at Washington University in St. Louis. The focus of his laboratory's research is the identification and characterization of novel pathogens. In 2007, his laboratory used high throughput sequencing methods to discover the novel WU polyomavirus in respiratory secretions from a child with unexplained pneumonia. In addition, his laboratory identified the novel astrovirus MLB1 in a stool specimen from a patient with diarrhea of unknown etiology in 2008. His laboratory continues to develop and refine new technologies for pathogen discovery and to study the molecular and clinical features of newly identified viruses.

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PAN AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL VIROLOGY MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Renewal of Membership (\$25)

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