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SSEP Annual Report 2009

Scientific activities

At the USGEB meeting 2009 in Interlaken (January 29-30, 2009; general topic of the meeting: Membranes in motion) a symposium was organized by Prof. Olivier Staub, University of Lausanne on the topic: Ion channels as drug targets: from function to therapeutic application. The symposium was followed by numerous participants. A poster prize by the SSEP was given to Dr. Heidi Fodstad, Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology, University of Lausanne, presenting a poster on “Effects of mineralocorticoid and K concentration on K secretion and ROMK channel expression in a mouse cortical collecting duct cell line”.

The next scientific meetings of the SSEP will be within the frame of USGEB (February 10-11, 2010, Lugano; Frontiers in Human Biology) and will be organized by Prof. Hans-Uwe Simon (Title: Autophagy and Immunity).

The SSPT Meeting ‘Fortschritte in der Pharmakologie’ in 2010 (topic: ‘pain’) will take place in Bern on February 4. The interesting program of the meeting was put together by H.-U. Simon and U. Zeilhofer and can be found under the following link:
<http://pharmacology.unibe.ch/SSPT2010/pdf/ProgramSSPT2010-de.pdf>.

The SSPT Fall Meeting in 2010 will take place in late autumn in Basel and will be organized by Kaspar Vogt and Michael Arand (Swiss Society of Toxicology).

Continuing education initiative

On January 29, the series “Fortschritte in Pharmakologie” was organized by Prof. H.-U. Simon and L. Scapozza and was under the general theme of “Tumorpharmakologie”. For the first time this meeting was supported by additional sponsors avoiding that Pfizer acts as mono-sponsor and a registration fee was asked to the participants. The invitations were made by Pfizer in the name of the SSPT (the official organizer) and the SSPT collected the registration fee.

The series "Cardiovascular Pharmacology Seminars" in Luzern was continued with a conference on the topic "Aktuelle Aspekte der Behandlung kardiovaskulärer Krankheiten" on 17th September 2009.

In the summer of 2009, Prof. Dr. H.-U. Simon (Bern) organized an International Summer School on Immunopharmacology in Bönigen (August 9-11, 2009).

The IMI is a unique partnership between the European Community and the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA). The major aim of IMI is to support the faster discovery and development of better medicines for patients by fostering collaborations between the drug discovery communities. The SSEP participates in this program by offering the module C7 'Disease-Biology-based Pharmacology' of the Master of Advanced Studies in Drug Development Sciences (MDDS). The MDDS is part of the pharmaceutical medicine training programme which is supported by the IMI (IMI 1st Call #16). Moreover, the MDDS has been recently approved by the University Basel.

Taken together, continuing education events are now taking place in various parts of Switzerland under the auspices of our society, all of which appear to be well received and attended by a regular audience.

International contacts

Prof. Dr. U.T. Rüegg (Geneva) currently serves in the board of IUPHAR as the treasurer.

Prof. Dr. H.-U. Simon (Bern) has close contacts to the board members of the German Society of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology (DGPT) and is invited to their meetings.

Prof. Dr. O. Staub (Lausanne) serves on the Scientific Advisory Committee of the EPHAR. The next EPHAR/IUPHAR (Worldpharma 2010) meeting will be July 17 to 23, 2010 in Copenhagen.

Organizational matters

The Website of our society was regularly updated to provide useful information about our activities and local and international scientific events. In addition, our members were updated by the SSEP secretary of our society via E-mail.

Two SSEP Board Meetings were held in 2009 in Bern (26.3.09 and 25.11.09)

The SSEP will hold its General Assembly Meeting in Lugano, during the USGEB Meeting (February 11, 2010).

Travelship

During 2009, travel ship grants were awarded to the following persons:

Sumeda Malsure, Maxime Blanchard (University of Lausanne), Severine Petitprez, Stephan von Gunten and Dipak Maskey (University of Bern).

I would like to thank all my colleagues on the board for their help and support during the last reporting period.

Prof. Dr. Olivier Staub
President SSEP

Lausanne, January 11, 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "O. Staub", is centered within a light gray rectangular box.