

i-SLB is an official publication of the Society for Leukocyte Biology
9650 Rockville Pike Bethesda, Maryland 20814 301-634-7810 slb@faseb.org www.leukocytebiology.org

January 2009



PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

From my vantage point in Iowa City, it's clear that Winter has arrived; ambient temperatures at zero and wind chill readings of -35° F are difficult to ignore for long!

As those of you who attended know, the annual meeting held in Denver this year was extremely

successful. The science, setting, and collegiality were all excellent, as summarized in Jill Suttles' report elsewhere in this newsletter.

In addition to the science, other society activities transpired. The Website Task Force held its first meeting and initiated activities that will revise the website to meet the needs, wishes, and expectations of the membership. Mike Smith, the liaison for the Council with the task force has summarized the group's current plans elsewhere in *i-SLB*. With regard to task forces, we need input volunteers from the membership to participate in the Membership Task Force and in the Women in Science Task Force. I hope to get these two groups up and going before our next annual meeting.

Our annual meeting also noted scheduled transitions in the SLB's leadership, with the replacement of Council Members and SLB officers. Philip Murphy and Andrea Tenner completed their terms on the Council, while Rachel Caspi and Christian Bogdan began their

service. Thanks to Phil and Andrea for their generous contributions over their tour of duty; their energy and dedication to SLB were superb. In addition to new Councilors, we welcomed a new Treasurer. Mike Smith completed his time in office and is replaced by Lee-Ann Allen. Mike did a great job as Treasurer, a position that will have even more responsibility with the current global financial challenges. Lastly, we introduced at the meeting the new Editor in Chief for the Journal of Leukocyte Biology. Luis Montaner will take over responsibility for the Journal from Joe Oppenheim (notice that Luis is not "replacing" Joe, a feat not possible) and has a note elsewhere in *i-SLB* highlighting the changes he plans to bring. It will be an exciting time for the SLB and its journal!

Thanks to all who responded to the survey we sent following the meeting. You offered many helpful and thoughtful suggestions. Although there is a brief summary of the survey results elsewhere in *iSLB*, you will hear more in the future about specific issues that you brought to our attention.

Lastly, you should already have marked your calendars for the [2009 meeting in Lisbon](#), a spot that looks especially inviting when seen through frosty windowpanes.

William M. Nauseef
SLB President

2008 ANNUAL MEETING IN DENVER PHOTOS

For more photos, [click here](#).



2008 ANNUAL MEETING IN DENVER SYNOPSIS

The 2008 annual SLB meeting was organized by Drs. Jill Suttles and David Riches and was held in Denver, Colorado, November 6-9. The meeting was entitled "Leukocytes: Tissue Interactions, Homeostasis and Host Defense". The theme of the meeting was selected based on the growing appreciation for the complexity and specificity of the interactions of leukocytes with their tissue environment. Overall, the meeting was considered quite successful and the feedback from participants was very positive with regard to all aspects of the event including the scientific program, the opportunities for interaction, the overall organization of the event and the venue. In addition to the focus on leukocyte:tissue interactions, the program highlighted topics of emerging interest to leukocyte biologists, including translational research in inflammation and integration of inflammatory and metabolic pathways. A special symposium on leukocytes in aging preceded the regular sessions, all of which were

well-attended. There were 275 attendees in total, 96 of whom were trainees (students and fellows). In keeping with SLB's commitment to encouraging young scientists, 54 students were provided with travel awards of \$200.00. In addition, the meeting included a "Meet the Speakers Luncheon" in which post doctoral fellows and students were provided the opportunity to meet for lunch in small round-table groups with several of the invited speakers. This year's luncheon hosted 4 speakers and 24 trainees. The meeting included 28 invited speakers, as well as speakers selected from submitted abstracts for oral presentations in the 8 symposia and 2 poster workshops. In total there were 76 speakers, 46 of which were women. The meeting was supported in part by NIH/NIAID R13 AI080045, and additional support was provided by NIH/NIA for the special symposium on leukocytes in aging.

Jill Suttles
41st Annual Meeting Co-Chair

CHANGES TO JLB ARE COMING.... LETTER FROM THE NEW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It is with excitement and purpose that I start as the new Editor-in-Chief. In conjunction with publishing the most recent advances in leukocyte biology, I also have a vision of further integrating the Journal into the Society's functions, fully exploiting the unrestricted format of the on-line publication platform to better serve readers, improving review and format of manuscripts, and of more systematically tapping into the Society's talent by way of editorial commentaries to enrich the journal's value to readers. In conjunction with oversight of manuscript review as done now and a very cool redesign of the Journal for the new volume in July, 2009, we will focus on the following areas as we start to implement planned changes to the JLB:

1. Reformatting keywords, instructions to authors including new guidelines for figure submissions. Authors and reviewers will interface with a new expanded keyword listing for themselves as investigators, independent of keywords to be assigned to submissions. Manuscript reviewers will be required to register using the keyword system as well.

2. Addition of key sentence to submissions. Authors will be asked to draft a one sentence statement as to why their submission is novel and what is the main significance of the paper. The latter statement could be edited by the Journal and will be included under the title in table of contents.

3. Improving journal art and figure review of accepted manuscripts. We will appoint an Arts Editor to standardize and improve figure quality in published articles.

4. Revision of submission process and review outcome options. Authors will have the option to assign their submission to a topic area of the Journal. Reviewers and the Editorial Board will be able to request authors to use the Brief Conclusive Communication format for reviewed papers that may benefit from a shorter presentation if to be resubmitted as a revised paper.

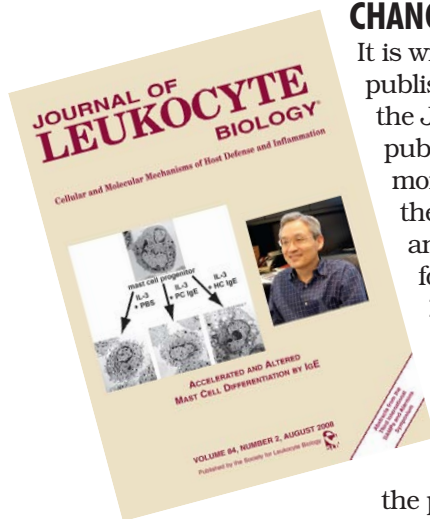
5. Editorials are coming. Journal editorial leadership will be structured under a Reviews Editor, a new Deputy Editor, Associate Editors and an expanded Editorial Board. The new Deputy Editor, Dr. John Wherry, will oversee an expanded editorial commentaries effort, assign mini-reviews to accompany pivotal advances, and prepare with FASEB a monthly press release to feature our content.

6. Decreasing yearly Journal pages and acceptance rate from 35-40% to 25-30%. In view of the progressive increases in submitted papers, we will have to become somewhat more critical and selective to prevent over expansion of JLB.

7. New Journal Website for next July and delivery of Digital Issues. A gradual transition of JLB into an on-line format will continue in 2009 with a redesign of the Journal website and several features to exploit on-line access such as: (a) Digital delivery to all individual subscribers (this feature will not become available for Institutional subscriptions), and (b) Direct access to the Table of Contents listing by e-mail with accessible download to an iPod or PDA-like device via RSS feed.

Now it's up to you to match our efforts by submitting your best science — we are ready for you!

Luis J. Montaner, D.V.M., M.Sc., D.Phil., Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Leukocyte Biology



SLB WEBSITE TASK FORCE

Recognizing that the Society's Website is the primary face of SLB, in mid-2008 the council organized a task force and charged them with upgrading and modernizing the SLB website.

The group met during the 2008 SLB meeting in Denver.

Attendees:

Mike Smith (smithm29@wyeth.com)

Angela Dolganiuc (angela.dolganiuc@umassmed.edu)

Miki Rahat (rahat_miki@clalit.org.il)

Melanie Scott (scotmx@upmc.edu)

Bill Nauseef (William-nauseef@uiowa.edu)

John Lord (jlord@faseb.org)

Janos Filep (janos.g.filep@umontreal.ca) was unable to attend but provided notes prior to the meeting.

It was agreed by all that the current website is in desperate need of renovation. The general view of the group is that the website should reflect the Society's values in providing service to its members and promoting the advancement of trainees. As such the website should serve not only as a means to provide information but also as a way for members to communicate with each other.

The initial goal of the group will to develop an outline for the website that reflects our highest aspirations. Once we have laid out plans for our "dream" website we will work with FASEB and/or other website designers to determine costs and provide a budget to the council. The task force has a goal of providing this initial outline and budget to the council in time for its spring meeting (April).

It was also recognized that the website will require

continual updating on approximately a monthly basis. The suggestion was made that ultimately the task force should be converted to a standing committee of the Society.

A general outline for the site is being developed. The group will focus on developing content for each section. First section being developed is the **members section** which will contain both public and members only areas. The members only sections will be accessible via a username and password provided at the time of membership application/renewal.

Inclusions in members section:

1. Forums for exchange of ideas, hints, educational activities, etc. We need to define the minimal set of forums which can be expanded later.
2. Member directory: Searchable by name, location, and research interests. This will require a modification of the member database to include keywords. This can be done during membership renewal.
3. A slide bank for members to share powerpoint slides with others. Great for pathways, histology, etc.
4. Membership application.

The website re-design is very a work in progress and the committee welcomes comments and suggestions from the membership at large. The website is for **you!** What do **you** want to see there? How can we use the website as a platform to enhance **your** science and career? Let us know.

2008 SLB MEMBERSHIP SURVEY SUMMARY

This survey was conducted over a two month period and was completed by almost 250 individuals.

We conducted this survey to determine how to better serve our current members and how to attract new members. In this survey we addressed three main areas: Membership Benefits, the Annual Meeting, and Communications with members.

Most respondents felt that the Society has met their expectations. The benefits mentioned as being most important are networking, education, and receiving our professional publication, the *Journal of Leukocyte Biology*.

Those who attended the Annual Meeting rated most aspects of it either "excellent" or "good", offering just a few comments for further improvement. These comments involve changing the banquet venue and fee, avoiding scheduling conflicts, and improving the arrangement of the meeting rooms. In addition, we received many suggestions for future topics and locations.

In regard to communications with members, the survey responses indicate a desire to see more job postings, news of other Societies' meetings, and an electronic form of the SLB newsletter on our website. We also learned that members consider the quarterly electronic newsletter and monthly email the most effective vehicles for imparting timely information.

One additional interesting finding is that the majority of our members joined during their professional careers rather than as students or post docs.

We would like to thank all who participated in this informative survey. Your feedback allows us to better meet the needs of our current and future members.

If you are interested in reviewing the full survey results you may [click here](#).

LISBON IS COMING!

2009 Joint Annual Meeting of the Society for Leukocyte Biology, The International Cytokine Society and the International Society for Interferon and Cytokine Research.

“Cellular and Cytokine Interactions in Health and Disease”.

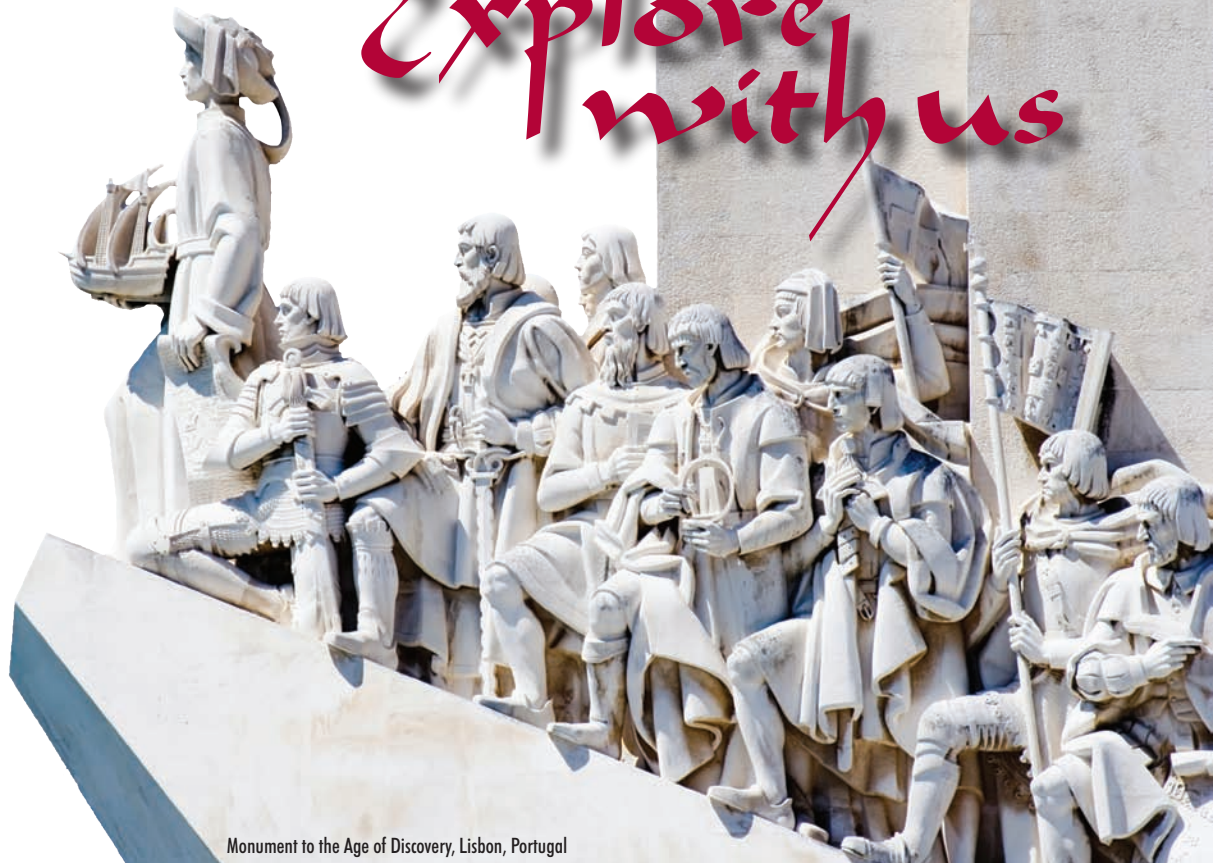
Location: Centro de Congressos, Lisbon, Portugal.

Dates: October 18-21, 2009.

The program will feature two parallel series of sessions divided in the program under a Basic Science or Immunopathogenesis “Track” where attendants will be able to “build” their attendance to conference talks per their interests. The entire invited program is now 95% CONFIRMED and will have 48 invited and 48 short presentations chosen from POSTER ABSTRACTS. All invited speakers are highly accomplished members of their respective disciplines. Although the majority of invited speakers are senior investigators, we have also invited several more junior researchers, e.g., Keynote addresses by two scientists, one established and one still an Assistant Professor, who are both breaking new ground in their research endeavors. Both the invited Keynote Speakers are addressing areas of relevance to all host responses to cancer or infectious disease

(Drs. David and Spilianakis). Dr David was selected as keynote as an established investigator with exciting new data on the role of microRNAs in regulating innate immune function as recently reported by his laboratory [Nature, (2007) Vol. 449, 919-22]. Dr. Spilianakis was chosen as the second Keynote as an early career scientist advancing a new area of immunoregulation research through epigenetic regulation (Nat Immunol. 2007, 8:681-3). To present a broad program that captures the most significant advances from the previous year in the following areas WE WILL FEATURE SESSIONS ON: MicroRNA Regulation of Cytokine Gene Expression in Health and Disease, Epigenetic Regulation of Cytokine and Inflammatory Responses, Role of Interferons, Pattern Recognition Receptors, New T-helper Subsets, Neutrophil Biology, The Macrophages in Health and Disease, T-regs and Vaccines, Viral Infections & Inflammation, Control of Innate Immunity, Cytokines and Cancer, Recent Advances in Cytokine and IFN signaling, Inflammasome activation and the role of IL-1 and Mast Cells, IFN-stimulated genes, Innate Recognition of Pathogens, Pathogen interactions with Toll-like receptors: TB and Malaria, Pathogen Manipulation of Cytokine Responses Cytokines and viral pathogenesis, Sensing of fungal infection and host response, Chronic Inflammatory Disease and Immunotherapy. **Be one of the lucky 1000 expected to attend as you do not want to miss this one!**

Explore with us



Monument to the Age of Discovery, Lisbon, Portugal