

Report on 13th World Congress on Inflammation,

On July 8th 2017, colleagues from around the world came together for the 13th World Congress of Inflammation at the Hotel Metropole in London. The themes for the meeting covered the wide-ranging field of inflammation with an emphasis on ageing and immunometabolism. This was shown in the symmetry of the Congress with the opening plenary speaker Janet Lord (University of Birmingham) discussing mechanisms of ageing, and the final plenary by Peter Barnes (Imperial College London) discussing senolytics for mediating ageing. In between these lectures, a very high standard of plenary speakers, including Michal Schwartz (Weizmann Institute), Luke O'Neill (Trinity College Dublin), and Fiona Powrie (Oxford University) discussed neuroinflammation, immunometabolism, and the microbiome respectively. Highly informative and entertaining talks were given by Mihail Netea (Radboud University) and Adrian Hayday (Crick Institute) on regulation of inflammatory responses in response to infection and tissue damage. Emphasising the breadth of the presentations, Tom Holvoet (Ghent University), and Fiona Watt (Kings College London), spoke on intestinal fibrosis and inflammation in cancer. All the plenary speakers gave excellent presentations that set the intellectual and scientific basis of the Congress and were supported by 14 symposia sponsored by IAIS member societies or industrial partners.

Sessions included resolution and repair, microbiome autophagy and redox therapeutics and all had a very high standard of presentation and information. Similarly, the poster sessions were very enjoyable and gave everyone the opportunity to present their data and discuss with fellow delegates. The Congress used electronic posters for the first time and after a few teething problems this proved to be a popular choice.

The World Congress allows our members to come together and discuss their research and provides IAIS the opportunity to award prizes in recognition of current and past achievements. This year four young scientists, Thomas Cowley (University of Birmingham UK), Eline Nummenaa (University of Turku, Finland), Hannah Isles (University of Sheffield UK) and Rana Herro (La Jolla Institute, USA) were recipients of the Young Investigator awards. In a close contest, Hannah was awarded the William Harvey medal for the best presentation from the four finalists. The Woman In Science award, sponsored by Johnson and Johnson, was presented to Jane Mitchell (Imperial College London) who gave a super presentation on her work on cyclooxygenases in pulmonary disease. Last but by no means least, the IAIS Lifetime Achievement award was presented to Boris Vargaftig (Institut Pasteur and University of Sao Paulo) for his extensive contributions to both the field of inflammation and to IAIS. Boris treated the Congress to a wonderful presentation discussing his life in science and his many contributions to the field.

No WCI is complete without a Gala Dinner and 2017 was no exception. An excellent evening was had with fanfares from trumpeters, excellent food and short speeches. The passing of the ceremonial baseball cap from IAIS President Steve Stimpson (University of North Carolina) to myself has given me a very hard act to follow. Steve receives a well-deserved send off after a sterling job over the last two years. Plaudits were also due to Lisa Marshall (Pfizer) and John Hamilton (University of Melbourne), who stepped down from the IAIS committee after many years of excellent service in many roles. The evening was completed when the baton was passed from the London organising committee to our colleagues in Sydney who will organise the 14th World Congress of Inflammation in 2019, to which we extend a warm invitation to join us discussing inflammation, making contacts and developing friendships.

Graham Wallace (University of Birmingham)