

Session 2: Clinical and Therapeutic Approaches

Chairpersons: Giancarlo Comi (Milano, Italy) and
Lynn Rutkowski (Collegeville, USA)

14:00 - 14:30 Progression in Multiple Sclerosis
Alastair Compston (Cambridge, UK)

14:30 - 15:00 Neural Stem Cell System for Studying
Signalling Mechanisms and Modelling
Neurological Diseases In Vitro
Luciano Conti (Cambridge, USA)

15:00 - 15:30 Coffee Break

15:30 - 16:00 Studying Neural Stem Cells in the
Embryonic and Adult CNS by Cre-Lox
Transgenesis
Bill Richardson (Milano, Italy)

16:00 - 16:30 New Therapeutic Perspectives in
Multiple Sclerosis
Giancarlo Comi (Milano, Italy)

16:30 - 17:00 Concluding Remarks
Giancarlo Comi (Milano, Italy)
Frank Walsh (Collegeville, USA)

Chair, Organizing Committee

Dott. Gino Toffano (gino.toffano@libero.it)

**The participation to the workshop is free. It is
kindly requested the registration on line**

(http://www.farmacologia.unibo.it/sem_ws/index.htm)



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

***Molecular Approaches to
Neuronal Regeneration:
Opportunities in
Neurodegenerative Diseases***

***Aula Magna
Oratorio San Filippo Neri
Bologna, Italy
October 27th 2006***



Under the Patronage of:

*Italian Society of Pharmacology
Italian Society of Toxicology
Italian Society of Neurology*

*Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna
Italian Charity Association for Multiple Sclerosis*

Introduction

The University of Bologna was probably the first University in the western world. Its history is one of great thinkers in science and the humanities, making it an indispensable point of reference in the panorama of European culture. Therefore it is only appropriate that Bologna play host to this meeting “Molecular Approaches to Neuronal Regeneration: Opportunities in Neurodegenerative Diseases”.

Neurodegenerative diseases represent some of today’s most devastating diseases afflicting man. With an aging population, thanks to improved medicine and healthcare, the incidence of diseases such as Alzheimer’s disease, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson’s disease and other neurodegenerative disorders is increasing, and is taking a significant toll on patients, their families and caregivers, healthcare providers and worldwide economies.

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) alone affects about 2.5 million people worldwide, with approximately 200 people diagnosed weekly in the US alone. The typical age for the onset of the disease is between 20 and 50. MS is not considered a fatal disease, since the vast majority of patients live to a normal life span. However, MS does result in a significant impact to the quality of life to patients as they experience increasing physical and mental limitations. Few therapies exist which modify the progression of the disease. While these drugs lessen the severity and frequency of MS attacks and reduce the accumulation of lesions, none significantly address the underlying disease pathology, are able to prevent further attacks, or are capable of reversing the damage to myelin.

This meeting brings together key thought leaders from the field of neurodegeneration research to share their latest findings and to highlight therapeutic opportunities that may reduce or even reverse the devastating effects of neurodegenerative diseases.

We hope you find this a stimulating and enjoyable meeting.

Regards,

The Organizing Committee

Prof. Giorgio Cantelli Forti
Dr. Kelly Charles
Prof. Pat Doherty
Prof. Gino Toffano
Prof. Frank Walsh

Agenda

- 09:00 - 09:30 **Welcoming Address**
Pier Ugo Calzolari (Chancellor,
Alma Mater Studiorum-University of Bologna)
Giorgio Cantelli Forti
(Alma Mater Studiorum-University of Bologna)
Sergio Dompé
(President Farindustria Italy)
- Session 1: Molecular Correlates of Neuronal Regeneration**
- Chairpersons: Ciaran Regan (Dublin, Ireland) and
Tullio Pozzan (Padova, Italy)
- 09:30 - 10:00 Neurofascins are Required to Establish
Axonal Domains for Saltatory
Conduction in the PNS
Peter Brophy (Edinburgh, Scotland)
- 10:00 - 10:30 Early Neuronal and Glial Fate Restriction
of Embryonic Neural Stem Cells
Boris Zalc (Paris, France)
- 10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00 - 11:30 Small Molecules Promoting Neuronal
Survival and Axonal Growth
Menelas Pangalos (Princeton, USA)
- 11:30 - 12:00 Novel Agonists for Promoting Repair
Mechanisms
Patrick Doherty (London, UK)
- 12:00 - 12:30 New Bioactive Molecules From Natural
Sources in Neuroprotection
Patrizia Hrelia (Bologna, Italy)
- 12:30 - 14:00 Working Lunch