Robert E. Anderson · Matthew M. LaVail
Joe G. Hollyfield
Editors

Recent Advances in Retinal Degeneration

Dedication

Nicolas G. Bazan, M.D., Ph.D.

Nicolas Bazan is a man of great talent and energy who has overcome many obstacles to achieve the tremendous success he now enjoys in retinal research. We are honored to dedicate this proceedings volume to him.

Springer

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The chapter "Characterization of Gene Expression Profiles of Normal Canine Retina and Brain Using a Retinal cDNA Microarray" has been retracted due to plagiarism. A large portion of its contents were copied from another paper.

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Preface

A Symposium on Retinal Degenerations has been held in conjunction with the biennial International Congress of Eye Research (ICER) since 1984. These Retinal Degeneration Symposia have allowed scientists and clinicians from around the world to convene and present their new research findings. The Symposia have been organized to allow sufficient time for discussions and one-on-one interactions in a relaxed atmosphere, where international friendships and collaborations would be fostered.

The XII International Symposium on Retinal Degeneration (also known as RD2006) was held from October 23–28, 2006 in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina. The meeting brought together 130 scientists, retinal specialists in ophthalmology and trainees in the field from all parts of the world. In the course of the meeting, 49 platform and 54 poster presentations were given, and a majority of these are presented in this proceedings volume. New discoveries and state of the art findings from most research areas in the field of retinal degenerations were presented. The RD2006 meeting was highlighted by three special lectures. The first was given by Dr. Ruben Adler, Johns Hopkins University Medical School, Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Dr. Adler discussed the hope, reality, and challenges of using stem cells to treat blinding diseases. The second was given by Prof. Pierluige Nicotera. Prof. Nicotera is a leading authority on apoptosis and presented an outstanding lecture on his latest exciting research. The last special lecture was given by Prof. Eliot Berson, Harvard Medical School, Cambridge, MA, who gave an illuminating and informative overview of his work on vitamin A and omega-3 fatty acids in treatment of retinitis pigmentosa.

The Symposium received international financial support from a number of organizations. We are particularly pleased to thank The Foundation Fighting Blindness, Owings Mills, Maryland, for its continuing support of this and the previous biennial Symposia, without which we could not have held these important meetings. In addition, for the third time, the National Eye Institute of the National Institutes of Health contributed to the meeting. We are also grateful to Dr. Konstantin Petrukhin for a travel award from Merck & Co., Inc. – USA. Funds from these organizations allowed us to provide 26 Travel Awards to young investigators and trainees working in the field of retinal degenerations. The response to the Travel Awards program was extraordinary, with 58 applicants competing for the 26 Awards.

We also acknowledge the diligent and outstanding efforts of Ms. Holly Whiteside, who carried out most of the administrative aspects of the RD2006 Symposium, designed and maintained the meeting website, and organized and edited the production of this volume. Holly is the Administrative Manager of Dr. Anderson's laboratory at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and she has become the permanent Coordinator for the Retinal Degeneration Symposia. Her dedicated efforts with the Symposia since RD2000 have provided continuity heretofore not available, and we are deeply indebted to her.

We thank Ms. Maria Rosa Adamo of Zafiro Viajes, who provided extraordinary effort in arranging the travel and local program. Thanks also go to Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers for its publication.

Finally, we give our heart-felt thanks to our dear friend and colleague, Nicolas Bazan, for his help in every step of the organization and execution of this endeavor. He provided extraordinary input, from the selection of the meeting venue to the procurement of the wine that all of us enjoyed. He also gave an outstanding lecture. We are delighted to dedicate this volume to him.

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Contents