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.

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Recent Advances in Retinal Degeneration



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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"Characterization of Gene Expression Profiles of Normal Canine Retina and Brain Using a Retinal cDNA Microarray" has been retracted due to plagiarism.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.

viii Preface

We also acknowledge the diligent and outstanding efforts of Ms. Holly White-side, 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.

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

Contents

Contributors
Part I Keynote Lectures
Curing Blindness with Stem Cells: Hope, Reality, and Challenges
Retinal Degenerations: Planning for the Future
Part II Neuroprotection
Neurotrophins Induce Neuroprotective Signaling in the Retinal Pigment Epithelial Cell by Activating the Synthesis of the Anti-inflammatory and Anti-apoptotic Neuroprotectin D1
On the Role of CNTF as a Potential Therapy for Retinal Degeneration: Dr. Jekyll or Mr. Hyde?
Nanoceria Particles Prevent ROI-Induced Blindness
An in-vivo Assay to Identify Compounds Protective Against Light Induced Apoptosis
Role of BCL-XL in Photoreceptor Survival

xii Contents

The Hypoxic Transcriptome of the Retina: Identification of Factors with
Potential Neuroprotective Activity
Markus Thiersch*, Wolfgang Raffelsberger, Enrico Frigg, Marijana
Samardzija, Patricia Blank, Olivier Poch, and Christian Grimm
Part III Gene Therapy and Neuroprotection
Lentiviral Gene Transfer-Mediated Cone Vision Restoration in RPE65 Knockout Mice
Alexis-Pierre Bemelmans, Corinne Kostic, Maité Cachafeiro, Sylvain V. Crippa, Dana Wanner, Meriem Tekaya, Andreas Wenzel, and Yvan Arsenijevic
In vitro Analysis of Ribozyme-mediated Knockdown of an ADRP Associated Rhodopsin Mutation
Dibyendu Chakraborty*, Patrick Whalen, Alfred S. Lewin, and Muna I. Naash
Gene Therapy for Mouse Models of ADRP
Development of Viral Vectors with Optimal Transgene Expression for Ocular Gene Therapies
Adeno-Associated Viral Vectors and the Retina
Genetic Supplementation of RDS Alleviates a Loss-of-function Phenotype in C214S Model of Retinitis Pigmentosa
Morphological Aspects Related to Long-term Functional Improvement of the Retina in the 4 Years Following rAAV-mediated Gene Transfer in the RPE65 Null Mutation Dog
Virus-mediated Gene Delivery to Neuronal Progenitors
Part IV Animal Models of Retinal Degeneration
Loss of Visual and Retinal Function in Light-stressed Mice

ERG Responses and Microarray Analysis of Gene Expression in a Multifactorial Murine Model of Age-Related Retinal Degeneration 165 Goldis Malek, Jeffery A. Jamison, Brian Mace, Patrick Sullivan, and Catherine Bowes Rickman
Oxygen Supply and Retinal Function: Insights from a Transgenic Animal Model
Characterization of Gene Expression Profiles of Normal Canine Retina and Brain Using a Retinal cDNA Microarray
Toward a Higher Fidelity Model of AMD
The Potential of Ambient Light Restriction to Restore Function to the Degenerating P23H-3 Rat Retina
Part V Molecular Genetics and Candidate Genes
Mutations in Known Genes Account for 58% of Autosomal Dominant Retinitis Pigmentosa (adRP)
Genetics of Age-related Macular Degeneration
Retinal Phenotype of an X-Linked Pseudo-usher Syndrome in Association with the G173R Mutation in the RPGR Gene
Mutation in the PYK2-Binding Domain of PITPNM3 Causes Autosomal Dominant Cone Dystrophy (CORD5) in Two Swedish Families
Identification and Characterization of Genes Expressed in Cone Photoreceptors

xiv Contents

Clinical and Genetic Characterization of a Chinese Family with CSNB1 24 Ruifang Sui*, Fengrong Li, Jialiang Zhao, and Ruxin Jiang
10q26 Is Associated with Increased Risk of Age-Related Macular Degeneration in the Utah Population
Part VI Diagnostic, Clinical, Cytopathological and Physiologic Aspects of Retinal Degeneration
Carboxyethylpyrrole Adducts, Age-related Macular Degeneration and Neovascularization
Kutralanathan Renganathan, Quteba Ebrahem, Amit Vasanji, Xiaorong Gu, Liang Lu, Jonathan Sears, Robert G. Salomon, Bela Anand-Apte, and John W. Crabb
A Possible Impaired Signaling Mechanism in Human Retinal Pigment Epithelial Cells from Patients with Macular Degeneration
Expression and Cell Compartmentalization of EFEMP1, a Protein Associated with <i>Malattia Leventinese</i>
Role of ELOVL4 in Fatty Acid Metabolism
Organization and Molecular Interactions of Retinoschisin in Photoreceptors
Camasamudram Vijayasarathy, Yuichiro Takada, Yong Zeng, Ronald A. Bush, and Paul A. Sieving
Part VII Basic Science Underlying Retinal Degeneration
Proteomics Profiling of the Cone Photoreceptor Cell Line, 661W

Contents xv

γ-Secretase Regulates VEGFR-1 Signalling in Vascular Endothelium and RPE
Michael E. Boulton, Jun Cai, Maria B. Grant, and Yadan Zhang
Analysis of the Rate of Disk Membrane Digestion by Cultured RPE Cells
Tanja Diemer*, Daniel Gibbs, and David S. Williams
Functional Expression of Cone Cyclic Nucleotide-Gated Channel in Cone Photoreceptor-Derived 661W Cells
J. Browning Fitzgerald, Anna P. Malykhina, Muayyad R. Al-Ubaidi, and Xi-Qin Ding
Phosphorylation of Caveolin-1 in Bovine Rod Outer Segments in vitro
by an Endogenous Tyrosine Kinase
Regulation of Neurotrophin Expression and Activity in the Retina
Involvement of Guanylate Cyclases in Transport of Photoreceptor Peripheral Membrane Proteins
Sukanya Karan*, Jeanne M. Frederick and Wolfgang Baehr
Rod Progenitor Cells in the Mature Zebrafish Retina
ανβ5 Integrin Receptors at the Apical Surface of the RPE: One Receptor, Two Functions
Emeline F. Nandrot, Yongen Chang, and Silvia C. Finnemann
Implantation of Mouse Eyes with a Subretinal Microphotodiode Array 377 Machelle T. Pardue, Tiffany A. Walker, Amanda E. Faulkner, Moon K. Kim, Christopher M. Bonner, and George Y. McLean
Variation in the Electroretinogram of C57BL/6 Substrains of Mouse 383 Alison L. Reynolds*, G. Jane Farrar, Pete Humphries, and Paul F. Kenna
A2E, A Pigment of RPE Lipofuscin, is Generated from the Precursor, A2PE by a Lysosomal Enzyme Activity
Janet R. Sparrow, So Ra Kim, Ana M. Cuervo and Urmi Bandhyopadhyayand
Endothelin Receptors: Do They Have a Role in Retinal Degeneration? 399 Vanesa Torbidoni*, María Iribarne, and Angela M. Suburo

xvi Contents

CNTF Negatively Regulates the Phototransduction Machinery	
in Rod Photoreceptors: Implication for Light-Induced Photostasis	
Plasticity	407
Rong Wen, Ying Song, Yun Liu, Yiwen Li, Lian Zhao, and Alan M. Laties	
About the Editors	415
Index	419