

**COST B22
DRUG DEVELOPMENT FOR PARASITIC DISEASES
4th ANNUAL CONGRESS
10-13 June 2007
University of Dundee**

The annual congress was organized by the University of Dundee. There were about 145 participants, mainly from Europe, but also from Australia, South Africa, India, Brazil and the USA. Five external experts were invited: **Prof. Rich Tidwell** from the University of North Carolina ; **Prof. Kelly Chibale** from the University of Cape Town; **Prof. Kip Guy** from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; **Prof. Jim McKerrow** from the University of California, San Francisco; and **Prof. Susan Charman** from Monash University. There were 36 oral presentations and 59 poster presentations. Prizes were awarded to the best posters, thanks to generous donations from Organon and Intervet.

The conference opened with general talks on paradigms for drug discovery for tropical diseases in the academic environment. Following this, a WHO-TDR-sponsored group presented a database aimed at drug target identification. A number of novel drug targets were presented by different groups. Presentations were also made on examples of compounds being taken through the drug discovery process. Mechanisms of resistance were discussed, along with mode of action studies of other derivatives. We also had a presentation on drug candidate optimization for tropical diseases.

A number of people were sponsored to attend the meeting from disease-endemic countries, including Prof. Chibale (sponsored by COST) and a number of other people sponsored by the International Organization for Chemical Sciences in Development (IOCD) and Merck Sharp and Dohme. The following scientists received funding from IOCD to defray the cost of their attendance at the conference:

Name	Country
Mitali Chatterjee	India
Renate Hans	South Africa
Goutam Mandal	India
Rubem Menna-Barreto	Brazil
Chiaka Nneji	Nigeria
Natasha October	South Africa
Renata Oliveira de Araujo Soares	Brazil
Kanyile Ncokazi	South Africa
Bakri Nour	Sudan
Stephen Nsimba	Tanzania
Abayomi Olusola Sijuade	Nigeria

A COST B22 management committee meeting was held. The main topics for discussion were the new meeting planned for later this year and a new application for another COST action. Finally, IOCD awarded the **IOCD Founder's Fund Award** to **Marco Sealey-Cardona**. The purpose of this prize (5.000 USD) is to allow a young scientist from a developing country to receive specialized training in a COST-associated laboratory. Mr. Sealey-Cardona graduated from the Universidad de los Andes in Mérida, Venezuela, and is at present working for a PhD at the Instituto de Parasitología y Biomedicina "López Neyra", CSIC, Granada, Spain. He expects to defend his thesis next month, after which he will visit, with the help of the IOCD Founder's Fund, several European laboratories to find himself a post-doctoral position.

The winner of the IOCD Founder's Fund Award was selected by a committee of the five chairs of the COST B22 working groups: **Prof. Dolores Gonzalez-Pacanowska, Prof. Graham Coombs, Prof. Donatella Taramelli, Dr. Arsalam Kharazmi, Dr. Francisco Gamarro, and Prof. Fred Opperdoes.**

DR FRED R. OPPERDOES

Chair, Working Group on Tropical Diseases

International Organization for Chemical Sciences in Development

<http://www.iocd.org/tropdiswg.html>

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