


Mid-atlantic Pharmacology Society



Mid-Atlantic Pharmacology Society (MAPS)

Annual Meeting Report

December 10, 2010

Morning Session

The annual Mid-Atlantic Pharmacology Society (MAPS) conference was held on Friday, December 10, 2010, and hosted by the Fox Chase Cancer Center (FCCC) in Northeast Philadelphia. Dr. Robert Beck, Sr. VP of FCCC welcomed all participants and Dr. Margie Clapper, Professor and Co-Leader, Cancer Prevention and Control, served as the host for the meeting. The conference was well attended by students, faculty and industrial scientists from the Delaware Valley area. The theme for this year was **“Cancer Pharmacogenomics: From Bench to Bedside.”** The title of the meeting is designed to express the range of pharmacogenomic research beginning at the level of laboratory research and concluding with the clinical aspects to illustrate how basic research can lead to significant advances in clinical medicine. The meeting was officially opened by MAPS president Vincent Aloyo, PhD, Drexel University College of Medicine.

The keynote lecturer for the meeting was Dr. David Flockhart, Chief, Division of Clinical Pharmacology, Indiana University School of Medicine, who spoke on the topic *“Pharmacogenetic Approaches to the treatment of Breast Cancer.”* Dr. Flockhart (pictured below left with MAPS president Vince Aloyo) is highly regarded for his development of a web-based tool to improve the rational prescribing of drugs, a site that is visited more than 20,000 times per month by physicians and scientists around the world (www.drug-interactions.com).



The next speaker on the program was Dr. Rebecca Suk Heist, Assistant Professor of Medicine at MGH, Harvard Medical School. Her presentation was entitled: “*Targeting somatic mutations in lung cancer: EGFR and ALK*”



Dr. Heist during her presentation

The next presentation was by Dr. Evgeny Kysnekstiy, Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences at Temple University School of Pharmacy. The objective of his research is to identify inherited factors which define an individual's response to pharmacotherapy, and to develop genetically based diagnostic tools for "personalized medicine." His lecture was titled "*Beyond Thiopurine S-methyltransferase (TPMT): A view from the bench.*" This lecture concluded the basic research portion of the program.



Dr. Kysnekstiy explaining how his research on *TPMT* can play a role in the novel concept of personalized medicine

George B. Koelle Award

Each year, the organizers of the MAPS meeting honor the memory of the world-renowned and pioneering local pharmacologist, the late George B. Koelle. The society selects one scientist (usually local) who most closely shares Dr. Koelle's enthusiasm for teaching and conducting outstanding research, to receive this coveted Award. The 2011 award was presented to Dr. James Barrett, past president of ASPET. Dr. Barrett was a former vice president of Neuroscience Discovery Research at Wyeth-Ayerst Research and then went on to serve as president of research & development at Memory Pharmaceuticals and later joined Adolor as senior vice president, CSO, and president of research. In 2006 Dr. Barrett served as the co-host for the MAPS meeting when Adolor, along with Cephalon, Inc. co-sponsored the meeting. Dr. Barrett is currently Professor and Chair, Pharmacology and Physiology, Director, Program in Drug Discovery and Development at Drexel University College of Medicine.

This year's presentation was very unique since Dr. Barrett was unable to be present to receive the award. In order to accomplish this task, MAPS was able to present the award to him via the internet with the aid of a TV monitor brought in for this purpose. The pictures below show Dr. Bob Raffa, past president of MAPS and former Koelle award recipient himself, presenting the award to Dr. Barrett via the computer internet connection.



Dr. Raffa presenting his introductory remarks about the interesting hi-tech methods used to present this year's Koelle award.

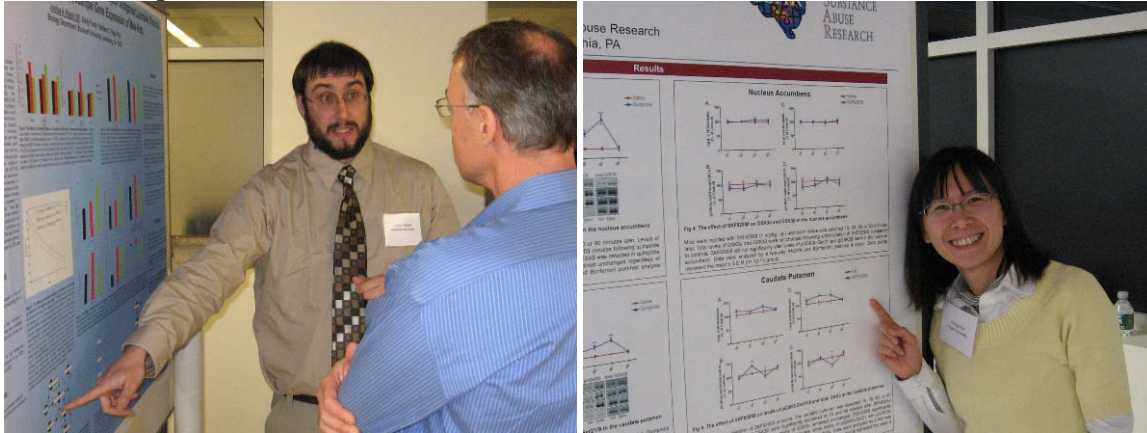


Dr. James Barrett with the award plaque. This internet presentation enabled Dr. Barrett to speak to the audience at Fox Chase while he was attending the ACNP meeting in Florida

Luncheon and Poster Session

The MAPS meeting always allows generous time for the luncheon. Fox Chase provided participants with boxed lunches. Students, guest speakers, and other scientists interacted while enjoying a leisurely lunch followed by viewing and judging of the 24 posters entered in the poster competition. Eleven undergraduate students and thirteen graduate students presented their research to MAPS judges. Three colleges and universities were represented in the undergraduate research division: Temple University, University of the Sciences-Philadelphia, and Ursinus College. Six colleges and universities and one local pharmaceutical company were represented in the graduate student/research associate division: Bucknell University, Drexel University, Temple University Schools of Pharmacy and Medicine, University of the Sciences/Philadelphia, and Penn State University along with GlaxoSmithKline, Inc.)

MAPS councilors Ellen Walker (Temple Pharmacy School) and Bob Willette (Glaxo SmithKline) organized the poster session and recruited several highly qualified judges so that there was plenty of time for each presenter to discuss their posters with the judges. Four prizes were awarded for the top two best poster presentations in each division (see winners below). Each of the poster winners received a cash award.



MAPS poster session. Poster on left was presented by Joshua Ripple, who made the trip from Bucknell University. Yi-Ting Chiu, a graduate student in Dr. Ellen Unterwald's laboratory at Temple Medical School, is shown on the right.

Poster Award Winners-Presented by Ellen Walker



Michael D. Ramirez, Temple University, 2nd place, undergraduate division. Poster title: *Cannabidiol prevents the development of allodynia in paclitaxel-treated female C57Bl6 mice*



Jacqueline Reed, U.S.P./PCP took 2nd place in the graduate student division. The title of her poster was "*Arf6 Regulates CXCR4-mediated Migration and Invasion of Metastatic Breast Cancer Cells*"

OtherPoster Award Winners not Pictured

Undergraduate Division: First place: Lauren King, Ursinus College. Poster title: *Oxidative Stress Induces Neurodegeneration of GABAergic Neurons in Caenorhabditis elegans*

Graduate Student/Research Associate Division: First place: Aravindandham Karpagam, GlaxoSmithKline. Poster title: *Glucagon-like peptide-1 mediated cardioprotection involves metabolic substrate switching and increasing energy efficiency in the rat heart*

Afternoon Session

This portion of the program was devoted to 2 presentations that described the clinical usefulness of pharmacogenomics research in the treatment of cancer. Dr. Paul Billings, of Life Technologies, Inc in Carlsbad, CA opened the session with his presentation titled "*Genomic Medicine: the New Oncology Subspecialty?*" It is appropriate that the meeting concluded with a presentation by Dr. Howard McCleod, Distinguished Professor of Pharmacogenomics and Individualized Therapy at the UNC Eschelman School of Pharmacy, Chapel Hill. Dr. McCleod has distinguished himself as an internationally recognized expert in the pharmacogenomic analysis of cancer treatments and is the Principal Investigator for the CREATE Pharmacogenetics Research Network and is director of the Pharmacogenetics for Every Nation Initiative. His concluding presentation was titled "*Using the Genome to Guide Cancer Therapy.*"



Dr. Paul Billings presenting on the use of genomic medicine in oncology



Dr. McCleod presenting his clinically-oriented lecture describing how genomics can successfully guide pharmaceutical therapy

Special Presentations and Installation of new MAPS Officers

The afternoon session wrapped with up two very special and important events. First, our new officers for 2011 were officially recognized. Dr. Carol L. Beck, Assistant Dean, Jefferson College of Graduate Studies and Assistant Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics at Thomas Jefferson University will serve as society president and Dr. Diane Morel, Associate Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology and Director, Pharmacology/Toxicology Program at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy will serve as vice

president. MAPS is fortunate to have Carol and Diane in these leadership roles and wishes them much success in the future.



Dr. Carol Beck, new president of MAPS (left) and Dr. Diane Morel, new vice president

Finally, Dr. Vince Aloyo was presented with the traditional "gavel plaque" by 2011 MAPS president Carol Beck, as a gesture of appreciation for his 3 years of service to the society.



Concluding Remarks

Dr. Margie Clapper, meeting moderator and organizer, ended the conference with some concluding remarks about the optimistic future for these new approaches to the improvement in the quality of cancer treatment.

The afternoon was topped off with a reception after all meeting business was completed. Meeting organizer, Margie Clapper is shown in the lower left of the photo below.



Acknowledgements

The Mid-Atlantic Pharmacology gratefully acknowledges support provided by the following institutions:

American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
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