
Foreword

Report of the 13th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Immunotoxicology (JSIT 2006)

On September 14 and 15, 2006, the 13th annual meeting of the Japanese Society of Immunotoxicology (JSIT) was held in Kurashiki Geibun-kan, in Kurashiki city, Okayama Prefecture, Japan.

JSIT was established in 1993 to explore the mechanisms underlying immunotoxicity caused by newly developed drugs and environmental substances, and to develop strategies against impairment from immunotoxicity. The members of JSIT are mainly scientists in research institutes of pharmacotherapeutic companies, national and independent administrative agencies, and departments of medical and pharmacological universities interested in these subjects.

The 13th annual meeting was held with the subtheme “Pathophysiological Development and Immunotoxicology”.

During the two-day meeting, one keynote speech, three special lectures, and talks by guest speakers, one symposium, one workshop, two luncheon seminars and 29 general presentations were presented.

The symposium was entitled “Fibrous and Nanomaterials and Immunotoxicological Research” with four speakers and organized by Dr. Seishiro Hirano (Environmental Health Sciences Division, National Institute for Environmental Studies, Tsukuba, Japan) and Dr. Yasumitsu Nishimura (Department of Hygiene, Kawasaki Medical School, Kurashiki, Japan). Prof. Yasuo Morimoto (Department of Occupational Pneumology, Institute of Industrial Ecological Science, University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Kitakyushu, Japan) talked about “Factors in Hazard Evaluation of Fibrous Materials”. Dr. Nishimura focused on the “Functional Alteration of Natural Killer Cells Exposed to Asbestos for a Long Period”; Dr. Akiko Furuyama (Research Center for Environmental Risk, National Institute for Environmental Studies, Tsukuba, Japan) talked about the “Transport of Nanoparticles through Alveolo-Capillary Barrier”; and Prof. Masahiro Murakami (Faculty of Pharmacy, Osaka Ohtani University, Tondabayashi, Japan) made a presentation about “Nanoparticles as Drug Delivery System: Issues and Perspectives”.

The workshop organized by Dr. Jun-ichi Sawada (Division of Biochemistry and Immunochemistry, The National Institute of Health Science, Tokyo, Japan) and Dr. Naohisa Tsutsui (Toxicology Laboratories, Pharmaceuticals Research Department, Mitsubishi Pharma Corporation, Chiba, Japan) was titled “A Guideline to Immunotoxicity Studies of Human Pharmaceuticals”. Five speakers presented their data and explained the guideline. Dr. Jun-ichi Sawada briefly introduced “ICH (International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use) S8 Immunotoxicity Guideline”; Dr. Toshio Imai (Division of Pathology, National Institute of Health Science, Tokyo, Japan) and his colleague talked about the “Pathology of Lymph Nodes and Peyer’s Patches”; Dr. Shigeru Hisada (Safety Research Department, ASKA Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Kawasaki, Japan) focused his talk on the “Interpretation of Stress-Related Changes”; Dr. Osamu Fueki (Office of New Drug I, Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency, Tokyo, Japan) and Dr. Tsutsui explained their “Q & A” format lecture about the “Explanation of ICH S8 guideline”. In addition, the invited speaker for this workshop, Dr. André H Penninks (TNO Quality of Life Product Manager, Experimental Immunology, AJ Zeist, The Netherlands), gave his lecture in the name of the IILP group of investigators and his talk was entitled “The Immunotoxicology Inter-Laboratory Project (IILP): The Validation of a T cell-Dependent Antibody Response (TDAR) using Keyhole Limpet Hemocyanin (KLH) in Rats”.

The two luncheon seminars were “Immunotoxicology Assessment” presented by Dr. Lawrence Jacob (Molecular Biology and Immunology, Central Laboratory, Charles River Laboratories Preclinical Services, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK) and “In Vitro and In Vivo Prediction of Monoclonal Antibody Cytokine Release Syndrome in Man” presented by Dr. Mark Wing (Huntington Life Science Ltd., UK).

The first special lecture, “Immunotoxicology of Beryllium Lung Disease”, was presented by Prof. Lee Newman (University of Colorado at Denver and Health Science Center, Denver, Colorado, USA). The lecture was extremely exciting, because it presented molecular approaches to studies of the interaction between beryllium and immunocompetent cells such as T cells and antigen-presenting cells.

Prof. Jean Regal (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth, Minnesota, USA) presented her talk entitled “Models and Mechanisms of Chemical Respiratory Allergy: not all allergens are equal” as the second special lecture. She was invited to this meeting as part of the scientific collaboration between the Immunotoxicology Specialty Section of the Society of Toxicology (SOT) in the USA and JSIT. Her lecture was also very interesting, presenting a molecular approach for seeking and ranking genes related to the occurrence of respiratory allergy.

Two lectures by guest speakers were presented. The first was presented by Dr. Hiroyuki Takano (Head, Environmental Health Sciences Division, National Institute for Environmental Studies, Tsukuba, Japan) and he talked about “Inflammation and Environmental Factors”. The second was given by Prof. Kou Sakabe (Department of Public Health and Molecular Toxicology, Kitasato University School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Environmental Medical Center, The Kitasato Institute, Tokyo, Japan) who focused

on “Sick House Syndrome Research 2006”. Both lectures were quite educational and all the audience had learned about recent advances in research focusing on these themes.

I, Prof. Takemi Otsuki, presented the Keynote Speech in the first program of the two-day meeting, and I talked about “Pathophysiological Development and Immunotoxicology: what we have found from research related to silica and silicate such as asbestos”.

In the special section of this issue of EHPM, three selected minireview manuscripts from the above-mentioned lectures presented at the 13th annual meeting of JSIT are introduced to the members of the Japanese Society for Hygiene.

Prof. Newman, and Prof. Regal report their specialties as an educational review, and I describe our present summary of the immunological effects of silica and asbestos.

The members of JSIT are warmly welcomed by the many members of the Japanese Society for Hygiene who are interested in the immunological effects of environmental substances such as air pollutants, foods, and drugs. The 14th annual meeting of the JSIT will be held on September 20–21, 2007, in Kobe. If you are interested in JSIT, please feel free to contact me by e-mail (takemi@med.kawasaki-m.ac.jp), and I will be very happy to answer any questions you have about JSIT.

Takemi OTSUKI
President of the 13th annual meeting of JSIT 2006
Department of Hygiene, Kawasaki Medical School,
577 Matsushima, Kurashiki 7010192, Japan
Phone: 81-86-462-1111, Fax: 81-86-464-1125
E-mail: takemi@med.kawasaki-m.ac.jp