



# International Society for Enzymology (ISE)

## Newsletter, August 2006

Editor: David M. Goldberg

### OBITUARY: ARTHUR RALPH HENDERSON (1932 – 2006)

On 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006, Arthur Ralph Henderson, Emeritus Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Western Ontario, succumbed to complications of Diabetes Mellitus, leaving behind his wife Carol, daughter Sarah, son David, and many friends by whom he will be sorely missed.

Known to most by his middle name, Ralph embarked upon an academic career in his native city, Glasgow, after serving four years in the British Merchant Navy, an apprenticeship that doubtless accounted for the nautical gait that formed part of his formidable physical presence. At Glasgow University, he followed the degree of BSc (First Class Honours) in 1962 with a medical degree in 1964, graduating 2<sup>nd</sup> in his class with Commendation, and a long list of prizes and distinctions in various subjects along the way. His postgraduate degrees and awards included a PhD in Biochemistry (1970), Membership (1974) and Fellowship (1985) of the Royal College of Pathologists, and a thesis for the degree of DSc submitted to the University of Glasgow in 1997.

From 1969 until 1973, he served as Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Pathological Biochemistry (Royal Infirmary) at the University of Glasgow prior to taking up a professorial appointment in the Department of Clinical Biochemistry at University Hospital, London, Ontario, and the University of Western Ontario, where he rose to the highest hierarchical levels as Professor of Biochemistry and Chief of the Division of Clinical Biochemistry. In the small-town environment of South-West Ontario populated by the small-minded individuals vividly characterized in the novels of Robertson Davies, and working in a milieu more notable for its academic virulence than its intellectual brilliance, Ralph not only survived, but thrived to build a distinguished international reputation.

His achievements were the result of his uncompromising dedication to “quality”; his personal integrity; his adherence to his primeval roots, best exemplified by the fact that not one decibel of his broad Scots accent was ever adulterated by the elocution of those among whom he was immersed in North America; and a fierce intelligence that could burn as well as illuminate. The scientific contributions for which he will be best remembered are those that set the standard for Diagnostic Enzymology when that branch of Laboratory Medicine was reaching its apogee. His many original contributions defining the utility of Lactate Dehydrogenase and Creatine Kinase earned him a hallowed place in the pantheon of that productive but ephemeral discipline, and the collaboration in major

treatises along with the Olympian figures of Norbert Tietz and Donald Moss, among many others.

The name of Ralph Henderson figured on many Expert Panels and Working Groups, including several under the auspices of AACC, CSCC and WHO, throughout his working career. He also served 15-year stints on the Editorial Boards of *Clinica Chimica Acta* and *Clinical Biochemistry*. As Editor-in-Chief of the latter journal, I was well aware of his worth. Known and even feared for his critical faculties in most interactive situations, and admired for the devastating accuracy of his comments (he had served, after all, for two years in the Royal Artillery after quitting the Merchant Navy), he was the model of tact and generosity when it came to reviewing manuscripts that were less than perfect, and his unstinting help and advice rescued many a paper that I had mentally consigned to the garbage – can. Mere numbers (close to 200 career publications) do not tell the whole story. One has also to look to a coterie of young scientists, including Dan Nealon and Fred Leung, whose careers were in some measure shaped by his inspiration.

Less honoured than he deserved to be, he nonetheless won recognition from CSCC in the form of its Award for Research Excellence in 1992. But, as has happened elsewhere in Canadian academic circles, the hyenas eventually drew blood. Forced into early retirement in 1997, he spent a couple of brief periods in the Yorkshire borough of Barnsley before going off to Bahrain where, for three happy years, he held the Chair of Medical Biochemistry at the Arabian Gulf University, returning to Toronto in 2001. There, unbeknown to most of his erstwhile friends and colleagues, he continued to labour quietly on mathematical aspects of Laboratory Medicine right up to the time of his death. His many contributions deserve our esteem and gratitude, and his family our profound sympathy on their loss.



DAVID M GOLDBERG

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

DEPARTMENT OF LABORATORY MEDICINE AND  
PATHOBIOLOGY

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

david.goldberg@sympatico.ca

# ANNOUNCEMENT OF BOARD AND GENERAL MEETINGS OF ISE TO BE HELD IN PADOVA, ITALY IN OCTOBER 2006

---

## Date, Time and Location of Board Meeting

24<sup>th</sup> October, 10:00AM, Library of the Servizio Medicina di Laboratorio, University-Hospital of Padova

## Date, Time and Location of General Business Meeting

24<sup>th</sup> October, 12:30AM, Library of the Servizio Medicina di Laboratorio, University-Hospital of Padova

A light luncheon will be provided to members notifying their attendance to Professor Mario Plebani (mario.plebani@unipd.it).

## AGENDA

### 1. Minutes of Previous Meetings

- a) Meeting of Board, Rome, Italy, 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2005
- b) General Business Meeting, Padua, Italy, 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2004

These Minutes have been posted on the website of the Society ([www.ISEnzymology.org](http://www.ISEnzymology.org))

### 2. Business Arising From Minutes

- a) Upgrading of Website (DM Goldberg)
- b) Links With Commercial Companies (D Chan and EP Diamandis)
- c) Category of Associate (Junior) Member (EP Diamandis)
- d) Slide Show For Exhibition at Meetings (EP Diamandis)

### 3. President's Report

### 4. Treasurer's Report

### 5. Secretary's Report

### 6. Report on Meetings

- a) Standardization in Clinical Enzymology, Rome, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2005
- b) International Conference on Laboratory Medicine, Padova, 24-25 October 2006
- c) Liaison With AACC (D Chan)
- d) Further Links With IUBMB (DM Goldberg)

### 7. Other Business

### 8. Adjournment

---

DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE MEDICO-DIAGNOSTICHE E TERAPIE SPECIALI  
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA  
AZIENDA OSPEDALIERA UNIVERSITÀ DI PADOVA  
CENTRO DI RICERCA BIOMEDICA - AZIENDA ULSS N°8 DELLA REGIONE VENETO  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ENZYMOLOGY

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LABORATORY MEDICINE ENZYMES: OLD MOLECULES WITH NEW CLINICAL APPLICATIONS

SYMPOSIUM DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF PROFESSOR ANGELO BURLINA

PADOVA, OCTOBER 24, 2006  
AULA MAGNA DEL BO  
UNIVERSITY OF PADOVA

PADOVA OCTOBER 25, 2006  
AULA MORGAGNI  
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL OF PADOVA

**ENZYMES:**

OLD MOLECULES WITH NEW CLINICAL APPLICATIONS

PROVISIONAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

**Tuesday, 24 October 2006**

**First Session**

---

**Enzymes in cardiovascular diseases**

*(Coordinator: Martina Zaninotto)*

*Chairmen: F. Salvatore, S. Iliceto, P. Cappelletti*

- 15.30 Historical background  
**Jack H. Ladenson (St. Louis, USA)**
- 16.00 Cardiac Markers: state-of-the-art  
**Allan Jaffe (Rochester, USA)**
- Coffee Break*
- 17.00 New biochemical markers: from bench to bedside  
**Martina Zaninotto (Padova, Italy)**
- 17.30 Polymorphisms and gene expression of enzymes involved in cardiovascular diseases  
**Giuliana Fortunato (Napoli, Italy)**
- 18.00 Enzymes and pharmacogenomics of cardiovascular diseases  
**Gérard Siest (Nancy, France)**
- 18.30 **General discussion**

*Wednesday, 25 October 2006*

**Second Session**

---

**Enzymes in gastrointestinal diseases**

*(Coordinator: Daniela Basso)*

*Chairmen: D. Goldberg, R. Naccarato, G.C. Guidi*

- 9.00 H. pylori vacuolating cytotoxin A, intracellular enzymes and gastric carcinogenesis  
**Cesare Montecucco (Padova, Italy)**

- 9.30 Non-invasive approach to the diagnosis of gastric and liver diseases  
**Mario Plebani (Padova, Italy)**

- 10.00 DNA repairing enzymes gene polymorphism and mitochondrial DNA mutations: role in gastrointestinal carcinogenesis  
**Daniela Basso (Padova, Italy)**

*Coffee Break*

- 11.00 The role of protein kinases in pancreatic carcinogenesis  
**Holger Kalthoff (Kiel, Germany)**

- 11.30 Enzymes in faeces: useful markers of chronic inflammatory bowel diseases  
**Imerio Angriman (Padova, Italy)**

- 12.30 **General discussion**

**Third Session**

---

**Enzymes in neoplastic diseases**

*Chairmen: E. P. Diamandis, D. W. Chan, M. Gion*

- 15.00 Apoptotic pathways and caspases in cancer diseases  
**Paolo Bernardi (Padova, Italy)**
- 15.30 Matrix proteases, green tea, and hypericum – bio-medical research catches up with folk medicine  
**Spiridione Garbisa (Padova, Italy)**
- 16.00 Kallikrein enzymes as biomarkers for cancer  
**Eleftherios P. Diamandis (Toronto, Canada)**
- Coffee Break*
- 17.00 Standardization and quality assessment of PSA assay  
**Catharine M. Sturgeon (Edinburgh, UK)**
- 17.30 Discovery and validation of clinical proteomic biomarkers as related to enzymes  
**Daniel W. Chan (Baltimore, USA)**