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## Upcoming Events

- October 23-25: CICMR/OGIRC Conference
- TBA: Journal Club meeting

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## 2010 Summer Retreat

The 2010 OGIRC Summer Retreat was held on June 15 in the St. James Auditorium of Brescia University College, UWO. The majority of investigators and trainees attended, and we were joined by two representatives from AAFC. The retreat had the following objectives: enhance understanding of how the Platform Technology Group (PTG) work together synergistically and explore their interdependence; inform the membership of recent outreach and communications initiatives; solicit ideas for trainee learning enrichment and preparation for the workplace; explore the process of moving from pre-clinical experiments to clinical studies; and increase awareness of intellectual property issues and the commercialization process.

In the first session, guest speaker Dr. Simon Chiu, a psychiatrist from the St. Thomas Regional Mental Health Care Centre discussed the definition of clinical trials as well as the requirements

to move from pre-clinical studies to clinical research. He also mentioned NHP regulations and the difficulties in working with a large bureaucracy such as the Natural Health Products Directorate.

Dr. Subrata Chakrabarti led the second session in the discussion of education, training and outreach.

The third session was led by guest speaker Paul Paolatto, Executive Director of WORLDdiscoveries, on the topic of Intellectual Property. Issues such as co-authorship, co-inventorship and patents were explored in detail. The final session on research updates was led by Dr. Ed Lui.

## Recognition: Yan Wu

The OGIRC would like to recognize the accomplishment of graduate student, Yan Wu, from Dr. Qingping Feng's laboratory. Earlier this year, Dr. Feng participated in the Recent Development in Chinese Herbal Medicine



## Announcement

The CICMR/OGIRC Conference will be held at the University of Ottawa from October 23 to the 25th.

Please visit our website for more information:  
<http://www.uwo.ca/ogirc/>



hosted by Nanyang Technological University of Singapore and the Consortium for Globalization of Chinese Medicine. Although Yan wasn't able to attend the conference, her poster, *Ginseng protects the heart from ischemia and reperfusion injury by activating PI3K/Akt-dependent eNOS pathway*, received the Outstanding Poster Award. The OGIRC would like to congratulate Ms. Wu for her accomplishment.

## Consortium For Globalization of Chinese Medicine

The 9th annual conference for the Globalization of Chinese Medicine (CGCM) will be held in Hong Kong from August 23-25th. The OGIRC is a CGCM member organization. CGCM is a global, non-profit, non-discriminatory and non-political organization, with a mission to advance the field of Chinese herbal medicine to benefit human kind...*cont'd on page 2*

through joint efforts of the academic institutions, industries and regulatory agencies around the world.

## **Recognition: Matthew Barnes**

Congratulations go to OGIRC trainee, Matthew Barnes (supervisor: Lique Coolen), for receiving the Frederick Banting and Charles Best Canada Graduate Scholarship. The Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) Doctoral Awards administered by CIHR are intended to provide special recognition and support to students who are pursuing a doctoral degree in a health related field in Canada. These candidates are expected to have an exceptionally high potential for future research achievement and productivity.

Matthew's study focuses on diabetes and erectile dysfunction (ED). Fifty-six percent of diabetic patients respond poorly to PDE5 inhibitors. *Panax quinquefolius*, North American ginseng, has shown promise in decreasing the severity of ED and alleviating some resulting pathologies of diabetes that contribute to ED such as increased blood glucose levels. The aim is to determine if NA ginseng helps increase the frequency of erection and improve sexual behaviour in healthy and diabetic rats. Early results show a significant increase in erectile function and sexual motivation in healthy male rats treated with an ethanol extract of NA ginseng as compared to control. The effects were not significant in the aqueous extract.

## **My Experience at the 2010 World Congress of the International Society for Heart Research Conference**

*By Juan Guo*

I am pleased to report about my experience attending the XX World Congress of ISHR, held in Kyoto, Japan from May 12th to 17th. The scientific program consisted of keynote speeches, oral and poster presentations by principal investigators, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students covering a variety of topics in cardiovascular research. I was overjoyed with the amount of new exciting information that was presented at the meeting and how I can apply new discoveries to my project to better understand the molecular mechanisms activated by ginseng to propagate its beneficial effects.

I presented my research findings in the form of a poster titled *Ginsenosides Inhibit Phenylephrine-Induced Cardiomyocyte Hypertrophy By Attenuating NHE-1 Dependent Calcineurin Activation*. This poster attracted a lot of attention from principal investigators and students, creating a wonderful opportunity for discussion and suggestions. In fact I had invitations for collaboration opportunities from two investigators - Dr. Tohru Minamino, Chiba University of Japan, and Dr. Yinbin Wang from University of California, Los Angeles, to pursue studies to understand the role of ginseng in heart failure.

I take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Ontario Ginseng Innovation and Research Consortium and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for provid-

ing financial assistance and making it possible for me to attend this very informative and prestigious conference which goes a long way in the development of my academic career.

*Juan Guo is completing her final year as a post-doctoral fellow at Dr. Morris Karmazyn's Laboratory at the University of Western Ontario. She will be resuming her former position within the Department of Pharmacology at the Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine in the fall.*

## **OGIRC Participation at the Korea Ginseng Conference:**

The 10th International Symposium on Ginseng will be held in Korea from September 13th to the 16th. Titled *Ginseng, The Root of Human Well-Being*, this exciting conference will draw many trainees and investigators from around the world including several from the OGIRC. Dr. Brown, Dr. Chakrabarti, Dr. Lui, Dr. Madrenas and Dr. Rogers have been invited to speak at this international symposium.

## **Trainee Interview: Mehrbod Estaki**

### **1) What are you researching at the moment?**

I'm currently looking at potential anti-inflammatory effects of North American Ginseng (NAG) on exercise. More specifically I'm interested to see if supplementation with NAG can reduce the inflammatory response induced by exercise and to see if this reduction can enhance performance.

### **2) What are your thoughts about this year's World Cup and which country were you cheering for?**

Hup Holland Hup! With the exception of the last game I don't think this World Cup could have been any better. Italy and France going out in the first round was really the highlight of my experience...that and my team making it to the finals. As far as the future of the game...well controversial FIFA official calls are part of the World Cup culture, always has been, always should be. Where else can you get such drama? I'd say don't change anything for the next World Cup, especially if the question implied adding video replay.

### **3) Would you rather have a good time with your close friends on a beach side patio or go skydiving?**

If I had it my way I'd throw off a bunch of patio furniture out of a plane, jump, then try and sit on those furniture in mid air. Now that's thinking outside the box.

## **Name Our Newsletter!**

If you have any suggestions for a better title for the OGIRC newsletter and/or ideas about the newsletter name, please send the central office an email!