Editorial

The format of WHMA newsletters was very consistent during its first 10 years of existence. This is not only due to a persistent editorial overview but it is an unwritten rule of journalism and publications. Namely, a standard, esthetically pleasing format of reporting interesting, professionally and scientifically relevant information is a requisite of attachment to our readers.

Despite this tradition, changes and improvements are necessary and may become timely, especially now. Namely, we are not only entering the second decade of WHMA and its newsletter, but changes are coming up in the editorial management. As usual, young people should be replacing the older generation such as the present editor who is looking forward to pass his role to the younger generation. Thus, I am very pleased that Dr. Zoltan Gombos, who is actually in the process of leaving his native Slovakia (where he organized several Pannonian conferences of WHMA), to start his residency in pathology in the USA and he will be the future managing editor of WHMA newsletter. Hopefully, during the next few years, he will become the main editor.

We are now also initiating some changes in the newsletter format, e.g., starting with this editorial column to announce major events such as the continuation of US-Canadian conferences of WHMA under the new leadership of Dr. Janos Szebeni. We also start to list a mini table of contents on the first page that our readers would have the opportunity to know what is inside the newsletter. We hope that our readers will enjoy these alterations.

THE 5th US-CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF WHMA TO TAKE PLACE IN SARASOTA, FL, October 28, 2000. This conference series has a new organizer: Dr. Janos Szebeni who organized two symposia on timely topics:

Symposium 1: Pharmacogenetics / Medical Genomics Chairman: Dr. László Takács, Pfizer Global Research and Development Laboratories, Fresnes, France.
1. László Takács (Pfizer Global Research and Development, Fresnes, France): The impact of genome information on medical care and research.
3. András Guttman (Novartis Agricultural Research Institute, LaJolla, CA): Review of mRNA and proteome profiling technologies.
5. Andras Nagy (Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute, Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Canada): Novel genetic approaches in mouse models for human disease.

Symposium 2: Nephrology: From Molecules to Bedside. Chairman: Dr. László Rosivall, Semmelweis Medical University (SOTE), Budapest, Hungary.
1. Dr. László Rosivall (SOTE): Regulation of glomerular filtration: Novel concepts.
2. Dr. András Szabó (SOTE): Renal osteodystrophy.
3. Dr. Attila Szabó (SOTE): The effect of sex hormones and gender in different renal diseases.
5. Dr. Dérfalvi Bea (SOTE): The immunomodulatory effects of human growth hormone in uremic children.
MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Dear Members, as our former Membership Committee Chairman, Dr. Geza Simon pointed out in the previous newsletter, only 15-20% of our members in the "West" pay their annual membership fees regularly. One of my responsibilities in my "real" job is to inspire people to switch to a healthy lifestyle. I cannot be successful in that job unless people decide to make changes themselves. I feel this is true for my responsibilities as a Membership Committee Chairman as well. I am working on to recruit new members and attract corporate sponsors to increase funding. However, I think we should rely on the active support of our own existing membership in the first place. We cannot provide significant funds to our young colleagues in Central Europe unless members regularly pay their dues. What is the benefit of giving the monthly equivalent of the cost of a sandwich? Perhaps the knowledge that 100% of your money will assist WHMA to fulfill its mission. Your payment will help to fund scholarships, exchange programs, grants, and awards for our talented young colleagues in Hungary and neighboring countries. Therefore, I am urging you all to support our organization by paying your membership dues annually from now on.

You can mail the attached membership form with your check to me (please print your information!) or FAX me the form with your credit card information and signature. You can also access the form at www.whma.net. Help us to promote WHMA and send our form and web site address to any individuals and potential sponsors you think might be interested in joining our organization. Please feel free to contact me with any membership related questions, comments, and ideas at kekesst@son.uab.edu (Tamas Kekes-Szabo, MD)

REPORT ON THE PANNONIAN SYMPOSIUM ON CNS INJURY

The “Pannonian Symposium on CNS Injury”, hosted by the Neurosurgical Department of the Medical Faculty of Pécs University, had been held under the egis of the WHMA as a satellite symposium of the 5th World Congress of Hungarian Physicians “Hungarian Public Health at the Dawn of the 21st Century.”

Members of the Organizing Committee, Tamás Dóczi MD, PhD, DSc, Chair, 1st Department of Neurosurgery, Medical School, University of Pécs, John T. Povlishock, PhD, Chair, Department of Anatomy, Medical College of Virginia of Virginia Commonwealth University (MCV/VCU) and editor in chief of the Journal of Neurotrauma, and András Büki MD, PhD, Department of Neurosurgery, Medical School, University of Pécs, aimed to organize this meeting to address contemporary issues in the field of central nervous system (CNS) injury of vascular and traumatic origin, with particular emphasis on the pathogenesis and novel therapeutic approaches. The main
topics included traumatic brain- and spinal cord injury, brain edema and intracranial volume regulation, vascular brain damage – ischemia and hemorrhage.

More than 20 internationally recognized experts accepted the invitation including Drs. Alexander Baethmann, Institut für Chirurgische Forschung der Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München, Germany, Ross Bullock, Division of Neurological Surgery, MCV/VCU, Richmond, VA, Andreas Kampfl, Department of Neurology, University Hospital, Innsbruck, Austria, David O. Okonkwo, Department of Anatomy, MCV/VCU, Richmond, VA, A.W. Unterberg, Department of Neurosurgery, Humboldt-University, Berlin, Germany, Anthony Marmarou Division of Neurological Surgery, MCV/VCU, Richmond, VA, Soren Nielsen, Department of Cell Biology, Institute of Anatomy, University of Aarhus, Aarhus, Denmark, O. Kempski, Institute for Neurosurgical Pathophysiology, University of Mainz, Mainz, Germany, Kevin Lee, Department of Neurosurgery, University of Virginia Health Sciences Center, Charlottesville, VA, István Merchenthaler, Women's Health Research Institute, Wyeth-Ayerst Research, Radnor, PA, Zoltán Nagy, National Stroke Center, Budapest, Hungary, Kevin K.W. Wang, Department of Neuroscience Therapeutics, Division of Warner-Lambert Company, Parke-Davis Pharmaceutical Research, Ann Arbor, MI, Naren L. Banik, Department of Neurology, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC, Dalton W. Dietrich, The Miami Project, University of Miami School of Medicine, Miami, FL. In addition to our invited speakers, 120 participants from eight countries participated, with 20 oral- and 21 poster presentations.

Thanks to the generosity of the main sponsors, including Kent Waldrep National Paralysis Foundation, the Philip Morris Tobacco Company, the Brain Trauma Foundation (NY) and Pharmacia-Upjohn, we were able to organize attractive social functions. These included an opening reception in Hotel Palatinus, an organ concert and a guided tour of Pecs Cathedral, a reception in the world renown Csontváry Museum, and a wine tasting tour to Villány. The symposium was a great success, as indicated by the willingness of our sponsors to support future symposia on the same topic in 2002 and 2003, again in Pécs. (András Büki, MD, PhD)

WHMA HAS A NEW WEB-SITE

WHMA has a new and simplified web-address:  www.whma.net.  You can join WHMA or update your membership information by filling out the membership form on the web-site. It also contains some general information about WHMA, displays the current issues of the WHMA newsletter and will provide up-to-date information about upcoming events organized or sponsored by WHMA. Our web-site will soon contain the WHMA membership directory, which can be updated on-line. Thus, be sure to visit the new WHMA web-site!
DRS. JULIAN L. AMBRUS AND CLARA M. AMBRUS

Julian L. Ambrus and his wife Clara M. Ambrus both started their medical studies at the University of Budapest in 1942. They worked in the research laboratory first in the Department of Histology and Medical Biology under Dr. Huzella and then in the Department of Pharmacology under Dr. Issekutz. In 1947, they received fellowships to the University of Zurich where they graduated with an MD degree in 1949. During their studies, they also worked in the Department of Pharmacology under Dr. Fischer. They then joined the Pasteur Institute in Paris and worked in the Departments of Therapeutic Chemistry and Virology as well as the hospital of the Institute.

In 1955, they came to Philadelphia to work at Jefferson Medical College, in the Departments of Pharmacology and Hematology. They both received a PhD in medical sciences with a major in pharmacology and then joined the Roswell Park Memorial Cancer Institute in Buffalo, NY, in 1955. Later, Julian Ambrus became Professor of Internal Medicine in the Medical School of SUNY at Buffalo, and Chairman of the Department of Experimental Pathology in the Graduate School. Clara Ambrus became Professor of Pediatrics, Gynecology/Obstetrics (perinatology) and Pharmacology. They worked together on the establishment of thrombolytic therapy, chemo- and immunologic therapy of neoplastic diseases and Clara Ambrus established new approaches for the management of hyaline membrane disease in newborns, certain metabolic diseases such as phenylketonuria, as well as lead poisoning. They published extensively: Julian Ambrus has over 400 publications in peer reviewed journals and still counting. He published in such prestigious journals as Nature, Journal of Clinical Investigations and JAMA, Cancer Research, and has also contributed over 60 bookchapters, and Clara has a similarly impressive publication record. They have seven children and eight grand children. They run a small working farm close to Buffalo, where they breed thoroughbred horses and have developed techniques for the captive breeding of falcons. (George Kunos, MD, PhD)

Editor’s note: Following the North American practice, all colleagues with a professional degree are referred to as Dr., regardless of whether or not they are considered a Professor at their institution.