

PREFACE

XIX Symposium of the International Association for Comparative Research on Leukemia and Related Diseases

These proceedings comprise original papers and extended abstracts of presentations at the XIXth Symposium of the International Association for Comparative Research on Leukemia and Related Diseases (IACRLRD) at Mannheim/Heidelberg, Germany, from 12–18 July 1997. (1) Abstracts 1–316: *J Mol Med* (1997): B147–B256.

The IACRLRD is one of the oldest, although of relatively small societies that convene at regular intervals to find practical and theoretical solutions for leukemia and related diseases. It was founded in 1960 when the World Health Organization inaugurated the establishment of a World Committee for Comparative Leukemia Research. Its main purpose was to promote interdisciplinary information exchange at the international level on leukemia and related diseases. Our association has accomplished this goal by the organization of symposia of high international standards every 2 years. The special strength of our symposia has been their comparative aspect.

Comparative research in which similarities between animal and human diseases permit conclusions to be drawn from one species to solve questions in another has become a highly successful scientific approach in biomedicine, tumor virology, genetics and tumor biology in general over recent decades.

The scientific evolution of the Abelson murine leukemia virus with its *abl* oncogene in the 1970s to what currently appears the most reliable marker for human chronic myelogenous leukemia is just one example. It is likely that in the future the comparative approach will continue to provide the basis for progress and insights in many fields of biomedicine.

The past decade has shown that the value of the comparative approach is not limited to leukemia and related neoplasias but can also be applied successfully to non-neoplastic diseases such as AIDS and spongiform encephalopathies. Clearly our efforts to solve human disease will continue to depend on new and highly specialized animal models, such as SCID mice and transgenics that are not even conceivable in humans.

The coming decade will also see an unprecedented wealth of new biological information from genome sequencing in many species. The program of the present symposium demonstrates that the comparative approach is alive and well, and likely to continue to produce valuable information for our battle with human disease.

Prof Dr R Hehlmann
October 1998

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Symposia of the International Association for Comparative Research on Leukemia and Related Diseases

<i>Symposium</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>Host or Program Chairman</i>
*	1960	Philadelphia, PA, USA	Martin Kaplan
**	1961	Davis, CA, USA	Gordon Theilen
I	1963	Hannover, Germany	Gustav Rosenberger
II	1965	Stockholm, Sweden	Sven Gard
III	1967	Paris, France	Ch Lombard
IV	1969	Cherry Hill, NJ, USA	Ray Dutcher
V	1971	Padova/Venice, Italy	Luigi Chieco-Bianchi
VI	1973	Nagoya/Iseshima, Japan	Yohei Ito
VII	1975	Copenhagen, Denmark	Johannes Clemmesen
VIII	1977	Amsterdam, The Netherlands	Peter Bentvelzen
IX	1979	Pitsunda, USSR	Boris Lapin
X	1981	Los Angeles, CA, USA	David Yohn
XI	1983	Cambridge, UK	Peter Biggs
XII	1985	Hamburg, Germany	Friedrich Deinhardt
XIII	1987	Tel Aviv, Israel	Ze'ev Trainin
XIV	1989	Denver, CO, USA	David Yohn and Philipp Furmanski
XV	1991	Padova/Venice, Italy	Luigi Chieco-Bianchi
XVI	1993	Montreal, Canada	Mark Wainberg
XVII	1994	Dublin, Ireland	Shaun McCann
XVIII	1995	Kyoto, Japan	Yoshi Ikawa
XIX	1997	Mannheim/Heidelberg, Germany	Rüdiger Hehlmann
<i>Future Symposia</i>			
XX	1999	Marrakech, Morocco	Max Essex and Abdellah Benslimane
XXI	2001	Padova/Venice, Italy	Luigi Chieco-Bianchi

* Organizational meeting sponsored by the World Health Organization

** Organizational meeting sponsored by the National Institutes of Health