

ABC Transporters and Genetic Disease
NCI-Frederick Conference Center, Frederick, MD
September 21-22, 2006

Summary of Meeting

The 2006 ABC gene workshop was held on September 21-22, 2006 in Frederick, MD and was highly successful. A total of 24 talks were presented by students and postdoctoral researchers from 22 different institutions and 17 poster presentations were also given. Over 95 researchers attended including 16 from international institutions. Overview talks were given by Dr. David Miller, from the NIEHS on the role of transporters on the blood:brain barrier and from Dr. Michael Dean, NCI-Frederick on the evolution of ABC genes and their role in disease. An outstanding presentation was heard from Sharon Terry of PXE International. This talk provided researchers with an overview of this important disease as well as insight into the impact of rare diseases on patients and their families.

Topics and diseases discussed at the meeting included cystic fibrosis, sitosterolemia, heme disorders, myelination diseases, adverse drug response, and pseudoxanthoma elasticum. New therapeutic approaches were discussed including pharmacological approaches. In addition animal models were presented for the ABCA2 and ABCG8 genes (sitosterolemia). Detailed mechanistic studies were discussed for several transporters including ABCB1 and ABCC1 and ABCG2, all important transporters of chemotherapy drugs, and relevant to the pharmacology of many drugs.

Several researchers have stated that these meetings have fostered their career by increasing interactions, stimulated invitations for seminars, provided job opportunities and fostered collaborations between laboratories.