

Summary of Meeting

The 2007 ABC gene workshop was held on October 4-5, 2007 in Frederick, MD and was highly successful. A total of 22 talks were presented by students and postdoctoral researchers from 18 different institutions and 20 poster presentations were also given. Over 90 researchers attended including 15 from different institutions in the United States Canada, and Europe. Overview talks were given by Dr. Malini Rhagavan, from the University of Michigan, on the role of TAP proteins in the immune system, Balasz Sarkadi from Hungary on multidrug resistance and from Dr. Michael Dean, NCI-Frederick on the evolution of ABC genes and their role in disease.

Topics and diseases discussed at the meeting included cystic fibrosis, sitosterolemia, heme disorders, drug response, the blood brain barrier, and pseudoxanthoma elasticum. New therapeutic approaches were discussed including pharmacological approaches. In addition animal models were presented for the ABCA2 and ABCG5 and ABCG8 genes (sitosterolemia), and new methodologies for gene expression and protein analysis were described. Detailed mechanistic studies were discussed for several transporters including ABCB1, 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. In fact there were attendees at the meeting that have obtained a Ph.D. and gone on to postdoctoral studies with another researcher in the field. About one third of the speakers and session chairs were female and an ethnically diverse group of attendees were present.