

9th International Primary Hyperoxaluria Workshop
August 28-29, 2010
Summary

The 9th International Primary Hyperoxaluria Workshop was held on August 28 – 29, 2010 at the Hilton in New York City. This meeting continued a biennial series, started in 1990, that focuses on basic and clinical research about Primary Hyperoxaluria (PH). As in previous workshops, the 70+ participants were drawn from a wide range of researchers and clinicians. Attendance was also boosted by holding the meeting as a satellite of the International Pediatric Nephrology Association Congress. A significant number of IPNA attendees came to the sessions on August 29, even though they never registered for the Workshop. In parallel to the scientific sessions, there were well-attended lay sessions aimed at patients of all ages, their families and friends.

The scientific presentations were grouped in four sessions, tracing a path from basic molecular biology (sessions 1 and 2) to clinical research on diagnosis and treatment (sessions 3 and 4). In addition, there were presentations about the two competing patient registries, the NIH-funded International PH registry and a European registry, each of which has enrolled hundreds of patients to date. Art Beaudet of Baylor gave a keynote talk about his work on gene therapy in animal models and prospects for treatment given the promising results.

Some of the highlights of the meeting included the presentation of brand-new data from a newly published paper implicating a gene (DHDPSL) for PH in patients who do not have defects in either of the known genes (AGT or GHR). In addition, there were interesting talks about a variety of therapies, ranging from Oxalobacter, to hepatocyte transplantation and liver-kidney transplants.

There was significant give and take between presenters and the audience, and the meeting attendees readily agreed that a 10th Workshop should be planned for 2012 to continue these productive interactions.