

Etiology of Chromosomal Translocations
Friday, September 17, 2010
Lipsett Auditorium
NIH Bethesda

The conference will honor Michael Potter, a chromosomal translocation pioneer.

Summary

The conference “Etiology of cMyc chromosomal translocations” was well attended and well received both by the invited speakers and NIH scientists in general (attached picture 1). The topic was approached both from a clinical and basic science perspective, and in that sense the entire meeting was a success, as it stimulated a great deal of interaction between the two groups of scientists. Talks were grouped into three categories (<http://web.ncifcrf.gov/events/cmymc/default.asp>):

1. Translocation initiating events: Fred Alt, Michel Nussenzweig, Rafael Casellas, Jim Harber, David Schatz
2. Repair pathways implicated in the resolution of DNA breaks intermediate to translocations: Maria Jasin, Andre Nussenzweig, Barry Sleckman, Sang Eun Lee
3. Clinical aspects of chromosomal translocations: Louis Staudt, Ricardo Dalla Favera, Michael Potter, George Klein

One important outcome of the meeting was that the exchange of ideas led to the establishment of collaborations between several groups, such as those of Michel Nussenzweig and Fred Alt, as well as those of David Schatz and Rafael Casellas. This was one of the major goals of the conference and in this respect it was well accomplished.

Another highlight of the meeting was that it was dedicated to the career of Michael Potter, a pioneer in the field of chromosomal translocations who has worked at the NCI for nearly 50 years. Last September Michael was given emeritus status but has continued working in his lab until recently, when he unfortunately developed leukemia. NCI’s director Harold Varmus introduced the conference and provided an overview of Michel’s career. At the end of this, Michael was provided with a commemorative plaque (see attached picture 2). We are truly grateful to the Office of Rare Diseases Research for making this momentous meeting possible. Michael truly appreciated the honor.

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