

14th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BEHÇET'S DISEASE

under the auspices of the International Society for Behçet's Disease
(President: Professor Sungnak LEE, Seoul, Korea)

8th – 12th July 2010
Queen Mary University Conference Centre,
Mile End, London E1

Organised by the UK Behçet's Disease Forum
and the UK Behçet's Syndrome Society

Web sites: International Conference on Behçet's Disease: www.icbd2010.com
International Society for Behçet's Disease: www.behcet.ws
UK Behçet's Syndrome Society: www.behcets.org.uk

Scientific programme:

Day 1

9.00 - 9.15 **President's Welcome Speech**

9.15 - 11.30 **Scientific Session 1: Immunology – incorporating therapy**

9.15 - 9.45 Outside speaker - Adrian Hayday

9.45 - 10.15 Peizeng Yang (China)

10.15 - 11.30 – 5 x selected speakers from abstracts

11.30 - 1.00 Coffee and posters

1.00 – 2.00 Lunch

2.00 - 4.00 Scientific session 2: Vasculitis

2.00 - 2.30 Outside speaker – Justin Mason (London)

2.30 - 3.00 Invited BD Speaker – TBA

3.00 - 4.15 - 5 x selected speakers from abstracts

4.30 - 5.00 Debate – Autoimmunity vs autoinflammation

Haner Direskeneli (Turkey) and Graham Wallace (UK)

Day 2

- 9.15 -11.30 Scientific session 3: Regional inflammation**
9.15 - 9.45 Outside speaker –Chris Buckley (Birmingham)
9.45 -10.15 Ahmet Gul (Turkey)
10.15 -11.30 - 5 x selected speakers from abstracts
- 11.30 -1.00 Coffee and posters
- 1.00 -2.00 Lunch
- 2.00 - 4.15 Scientific session 4: Paediatric BD**
2.00 - 2.30 Outside speaker –Michael Beresford (London)
2.30 - 3.00 Isabelle Kone-Paut (France)
3.00 - 4.15 - 5 x selected speakers from abstracts
- 4.30 - 5.00 Debate – Geographical differences in BD**
Shigeaki Ohno (Japan) and Miles Stanford (UK)

Day 3

- 9.00 - 11.00 Scientific session 5 Genetics**
9.00 - 9.30 Outside speaker – Bill Ollier (Manchester)
9.30 -10.00 Eun So Lee (Korea)
10.00 -11.15 - 5 x selected speakers from abstracts
- 11.15 -11.45 Coffee
- 11.45 - 12.00 Awards presentation**
- 12.00 - 12.30 Closing remarks** Sungnack Lee (President)

GENERAL NOTES

Scientific sessions

The aim of the conference organisers is to have the sessions based on concepts rather than BD in specific tissues. It is hoped that this will lead to the identification of common ground in the pathogenesis of the disease in different sites, and to highlight differences that may be important. The invitation of outside speakers should provide current knowledge in the particular fields that will inform and encourage participants

Scientific session 1

The aim of this session is to address the wider issues of the immune response in BD. Several publications report a Th1 polarised response yet in several tissues i.e. anterior chamber, joint and CNS it is reported as a predominantly a neutrophilic infiltrate. Moreover, roles for NKT, NK and $\gamma\delta$ T cells have all been implicated in the pathogenesis of BD. The session will seek, along with the related debate, to identify a common process and the kinetics of such a response.

Scientific session 2

Vasculitis is a common feature of many of the clinical manifestations of BD. However, it is still not clear which cells and processes are involved. For example, what are the differences between parenchymal and non-parenchymal CNS disease. What are the vascular responses in the skin in conditions such as erythema nodosum. Is the retinal vascular occlusion seen in BD due to neutrophil activation? Most importantly, is the endothelium of these sites activated and why. It is envisaged that these and other concepts will be addressed.

Scientific session 3

The current concept of regional inflammation is particularly relevant to BD. Why do certain patients get one manifestation and another a different form. Chris Buckley will discuss the role of fibroblasts in organising a particular microenvironment. Importantly, the potential difference between the inflammatory response at the mucosal surfaces compared to other immune privileged sites will be addressed. The effect of treatment on inflammation at different sites should also be discussed.

Scientific session 4

Paediatric BD is a difficult diagnostic problem as well as being a complicated treatment issue. It is not clear whether paediatric BD is the same condition as adult BD or what the outcome for juvenile patients will be. Similarly, should the same treatment be given to children as to adults? Dr Kone-Paut will discuss the results of the paediatric BD database, and processes involved in childhood BD will be addressed.

Scientific session 5

BD has long been considered as having a genetic component. In this session current studies will be discussed. It is envisaged that genome-wide analysis studies currently underway will be presented. Similarly case controls studies of candidate genes in different ethnic groups will be discussed.

Debates

The plan is to hold two debates on current topics of general interest in BD. These debates will feature two selected individuals one who will speak for the proposal and one to speak against. Speakers will have 10 minutes to present their case, followed by 5 minutes each for a rebuttal. The questioning will then be opened up to the floor, before a vote (for fun) will be taken.

Debate 1: Autoimmunity versus autoinflammation

A case for BD being an autoinflammatory response has been presented in several recent publications. Is it therefore time to change the textbook definition of BD, or is autoimmunity still a better term to describe the responses seen in BD?

Debate 2: Geographical differences in BD

It has long been suggested that BD has a different clinical picture in different parts of the world. Can this be supported in the light of current data. If so what may be the causes of such differences. Data from Japan suggests that BD is decreasing, but is this seen in other countries?