March 2014 ISAR News Vol. 23 No. 2

Raleigh, North Carolina, USA welcomes 27th ICAR

President's message (Phil Furman)

It is an honor to address the membership in this my last message as President of the Society. First, I would like to take the opportunity to wish everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year. Excitement is growing as we head towards the $27^{\rm th}$ annual ICAR. This year the meeting will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina, USA. For those of you who may not remember, acyclovir was discovered just down the road from Raleigh, in the Research Triangle Park by Burroughs Wellcome, and 2014 marks the $40^{\rm th}$ anniversary of that discovery. Therefore it is quite fitting that the $27^{\rm th}$ ICAR be held where the first selective and specific antiviral agent was discovered.

As in previous years, the scientific program promises to be full of an impressive roster of speakers and topics. You can read more about this in this newsletter in Mark Prichard's section or visit the ISAR website. We are very pleased to have Drs. David Margolis, Professor of Medicine and Myron Cohen, Professor of Epidemiology at the University of North Carolina as our keynote speaker. Again, we will hold the Drug Discovery and Development 101 interactive workshop, which will be on Monday afternoon. The session title is "Synergies Between Chemistry and Biology in Antiviral Drug Design - Lessons From the Trenches".

This year we will have two mini-symposia. The first mini-symposium will focus on the challenges in treating and preventing HIV infection, organized by José Esté and the second symposium organized by Bill Delaney, will focus on the therapies for Hepatitis B infection. ISAR is also very happy to host at this meeting the final network conference of the EUVIRNA consortium, a European Network on (+)RNA Virus Replication and Antiviral Drug Development. The EUVIRNA partnership consists of six outstanding European academic partners and four industrial partners and an associated partner. All EUVIRNA partners are recognized leaders in their field and their skills are highly complementary, ensuring state-of-the-art training possibilities. We shall have in addition to the Gertrude Elion and William Prusoff awardee lectures, the Antonín Holý awardee lecture, which is an award for chemists and which honors the life and contributions of Professor Antonín (Tony) Holý. The Women in Science program was such a success last year that it will now be a permanent part of ICAR. A committee was established to oversee the Women in Science program and will be chaired by Amy Patick. We hope that the men in the Society will also participate in the Women in Science program. A second committee, the Archives Committee, was also established and will be chaired by Brian Gentry.

The officers and board recently re-evaluated the ISAR membership fee structure and have made the following changes: general membership is now \$50 for 1 year, \$90 for 2 years and \$120 for 3 years. Membership for students and post-doctoral fellows is \$25 per year. Those members who purchased multi-year memberships that are still active and anyone who purchased a 1-year membership that is still current will receive a 1-year extension. Details will be posted on the ISAR website.

A number of ISAR members have been extremely busy and have been working tirelessly planning for

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the Raleigh meeting and I would like to acknowledge them here. Joe Colacino, ISAR Past President and Chair of the Conference Committee, has been actively working with Lauren Deaton of Courtesy Associates to plan for the Raleigh meeting as well as to begin planning for the 2015 ICAR, which will be held in Rome, Italy; Mark Prichard, chairman of the Scientific Program Committee, has done an outstanding job organizing the Raleigh meeting; and Bob Buckheit, ISAR President-elect, has provided support to Mark and organized Drug Discovery and Development 101 (DD101). Andrea Brancale, Chair of the website committee, working closely with Lauren Deaton and YourMembership.com, has continued to maintain and update the website in preparation for the Raleigh ICAR. Dale Barnard, ISAR Treasurer, has ably overseen our finances, paid our bills and maintained our accounts across various currencies to maximize our return on investment. Of course the excellent financial condition of the Society is largely due to Roger Ptak's outstanding effort in acquiring financial support from our sponsors. Roger has begun his fund raising campaign for this year. Graciela Andrei, ISAR Secretary, will serve as the point of contact for the Society and is overseeing the application of travel grants to young investigators who are planning to attend the meeting in Raleigh. The deadline for applications was 1st February.

The future of our Society depends on the quality of its membership and, importantly, its leadership. This year Joe Colacino, Past President and Chair of the Nominations Committee worked diligently with his group to identify individuals with the interest and the qualifications to serve the Society effectively in leadership roles. We were fortunate to have an impressive slate of candidates for the positions of President-elect, Treasurer and Board Member and voting was conducted through the ISAR website. Thanks go out

Figure 1. Bob Buckheit (President-Elect) and Phil Furman (ISAR President) at 2013 ICAR.



to Andrea for running the recent election on the ISAR website. As I mentioned above, this is my last message as President of ISAR. At the Raleigh ICAR the gavel will be passed on to Bob Buckheit. Having worked closely with Bob on ISAR and ICAR related matters over the last two years I can assure you that ISAR will be in good hands. In the past Bob worked tirelessly and diligently as chair of the Program Committee for 6 years and revitalized the program. Bob is an outstanding leader with a deep desire to see the Society grow and prosper. He is a person of high integrity, and the Society is very fortunate to have him as the next President. Lastly, we would not have a vibrant Society and outstanding conference without the members of the different committees and you, the Membership. It is your support and participation that make our Society outstanding.

I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve the Society as its President and wish to thank you for your support the past two years. I look forward to seeing everyone in Raleigh.

Program Committee (Mark Prichard)

This year, the 27th International Conference on Antiviral Research (27th ICAR) will be hosted by the International Society for Antiviral Research (ISAR) on Monday May 12th through Friday May 16th, 2014. The meeting will be held in the heart of Research Triangle Park at the Raleigh Convention Center, located at 500 S Salisbury St, Raleigh, NC 27601. The main focus of the annual meeting is on new scientific developments in antiviral research, vet opportunities for networking with colleagues are equally important. The conference was designed specifically to provide opportunities for all participants to establish and maintain the close collaborative relationships among chemists, pharmacologists, and biologists that are required for the discovery and development of effective antiviral therapies. It also serves to stimulate innovative thinking about the drug development process and provides specific events to welcome new scientists to our ranks and help them to establish successful careers. Thus, consistent with all of our past ICARs, there will be ample opportunity for everyone to strengthen existing contacts, and add to their network contacts by meeting new scientists working in the field. The annual meeting provides a unique environment to socialize with your peers in an open and friendly atmosphere.

The ICAR program and the text of all the abstracts will placed on the Society's webpage. This "green" initiative not only reduced costs associated with the meeting, but also extended the deadline for abstract submissions to about 2 months prior to the meeting, which was just enough time to complete peer review of the submissions, select oral and poster presenta-

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tions, and publish the materials online. We believe this change was well received by the Membership and this year we plan to enhance the quantity of material provided online by providing a means to place poster presentations on the website. These initiatives will provide increased exposure for presented works and will make more data available to Members of the Society so they can further consider the presented data at their leisure when they return home from the meeting.

The conference will start on Monday May 12, 2014 at 1:30 pm with the opening Drug Discovery and Development 101 session entitled "Synergies Between Chemistry and Biology in Antiviral Drug Design - Lessons From the Trenches". This interactive session highlights how the interplay between cutting edge biology and medicinal chemistry drives the development of novel antiviral drugs and features speakers Nicholas Meanwell (BMS), Belew Mekonnen (Hager Biosciences), Barry O'Keefe (NCI), and Webb Andrews (Duke University).

The official start of the 27th ICAR will be marked by the seventh annual Keynote Address and will feature two Keynote Speakers:

- David Margolis, MD (UNC) is leader of CARE: The Collaboratory of AIDS Researchers for Eradication. He will discuss the comprehensive and collaborative search for approaches to eradicate HIV.
- Myron Cohen, MD (UNC) will present on how antiviral treatment can prevent the sexual transmission of HIV-1. This work was recognized by Science as the "Breakthrough of the Year" in 2011.

The first of two mini-symposia will take place on Tuesday May 13th and will focus on Hepatitis B Virus (HBV). The symposium will start with an overview of current treatments and then focus on efforts to discover and develop new therapies to treat chronic HBV infection. Speakers will include Anna Lok (University of Michigan), Stephan Urban (University of Heidelberg), Andrea Cuconati, (Baruch S. Blumberg Institute), Massimo Levrero (University of Rome), John Morrey (Utah State University), Adam Zlotnick (Indiana University), and Stephan Menne, (Georgetown University).

The second mini-symposium held on Thursday May 15th is entitled "Challenges in HIV Infection, Treatment and Prevention", features speakers Mario Stevenson (University of Miami), Tomas Cihlar (Gilead Sciences), Gerardo Garcia-Lerma (CDC), Courtney Fletcher (University of Nebraska), and David Montefiori (Duke University).

The meeting will also feature special session on Wednesday May 14th to highlight researchers, from the Research Triangle Park area, who focus on virology and the therapy of viral infections. The final symposium will be held on Friday May 16th and will feature speakers from EUVIRNA: European Training

Network on (+)RNA Virus Replication and Antiviral Drug Development.

The conference will close at 12 noon on Friday.

Each year ICAR features a Poster Awards competition and this tradition will continue in 2014. This year the Poster Award Committee, which is chaired by Kathie Seley-Radke, will review the candidates for awards. In past years, the competition has been intense and the Program Committee is fortunate to have dedicated members who are willing to serve on this important subcommittee. Cash prizes of up to \$1000 will be awarded in the categories of Graduate Student, Postdoctoral Fellow and Young Investigator. Awardees will also have the opportunity to present their work in the Oral Shotgun Presentation session. The prominence of the Poster Presentations at this meeting reflects the high quality of presentations and offers new and experienced investigators a highprofile venue to present their work.

The Program Committee and the Society are committed to bringing you the most rewarding scientific experience at the annual meeting. To this end, the Program Committee has worked diligently this year to make changes to the annual meeting in response to feedback we have solicited from our membership. We have endeavoured to keep the best features of the meeting while adding scientific sessions and events which we believe will heighten the experience for all attendees. As always, the Society will maintain its commitment to the newest ISAR members and to antiviral research by again sponsoring a Career Forum. At this function, the attendees can meet with established scientists and other professionals active in the pharmaceutical, biotech, academia, and the government sectors of antiviral research to discuss various career options. This highly interactive social event will provide participants with the opportunity to join one or more discussion groups to learn about potential career paths. There is no additional fee for the Career Forum. However, space is limited. Attendees should indicate their interest in participating in the Career Forum when registering on-line for the ICAR meeting. Following the success of a special session on Women in Science last year, it will be held again this year. It will include panel discussions to help provide advice for women scientists as their careers progress in this field.

On behalf of the Program Committee, I look forward to welcoming you to Research Triangle Park and the 27th ICAR in May 2014.

ISAR Elections and Biographies of Elected Candidates (Nominations Committee, Joe Colacino, Chair)

In 2013, the Society was fortunate to have a strong slate of exceptional candidates who ran for the positions of

President-Elect, Treasurer, and Board Member. We thank these individuals for their commitment to ISAR and we look forward to their continued involvement and leadership.

Information on the candidates was sent to the full complement of 390 ISAR members on September 3, 2013, 30 days prior to the election, as per the ISAR by-laws. A total of 97 members returned their electronic ballots, yielding a 25 per cent turn out, similar to that of previous elections. The election was conducted through the ISAR Web site and facilitated by Andrea Brancale whom we thank for his efforts in the oversight of the election and for his work in maintaining the ISAR web site.

We are pleased to announce that José Esté was elected President-Elect, Brian Gowen was elected Treasurer, and Jennifer Moffat was elected Board Member. Please view their pictures and read their biographical sketches below. All three of these individuals have been highly active in the Society and have demonstrated research excellence in the field of antiviral drug discovery and development.

As President-Elect, José will work closely with Bob Buckheit who becomes President in 2014. Brian Gowen replaces Dale Barnard as treasurer. We extend our gratitude and sincere thanks to Dale who did an outstanding job handling all ISAR accounts and transactions and ensuring a secure financial position for the Society. Finally, Jennifer Moffat replaces Tomas Cihlar whom we thank for his active and insightful participation on the ISAR Board. José, Brian, and Jennifer begin their tenures immediately after our conference in Raleigh, NC this year. We look forward to working with them as they help steer the Society in new and exciting directions.

The Nominations Committee Joe Colacino, Chair and Past President Phil Furman, President Bob Buckheit, President-Elect Amy Patick, Former President

President-Elect

José Esté is a Senior Researcher of the AIDS Research Institute-IrsiCaixa, Hospital Germans Trias i Pujol in Badalona (Barcelona), Spain and Head of the HIV Pathogenesis Laboratory. He received a BSc degree in Biology from University of Western Ontario, a Masters degree in Biochemistry from the Venezuelan Institute of Scientific Research and a PhD degree from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. José's research interests include virus-cell interactions, HIV entry, antiviral drug resistance, antiviral drug design and evaluation, and provides support to the clinical development of antiretrovirals in the HIV Clinic of Hospital Germans Trias i Pujol. José Esté has coauthored

Figure 2. José Esté



over 130 peer-reviewed publications and review articles, serves in different Spanish and international review boards and evaluation committees, and has been an Editor of Antiviral Research since 2010. He has been a member of ISAR since 1996 and has served in different ISAR committees and in the Board of Directors for two consecutive terms. In 2010, he received the William Prusoff Young Investigator Award.

Treasurer

Dr. Brian Gowen received his Ph.D. degree in Biomedical Sciences from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in 2000, with emphasis in the areas of microbiology and immunology. His undergraduate work concentrated in microbiology, and was done at Colorado State University. He trained as a post doctoral fellow at the Rocky Mountain Laboratories campus of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, in Hamilton, Montana, from 2000-2004, where he studied hostpathogen interactions and innate immunity and host defense. He joined the Department of Animal, Dairy, and Veterinary Sciences and the Institute for Antiviral

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Figure 3. Brian Gowen



Research at Utah State University (USU) in January of 2004. In 2012 he joined the faculty in the new USU School of Veterinary Medicine program and was appointed as an Adjunct Professor at Washington State University in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology. Dr. Gowen specializes in pre-clinical development of antiviral therapies for the treatment of arenaviral and bunyaviral hemorrhagic fever agents, immunotherapeutics, innate immunity to viral pathogens, and modeling of viral hemorrhagic diseases. He has 39 peer-reviewed publications, is the inventor on one patent, and serves on the editorial boards for the journals Antiviral Research and Antiviral Chemistry and Chemotherapy. Dr. Gowen was the recipient of William Prusoff Young Investigator Lecture Award from the International Society for Antiviral Research in 2011.

Board Seat

Dr. Moffat trained at Stanford University School of Medicine where she received her doctorate in Microbiology and Immunology and did a postdoctoral fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Diseases. She was promoted to Research Associate before coming to Upstate Medical University in 1999. She is now an Associate Professor and Vice Chair in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology. Her past leadership positions include president of the Graduate Faculty Organization, and founding chair of the

PhD student Advising Committee and the Curriculum Committee of the College of Graduate Studies. She was recently appointed to the SUNY Research Council, which reports to the Chancellor and the Board of Regents in Albany. Dr. Moffat is an award-winning teacher of medical and graduate courses, and she has mentored a number of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in her laboratory. She is the director of two research core facilities at SUNY Upstate: the Center for Humanized Mouse Models and In vivo Imaging.

Dr. Moffat is an internationally recognized expert on varicella-zoster virus, and her research has focused on developing mouse models to study the pathogenesis and treatment of this virus. The current emphasis of her research group is evaluating antiviral compounds for VZV in a unique humanized SCID mouse model, which is supported by a 7-year, \$4 million NIH contract. She has received multiple NIH and New York State awards for her projects on the molecular basis of VZV disease, as well as contracts with pharmaceutical companies. In 2005, she received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Scholarship and Research. She has served on several NIH review panels and is on the editorial board of Journal of Clinical Virology and Antiviral Research. Dr. Moffat is an active member of the International Society for Antiviral

Figure 4. Jennifer Moffat



Research and has contributed to the annual conference by chairing sessions, judging posters, and mentoring in the Career Development and Women in Science events. Dr. Moffat has authored 28 peer-reviewed articles, invited reviews, and book chapters. She was co-editor of a recent issue of *Current Topics in Microbiology* that covered advances in VZV research.

Update on *Antiviral Research* (Mike Bray, Editor-in-chief)

2013 was a good year for AVR. David Durantel and Johan Neyts joined us as editors, adding to a strong team whose research interests reflect the broad scope of the journal. Our editors are:

Dale Barnard, Logan, UT, USA David Durantel, Lyon, France José Esté, Barcelona, Spain Johan Neyts, Leuven, Belgium Mark Prichard, Birmingham, AL, USA Subhash Vasudevan, Singapore Hui-Ling Yen, Hong Kong

The number of manuscripts submitted to AVR has grown significantly over the past 5 years, increasing by 40% from 2009-12 and a further 16% last year. The number of published articles has grown correspondingly, from just under 180 per year in 2009-12 to more than 230 last year. We published more than 60 invited reviews and commentaries in 2013, including collections of invited papers (symposia) on:

- "Treatment of influenza: targeting the virus or the host," with Elena Govorkova and Hui-Ling Yen as guest editors;
- "Multipurpose prevention technologies for HIV," edited by Dave Friend and Meredith Clark;
- "Global elimination of canine rabies," edited by Debbie Briggs, Chuck Rupprecht and Bill Wunner:
- "From SARS to MERS: 10 years of research on highly pathogenic human coronaviruses," with Rolf Hilgenfeld and Malik Peiris as guest editors.

We're now starting to publish a 23-article symposium on "Hepatitis C: next steps toward global eradication," marking the 25th anniversary of the cloning of the hepatitis C virus. Charlie Rice, Johan Neyts, Heiner Wedemeyer, Geneviève Inchauspé and David Thomas are the guest editors.

We at AVR are glad to be linked more closely to ISAR by publishing ISAR News and the ICAR Meeting Report, with both freely available online. We're also especially pleased that one of our editors, José Esté, is the new president-elect of ISAR!

Financial summary of 26th ICAR in San Francisco, CA, USA (Dale Barnard)

I would like to thank the ISAR officers, ISAR Board and ISAR committees for their extremely dedicated support of the ICAR meetings. However, without the support of members and guests, the ICAR meetings would not be successful. We lost a substantial amount of money due to a variety of factors including increased labor costs for hotel staffing, US government sequestration which prevented NIH from awarding us a meeting grant as it has in the past, fewer corporate sponsors, and far fewer single day registrants compared to what we had the last time we met in San Francisco in 2010. Nevertheless, we are still financially solvent with assets \$737,697. I am very thankful for the efforts of Roger Ptak and his excellent campaign to get sponsorships government-triggered the US financial climate of Fall 2012, Spring 2013. As always, we are very grateful to the corporate sponsors for the amounts that they donated. Our sponsors continue to be very generous to the society. Please see the list at the foot of the front page. We thank them.

26th ICAR San Francisco, California May 11–15, 2013

REVENUES	12/2/11
Registration	\$170,030
Award Sponsorship	\$10,000
NIH Grant	\$0
Corporate Sponsorship	\$110,100
Other Revenue	\$20,000
Total Revenue	\$310,130
<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Advertising	\$3,027
Food and Beverage	\$182,592
Audio Visual	\$47,846
Exhibits/Posters	\$7,027
Invited Speakers	\$17,318
Conference Bags	\$2,228
Shipping	\$1,015
Onsite Staffing	\$606
Courtesy Associates - Labor	\$65,739
Courtesy Associates - Out of pocket	\$6,927
Credit Card Fees	\$6,951
Other (Insurance, refunds, gifts, etc.)	\$8,749
Awards (Elion, Prusoff, poster, travel)	\$47,584
Total	\$397,609

-\$87,479

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Net Balance

Visit the website for ISAR-ICAR (Andrea Brancale)

We would like to invite all members to visit the ISAR website (http://www.isar-icar.com) to discover more about the 27th ICAR, such as hotel accommodation, abstract submission and conference program. Furthermore, we strongly encourage all members to keep their membership details up to date and to take advantage of the networking tools available on the ISAR website.

Important ICAR Dates

Abstract Submission Deadline February 28, 2014 Travel Grant Application Deadline February 3, 2014 Abstract Acceptance Notifications Sent about February 28, 2014

Travel Grant Notifications Sent March 10, 2014 Late Breaker Abstracts Deadline March 28, 2014 Advance Rate Registration Deadline April 18, 2014 Registration Cancellation Deadline April 18, 2014 Hotel Reservations Deadline April 23, 2014 Conference Dates May 12 - 16, 2014

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the ISAR/ICAR Office at 202-973-8690 or by e-mail at ISAR@courtesyassoc.com.

Information about the 28th ICAR, Rome, Italy, will be posted on the ICAR website by August 2014.

Calendar (Simon Tucker)

18th International Picornavirus Meeting 9-14 March Blankenberge, Belgium www.europic2014.eu

BIO-Europe Spring 2014 March 10-12 Turin, Italy http://www.ebdgroup.com/bes/registration/index.php

XVI Symposium on Respiratory Viral Infections March 13-16 Seoul, Republic of Korea http://www.themacraefoundation.org/symposium-

2014/ 16th International Congress on Infectious Diseases

April 2–5 Cape Town, South Africa http://www.isid.org/icid/index.shtml

EMBO Computational biology: Genomes to systems April 3–9 Puerto Varas, Chile http://events.embo.org/14-comp-bio/

EASL European Association for the Study of the Liver April 9–11 London, UK

www.ilc-congress.eu

Cambridge Healthtech Institute's Ninth Annual Drug Discovery Chemistry

April 23-25

San Diego, CA, USA

http://www.drugdiscoverychemistry.com/

30th Annual Clinical Virology Symposium Daytona Beach, FL, USA April 27-30 http://www.clinicalvirologysymposium.org/

Drug Design & Medicinal Chemistry

May 8-9

Berlin, Germany

http://www.gtcbio.com/conference/medchem-overview

27th International Conference on Antiviral Research Raleigh, North Carolina, USA

May 12–16

http://www.isar-icar.com/

114th General Meeting American Society for Microbiology

May 17-20

Boston, Massachusetts, USA

http://gm.asm.org/index.php/meeting/asm2014

34th National Medicinal Chemistry Symposium May 18-21

Charleston, South Carolina, USA http://wizard.musc.edu/nmcs2014.html

2nd Annual Discovery Chemistry & Drug Design Congress

Iune 2–3

Geneva, Switzerland

http://www.discoverychemistry-congress1.com/

International Workshop on Antiviral Drug Resistance June 3-7

Berlin, Germany

http://www.informedhorizons.com/resistance2014/

3rd ISIRV-AVG Conference

June 4-6 Tokyo, Japan http://www.isirv.org

3rd ESCMID Workshop on Professional Affairs in Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases June 5-6

Ljubjana, Slovenia

https://www.escmid.org

Microbiology & Infectious Diseases Asia Congress 2014
June 10–11
Singapore

http://www.microbiology-asia.com/

33rd Annual American Society for Virology Meeting June 21–25 Fort Collins, Colorado, USA

www.asv2014.com

The Australian Society for Microbiology, Annual Scientific Meeting
July 6–9
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

International Herpesvirus Workshop July 19–23 Kobe, Japan http://www.congre.co.jp/ihw2014/index.html

http://asmmeeting.theasm.org.au/

XVIth International Congress of Virology July 27–August 1 Montreal, Canada http://www.montrealiums2014.org

International Roundtable on Nucleosides, Nucleotides & Nucleic Acids
August 24–28
Poznan, Poland
http://www.irt2014.pl/

54th Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy Sept 5–9 Washington, DC, USA http://www.icaac.org/

XXIII International Symposium on Medicinal Chemistry
Sept 7–11
Lisbon, Portugal
http://www.ldorganisation.com

21st International Symposium on Hepatitis C and Related Viruses Sept 7–11 Banff, Alberta, CA www.hcv2014.org 7th Annual International Partnering Conference BioPharm America 2014 Sept 22–24 Boston, MA, USA http://flandersbio.be/events/

4th World Congress on Virology Oct 6–8 San Antonio, TX, USA http://virology2014.conferenceseries.net/index.php

3rd Antivirals Congress Oct 12–14 Amsterdam, The Netherlands http://www.antivirals.elsevier.com/

IMED 2014 Oct 31–Nov 3 Vienna, Austria http://imed.isid.org

AASLD American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Nov 7–11 Boston, MA, USA www.aasld.org

9th International Respiratory Syncytial Virus Symposium Nov 9–13 Cape Town, South Africa http://www.rsv2014.co.za/

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