

## Apoptosis 2003—from signalling pathways to therapeutic tools

The fifth international conference on “Apoptosis—from signalling pathways to therapeutic tools” was held on January 29–February 1st, 2003 at the European Conference Centre in Luxembourg. The meeting was organised by the scientists and students of the RCMS (Recherche sur le Cancer et les Maladies du Sang) research group under the scientific aegis of the Universities of Luxembourg, Nancy (France), ULB and Ulg (Belgium), Pisa and the Weizmann Institute of Science. Over 1150 participants gathered for an exceptional meeting with 135 oral presentations, 550 posters a trade show with 63 booth.

The presentations covered a rapidly growing field of apoptosis including the following topics: Cell death and development, Mitochondria as regulators of apoptosis, Apoptotic signal transduction pathways, Inhibitors and activators of apoptosis, Receptors as cell death mediators, Apoptosis in human pathologies, Caspases, Transcriptional and post-transcriptional regulation of apoptosis, Cell death and cardiovascular diseases, Glutathione and Apoptosis, Apoptosis and chromatin structure, p53, Cell death and cell cycle, Apoptosis and tissulary functions, Cell death and blood diseases, Cell death and neurodegenerative diseases, Pharmacology of apoptosis.

The aim of our meeting was to describe the most important molecular elements of information transfer occurring within or between cells linking external signals to internal responses. For the molecular pharmacologists, novel targets could be described and novel drugs were presented. An attempt had been made to present a discussion of the major classes of proteins that participate at

particular clinical phenotypes specifically involved in the field of apoptosis.

Finally, this volume should provide an introduction to the various key components of signal transduction, transcription and translation and illuminates their role in physiological processes and under pathological conditions.

This field is moving daily, so that in January 2004 (January 26th–January 31st), we will ask fundamental and clinical researchers to gather again in Luxembourg at the European Conference Centre for a sixth and seventh meeting to discuss the evolution of the depicted therapeutic applications:

**“Signal Transduction 2004: Signal transduction pathways as therapeutic targets (January 26th–January 28th)”**

**“Chromatin 2004: Chromatin structure and gene expression mechanisms as therapeutic targets (January 29th–January 31st)”**

(<http://www.transduction-meeting.lu>). We are confident that this meeting will then allow new insights and complete our view of pathophysiology of cell signalling and gene expression at the molecular level.

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