N E W S L E T T E R

of the 14th International Symposium for Immunology of Reproduction, 22 – 24 May 2015, "Fr. Joliot-Curie" International house of scientists, Varna, Bulgaria

Organized by:

- International Coordination Committee for Immunology of Reproduction (ICCIR)
- "Acad. Kiril Bratanov" Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction (IBIR) at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.
- Co-organizer was Medical Center "ReproBioMed".



Opening of the Symposium

Dear Guests,

Dear Colleagues and friends,

The 14th International Symposium for Immunology of Reproduction was attended by 115 researchers and specialists in the field of reproductive biology, immunology and clinicians from Bulgaria, Germany, France, Japan, Russia, Ukraine, USA, Poland, Czech Republic, Greece, Macedonia, Austria, UK, Hungary, Poland, Czech





Republic. The Symposium was opened by Prof. Rayna Georgieva, President of the International Coordination Committee for Immunology of reproduction and the Organizing Committee. The participants were honoured by the Introductory Remarks and Greeting of Prof. Guy-Andre Voisin (France), doyen of the Symposium and co-founder of ICCIR, of Prof. Maria Ivanova, Director of the Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction and of Dr Georgy Nikolov, President of "ReproBioMed" Research Foundation (Sofia).





Scientific activities.

Thirty six plenary lectures, 5 short oral communications and 56 posters were presented in the 6 scientific sessions. Authors of the plenary lectures were well- known scientists working in the field of reproductive immunology: Caralyn Coulam, Kenneth Beaman, Gil Mor, Eytan Barnea and Raina Fichorova (USA), Julia Szekeres-Bartho (Hungary), Victor Chernishov (Ukraine), Hans Donat (Germany), Nelson Fernandez (UK), Maciej Kurpisz (Poland), Jana Peknicova, Zdenka Ulcova-Gallova and Vera Jonakova (Czech Republic), Marighoula Varla-Leftherioti (Greece), Natalya Sotnikova, (Russia), Roumen Riussev, Soren Hayrabedyan, Velislava Terzieva (Bulgaria) and others. Many young scientists and specialists presented their research results in 56 well prepared posters, discussed in two sessions. After reviewing, the abstracts and the final program of the Symposium were published in a special online issue of the American Journal of Reproductive Immunology.











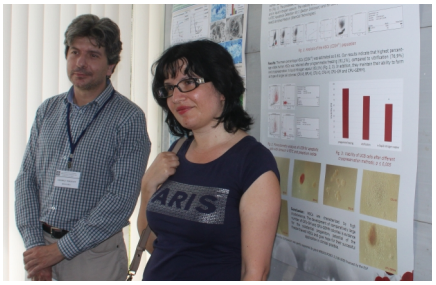
The basic and clinical data reported at the symposium and discussion were focused on the next major topics: Gammetes antigenicity and interaction; Innate and adoptive immune mechanisms; Immune regulation at the maternal-fetal interface during implantation and pregnancy; Autoimmunity; Endocrine disorders and reproduction; Mucosal immunity; Immunological problems of infertility, pregnancy loss, implantation failure , assisted reproductive technology (ART); Sexually transmitted diseases and local infections; Stem cells in reproduction.



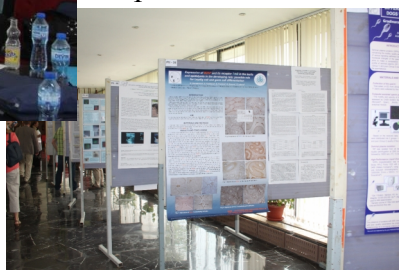
All the reports presented during the three-day meeting, according to the overall assessment of the participants, were of current, high scientific level and provoked interesting comments and discussions concerning the fundamental and clinical aspects of the immunology of reproduction. The main trends concerned the seek for means to enhance the success of applied biotechnologies, developing new approaches for diagnosis and therapy of infertility as well as increase of the reproductive capacity of family couples. Useful scientific contacts between the participants were established thus expanding the international scientific cooperation. The 14th Symposium was an important centre for the exchange of scientific and clinical knowledge expertise in the field of experimental and clinical biology and immunology of reproduction. The Symposium offered the possibilities for beneficial scientific contacts between participants, for useful international scientific cooperation and for the increase of opportunities to apply the acquired knowledge in the research work and clinical practice. The 14th ISIR was another proof of the importance of biology and immunology of reproduction and their role in world science. The activity of the 14th Symposium did not pass unnoticed by the TV, radio and press and all publications were positive.





















The evening of 24 May was dedicated to the Official ceremony on awarding the **"Kiril Bratanov"**

medal and the Certificate for contribution to the advancement of Reproductive Immunology and to ICCIR activities. The Medal had been established in 1997 by the ICCIR specifically for that purpose. The award was bestowed to the following world-renowned scientists: Kenneth Beaman (USA), Gil Mor (USA), Shigeru Saito (Japan) and Udo Markert (Germany).





Special Honorary Diploma and Statuettes were conferred to Gerard Chaouat (France) and Hans Donat (Germany), for their long-term cooperation with the ICCIR and the Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction, as well as for their respective basic and clinical achievements that have contributed to the development of reproductive immunology.



Professor **Rayna Georgieva** was bestowed the title **"Distinguished Professor Emeritus",** for her lifelong dedication to Science and Reproductive Immunology.



As a stimulus for the young scientists and specialists that have authored posters presenting new and important data a special certificate and a prize was awarded. **The Best Posters Awards** were shortlisted by an International Jury and bestowed to the followings: Elena Stepanova (Russia), Silvina Zaprianova (Bulgaria) Hadia Moindjie (France), Anastasia Belyaeva (Russia) and Snejana Kestendjieva (Bulgaria). The Awards were bestowend by the prominent German scientist and physician **Prof. Dr. Hans Donat,** a long-time member of ICCIR, who kindly provided us with the prizes.



During the Symposium the meeting with the member of the ICCIR was held to update the Government bodies and Memberships of ICCIR. The following changes were established:









President-Elect of ICCIR – Soren Hayrabedyan; Secretary-General of ICCIR – Milena Mourdjeva; New members of ICCIR – Krassimira Todorova (Bulgaria) Velislava Terzieva (Bulgaria), Georgi Nikolov (Bulgaria), Lubov Krechetova (Russia), Shigeru Saito (Japan), Akiko Hagegava (Japan), Ian Surgent (UK), Eytan Barnea (USA), Nelson Fernandez (UK), Marie-Pierre Piccini (Italy), Francois Vialard (France).

Contribution of ICCIR and Varna Symposia for Progress in Reproductive Immunology



The 14th International Symposium for Immunology of Reproduction was held 48 years after the First Symposium. In September 1967, Professor Kiril Bratanov, Director of the Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction and his closest collaborators organized and held the **First Symposium for Immunology of Spermatozoa and Fertilization**. During this forum the **International Coordination Committee for Immunology of Reproduction** was founded, registered in Paris and in Sofia, with headquarters at the IBIR. Prof. Bratanov was elected as first President.

Some of founders of ICCIR



We can proudly point out that one of the participants at the First Symposium, co-founder of ICCIR and its First Secretary General was Prof. Robert Edwards (UK). He was the first to achieve fertilization of human embryos in vitro and reported that results at the Symposium. In 1978, together with gynecologist Dr. Patrick Steptoe they were the first in the world to obtain in vitro baby. In 2010 Prof. Edwards was honored with Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine. Today, the problems of assisted reproduction still occupy a significant part of the Symposium scientific program.





Later on, **in 1975**, during the Third International Symposium for Immunology of Reproduction in Varna, the **International Society for Immunology of Reproduction (ISIR)** was founded and Prof. Kiril Bratanov was its first President.



The International Symposia for Immunology of Reproduction, known also as Varna Symposia and International Coordination Committee for Immunology of Reproduction played a crucial role for the creation and development of a new field in science – immunology of reproduction. On this basis and as a result of the activity of Bulgarian scientists, the international scientific community recognized Bulgaria as the place, where immunology of reproduction was born.

Prof. Rayna Georgieva, DSc
President of ICCIR












Materials & Methods
Results
Hematoxilin-eosin staining
cytochemical staining of monkey ovarian sections
LHR
GDF-9
BMP-15
17.8 years old



