

2007 ISIR Candidate Biosketches

President-Elect:

Julia Szekeres-Bartho (Hungary)

Dr. Szekeres-Bartho received her M.D. from Pecs University (1975), specialization in Clinical Chemistry (1978), and her Ph.D. Pecs University (1982), D.Sc. (1992).

POSITIONS -1975 to 76 research assistant (Department of Pathology, Pecs University Med. School,) 1976 to 94 assistant and associate professor (Dept. Microbiol. Pecs Univ. Med. School) 1994 full professor 2003 Chairman of Department of Medical Immunology and Microbiology, Pecs University Medical School, 1995 to 97 vice rector of Pecs University Medical School, 1999-2004 president of the Medical Training Program for foreign students.

RESEARCH GRANTS FROM Hungarian National Research Fund, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungarian Ministry of Welfare, WHO, Hungarian Ministry of Education, European Union

FELLOWSHIPS Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium, INSERM U 262 Paris, France, Széchenyi fellowship

OFFICES HELD

- President of the Hungarian Society of Immunology (2001-2004)
- Secretary-General of ISIR (2001-2004)
- President of Adria-Alps Society of Reproductive Immunology (2000-2004)
- Chairperson of the Medical Committee of Hungarian Accreditation Committee (1997-2003), at present member of the Committee of Appeal.
- president of the Immunology Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (1997-2003)

EDITORIAL BOARD APPOINTMENT: 1993-96 Editorial board member of Endocrine. 1997- 2006 American Journal of Reproductive Immunology

RESEARCH INTERESTS AND PUBLICATIONS a monograph, several book chapters and 140 papers on immuno-endocrine regulation in pregnancy in: J.Immunol. J. Reprod. Immunol., Semin. Immunol., Biol. Reprod., Amer. J. Reprod. Immunol., Amer. J.Obstet. Gynecol., Cell. Immunol., Clin.Exp. Immunol. Etc.

John C. Herr (USA)

Dr. John C. Herr is Professor of Cell Biology, Professor of Urology, founder [1981] and Director of the Lymphocyte Culture Center, and founder [1990] and Director of the Center for Research in Contraceptive and Reproductive Health [CRCRH] at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. He is a reproductive and developmental cell biologist. His research focuses on the genes and proteins that are expressed specifically in the sperm and in the egg. His laboratory studies sperm proteins involved in motility, capacitation, fertilization, and egg proteins involved in early embryogenesis.

He also directs the Fogarty Training Program for Indian scholars at the University of Virginia. This postdoctoral program is funded by the NIH Fogarty International Center and seeks bilateral cooperation and collaborations with Indian Scholars. Since 2000 he has been a member of the INDO-US Joint Working Group, a commission of scientists and governmental officials working to develop scientific collaboration and development in India. He has published over 180 scientific papers and book chapters. In addition he is an active inventor having more than 50 patent applications filed by his university. His laboratory studies not only the fundamental process of gamete development and fertilization but also applies the knowledge to practical applications. One aim is to identify targets for contraceptive vaccines and small molecule antagonists. Patented inventions from Dr. Herr include: 1) A new spermicide based on antibodies to the human sperm surface; 2) A contraceptive vaccine for women comprised of proteins from the sperm membranes; 3) SpermCheck®, the home test for determining male fertility; and 4) SpermPaints®, a test for semen developed for the National Institute of Justice to use in sexual assault cases. In addition, his university has licensed several novel genes involved in spermatogenesis and oogenesis to industry as contraceptive drug targets.

His awards include: The 2002 Alumni Award for Achievement from the University of Iowa Medical School, The Outstanding Scientist Award for the State of Virginia in the year 2000 and the Henderson Inventor of the Year Award from the University of Virginia Patents Foundation in 1999. He received the Munksgaard

Senior Investigator Award from the American Society for Reproductive Immunology in 1995 and was President of the ASRI from 93-94. The J. Christian Herr Award given annually by the ASRI was endowed by Dr. Herr in 1991 to encourage translational research within the ASRI and ISIR.

Dr. Herr serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the University of Virginia Patents Foundation, and he is the founder of two Charlottesville Biotechnology companies, Humagen [1983] and ContraVac [1992]. As CEO of ContraVac [www.contravac.com], Inc, Dr. Herr is focused currently on shepherding three immunodiagnostic tests through clinical trials and the FDA. In 2004 ContraVac won Virginia's Small Business Innovation Research Commercialization Breakthrough Award from the Center for Innovative Technology.

Secretary-General:

Rayna Georgieva (Bulgaria)

Dr. Georgieva is a faculty member at the Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 73, Tzarigradsko Shosse ave., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria. He received his V.M.D. degree in 1957 from the Higher School of Veterinary Medicine, Sofia, Bulgaria and his Ph.D. degree in biology, 1969, Moscow. This was followed by D.Sc. degree in immunobiology of reproduction, at the Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Research experience:

Developmental biology and immunology, 1959 – 1978

Immunobiology of reproduction, 1978 – on

Immunology of pregnancy, 1978 – on

Structural and Cellular mechanisms of implantation, 1990 - on

Recurrent spontaneous abortions, 1990 – on

Academic appointments:

Research fellow, 1959 – 1965, Department of Physiology and Pathology of Newborn, Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Assistant Professor, 1965 – 1978, Department of Physiology and Pathology of Newborn, Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Associate Professor, 1978 – 1986, Department of Immunobiology of Reproduction, Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction,

Professor (1986 – on) Department of Immunobiology of Reproduction, Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Science experience:

Publications – 125, Presentations in International Scientific Forums– 65. Member of 3 Scientific Councils of Reproductive Biology, immunology and medicine, Director of 10 National and International Scientific Projects

Professional membership: President of the International Coordination Committee for Immunology of Reproduction; Member of the Council of International Society of Immunology of Reproduction; European Society of Reproductive and Developmental Immunology; Society of Investigation of Early Pregnancy. Bulgarian Society of Reproductive Immunology; Bulgarian Society of Immunology; Union of Scientists in Bulgaria.

Administrative activity: Director of Department of Immunobiology of Reproduction, 1991- on, Vice -director of the Institute, 1996-2000, Director of the Institute, 2001.

Sarah Robertson (Australia)

Sarah Robertson received her Ph.D. from the University of Adelaide in October 1993, and after post-doctoral training was appointed to an NHMRC Research Fellowship in 2000. She is currently Associate Professor and Head of Reproductive Immunology at the Research Centre for Reproductive Health, University of Adelaide.

Her primary research interest is the immunology of the female reproductive tract and she has authored 80 peer-reviewed research articles, reviews and book chapters on cytokine and leukocyte regulation of the uterus and ovary. She uses genetic, molecular and cellular strategies to study the cell biology and immunology of embryogenesis and implantation, placental development and pregnancy outcome in mouse, human and livestock animals. The immune response to seminal fluid and the conceptus in establishing early pregnancy is a particular focus.

She regularly presents symposium and plenary lectures at national and international meetings, including in the past three years ICRI, SSR, Gordon Conference on Female Reproductive Tract Biology, ASRI and SGI. She was awarded the J Christian Herr Award of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology in 2005. Her research program is funded by the NHMRC, ARC, NIH and other national competitive granting bodies including an NHMRC Program Grant (2007-2011).

Dr Robertson is a member of scientific societies including the International Society for the Immunology of Reproduction and the International Federation of Placental Associations. She has held office in the Society for Reproductive Biology (Australia) as Treasurer (current) and Chair, Program Organising Committee (2004-2006). She has also served on the Council of the Australian Society for Immunology (1998-2002). Her editorial appointments include Section Editor (Basic Science) for the Journal of Reproductive Immunology and member of the editorial boards of Biology of Reproduction and Molecular Human Reproduction. She served on the Council and Research Committee of the NHMRC (Australia) for the 2003-2006 triennium.

Since 1993 she has supervised 11 PhD students and 12 Honors students and she lectures to undergraduate students on reproductive biology and immunology.

Treasurer:

Ian Sargent (UK)

Dr. Sargent is an immunologist based in the Nuffield Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Oxford, UK, where he is Professor of Reproductive Science and Scientific Director of the Oxford IVF Unit. He has worked in the field of Reproductive Immunology for the past 28 years and have over 120 publications on a wide range of topics including pre-eclampsia, feto-maternal cell traffic, trophoblast, HLA-G and early human embryo development and implantation. Dr. Sargent has been a longstanding committee member of the British Society for Immunology Reproductive Immunology Group, serving variously as Secretary, Treasurer and Meeting's Secretary and has organized 10 scientific meetings of this group. He has served as a member of the Executive Council of the ISIR since 1998 and Treasurer since 2004 and is a work-package leader in the European Network of Excellence on Embryo Implantation Control (EMBIC).

DEGREES:

1971-1974 UCW, Aberystwyth. Zoology: B.Sc. Hons. Class 2,1
1974-1977 St. Mary's Hospital, University of London. Ph.D. Immunology.

POSTS HELD:

2004-cont Professor of Reproductive Science, Nuffield Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX3 9DU
Scientific Director, Oxford Fertility Unit, Fellow of Mansfield College.
1998-2004 University Reader, University of Oxford
1983-1998 University Lecturer, University of Oxford
1979-1983 Research Fellow, University of Oxford
1978-1979 Research Fellow, Department of Immunology. St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, London W2 1PG.

Councillors:

Victor Chernyshov (Ukraine)

DR. Chernyshov graduated from the Lviv State Medical University in 1964 with a degree in medicine and a MD in internal medicine at 1965. 1966-1981 he studied problems of immunoandrology at the Institute of Urology and Nephrology, Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine at the position of researcher (scientist) in Laboratory of Pathophysiology. He received PhD at 1970 and Doctor of Medical Sciences at 1980. Dr.Chernyshov became the Head, Laboratory of Immunology, Institute of Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine in 1981 where works till today. In 1988 he became Professor of Immunology. Dr.Chernyshov served as organizer and president of four international symposiums Immunology of Reproduction in Kiev (1987, 1990, 1993, 1996). He was a supervisor of 28 PhD students and 3 DSc. He has more than 300 publications in journals and some textbooks ("Immunoandrology", "Immune factors in infertility", "Ionizing radiation and immune system of children", "Immune status of system mother-fetus-newborn" in: "Chernobyl Catastrophe", rus.). Dr.Chernyshov served as member of editorial board Central European Journal of Immunology.

Ole B. Christiansen (Denmark)

Dr. Christiansen graduated 1981 from the Faculty of Medicine, Aarhus University, Denmark. Worked in clinical immunology for 3 years. Became a Specialist in Obstetrics and Gynecology 1994. Since 2003 I have had a post as Consultant at the Fertility Clinic, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen University Hospital, Denmark. In the past, he has been the main organizer of five international and two national courses on the topic of reproductive immunology or recurrent pregnancy loss under the auspices of the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE), the European Society of Reproductive and Developmental Immunology (ESRADI) or the Danish Society for Obstetrics and Gynaecology. At present he is the General Secretary in *ESRADI* and a Member of the Executive board of the Early Pregnancy Special Interest Group of *ESHRE*. He is also a member of the Steering Committee of the European Society of Reproductive Immunology (ESRI) and former member of the Executive Council of *International Society for Immunology of Reproduction (ISIR)*.

He has published a total of 63 full-length articles and 10 short reports/letters and has given 44 oral presentations at international scientific meetings on obstetrics and gynecology, immunology or reproductive immunology. He has been supervisor for three PhD students doing research in epidemiologica, immunologic and immunogenetic aspects of miscarriage and recurrent miscarriage.

At present he is Associate Editor at *Gynecologic and Obstetric Investigation* and member of the Editorial Boards of *Journal of Reproductive Immunology* and *Current Women's Health Reviews*. He is a former Associate Editor at *Human Reproduction* and former member of the Editorial Board at *American Journal of Reproductive Immunology*. He has reviewed more than 250 manuscripts submitted to 20 different international journals.

Carolyn Coulam (USA)

Dr. Coulam is board certified in the specialty of obstetrics and gynecology and in the sub-specialty of reproductive endocrinology. Dr. Coulam graduated from the University of Utah College of Medicine in 1967 with a degree in medicine and a master's degree in biochemistry. She completed a rotating internship at Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital at Dartmouth College, and her residency at the Mayo Clinic, where she remained for 17 years.

While on the staff of the Mayo Clinic, Dr. Coulam was chair of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and established the first in vitro fertilization (IVF) program at this institution, in 1983. She became professor at the Mayo Medical School in 1984 and in 1985, was appointed chair of the Division of Reproductive Biology at the University of Pittsburgh.

In 1986, Dr. Coulam became the Medical Director of the Center for Reproduction and Transplantation in Indianapolis, Indiana, and in 1991, assumed the position of Director of Reproductive Immunology at the Genetics & IVF Institute in Fairfax, Virginia. In 1996 she became National Director of Reproductive Immunology at the Center for Human Reproduction (CHR) in Illinois, while at the same time, serving as Vice

President of Medical Affairs, Director of Ultrasound, and as Associate Director of CHR in New York. In January 2000, Dr. Coulam joined SIRM as Medical Director and Director of Laboratory Research of SIRM-Chicago. Dr. Coulam has served as managing editor of the *American Journal of Reproductive Immunology*, and is currently the medical director for *Infertility Times*, a patient periodical. She has more than 200 publications in peer-reviewed journals to her credit and has edited a major reference textbook entitled "Immunologic Obstetrics" published by W.W. Norton.

Today, Dr. Coulam is Director of Recurrent Pregnancy Loss and Research at the Rinehart Center for Reproductive Medicine, and Director of the Millenova Immunology Laboratories.

Zdenka Ulcova-Gallova (Czech Republic)

Dr. Ulcova-Gallova is a faculty member in the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, Medical Faculty of Charles University and Faculty Hospital, Pilsen, Czech Republic. She graduated from School of Medicine, of Charles University in Pilsen. From her IVth University grade she has been associated with research in the Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics of Medical School of Charles University and Faculty Hospital in Pilsen. In 1983 she received a Candidatus Scientiarum (CSc), topic „Immunology of female infertility – immunological reactivity of various sperm fractions with clinical evaluation“. In 1991 – the youngest Doctor Scientiarum (DrSc) in specialization of gynecology and obstetrics, topic „Immunological cause of infertility“.

Awards include: 1997, Pawlik's Award (Does the Levels of Sperm and Zona Pellucida Antibodies Influence in Infertile Women?-Am JReprod Immunol 1996, 36, 216-219.

1999 – The first place for published research abroad „The influence of different types of antibodies on in vitro fertilization results. Am J Reprod Immunol, 1999, authors: Mardeic T., Ulcová-Gallová Z. et al. award was given by Serono company.

2006 - Varna, Medale and diplom (Kiril Bratanov).

Research interests include studies of Incidences of sperm antibodies (TAT) in different infertile population, Studies of anti-phospholipid antibodies and HLA-DR specificities in Danish and Czech women with unexplained recurrent miscarriages, and The significance of antibodies against annexin V in couples with reproductive failure.

Peter Hansen (USA)

Peter J. Hansen is professor of reproductive physiology in the Dept. of Animal Sciences at the University of Florida. His research interests center around the basic mechanisms controlling the establishment and maintenance of pregnancy. Particular emphasis is placed on 1) elucidating effects of elevated temperature on early embryonic development and development of methods to overcome the effects and 2) characterizing interactions between the immune system, the reproductive tract, and the embryo. Dr. Hansen joined the faculty at Florida as an assistant professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1984 and transferred to the Dairy Science Department (now Animal Sciences) in 1986. His formal education was at the University of Illinois and University of Wisconsin. He received postdoctoral training in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Florida and spent a sabbatical leave at the University of Guelph. Dr. Hansen has published over 180 refereed papers. Dr. Hansen has received several awards including the Herr Award from the American Society for Reproductive Immunology and the Physiology and Endocrinology Award of the American Society for Animal Science. He served as President of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology from 2004-2006.

Joanne Kwak-Kim (USA)

Dr. Kwak-Kim is an Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Microbiology and Immunology at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. Currently she serves as the Director at the Rosalind Franklin Center for Women's Center and also as the Assistant Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science/The Chicago Medical School. She also served as the Medical Director at the Clinics at Rosalind Franklin University.

She is a world renowned leader in the field of Reproductive Immunology. Her work in natural killer cell and Th1/Th2 immune responses in women with recurrent pregnancy losses and multiple implantation failure is

well known. The research work that she has done applying basic science techniques to clinical problems is cutting edge. She has received numerous awards including the prestigious J. Christian Herr Award for outstanding achievement in basic or applied research in reproductive immunology by American Society for Reproductive Immunology.

She successfully organized and chaired 21st and 22nd annual meeting of American Society for Reproductive Immunology meeting. Currently she is the president of the American Society for Reproductive Immunology. Prior to her presidency, she has continuously served for American Society for Reproductive Immunology as an executive council, treasurer and president elect.

She has been working in Reproductive Medicine Clinic at the Clinics at Rosalind Franklin University since 1987 with the emphasis on treating infertility with implantation failures and recurrent spontaneous abortion of immune etiology. The center is well known both nationally and internationally for its outstanding clinical program and research activities.

Tsunehisa Makino (Japan)

Dr. Tsunehisa Makino was graduated from School of Medicine, Keio University, Japan, 1964. Dr. Makino has been at The Laboratory of Human Reproduction and Reproductive Biology, Harvard Medical School between 1970-1973 and was Assistant Professor of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Harvard Medical School in 1973. Dr Makino promoted his position to Professor and Chairman, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Tokai University Hospital, Japan, in 1992. Dr. Makino was chairman of the Executive Board Meeting of the Japan Society for Immunology of Reproduction(JSIR), also president of IXth International Congress of Reproductive Immunology held at Hakone, Japan, in 2004. Dr. Makino was councilor of the International Society for Immunology of Reproduction (ISIR). Dr. Makino is actively strengthening scientific tie between ASRI, ISIR and JSIR by sending many young Japanese immunologists to these international meetings.

Udo Markert (Germany)

Dr. Udo Markert is head of the Placenta-Lab, which is the research unit of the Department of Obstetrics at the Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Germany. The research focus of Dr. Markert's group is the intracellular signal transduction in different cells at the materno-fetal interface, mainly trophoblast and NK cells. A major aim of his activities is to motivate students to work in the field of reproductive immunology by strongly supporting their exchange between labs and conference participations. Dr. Markert has supervised 25 master and doctorate theses thus far. His lab is member of EMBIC, an European Network of Excellence on Embryo Implantation Control (www.embic.org) and is involved in numerous further international cooperations. He was Organizer and President of the 8th Congress of the Alps Adria Society for Immunology of Reproduction 2002 in Weimar, Germany, and Organizer and Co-Organizer of several national and international congresses and workshops. Currently, he is organizing the 3rd EMBIC Summer School (September 2007) in Jena. Dr Markert is Editorial Board member (since 2003) and was Guest Editor (2003) of the American Journal of Reproductive Immunology (AJRI). He has edited three books: "Local Immunotherapies in Allergy" (2003, within the series Chem Immunol), "Immunology of Gametes and Embryo Implantation" (2005, same series) and "Immunology of Pregnancy" (2005, same series). Dr. Markert functions or functioned as reviewer for the European Union, German Research Society, Irish Health Board, Spanish Ministry of Economy, Austrian National Bank, The Wellcome Trust, several international societies, international journals and universities. In 1990, Dr Markert has passed the German and US American Medical Examinations.

Margarita Mollova (Bulgaria)

Margarita Vassileva Mollova, assoc. professor, Director of the Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction, "Acad. K. Bratanov", Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Education:

Higher Scholl of Agricultural Academy, Sofia, Bulgaria	Zooingineer	1969
Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction, Sofia	PhD, immunology	1982

Researche and/or Professional Experience

Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction	Research fellow	1969-1980
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Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction
Institute of Biology and Immunology of Reproduction

Assistant-professor 1980-1987
Associate-professor 1987- on

Professional Membership:

International Society for Reproductive Immunology
International Coordination Committee for Immunology of Reproduction
European Society of Reproductive Immunology and Development
Society for Reproduction and Fertility
Bulgarian Society of Reproductive Immunology
Union of Bulgarian Scientist

Specialization:

main field - immunology of reproduction
other fields - cell biology and physiology
current research interest - gamete recognition and interaction, cell differentiation and apoptosis in male reproductive system, sperm antibodies with clinical significance in reproduction.

Publications:

Number of papers in refereed journals: 100
Number of communications to scientific meetings: 85

Honours, Awards:

Award at First International Forum on Reproductive Immunology, Magdebutg, June,19-23, 1990
Award at European Meeting of Immunology and Reproduction, Rome, Oct. 28-29, 1999

Jana Peknicova (Czech Republic)

Dr. Peknicova is an Assoc. Prof., RNDr., CSc.and Senior Scientist, Institute of Molecular Genetics, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, v.v.i. Head of Laboratory of Diagnostics for Reproductive Medicine, Institute of Molecular Genetics, Czech Academy of Sciences, v.v.i. Vídeňská 1083, 142 20 Prague 4, Czech Republic

Education: 1963-1968 Faculty of Natural Sciences, Charles University, Prague; 1970 degree RNDr.(Rerum Naturalium Doctor); 1975 - degree CSc (Candidatus Scientarium) -(PhD), Thesis: "Topographic distribution of H-2 antigens on cell membrane"; 2002 – degree Doc (Associate Professor), Thesis: "Role of selected sperm proteins in fertilization".

Employment history:

1966-1971, Research Assistant (while an undergraduate she worked part time at the Institute of Experimental Biology and Genetics, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague);

1971-1975, Ph.D. student, Department of Developmental Genetics, Institute of Experimental Biology and Genetics, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Prague (now Institute of Molecular Genetics, Academy of Sciences (IMG AS)),

1975-1978, scientist, Department of Developmental Genetics; IMG AS.

1978-1990, scientist, Department of Biomodels; IMG AS

1990-2006, head of the Department of Biology and Biochemistry of Fertilization, IMG AS

2007-present, head of Laboratory of Diagnostics for Reproductive Medicine, IMG AS, v.v.i., Prague.

Scientific career:

1968-1978, study of expression of histocompatibility antigens on cell membrane, expression of these proteins during cell cycle in somatic and hybrid cells, introducing of monoclonal antibodies against H-2 antigens to genetics monitoring of inbred line of mice, introducing a new two-step freezing method for hybridoma technology,

1985-present, study of proteins from sperm and reproductive fluids in the early stages of fertilization. The determination of function of selected proteins before penetration into the oocyte in connection with phosphorylation and cytoskeleton. Hybridoma technology, construction of hybridomas producing monoclonal antibodies against cell surface sperm and acrosomal proteins and proteins of reproductive fluids.

Ljiljana Randic (Croatia)

Dr. Randic received her MD degree in 1960 from the University of Zagreb and Rijeka and completed her specialized training in Ob/Gyn at the University Hospital of Rijeka and Ljubljana in 1966. She then completed studies in 1975 when she received her PhD from the University of Rijeka, School of Medicine. In 1996, she became a Subspecialist in Human Reproduction through the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia. Dr. Randic has received advanced training in New York through the Margaret Sanger Research Bureau in the area of Human reproductive physiology and family planning. At present she is an Ob/GYN specialist, former head of department, counselor and full professor at University hospital and University of Rijeka, School of Medicine. Her research interests include the study of Short term cytolytic mediators expression in decidual lymphocytes is enhanced by IL-15, Perforin and Fas/FasL Cytolytic Pathways at the Maternal-Fetal Interface, and the presence of functional mannose receptor on macrophages at the maternal-fetal interface.

Shigeru Saito (Japan)

Professor Shigeru Saito received his Bachelor of Medicine in 1980 from Nara Medical University, Japan, and Ph. D. from Nara Medical University in 1985. During a postdoctoral period with at Kyoto University Virus Center, he studied molecular biology and immunology, especially cytokines. Since April 1998, he has been Professor and Chairman in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Toyama Medical and Pharmaceutical University. He is one of the Editor-in-Chief of J. Reprod. Immunol. He is a council member of ISIR since 2004.

His research interests have centered primarily at understanding the immunology at the maternal and fetal interface with particular emphasis on the roles of cytokines and chemokines and the immune cells such as uNK cells and Treg cells that play important roles in the maintenance of pregnancy.

Professional Positions

1984-1990 Assistant Professor Medicine, Nara Medical University
1990-1998 Associate Professor Medicine, Nara Medical University
1998- Professor Medicine (Obstetrics and Gynecology),
Toyama Medical and Pharmaceutical University (2005~ University of Toyama)
2005- Vice Superintendent, Toyama University Hospital

Awards and Other Professional Activities

1990 Young Scientist Award of Japan Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology
1998-2005 Editorial Board, American Journal of Reproductive Immunology
1999- Editorial Board, Journal of Reproductive Immunology
2002-2004 Vice President, American Society for Reproductive Immunology
2003- Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Reproductive Immunology
2004- Council member, International Society for Immunology of Reproduction (ISIR)
2005 Congress President, Japan Placenta Association

Charles R. Wira (USA)

Dr. Wira is a Professor of Physiology at Dartmouth Medical School (DMS). He received his B.S. from Delaware Valley College, his M.S. from Michigan State University and his Ph.D from Dartmouth Medical School (DMS). Dr. Wira's research focuses on how female sex hormones influence immunity in the female reproductive tract (FRT). Funded by NIH for the past 30 yrs, he has published approximately 160 research papers. Dr. Wira heads NIH Program Project grant to characterize innate and adaptive immune function in the human FRT and to define the role of sex hormones in mucosal immune protection. He has received numerous awards including a NIH Merit Award and the Distinguished Investigator Award in Reproductive Immunology from the American Society of reproductive Immunology (ASRI). Dr. Wira is the Secretary General of the International Society for Immunology of Reproduction and President Elect of ASRI. His research should increase the limited knowledge of immune protection in women by providing information for the prevention and control of gynecological cancers, genital infections, and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV-1.