

International Conference on the Bioscience of Lipids



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A NOTE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT

Being my first address in duty since January 2006, my note must be devoted to my predecessor Fritz Spener as a tribute to his engagement for eight years in maintaining the high scientific standing of ICBL. His action has always been done with respect of the Spirit of ICBL under the kindness of the past President Albert Lagrou and our regretted Secretary Giovanni Galli. The Spirit of ICBL is something unique which has to be safeguarded because it ideally conciliates high standard science with social life and relationships at a level which is not only decorum but a state of real well-being of participants and accompanying members. This certainly is a way to prevent science from becoming an activity disconnected from its social support.

ICBL is approaching its fiftieth edition and is still quite attractive with two to three hundred participants at each conference. The 47th one, to take place next September in Hungary, will associate satellite meetings of other organizations such as the European Lipidomics Initiative (ELife) with a session sponsored by the International Society for the Study of Fatty Acids and Lipids (ISSFAL), and the International Lecithin and Phospholipid Society (ILPS). This demonstrates the attractiveness of ICBL which will play a pivotal role during this one week of science dedicated to lipids in Hungary. This also shows the turmoil lipid field with the emergence of young dynamic societies such as ISSFAL and Euro Fed Lipid which organizes its 4th Congress in Madrid one month later than the 47th ICBL. Euro Fed Lipid intends to set up a Lipid Bioscience section which will be in close contact with ICBL by the cross participation of their respective steering committee members in their functioning. This is obviously quite stimulating for ICBL that has put ahead its mission statement, so to provide “*an international forum for the presentation and discussion of fundamental research in all aspects of lipidology and related applications*”. Its position is assertive!

Another proof of the vivid existence of ICBL is its future plans secured till 2010 with venues from North to South Europe. Although firmly rooted in Europe, ICBL also could reaffirm its international status with a possible future venue in North America again where several Canadian ICBL enthusiasts have shown their willingness for a Conference to take place in the Rockies. As previously in Japan, then in USA, an ICBL in Canada would recognize the growing investment of Canadian lipidologists in the Organization.

There is no doubt that ICBL, with its exciting agenda and its partially renewed Steering Committee, is shaped for the future.

Michel Lagarde
President of ICBL

THE 46TH ICBL
Ajaccio, France, 2005 September 20-24

“ICBL AT ANCHOR IN THE BAY OF AN IMPERIAL CITY ON KALLISTE ISLAND”

DEDICATED TO THE COMMEMORATION OF PROFESSOR GIOVANNI GALLI

Once upon a time ... not so long ago-to be precise it was during the dinner after the ICBL Steering Committee Meeting in Halle in 2000- two faithful ICBLians, Professors G. Galli and M. Lagarde were conducting an animated and intriguing conversation under the benevolent eagle-eye of our then President Professor Fritz Spener. The little grey cells were sparking and the creation of neural energy was immense. Next day the reason for the clandestine, high-powered deliberations became clear. Our dynamic duo submitted to the ICBL board an official letter of application to organize an ICBL Conference somewhere at the French-Italian border. Needless to say at the next year in Bergen (Norway) their candidanship was unanimously approved by the ICBL Steering Committee. So the 46th ICBL was born and scheduled for 2005. This conference will be remembered as the first in ICBL's 52 years history to be organized by two countries. Our President referred to a trans-national event, a cherished expression in so-called Eurospeak, particularly when applying for grants from the European Commission.

But then ... what would be the location for such a novel meeting? Although several options were available, the conspirators finally plumped for Ajaccio on the Island of Corsica, also the birthplace of a great European, as the most appropriate location. The choice of Corsica was an irrefutable master stroke that epitomised the French-Italian ambience that the meeting was wanting to foster. The island had been part of Italian Genoa for five centuries before becoming a French Department in 1768. But as I and many conference participants have experienced, it was and still is a very special French “province” of the Fifth Republic. By the way, the Corsican language closely resembles the one spoken in Medieval Tuscany, somewhat like the Old Latin some of us have learned at Grammar School.

With Corsica as a venue and having in mind the Corsican saying “Corsu per Corsu” a native Corsican, Professor P. Grimaldi, was the ideal person to scout out the potential of the venue for ICBL, not only because of his Corsican roots but most importantly for his excellence in lipidology.

He was therefore invited to join the organizing committee thereby creating a formidable triumvirate to organize this 46th ICBL. Unfortunately, our dear friend Giovanni Galli died in 2003 and was no longer among us when this 46th ICBL came to fruition in 2005. Therefore the ICBL Steering Committee is greatly indebted to Professor M. Crestani, who graciously accepted the invitation to fill the conference chair from the Italian side. Dear Maurizio, our compliments and heartfelt gratitude go out to you, you were a most dignified substitute of whom Giovanni would have been proud ... very proud!

Corsica! Although a fish can swim around the island over night and a pigeon can fly across the island in about one hour, an occasional visiting tourist, even in one hundred years, can never learn all about this “Ile de Beauté”. Indeed, already the Greeks named this island “Kalliste”, the most beautiful one, a tourist visiting-card needing no further recommendation. The uniqueness of this mini-continent (8722km²) stems from its rich historical heritage from the primeval age with the mysterious “civilisation of Toréenne” -as evidenced by the Filitosa statues with their enigmatic sculptured faces- over the age of Antiquity, through the Middle Ages to Modern Times and the Present. Corsica is also blessed with a wealth of natural lushness, about one fourth being natural park with magnificent landscapes and a coast spread over nearly 1000km with 300km of accessible beaches, not to forget the mild Mediterranean climate. One can only come to one conclusion. Corsica is an island jewel, a delight to explore and become acquainted with. Our final destination on this beautiful island was Ajaccio.

The town of Ajaccio rises up from one of the most beautiful gulfs in the world, set against a backdrop of mountains, that are often snow-capped until spring ... but to our regret not in September, the traditional ICBL season. Ajaccio is, according to mythology, the town of Ajax founded by Horace. More mundanely, the name originates from Haghiasos on the slopes of Mount Olympus, the home of the Greek sailors and early colonisers who came over from the island of Lesbos. The history of Ajaccio goes back to the prehistory, but “modern” Ajaccio was rebuilt by the Genoese Banca di San Giorgio in 1492, the same year Christopher Columbus ostensibly discovered America (we know the Vikings got there first!). Did you know that Columbus, who always considered himself a genuine Genoese and above suspicion, was born on Corsica and can you guess the name of the street in Calvi, where his house of birth stands? Yes! In Ajaccio the names of the streets, the statues, the monuments, all evoke the memory of that great European unifier (although by not democratic means) Napoleon Bonaparte, who was born on August 15th 1769 in a house on the Rue Saint Charles, now a museum and a very good illustration of how the noble families lived in Ajaccio at the end of the 18th century. The town truly emanates “Napoleon” in as much that Emile Bergerac, returning from a trip to Corse towards the end of the 19th century, wrote that Ajaccio was “the recollection of Napoleon” surrounded by houses. But this is somewhat of an overstatement, Ajaccio is much more than that. I hope that the conference participants, who were kept very occupied by the conference business, found some time to soak up the atmosphere and ambience of the city, by strolling around the old port, the Place des Palmiers, the De Gaulle Square, the covered Fish Hall, the lively markets, the narrow streets in the old Borgu quarter with the typical noble houses and much more. Not to forget the white sandy beaches abounding with local “wildlife”, where you can swim in the azure sea with a water temperature up to 20°C even in October. Personally, I really enjoyed visiting the markets, where you can find anything that comes from the mountain farms, all sorts of sausages and charcuterie, cheeses of all shapes and sizes, tonnes of patisseries and buns, colourful fruits, herbs and spices of all colours. A gourmet’s delight!

For nearly all conference delegates and accompanying persons a bulk reservation had been made by the organizers in the Coralia Club Marina Viva situated along the beautiful beach of Porticcio, but

also with an attractive swimming pool. The hotel restaurant offered quality food with an extended breakfast in the morning and a dinner in the evening, even the wine was inclusive! This communal living allowed the socializing, so dear to ICBL, to start even before the beginning of the meeting. In the hotel there was also a bar “U Paradisu” with musical entertainment and Karaoke. On the first evening some ICBL Steering Committee members (guess who?) tried in vain to convince our President to give an imitation of Tino Rossi (1907-1983), Ajaccio’s most illustrious child (if Bonapart had not been there) and a world renowned singer with a golden voice about half a century ago. As a first excuse he pretended a sore throat and as a second defence for his refusal: September is too early to sing “Petit Papa Noël”, one of the most popular songs of Tino Rossi. Dear Professor Spener: What about eternal melodies as “Catari”, “Ramona”, “Marinella” not to mention his most beautiful Corsican ballads like “l’Ajacienne” and “Corsica, île d’Amour”? The Marina Viva Resort being situated at the other side of the bay opposite Ajaccio Town, the active conference participants had to get up early (very!) in the morning for transport by shuttle boat to the Congress Centre, but also giving them the opportunity to really be blown awake and to enjoy the spectacular view of the bay at sunrise and on return at sundown.

On September 20th 2005 nearly two hundred and fifty attendees from 31 different countries assembled in the recently constructed and most tastefully designed Ajaccio Conference Centre. These participants were all looking forward to a week with a perfect mixture of prestigious lipid bioscience and warm friendly social events against a backdrop of beautiful scenery, fantastic climate and (at least for me) superb “cuisine”. The auditorium for presenting the invited lectures and short oral communications was dedicated to Pasquale Paoli, “Figliolu de a cità d’Aiacciu” as respectfully referred to by the “Agacians” or as “Père de la Patrie” by the Corsicans in general. An historical side note, Corsica was (from 1755 for 14 years) the first republic in modern Europe with a democratic constitution under the presidency of the same Pasquale Paoli, at that time Général de la Nation Corse. I cannot escape the feeling that this Paoli is more admired and cherished by the islanders than the other much more notorious Corsican “native”, sometimes referred to as “Nabulio”, a less friendly nickname given by the Corsicans to Bonaparte. After the “Benvenuti a tutti a Corsica” by the conference organizers and the welcome address by the ICBL President the scientific programme was initiated by the now traditional (actually the 10th as this series of lectures was introduced at the Antwerp meeting in 1996) “L.L.M. Van Deenen Lecture” entitled “Fatty Acids and Derivatives in Cell Function”. This was superbly presented by Professor Art Spector from Iowa, a gifted and inspiring speaker with a great affection for ICBL and a towering authority in the field, as evidenced by his 306 (at that moment) papers in highly rated international journals. In commemoration of one of the instigators of this 46th ICBL, the late Professor G. Galli, a second special plenary lecture followed entitled “Plasma lipoproteins and endothelial functions: from gene expression to biological function”, brilliantly delivered by Professor Alberto Catepano, a most eminent scientist who was for many years a close colleague of Giovanni in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences of the University of Milano.

And then the next day, the true “Lipid Show” could start. On the scientific menu five topics were offered to the participants spread over seven half day sessions and respectively focussing on (1) Lipids and gene expression with also shortly “Lipidomics” in the picture (convincingly presented by Ed Dennis from La Jolla); (2) Reverse cholesterol transport and cellular trafficking; (3) Membrane lipid domains; (4) Phospholipases and (5) Obesity, diabetes and energy metabolism. On Friday a special session was arranged for the proclamation of the Gerli (Lipid Group of the French Biochemical Society) prizes each year awarded to two young French scientists (E. Masson from Lyon and P. de Medina from Toulouse) for the scientific excellence of their Ph. D. Theses. From

the following presentations by these young lipidologists I learned that there is a bright future for lipid bioscience in France.

In accordance with ICBL's high scientific standards a selected number of internationally-recognized experts in the respective fields of the five symposia themes had been invited, all having presented most enthusiastic and colourful state-of-the-art lectures even ... (at least most of them) respecting the strict time schedule of the conference programme. The lectures upon invitation were supplemented with a respectable number (over forty) oral communications. This indicated that the themes selected for the five symposia by the organizers could all have been described as "hot topics". The poster area with about one hundred posters on display was the ideal forum for young scientists to present their recent work and findings focussing on other topics of the vast field of lipid bioscience. It should be mentioned that these poster sessions were very well attended, mostly for the science, but in my humble opinion, also partly seduced by the savoury Corsican sweets and cookies being served that contained tasty, but unfortunately also very bad, lipid molecules. In the following contribution of this newsletter a more detailed synopsis of the scientific programme of the 46th ICBL can be found.

And what about the social events accompanying the 46th ICBL? De facto an irrelevant question. The social programme is an intrinsic and enjoyable part of every ICBL meeting. After the opening ceremony participants and accompanying persons were invited for a reception in the open air (or did you already forget about the Mediterranean climate on the island?) on the patio near the swimming pool of the Marina Viva resort. An abundant variety of typical Corsican appetizers and drinks (including aperitivo "Cap Corse") was on offer at this welcome soiree which provided the ideal setting to greet old friends and get acquainted with new ones "in spe".

Friday evening September 24th was reserved for the Conference Dinner with an authentic Corsican Menu i.e. with lipids on the plates and courses being served containing ingredients as charcuterie Corse, herbes du maquis déglacé au clos capitori, cannelloni au bruccio, fiadonne etcetera and all this aroused "à volonté" with Corsican wines. Already from the start of this Diner de Gala there was lots of animated chattering and lively discussions at the tables; unfortunately the "Polyphonics" performance by a Corsican group of singers with beautiful voices "e ricuccate" did not receive the appreciation they really deserved.

Faithful to ICBL tradition a Leitmotiv of the conference dinner event is always the proclamation of the poster award winners, the last two years elegantly and humorously presented, as always did his predecessor Klaus Wahle, by chairman Guenther Daum. From his fatherly advices to the young ICBLians I will not forget the last referring to the innumerable colour combinations made feasible by computer programs like Corel Draw: "Never make your poster look like a parrot". Missing the wizardry of Alice and Harry (Oxford meeting) and the Dodona Oracle (Ioannina meeting) but perhaps "imperially" inspired and without any doubt wisely advised and assisted by the Poster Award Jury the following three poster award winners, all of equal standing, were nominated:

Antony¹, P.; Hoek¹, K.L., Castro¹, I., Gerstein², R., Wang³, D., Khan¹, W.N.,¹Dept of Microbiology and Immunology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN,. ²Dept. of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA. ³The Blood Center of Southeastern Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI. USA. for their study: BTK/PLC- γ 2 signalling axis differentially regulates the production of DAG upon BCR and BAFF-R stimulation in immature splenic B cell subsets.

Merlin, J.-F., Bellenger, J., Bellenger, S., Skrzypski, J., Gresti, J., Poisson, J.-P., **Narce, M.** EA 2422 Lipides et Nutrition, Université de Bourgogne, 6 boulevard Gabriel 21000 Dijon, France for their study: Effects of the Delta-6 desaturase inhibitor SC-26196 on lipid metabolism in Spontaneously Hypertensive Rat SHR.

Márquez, M.G., Leocata Nieto, F., Gagliano, M.L., Fernández-Tome, M.C., Favale, N., **Sterin-Speziale, N.B.** School of Pharmacy and Biochemistry, University of Buenos Aires. IQUIFIB-CONICET. Buenos Aires, Argentina for their study: Raft-phosphatidylinositol-4,5-bisphosphate (PI-4,5-P2) is essential for the maintenance of mature focal adhesion (FA) plaques.

A pleasant development in the ICBL poster award tradition appreciated by the ICBL Steering Committee was that during this 46th ICBL an extra number of prizes was awarded. Next to the Gerli Prizes, already referred to, a Young Investigator Award was sponsored by the Biochemical Journal and presented by Paul Grimaldi to:

Hamdi¹, S.M., Ysebaert, L., Coutal, T., Mansat-Demas², V., Demur, C., Perret, B., Record, M. ¹CPTP-INSERM U563, Hôpital Purpan, Toulouse, France, ²Laboratoire d'Hématologie, Hôpital Purpan, Toulouse, France for their study: Role of PLD2 in human leukaemic development.

And last but not least sponsored by the Nutrition Foundation of Italy in respectful memory of Giovanni Galli, who during his scientific career always was a real promotor of gifted young trainees in his laboratory, the Giovanni Galli Young Investigator Award was adjudged to the youngest presenting participant of this ICBL meeting, the prize was most appropriately presented by Maurizio Crestani to:

Mulgrew^a, S., (Co-authors: Goua^a, M., Sneddon^b, A., Wahle^a, K.W.J), ^aSchool of Life Sciences, The Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Scotland; ^b Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, Scotland for the study: Measurement of the surface expression of ICAM-1 and VCAM-1 in interleukin-6 stimulated HUVEC by flow cytometry.

Of course, no ICBL conference would be the same without the annual address by El Presidente to his “subjects”. After words of congratulation and appraisal, unconditionally supported by the scriptor of these annales, for the organizers of the 46th ICBL and, honour to whom honour is due, even so to the respective scientific and executive “équipes”, the President had to announce that a number of senior members and old hands in the Steering Committee (R.B./R.P./D.B./Y.S./A.L.) had to step down as corresponding and advisory members. Their new, most promising successors (D.V./Y.I./D.M./G.D./J.G.) are also reputable lipidologists affected by the ICBL virus and imbued with the Spirit of ICBL, and will guarantee an efficient and smoothly functioning Steering Committee in the years to come as well as the future of ICBL. And then, as a first climax of the President’s speech came: “Habemus Praesidentum”. Indeed during a meeting two days earlier the Steering Committee had unanimously elected Professor Michel Lagarde from Lyon as the 8th President of ICBL, his duty starting from 1st January 2006. So a prophetic vision I had last year in Ioannina, when I imagined that I had perceived a future ICBL President amongst the Sirtaki dancers during the conference dinner, became a reality. Michel Lagarde has been engaged with ICBL already for many years, as organizer of ICBL meetings, as Steering Committee member, as managing editor of the ICBL’s Golden Jubilee Booklet and much more; in other words a true promotor of ICBL. Because of this loyalty to ICBL but also because of his wealth of experience and expertise in the lipid arena and his affiliations with other European Lipid Groups, I am convinced that my friend Michel is the right man in the right place at the right time to ensure that ICBL

continues to prosper and flourish in the future. I am certain that he will also be a president who will write ICBL history. At the end, as an ultimate climax of his speech the moment came, we all were waiting for, when the ICBL President asked us to fill our glasses, to raise them and join in the time honoured toast to the “Spirit of ICBL”. For the record, the President’s speech was not the end of the Gala Dinner.

The traditional half-day “break” on Thursday afternoon in the middle of the Conference saw the ICBL family leaving the old harbour for a boat trip to the North-West of Ajaccio’s bay. Cruising along the sandy beaches of the coastline the accidental “ICBL sailors” were offered sight-seeing on a number of most interesting touristic places as there was the cathedral “la Madunuccia” (where on July 21st 1771 Napoleon was baptized), the fortress of Ajaccio with its ramparts and bastions on the rocky peninsula, the Casino municipal, the Greek Chapel (a temporary refuge of the Greeks banished from Paomia in 1731), the cemetery of Ajaccio (a much quieter part of town), le “Chemin des Crêtes” ending at the Parata Tower (one of the many Genoese watch towers erected at strategic points all along the Corsican coast), the villa of Tino Rossi (the favourite retreat of this famous Corsican singer) etcetera before arriving at the Isles Sanguinaires, three islands spread as three virgin pearls on the sea surface. This tiny archipelago is now listed as a preserved maritime site and a sanctuary for marine bird species but, as I heard from the guide, also for human eating rats at night, brrrr ... Romantic souls connect the name of these islets with the colour of the sea at sunset, but the likelihood that the name stems from the neighbouring bay of Sagone is greater; in the days that Latin was spoken these islands were already Sagonares. When mooring at Mezzumare, the main island, we were warmly welcomed by a breathtaking vision of a sunbathing mermaid that nearly lured our captain onto the rocks in the bay. She was in my opinion a living replica of the sensual sculptured allegory of “La Pudeur” on Ajaccio’s Trottet Beach, but according to Klaus Wahle, an expert in such things, more likely a living copy of the “Deutsche Lorelei”. During the one hour stop at the island the ICBLians were invited for a walk up a hill (self evidently down hill upon return) either to the lighthouse or to a somewhat desolate building overgrown with weeds. This was, if I am not mistaken, in the past a lazaret to temporarily quarantine island visitors suspected of suffering from malaria or another contagious disease. Anyway, from both mountain tops we had a splendid 360 degree view. An interesting note; the island was the setting of one of Alphonse Daudet’s *Lettres de mon Moulin*. Back to the boats the bar “staff” became frenetically occupied to serve the thirsty “mountain climbers”, including myself, whilst we were all sitting and leisurely admiring the beautiful vistas all around. It was then that I began to comprehend what it must be like to live as a “God in France”. or more precisely on Corsica. Dear Michel, only one minor shortcoming in the excellent organisation, I missed the dolphins, we all were looking forward to seeing them frolic about in the azure sea, but alas, they did not grace us with their presence.

For the accompanying persons the organizing committee had planned two extra social activities. On Wednesday there was a whole day excursion by coach with visits to a number of picturesque places like the magnificent pass of Spelunca; the village of Cargèse, an asylum for Greek refugees in 1676 and where stand two churches, an orthodox and a Latin, facing each other; the Gulf of Porto with its magnificent sunsets and classified by Unesco as a “world heritage site”; Piano, regarded as one of France’s most beautiful villages and then as a “sumum” of the excursion the “Calanches”, amazing giant granite sculptures that change colour from orange over pink to red according the time of the day and where you can discover what are known as “taffoni”, natural caves that provided shelter for the first men on the island. According to the participants this was indeed a “four star excursion”. As a last social event the accompanying persons were offered a delightful and much enjoyed guided tour through the “Imperial City” itself ending in the museum “Palais Fesch” named after cardinal Joseph Fesch, uncle of Napoleon and generous donator of this palace to the town.

It should be mentioned that the ICBL Steering Committee, besides the election of the new ICBL president and the selection of new corresponding and advisory members as already referred to, has been kept very occupied by president Spener with matters such as ICBL's public relations policy, the arrangements for future ICBL conferences (Hungary, Finland, The Netherlands, Germany and Spain), the ICBL mission statement and a number of changes in the ICBL constitution to be definitively decided next year in Pécs. In fact the ICBL Steering Committee members were kept so busy that there was no time even for a game of "jeux de boules", the favourite sport common to French and ... Corsicans.

And now as a tribute from an ex-President to an ex-President, but also speaking in name of all Steering Committee members. Dear Professor Spener, dear Fritz, referring to your first address as ICBL President (Davos 1998) to the ICBL community, I have not the slightest hesitation to state and recognize that you have followed the path of excellence and encouraged those on that path, as outlined by yourself. Your achievements and innovations during your "reign" have beyond any doubt secured the further growth and prosperity of ICBL, so dear to us. Therefore many thanks for all your efforts and many congratulations!!!

Dear reader of this "opus magnum", my last contribution for the yearly ICBL Newsletter, writing these contributions all these years has given me the pleasure to live each ICBL Conference a second time. The cordial contacts with my colleagues in the Steering Committee over nearly twenty years, especially the eight years with Giovanni Galli as secretary and myself as president, have been a real privilege. All this makes me remember a song of Mary Hopkins in the sixties (of last century!): those were the days, my friend, I thought they never end ... but unfortunately. Reminding me another song by Maurice Chevalier in the charming movie "Gigi": I (will always) remember it well. Further, I would like to thank the organizers and the chairpersons of the session (especially Marzia Galli-Kienle also the brave secretary of the ICBL Steering Committee always keeping ICBL business under strict control) for granting me the opportunity for a farewell address to the ICBL community at the occasion of my retirement from university and as active "ICBLian", thereby allowing me at the same time to show the human face of ICBL. I must also apologize (especially towards Marzia and Fritz who each year were pleading with me to keep the Newsletter within some reasonable limits) for the inadmissible length of this contribution. As a defence please allow me to paraphrase A. Einstein with his beautiful first name: make everything as short as possible, but not shorter.

Final conclusion, the 46th ICBL was a well organized conference, scientifically and socially a complete success. To compliment the organizers in one sentence: this 46th ICBL, unique as the first trans-national ICBL Conference, was also a majestic example of a true ICBL. Thank you, Michel, Paul, Maurizio as well as everyone who has contributed to that success. A special word of praise for Insavalor in charge of the conference office and the logistic support by taking care of the arriving and departing participants, in addition to the organisation of the housing and tourist events. Last but not least my congratulation for the efficiency and the goodwill of the scientific secretary in Milano under the supervision of Miss Elda Desiderio Pinto, as charming a name as the young lady herself.

Next year ICBL for the first time in its existence will visit Hungary. Indeed the 47th ICBL convincingly and most seductively introduced by its future president Prof. L. Vigh will be held from 5 to 9 September 2007 in Pécs. As a visiting-card Pécs has won the title of European Cultural Capital in 2010 and according to László a delightful and lovely city in the Mecsek Hill region. The

47th ICBL will also be unique in this respect in that it will be the first joint meeting with ELIFE and ILPS.

At the end of the meeting of the conference the departure from the island by the participants was compromised by a strike of the ferries and high speed boats ensuring the passage from and to the continent. The organizers want to stress that this unplanned event was not at all their original initiative and they deny any responsibility. Perhaps the castaways left behind there will have exploited the opportunity to go for a trip around Corsica, a must when visiting this beautiful island.

Hoping to meet you all in Pécs I remain as the South Africans say

“MOOI BLY”

Albert Lagrou

ICBL President 1990-1997

46th International Conference on the Bioscience of Lipids (ICBL) 2005 September 20-24, Ajaccio, France

Scientific Report

The scientific programme of the 46th ICBL started on the evening of September 20, 2005 with the 9th L.L.M. van Deenen Lecture followed by the Giovanni Galli Special Lecture, whereas on the subsequent four days, five symposia were arranged covering the following topics of the bioscience of lipids:

1. Lipids and Gene Expression
2. Reverse Cholesterol Transport and Cellular Trafficking
3. Membrane Lipid Domain and Phospholipases
4. Obesity, Diabetes and Energy Metabolism

The meeting program included sixteen (16) plenary lectures, forty-two (42) oral communications and ninety-eight (98) posters. Two hundred thirty-eight (238) participants attended the 46th ICBL, including one third of students (undergraduates and graduates). The abstracts of the meeting have been published in *Chemistry and Physics of Lipids* (CPL, 2005, 136(2), 83-166).

The 2005 edition, the first one in the ICBL history to be organized by two countries, was co-chaired by Dr. Maurizio Crestani from Italy and by Dr. Paul Grimaldi and Dr. Michel Lagarde from France, with the support of a joint French Italian organizing committee. We must mention the special atmosphere, the so-called “spirit of ICBL”, that one experiences during these meetings. It can be summarized as an optimal blend of scientific and social program that grants successful outcomes in terms of advancement of scientific knowledge, exchange of ideas, fruitful collaborations.

The **8th L.L.M. van Deenen Lecture** was given by **Arthur A. Spector**, Distinguished Professor at the Biochemistry Department, Iowa City, IA, USA. The title of his lecture was “Fatty acids and derivatives in cell function”. In his presentation Arthur Spector revisited the biochemistry and biology of the bioactive metabolites derived from arachidonic acid. He provided an excellent example of how a scientific topic is developed, applying typical biochemical tools and novel concepts borrowed from molecular biology. In fact he described the multiple steps that led him to

the isolation and structural identification of arachidonic acid metabolites, especially those produced by cytochrome P₄₅₀-dependent monooxygenases, along with the identification of the enzymatic source and metabolic fate. He completed the description of these metabolites describing their multifaceted biological properties, from vasocontraction/relaxation to the modulation of the activity of nuclear receptors.

This year the program of the conference also included the **Giovanni Galli Special Lecture** dedicated to Giovanni Galli, Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Milano, who served as secretary of ICBL for over 20 years and passed away suddenly in 2003. The special lecture was delivered by **Alberico Catapano**, a colleague and a friend of Giovanni Galli from the same Department at the University of Milano. Dr. Catapano presented the major contributions of his research group in the lipoprotein field with a speech entitled “Plasma lipoproteins and endothelial function: from gene expression to biological relevance”. Alberico Catapano focused in particular on triglyceride rich- and high density lipoproteins whose effects are definitely less elucidated than those exerted by low density lipoproteins. By combining global approaches, such as cDNA microarray analysis, and molecular approaches that allow to dissect pathways modulating gene expression, Alberico Catapano presented evidence that lipoproteins may affect endothelial function cross-talking with pro-inflammatory and pro-thrombotic pathways. These studies significantly advance our understanding of the role that lipoproteins play in atherosclerosis.

Topic 1: Lipids and Gene Expression

The first day of the scientific program, September 21st, was entirely dedicated to the session “Lipids and gene expression”. This emerging topic has received a great deal of attention in recent years because of the metabolic and physiologic implications deriving from lipid regulated gene expression, but also because of the links with a wide range of human diseases and possible exploitations in the pharmacological and dietary field. Top level scientists were invited to illustrate state-of-the-art knowledge but also to share their recent unpublished results.

The first plenary lecture was delivered by Walter Wahli, Professor of Biology, Director of the Center for Integrative Genomics at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland and outstanding scientist in the field of nuclear receptors. In his lecture entitled “PPAR β/δ in skin cell functions, from wound healing to directional keratinocyte migration. Starting from the accurate examination of PPAR β/δ deficient mice, he provided a very elegant and thorough analysis of the complex network of signaling pathways that underlay wound closure that led to the recent discovery of the antagonistic interplay between PPAR β/δ and the transforming growth factor β 1 in re-epithelialization. He also illustrated a novel aspect of PPAR biology describing the novel function of PPAR β/δ and Akt in hair follicle morphogenesis.

Dr. Sander Kersten, from the Nutrition, Metabolism and Genomics Group, Wageningen, addressed another important aspect of PPAR biology talking on “PPARs and nutrigenomics”. Exploring the molecular mechanisms that govern energy metabolism during fasting in liver and adipose tissue, Sander Kersten discovered an emerging factor that is modulated by PPARs and controls triglyceride storage in adipose tissue, the fasting induced adipose factor (FIAF). In mouse and human this adipocytokine is physically associated with HDL and its over-expression impaired the plasma TG clearance, probably acting on the lipoprotein lipase activity. Studies in transgenic mice subject to different dietary manipulations indicate that FIAF is a powerful regulator of lipid metabolism and adiposity, adding a further level of complexity to our concept of lipid trafficking and storage in response to food intake.

The last plenary lecture of the session was presented by Prof. Jan-Ake Gustafsson, since many years established at Karolinska University Hospital in Huddinge where he is at the head of a large research group that is highly active in the study of nuclear receptors. In his presentation entitled “The role of LXR in the liver, adipocytes and nervous system” Jan-Ake Gustafsson provided an extensive analysis of the involvement of liver X receptors (LXRs), and particularly LXR β , in a wide variety of tissues and functions, from brain to bones, to prostate and ovary. These new data, deriving either from LXR deficient mice and from ligand dependent LXR activation, represent an important contribution for understanding the relevance of LXRs in patho-physiology.

Topic 2: Reverse Cholesterol Transport and Cellular Trafficking

The half-day session scheduled for September 22nd was devoted to the topic “Reverse Cholesterol Transport and Cellular Trafficking”.

Dr. Laura Calabresi, from the Department of Pharmacological Sciences, University of Milano, opened the session with a lecture on “Pathophysiology of reverse cholesterol transport”. She addressed this topic with a clinical “nuance”, focusing in particular on two of the main actors in this process, apolipoprotein AI (apoAI) and lecithin:cholesterol acyltransferase (LCAT). It should be mentioned that Laura Calabresi is a distinguished member of the research group that discovered a novel and atypical mutation of apoAI, termed apoAIMilano, some 30 years ago. By analyzing the phenotype and biochemical features of patients carrying mutations in these genes, Laura Calabresi offered a mechanistic approach to assess and demonstrate the relevance of an impaired reverse cholesterol transport in the establishment of coronary artery disease.

The second invited speaker of the session was Dr. Toshihide Kobayashi, chief scientist at RIKEN Wako, an independent Japanese institution engaged in basic and applied research, and also collaborating with INSERM in Lyon. His presentation entitled “Distribution and transport of sphingomyelin-rich and cholesterol-rich membrane domains monitored by newly developed lipid specific probes” dealt with the development and application of innovative tools for monitoring and studying the dynamics of specific membrane domains in living cells. Toshihide Kobayashi demonstrated that by means of specific, non-toxic, sensitive probes it is possible to finely characterize submicrometer scale heterogeneity of plasma membrane lipids. Given the importance of membrane nanodomains in signal transduction and cellular processes, any information relative to membrane dynamics will greatly help unravel their functional roles and implications in cellular processes.

Topic 3: Membrane Lipid Domains and Phospholipases

The third day of the conference, September 23rd, was split in two half-day sessions dedicated to two related topics, “Membrane lipid domains” and “Phospholipases”, which are classical and recurring themes in ICBL meetings.

Dr. Denis Corbeil, from the Medical Clinic and Polyclinic I, at the University in Dresden, speaking on “The cholesterol-binding-membrane protein prominin-1/CD133: from lipid membrane microdomain and plasma membrane protrusions to tissue formation and human disease”, addressed an emerging field that links membrane biology to stem cells. He presented experimental evidence of the involvement of prominin proteins in the biology and morphology of stem cells, particularly from the hematopoietic lineage, through specific interactions with cholesterol-rich membrane domains and membrane-derived particles. The recent observations of the occurrence of prominin containing particles in most body fluids and the induction of prominin in certain types of cancer suggest a role of these proteins in tissue development and a potential use as diagnostic marker.

Dr. Dick Hoekstra, from the Department of Cell Biology at the University of Groningen covered another specific aspect related to membrane biology, that is dynamics of signalling molecules and transducers in polarized membranes. Speaking “On the dynamics of sphingolipids and their metabolites in the development of polarized membranes” he described the signalling pathways underlying apical plasma membrane biogenesis. The findings presented in the lecture were essentially based on HepG2 cells, a hepatoblastoma cell line, used as a prototype of polarized cells. Dick Hoekstra also addressed the key role that sphinganine and related enzymes exert in the development of cell polarity and the possible links with regulators of the cell cycle.

“Nuclear phospholipase D in vascular smooth muscle cells” was the topic of the presentation delivered by Dr. Michel Record, from the INSERM Unit - Lipid Mediators and Lipoproteins Department in Toulouse. Although the function of nuclear lipids is still poorly understood, Michel Record clearly demonstrated that vascular smooth muscle cells express nuclear phospholipase D and that it is specifically targeted by G-protein coupled receptors. In addition he showed that nuclei possess a complex enzymatic apparatus required for phosphatidyl inositol turnover. Given the involvement of vascular smooth muscle cells in pathophysiology, these observations will very likely contribute to the identification of new pharmacological targets.

The last speaker of the session was Dr. Jesus Balsinde, leader of a research group operating at the Institute of Molecular Biology and Genetics, University of Valladolid. He talked about the “Role of various phospholipase A2 enzymes during human monocyte apoptosis”. Jesus Balsinde explained the role of the calcium-independent phospholipase A2-VIA in response to oxidative stress and in apoptosis in monocytes/macrophages, showing that the magnitude of macrophage phagocytosis correlates with the level of iPLA2-VIA activity in dying cells. Altogether, these results indicate that generation of lysophosphatidylcholine by iPLA2-VIA in apoptotic U937 cells may contribute to their clearance by macrophages.

Topic 4: Obesity, Diabetes and Energy Metabolism

The Conference came to its conclusion on September 24th with a session entitled “Obesity, Diabetes and Energy Metabolism”.

The first invited speaker of the session was Dr. Kazuyuki Tobe, member of the well-known group directed by Professor Takashi Kadowaki, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Tokyo. In his presentation entitled “The role of adipokines in the development of metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes” Kazuyuki Tobe extensively covered the major contributions from the Kadowaki’s group in the field of diabetes and metabolic syndrome. He offered a complex overview of the results obtained by his group from animal models, pharmacological treatment of patients and molecular studies, to highlight the involvement of adipokines, namely leptin and adiponectin, in diabetes. These results represent important milestones in the comprehension of the metabolic and molecular mechanisms underlying diabetes and for the development of effective therapies.

Dr. Mary C Sugden, from the Centre for Diabetes and Metabolic Medicine, at Queen Mary University of London further contributed to the topic of the session with a presentation entitled “Skeletal muscle metabolic activity related to lipid metabolism”. Mary Sugden elegantly addressed the biochemical basis of the crosstalk between lipid and glucose metabolism in relation to insulin resistance and metabolic inflexibility. Mary Sugden put emphasis on those enzymes that represent regulatory checkpoints, namely the pyruvate dehydrogenase complex and different pyruvate dehydrogenase kinase isoforms. Interestingly these enzymes can also be targeted by synthetic agonists of nuclear receptors that are profoundly involved in metabolic control, PPAR and LXR.

The conclusive plenary lecture was delivered by Dr. Daniel P Kelly, Director of the Center for Cardiovascular Research, Washington University of St. Louis. In his masterful presentation entitled “PPARs and the diabetic heart” he described published and unpublished results from his group that

greatly contribute to the comprehension of cardiac energetic metabolism in diabetes. He discussed in great detail the critical role of PPAR α and its negative effects in the adaptation response from glucose to fatty acid utilization, thus highlighting its contribution to cardiac failure. Daniel Kelly also addressed the functions of PPAR β/δ that, in contrast to PPAR α , drives cardiac metabolism towards glucose utilization.

The program also included extra contributions. First of all the launching of two remarkable initiatives in the field of Lipidomics, the “LIPID Metabolites And Pathways Strategy (LIPID MAPS)” [101] by Dr. Edward Dennis, University of California, San Diego, and “ELife: The European Lipidomics Initiative; Shaping the life sciences” [102] by Dr. Fritz Spener, University of Graz. Talking of LIPID MAPS, a US-based initiative involving a consortium of ten research groups, Edward Dennis thoroughly illustrated its goals, objectives and first achievements. The first landmark accomplishment of LIPID MAPS is the recent publication of a new comprehensive classification system of lipids in the Journal of Lipid Research (Fahy et al., 2005). Fritz Spener described the “twin” European initiative, ELife, acting jointly and in synergy with LIPID MAPS and the corresponding Japanese initiative LIPID bank, for the compilation of lipid databases and lipid classification system. ELife specifically intends to mobilize and network the European basic and medical researchers and industry. Last but not least, a special goal of ELife is to constitute consortia of research groups that will apply for funding in the coming Framework Program of the European Commission.

According to the ICBL tradition, during the social dinner, the winners of the poster awards were proclaimed by the chairman of the Poster Evaluation Committee, Professor Guenther Daum from Graz. The winners were (in alphabetic order):

“BTK/PLC-g2 signalling axis differentially regulates the production of DAG upon BCR and BAFFR stimulation in immature splenic B cell subsets” by Pierre Antony et al. from the Dept of Microbiology and Immunology, Vanderbilt University, Strasbourg, France

“Effects of the Δ -6 desaturase inhibitor SC-26196 on lipid metabolism in Spontaneously Hypertensive Rat SHR” by Michel Narce et al. from EA 2422 Lipides et Nutrition, Université de Bourgogne, Dijon, France

“Raft-phosphatidylinositol-4,5-bisphosphate (PI-4,5-P2) is essential for the maintenance of mature focal adhesion (FA) plaques” by Norma Sterin-Speziale from Dept of Biological Sciences, University of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The Biochemical Journal sponsored an extra poster award that was attributed to Dr Safouane Hamdi, INSERM Unit - Lipoproteins and Lipid Signalling, Toulouse, France, for his poster entitled “Role of phospholipase D2 in human leukaemic development”.

In addition, this ICBL edition offered another price for the youngest researcher presenting a contribution. The Young Investigator Award was dedicated to the memory of the late Professor Giovanni Galli with his unstinting and passionate dedication to young scientists. The winner was Scott Mulgrew from The Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen Scotland, who was born in 1982. He presented a poster entitled “Measurement of the surface expression of ICAM-1 and VCAM-1 in interleukin-6 stimulated HUVEC by flow cytometry”.

This year the ICBL meeting also hosted the presentation of two doctoral theses awarded with “Thesis prize” by GERLI, the Research Group on Lipidomics, one of the thematic groups of the French Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. The French young investigators who received the prize were **Elodie Masson** from Lyon (Implication of gangliosides in alterations of

retinal pericyte and renal mesangial cell proliferation : common mediators for diabetic retinopathy and nephropathy?) and **Philippe de Medina** from Toulouse (Mode of action of tamoxifen. Characterization and development of new steroids inductors of cellular differentiation : dendrogenines).

A report on the 46th ICBL will be published soon in Future Lipidology, a new journal of the Future Medicine series. The online version will be available by the end of March at the website <http://www.futuremedicine.com/loi/flp>

Maurizio Crestani, Paul Grimaldi, Michel Lagarde

On behalf of the Organizing committee of the 46th ICBL

**47th International Conference on the Bioscience of Lipids ICBL -
ELIFE – ILPS joint meeting
5-10 September, 2006
Pécs, Hungary**



Pécs

Pécs, which has won the title of European Cultural Capital at 2010, is a delightful, exuberant place, the largest and loveliest city in the Mecsek Hill region. Situated 32km or so from the Croatian border, the city enjoys a particularly warm and arid climate. Few places in Hungary possess a more Mediterranean quality than Pécs. Known as the "2,000-year-old city," Pécs was a major settlement in Roman times, when it was called Sopianae. It was later the site of Hungary's first university, founded in 1367. For more information,

you can check the "Links" page, where you can find links to websites that could help you to learn more about the town and the country.

Organizers



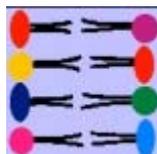
47th International Conference on the Bioscience of Lipids (ICBL), 5-9 September

Organized by Hungarian Biochemical Society; Biological Research Center of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; and Straub Heritage Foundation



ELIFE workshop, 5-6 September

Organizers: Balázs Sarkadi and András Váradi



9th ILPS International Phospholipid Congress, "Biochemistry and Nutrition of Phospholipids", 9-10 September

Organized by the International Lecithin and Phospholipid Society
Organizers: Willem van Nieuwenhuyzen (Netherlands), Michael Schneider (Germany)

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Bart Staels

Martijn Katan

Gerd Schmitz

Preliminary scientific programme

Tuesday, 5 September, 2006

14:00-17:30 ELIFE workshop on "[Lipidomics and Health](#)"

- **Gerd Utermann:** Genetic background of lipid disorders
- **Jurgen Borlak:** Aberrant lipid metabolism in human diseases
- **Balázs Sarkadi:** ABC transporters for membrane lipids
- **Hee-Hong :** Lipidomics of the brain , *sponsored by ISSFAL*
- **Philippe Bougnoux:** Lipidomics of cancer , *sponsored by ISSFAL*

18:00-18:50 Opening Ceremony of ICBL

- **Opening talk: László Vigh** (*Chairman*)
- **Opening talk: Fritz Spener and Michel Lagarde** (*Past and present presidents of ICBL*)
- **In memoriam Tibor Farkas: John E. Halver** (*US National Academy of Sciences*)
[The Laurens van Deenen Lecture](#)
- **Ben de Kruijff:** Membranes, where lipids and proteins meet

Wednesday, 6 September, 2006

Joint sessions with ELIFE

[Lipidomics](#) (Gerd Schmitz, Gábor Balogh)

- **Markus Wenk:** Lipidomic approaches in host-pathogen interactions
- **Edward A. Dennis:** The LIPIDMAPS Approach to Eicosanoid Lipidomics
- **Gerd Schmitz:** Understanding macrophage lipid metabolism: Lipidomics as a part of systems biology
- **Michael Trauner:** Bile acids and other nuclear receptor ligands as transcriptional cofactors in liver metabolism

[Membrane microdomains: lipid rafts and caveolae](#) (Gerrit van Meer, János Szöllösi)

- **János Szöllösi:** Membrane microdomains: distinct molecular association clusters from a functional point of view
- **Gerhard Schutz:** Detection of lipid rafts by single molecule microscopy
- **Akihiro Kusumi:** Paradigm shift of the plasma membrane concept from the two-dimensional continuum fluid to the partitioned fluid
- **Gerrit van Meer:** Dynamical organization and function of raft lipids

Thursday, 7 September, 2006

In memoriam Tibor Farkas (Fritz Spener)

- **Michael Schlame:** Barth syndrome, a human disease of cardiolipin metabolism
- **Pablo Escriba:** Membrane-lipid therapy

[Lipids and stress](#) (John Harwood, László Vigh)

- **John Zehmer:** Thermal acclimation in raft microdomains of the plasma membrane
- **John Harwood:** A novel desaturase involved in stress adaptation in the soil protozoan, *Acanthamoeba castellanii*
- **Ibolya Horváth:** Temperature stress response under the control of composition and physical state of membranes
- **George M. Carman:** Regulation of the yeast Mg^{2+} -dependent phosphatidate phosphatase in response to nutrient deprivation

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Friday, 8 September, 2006

Gene regulation by nucleus-targeted lipid signaling system (Bart Staels, Ibolya Horváth)

- **Folkert Kuipers:** Regulation of lipid metabolism by the nuclear receptors LXR and FXR
- **Niko Marx:** Cardiovascular effects of PPAR agonists
- **Paul Grimaldi:** Regulation of lipid absorption by the nuclear receptor PPARdelta

What are healthy lipids? (Martijn Katan, Gyözö Garab)

- **Ingeborg Brouwer:** Does fish oil prevent cardiac arrhythmia?
 - **Bengt Vessby:** Health effects of Conjugated Linoleic Acid (CLA)
 - **Alexandra Richardson:** Polyunsaturated fatty acids and brain development
-

Saturday, 9 September, 2006

Metabolism and function of lipids in the brain (Norman Salem, Klára Kitajka)

- **Norman Salem:** Function and metabolism of docosahexaenoic acid in the nervous system: Where does it come from and what does it do?
- **Thomas Brenna:** The influence of perinatal long chain polyunsaturate nutrition and prematurity on neural tissue polyunsaturate composition and function studied in non-human primates
- **Sylvie Chalon:** Effects of n-3 PUFAs on neurotransmission systems: the contributions of animal models
- **László Puskás:** Protein microarrays for dietary lipid-induced expression analysis in the brain.

Sphingolipids (Yoshitaka Nagai, Yasuyuki Igarashi)

- **Sen-ichiroh Hakomori:** The past and future of glyco/sphingo lipid research
- **Tony Futterman:** LASS genes: mammalian ceramide synthases
- **Gábor Tigyi:** Structural analysis of sphingosine-1-phosphate receptors: from computational models to rational drug design
- **Howard Riezman:** Biosynthesis and functions of sphingolipids in yeast
- **Yasuyuki Igarashi:** Topological metabolism and transbilayer dynamics of sphingolipids

Sunday, 10 September, 2006

Additional 1 day session of ILPS

Sphingolipids II (Åke Nilsson)

- **Åke Nilsson:** Introduction: Sphingolipids in the gut. What are the key issues?
- **Peter Slotte:** Interactions between sphingomyelin and cholesterol in cells
- **Erich Gulbins:** Regulation of cell functions by ceramide-enriched membrane domains
- **Rui-Dong Duan:** Sphingomyelinases and ceramidases in intestinal mucosa
- **Karel van Erpecum:** Influence of bile salts on molecular interactions between sphingomyelin and cholesterol: relevance for biliary and intestinal tract
- **Steven H Zeisel:** Human dietary requirements for dietary choline/phospholipids

Marine and Soy Phospholipids (Michael Schneider)

- **Erik Lovaas:** Marine phospholipids: The third generation of omega-3 products?
- **Joseph Hibbeln:** Omega-3 fatty acids in aggression and depression
- **Hee-Yong Kim:** Relationship of DHA and PS synthesis

- **Maud Cansell:** Comparison of the metabolic fate of n-3 PUFA in plasma and liver of rats supplemented with marine lipid-based liposomes or fish oil
- **Hogne Hallaraker:** Functional long chain phospholipids: The science, manufacture and use of enzymatically transesterified phospholipids

Important Dates

March 1, 2006. :Payment accepted from March 1, 2006.

May 1, 2006. Deadline for registration.

Deadline for submission of short abstracts.

Deadline for accommodation booking.

May 15, 2006. Deadline for selection of oral communications from submitted abstracts.

June 1, 2006. Deadline for payment of the conference fee and accommodation.

For details on the meeting

<http://www.icbl2006.hu/>

Future Meetings 48th ICBL Turku, Finland *September 4-8, 2007*

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Conference Topics

Lipid metabolism 1 – Sphingolipids

Membrane structure and function 1 – Lipids and lipid domains
Membrane structure and function 2 – Proteins in membranes
Membrane structure and function 3 – Computational studies
Intracellular lipid transfer
Lipid metabolism 2 – Fatty acids
Hot topics to be chosen on short notice as they come up

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