



RIFM Holds Series of Methodology Seminars at EADV Congress in Barcelona

RIFM's Expert Panel (REXPAN) held its regular meeting on October 14, 2003, in conjunction with the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) Congress in Barcelona, Spain. This enabled a number of guests to participate in discussions on relevant aspects of immunobiology and contact allergy and patch testing. Prof. Robert Modlin, MD, Chief of Dermatology, UCLA Medical Center, presented "Pathophysiology of allergic contact dermatitis: An immunological perspective" and Prof. Dr. Georg Stingl, Chairman, Division of Immunology, Allergy & Infectious Diseases, Dept. of Dermatology, Univ. of Vienna Medical School, presented "The cellular players in patch test reactions: Implications for contact allergy." Also in attendance and contributing to the

discussion that included the future direction of immunobiology and *in vitro* science were Prof. Dr. Torkil Menne, Gentofte University Hospital, Denmark and Dr. David Basketter, Unilever SEAC, United Kingdom.

RIFM also sponsored an *in vitro* Sensitization Methodology Workshop at the EADV Congress. The program included:

- ◆ Introduction to Contact Sensitization and Underlying Mechanisms—Dr. Paul R. Bergstresser, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
- ◆ Development Of *in vitro* Methods To Detect Contact Allergens—Dr. Setsuya Aiba, Tohoku University School of Medicine
- ◆ Future Direction Of *in vitro* Methodology—Prof. Dr. Med. Hans F. Merk, Rhein. Westf. Techn. Hochschule

Presentations were followed up

with a two hour Panel Discussion Session. An Informal Open Discussion Session took place immediately after the workshop at the Hotel Catalonia Barcelona Plaza. Discussants included:

- ◆ Development Of In Vitro Sensitization Models: Practical Considerations—Dr. David A. Basketter, Unilever Research
- ◆ A Strategic Approach For The Development Of Alternative Methods For Skin Sensitization Testing—Dr. G. Frank Gerberick, Miami Valley Laboratories, The Procter & Gamble Company
- ◆ Sensitization And The Signaling In Dendritic Cell Activation—Dr. Conrad Hauser, Geneva Medical School
- ◆ Perspectives For Non-Biological Alternative Methods—Dr. Jean-Pierre Lepoittevin, University Louis Pasteur.

RIFM Posters Accepted by Three Organizations

Dr. Kenneth Schrankel, VP of Corporate Safety Assurance for International Flavors & Fragrances Inc., Shrewsbury, N.J., presented a poster on RIFM's behalf at 5th Congress of Toxicology in Developing Countries, November 10 - 13, 2003 in Guilin, China.

The poster is a snapshot of RIFM's purpose and work in the fragrance industry. It illustrates how RIFM's research is processed from prioritizing to publishing results and how those results are made available to its member companies and the general public. It also illustrates the role that the RIFM Expert Panel plays in forming the basis for IFRA's industry standards. The poster represents the first formal introduction of RIFM and its work to the scientific community in China.

The congress was organized by The International Union of Toxicology (IUTOX) and the Chinese Society of Toxicology (CST) in conjunction with the China International Conference Center for Science and Technology (CICCST). The main objective of this conference was to provide a forum for discussing the toxicological problems facing developing countries.

Daniel T. Salvito, RIFM's Environmental Scientist, presented "The Importance of applying 'clean' and validated quantification techniques for studying environmental levels of materials used by consumers" at the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) 24th Annual Meeting in North America, November 9-13, 2003 in Austin, Texas. The poster was co-authored with Roland Kallenborn of the Norwegian Institute for Air Research, The Polar Environmental Center, Tromsø, Norway; Herbert E. Allen, Center for the Study of Metals in the Environment and Pei Chiu, both of whom are from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, at the University of Delaware. (continued on p.2)

RIFM Posters (continued from p.1)

The theme for the SETAC meeting this year was *Science Without Borders: Developing Solutions for Global Environmental Challenges*.

Daniel Isola, RIFM

Human Health Scientist and upper respiratory project manager presented "Exposure characterization of fragranced air fresheners" to the World Allergy

Organization (WAO) Congress, September 8, 2003 in Vancouver, Canada. Coauthors of the poster were Ladd W. Smith, RIFM, Woodcliff Lake, New

Jersey; R.E. Rogers, Toxcon Health Sciences Research Centre, Inc., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; and M.S. Black, Air Quality Sciences, Marietta, Georgia.

Database User Group Meeting Provides Updates on Recent Refinements

A Database User Group Meeting was held at RIFM headquarters in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey, on October 1, 2003. More than 30 RIFM subscribers attended and all were very satisfied with the improvements. Debbie Nickels of Corporate Safety Assurance at International Flavors & Fragrances, Inc. wrote, "Thanks to all at RIFM for the great demonstration today. It is wonderful to see that the database has continued to grow and improve in so many ways."

Many refinements were added to the database since the last group meeting in September 2002 in Munich, Germany.

- ◆ A new introduction where all of the features of the database are listed.
- ◆ Related studies are now cross-linked.
- ◆ C/M/R Categories have been added.
- ◆ Materials can now be searched by structure activity relationships (e.g. "Alcohols Terpene Cyclic", or generic groups, e.g. "Alcohols").
- ◆ Hyperlinks to published monographs, Fragrance Material Reviews (FMRs),

JECFA summaries, HPV statements, SCCNFP opinions, CERHR reports and more.

- ◆ Additional EINECS numbers.
- ◆ Complete collection of FFIDSs online (1985-present).
- ◆ Access to a list of materials being tested for each study protocol.
- ◆ Updates to reference searching.
- ◆ E-mail notification upgrades allow the subscriber's to obtain overnight e-mail notification on updates or additions to the database and are designed to customize the information according to the subscriber's individual needs.

Several of RIFM's scientific staff members made presentations on how to navigate the database and its new features. Charlene Letizia, RIFM's Database Scientist, discussed the upgrades to the e-mail notification system and the refinements to Reference Searching. She then presented information on the Structure Activity Groups recently added to the database, explaining the difference between each group

and how each can be searched. John Lalko, one

"Thanks to all at RIFM for the great demonstration today. It is wonderful to see that the database has continued to grow and improve in so many ways."

**Debbie Nickels
Corporate Safety Assurance
International Flavors
& Fragrances, Inc.**

of RIFM's Technical Writers, reviewed the individual material's home page including: overview, searching, identification (synonym, CAS#, etc.), relationships, and physico-chemical properties. Christen Sachse-Vasquez, RIFM's FFIDSs Specialist, highlighted the more than 100 FFIDSs online and the What's New Page where notices about database improvements and future RIFM events are posted. Sachse-Vasquez also presented information on the Status section, where

new links have been added for several materials (ex. CERHR and ASTDR reports), the Health Hazard Statement section, where R&S phrases are listed on the material page, and the planned R&S phrase list. There will soon be a link on the home page to the entire R&S phrase list. Jennifer Cocchiara, Senior Test Program Specialist, discussed the layout and contents of the Material Experiments page, describing in more detail the types of toxicological information that can be found for specific references. She outlined changes in the way the data was organized and presented and the ongoing addition of comprehensive sensitization summary tables for select materials. She also showed how to use the cross-reference links and where to find review articles from published literature.

