



# ISNV

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*International Society for NeuroVirology*

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## An ISNV Welcome Note

Lynn Pulliam



Welcome to the 10th International Symposium for NeuroVirology, which is held in conjunction with the 2010 Conference on HIV in the Nervous System. This is our third symposium held in Europe and is sponsored by a grant from the National Institute for Mental Health and the National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Major support has also been received from the Temple University School of Medicine and the Institute for Molecular Medicine and Infectious Disease at the Drexel University College of Medicine. The Symposium is also supported by funding provided by Biogen, Inc. and Tibotec, Inc. and a number of other industrial sponsors as well as support from the Italian Virology Society and the University of Milan (see pages 3-4). We expect an attendance of about 300 scientists and Investigators in Training. There will be 12 sessions, 6 presenting HIV research and 6 presenting neu-

roinfectious disease research. There will be two workshops, one on multiple sclerosis and one on substance abuse and four Lectureships. We will have a Women in Neurovirology reception as well as a networking event for junior investigators. Finally, the Pioneer in NeuroVirology dinner will be held at the historic Palazzo Giureconsulti, a magnificent building overlooking the Duomo in the heart of Milan.

It is the overall goal of the ISNV to bring together basic and clinical scientists in the disciplines of neurology, neuropathology, neuroscience, infectious diseases, neuroimmunology, neurochemistry, and molecular virology. I encourage everyone to enjoy the venue, see old friends and make new ones as well as discuss how we can prevent, predict, and treat neurologic diseases associated with viruses and other infectious pathogens.

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## Peter Kennedy receives the Commander of the Order of the British Empire

Dianne Langford

Please join us in congratulating our former ISNV President, Dr. Peter Kennedy, on his inauguration as Commander of the Order of the British Empire. This most prestigious award was bestowed upon Dr. Kennedy on December 31, 2009. The Investiture by Her Majesty the Queen was held on July 13, 2010 at Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh, Scotland.

The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire is an order of chivalry established on 4 June 1917 by George V of the United Kingdom.



This Order is conferred for important services rendered to the Crown. The Order's motto is 'For God and the Empire'. The Orders of Chivalry are a means whereby the Sovereign may bestow an honor on his or her subjects, either as a mark of personal favor or at the recommendation of the Prime Minister.

Originally the fusion of knightly and religious ideals, brought together by the Crusades, the Orders of Chivalry were founded by European kings as a means of binding their great nobles to the royal cause as Companions of the King.

Dr. Kennedy is the Burton Professor of Neurology and Head of University Department of Neurology, Head, Division of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Glasgow, and Consultant Neurologist, Institute of Neurological Sciences, Glasgow and has held a secondary appointment as Adjunct Professor, Department of Neurology, Temple University School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA, USA, since April 2009.



## ISNV and People to People sponsor Neurology residents from Ethiopia to attend 2010 ISNV Symposium

Dianne Langford

The ISNV and People to People are proud to sponsor two exceptional neurology residents from the Department of Neurology, Addis Ababa University Faculty of Medicine, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Awardees were selected from neurology residents who attended the International Neuroinfectious Disease Conference held in Addis Ababa in February 2010. Please join me in welcoming Drs. Wondwossen and Shewalem to the ISNV symposium.



Wondwossen Amogne Degu, MD is an Assistant Professor at the Addis Ababa University School of Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. His main area of interest is HIV medicine with an emphasis on TB/HIV co-infection. Dr. Wondwossen currently holds a Clinical Infectious Diseases fellowship and teaches both undergraduate and post-graduate students at AAU. He cares for patients at both outpatient and inpatient clinics. He is also completing

PhD studies focused on TB/HIV co-infection to evaluate the best time to initiate antiretroviral therapy. Dr. Wondwossen has published several studies on CNS toxoplasmosis and tuberculosis

among AIDS patients including a chapter on post-exposure prophylaxis at the Fundamentals of Global HIV Medicine, American Academy of HIV Medicine, iHL press, 2009.

Dr. Shewalem Geremew Denboba graduated from medical school in January 2005 from Addis Ababa University. In the first year after graduation, she worked in the Departments of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine in a public hospital in Northern Ethiopia as a junior medical practitioner. She then worked in Yehulshet Higher Clinic specializing in Neurology. Later, Dr. Shewalem joined the Ethiopian Defense College of Health Science, Armed Forces General Teaching Hospital in Addis



Ababa as a general medical practitioner and lecturer. In January 2010, she received a Neurology Fellowship at Addis Ababa University School of Medicine, Department of Neurology. Dr. Shewalem's main interest is infections of the CNS and she plans to focus on this aspect of neurologic disease after completing her neurology residency.



# Sponsors

**The 10th International Symposium on NeuroVirology and 2010 Conference on HIV in the Nervous System have been supported by generous contributions from the following sponsors.**

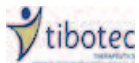


The 2010 Conference was supported by a Public Health Service grant titled "Conference on HIV and the Nervous System" (1R13MH092200-01, Avindra Nath, M.D., Principal Investigator). This grant was sponsored by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) at the National Institutes of Health (Bethesda, MD USA).

Biogen Idec ([www.biogenidec.com](http://www.biogenidec.com)) is among the world's leading global biotechnology companies. They are a Fortune 500 company with over \$4 billion in revenue. Patients in more than 90 countries benefit from their products, which include Tysabri and Avonex for the treatment of multiple sclerosis, and Rituxan for non-Hodgkins lymphoma.



Financial support for this meeting was provided by the Laboratory of Molecular Medicine and Neuroscience, Division of Intramural Research, in the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) at the National Institutes of Health (Bethesda, MD USA). The mission of the NINDS ([www.ninds.nih.gov](http://www.ninds.nih.gov)) is to reduce the burden of neurological disease - a burden borne by every age group, by every segment of society, by people all over the world. To support this mission, NINDS (i) conducts, fosters, coordinates, and guides research on the causes, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of neurological disorders and stroke, and supports basic research in related scientific areas, (ii) provides grants-in-aid to public and private institutions and individuals in fields related to its areas of interest, including research project, program project, and research center grants, (iii) operates a program of contracts for the funding of research and research support efforts in selected areas of institute need, (iv) provides individual and institutional fellowships to increase scientific expertise in neurological fields, (v) conducts a diversified program of intramural and collaborative research in its own laboratories, branches, and clinics, and (vi) collects and disseminates research information related to neurological disorders.



The 10th International Symposium on NeuroVirology and 2010 Conference on HIV in the Nervous System are supported by an educational grant from Tibotec Therapeutics. Tibotec Pharmaceuticals is a pharmaceutical research and development company that aims to discover and develop innovative HIV/AIDS drugs and anti-infectives for diseases of high unmet medical need.



The 10th International Symposium on NeuroVirology is supported by a grant from Gilead Sciences, Inc.. Gilead Sciences, Inc. is a research-based biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops, and commercializes innovative medicines in areas of unmet need. With each new discovery and experimental drug candidate, they seek to improve the care of patients suffering from life-threatening diseases. Gilead's primary areas of focus include HIV/AIDS, liver disease, and serious cardiovascular/metabolic and respiratory conditions.



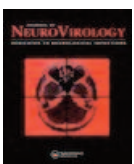
The Department of Microbiology and Immunology in the Drexel University College of Medicine (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA) is involved on an annual basis in the education of more than 265 medical students, 60 graduate students, and more than 20 post-graduate scientists in training. Utilizing basic, translational, and clinical research strategies and cutting edge technologies, the faculty (totaling more than 90) are actively engaged in research and education in the areas of virology, malarial, bacterial, and fungal pathogenesis; emerging infectious disease and biodefense; opportunistic infections; drug discovery and development; immunology and vaccine science; molecular and human genetics; biomarkers and diagnostics; neuro-infectious disease; as well as cancer biology



The Institute for Molecular Medicine and Infectious Disease in the Drexel University College of Medicine (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA) is a collaborative inter-campus enterprise focused on research, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and clinical management of infectious, inflammatory, oncogenic, metabolic and genetic disorders. The Institute facilitates the development and expansion of 14 Research Centers of Excellence (RCEs) and the training and development of graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, residents, and junior faculty within an organized framework to guide the development of inter-campus, inter-college, and inter-unit research initiatives across the University as well as with other academic, industrial, and governmental organizations at the regional, national, and international levels.



The Department of Neuroscience in the Temple University School of Medicine (Philadelphia, PA) is a state-of-the-art multidisciplinary research and education entity. Our mission is to foster a collaborative environment that enables superior research leading to an understanding of the mechanisms of disorders of the central nervous system. This, in turn, leads to novel therapeutic strategies directed against relevant diseases. The variety and intensity of approaches provide an integrative graduate and postgraduate program that trains first-rate scientists in the field of neuroscience who will successfully contribute new and innovative ideas and technologies well into the future.



The Journal of NeuroVirology ([www.jneurovirol.com](http://www.jneurovirol.com)) is the official journal of the ISNV. This bi-monthly journal provides a unique platform for the publication of high-quality basic science and clinical studies on the molecular biology and pathogenesis of viral infections of the nervous system, and for reporting on the development of novel therapeutic strategies using neurotropic viral vectors. The Journal also emphasizes publication of non-viral infections that affect the central nervous system. The Journal publishes original research articles, reviews, case reports, coverage of various scientific meetings, along with supplements and special issues on selected subjects.



The University of Milan, established in 1924, is a public multidisciplinary teaching and research institution, with 9 faculties, 134 study courses, 19 Doctoral Schools and 92 Specialization Schools, 58 departments, 48 institutes, and a teaching staff of 2,500 professors distinguished by their wide variety of disciplinary fields. It is one of the largest universities in Italy, with approximately 65,000 enrolled students. It is a leading institute in Italy and Europe for scientific productivity. The School of Medicine and Surgery provides higher training in the biomedical and health fields, integrating research with clinical care.



Research carried out at the Casimiro Mondino National Institute of Neurology Foundation has evolved over a period now spanning almost a century. In 1973, the Italian Health Ministry officially recognized the "Casimiro Mondino Institute of Neurology" Foundation as a Scientific Institute for Research, Hospitalization and Health Care (IRCCS), a designation that confirmed its dual role as a centre both for the treatment of nervous system disorders and, at the same time, for applied research in the field of neurology. Research work, closely tied in with healthcare provision, is thus the fundamental mission of the institute, which is an independent organization of national renown and a private legal entity. The Mondino Foundation conducts, in accordance with standards of excellence, mainly clinical and translational research in the biomedical field and in the field of healthcare service organization and management, as well as providing highly specialized inpatient and outpatient diagnostic and healthcare services through a broad-ranging approach which extends from clinical, epidemiological, and social-healthcare research to translational-type preclinical research.



The Istituto Clinico Città Studi, located in Milano, is a private hospital and also part of the Italian public health system. Hospital facilities include an emergency room, an intensive care unit, a stroke unit, and several surgery units.



Founded in 1907, the Italian Neurological Society (SIN) aims to promote institutional Italian neurological studies focused on the development of scientific research and training, upgrading of specialists, and improving the quality of professional assistance to patients with diseases of the nervous system. The SIN and 'society' are neurological specialists, whether they work in public or in private, territory, or in University Hospitals.



The Italian Society of Medical Virology ([www.sivim.org](http://www.sivim.org)) is a scientific non-profit organization whose aim is mainly to promote virological studies in the field of clinical medicine. This society gathers experts from the main virological field, that may be directly or indirectly aimed to the safeguard of health.



Founded in 1962, the Italian Society of Microbiology (SIM) is a nonprofit organization that gathers experts from the main fields of microbiology. The aims of this society are the follows: (i) to encourage and promote the study of the microbiology science, (ii) to organize conferences and symposium about the main microbiology fields, (iii) to favour national and international relations between microbiologists, (iv) to develop relations with other national or international Organizations that work on similar topics, and (v) to give support to different potential promising fields of study, such as biotechnology or the use of microbiology for advanced diagnostic purposes. For more information, visit the SIM web site ([www.societasim.org](http://www.societasim.org)).



The Italian Society of Virology (Società Italiana di Virologia or SIV) is a non-profit Association founded in September 2001. The SIV ([www.siv-virologia.it](http://www.siv-virologia.it)) is a multidisciplinary organization that merges the scientific and teaching interests of general, medical, pharmaceutical, veterinary, and vegetal virologists. The aims of the SIV are to promote the knowledge and progress in virological research, to organize meetings and courses, and to expand and connect the experience in virology to other related fields, with particular regard to biotechnology. The SIV was acknowledged by several other National Societies of Virology and will become a member of the Federation of the European Societies of Virology.



Merck Serono ([www.merckserono.com](http://www.merckserono.com)) combines leading-edge expertise in two different areas of drug development and manufacturing: new chemical entities (NCEs) and new biological entities (NBEs). This broadens the research base and helps bring innovative pharmaceuticals to patients as quickly and efficiently as possible. Merck Serono is committed to taking full advantage of the opportunities presented by biotechnology and the human genome. At the same time, Merck Serono creates a link between innovative biotechnology and established pharmaceutical science -- and creates a unique force in drug research.



Sanofi-Aventis ([www.sanofi-aventis.us](http://www.sanofi-aventis.us)) is part of a leading global pharmaceutical company that discovers, develops, produces, and markets innovative therapies that enhance people's lives. Extensive research and development efforts are focused on health care challenges in cardiology, oncology, and internal medicine, as well as metabolic diseases, central nervous system disorders, and vaccines.



The Italian Consortium of Translational Research on Neuroinflammation (ICTRN) is a scientific research group devoted to the study of neurological diseases with an inflammatory and dysimmune component. The principal aim of ICTRN is to merge the basic science with the clinical studies in the field of neuroinflammation, to create a translational model of research that could contribute in advancing the knowledge and the management of neuroinflammatory diseases useful both for the scientific community and in the clinical practice.

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