

MOLECULAR MECHANISMS OF NEURODEGENERATION

from triplet repeat expansions to protein toxicity

Centro Congressi Fondazione Cariplo, Milano, Italy, May 2-4, 2003



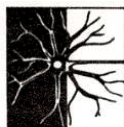
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PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Friday, May 2, 2003 - morning session

Introduction: **R. Levi Montalcini** (Rome, Italy)

The Postgenomic Era

Chairman: S. DiDonato (Milan, Italy)

J. F. Gusella (Charlestown, MA, USA): HD gene discovery: 10 years after

A. Brice (Paris, France): The role of parkin in early onset parkinsonism: clinical, genetic and functional aspects

E. Rugarli (Naples, Italy): The role of paraplegin in axonal degeneration
Free communications

Friday, May 2, 2003 - afternoon session

Apoptosis & Oxidative stress

Chairman: F. Clementi (Milan, Italy)

P. Nicotera (Leicester, UK): Molecular switches in the demise of injured neurons

R. Rizzuto (Ferrara, Italy): Calcium signalling alterations and mitochondrial dysfunction in apoptosis.

F. Taroni (Milan, Italy): Mitochondrial dysfunction and neurodegeneration: the model of Friedreich's ataxia
Free Communications

Saturday, May 3, 2003 - morning session

Protein Misfolding - Aggregate formation

Chairman: A. Pastore (London, UK)

A. Poletti (Milan, Italy): Role of intracellular aggregates in polyglutamine-related diseases

M. Stefani (Florence, Italy): Toxicity of aggregates of non pathologic proteins: new themes in protein folding, disease and evolution

M. G. Spillantini (Cambridge, UK): Tau and alpha-synuclein involvement in neurodegeneration

A. Aguzzi (Zurich, Switzerland): The Immunobiology of Prion Diseases

F. Tagliavini (Milan, Italy): Prion protein neurotoxicity
Free Communications

Poster session

Saturday, May 3, 2003 - afternoon session

Selective Vulnerability: Gain or Loss of Function?

Chairman: C. Johnson (Santa Monica, CA, USA), G. Battaglia (Milan, Italy)

J. Melki (Paris, France): Mouse models of spinal muscular atrophy: valuable tools for elucidating pathophysiology and therapeutic strategies

H. Orr (Minneapolis, MN, USA): Spinocerebellar ataxia type 1: cell signaling and neurodegeneration

E. Cattaneo (Milan, Italy): Function of wild-type huntingtin in Huntington's Disease

A. Volterra (Milan, Italy/Lausanne, Switzerland): Glia kills neurons: the example of AIDS neuropathology
Free communications

Sunday, May 4, 2003 - morning session

RESEARCH AND THERAPY: FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

Therapeutical Approaches: cells, genes and drugs

Chairmen: K.H. Fischbeck (Bethesda, MD, USA), P. Brundin (Lund, Sweden)

E. Wanker (Berlin, Germany): Inhibition of protein aggregation in Huntington's disease: implications for therapy

L. Thompson (Irvine, CA, USA): Targeted and broad screening therapeutic approaches in cells and flies

L. Naldini (Turin, Italy): Lentiviral vectors for gene transfer and gene therapy within the CNS

M. Peschanski (Creteil, France): Fetal neural grafts in HD: how to proceed after the success of a first pilot clinical trial

K.H. Fischbeck (Bethesda, MD, USA): The human genome project and hereditary neurological diseases

Closing Remarks



The meeting is under the patronage of:

Telethon Fondazione ONLUS (Italy)

**Centre of Excellence for Neurodegenerative Diseases (CEND)
University of Milano (Milano, Italy)**

**National Neurological Institute "Carlo Besta"
(Milano, Italy)**

**The Italian Society for Neurosciences
(SINS)**

**The Italian Association of Neuropathology
(AINP)**

**Associazione Italiana Corea di Huntington
(Milano, Italy)**

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for hosting the meeting at the
"CENTRO CONGRESSI"**

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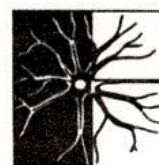
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