

President's Letter – January 2015

As we start the new year, I'd like to review our 2014 accomplishments and hi-lite what we have planned for 2015. I hope that as you read what we accomplished last year and what lies ahead this year, you will agree that the Alliance is off to a good start and that exciting programs are being planned to meet your needs and interests.

2014

- A European affiliate (IABS-EU) was established with headquarters in Lyon, France. We are grateful to Joris Vandeputte, Daniel Gaudry, and Abbie Charlet who made this possible. This affiliate provides IABS the flexibility needed to participate in Euro-centric projects. In addition, experience gained from working with this affiliate will be helpful as we consider expanding the concept to other geographic areas.
- We held 3 successful conferences:
 - Cell Therapy in Kyoto, Japan;
 - Human Challenge Trials in Vaccine Development: Scientific and Regulatory Issues in Strasbourg, France; and
 - Statistical and Data Management Approaches for Biotechnology Drug Development in Rockville, USA
- We established a new position of Executive Director (ED) and recruited Joris Vandeputte to fill that post. The primary responsibility of the ED is to link the activities of IABS-EU with the work of IABS' scientific committees and the Executive Committee, and to interface with various organizations that may provide support for IABS initiatives.
- We participated in the 2014 WHO World Health Assembly and provided comments on two resolutions that dealt with strengthening national regulatory agencies in developing countries, and ensuring the quality of biosimilar products.
- New members of the Board were elected by the General Assembly in September; and the officers were then elected by the new Board.
 - **Board**
William Egan, Daniel Gaudry, Cyril Gay, Elwin Griffiths, Takao Hayakawa, Carmen Jungbäck, Anthony Lubiniecki, John Petricciani, Rebecca Sheets, Joris Vandeputte, Girish Vyas
 - **Officers** (2014-2016)
President – John Petricciani
VP (Human biologicals) – Rebecca Sheets
VP (Veterinary biologicals) – Cyril Gay
Secretary – Daniel Gaudry
Treasurer – Anthony Lubiniecki

- Dr Girish Vyas, who served as Editor-in-chief of *Biologicals*, and chairman of the Publications Committee for over 10 years, resigned at the end of 2014 to spend more time on research. His efforts enhanced significantly the role of IABS in the field of biologicals, and we are deeply grateful for his service. We also wish him well in his new activities, and in the scientific work he is undertaking. IABS is fortunate in having been able to recruit Dr Robin Thorpe (formerly with NIBSC in the UK) as Dr Vyas' successor, and we look forward to working with him to continue to enhance the presence of IABS in the biologicals field.

2015

- IABS-EU will participate as a partner in a European 2020 consortium that will address “Zoonoses Anticipation and Preparedness”.
- IABS will participate as a partner in a consortium organized by the Brighton Collaboration on “Immunization Safety Assessment in Pregnancy”.
- IABS conferences include:
 - Cell Therapy in Tokyo, Japan (18-19 February) – *followup to the 2014 meeting*
 - Statistical and Data Management Approaches for Biotechnology Drug Development (date and location to be determined) - *followup to the 2014 meeting*
 - Human Challenge Trials in Vaccine Development: Scientific and Regulatory Issues (date and location to be determined) – *followup to the 2014 meeting*
 - Particulates in biotech products in Rockville, USA (12-13 November) – *followup to the 2009 meeting*
 - The Consistency Approach and Alternative Methods: Towards Non-Animal based testing in vaccine development and QC in Egmond aan Zee, The Netherlands (16-18 September)

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or if you would like to make any suggestions on how we can serve you better.

With best regards,

John Petricciani, MD