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ABOUT THE BULLETIN

"Focus on Complement" is a voluntary enterprise. Articles will be written by complementologists for complementologists, worldwide, and all members of the ICS and ECN are invited to contribute to it. The Bulletin will be mailed electronically to all registered members of the ICS. So please remind your colleagues to update their information or register at the ICS website (<http://www.complement.org>).

The Bulletin will contain the following sections: Flash news on complement-related novel findings; Personal views and Letters to the Editor; Spotlight on complement teams around the world; Description of new complement reagents; Information on meetings; Posting of Postdoc and Job opportunities and more. Historical perspectives on the emergence and development of complement research will be described under Special Themes and in the Witness Corner. The Editorial Board invites and welcomes your comments and suggestions of additional sections for the Bulletin; please e-mail your correspondence to: focus@complement.org. The electronic addresses of the Editorial Board members and their assignments are shown on page 3.

MISSION AND VISION

The scientific community dedicated to research related to the Complement system meets at least once a year during the International Complement Workshops and the "Complement in Human Disease" meetings of the European Complement Network. The mission of **Focus on Complement** is to create a forum for tighter and more frequent interactions between the ICS and ECN Boards and Complementologists all over the world, a forum for rapid spreading of novel findings on Complement proteins and their activities and on novel reagents, a forum for open discussions of scientific and community matters (news and views) and as a platform to familiarize the Complement community about the past and present of Complement research and research teams at large. The vision is that **Focus on Complement** will disseminate a Complement passion to research groups around the world and will attract to the Complement community new members that will fertilize the Complement oriented research. Thus, the Bulletin will advance, even outside the Complement community, the perception of Complement as an important, and often essential, element in Innate and Acquired Immunity in health and disease.

**Share your vision
with us.**

ICS PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Dear Colleagues:

It is with great enthusiasm that I introduce to you the first issue of *Focus on Complement*, an e-Bulletin that will provide you with updates, news and information related to the International Complement Society. This first edition exemplifies the exciting contents of editions to come, and it could not have been done without the hard work of the Editorial Board and contributors. I extend a big thank you to them, and the sponsors of the ICS.

Given this opportunity, I would like to update you on the activities of our Society, highlight member benefits, and introduce future events.

One of the major goals of the ICS is to promote communication among complement biologists, primarily through the organization and sponsorship of scientific meetings. The Society's next International Meeting will be held October 22-27, 2006, in Beijing, China. Dr. Wenchao Song is the Chair and has planned an excellent and exciting program. Detailed information about the meeting will be available soon on our Society web site. I urge you to mark the meeting dates on your calendar and plan to attend and participate.

Students, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty are especially encouraged to join. Speakers will be selected from submitted abstracts and plenary lectures will present cutting edge research from leaders in other fields. Poster sessions will span the entire meeting to foster discussion and sharing

of ideas. Students and postdoctoral members are eligible for travel awards.

We are in the process of updating our website which is another useful tool for ICS Members (www.complement.org). It has a searchable listing of Society members, information about the ICS International Meeting, and useful links to other meetings and to member web pages. We want to make the website a useful and informative tool for our members, so please visit, use the site and feel free to make suggestions for improvement.

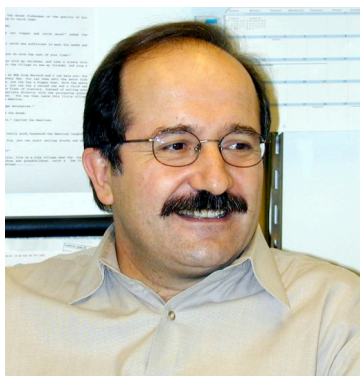
Finally, I ask for your active participation in shaping the philosophy and activities of our society. If you would like to serve as an ICS officer or member of the council, please notify me or Dr. Mohamed Daha, chair of the Nominating

Committee, and we will submit your name to the nomination committee for our election in September of 2006. We are also looking for members who will volunteer to serve as webmaster (site maintenance and development). For more information please contact me.

On behalf of ICS, I thank you for your support. Exciting prospects are on the horizon for ICS and *Focus on Complement* and we are pleased that you will be part of them.

With warm regards,

John D. Lambris
ICS President



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FLASH NEWS

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NEW REAGENTS

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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For the **“Flash News Section”**, the section editors (Anna Blom, Teizo Fujita, and John Atkinson) envision the following format. All members of the ICS are encouraged to contribute several sentences which highlight the importance of a recently published (past 3 months) article that would be of interest to our members. The submission will be reviewed by one of the three of us who may elect to add a sentence or two of our own. Please send in a full reference followed by your comments. Please do not send comments on articles on which you are an author. We can include your name as the author of the comments or you can elect to be anonymous.

For the **“Views and Letters Section”**, the section Editors, Ann Nicholson-Weller, Seppo Meri and Paul Morgan, will welcome opinions on matters of interest and relevance to the complement community. “Views” may include discussions and debates in controversial areas, attempts to bring clarity to confusing areas and challenges to current dogma in the field. A “Views” contribution should be succinct and to-the-point, taking into account the expert audience. The submission will be reviewed by one of the section Editors who may chose to add a comment. It is anticipated that many of these “Views” will evolve into substantive articles in the literature that will help shape the field. “Letters” provides a forum for brief comment on matters of relevance to the community and for the discussion of published “Views”. Authors must be willing to attach their names. Please send your contributions to a section editor by Email. Section Editors will be pleased to discuss ideas for contributions.

The **“Special Themes”** section provides an opportunity to look at the development of complement research. It will focus on history, the contributions of individuals, past and current trends and the way in which they are influenced by, for example, technological advances and funding priorities. Written contributions will be invited, by the section editors. We hope readers of the bulletin will send their ideas for suitable contributions and contributors to the section editors, who will then contact the potential contributor.

In **“Spotlight on Teams”**, the section editors will bring into the light the research teams in the complement community. Team leaders please fill out information on the ICS directory member information site and we will excerpt info for inclusion in the Bulletin. Email [Anne Nicholson-Weller](mailto:Anne.Nicholson-Weller) to notify us that the info is available for extraction for the Spotlight section.

If you have a **New Reagent** related to the complement system that you are willing to share with others, contact anna.blom@med.lu.se or sakari.jokiranta@helsinki.fi. It may be an antibody, a purified protein, a cell line, an animal model (such as a knockout mouse), a bacterial strain, a cDNA clone, etc. Announcements should be brief and should indicate if reagent sharing is pending collaboration or not.

If you wish to announce open positions for **postdoctoral fellows** or **job opportunities**, send it by e-mail to: sakari.jokiranta@helsinki.fi or lifish@post.tau.ac.il.



news flash..
The latest in complement research

FLASH NEWS

Reporter: Anna Blom
Syk of phagocytes

Protein-tyrosine kinase, Syk is required for pathogen engulfment in complement-mediated phagocytosis.

Shi et al-Blood. 2006 Jan 31, email: ytohyama@med.kobe-u.ac.jp

Coupling of C3bi to IgG inhibits the tyrosine phosphorylation signaling cascade downstream Syk and reduces cytokine induction in monocytes.

Trinidad et al- J Leukoc Biol. 2006 Feb 24; mscre@ibgm.uva.es

Shi et al describe an essential role for the protein-tyrosine kinase Syk in complement-mediated phagocytosis. Syk has previously been identified as central player in FcγR -mediated phagocytosis. Here they show that during phagocytosis of C3bi-opsonized zymosan, Syk becomes tyrosine-phosphorylated and accumulates around phagosomes. Inhibition of Syk expression in macrophages results in impaired phagocytosis. The Syk-dependent process leads also to actin accumulation and depolymerization around phagosomes.

Trinidad et al demonstrate that coupling of C3bi to IgG-containing immune complexes (IC) inhibits monocyte signaling via Syk but does not affect the MAPK and PKB/Akt pathways. Concomitant changes in cytokines pattern released by the monocytes suggest that coupling of C3bi with IC exerts anti-inflammatory effects. In contrast, complement-opsonized zymosan induces in monocytes enhanced Syk phosphorylation and release of pro-inflammatory cytokines. The authors suggest that C3bi-dependent engagement or diversion of the Syk route determines the phagocyte response.

**Elward K, et al
CD46 plays a key role in tailoring innate immune recognition of apoptotic and necrotic cells.**

J Biol Chem 2005; 280:36342.

In this exciting report, Phillipe Gasque and colleagues provide novel information on one aspect of how the complement system recognizes and instructs the removal of apoptotic and necrotic cells. Interestingly, in the apoptotic process, CD46 clustered into blebs and then was shed into microparticles. Through this process the authors propose that complement activation on altered self is facilitated.

Reporter: John Atkinson

SEE YOU AT THE NEXT COMPLEMENT WORKSHOP

*XXI International Complement Workshop. Oct. 22-27, 2006.
Beijing, China*

Dear Colleagues,

*On behalf of the International Complement Society and the Organizing Committee, it is my pleasure to invite you to participate in the **XXI International Complement Workshop** to be held Oct 22-27, 2006 at the Beijing Hotel conference center, Beijing, China.*



*The **deadline** for receipt of the abstracts and early registration is **June 1, 2006**. All submitted abstracts will be presented either orally or as posters at the meeting and all will be included in a special issue of the journal "Molecular Immunology".*

More details on the meeting program, the registration process, hotels and travel will be available on-line shortly at <http://www.complement.org>.

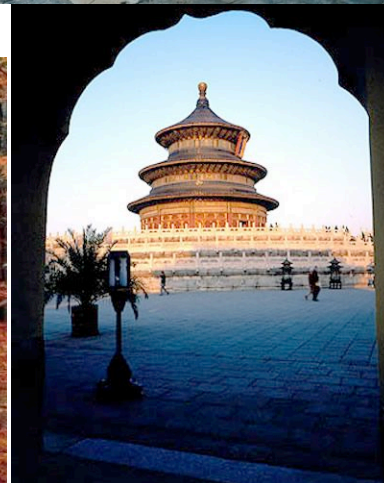
In the meantime, if you plan to participate, please join the XXITH Mailing List at <http://www.complement.org>. Future communications will be made with those who respond to this announcement.

We are planning an exceptional scientific and social program for the meeting and I look forward to welcoming you all in Beijing.

*Wenchao Song, PhD
Chair, XXI ICW*



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POST DOC POSITIONS

Where? University of California, Irvine

A postdoctoral position to study the influence of defense collagens on the program of gene expression as well as signaling pathways triggered upon interaction of C1q/MBL with cells is available. Both in vitro approaches and mouse models are being used. Molecular biology and cell biology experience is required, with expertise in immunological cell signaling and knowledge of complement biology preferred.

Interested candidates should send or email a curriculum vitae (include email address) and the names of three referees to:

Andrea J. Tenner, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Center for Immunology
University of California, Irvine
3205 McGaugh Hall
Irvine, CA. 92697-3900
atenner@uci.edu

Where? Lund University, Sweden

Location: Malmö (Anna Blom) and Lund (Dick Heinegård), Sweden

Postdoctoral position (2 years) available at Lund University, Sweden to study complement activation by molecules of extracellular matrix (ECM) such as described in *J. Biol. Chem.*, 2005, 280, 32301-8. The applicant will join an ongoing collaborative project between groups of Dr Anna Blom, who focuses on the complement and its inhibitors in various biological systems and Prof Dick Heinegård who studies biology and structure of ECM. Applicants should be highly motivated, communicative and inventive and have a Ph.D. in biochemistry, immunology, or related discipline. Particularly valuable experience: protein chemistry, work with ECM, mass spectrometry.

Applicants should submit by e-mail (anna.blom@med.lu.se) curriculum vitae including publication list and e-mail address of two references by April 30.

Position available from May 2006 onwards (can be discussed).