



Press release

“Cell Biology in Recognition”

**Fourth meeting in the “Exciting Biologies” series
jointly organised by *La Fondation Ipsen*, Cell Press
and the Massachusetts General Hospital**

Paris (France), 11 October 2010 – In a continuing series called “Exciting Biologies” Cell Press, Massachusetts General Hospital and *La Fondation Ipsen* collaborate to offer annual meetings designed to highlight emerging intersections in biomedical research and promote interactions between scientists from converging disciplines. This fourth meeting, held in Singapore between the 7th and 9th of October, focused on “Biology of Recognition”. It drew together scientists to discuss of how cells recognize their environmental context and determine an appropriate response including key concepts in recognition such as distinguishing self from non-self, recognition events that trigger avoidance or inaction, and what happens when recognition mechanisms break down. The goal was to stimulate interactions among scientists working on various aspects of cellular and molecular recognition and the outcomes associated with these mechanisms and to find common themes among the questions being studied.

The meeting was organized by Kenneth R. Chien (Massachusetts General Hospital, USA), Emilie Marcus (Cell Press, USA), Elena Porro (Cell Press, USA), Connie M. Lee (Cell Press, USA), Fabiola Rivas (Cell Press, USA) and Yves Christen (*La Fondation Ipsen*, France).

In 2007, Cell Press, Massachusetts General Hospital and *La Fondation Ipsen* came together to create a new series of scientific events: the “Exciting Biologies” – three-day meeting – highlighting some of the most dynamic sectors in biological and medical research. The third meeting in 2009 discussed a particularly current topic: the biology in balance.

The success of the meetings is derived from the combination of excellent diverse speakers: Stephen Cohen (Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, Singapore), Mark Davis (Stanford University, Stanford, USA), Marcel Dicke (Wageningen University, Wageningen, The Netherlands), Xiaolin He (Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, USA), Leanne Jones (The Salk Institute, La Jolla, USA), Jan Karlseder (The Salk Institute, La Jolla, USA), Sudha Kumari (New York University School of Medicine, New York, USA), Lewis Lanier (University of California, San Francisco, USA), M Mohan Kumar Malleshaiah (University of Montreal, Montreal, Canada), Ruslan Medzhitov (Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Yale University, USA), Alirio Melendez (University of Liverpool and Physiology National University of Singapore, Singapore), Mikiko Siomi (Keio University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan), Shigekazu Nagata (Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan), Maho Niwa (University of California, San Diego, USA), Linda Richards (The Queensland Brain Institute, St Lucia, Australia), Jamie Rossjohn (Monash University, Victoria, Australia), Alexander Rudensky (Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA), Artur Scherf (Institut



Pasteur, Paris, France), Dietmar Schmucker (Vesalius Research Center VIB, Leuven, Belgium), Mikiko Siomi (Keio University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan), Lisa Stowers (The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, USA), Tada Taniguchi (Tokyo University, Tokyo, Japan), Marian Walhout (University of Massachusetts, Worcester, USA), Xiaodong Wang (UT Southwestern, USA and NIBS, China), Detlef Weigel (Max Planck Institute, Tübingen, Germany) and Charles Zuker (Howard Hughes Medical Institute and Columbia University, USA).

La Fondation Ipsen

Established in 1983 under the aegis of the *Fondation de France*, the mission of the *Fondation Ipsen* is to contribute to the development and dissemination of scientific knowledge. The long-standing action of the *Fondation Ipsen* aims at fostering the interaction between researchers and clinical practitioners, which is indispensable due to the extreme specialisation of these professions. The ambition of the *Fondation Ipsen* is to initiate a reflection about the major scientific issues of the forthcoming years. It has developed an important international network of scientific experts who meet regularly at meetings known as *Colloques Médecine et Recherche*, dedicated to six main themes: Alzheimer's disease, neurosciences, longevity, endocrinology, the vascular system and cancer science. Moreover, in 2007, the *Fondation Ipsen* started three new series of meetings. The first series is an annual meeting organized in partnership with the Salk Institute and *Nature* and focuses on Biological Complexity; the second series is the "Emergence and Convergence" series with *Nature*, and the third with *Cell* and the Massachusetts General Hospital entitled "Exciting Biologies". Since its beginning, the *Fondation Ipsen* has organised more than 100 international conferences, published 70 volumes with renowned publishers and 211 issues of a widely distributed bimonthly newsletter *Alzheimer Actualités*. It has also awarded more than 100 prizes and grants.

About Cell Press

Cell Press, an imprint of Elsevier, is committed to improving scientific communication through the publication of exciting research and reviews. Each of its titles is viewed as a must-read by the scientific community it serves. Cell Press primary research journals include the flagship journal *Cell*, as well as *Neuron*, *Immunity*, *Molecular Cell*, *Developmental Cell*, *Cancer Cell*, *Current Biology*, *Structure*, *Chemistry & Biology*, *Cell Metabolism*, *Cell Host & Microbe*, *Cell Stem Cell* and, new to Cell Press in 2008, *The American Journal of Human Genetics*. Also new to Cell Press this year are the fourteen *Trends* reviews journals, including *Trends in Cell Biology* and *Trends in Neuroscience*. As it introduces publications and expands online content to serve its growing audience, Cell Press's mission remains to publish and develop journals that deliver the highest possible intellectual rigor, promote community trust, and are widely disseminated. For more information, please go to <http://www.cellpress.com/>

About Massachusetts General Hospital

Massachusetts General Hospital, located in Boston, is the third oldest hospital in the United States and the largest in New England. It consistently ranks as one of the country's best hospitals by U.S. News and World Report. Massachusetts General Hospital is guided by the needs of their patients and their families. They aim to deliver the very best health care in a safe, compassionate environment; to advance that care through innovative research and education; and, to improve the health and well-being of the diverse communities they serve. For more information, please go to <http://www.massgeneral.org/>

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