

CROSS-INDUSTRY Organizations

ISAM: The next Congress and 2014, 2015 activities

Jim Blanchard, PhD

On behalf of the International Society for Aerosols in Medicine (ISAM)



The International Society for Aerosols in Medicine (ISAM) is a non-profit organization whose objectives are to stimulate and advance the interdisciplinary cooperation and exchange of information in all aspects of medical aerosol research, including pulmonary drug delivery and health effects of inhaled aerosols. ISAM sponsors international conferences, publications, study groups and special research projects, as well as individual grants and fellowships.

This article will preview the ISAM 2015 Congress and a new pre-conference session focused on aerosols in medicine at the 2015 American Thoracic Society (ATS) Conference, wrap-up two ISAM-sponsored conferences held in 2014 and update the other activities that ISAM has underway.

2015 Congress

The next ISAM Congress will be in Munich, Germany, from May 30 to June 3, 2015 under the leadership of Congress Presidents Sabine Häussermann and Gerhard Scheuch. Topics include innovative solutions for respiratory drug delivery and regulatory aspects; unresolved problems with *in vitro/in vivo* correlation of in-

haled materials; telehealth and drug delivery; and respiratory biomarkers. Many presentations will be selected from abstracts submitted by ISAM members and attendees so the program will be a mixture of invited speakers and submitted topics. The Congress venue is the Holiday Inn, with excellent conference facilities, located in the heart of Munich. A gala dinner will be held at the world famous Hofbräuhaus brewery. More information is available at the Congress website www.isamcongress.com.

Student forum and activities during the Congress

ISAM has established a new student forum to support and strengthen interactions among students as well as between students and senior scientists in the field of aerosol medicine. There will be several activities for students attending the ISAM 2015 Congress, including evening events and a luncheon to allow students to meet with senior aerosol scientists. There will also be a separate nearby hotel for students. Faculty members should encourage their students to participate in these activities.

ATS pre-conference session

ISAM and the American Thoracic Society will hold a session on "Aerosols in Medicine" before the main ATS 2015 Conference starts, to highlight new and exciting research from ISAM and non-ISAM members who submitted abstracts to the ATS Conference in Denver. Up to 30 selected abstracts from the aerosols in medicine field will be displayed and discussed as posters, with ten of these chosen for short oral presentations. The session will be on Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 1:00-4:00 PM at no additional cost to attendees. It will be advertised in the ATS program and open to all ATS attendees.

ISAM and AIT Joint Conference

ISAM and the Association of Inhalation Toxicologists (AIT) jointly sponsored a conference on "Inhaled Medications from the Bench to the Bedside: Preclinical, Clinical and Technical Considerations for First-in-Human and Beyond" held September 22-24, 2014, in Princeton, New Jersey. A diverse group of 100 participants from industry, academia (including students) and regulatory agencies attended the highly regarded meeting. The focus was on the practical steps of inhaled drug development required to achieve first-in-human studies. The presentations are available on the ISAM website.

ISAM and WIMR Joint Conference

ISAM and the Woolcock Institute of Medical Research (WIMR) hosted a joint conference and workshop on "Translating Advances in Understanding Lung Disease into Innova-



tive Inhaled Therapeutics” on September 25-26, 2014 in Sydney, Australia. There were more than 50 attendees, including industry, regulatory and academic scientists, students and clinicians. The topics focused on pediatric respiratory medicine and bioequivalence of inhaled formulations. Abstracts and PowerPoint slides are available on this website: <http://woolcock.org.au/isam2014>. The abstracts will also be published in the Journal of Aerosol Medicine and Pulmonary Drug Delivery.

Textbook of Aerosol Medicine

ISAM is creating a new “Textbook of Aerosol Medicine” with chapters on a broad range of topics, such as aerosol deposition, devices, formulations and clinical applications of aerosol therapy. Chapters are authored by experts in each field. The book will be web-based to enable continual updating. The book is targeted for release by May 2015 and will be available to ISAM members via the ISAM website.

Training opportunities

ISAM recognizes that the future of aerosols in medicine relies on developing opportunities for graduate students, postdocs and junior faculty members to network and train in aerosol medicine. ISAM is fortunate to have the Myrna Dolovich Fellowship Fund to support exchanges between aerosol laboratories. Training workshops are also planned.

Membership and networking

ISAM has more than 220 members from 24 countries, representing various disciplines from academia, industry and government, connected to aerosols in the lung. Members include physicians, physicists, biologists, pharmacologists, respiratory care practitioners, mathematicians and others. In addition, there are five networking groups to facilitate communication among members with common interests and develop program content for con-

gresses: 1) Imaging, modeling and physiology of aerosols in the lung; 2) Regulatory and standardization issues; 3) New devices and emerging therapies; 4) Pediatrics and cystic fibrosis; and 5) Environmental, occupational health and toxicology. ISAM offers joint membership with the European Respiratory Society at a reduced rate and students can also join at a discount.

Further information about ISAM, the projects discussed here and membership applications are available at the ISAM website: www.isam.org.

Jim Blanchard, PhD, President of ISAM, is Principal Scientist, Preclinical Development, Aradigm Corporation, 3929 Point Eden Way, Hayward, CA, 94545, Tel: +1 510 265-8871, blanchardj@aradigm.com. Website: www.aradigm.com.