



International Society for Eye Research

Making a world of difference in eye research!

2006 Newly Elected Council and Membership Committee Members.

President-Elect: Thomas Freddo



Dr. Freddo currently serves as Professor and Vice-Chairman for Research in the Department of Ophthalmology at Boston University School of Medicine and as Professor of Pathology and Senior Consultant in Ophthalmic Pathology for the Boston Medical Center Hospitals. He has been funded by NEI for 23 years for his work on the pathobiology of the blood-aqueous barrier and aqueous humor outflow in glaucoma. He has served on the NIH Vis-A study section and presently serves on the Editorial Board of Experimental Eye Research, the Long Range Planning Board for ARVO and was most recently appointed to the FDA ophthalmic devices review panel. He has Chaired ISER Travel Award Committees, was a Section Organizer for the ICER meeting in Yokohama, and a member of the Local Organizing Committee for the Santa Fe meeting. For the past 7 years, as ISER Treasurer and Chair of its Finance Committee, Thom has guided the organization's financial future during its fledgling years as an independent organization, building the endowment to over half a million dollars.

Vice President. Pacific Rim - John McAvoy



Dr. McAvoy was awarded a BSc (Honors) degree at Queens University Belfast in 1970 and went on to complete a PhD in developmental biology at Flinders University of South Australia in 1975. He was Chair of the Local Organizing Committee for the ICER 2004 Annual Meeting in Sydney. During a Postdoctoral Fellowship at University of Oxford, he began his studies on lens development. These studies concentrated on establishing patterns of cell proliferation and crystallin gene expression in rodent lens morphogenesis and growth. In 1979, Dr. McAvoy moved back to Australia to take up a Lectureship in the Department of Histology and Embryology. During his tenure in that department, he established the 'Lens Research Laboratory' and continued studies on lens development. His research group has concentrated on identifying the growth factors that regulated key events in lens proliferation and differentiation. Using a novel lens epithelial explant system, they identified members of the FGF growth factor family as inducers of lens fibre differentiation. Subsequent studies from his, and other, laboratories now provide compelling evidence that high levels of FGF stimulation in vitreous induce fibre differentiation and determine lens polarity. In 2000, Dr. McAvoy was appointed Director of Laboratory Research at the Save Sight Institute, University of Sydney., where his continuing studies on lens development are now concentrating on factors that regulate the behaviour of lens epithelial cells. His research over the years has been supported primarily by grants from the NHMRC (Australia) and the NIH (USA).

Vice President, North America - Darlene Dartt



Dr. Dartt is Senior Scientist and Director of Scientific Affairs, at the Schepens Eye Research Institute; and Associate Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA. Her primary research interests are the signaling pathways used by nerves and growth factors in the lacrimal gland and conjunctival goblet cells to induce secretion and proliferation and how dysregulation of these pathways can lead to dry eye syndromes in mouse models and humans. She has been continuously funded by NIH since 1980 for this work. Dr. Dartt has served on and chaired the ARVO Cornea Program Planning Committee as well as the Members in Training Committee. She was a founding member, a member of the organizing committee, and more recently Treasurer for the Tear Film and Ocular Surface Society. She has been on the organizing committee for the past two Biennial

Cornea Conferences in Boston, MA. Dr. Dartt serves on the Editorial Board for Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science, Experimental Eye Research, and The Ocular Surface. She served on the Review Panel for Fight for Sight and has been an Ad Hoc member of numerous NEI and NIAMS study sections. She received the Lew R. Wasserman Merit Award by Research to Prevent Blindness.

Councilor, Europe - Ernst Tamm



Dr. Tamm is Professor and Chairman, Institute of Human Anatomy and Embryology, University of Regensburg, Regensburg, Germany. His research interests focus on the structural and molecular characteristics of the aqueous humor outflow pathways, with specific emphasis on the pathogenesis of primary open-angle glaucoma. He has been continuously funded for this and other work by the German Research Council (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) since 1993. Dr. Tamm has been an active member of ISER for 17 years, having first attended and presented at the VIIIth ICER in 1988 in San Francisco. He has chaired and organized symposia at several ICER meetings since then. He was member of the International Organizing Committee for the XVth ICER in Geneva, and is among the organizers of the Glaucoma Section at the next ICER in Buenos Aires. Dr. Tamm is Section Co-Editor

for "Aqueous Humor and Blood Flow" of ISER's companion journal, Experimental Eye Research, and serves on the Editorial Board of Current Eye Research and as Guest Editorial Board Member for Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science. He is member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Glaucoma Research Foundation, San Francisco. Dr. Tamm has received numerous honors and awards, including a Heisenberg Scholarship from the German Research Council, the Glaucoma Award of the German Ophthalmologic Society, the Ruth Salta Junior Investigator Achievement Award of the American Health Assistance Foundation, and the Walther Kalkhof-Rose-Award of the Academy for Science and Literature, Mainz, Germany.

Councilor, North America - Janet Blanks



Dr. Blanks is Professor, Department of Biomedical Science, Florida Atlantic University and Adjunct Professor of Ophthalmology, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine. Her research interests involve retinal neovascularization. Her past research was funded by the National Institute of Health (the NEI and the NBIA). Currently, she has an NEI Innovation Grant. She was awarded a Career Development Award from the NEI, as well as a James Adams Scholars Award from Research to Prevent Blindness. Dr. Blanks has been an active member of ISER almost continuously for the past 20 years. She served as Councilor from North America in the early 90's and looks forward to serving the organization in a similar capacity. She was recently the Executive Vice President of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) where she was

instrumental in increasing ARVO's role as an advocate for Vision Research in Congress. In addition, she is a past member of the Board of Scientific Counselors to the NEU and has served as an ad hoc member of many study sections. Dr. Blanks spent almost 20 years in the Department of Ophthalmology, University of Southern California and the Doheny Eye Institute. She served as the Director of the Eye Research Institute at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan from 1997-2002.

Councilor, North America - Oscar Candia



Dr. Candia is Professor, Vice Chairman and Director of Research, Department of Ophthalmology and Professor, Department of Physiology and Biophysics, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY, USA. His research interest is in physiological processes related to ionic and water transport in epithelia, particularly those of the anterior segment of the eye. He received his MD degree from the University of Buenos Aires in 1959 and moved to USA in 1964. He has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health since 1965 and is currently the PI of 3 R01s. He has also been funded by other agencies and received personal awards from Research to Prevent Blindness and the Alcon Research Institute. Dr. Candia has been a member of several NIH Study Sections, Associate Editor of Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science, ARVO Trustee and is a member of the Editorial

Board of the American Journal of Physiology. With interruptions, he has been a member of ISER for many years and participated in multiple ICER congresses. He has special qualities for leadership and organization. His current role as the President of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for ICER 2006, has renewed his interest in maintaining ISER as the Premier International Society for Eye Research. He believes that ISER should be more involved as a partner of the LOC in the organization of the congresses. Dr. Candia notes that there are many resources developed during a congress that could be preserved (such as web-based programs for registration and abstract submission) to maintain uniformity and to

reduce costs. In the global environment that we now live, scientific partnership with eye researchers of other countries should be stimulated by ISER

Membership Committee, Pacific Rim - Elizabeth Rakoczy



Dr. Rakoczy is Professor and Director of Research, Centre of Ophthalmology and Visual Science, University of Western Australia, Australia and Lions Eye Institute, Perth, Western Australia. Her research interest focuses on neovascular eye diseases and inherited retinal degenerations with particular interest in the development of animal models and treatment strategies, including gene therapy. She has been a member of ISER for 10 years and has attended and presented at several ICER and ISER-associated satellite meetings. Dr. Rakoczy was the host organizer of XIth Symposium on Retinal Degenerations, which was a satellite meeting for the 2004 ICER conference. She has served on several ARVO program committees and chaired retinal sections on ISER, ARVO and other international conferences. She has been a reviewer for 20 scientific journals, is Editor of DNA

Vaccines and Therapy, has been a guest editor for Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science, and is a regular reviewer for Current Eye Research, Experimental Eye Research, Gene Therapy and Human Gene Therapy. She has been reviewer for 15 international research organizations, including the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (Deputy Chair of Human Genetics), the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) (USA), the Wellcome Trust (UK), Health Research Council of New Zealand, National University of Hong Kong, and National University of Singapore. Dr. Rakoczy has served on the scientific advisory board of JDRF, Retina Australia, and is a member of the Academic Board of UWA and the Raine Foundation.