

4TH ANNUAL WORLD CONGRESS OF THE HUMAN PROTEOME ORGANISATION - *FROM DEFINING THE PROTEOME TO UNDERSTANDING FUNCTION*

SEPTEMBER 1, 2005 - MUNICH, GERMANY

From August 29th to September 1st 2005, more than 2000 leaders in the field of proteomics research, from 69 countries, attended the four-day 4th Annual HUPO Congress at Munich's International Congress Center. This Congress was organized by two acknowledged pioneers, Angelika Gorg (Technische Universitat Munchen, Germany) and Matthias Mann (Max-Planck Institute for Biochemistry, Germany), in collaboration with the Human Proteome Organisation (HUPO), headquartered in Montreal, Canada (www.hupo.org).

The Congress opened with two welcome addresses from Professors John Bergeron, President of HUPO, and Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker, President of the German Research Foundation (DFG). Included in the 74 invited speakers were Dr. John Fenn (2002 Nobel Laureate of Chemistry) and Dr. Franz Hillenkamp (Co-inventor of MALDI Mass Spectrometry). The Congress included 1050 posters and oral presentations of abstracts, 59 exhibitors, and more than 300 lectures that covered the latest scientific and technical breakthroughs in the field of proteomics. Dr. Mathias Uhlen unveiled a newly launched, publicly available, Protein Atlas, containing 700 characterized antibodies matched to pathological specimens from control and disease patients, and encouraged international researchers to contribute to the database.

HUPO's Council met in Munich and elected a new President, Dr. Rolf Apweiler (European Bioinformatics Institute, U.K.), who will take up his position in January, 2007. The Board also elected Drs. Catherine Fenselau (University of Maryland, USA) and Young-Ki Paik (Yonsei University, Korea) as Vice-Presidents, along with 12 new council members.

Proteomics is the science that will comprehensively characterize all proteins expressed from the genome. As genes represent the blue prints of life, proteins reflect the key players of the cell because they control the biological function of cells and thus all organisms. The Congress featured the application of proteomics to the understanding of function in both a fundamental and practical applied manner. Hence the linkage of the HUPO Antibody Initiative and its application to the HUPO Protein Atlas already indicates the relevance of proteomics to health care.

The next Congress will be held in Long Beach California, USA October 28th through November 1, 2006 (www.hupo2006.com). Over 2,500 people are expected to attend this event, which will be co-chaired by Drs. John Yates and Peipei Ping.

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