



Canavan Research Symposium
Ritz Carlton, White Plains, New York
Co-Chairs: Edwin Kolodny, MD & Paola Leone, PhD

Friday, October 24th

Arrival (Limo service available)

7:30pm Social Dinner

Saturday, October 25th

Speaker Session:

8:45 – 9:00 am Welcome and Opening Remarks - Jordana Holovach, Jacob's Cure, NY

9:00 – 9:20 am **Eduard Bitto, PhD**
Assistant Professor of Biochemistry, Department of Chemistry
and Biochemistry, Georgean Court University, Lakewood, NJ, USA
Title: "Structure of aspartoacylase, the brain enzyme impaired in
Canavan Disease"

9:20 – 9:40 am **Ronald Viola, PhD**
Department of Chemistry, University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio, USA
Title: The Mechanism of Human Aspartoacylase – the Defective Enzyme in
Canavan Disease

9:40 – 10:00 am **Jean De Vellis, PhD**
George Tarjan Professor of Neurobiology, Department of Neurobiology,
University of California, Los Angeles, California, USA
Title: Role of ASPA in Development in CNS and Mechanism of
Pathogenesis

10:00 – 10:20 am **Chikkathur N. Madhavarao, PhD**
Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Genetics, Uniformed Services
University of the Health Sciences, 4301 Jones Bridge Rd., Bethesda, MD,
USA
Title: Myelin Proteomics of Tremor Rat Model of Canavan Disease

- 10:20 – 11:00 am **Alessandro Burlina, MD, PhD**
San Bassano Hospital Bassano del Grappa, Italy
Title: Increased Levels of NAAG in the CNS of a Spontaneous Rat Model of Canavan Disease
- 11:00 – 11:30 am Coffee Break
- 11:30 – 11:40 am **Keynote Speaker: Klaus-Armin Nave, PhD**
Max-Planck Institute of Experimental Medicine, Goettingen, Germany
Title: New Mouse Models of Human Leukodystrophies
- 11:40 – 12:00 pm **Brian Popko, PhD**
Department of Neurology, The University of Chicago, Chicago, USA
Title: An Authentic Mouse Model for Canavan Disease: Dissecting Disease Pathogenesis
- 12:00 – 12:20 pm **Patrizia Casaccia-Bonnel, MD, PhD**
Dept Neuroscience, Department Genetics and Genomics, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY, USA
Title: Oligodendrocyte Identity in Development and Disease
- 12:20 – 12:40 pm **Evan Y. Snyder, MD, PhD**
Program in Stem Cell & Regenerative Biology, Burnham Institute for Medical Research, La Jolla, CA, USA
Title: By Virtue of their Multiple Action, Stem Cells Play a Role in Neurogenetic Diseases of Childhood
- 12:40 – 1:00 pm **Lidia De Filippis, PhD**
Department of Biotechnology and Biosciences
University of Milano-Bicocca, Milano, Italy
Title: Neural Stem Cells Mediated Therapy for Leukodystrophies
- 1:00 – 2:00 pm Lunch
- 2:00 – 2:20 pm **Robert R. Ledeen, PhD**
Department of Neurology & Neurosciences, New Jersey Medical School, UMDNJ, Newark, New Jersey, USA
Title: N-Acetylaspartate Metabolism and its Role in Myelination
- 2:25 – 2:50 pm **Morris Baslow, PhD**
Center for Neurochemistry, Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research, Orangeburg, NY, USA

Title: Are Astrocytes the Missing Link between Lack of Brain Aspartoacylase Activity and the Spongiform Leukodystrophy in Canavan Disease?

2:50 – 3:10 pm

Barbara Tavazzi, PhD

Institute of Biochemistry and Clinical Biochemistry, Catholic University of Rome, Rome, Italy

Title: ASPA: An Inducible Enzyme Regulated by Extracellular NAA?

3:10 – 3:30 pm

Ian Lamb, PhD

Pioneer Dupont Company, Johnston, IA, USA

Title: Safety Assessment Studies with Orally Administered N-Acetylaspartic Acid

3:30 – 3:50 pm

Reuben R. Matalon, MD

Department of Pediatrics, Children's Hospital, Galveston, TX, USA

Title: Canavan Mice and Experience with Glycerol Triacetate

3:50 – 4:10 pm

Aryan Namboodiri, PhD

Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Genetics, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD, USA

Title: Recent Studies on the Pathogenesis and Treatment of Canavan Disease

4:10 – 4:40

Coffee Break

4:40 – 5:00

Edwin Kolodny, MD

Department of Neurogenetics, New York, NY, USA

Title: Genotype-Phenotype Differences in Canavan Disease

5:00 – 5:20

Edward Wirth III, MD, PhD

Regenerative Medicine, Geron Corporation, Menlo Park, CA, USA

Title: Human Embryonic Stem Cell-derived Oligodendrocyte Precursors: Translation from Bench to Bedside

5:20 – 5:40

Paola Leone, PhD

Department of Cell Biology, UMDNJ/SOM, Stratford, NJ, USA

Title: Targeted Therapies for Canavan Disease

5:40 – 6:00 pm

Maria L. Escolar, MD

Univ. of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA

Title: Long Term Outcomes of Patients with Leukodystrophies after Unrelated Umbilical Cord Transplantation

8:00 pm

Social Dinner

Sunday, October 26th

Poster Session: 9:30am – 12:00pm

Peethambaran Arun, PhD

Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Genetics, Uniformed Services
University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD, USA

Title: Acetate supplementation improves the Phenotype in the Tremor Rat
Model

Kelly Dinely, PhD

Department of Pediatrics, Children's Hospital, Galveston, TX, USA

Title: TBA

Bryan Delaney, PhD

Pioneer Dupont Company, Johnston, IA, USA

Title: TBA

Jeremy Francis, PhD

Department of Cell Biology, UMDNJ/SOM, Stratford, NJ, USA

Title: Aspartoacylase and Postnatal Oligodendrogenesis

David M. Guilfoyle, PhD

Center for Neurochemistry, Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric
Research, Orangeburg, NY, USA

Title: TBA

Shalini Kumar, PhD

Department of Neurobiology, Mental Retardation Research Center,
Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, University of
California, Los Angeles, California, USA

Title: TBA

Giuseppe Lazzarino, PhD

Institute of Biochemistry and Clinical Biochemistry, Catholic University of
Rome, Rome, Italy

Title: Changes in NAA Homeostasis in Acute Head Injury

Jane Lebkowski, PhD

Regenerative Medicine, Geron Corporation, Menlo Park, CA, USA

Title: TBA

Michele Poe, PhD
Center for the Study of Development and Learning, Univ. of
North Carolina Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC, USA
Title: TBA

George Tarjan, PhD
Department of Neurobiology, Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human
Behavior, University of California, Los Angeles, California, USA
Title: TBA

Jianfeng Wang, PhD
Department of Neurology & Neurosciences, New Jersey Medical School,
UMDNJ, Newark, New Jersey, USA
Title: TBA

Departure: October 26th or 27th (Limo service available)

Conference Organizer: Jacqueline Kinlow (jtkinlow@yahoo.com)