The Fourth Epididymis Workshop
December 4th-7th 2006
Chatel-Guyon (France)

Prof. Joël R. Drevet *, organizer

http://www.agence-mo.com/epididymis4

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The Fourth Epididymis Workshop was held December 4th-7th 2006 in Chatel-Guyon (France). This 2006 venue of the Epididymis Workshop comes after the 2002 edition held in Charlotesville (Virgina, USA) and the 1998 reunion held in Newcastle (Australia). The very first Epididymis Workshop was hosted by Hong-Kong in 1992. The 2006 meeting was organized by Drs Joël R. Drevet (Aubières, France) and Trevor G. Cooper (Muenster, Germany). The meeting was organized as a satellite reunion of the Fourth European Congress of Andrology (ECA2006) which followed In Toulouse (France) from December 8th to 10th. The Epididymis workshop was attended by 90 basic science researchers from 14 different countries (only 10% of the participants were from France).

The meeting started with an introductory lecture given by Dr. Russel Jones (Newcastle, Australia) on comparative “epididymology” entitled “The epididymis plays a significant role in sperm competition”. It was followed by 8 sessions of 4 to 5 presentations each (see the programme below for a detailed list of speakers) in which various aspects of the epididymis physiology were covered. These sessions included aspects of : epididymal sperm maturation and storage, cellular and gene expression activities of the epididymis epithelium, the recent advances in global approaches of the epididymis transcriptome and proteome as well as the presentation of some epididymal putative contraceptive targets. The last session of the programme was devoted to research carried out on human epididymis and most of the speakers of this session were also invited speakers at the ECA2006 reunion. A session was also devoted to presentations given by young investigators who were selected amongst the 36 poster abstracts received. Posters were up from the beginning to the end of the workshop and coffee breaks were organized among them to facilitate exchanges. A final lecture was given by Dr. David Hamilton (Mineapolis, Ma, USA) on December 7th. His talk entitled ‘the -omes are coming!” illustrated what to his point of view would be and should be the epididymis research field in the 21st century.

During the meeting the site of the next epididymis workshop has been discussed. Drs. P. Cuasnicu (Argentina) and MCW Avellar (Brazil) stepped forwards and proposed the idea that South America could host the next Epididymis workshop in 2010.

Speakers of the Fourth Epididymis Workshop and talk titles.

**Session : Sperm maturation and storage.**
Susan Hall (Chapel Hill, NC, USA): Characterization and functions of beta-defensins in the epididymis.
Hiro Takano (Sapporo, Japan): Sperm atomic force microscopy/Proteins.
Roy Jones (Cambridge, UK): FRAP analyses of epididymal sperm.

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S. Vijayaraghavan (Kent, Oh, USA): Development of mechanisms of motility.

Session: Epididymal epithelium.
Robert Sullivan (Laval, Quebec, Canada): Epididymosomes are involved in the acquisition of new sperm proteins during epididymal transit.
Sylvie Breton (Charlestown, Ma, USA): New insights into the regulation of luminal acidification in the epididymis.
Daniel Cyr (Montreal, Quebec, Canada): Understanding the blood-epididymis barrier. From animals to human.

Session: Epithelial gene expression.
Gail A. Cornwall (Lubbock, Tx, USA): Extracellular quality control in the epididymis and its role in fertility.
Matti Poutanen (Turku, Finland): Identification of novel epididymal proteins.
Kishiya Suzuki (Nashville, Tn, USA): Epididymis-specific lipocalin promoter.
Ken Roberts (Minneapolis, Ma, USA): Structure and function of epididymal protein CRISP-1.

Session: Epithelial regulation.
Bernard Robaire (Montreal, Quebec, Canada): Androgenic regulation of novel genes in the epididymis.
Barry T. Hinton (Charlottesville, Va, USA): Tubular morphogenesis of the developing Wolfian/epididymal duct.
Miles Wilkinson (Houston, Tx, USA): Rhox homeobox genes and the epididymis.
Fabrice Saez (Aubière, France): Oxysterol/Liver X receptors and epididymis epithelium physiology.

Session: Rodent epididymis transcriptome/proteome: Input of global approaches.
Terry T. Turner (Charlottesville, Va, USA): Efferent duct ligation induces dedifferentiation in segments if the rat epididymis.

Session: Epididymal contraceptive targets.
John Aitken (Newcastle, Australia): Mouse epididymal sperm proteome.
Patrick Vernet (Aubière, France): GPX5: a target for male fertility?
Ulrich Gottwald (Berlin, Germany): HE6 (GPR64) as a target for male fertility: assets and drawbacks.
Patricia Cuasnicu (Buenos Aires, Argentina): Evidence for the participation of cysteine-rich secretory proteins (Crisp) in fertilization.

Session: Epithelium-sperm interactions.
Trevor G. Cooper (Muenster, Germany): Sperm-osmolyte interactions.

Session: Selected trainee oral presentations.
Adam Raymond (Atlanta, Ga, USA): Defective epididymal epithelial integrity in SED-1-null mice.
Clémence Belleannée Tours-Nouzilly, France): Purification and identification of sperm surface proteins related to sperm maturation.
Yuan C. Zhou (Shanghai, China): RNAi in vivo knocking-down rat epididymis-specific HongrES1 expression caused sperm capacitation defect and reduced fertility.
Anton Krutskikh (London, UK): Targeted disruption of the RNase10 gene in mouse results in loss of sperm adhesiveness and severe male subfertility.

Session: The human epididymis.
Jean Louis Dacheux (Tours-Nouzilly, France): Human epididymal proteome.
Monica Jacob (Bochum, Germany): Human epididymal development.

Abe Lundwall (Malmö, Sweden): A locus on chr 20 encompassing genes that are highly expressed in the epididymis.

Ursula Habenicht (Berlin, Germany) presented by U. Gottwald: Public-Private partnership and its role for developing new contraceptive strategies.