



DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOBIOLOGY
University of Calabria

III Workshop on
Apoptosis in Biology and Medicine

Arcavacata di Rende
March 29th, 1999
Aula Magna

Under the auspices of The

University of Calabria, Cosenza
University of Catanzaro "Magna Græcia"

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Programme

Chairmen

A. Garcia (Spain) & G. Bagetta (Italy)

9.00-9.20 P.L. Nicotera (Germany)
Nitric oxide, Dr. Jekyll or Mr. Hyde?

9.20-9.40 B. Brune (Germany)
The role of nitric oxide in cytotoxicity and protection

10.00-10.20 G. Melino (Italy)
Regulation of cell death by nitric oxide

10.20-10.40 W. Malorni (Italy)
On the role of cell adhesion and spreading in the modulation of apoptosis

10.40-11.00 V. De Laurenzi (Italy)
Splicing isoforms of p73

11.00-11.20 Coffee Break

Chairmen

C. Fiorentini (Italy) & P.L. Nicotera (Germany)

11.20-11.40 E. Clementi, C. Sciorati, G. Della Valle and J. Meldolesi (Italy)
The p75^{NTR}-induced apoptotic programme develops through a ceramide-caspase pathway regulated by nitric oxide

11.40-12.00 S. Amoroso (Italy)
Relationship between free radical over-production and cytosolic Ca²⁺ increase in neuronal death during oxidative stress

12.00-12.20 V. Mollace, C. Muscoli, C. Perno, D. Rotiroti and G. Nisticò (Italy)
Role of peroxynitrite in HIV-1-induced apoptosis in human cultured astroglial cells

12.20-12.40 G. Schettini (Italy)
NF-κB involvement in neuronal apoptosis: protective or proapoptotic role?

12.40-13.00 G. Bagetta, S. Piccirilli and M. T. Corasaniti (Italy)
Role of IL-1β in apoptosis

13.00-13.30 General Discussion & Conclusions

The morphological characteristics of a cell dying for apoptosis were first described by Kerr and colleagues in 1972; since then, the interest of a very large number of research laboratories has been recruited and the number of publications in this field has increased steadily.

The recent recognition of a pivotal role for apoptosis in such a diverse pathological mechanisms, such as tumour growth, immune response and neurodegeneration, has tuned the interest of researchers toward the basic mechanisms underlying programmed cell death with the hope of identifying biological targets for therapeutical intervention.

The effort made during the last five years has disclosed a large spectrum of mechanisms by which drugs can be used to modulate apoptosis but much more remains to be done before we can enter the era of clinical application of such discoveries.

With this in mind, three years ago we have initiated what is now a series of topical workshops involving outstanding european scientists who have pioneered this field.

The rationale for doing so stems from the need to broaden the curriculum of students in our biomedical Faculties and to develop new ideas for international research projects.

So far, our effort has been payed by the enthusiastic interest of our undergraduated students and university researchers and, of similar importance, by the initiation, this year, of a PhD course in Pharmacology and Biochemistry of Cell Death. The latter result has provided more stamina to organize the III Workshop in "Apoptosis in Biology and Medicine" which will be held the 29th of March, 1999 in the Aula Magna of the University of Calabria.