

# PLATELET IMMUNOBIOLOGY WORKING PARTY (PIWP)

14<sup>th</sup> International Platelet Workshop organized by Pr Guo-Gang WU, Nan-Ning, China.

The immunization against platelet antigens is involved in a number of clinical syndromes. Developments in immunologic, biochemical and molecular techniques have led to a better knowledge of these conditions. The Working Party (WP) on Platelet Serology was set up in the early 80' and international workshops have been organized in order to share the knowledge among participants, evaluate the technologies in use, establish proficiency testing and develop standardization. The development of antigen-specific assays and the establishment of the genetic basis for the platelet alloantigens were a major breakthrough in this domain allowing accurate diagnosis for immune thrombocytopenia in neonatology, post-transfusion refractoriness and post-transfusion purpura. The WP has been involved in platelet alloantigen nomenclature. In 1990, to avoid confusion, a consensus about platelet alloantigen nomenclature has been reached and the Human Platelet Antigens (HPA) has been established [1]. Then in 2003, a Platelet Nomenclature committee was set up as a collaborative platform between the ISBT and the ISTH scientific subcommittee on Platelet Immunology [2]. Recommendations and or statements from the PIWP have been published in *Vox Sanguinis* [3-4].

Collaborative studies have allowed the establishment of reference reagents for the detection of human antibodies[5]. Relationship does exist with other international societies or working groups as already mentioned the Scientific Committee on Platelet Immunology from the International Society of Thrombosis and Hemostasis, The European symposium on Platelet Immunology and the World Health Organization. The collaborative studies and the exchange of experience by the worldwide participants of the PIWP have been a major contribution to the development of platelet immunology and the number of participating laboratories has gradually increased. The 14<sup>th</sup> international workshop (2008) organized by Pr Guo-Guang WU (Institute of Transfusion Medicine, Nan-Ning Blood Center, Nan-Ning, Guangxi, China) represents an international partnership of 42 participants from 23 countries.

The role of the organizing laboratory is of extreme importance. It coordinates the samples selection, collection and distribution and analyses the results.

The final discussion concerning the workshop results and evaluation were discussed during the workshop session held during the international meeting of the ISBT.

We thought it was of interest to share our experience with our colleagues not necessarily involved in the field. Therefore a summary of the ISBT-Platelet immunology Working Party (PIWP) meeting held in Macao (SAR, PR. China) during the XXX<sup>th</sup> international Congress of the ISBT is reported here.

The organizing committee was composed of Dr Cecile Kaplan, Paris, France, Chairman of the ISBT-PIWP, Dr Brian Curtis, Milwaukee, USA, Dr Zyta Foxcroft, Johannesburg, South-Africa, Pr Dao-Pei Lu, Beijing, China, Dr Paul Metcalfe, Potters Bar, UK, Dr Willem Ouwehand, Cambridge, UK, Dr Helen Pearson, Sydney, Australia, Pr Chang-Geng Ruan, Suzhou, China, Dr Sentot Sentoso, Giessen, Germany and Pr Simon Panzer, Vienna, Austria.

Among the participants, 21 laboratories have made a valuable contribution for this workshop by sending reagents for the different exercises.

The main goals of this workshop were serological testing, genotyping and detection of drug-dependent antibodies. Participants were offered to choose the exercises they wanted to complete. Therefore not all the laboratories participated to all the different sections.

The detailed results of the workshop were available in a written report as well as on a CD thanks to the efforts of the organizing laboratory.

After fruitful discussions, the participants have concluded this workshop was very well organized and to be much helpful and interesting even if there are still questions without a unique response as for example the choice of the best monoclonal to be used in the MAIPA for the detection of alloantibodies.

Suggestions have been made for the next workshop with emphasis on both proficiency and reference exercises.

For the interest of the participating laboratories all the reagents given for the workshops should be made available after the workshop.

The reference DNA samples derived from EBV transformed cells used in the 14<sup>th</sup> international workshop could be requested from the organizing laboratory.

The next international workshop in 2010 will be organized by Germany in conjunction with the XXXI international congress of the ISBT. During fall 2008, more details for this workshop will be available. A workshop report will be published in *Vox Sanguinis* in the coming months.

For Pr Guo-Guang Wu : [guangwu@szonline.net](mailto:guangwu@szonline.net)  
**Cecile KAPLAN, France**  
 Chairman of the ISBT-PIWP  
[ckaplan@ints.fr](mailto:ckaplan@ints.fr)

## References

1. von dem Borne AEGKr, Decary F. Nomenclature of platelet specific antigens. *Br J Haematol* 1990; 74: 239-240.
2. Metcalfe P, Watkins NA, Ouwehand WH, Kaplan C, Newman P, Kekomäki R, de Haas M, Aster R, Shibata Y, Smith J, Kiefel V, Santoso S. Nomenclature of human platelet antigens. *Vox Sang* 2003; 85: 240-245.
3. Foxcroft Z, Campbell K, Merieux Y, Urbaniak S, Brierley M, Rigal D, Ouwehand WH, Metcalfe P. Report on the 13<sup>th</sup> International Society of Blood Transfusion Platelet Immunology Workshop. *Vox Sang* 2007;
4. Kaplan C, Freedman J, Foxcroft Z, Husebekk A, Metcalfe P, Muniz-Diaz E, Ouwehand WH, Panzer S, Rozman P, Skogen B. Monoclonal platelet antigen capture assays (MAIPA) and reagents: a statement. *Vox Sang* 2007; 93: 298-299.
5. Metcalfe P, Ouwehand WH, Sands D, Barrowcliffe TW. Collaborative studies to establish the first WHO Reference Reagent for detection of human antibody against human platelet antigen-5b. *Vox Sang* 2003; 84: 237-240.