

MESSAGE FROM THE ESTHER Database
Published occasionally by the ESTHER Team

First of all, we wish all of you a Fruitful and Happy New Year!
Since our Newsletter Number 6 of February 2016, it happened the following:

MEETINGS

- Thanks to Pascale Marchot and Yves Bourne, their colleagues of the French Organizing Committee, and the remarkable contributions by all attendees, the “XVth International Symposium on Cholinergic Mechanisms” (XVth ISCM) held in October 2016 in Marseille, France, was a great success and an insightful opportunity for exchanging on old and new aspects of our beloved enzymes and receptors (<http://iscm.sciencesconf.org/>). Many pictures taken by the organizers or attendees are available from the ESTHER [site](#).

- A ceremony for delivery of the second set of B.P. Doctor Memorial Young Investigator Travel Awards ([XVth ISCM](#)) was held during the meeting. The International Award Committee, made of seven established cholinergikers, selected eight young investigators as B.P. Doctor Awardees: [Gisela Andrea CAMACHO HERNANDEZ](#) (Universidad Autonoma de Baja California, Tijuana, Mexico), [Maria-Letizia CAMPANARI](#) (Institut du Cerveau et de la Moelle epiniere, Paris, France), [Rajnish KUMAR](#) (Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden), [Jayharsh PANCHAL](#) (Indiana University, Bloomington, USA), [Katrin RICHTER](#) (Justus-Liebig-University Giessen, Deutschland), [Luis Eduardo SANTOS](#) (Instituto de Bioquimica Medica UFRJ, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), [Natalia VASILYEVA](#) (Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia), and [Nadav YAYON](#) (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel) ([Photo](#)). Each awardee received a metal engraved plaque on walnut, a certificate of the honor and a check covering part of their travel expenses.

- Six ISN/IBRO-PERC Young Investigator Poster Prizes were attributed to [Bettina NADORP](#) (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel), [Eugenie NEPOVIMOVA](#) (University of Defence, Hradec Kralove, Czech Republic), [Adrianna WYSOCKA](#) (Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology, Warsaw, Poland), [Tamara Zorbaz](#) (Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health, Zagreb, Croatia), [Samira ZTAOU](#) (Aix-Marseille University, Marseille, France), and [Uriya BEKENSTEIN](#) (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel) ([photos 1,2](#)).

- Three Lee’s Pharm/Wah Kin Chinese Young Investigator Poster Prizes were attributed to [Cathy W.C. BI](#), [Etta Y.L. LIU](#) and [Miranda L. XU](#) (all three from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, China) ([Photo](#)).

- Proceedings of the meeting, comprising ca. 20 invited mini-reviews and 70 abstracts, will be published in J. Neurochem. as a Virtual Special Issue on *Cholinergic Mechanisms* (Silman I, Guest Ed; Marchot P and Prado P, Associate Guest Eds).

- The proceedings of the 12th International Meeting on Cholinesterases (12th ChE, Elche, 2015) are available as a special issue of Chem Biol Interact, vol 259 ([View the table](#)).

NEW TOOLS

We are pleased to announce that

- Tables of substrates and inhibitors have been updated and compounds linked to the family of their main target enzyme.
- Compounds are now referenced with InChI, InChI Key, Canonical SMILES and links to PubChem and Chembl.

STRUCTURES

- In January, the number of tridimensional structures in ESTHER reached as much as 1700 entries!

- Since our latest Newsletter (Feb 2016, oops), 118 new crystal structures of 49 alpha/beta hydrolase proteins from 27 subfamilies were released by the RCSB PDB. For 28 of these proteins they were the first structures to be solved. The structure of Pimeloyl-acyl carrier protein methyl esterase BioG from Haemophilus influenzae was the first structure of a member of the [Duf_452](#) family. Structure of the catalytic domain of the Class I Polyhydroxybutyrate Synthase from Cupriavidus necator was the first structure of a member of the [PHA_synth_I](#) family. See the table of families: <http://bioweb.ensam.inra.fr/ESTHER/general?what=overallTable>

OBITUARY

Victor P. Whittaker passed away at age 97 on July 5, 2016. ([Victor P. Whittaker](#)). An Obituary paper by Herbert Zimmermann and Frode Fonnum has been published ([Zimmermann et al.](#)) and a tribute by Israel Silman and R Jane Rylett was given during the XVth XVth ISCM in Marseille. Even more sadly, our young colleague [Marie Trovaslet Leroy](#) passed away at age 42 on October 3, 2016.

On behalf of the ESTHER Team
Arnaud