

International PSC Study Group (IPSCSG) Annual report 2013

In Oslo June 2010 a total of 45 active PSC researchers from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Spain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, UK, Ireland, US and Canada met and established the International PSC Study Group (IPSCSG) (www.ipscsg.org, password required). Entering 2014, the group includes researchers from 19 countries and more than 50 different institutions.

MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Prof. **Michael E. Manns**, Hannover, Germany
 Prof. **Konstantinos N. Lazaridis**, Rochester, MN, US
 Prof. **Michael Trauner**, Vienna, Austria
 Prof. **Ulrich H. Beuers**, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
 Dr. **Luca Fabris**, Padua, Italy
 Prof. **Martti Färkkilä**, Helsinki, Finland
 Prof. **Tom Hemming Karlsen**, Oslo, Norway
(coordinator/secretary)

Representation in IPSCSG is based on active participation in at least one ongoing study and meetings are held biannually during the International Liver Congress™ (ILC) by European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) and the annual meeting of the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD). During 2013 the group first met in Amsterdam during the ILC April 26th and then in Washington DC during AASLD November 12th. During the ILC, an official EASL-IPSCSG joint workshop was also held and attracted a full auditorium on the topic of state of the art metagenomics, large cohort management, imaging and mouse model aspects of relevance to PSC.

During 2013 the group made progress on several topics:

- The ImmunoChip project completed (DNA from >4,000 PSC patients)
- Collection of clinical data from 7,500 PSC patients for a clinical descriptive review completed (results will be presented at opening plenary session at the ILC in London 2014)
- Multicenter study initiated to evaluate the utility of Fibroscan in determining disease progression in PSC led by Olivier Chazouillieres
- Establishing of the prospective biobanking of PSC patients led by Gideon Hirschfield and Mette Vesterhus
- Contributions to the pruritus GWAS study led by George Mells
- Contributions to the US/UK GWAS meta-analysis led by Kostas Lazaridis and Carl Anderson
- Contributions to ImmunoChip subphenotype project led by Cyriel Ponsioen

- Contributions to ImmunoChip cross-phenotype project led by Andre Franke
- Participation in clinical trials (Dilstent2, nor-ursodeoxycholic acid)
- Establishing of a consensus document for phenotyping in mouse models of PSC (published in Journal of Hepatology)

PLANNED MEETINGS IN 2014:

During the ILC in London IPSCSG has been accommodated by EASL to hold the biannual meeting within the venue of the ILC. This is an important recognition and also is likely to increase attendance even further for the reason of practical simplicity. Also, a workshop has been set up within the official ECCO meeting in February to increase awareness of PSC among gastroenterologists. In June, the next biennial two-day IPSCSG meeting will be held in Amsterdam, hosted by Ulrich Beuers and Cyriel Ponsioen. The group will also meet in November during AASLD in Boston for the second biannual meeting.

INTERNATIONAL PSC STUDY GROUP NETWORK

COUNTRIES

Australia	Poland	The Netherlands
Austria	Spain	UK
Belgium	Switzerland	US
Canada	Sweden	
Finland		
France		
Germany		
Ireland		
Iceland		
Italy		
Japan		
Norway		

More information on: www.ipscsg.org