receptors. In later years the work with Tim Booth, Megan Lloyd, Alec Redwood and Lee Smith examined how murine CMV developed strain variation including in wild type strains, and how these strains influenced immune evasive genes provided key models for other herpesviruses.

A lifelong legacy

Geoff was an original and dedicated teacher at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. His teaching involved all aspects of infectious diseases, including virology, microbiology, immunology, molecular biology and public health. A Master of Science course that he introduced became unexpectedly popular and successful. Geoff’s gifts as an administrator involved not only his superb department, but also being Co-Director of the Marshall Centre for Infectious Diseases Research and Training. He was a model corporate citizen joining a wealth of national and international scientific committees, peer group reviewing bodies and editorial boards. He was always willing to serve, as head of department for three decades, as elected President of the Australasian Society for Immunology of which he was made an honorary life member in 2012, as founding co-director of the Marshall Centre at UWA and on the scientific advisory committee of the Australian Centre for HIV and Hepatitis Virology Research.

The first impression of Geoff remains for many of us, a man with a formidable intellect, a gentleman, an irreverent sense of humour and a great sense of fun and adventure. A mentor. Geoff’s work was an inspiration. He was able to deliver precision to a very descriptive field complicated by the large size and number of genes in ‘his’ herpesvirus, murine cytomegalovirus, as well as the complexity of the immune response, which was relatively poorly defined at the time.

The seminal studies from Geoff’s research group have provided the basis for dissecting and delineating so many areas of virus-host interaction, including the contribution of host resistance genes to infection outcome. Along with his excellent group, Geoff’s work dissected the various interplays between innate and adaptive host immune responses, the contribution of virus immune evasion genes, and genetic variation in these genes, to the establishment of viral persistence.

Vale, Geoffrey Shellam and rest in peace. We will miss your great good humour and favourite salutation ‘old boy’. It has been a pleasure and an honour for many of us to know you. Those of us fortunate to have known you, and those who continue to benefit from your highly intelligent research insights, thank you for the good you have done for Australia and the world.

Conference report: 19th ISHAM Congress, Melbourne

Prof. Wieland Meyer
Chair 19th ISHAM Congress and General Secretary ISHAM

The 19th Congress of the International Society for Human and Animal Mycology (ISHAM), in-conjunction with the 2015 Mycology Masterclass, was proudly organised by the Australian New Zealand Mycology Interest Group (ANZMIG), a special interest group of the Australasian Society of Infectious Diseases (ASID). It took place from the 4–8 May 2015 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Center.

The Congress was organised under the leadership of Prof. Wieland Meyer, who chaired the local organising committee, including Dr Sarah Kidd, A/Prof. Sharon Chen, Prof. Monica Slavin, Sue Coloe, A/Prof. Debbie Marriott, Dr Orla Morrissey, Dr Tom Gottlieb, Prof. Tania Sorrell, A/Prof. Mark Krockenberger, Prof. David Looke and E/Prof. David Ellis. The accompanying Young ISHAM meeting was organised by Dr Michaela Lackner, Cecilia Li, Nenad Macesic. Special thanks go to the staff of The Meeting People our PCO under the leadership of Lesley Woods.

The 19th ISHAM Congress was generously sponsored by Astellas, Merck Sharpe & Dhome, Pfizer, Gilead, Elsevier, Marie Bashir Institute, Oxford University Press, Melbourne Convention & Visitors Bureau, Majestic Opals, Cape Cod Associates, and Mayne Pharma.

The meeting attracted 667 delegates from 48 countries, with 33.7% coming from Australia and 66.3% from overseas. It was preceded by two days of workshops, on 2–3 May 2015, and followed by a one-day workshop on 9 May 2015, taking place at RMIT and the Alfred Hospital, on topics from MALDI-TOF, Histopathology, Therapeutic Drug Monitoring, Antifungal Susceptibility Testing, Infections in the Immunocompromised Host to BioloMICS. The Young ISHAM day on 3 May 2015 featured three educational sessions, covering topics from ‘Where to publish’ and ‘How to review a scientific paper’ to ‘Mycological entrepreneurship’. It also gave 24 young researchers the opportunity to present their scientific findings as short talks and 88 as YISHAM posters.
The formal meeting was opened by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Robert Doyle and the ASID President Prof. Cheryl Jones. The opening plenary given by Professor Sarah Gurr, Chair in Food Security at Exeter University, entitled: ‘Mycopia: Fungal Allies and Adversaries’, seamlessly linked environmental, food safety, agricultural and medical mycology. The eight plenary lectures covered themes reaching from ‘New Insights in Candidaemia’ (Prof. Tania C. Sorrell, AU), ‘Insights in fungal pathogenicity drawn from proteomics studies’ (Prof. Marlene Henning-Vainstein, Brazil), ‘Modelling of human antifungal dosages’ (Prof. William W. Hope, UK), ‘Animal to human transmission new threat of Sporotrichosis’ (Dr Isabella Dib F. Gremião, Brazil), ‘Antifungal resistance – threats, trends and targets’ (Prof. Richard Cannon, New Zealand), ‘How can animal models inform clinical practice?’ (Prof. John Perfect, USA), ‘Advances in Mucormycosis’ (Prof. Olivier Lortholary, France) to ‘Virulence mechanisms shared by fungi that infect humans, animals and plants’ (Prof. Joseph Heitman, USA). The main program had many scientific highlights within the 36 symposia, featuring 323 oral presentations, representing the four themes within the program: clinical, basic science, translational and one health aspects of medical mycology. 488 posters were presented at the Congress, showcasing high quality original research and state of the art reviews. There were three industrial symposia organised by Pfizer, MSD and Astellas. The Congress also featured 18 ISHAM working groups, allowing them to present their activities to the general scientific community.

In conjunction with the 19th ISHAM Congress a special issue of Microbiology Australia on Medical and Veterinary Mycology was published in May 2015 by the Mycology Interest Group of ASM, under the guest editor ship of Prof. Wieland Meyer featuring one editorial, three In Focus and 13 Under The Microscope articles, highlighting to the global scientific community the broad range of Medical Mycology activities in Australia.

The Congress offered plenty of opportunities to network either during the numerous poster sessions or the YISHAM party at Gasolina, the welcome reception, which took place at the Melbourne Convention Center and the Congress dinner at the amazing Myer Mural Hall.

The 19th ISHAM Congress was also the official meeting place of the members of ISHAM, which held its general assembly on 8 May 2015. During the General assembly the new ISHAM council was elected: Prof. Malcolm Richards (UK) – President, Prof. Wieland Meyer (AU) - General Secretary, Dr Donna MacCallum (UK) – Treasurer, Prof. Arunaloke Chakrabarti (India) - President Elect, Dr Ruth Ashbee (UK), Prof. Yee Chun Chen (Taiwan), Prof. Jacques Meis (The Netherlands) and Prof. Ryoji Tsuibo (Japan) – Vice Presidents, Dr Marcus Teixeira, Brazil/USA – Vice President YISHAM and ex officio Dr Oliver Kurzai (Germany) – Chief Editor Medical Mycology Case Reports, Dr Karl Clemens (USA) – Chief Editor Medical Mycology and Prof. Neil Gow (UK) – Past president.

The society awarded its highest award, the Lucile George Medal to Prof. John Perfect (USA) for his outstanding contribution to clinical mycology and Prof. Luigina Romani (Italy) for her outstanding contribution to basic mycological science. Honorary ISHAM membership was awarded to Prof. Bodo Wanke (Brazil) for his outstanding contribution to human and animal mycology, and the distinguished service awards were awarded to Prof. Ira Salkin (USA), Chief Editor of the society journal Medical Mycology, Prof. Aristeia Velegraki (Greece) and Prof. Sybren de Hoog (The Netherlands) for their outstanding contribution to the Society.

It also elected the next host country of the 20th ISHAM Congress, which will take place in Amsterdam, The Netherlands in 2018.

Overall the 19th ISHAM congress was a great success featuring all aspects of human and veterinary mycology.