Letter to the Editor

Call for nominations – Pacific Rim Association for Clinical Pharmacogenetics – Werner Kalow Best Paper Award in Clinical Pharmacogenetics

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The Pacific Rim Association for Clinical Pharmacogenetics (PRACP) was founded in 1990 by Werner Kalow and several leading investigators in the field of pharmacogenetics (society home page: <http://www.med.niigata-u.ac.jp/psy/PRACP/>). As a nonprofit learned professional society, the PRACP aims to contribute to advancement of population based clinical pharmacogenetics research, collaboration across diverse global regions as well as education in pharmacogenetics and personalized medicine. The PRACP is an associate member society at the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR).

In memory of Professor Kalow, the PRACP established the 'Werner Kalow Best Paper Award in Clinical Pharmacogenetics'.

The award will be given every 2 years. The first award will be presented at the next PRACP Meeting in October 2009 in Hong Kong.

The eligibility criteria are:

- An innovative clinical pharmacogenetics study already published in the calendar years 2007 or 2008 (i.e., from January 2007 to December 2008).
- The paper reports a study conducted in human subjects with a focus on genetic basis of variability in response (efficacy and toxicity) to medicines.
- We are seeking a paper with an innovative idea that breaks new ground in clinical pharmacology and human therapeutics, answers a novel hypothesis while also raising new fundamental mechanistic questions for human biology and clinical pharmacogenetics.

- Adherence to high socioethical standards. Considerations (in the paper) for the downstream impact of scientific discoveries on the society would be an additional asset.
- All geographical regions and authors from any institution (public, private, government, nongovernment organization, other) can nominate their own paper.
- If the committee does not identify a suitable, highly original clinical pharmacogenetics study that meets high innovation standards (in the opinion of the award committee members), the award may be postponed to the subsequent nomination cycle.

The award will be given to the entire list of authors named on the top-ranked paper. Investigators, including the award committee members, can nominate papers by independent authors and research groups.

The nomination process is simple and will require a concise description on why the authors' study is original and innovative (written by the nominating authors, to be submitted by email to the PRACP Secretariat). The study description paragraph in the nomination letter should be no more than 75 words, indicating succinctly the key innovative idea and findings in two or three sentences. Longer nominations will be disqualified. For rapid peer review and selection, no acknowledgement letters or written peer review assessment will be provided to the nominated authors.

There will not be a monetary award but the recognition that the paper stood the rigorous standards of the international

peer review committee. One of the authors from the selected best paper (first or senior author, or a suitable designate approved by all authors) will be invited to attend the PRACP conference to deliver a state-of-the-art lecture on their paper. The lecture will be published as an expert review in the PRACP Journal: *Current Pharmacogenomics and Personalized Medicine*.

The PRACP will cover the presenter's basic economy airfare and 3 nights hotel accommodation. An appropriately framed award certificate will be presented at the PRACP annual meeting in recognition of the work and the authors of the paper.

An international panel of independent researchers will select the best paper. Award Committee Membership (2008–2009, in alphabetical order) is as follows:

- Leif Bertilsson (Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden)
- Julia Kirchheiner (University of Ulm, Ulm, Germany)
- Deanna L Kroetz (University of California at San Francisco, CA, USA)
- Edmund JD Lee (National University of Singapore, Singapore)
- J Steven Leeder (Childrens Mercy Hospital and Clinics, University of Missouri-Kansas City, MO, USA)

- Collen Masimirembwa (African Institute of Biomedical Science and Technology, Zimbabwe)
- Vural Ozdemir (University of Montreal, Canada) (Chair)
- Kazutaka Shimoda (Dokkyo University, Japan)
- Toshiyuki Someya (Niigata University, Japan) (Chair)

Observing or student representative members (nonvoting)

- Peter Kalow (Toronto, Canada)
- Yutaro Suzuki (Niigata University, Japan)
- Raphaëlle Stenne (University of Montreal, Canada)

The nomination cover letter, together with a pdf copy of the nominated paper should be submitted (by email only) to the address below, no later than March 23, 2009: Dr Vural Ozdemir, vural.ozdemir@umontreal.ca

Following peer review, only the author(s) of the selected best paper will be contacted in early summer prior to the 2009 PRACP Meeting.

Respectfully submitted, on behalf of the award committee