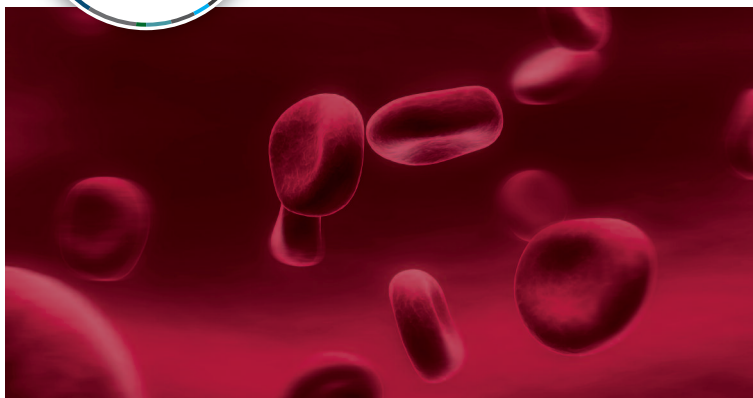


FIRST SCIENTIFIC ANNOUNCEMENT



**4th European Phenylketonuria
Group (EPG) Symposium
“Advances and Challenges in PKU”**

Rome, Italy - March 23-24, 2012



4th European Phenylketonuria Group (EPG) Symposium

“Advances and Challenges in PKU”

Aim of the symposium

While dietary restriction of phenylalanine still remains the mainstay of treatment, phenylketonuria (PKU) is an active area of research, and new treatment options are emerging that may reduce the burden of a difficult and limiting diet in these patients and in their families. Basic and clinical research is now focusing on the mechanisms of action of new treatment options, like sapropterin dihydrochloride (also BH4), on monoamine neurotransmitters metabolism in the brain of PKU patients.

Furthermore there's an emerging need for evidence-based international guidelines to provide standardization in treatment initiation, in evaluation of the response to therapy with sapropterin dihydrochloride, and in blood phenylalanine concentration to target. A number of papers resulting from last year's symposium reviewed the existing scientific evidences in several aspects of PKU, identifying the current positions in its management.

The European Phenylketonuria Group (EPG) and the Serono Symposia International Foundation (SSIF) consider essential to continue their series of successful meetings on PKU, and have organized the 2012 Annual Symposium dedicated to that. The aims of this meeting are to review the most important outcomes of research in the field of PKU and to provide a forum for participants to discuss solutions that can optimize patient management in clinical practice.

Learning objectives

After attending this symposium, the participants will have up-to-date knowledge about:

- Brain pathology of PKU
- Blood-brain barrier and PKU
- CNS neurotransmitters in PKU
- Management of BH4 deficiency
- Social and financial management of PKU
- Amino acid status in PKU

Target audience

Specialists in pediatric and adult inherited metabolic diseases, dietitians, nutritionists, clinical biochemists, experts in genetics, basic scientists, and professionals within the area of public health will benefit from this symposium.



Accreditation

Serono Symposia International Foundation (www.seronosymposia.org) will submit this program **4th European Phenylketonuria Group (EPG) Symposium “Advances and Challenges in PKU”** (March 23-24, 2012 - Rome, Italy) for accreditation by the European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) and the Italian Ministry of Health.

Chairman

Nenad Blau

Division of Clinical Chemistry
and Biochemistry
University Children's Hospital
Zürich, Switzerland

Organizing Committee

Nenad Blau

Division of Clinical Chemistry
and Biochemistry
University Children's Hospital
Zürich, Switzerland

Anita MacDonald

Dietetic Department
The Children's Hospital
Birmingham, UK

Francjan J. van Spronsen

Beatrix Childrens Hospital
University Medical Center of Groningen
Groningen, The Netherlands

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Scientific Committee

Amaya Bélanger Quintana

Unidad de Enfermedades
Metabólicas
Servicio de Pediatría
Hospital Ramón y Caja
Madrid, Spain

Nenad Blau

Division of Clinical Chemistry
and Biochemistry
University Children's Hospital
Zürich, Switzerland

Alberto Burlina

Division of Metabolic diseases
Department of Pediatrics
University Hospital Padua
Padua, Italy

Mübeccel Demirkol

Children's Hospital
Istanbul Faculty of Medicine
Istanbul University
Istanbul, Turkey

François Feillet

Centre de Référence des
Maladies Héréditaires du
Métabolisme
Hôpital d'Enfants, CHU Brabois
Vandoeuvre les Nancy, France

Anita MacDonald

Dietetic Department
The Children's Hospital
Birmingham, UK

Ania Muntau

Department of Molecular
Pediatrics
Dr von Hauner Children's Hospital
Ludwig-Maximilians-University
Munich, Germany

Friedrich K. Trefz

Children's Hospital
Kreis Kliniken Reutlingen GmbH
Klinikum Am Steinberg
School of Medicine University
of Tuebingen
Reutlingen, Germany

Françjan J. van Spronsen

Beatrix Childrens Hospital
University Medical Center of
Groningen
Groningen, The Netherlands



Main topics

Friday - March 23, 2012

Session I Brain pathology and neurotransmitters metabolism in PKU

- Blood-brain barrier and brain pathology in PKU
- Functional MRI and memory performance in PKU
- BH4 and the blood brain barrier

Session II Day-to-day experiences and treatment aspects in PKU

- Neurological manifestations in adult PKU: occurrence and explanations
- Treatment with BH4 in neonates and young infants

Parallel Workshops Sessions

- Clinical management of BH4 deficiencies
- Indications and interpretation of neurotransmitters analysis
- The social and financial management of PKU in different countries, continents...
- The tyrosine status in PKU

Saturday, March 24, 2012

Session III

- Free oral Communications and Poster presentations

Session IV

- Workshop summaries presentations
- Asbjørn Følling Lecture and Award
- PKU academy fellowship presentation



General information

Venue

Rome Marriott Park Hotel

Via Colonnello Tommaso Masala, 54
00148 Rome, Italy

Language

The official language of the symposium will be English.

Registration fee

The registration fee is **€ 400,00**. This fee includes:

- Symposium sessions
- Symposium coffee breaks, luncheons
- Symposium dinner on March 25
- Symposium material
- Certificate of attendance

The symposium will start on Friday, March 23 at 09.00 and will close on Saturday, March 24 at 13.30

Scientific secretariat

Serono Symposia International Foundation
Salita di San Nicola da Tolentino, 1/b
00187 Rome, Italy

Senior project manager: Flaminia Masprone

Tel.: +39-06-420 413 206

Fax: +39-06-420 413 677

E-mail: info@seronosymposia.org

Serono Symposia International Foundation
is a Swiss Foundation with headquarters in
14, rue du Rhône, 1204 Geneva, Switzerland

Organizing secretariat

Meridiano Congress International
Via Mentana, 2/B | 00185 Rome, Italy

Congress coordinator: Sara Guglielmini

Tel.: +39 06 88595 211

Fax: +39 06 88595 234

E-mail: s.guglielmini@meridiano.it



Location

It is hard to believe that Roman civilization began with a small settlement of shepherds and farmers near the Tevere river, on Palatino (one of the seven hills on which Rome was built and where most of the Roman archaeological treasures were found). Tradition dictates that this is where Romulus, the first king, founded the city, and where Augustus, the first Emperor, built his house. The city spreads over six other hills: Quirinale, Viminale, Esquilino, Celio, Aventino and Campidoglio. In the nearly 3,000 years of its life, Rome knew it all - victory and defeat, joy and tragedy, glory and misery. A playground for gods and emperors, with its power once stretched from Syria to Scotland, and even today, long after the empire crumbled beneath the feet of barbarian hordes, our lives are steeped in its traditions, laws, art and language. Rome's history can be read in every monument and building; in fact, each and every stone, with its different architectural styles, bears proof to the periods of splendour, decay, wars and peace that characterize its millenary life. The city can be described as a gigantic open-air museum, visited each year by millions of tourists, scholars and pilgrims from all over the world.



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Serono Symposia International Foundation

Representative Office

Salita di San Nicola da Tolentino 1/b - 00187 Rome, Italy
T +39.(0)6.420.413.1 - F +39.(0)6.420.413.677

Headquarters

14, Rue du Rhône - 1204 Geneva, Switzerland

