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Meeting Report of the 6th International AHR Meeting

*Duesseldorf, Germany
12 – 15 June 2024*

The 6th International AHR Meeting took place from Wednesday, 12th of June, to Saturday, 15th of June, in the Clayton Hotel, Duesseldorf, Germany. As becoming evident by the following figures, the meeting was a great success, in particular when considering that it deals with only one transcription factor. We sent out over 900 save-the-date e-mails in advance and were really surprised by the incredible number of 180 registrations (employees from our institute not included) from all over the world (23 countries). A total of 98 abstracts were submitted, of which around a quarter were selected by the Scientific Committee for short talks. The program was very diverse and exciting and consisted of a total of 49 lectures (22 invited talks, 25 short talks selected from abstracts, 1 keynote lecture and 1 plenary lecture), 72 poster contributions and a social program (welcome reception, social evening at the Neanderthal Museum in Mettmann, Germany). The conference started Wednesday afternoon with a keynote lecture by Christopher Bradfield (University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI), who provided an excellent overview about the multiple facets and functions of the aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AHR) and closely related transcription factors of the basic Helix-Loop-Helix/Per-Arnt-Sim (bHLH-PAS) superfamily. In the following 2.5 days, the importance of the AHR was highlighted in a total of ten sessions with different thematic focuses: "Molecular facets of AHR signaling", "AHR in cancer and ageing I & II", "AHR in barrier organs", "AHR in immunity I & II", "AHR-related PAS proteins", "AHR ligands: Therapeutic approaches", "AHR ligands: Adverse health effects", "AHR research: Emerging frontiers". One important finding that all participating colleagues certainly became aware of

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Datum: 04.07.2024

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is the ligand-specificity of the AHR signaling pathway. In fact, some rather huge differences in the biological response coming from the same test system were presented during the meeting, a phenomenon which should essentially be due to the choice of different ligands of AHR.

The meeting was very successful, we received an overwhelming positive feedback from numerous national and international participants. Accordingly, the conference series on AHR will continue. In fact, the next International AHR Meeting will take place in Porto, Portugal, presumably in summer 2027.

Finally, on behalf of the entire organizing committee, I cordially thank the SFRR-E for generously providing a travel grant (worth 500 €) to support the attendance of a young researcher. The SFRR-E travel grant was awarded to Antonio B. Pimpao (University of Lisbon, Portugal), who held a very interesting short oral presentation entitled "AHR Signaling and Cysteine Metabolism in Chronic Intermittent Hypoxia-Induced Hypertension". His award-winning abstract as well as a picture from the award ceremony (Antonio is the second from right) are attached to this mail.

In addition, please find the pdf-file of the program and abstract book attached. The support of the SFRR-E is mentioned on pages 147 and 150.

In case of any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Haarmann-Stemmann', written in a cursive style.

Thomas Haarmann-Stemmann