

Dear members of the CEA-family,

This is the first announcement of the 2009 CEA Symposium in Germany:

**The 19th Annual International CEA Symposium
August 15 – 18, 2009 in Essen/Bochum (Ruhr-Area)**

The carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) protein is well known for the occurrence in serum of patients suffering from various types of epithelial tumors. Since its discovery in 1965 it was used as an important diagnostic and prognostic marker of tumor progression. In the past 18 years, the existence of 28 genes/pseudogenes structurally related to the CEA gene became obvious. These are composed of the CEA (carcinoembryonic antigen) and the PSG (pregnancy specific glycoprotein) subgroup. Homologs to some of these genes have been found in other vertebrates as well. Since renomenclating in 1999, members of this protein family, which in turn belongs to the immunoglobulin superfamily, are referred as carcinoembryonic antigen-related cell adhesion molecules (CEACAMs). CEA family members act multifunctional. They function as cell adhesion molecules, but have also a role in other diverse cellular processes. They can control cell proliferation and differentiation, as well as cell death. Tumor progression, control of immune cell activation, insulin clearance, and the development of new blood vessels are influenced and several CEACAMs serve as receptors for different pathogens.

Since 1990, the Annual CEA Symposium allows scientists with such diverse interests to meet and to generate collaborations. It also provides the opportunity for scientists coming from other fields to enter the CEA research field and brings together people, mainly interested in the basic understanding of the CEA or PSG protein function with scientists from clinical departments.

Active participants, interested in the progress of CEA research are welcome. Young scientists as well as group leaders are invited. Like known from Gordon Research Conferences, predominantly unpublished data will be presented and discussed. This symposium/workshop will provide a stimulatory environment for the dissemination of new data and exchange of new ideas, allowing advancements in any of the fields to rapidly impact each of the others.

This symposium has a tradition of increasing our understanding of the CEA family, and recent work in several areas, e.g. analysis of CEACAMs in tumor growth or regulation of the immune response, promises to make the 2009 meeting no exception!

The 19th Annual International CEA Symposium will be held at the "TGW (Technologie- und Gründerzentrum Wattenscheid)" located in Bochum. Being situated in a region with a special history, multicultural inhabitants and very dynamic development, the meeting will provide an ideal atmosphere to discuss newest insights into the CEA molecules.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Essen / Bochum next summer!

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Organization:
Gudrun Mikus (gudrun.mikus@uk-essen.de)

Registration

Registration will be via Email to the organizer.

Deadline for pre-registration and accommodation: May 15, 2009

Program

A detailed conference schedule will be available after abstract submission.

Results will be presented by oral presentation, or poster presentation.

Preliminary program

Session 1: Structure, Expression and Dynamics of CEA Proteins

Session 2: CEACAMs in Cellular Differentiation

Session 3: Role of Different CEA proteins in Cancer Progression

Session 4: CEACAMs in the Immune Response

Session 5: Infection via CEACAM Receptors

Abstract Submission

Deadline July 10, 2009

Abstracts should be submitted via Email.

Detailed instructions will be given in the 2nd announcement.

Contact

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Conference Fees

We will try to keep the costs as low as possible.

Detailed information will be given in the 2nd announcement.

Accommodation

Tryp Hotel****

Josef-Haumann-Str. 1; 44866 Bochum; Germany

www.solmelia.com

Information on the Conference Location

TGW

Lyrenstr.13; 44866 Bochum; Germany

www.tgr-tgw.de

Travel Information

Detailed information will be given in the 2nd announcement.

Additional Information: The CEA Family Home Page

<http://cea.klinikum.uni-muenchen.de/>

2nd Announcement: February 2009