

Preface

On October 9–11, 2009, the Tenth International Conference on Cerebral Vasospasm was held for the first time in Chongqing, China. Literally translated to mean “double happiness”, Chongqing was the perfect venue to host members of the community from all over the world to witness and participate in such a historic event. Just like the city’s meaning would have you to believe, the conference was a joyous time for both the Chinese neurosurgery researchers who organized this well established conference and the vasospasm researchers from other countries who were delighted to have a meeting on a tour boat called the Misty Star. For many, being on a ship was a new experience, while for others, it was a time to soak in the beauty of China. The conference catered to more than 90 researchers from various countries around the world, presenting over 90 articles ranging from clinical trials to molecular biology experiments. This was all done while enjoying a cruise down the largest river in China, the Yangtze River, and experiencing the greatness of China’s historic hydroelectric dams, the Three Gorges and the Three Little Gorges.

The meeting focused on subarachnoid hemorrhage research with topics divided into two main subcategories – early brain injury and delayed vasospasm. Since 1972 when the first conference on cerebral vasospasm took place, delayed vasospasm has been regarded as the single most important treatable cause of mortality and morbidity after subarachnoid hemorrhage. However, since the successfulness of steering patients out of vasospasm by an endothelin receptor antagonist failed to reduce mortality, more attention was placed on global cerebral injury, which was termed early brain injury. Since then, more than 20% of all published studies on subarachnoid hemorrhage in the last 3 years have been focused on early brain injury, with 45% targeting delayed vasospasm. As a result, the Tenth International Conference on Cerebral Vasospasm dedicated close to one third of all presentations to early brain injury.

The conference followed the Misty Star into the Chinese ghost city of Fengdu, which is located high atop a beautiful hill. Meeting attendees were able to take a gondola ride and dashed into the “Gates of Hell”. Chinese people worship and respect the notion of death and for this reason, many believe that is why they built the “Gates of Hell” on a beautiful hill – like Heaven on Earth. This seems to be a coincident with the research on subarachnoid hemorrhage; it was believed over 50 years ago that delayed vasospasm was the major cause of death in victims. Nevertheless, the failure of Clazosentan to reduce mortality led researchers to shy away from the theory of delayed cerebral vasospasm, and transformed subarachnoid hemorrhage research into the birth of early brain injury.

Towards the end of the conference, the Misty Star led the meeting participants to a vast clearing of water, before the greatest dam on earth, the Three Gorges Dam appeared before them. Crossing the greatest dam during the evening provided a magnificent view for the participants and set the mood for the researchers.

In closing, it is with great pleasure that we would like to present the Volume One entitled “Pathophysiology” a collection of 43 chapters showcasing the magnificent works conducted

by the conference participants. These chapters include studies on early brain injury, the pathophysiology of delayed cerebral vasospasm, the clinical manifestations of subarachnoid hemorrhage, and the latest strategies on treatments. Additionally, we are delighted to present two historic review articles conducted by our honored guest, Dr. Nicolas Dorsch and our distinguished keynote speaker, Dr. Ryszard Pluta. These chapters also include bench investigations conducted by researchers and scientists from all across Asia, North America, and European countries highlighting the achievements in subarachnoid hemorrhage since the Ninth International Conference on Cerebral Vasospasm in Istanbul, Turkey almost 3 years ago.

And finally, to our dear participating colleagues, we would like to thank YOU especially for your participation and support of the Tenth International Conference on Cerebral Vasospasm. We look forward to seeing you in Cincinnati, OH, USA at the 11th Conference in 2011.

Chongping, People's Republic of China
Shanghai, People's Republic of China
Loma Linda, CA, USA

Hua Feng
Ying Mao
John H. Zhang

Early Brain Injury or Cerebral Vasospasm

Vol 1: Pathophysiology

Feng, H.; Mao, Y.; Zhang, J.H. (Eds.)

2011, XII, 256 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-7091-0352-4