

FOCIS Background

The Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS) exists to improve human health through immunology by fostering interdisciplinary approaches to both understand and treat immune-based diseases. Initially established as a cross-disciplinary meeting, FOCIS held its first Annual Meeting in 2001. After two successful consecutive meetings, FOCIS incorporated in 2003 as a 501(c)3 organization. Now in its fifth year of existence, FOCIS has 18 Member Societies and 9 Affiliate Societies, representing roughly 30,000 clinician scientists. A Federation of this size provides a voice for clinical immunologists and ultimately strives to improve patient care.

- FOCIS is committed to its Core Purpose of improving human health through immunology. The FOCIS Mission is to foster interdisciplinary approaches to understand and treat immune-based diseases.
- The five pillars of FOCIS are Immunodiagnosis, Immunotherapy, Immunogenetics/Genomics, Immunoregulation and Host Defense.
- The FOCIS Web site, www.focisnet.org offers:
 - Links to the 18 FOCIS Member Societies and 9 Affiliate Societies
 - Information on several educational programs run by FOCIS
 - Information on available grants and awards
 - Quarterly newsletter from the FOCIS chair

FOCIS Meeting Information

The FOCIS Annual Meeting provides a scientific forum to foster the cross-disciplinary approach required to understand and treat immune-based diseases as the discipline of clinical immunology evolves. The evolution is a reflection of the shared deficiency, and transplant rejection. While clinicians necessarily remain linked to diseases associated with their own specialty, the immunological sciences underlying recent advances in diagnosing and treating these diverse diseases are multidisciplinary and cut across traditional clinical boundaries.

- The FOCIS 2006 features a Scientific Program made up of plenary addresses, concurrent thematic symposia, concurrent oral abstract sessions, poster sessions and exhibits.
- 6th Annual Meeting anticipated attendance: 1,600
- More than 800 abstracts were submitted for the meeting
- 35 companies are showcasing products and services in the FOCIS 2006 Exhibit Hall
- Annual Meeting History:
 - 1st Annual Meeting: May 2001; Boston, Mass.; 1,000 attendees; 350 abstracts submitted
 - 2nd Annual Meeting: June 2002; San Francisco, Calif.; 1,250 attendees; 480 abstracts submitted
 - 3rd Annual Meeting: May 2003; Paris, France; 1,280 attendees; 670 abstracts submitted

- 4th Annual Meeting: July 2004; Montreal, Canada, in conjunction with the International Congress of Immunology (ICI); 6,433 attendees; 5,091 abstracts submitted
- 5th Annual Meeting: May 2005; Boston, Mass; 1,550 attendees; 808 abstracts submitted

FOCIS Centers of Excellence

FOCIS Centers of Excellence, centers for clinical immunology at multiple, international institutions, were organized to intensify and accelerate local multidisciplinary scientific and clinical innovation, education, and advocacy. North American FOCIS Centers of Excellence:

Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Center Director: Dr. Chaim Putterman

Brigham & Women's Hospital
Center Director: Dr. Paul Anderson

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
Center Director: Dr. Alexandra Filipovich

Cleveland Clinic
Center Director: Dr. Brian F. Mandell

Duke University Medical Center
Center Director: Dr. Bill St. Clair

Hospital for Special Surgery
Center Director: Dr. Mary K. Crow

McGill University
Center Director: Dr. Emil Skamene

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Center Director: Dr. Alice B. Gottlieb

University of Alabama - Birmingham
Center Director: Dr. Robert P. Kimberly

University of California - San Diego
Center Director: Dr. Arthur Kavanaugh

University of Chicago
Center Director: Dr. Stephen Hanauer

University of Florida
Center Director: Dr. John F. Valentine

University of Miami
Center Director: Dr. Jay Skyler
University of Pennsylvania Medical School

Center Director: Dr. Arnold I. Levinson

University of Rochester Medical Center
Center Director: Dr. Christopher Ritchlin

University of Washington - Seattle
Center Director: Dr. Keith B. Elkon
Yale University
Center Director: Dr. Jordan S. Pober

Baylor College of Medicine
Center Director: Dr. David P. Huston

Children's Hospital Boston
Center Director: Dr. Raif S. Geha

Columbia University
Center Director: Dr. Betty Diamond

Dartmouth Medical School
Center Director: Dr. Lloyd Kasper

Emory University
Center Director: Dr. Jorg J. Goronzy

Mayo Clinic
Center Director: Dr. Hirohito Kita

Robarts Research Institute & Western University
Center Director: Dr. J. Madrenas

Stanford University School of Medicine
Center Director: Dr. C. Garrison Fathman

University of California - Los Angeles
Center Director: Dr. Bevra Hahn

University of California - San Francisco
Center Director: Dr. Jeffrey A. Bluestone

University of Colorado Health Sciences Center
Center Director: Dr. George Eisenbarth

Rostov-on-Don State Medical University
Center Director: Dr. Siziakina

University of Iowa
Center Director: Dr. Elizabeth H. Field

University of North Carolina
Center Director: Dr. Dhavalkumar D. Patel

University of Pittsburgh
Center Director: Dr. Scott Plevy
University of Southern California
Center Director: Dr. Chaim Oscar Jacob

Washington University
Center Director: Dr. Wayne Yokoyama

Multi-National FOCIS Centers of Excellence:

Giannina Gaslini Institute
Center Director: Dr. Lorenzo Moretta

Ghent University Hospital
Center Director: Dr. Eric M. Veys

Institute of Immunology of Central University Medical
School Venezuela
Center Director: Dr. Nicolas E. Bianco

Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutrición
Salador Zubirán
Center Director: Dr. Jorge Sanchez-Guerrero

Université Libre de Bruxells Hopital Ersme
Center Director: Dr. Michel Goldman

Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals
Center Director: Dr. Helen Chapel

University Hospital of Freiburg
Center Director: Dr. Hans-Harmut Peter

**Multi-National FOCIS Centers of Excellence in
Development:**

Shiraz University of Medical Sciences
Center Director: Dr. Sara Kashef

Institute of Immunology Czech Republic
Center Director: Dr. J. Bartunkova

- FOCIS is a federation of 34 professional organizations representing scientists, researchers, and academicians in the field of clinical immunology. FOCIS was established as a meeting in 2001, and incorporated as a federation in 2003.
- FOCIS is committed to its Core Purpose of improving human health through immunology. The FOCIS Mission is to foster interdisciplinary approaches to understand and treat immune-based diseases.
- The five pillars of FOCIS are Immunodiagnosis, Immunotherapy, Immunogenetics/Genomics, Immunoregulation and Host Defense.
- The FOCIS Web site is www.focisnet.org. The site features links to the 20 FOCIS Member Societies and 14 Affiliate Societies, information on several educational programs run by FOCIS, information on available grants and awards, as well as a quarterly newsletter from the FOCIS Chair.
- The FOCIS Annual Meeting provides a scientific forum to foster the cross-disciplinary approach required to understand and treat immune-based diseases as the discipline of clinical immunology evolves. The evolution is a reflection of the shared pathophysiology of many diseases, including: autoimmune diseases, cancer, allergy/asthma, infectious diseases, immune deficiency, and transplant rejection. While clinicians necessarily remain linked to diseases associated with their own specialty, the immunological sciences underlying recent advances in diagnosing and treating these diverse diseases are multidisciplinary and cut across traditional clinical boundaries.
- The FOCIS Annual Meeting features a Scientific Program made up of plenary addresses, concurrent thematic symposia, concurrent oral abstract sessions, poster sessions, and exhibits.
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- 6th Annual Meeting anticipated attendance: 1,600.

Wednesday, May 31

- Basic Immunology for Clinicians: Update 2006
- FOCIS Centers of Excellence Director's Meeting

Thursday, June 1

- FOCIS Trainee Satellite Symposium

Friday, June 2

Saturday, June 3

Sunday, June 4

- Distinguished Lecture
"Stem Cells," moderated by Robert Klein and featuring Dr. Irving Weissman and Dr. Stuart Orkin

Monday, June 5