

First ISPCOP scientific panel at the International Anesthesia Research Society (IARS) Annual Meeting and Scientific Symposium, Montreal, Canada, May 17 – 20, 2014

More than 1100 participants attended the IARS annual meeting hosted at the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel in downtown Montreal.

The overarching theme of this year's IARS scientific symposium included inflammation and its perioperative implications. An ISPCOP panel submission with high profile speakers entitled "Obesity and Inflammatory Conditions in the Perioperative Period" perfectly fit this year's symposium agenda and was held during program prime-time on Sunday, May 18 from 3 to 4:30 pm.

This first ever ISPCOP panel presented at an IARS annual meeting was introduced and moderated by Roman Schumann, MD, from Tufts Medical Center and Tufts University in Boston, President-Elect of ISPCOP. Four very well known experts contributed their up-to-date information in their areas of their expertise. Stephanie B Jones, MD, from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School in Boston and current President of ISPCOP presented an introduction to obesity and the metabolic syndrome. Differences and unifying inflammatory features of both conditions, and their impact on postoperative outcomes were addressed. Michael Ramsey, MD, FRCA, Department Chair at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, discussed the chronic inflammation of obesity, effects on the endothelium, anesthetic and surgical effects on the obesity inflammatory state and preventive measures. Frances Chung, MBBS, FRCPC, from the University Health Network and the University of Toronto is an expert in sleep disordered breathing in the perioperative period. The focus of her lecture included the role of obstructive sleep apnea in the systemic inflammatory response, its link with obesity, perioperative implications and the effects of CPAP treatment. Mervyn Maze, MD, ChB, FRCP, FRCA, FmedSci, Department Chair at the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine gave the panel's closing presentation. He is well known for his basic science contributions in the field of inflammation research, and connected basic science research on sleep, the immune system, obesity, cognitive dysfunction and inflammation in his bench-to-bedside discussion.

This very busy and informative panel was well received and highlighted the differences between simple obesity with likely limited perioperative impact, and complex obesity, identifying the

latter as a serious health condition for perioperative care, and pointing toward the continued need for research in this area. The panel was followed by a brief Q and A session with the audience.

The organizers of this panel, Drs. Schumann and Jones were delighted to achieve acknowledgement and recognition for ISPCOP and its cause at IARS. Dr. Jones subsequently met with IARS program committee members to discuss ISPCOP contributions at future annual IARS meetings, which may include opportunities for new and ongoing participation by ISPCOP in various aspects of the IARS program. Our goal is to include as many ISPCOP members as possible in these activities, both to share their expertise with IARS attendees and foster opportunities for academic advancement.