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LET ME INTRODUCE...

**The new IFPCS web site (<http://www.ifpcs.org>)**

by Lluís Montoliu (IFPCS webmaster)

As probably most of you have already noticed, we have a new layout for the IFPCS (International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies) web site at <http://www.ifpcs.org>. In this article, I will briefly review the history of the IFPCS web site and describe, in a few words, its contents, resources and tools provided for IFPCS members.

IFPCS is indebted to Bill Oetting. Indeed, he created the first version of an IFPCS web site in December 1995, using academic server host machines provided by the University of Minnesota, after an initial gopher site that had been established by Dr. DeWayne Townsend in February 1994, containing the first release of the InterPig Database of reagents and resources for the pigment cell community. After 1995, the IFPCS web was moved a couple of times to different academic servers within the University of Minnesota. In 2002, the most relevant [ipcc.info](http://ipcc.info), [ifpcs.info](http://ifpcs.info) and [ifpcs.org](http://ifpcs.org) domains were obtained and secured for many years (currently, until 2013). Finally, last year, at the XX<sup>th</sup> IPCC in Sapporo, Japan, in May 2008, the IFPCS Council decided that I would substitute Bill's excellent service as IFPCS webmaster, a service continuously and generously provided over more than 14 years. Therefore, the first thing that must be said clearly is that the entire IFPCS community must be extremely thankful to Bill Oetting for his dedicated efforts and work as IFPCS webmaster. A summary of the IFPCS web site history, with additional details, can be found at: <http://www.ifpcs.org/website.php>.

The new IFPCS web site and updated layout was released in July 2008, hosted in a private, commercial web hosting provider (Dinahosting SL). In December 2008, the new dynamic IFPCR Members database, built in MySQL, was also released for public and members use. Earlier this year, in January 2009, the direct access to full online contents of the scientific journal "Pigment Cell & Melanoma Research" (PCMR) were implemented from the Members-Only Area of the IFPCS web site, thereby providing this announced service to IFPCS Members, after the agreed mandatory subscription to PCMR on-line associated to IFPCS Membership, adopted by IFPCS in agreement with its federated societies: ASPCR, ESPCR, JSPCR and PASPCR.

With the new layout for the IFPCS web site I pursued clarity, simplicity and functionality. I envisaged a web site where everything a member of IFPCS would need is at hand, at one or two clicks of distance. Further, the only WEB (URL) address the IFPCS members have to remember is the main page: [www.ifpcs.org](http://www.ifpcs.org), everything else they need would be explicitly provided from there. The new web site uses a "concept" (i.e. colour and lettering type) that is used throughout the web pages included. Lettering is "Trebuchet" and colours used are variations of the blue and orange colours found at the IFPCS logo. From the technical point of view, the web pages have been prepared mainly using PHP and javascript languages and the new IFPCS Members Database is in MySQL format.

A careful view of the main web site will show its different functional sections, which I will describe next, separately, using the following image (*Figure 1*), representing the IFPCS web site: <http://www.ifpcs.org>. If we browse this illustration, the first thing we notice is the prominent URL address, as a centrally located banner, above, and the IFPCS logo, located in the upper left corner. These two elements will be present in nearly all pages found within the IFPCS web site.

International  
Federation of  
Pigment  
Cell  
Societies

www.ifpcs.org

International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies

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[IFPCS blog](#)

[IFPCS Contact](#)

Welcome to the new web site of the International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies (IFPCS)

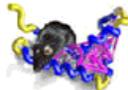


Click on the [IFPCS blog](#) to read about the latest news about IFPCS and its related activities



Next scheduled IPCC (XXIth) will be held in [Bordeaux \(France\) in 2011](#), organised by Prof. Alain Taleb

MEMBERS-ONLY  
AREA



Color Genes

ASPCRIFPCSIFFPCSIFFPCS  
IFPCSESPCRIFPCSIFFPCS  
IFPCSIFFPCSIFFPCSIFFPCS  
IFPCSIFFPCSIFFPCSIFFPCS



[ASPCR 2009 Meeting](#)



[ESPCR 2009 Meeting](#)



[PASPCR 2009 Meeting](#)



[Pigment Cell & Melanoma Research \(PCMR\)](#) is the official publication of the [International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies](#) and the [Society for Melanoma Research](#)

Last update: February 22, 2009

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[webmaster](#)

**Figure 1:** The main page of the IFPCS web site at [www.ifpcs.org](http://www.ifpcs.org)

Below the banner, you will find a horizontal menu bar, with five main categories: IFPCS Home, Regional Societies, IPCC Information, Special Interest Groups and, Links and Resources. Clicking on any of these categories will alter the options shown at the vertical left menu bar. The rest of the web page, centre to the right, is the main container of elements and information, which will be shown depending on which main category (horizontal menu bar above) and option (vertical left menu bar) are activated.

The only exception to this behaviour is the main web page itself, where additional images, shortcuts and relevant information are constantly updated and provided for IFPCS Members and interested

visitors at a first glance. Examples of these shortcuts are: direct links to each Sister Society's web site, to the Members-Only Area of the IFPCS web site, to the current annual meetings of all societies, to the IFPCS blog (a new resource for dynamically exchanging information, for releasing announcements and advertisements that are relevant to all IFPCS Members and other interested colleagues; **Figure 2**), to the Color Genes table and to PCMR.

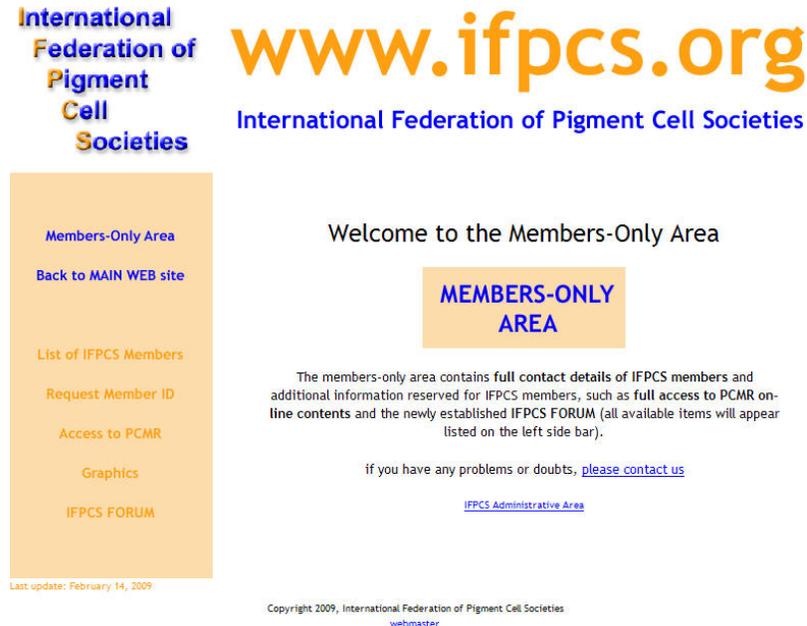
**IFPCS Home:** This is probably the most important section of the WEB, considering the amount of information it contains. Depending on the option selected on the vertical left menu bar, visitors will be presented with a welcome page, the current members forming the IFPCS Council, the IFPCS by-laws, the link to the PCMR journal web site, the history of the IFPCS (including former Council Members, Past IPCC conferences and Past awarded scientists at the IPCC), the different IFPCS Awards promoted by IFPCS and the different federated societies, the IFPCS Women & Minority Scientists Committee, a direct link to the IFPCS blog and a page of contact, where visitors can send us their comments, questions and suggestions through a convenient text box and a script that will send a message to the official email address of IFPCS: [ifpcs@ifpcs.org](mailto:ifpcs@ifpcs.org).

The screenshot shows a blog post on the IFPCS blog. At the top, there is a blue header with the text "IFPCS blog" and "International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies BLOG". Below this, the main content area has a white background. The post title is "Updated ASPCR 2009 meeting web site" with a date of "February 22nd, 2009". The main image is a promotional banner for the "3<sup>rd</sup> ASPCR Meeting" for the Asian Society for Pigment Cell Research, held from June 11-13, 2009, at the Millennium Grand Hotel in Seoul, Korea. The banner includes a list of "Important Dates": Abstract Submission Due (February 28, 2009), Abstract Review (March 12, 2009), Early Registration Due (March 31, 2009), and Hotel Reservation Due (May 20, 2009). To the right of the main content, there are several sidebar sections: "Meta" with links for Register, Log in, Entries RSS, Comments RSS, and WordPress.org; "Links" with links for ASPCR, ESPCR, IFPCS Members-only area, IFPCS WEB Site, JSPCR, PASPCR, and PCMR; "Next Meetings" with links for ASPCR 2009 meeting, ESPCR 2009 meeting, Next IPCC - 2011, and PASPCR 2009 meeting; and "Recent Posts" with links for Updated ASPCR 2009 meeting web site, New ASPCR web site, PASPCR 2009 Meeting, Memphis, September 4-7, IFPCS Forum, PCMR Cover Design Competition 2009, Do White Blood Cells Make Cancer Deadlv?, and PCMR. At the bottom of the post, there are tags for "ASPCR annual meeting" and a "No Comments" notice.

**Figure 2:** The IFPCS blog at [www.ifpcs.org/blog](http://www.ifpcs.org/blog)

**Regional Societies:** this section is devoted to the four sister societies that are federated within IFPCS, namely: the Asian Society for Pigment Cell Research (ASPCR), the European Society for Pigment Cell Research (ESPCR), the Japanese Society for Pigment Cell Research (JSPCR) and the Pan-American Society for Pigment Cell Research (PASPCR). The most relevant information is provided, separately, for each of the four societies, including their web site, current Officers and persons of contact. A summary of the scheduled annual meetings is also provided. Finally, the publicly available information of IFPCS Members can be accessed from here, through a WEB interface of the IFPCS Members Database only showing the name, institution, country and society of membership. The IFPCS Members Database contents are fully searchable and can be shown in a variety of combinations using the search engine provided. Here, the direct link to the "Members-Only" section of the IFPCS

web is found. To access, IFPCS members require a valid username and password. If they don't know or can't remember these parameters they can request the system to remind them by only providing the corresponding registered email address. Then, if the system finds this email address in the database, will immediately send an automatic message to this email address containing the requested user/password information. The Members-Only Area will be described at the end of this article (*Figure 3*).



*Figure 3: The IFPCS Members-Only Area*

**IPCC information:** This section contains all the available information on past and future International Pigment Cell Conferences (IPCC). Currently two IPCCs are shown, the last IPCC (XX<sup>th</sup>), held in Sapporo (Japan) in May 2008 and organised by Prof. Kowichi Jimbow and the next IPCC (XXI<sup>st</sup>), which will be organised by Prof. Alain Taïeb in Bordeaux (France) in 2011. Meeting reports and pictures are available for some of these IPCC.

**Special Interest Groups:** As it is written in the IFPCS web site, “The IFPCS Special Interest Groups were initiated to foster interactions in specific subfields of pigment cell research. The aim of these groups is to encourage and help interaction and communication among researchers with common specific interests. Some of the groups organize their own meetings or workshops, either in association with the IPCC Congresses or separately.” Currently, information about six groups and a resource (InterPig Database) is included within this section. The current groups are: Genetics of Pigmentation, Biology of Melanoma, Pigment Cell Development, Hypo- and Hyper-Pigmentation, Ocular/Extracutaneous Pigmentation and Vitiligo. To learn more about these groups and to join them, the contact information of the respective chairs is provided.

**Links and Resources:** In this last main category, a collection of useful links, tools and resources for the IFPCS entire community and interested colleagues is provided. Current tools and resources included are: the InterPig Database, the Color Genes web site (now hosted at the ESPCR web site, at: <http://www.espcr.org/micemut>), the Wellcome Trust Functional Genomics Cell Bank and Mouse Pigmentary Mutant Repository, plus additional links to the IFPCS blog and other related meetings.

**The IFPCS Members-Only Area:** This is the section devoted to information, services, tools and resources that are only available to current IFPCS Members. As discussed earlier, access to the Members-Only Area is restricted to current IFPCS Members with valid and unique (personal) username/password combinations. These parameters can be easily requested from the system, which

will send automatic reminders to each requesting member. This area contains an interface to a fully searchable IFPCS Members Database, displaying all contact details for registered IFPCS Members, a tool to request the individual and therefore unique IFPCS ID Membership Number (that is and will be used for a variety of member-only tasks and resources), a collection of graphics representing the statistics of IFPCS Membership from last year (2008) and two new exclusive resources: the access to PCMR online full contents and the IFPCS Forum (*Figure 4*).

IFPCS www.ifpcs.org  
FORUM of the International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies (IFPCS)

Board index

FAQ Register Login

It is currently Sun Mar 08, 2009 8:17 pm

View unanswered posts • View active topics

FORUM	TOPICS	POSTS	LAST POST
<b>About the IFPCS Forum</b> READ ME FIRST!. General information, tips and FAQs regarding the IFPCS forum	7	8	by <b>Lluís</b> Sat Feb 14, 2009 5:41 pm
<b>IFPCS Meetings</b> All the information about IPCC, ASPCR, ESPCR, JSPCR and PASPCR meetings	5	8	by <b>Lluís</b> Sun Feb 22, 2009 6:45 pm
<b>Pigment Cell Research</b> Forum to discuss anything related to Pigment Cell Research	4	4	by <b>Lluís</b> Sun Feb 22, 2009 6:48 pm

LOGIN • REGISTER

Username:  Password:  | Log me on automatically each visit

WHO IS ONLINE

In total there is 1 user online :: 0 registered, 0 hidden and 1 guest (based on users active over the past 5 minutes)  
Most users ever online was 2 on Sat Jan 31, 2009 6:57 pm

Registered users: No registered users  
Legend: *Administrators*, *Global moderators*

STATISTICS

Total posts 20 • Total topics 16 • Total members 1 • Our newest member **Lluís**

Board index

The team • Delete all board cookies • All times are UTC [ DST ]

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*Figure 4: The IFPCS FORUM, within the Members-Only Area*

To access the entire full contents of PCMR online, IFPCS Members simply have to click on the provided link, inside the Members-Only Area, and will be automatically transferred to the journal's archive web page where they will be able to browse all available issues of PCMR. The last included feature, the IFPCS Forum, is a new initiative to promote, to trigger information ex-change and free discussions between IFPCS Members. The IFPCS forum is open; therefore anyone visiting the Members-Only Area (any IFPCS Member) is most welcome to read all posts. However, to contribute to running discussions or to initiate new topics a simple registration is required. Do not hesitate visiting this new section and exploring the unlimited possibilities provided by these new and modern communication web tools.

Finally, I would like to state that I prepared the new IFPCS web site with the main focus to serve the interests of IFPCS Members. In this regard, the layout should be simple, accessible and, hopefully, useful. However, if you feel there are some aspects that could be modified or should be addressed differently, I am most happy to receive any feed-back from IFPCS Members, comments, suggestions, corrections, anything that would improve the quality of the IFPCS web site. From my side, I will try to update the IFPCS web site as often as reasonably possible. Here, I would also like to stress that the IFPCS web site fully depends on materials, information, elements, pictures, methods, papers, meeting announcements, articles that are kindly and generously provided or brought to my attention by all of you. Thanks in advance for your kind collaboration!

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