

***LASER THERAPY* TAKES TO THE SUPERHIGHWAY OF THE WORLD WIDE WEB!**

Toshio Ohshiro MD PhD

Welcome, dear readers, to the third issue of the current 22nd volume of our journal. As I write, the heat and humidity of summer are slowly giving way the cooler nights which presage the first welcome days of autumn. The Japanese *semi* (cicadas) are singing away during their short but frenetic 72 hours of life above the ground, but the droning “meeee-meeee” *semi* of high summer is giving way to the chant of the “tsuku-tsuku-boshi” *semi* of late summer and early autumn. When we hear that song, we know that autumn is just around the corner and breathe a sigh of relief that the hot and humid days of our Japanese summer are numbered.

Explore “Photobiological Sciences Online”



One of the preeminent living photobiologists is Kendric C Smith, a Professor Emeritus at Stanford University, Stanford, California and winner of the prestigious Finsen Award. Professor Smith has contributed to this journal, serves on the International Editorial Board and has also

served on the review panel. In 1972, Prof Smith founded the American Society for Photobiology (ASP) and was its first president. Seven years ago, he started an online textbook, “Photobiological Sciences Online” (PSO) as a resource for all photobiologists. PSO is produced under the umbrella of ASP. PSO is an excellent e-resource, which has an ever-increasing number of chapters, and is read all over the world. Now you,

Laser Therapy readers, are encouraged to add this excellent asset to your list of online resources. The URL is <http://www.photobiology.info/>. Prof Smith has vowed to keep working on expanding the textbook for as long as he is able to do so, and we all hope that will be a good, long time!

History of *PHOTOBIOLOGICAL SCIENCES ONLINE*, (An Online Textbook on All Aspects of Photobiology) <http://www.photobiology.info/>

A digital textbook on photobiology was started in 2000 by Dennis Valenzeno, but abandoned soon after. As of 2004, there were 12 completed basic modules on the major areas of photobiology.

In 2007, Kendric Smith salvaged the files, and modified the archaic HTML code so that the files could be viewed on current computers. The project was renamed Photobiological Sciences Online (PSO). Kendric Smith, as Editor and Webmaster, then started the long process of obtaining revisions of the old modules, and of seeking new modules. As of May 2013, there were 93 modules, with many new modules “In Preparation”.

There are also adjunct modules on ‘Suggested Readings’, ‘How to Cite Modules’, ‘Editorial Advisory Board’, ‘User Statistics’, ‘History of PSO’, ‘Animations for Science’, ‘Newsletters’, ‘Editor's Blog’, and a section of ‘Experiments for Students’. The following table shows a list of the current Modules on Photomedicine, and more Modules are in preparation: you will note the inclusion of some well-known authors, including Harvard's Michael R Hamblin and Russia's Tiina Karu.

| Module Title | Author(s) |
|--|--|
| Basic Photomedicine | Ying-Ying Huang, Pawel Mroz and Michael R. Hamblin |
| Human Photosensitive Diseases of DNA Repair | James E. Cleaver |
| Photosensitizers in Medicine | Kristian Berg |
| Introduction to Photodynamic Therapy (PDT) | David Kessel |
| Photodynamic Therapy and Signal Transduction | Anatoly B. Uzdensky |
| Photoimmunology | Faith Strickland |
| Low-Level Laser or LED Therapy is Phototherapy | Kendric C. Smith |
| Mechanisms of Low Level Light Therapy (LLLT) | Michael R. Hamblin |
| Action Spectra: Their Importance for Low Level Light Therapy | Tiina Karu |
| Light Coherence: Is this Property Important for Photomedicine? | Tiina Karu |

5th IPTA meeting, Vilnius, Lithuania

By the time you read this, the 5th congress of the International Phototherapy Association (IPTA) will have come and gone. It is being held in the historic city of Vilnius under the presidency of Professor Aurelija Vaitkuviene and with Professor Juozas Vaitkus as the meeting Secretary-General. This meeting will have been of special importance, because the Organizing Committee very kindly agreed to allow the International Society of Lasers in Surgery and Medicine (ISLSM) and World Federation of Societies for Laser Medicine and Surgery (WFSLMS) to hold their respective meetings in conjunction with the 5th IPTA.

Readers will remember the planned Paris World Laser Congress which would have seen the 20th ISLSM and 3rd WFSLMS Meetings being held in Paris: sadly, due to poor commercial support and against the backdrop of the deteriorating economic situation worldwide, Dr Jean Abitbol took the step of cancelling the meeting (for details, see the Editorial in 22:1). This posed logistical problems for the existence of the Executive Committees of the two groups, not really helped by the rather irregular findings put forward at a hastily-summoned Extraordinary Joint Committee Meeting of the ISLSM and WFSLMS held in conjunction with the 14th Asian-Pacific Association of Lasers in Medicine and Surgery in Taiwan, late 2012 (see the Meeting Report from Prof Narong Nimsakul, 11:4, 106-107). The net result is that there is some confusion in

both organizations as to what the role of Society/Federation President is, compared with that of the congress president for each organization, and indeed who it should be. This is planned to be clarified at the joint meeting, and the results will be reported in the next issue of *Laser Therapy*. The most important point is that the ISLSM/WFSLMS Business Meeting must be held democratically with both groups following the true democratic process based on known history, so we can bring the two groups back on to the rails and honor the name of Prof Kaplan as the founder of the ISLSM and cofounder of the WFSLMS.

The World Wide Web is a Superhighway And Laser Therapy is on it!

As you know, thanks to our tie-up with J-STAGE, the journal is now fully searchable by keyword and author all the way back to volume 3, with the remaining volumes being scanned in as we speak. We practice an Open Access approach for all scientific articles older than 6 months, and for all other articles from the day they are published. This makes the website <https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/islsm> a real treasure trove for researchers and those planning to write an article. To broaden the field in which searches may be made for the journal articles, *Laser Therapy* is also indexed now on PubMed central, but only from October 1st, 2013, and it has been accessible for some time on EmBase, the online version of Excerpta Medica

which is the European version of PubMed. However, as I wrote in my previous editorial for 22:2, through J-STAGE the journal data are now accessible through CrossRef Metadata Services, and the many hundreds of specialist search engines which also use CrossRef. This enables searchers to cast their nets in a huge sea of data.

These specialist search engines are not designed or used for direct searching by individuals looking for a specific journal, but offer a service to institutions such as libraries, research laboratories and so on. The institution pays a fee to the organization running the specialist search engine, a few examples of which are www.scirus.com, www.mesur.org, www.internano.org, www.sunmedia.co.jp, www.proquest.com, and many, many others. If you follow these links, you will quickly see that, as an individual, they are not designed for you. The system works like this. A library or other institution (the customer hereafter) takes out a subscription to one of these or a similar database-oriented company, and gives the terms of the search which are usually on-going: *i.e.*, they are not interested in a one-off search. That means that as new articles are added to the CrossRef metadata, all the CrossRef member organizations can pluck the required search terms out of the unbelievably immense store of metadata, and then on a regular basis, for example, weekly or monthly, the customer is provided with a list of every journal in which the search terms have been located, with article title and authors. From this information, the requi-

site search can be narrowed down to a specific journal or journals, and a search can then be made by the customer in a specific data center such as PubMed or J-STAGE, for the specified article. In other words, the CrossRef metadata allows member search engines to search for needles in haystacks, with tremendous computing power and extended database resources far beyond the ken of even large libraries, and then the CrossRef member gives a list of the needles found for their customer to act on and, for example, get the printout of the required article. It's a real metadata superhighway, and *Laser Therapy* is now one of the hundreds, even thousands of journals cruising along the highway, in multiple fields and in many languages, which can be pinpointed by the CrossRef member organizations.

End Notes

Can I please remind you that the journal cannot exist without a constant flow of top-quality articles, so please, share your clinical and research experience with our readers, your colleagues. Finally please also remember that *Laser Therapy* is once again offering the 2013 Best Papers Awards with worthwhile cash prizes, and you have until the deadline for 22:4 to get your article in, and winif you're not in it, you can't win it!. For those of us in the Northern Hemisphere, let's enjoy the last days of summer as we head into the mellow days of autumn, or for our antipodean colleagues, enjoy the rebirth of spring. Happy writing!