



Comparative and Evolutionary Physiology Section Newsletter Summer 2005

For those who haven't heard, we have a new name. As you may recall, the APS council rejected our initial proposed name change. However, after returning to the drawing board, a new name was proposed and accepted. The Comparative and Evolutionary Physiology Section name now encompasses the evolutionary focus so many of us have in our work. Thank you to those who participated in the discussion and election for our new name.

Jim Hicks, current editor of *Physiological and Biochemical Zoology*, took office as Chair and SAC representative for our section at the EB 2004 meetings. A profile of Jim was published in *The Physiologist* last November (<http://www.the-aps.org/publications/tphys/2004html/octtphys/apsnews2.htm#hicks>). To briefly summarize Jim's three main priorities as section head, he would like to: 1) continue to be a voice for the comparative approach to physiological investigation – particularly through outstanding programming at EB (and other) meetings; 2) increase interaction with other sections within the APS by encouraging support and sponsorship of cross-sectional symposia; and 3) to continue the section emphasis on encouraging the participation of students and young investigators with in our section specifically and within the APS in general.

Meetings – past and future:

EB 2005/XXXV IUPS Congress

The intersociety Experimental Biology meetings and the 35th International Congress of Physiological Sciences: From Genomes to Functions ran concurrently this past spring in San Diego, California.

There were multiple symposia and events of interest to the comparative physiologist. Among them was the **August Krogh Distinguished Lectureship** by Dr. Roy E. Weber of the University of Aarhus, Denmark. Dr. Weber gave a fascinating and informative lecture on *The amazing world of (hemo-) globins: models in physiological adaptation*, showing how knowledge of molecular sequence information may give us insights into convergent evolution. The Comparative and Evolutionary Physiology (CEP) section business meeting and luncheon immediately followed and was *very* well attended. The luncheon provided a forum for the presentation of the Scholander Award and the Young Investigator Awards, and for students and fellows to meet and interact with Dr. Weber. Our sincere appreciation goes out to Sinya Benyajati for her efforts in staging one of the largest luncheons to date at an Experimental Biology meeting.

Student awards: The CEP section acknowledges the efforts of up and coming physiologists through several abstract or presentation based awards. These awards come with monetary prizes (ranging from \$300 to \$1000) as well as other perks that may include APS membership, complementary registration fees at an EB meeting and the opportunity to organize a Featured

Topics session at another EB meeting. We strongly encourage **all** eligible students/post-docs/junior faculty who are planning on presenting at an EB meeting to submit their abstracts for consideration for the awards. Please see <http://www.the-aps.org/sections/compar/awards.htm> for a description of each award. Congratulations to the winners from the last two EB meetings.

Scholander Award 2004

Ryan Pelis, Univ. of Connecticut

Regulation of carbonic anhydrase-dependent renal sulfate secretion by cortisol. RM Pelis, JE Goldmeyer, J Crivello, and JL Renfro. (Pictured with William Danzler, Krogh lecturer, 2004; picture courtesy of Rafael Leos)



Procter & Gamble Professional Opportunity Award 2004

Vanessa I. Toney, Brown Univ. *The effects of elevated ECF K^+ on cardiac function and metabolism in the fresh water turtle.* V Toney and DJ Jackson.



Scholander Award 2005

Ryan Dombkowski, University of Notre Dame
Cl⁻ ion dependence of Hydrogen sulfide-induced vasoactivity. RA Dombkowski, G McDowell and K Olson. Ryan's poster presentation was selected out of 29 submissions. (Pictured with Roy Weber, Krogh lecturer, 2005; picture courtesy of Jelita Roseman)

Research Recognition Award 2005

Dr. Ryan Pelis, University of Arizona

Stimulation of renal sulfate secretion by metabolic acidosis requires Na^+/H^+ exchange induction and carbonic anhydrase. RM Pelis, SL Edwards, SC Kunigelis, JB Claiborne and JL Renfro (Pictured with Jim Hicks, CEP section chair; picture courtesy of Jelita Roseman)



Experimental Biology 2006

Experimental Biology 2006 will be held in San Francisco from April 2 - 6. After this year's combined meeting with IUPS, next year will be back to the usual EB format. The call for abstracts will be issued in early September. The Comparative and Evolutionary Biology section will sponsor one symposium and three featured topic sessions, as well as the Krogh Lectureship.

The featured topics will include those organized by recent Young Investigator and Scholander awardees.

The **August Krogh Distinguished Lecturer** for the 2006 EB meeting will be Hiroko Nishimura from the Dept. of Physiology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (<http://physiol.utmem.edu/~nishimurah/index.html>). Dr. Nishimura's research focuses on the humoral control of cardiovascular and renal homeostasis from the molecular to the tissue levels in intact and pathological states using integrative and comparative approaches. She believes in the comparative approach because of its ability to help elucidate evolutionary perspectives of physiological functions and processes. Please look for her presentation in at EB 2006 in San Francisco. Congratulations Hiroko!

4th APS intersociety conference in comparative PHYSIOLOGY

Mark your calendars!! The fourth quadrennial APS Conference in Comparative Physiology is scheduled for October 8-11, 2006, in Virginia Beach, VA. Twenty symposia, representing the breadth and strength of comparative physiology, are scheduled for what promises to be an exciting four day meeting. Feel free to contact David Goldstein, conference organizing committee chair, if you have any questions (david.goldstein@wright.edu). And do plan to attend!!

ICCPB – Brazil 2007

The International Congress for Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry is due to hold its next meeting in Brazil in 2007. Every 4 years the International Congress for Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry (ICCPB) is held in different places around the world. The last meeting in 2003 was held in Australia, the time before that in 1999 in Calgary, Alberta, and in 1995, Birmingham, England. The seventh meeting of this congress will take place in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil in August 2007.

Section News

Volunteers needed to serve on the CEP Steering Committee

The CEP Steering Committee is looking to replace the positions of two outgoing Committee members: Treasurer (Sinya Benyajati) and Program Representative/Planning Commissioner (David Goldstein). Both of the individuals serving in the current positions have done outstanding jobs for the CEP and deserve our loud, thunderous applause.

The health and strength of our section depends on volunteer service by our members. In this regard, members who would be interested in serving as Treasurer or Program Representative, are encouraged to please forward your name and contact information to our section head, Jim Hicks (jhicks@uci.edu) by July 15th, 2005. In addition, if you know of someone who would be interested in one of these positions, please forward their name and contact information to Jim as well. A detailed description of the duties for each position can be found at <http://www.the->

aps.org/sections/compar/sop.htm. Each section is now also required to have a member from the international community on its Steering Committee and so we strongly encourage nominees/volunteers from other countries/non-US citizens to. The future of the Comparative and Evolutionary Physiology Section depends on volunteer service and I thank all of you in advance for your willingness to serve. Over the past several years, our section has benefited from strong support by the Society (San Diego Comparative Conference, IUPS 2005, and the upcoming 2006 Intersociety Comparative Conference). Strong and active leadership in the Steering Committee will help ensure that Society leadership continues to look and act favorably towards our section. Please seriously consider volunteering your time to help keep our section strong.

Nominations for the August Krogh Distinguished Lecturer

The CEP Steering Committee is currently taking nominations for the Krogh Distinguished Lectureship for EB 2007, to be held in Washington, DC. The nominee should have made a strong contribution to the field of Comparative or Evolutionary Physiology as demonstrated by their research and mentorship of students and post-doctoral fellows. To nominate an individual for the Krogh Distinguished Lectureship, please submit a letter to Jim Hicks that indicates how you believe the nominee meets the above criteria, listing highlights of the nominee's career. The lecturer will present a one hour featured topic programmed by the section. Each recipient receives a \$1,000 honorarium and up to \$2,000 to cover travel and per diem expenses incurred during the meeting.

News from Trainee Advisory Committee representative, Rudy Ortiz

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit the first installment of news from the Trainee Advisory Committee. The Trainee Advisory Committee (TAC) was established in 2003 by the Society's Council in hopes that it would provide Council with insight needed to strengthen the Society and make it more responsive to the needs of trainees (students, postdoctoral fellows, and jr. faculty) working in the physiological sciences. The committee is composed of one regular or student member (s) elected by each Section of the Society with each member serving a term of three years (consecutive terms are prohibited).

Duties of the Trainee Advisory Committee are to:

- Elect a chairperson, who is a member of the committee or has served on the committee within the past three years.

- Meet annually at the spring meeting of the Society and as needed during the year.

- Investigate the needs of trainees, both pre-doctoral and post-doctoral, to determine how the Society can provide necessary support and assistance.

- Organize an annual symposium or workshop at EB designed to assist trainees in their development of independent careers.

- Publish an email newsletter and establish a web site for trainees on the APS Home Page.

- Bring relevant matters to the attention of Council and act on Council recommendations.

- Encourage the active membership of trainees in the Society.

- Coordinate activities with other such APS committees to enhance the status of trainees and to respond to the needs of trainees.

The inaugural members of TAC originally met via a conference call in Fall 2003 to begin the ground work for developing the charter for the committee. Since that original call we have met

at a special meeting in Bethesda in Fall 2004 as well as at Experimental Biology in 2004 and 2005. Among the many action items that TAC has conducted or participated in are: 1) implementing a trainee survey to identify areas of need and interest to trainees of the Society; 2) developing and proposing a session at Experimental Biology 2006 entitled “**Transition from Postdoc to Jr. Faculty: Surviving the Initial Years**”; 3) developing a TAC newsletter and website (<http://www.the-aps.org/committees/trainee/index.htm>); 4) participating in EB sessions in collaboration with other committees; 5) identifying relevant, career-oriented sessions and workshops at EB for dissemination to all trainees of the Society, and 6) serve as a representative on the appropriate section steering committee. In addition, TAC members may serve as *ex officio* members on most of the Society’s committees including Careers, Public Affairs, Membership, Education and Communications Committees.

Because (s)election of a section’s representative to TAC is the sole responsibility of each section, the Comparative & Evolutionary Section unanimously agreed to select subsequent representatives from its pool of section awardees and section member nominees. Currently, I have a list of our section awardees from 2004 and 2005 and will accept additional nominees from section members. If you would like to nominate a potential candidate to serve as a TAC representative, please email me their name, contact information and a brief description of their scholarly and academic achievements before December 15, 2005. I will solicit this information from section awardees this Fall. The final selection of my replacement will be done by the steering committee in February/March 2006. The winning candidate will be asked to attend the TAC and steering committee meetings at Experimental Biology ’06. In closing, I would like to reiterate our goal of serving the needs and of addressing the concerns of the trainees of the society. Therefore, if any trainees have any comments, suggestions, or concerns please email them to me and I will bring them to the attention of TAC for discussion. Also, please visit the TAC website for announcements and pertinent information.

Cheers,

Rudy M. Ortiz, Assistant Professor
University of California, Merced
rortiz@ucmerced.edu

Comparative and Evolutionary Physiology Steering Committee

Chair and SAC Representative

James W. Hicks
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary
Biology
University of California - Irvine
Email: jhicks@uci.edu
Term ends: 2007

Secretary

Colleen Talbot
California State University-San Bernardino
Department of Biology
Email: ctalbot@csusb.edu
Term ends: 2007

Treasurer

Siribhinya Benyajati
Department of Physiology,
University of Oklahoma Health Science
Center
College of Medicine
Email: siribhinya-benyajati@ouhsc.edu
Term ends: 2004

JPC Representative

David L. Goldstein
Department of Biological Sciences
Wright State University
Email: david.Goldstein@wright.edu
Term ends: 2005

Committee on Committees

Michele G. Wheatly
Department of Biological Science
Wright State University
Email: Michele.wheatly@wright.edu
Term ends: 2006

**Liaison With Industry Committee
Representative**

Joe M. Szewczak
Humboldt State University
Department of Biological Sciences
Email: joe@humboldt.edu
Term ends: 2007

Post Doctoral Trainee Member

Rudy M. Ortiz
Department of Physiology,
University of California, Merced
rortiz@ucmerced.edu
Term ends: 2006

**ex officio AJP: Regulatory, Integrative and
Comparative Physiology Associate Editor**

John B. Pritchard
National Institute of Environmental Health
Sciences
Email: pritcha3@niehs.nih.gov