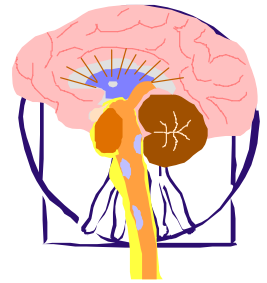


Neural Control and Autonomic Regulation Section

NEWSLETTER



May, 2006

Experimental Biology 2006 was a great success for NCAR. NCAR programmed 134 abstracts for the meeting, highlighting the scientific productivity of our members. In addition to lively poster sessions, our Feature Topics (“Autonomic adjustments to stress in humans” and “Autonomic motor patterns and their central circuits”) and symposium (“Oscillations and rhythms in the neural control of the circulation”) were quite well attended and of high quality. Our Distinguished Lecture by Dr. Gunnar Wallin was remarkably well attended; thanks again to Dr. Wallin for the outstanding presentation. Our inaugural Trainee Featured topic was a phenomenal success; thanks to all who participated in that, especially the co-chairs of the session, Angela Grippo and Sean Stocker.



Angela Grippo and Sean Stocker, chairing the NCAR Featured Topic devoted to presentations by trainees. Eight abstracts were selected from all those programmed by NCAR for which a trainee was the first author. The success of this session has ensured that it will be a regular feature of NCAR programming at EB

Congratulations to our section award winners:

NCAR New Investigator Award: **Kevin Monahan**, Penn State College of Medicine

NCAR Research Recognition Award

Angela Grippo, University of Illinois – Chicago

Takuya Kishi, Kyushu University School of Medicine

Jianhua Li, Penn State College of Medicine

Shgehiko Ogoh, University of North Texas Health Science Center

Michael J. Brody Award: **Daniela Sartor**, University of Melbourne

NCAR Steering Committee Election

Alan Sved has just completed his 3-year term as Chair of the NCAR Steering committee and he will now replace Jeanne Seagard as the Past Chair of the committee. Jeanne, after having served 3 years as a regular member of the committee, 3 years as Chair, and finally 3 years as Past Chair, is now rotating off the committee. We all owe a great deal to Jeanne for her activities on behalf of NCAR; the current strength of the NCAR section reflects her commitment to working for the advancement of the section.

Chet Ray will be stepping into the Chair position being vacated by Alan Sved. As indicated by the section's by-laws, the Chair will be elected by the membership from the current members of the steering committee. However, Chet was the only nominee for this position, so he is running unopposed for this position.



Ann Bonham and Chet Ray are finishing their 3-year terms on the NCAR Steering Committee, and an election is currently underway to select their replacements. Thanks to Ann for her efforts on behalf of the section and best wishes to Chet as he assumes the position as section chair. Five excellent candidates have agreed to run for these open positions: Mark Chapleau, Dave Mendelowitz, Kaushik Patel, John Schild, and Debbie Scheuer. APS members with their primary section affiliation as NCAR should have just received their electronic ballot by e-mail and votes must be cast by the end of May. [If you want to check your section affiliation or change it to NCAR, this can be done on the APS website (www.The-APS.org).] Biographical sketches of the candidates can be found on the following pages.

Please vote; this is your section and this is your chance to elect its leadership.

Candidates for NCAR Steering Committee:

Mark W. Chapleau, Ph.D., Professor, Departments of Internal Medicine, and Physiology & Biophysics, and The Cardiovascular Center The University of Iowa

My research focuses on neural mechanisms of cardiovascular regulation including the molecular basis of baroreceptor sensory transduction, regulation of sympathetic neuronal excitability, and causes of decreased baroreflex sensitivity in pathological states and aging. Experimental approaches include integrative physiology in genetically-modified mice, gene transfer, and studies of isolated neurons. I would like to serve on the steering committee to facilitate programming of novel and diverse areas of autonomic neuroscience at EB meetings and other venues, communicate the importance and excitement of autonomic research, and mentor young scientists. The NCAR section is a great group. I want to play a more active role.

David Mendelowitz, Ph.D., Professor and Vice-Chair, Department of Pharmacology and Physiology, George Washington University

Research in this laboratory is broadly focused on the cellular electrophysiology and neuropharmacology of parasympathetic cardiac neurons in the brainstem that control heart rate. Our current work includes examining how challenges such as hypoxia, anesthetics and prenatal nicotine exposure alter the neurotransmission to parasympathetic cardioinhibitory neurons. I believe that the strength of the EB meeting has been integrative systems physiology, and certainly that focus needs to be maintained, if not strengthened. However, more cellular/molecular work is often divided between the EB and other annual meetings, such as Neuroscience. As a member of the NCAR steering committee I would strive to bring more cellular/molecular studies into our annual EB and satellite meetings, and integrate both systems and cellular perspectives into our symposia.

Kaushik P. Patel, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Research in my laboratory is focused on the neural regulation of cardiovascular and renal function in health and disease states. We are studying various aspects of the volume reflex in normal and disease states such as hypertension, diabetes and heart failure. Biochemical, molecular biology, electrophysiological, hemodynamic and renal function measurement techniques are used for studying the various components of the volume reflex arc particularly within the paraventricular nucleus of the hypothalamus. These studies provide important new insights about the normal neural regulation of fluid balance and about altered fluid balance and its consequences in various disease states. As a member of the steering committee I would like to: 1) promote collaborations between scientist engaged in cellular and molecular techniques with integrative whole animal studies and 2) advocate a strong programming base for central autonomic regulation at our annual meetings, satellites and summer conferences.

Continued on next page

John H. Schild, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Purdue School of Engineering and Technology, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

I believe our section must aggressively capitalize upon the strategic objectives recently put forth by APS and NIH. Both organizations have called for more interdisciplinary, integrative and physiologically-centric study of clinical pathologies; scientific lines of inquiry that have long been practiced by our membership. And yet, our area remains somewhat outside the main stream of critical thought and extramural support. Certainly this is not for lack of significance given the complications and comorbidities associated with a wide range of human diseases that can manifest (for example) as dysreflexia, neuropathies and dysfunctions of the ANS. Past NCAR Steering Committees have done an admirable job of maintaining a strong programming base for autonomic neural control at EB and within APS. But in order to rectify the disparity between the impressive knowledge base of our field and its utilization by other disciplines we must bring the evidence to them. I call for a broader and more vigorous implementation of NCAR Bylaws Article II (<http://www.the-aps.org/sections/neural>) as well a recognition that our funding sources are calling for more quantitative methodologies. Please visit <http://www.engr.iupui.edu/~jhs/> for details concerning my training and research.

Deborah A. Scheuer, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology, University of Missouri - Kansas City

I investigate neuroendocrine mechanisms of cardiovascular and metabolic regulation. I am currently an Associate Professor in Pharmacology at the University of Missouri Kansas City, but will be moving this summer to join the Department of Physiology and Functional Genomics at the University of Florida in Gainesville. The current focus of my research is to determine the central nervous system mechanisms of glucocorticoid-mediated alterations in autonomic function. My overall goal is to elucidate mechanisms of neuroplasticity that produce chronic alterations in autonomic control of cardiovascular and metabolic function. I have been active in the American Physiological Society since graduate school and have served on the Careers in Physiology Committee. I currently serve on the NCAR Programming Committee. I believe that physiology is in a premier position to take the lead in biomedical research. To take full advantage of this, we need to facilitate collaboration between integrative, cellular and molecular neuroscientists and other physiologists, and to increase the appreciation and use of high-throughput genetic screening tools to identify targets for selective in vivo functional genomics studies. Many individual members of the NCAR section are already working toward these goals. Thus, the NCAR section thus has the ability to help the APS set the pace in functional genomics research. I believe that an important job for the steering committee is to facilitate collaboration and education efforts that will bring more physiologists into this leading edge of discovery.

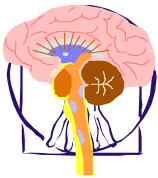
NCAR Programming for Future EB Meetings

Although it seems that EB06 just ended, members of the NCAR Steering and Programming Committees have been busy with programming for EB07. Dr. Andrew (Drew) Armour will be the Carl Ludwig Distinguished Lecturer. We received six programming proposals from NCAR members for next year's meeting and these proposals were reviewed and scored by the Steering and Programming Committee membership. All of the submissions were excellent, but unfortunately our programming for 2007 will be limited to just one symposium and one topic-driven featured topic. The NCAR-sponsored symposium for next year is entitled "Functional Imaging of Autonomic Circuits: New Frontiers in Optical Approaches and Applications" and will be chaired by Jeff Potts and Robert Rogers. The featured topic will be "Novel Ion Channels in Neuro-Cardiovascular Regulation: Focus on ASIC and TRP Channels" that will be chaired by Francois Abboud. Rounding out NCAR programming for EB07, we will once again dedicate one featured topic slot for presentations by trainee members. This will be chaired by Chris Madden (our trainee representative on the Steering Committee) and Daniela Sartor (the 2006 Brody Award winner). Our other featured topic will be reserved for the Donald Reis Memorial and will include two trainee abstracts selected by each of the contributing sections, NCAR, CV and CNS. We are also working on the possibility of one or two NCAR-relevant cross-sectional symposia. Although the symposia and featured topics for EB07 are now set, we are already looking for ideas for 2008, so get us your ideas. If there are topics you would like to see included as symposia, feature-topics, or as a cross-sectional event let us know. Please visit the APS website (<http://www.the-aps.org/meetings/eb.htm>) to learn more about the programming opportunities that are available to you and send your ideas for programming to Jeff Potts (pottsit@missouri.edu) or to any other member of the Steering Committee.

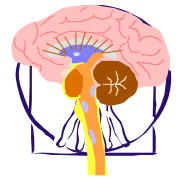
2007 Summer FASEB Meeting: Neural Mechanisms in Cardiovascular Regulation

Bondi Australia, July 2007

Plans are underway for the 2007 FASEB Summer Meeting "Neural Mechanisms in Cardiovascular Regulation" to be held in Bondi Australia in July 2007. The tentative dates are July 18-23, so hold them on your calendar. More details will be coming in the near future.



NCAR Trainee Page



MESSAGE FROM THE TRAINEE REPRESENTATIVE

Chris Madden, Postdoctoral Fellow

Hi fellow trainees. My name is Chris Madden and I am your new trainee representative on the NCAR Steering Committee. I would like to thank Angela Grippo, our former trainee representative, for doing a superb job as the first NCAR Trainee representative. Thanks Angela! You've gotten us off to a great start. Lucky for us Angela has been appointed Chair of the American Physiological Society (APS) Trainee Advisory Committee so she will still be working on our behalf.

It goes without saying that I cannot pass on to you in one page of a newsletter all of the information that you need to help you to achieve your career aspirations. So I've decided to start by helping to point you to some valuable resources where you may find the information that you are (or should be) seeking. In addition, I would suggest that one of the best ways to advance your career is to get involved. Getting involved can be as simple as signing up for the Trainee Listserv, or applying for awards, or contacting me (maddench@OHSU.edu) with questions or suggestions, or even becoming a Trainee member on an APS committee.

So, are you subscribed to the Trainee Listserv? If not I would strongly encourage you to subscribe. The listserv is basically a trainee newsletter that contains valuable information on Committee activities, resources, awards/grants, positions available. You can subscribe online at <http://www.the-aps.org/committees/trainee/Traineenewsletter.htm>.

The APS and the Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology (ACDP) have put together a list of skills that are important for being successful as a scientist. I'll let you in on a secret; it takes more than just being good in the lab. For valuable insight check out the list which is available at: <http://www.the-aps.org/education/skills.htm>. Another good source of information relevant to trainees can be found at the APS Trainee website <http://www.the-aps.org/trainees/index.htm>.

Finally, the inaugural NCAR Trainee Featured topic was a phenomenal success and the Steering Committee has decided to continue this at the EB 2007 meeting. I would like to recognize our Steering Committee for demonstrating their commitment to supporting and promoting trainees by appropriating an entire Featured topic to trainees. Thank you! The speakers for the Trainee Featured Topic at EB 2007 will again be chosen from abstracts submitted by trainees (e.g., students, postdocs, junior faculty, industry postdocs). Keep an eye out for more information on this Featured Topic for EB 2007 as we near the abstract deadline later this fall.

Please feel free to contact me (maddench@OHSU.edu) if you have any questions or suggestions or issues that you would like the committee to address.

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