Minutes of the Nebraska Physiological Society Annual Meeting

May 14, 2004

The seventh annual meeting of the Nebraska Physiological Society (NPS) was held on Friday, May 14, in the Durham Research Center at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, NE. Attendance at the meeting totaled 85 registered individuals, and 48 research posters were presented, the most so far at this meeting. The meeting began at 9:00 am with a welcome and introductory remarks from Dale Bergren, Ph.D., NPS President and Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Creighton University, Omaha, NE.

The keynote address was then presented by Stephen L. Lipsius, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Physiology, Loyola University Medical Center, Chicago, IL. Dr. Lipsius presented his studies on cholinergic regulation of L-type calcium currents in atrial myocytes via nitric oxide signaling pathways.

The student presentations followed the APS lecturer. Four students (two graduate and two post doctoral) finalists were selected to present their research projects. Each presenter was allowed a 10 minute session followed by a short question/answer period. The finalists were selected based on the quality of the abstracts submitted. A $250 award was presented to post-doctoral student Xun Li of the Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC, for his project "Thioredoxin-mediated reversal of cardiac K+ channel remodeling in experimental diabetes", and to graduate student Rebecca Bott of the Department of Animal Science University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, for her project "Induction of endothelial cell migration: a proposed mechanism for vascular endothelial growth factor’s (VEGF) action on neovascularization and seminiferous cord formation during testis morphogenesis". Other finalists were post-doctoral student Shumin Li and graduate student Jennifer Pluznik, both from the Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC.

The student presentations were followed by an educational presentation by Ronald Tuma, Ph.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Physiology, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Tuma spoke on the use of computer aided instruction to create a ‘living’ textbook of physiology.

The morning session concluded with an update on the state of the American Physiology Society presented by Irving H. Zucker, Past-President of NPS and Professor and Chair of the Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC. Dr. Zucker highlighted current programs and activities of the parent society.

The NPS business meeting followed lunch. Tom Pisarri, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Creighton University, Omaha, NE, updated the members on the status of the Nebraska Local Outreach Team (LOT), which
is a branch of the APS Frontiers in Physiology program. Harold Schultz, Ph.D., NPS Secretary-Treasurer and Professor, Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC, presented the current financial status of the NPS. He noted that the current financial status of the NPS is sound and thanked this year's sponsors for their support. Sponsors included the American Physiological Society, the Department of Physiology and Biophysics, UNMC; the Dean's Office of the College of Medicine, UNMC; the Dean's Office of the School of Medicine, Creighton; North Central Instruments; ADInstruments; and Fischer Scientific.

NPS President Bergren presented plaques to honor prior NPS presidents, David Petzel, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Creighton University, and Shyamal Roy, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC. Dr Bergren then thanked the staff for their help and support during his presidency and introduced NPS President-Elect Andrea Cupp, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Animal Science University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE. New officers for the coming year include William Mayhan, Ph.D. Professor, Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC, President-Elect, and Kaushik Patel, Professor Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC, Councilor.

Following the business meeting participants visited the sponsors' displays and viewed the research posters. Departments and institutions represented in the poster session included the Departments of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Olson Center for Women's Health, Pediatrics, and Internal Medicine, UNMC; VA Medical Center, Omaha, NE; Departments of Animal Science, Chemistry, and Biochemistry, UNL; Departments of Biomedical Sciences, Pharmacology, and Internal Medicine, Creighton University, Omaha, NE; U.S.D.A. Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, NE; West Central Research and Extension Center, North Platte, NE. Cell Physiology Laboratory, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS; Iowa State University, Ames IA; SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY; Laboratorio de Biotecnologia e Reproducao Animal, Universidade Federal de Santa Maria, Santa Maria, Brazil; Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory, Salisbury Cove, ME.

The meeting concluded at 4:00 pm with a tour of the new research facilities in the Durham Research Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harold Schultz, Ph.D.
Secretary/Treasurer