Minutes of the Nebraska Physiological Society Annual Meeting

May 12, 2006

The ninth annual meeting of the Nebraska Physiological Society (NPS) was held on Friday, May 12, in the Durham Research Center at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), Omaha, NE. Attendance at the meeting totaled 80 registered individuals, and 42 research posters were presented by graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from 7 research institutions. The meeting began at 9:00 am with welcome and introductory remarks from William G. Mayhan, Ph.D., NPS President and Professor, Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC. Dr. Mayhan thanked this year’s sponsors for their support. Sponsors included the American Physiological Society; the Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC; the Department of Animal Science, UNL; the Dean's Office of the College of Medicine, UNMC; the Dean's Office of the School of Medicine, Creighton University, Omaha, NE; The Nebraska Medical Center; Corporate sponsors were DSI Data Sciences, International; LI-COR Biosciences; LBA Scientific; EMD Biosciences; Life Science Products, Inc.; VisualSonics; The American Physiological Society; Animal Science Department, UNL; Creighton University; University of Nebraska Medical Center; The Nebraska Medical Center; Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC.

The meeting began with an educational seminar by Robert G. Carroll, Ph.D., East Carolina University, Greenville, NC. The title of Dr. Carroll's presentation was "The Role of the Teacher in Physiology Education."

Dr. Carroll’s seminar was followed by student and postdoctoral fellow research presentations. Two graduate students and two post doctoral finalists were selected to present their research projects based on the quality of the abstracts submitted. Each presenter was allowed a 10 minute session followed by a short question/answer period. $250 awards were presented to: Tarek M. Mousa, M.D. Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC, Postdoctoral Fellow Award: “Heart Rate Variability and Central Angiotensin II Receptors in Heart Failure”; and Michelle M. Baltes, Department of Animal Science, University of Nebraska, Lincoln (UNL), Graduate Student Award: “Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor (VEGF) 164 Increases Vascular Density During Testis Morphogenesis and may be Regulated by the Inhibitory Isoform VEGF164b.”

The APS-sponsored keynote address was presented by Michael S. Wolin, Ph.D., Professor, New York Medical College, New York, NY. The title of Dr. Wolin’s presentation was “Oxidant Redox Signaling Mechanisms in Vascular Regulation and Dysfunction.”

The NPS business meeting was called to order by Dr. Mayhan and began with an update on the state of the American Physiology Society presented by Martin Frank, Ph.D., Executive Director, American Physiological Society. Dr. Frank highlighted current programs and strategic goals of the parent society. George J. Rozanski, Ph.D., NPS Secretary-Treasurer and Professor, Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC, presented the current financial status of NPS. He noted that the current financial status of the NPS is sound. Janet Steele, Ph.D., Department of Biology, University of Nebraska, Kearny NE, (UNK) updated the members on the status of the Nebraska Local Outreach Team (LOT), which is a branch of the APS Frontiers in Physiology program.
Dr. Mayhan presented a plaque in recognition of prior NPS president, Andrea Cupp, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Animal Science, UNL. He then thanked the staff for their help and support during his presidency: Cindy Norton, Dorothy Burgin, Pearl Sorensen, Linda Tegeder, and Richard Robinson. Dr. Mayhan then introduced NPS President for the coming year Harold D. Schultz, Ph.D., Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC.

Officers for the coming year:
President: Harold D. Schultz, Ph.D., Dept. Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC
President-Elect: Thomas E. Pisarri, Ph.D., Dept. Biomedical Sciences, Creighton University
Secretary/Treasurer: George J. Rozanski, Ph.D., Dept. Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC
Councilor: Robert A. Cushman, Ph.D., USDA Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, NE
Councilor: Kaushik P. Patel, Ph.D., Dept. Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC
Councilor: Janet E. Steele, Ph.D., Dept. Biology, UNK

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, Pharmacology and Experimental Neuroscience, Genetics Cell Biology and Anatomy, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Olson Center for Women’s Health, Pediatrics, and Internal Medicine, UNMC; VA Medical Center, Omaha, NE; Departments of Animal Science, and West Central Research and Extension Center, UNL; Departments of Biomedical Sciences, Pharmacology, and Exercise Science and Athletic Training, Creighton University, Omaha, NE; King Science and Technology Center, Omaha, NE; Department of Biology, UNK; U.S.D.A. Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, NE; Vascular Biology Center, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta, GA; Division of Basic Biomedical Sciences, University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD; Departments of Exercise Science, and Anatomy and Cell Biology, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA; Departments of Biology, Pharmaceutical Sciences and Environmental Sciences, Drake University, Des Moines, IA; Raytheon Polar Services, Centennial, CO; Department of Cell Biology and Physiology, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, Albuquerque, NM.

The meeting concluded at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

George J. Rozanski, Ph.D.
Secretary/Treasurer