Minutes of the Nebraska Physiological Society 11th Annual Meeting

September 6, 2008

The eleventh annual meeting of the Nebraska Physiological Society (NPS) was held on Saturday, September 6, at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Thompson Alumni House, Omaha, NE. Attendance at the meeting totaled 80 registered individuals, including undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty members. Thirty nine research posters from five research institutions were presented. The meeting began at 9:00 am with welcome and introductory remarks from Thomas E. Pisarri, Ph.D., NPS President and Professor, Department of Biomedical Sciences at Creighton University. Dr. Pisarri thanked this year's sponsors for their support. Sponsors included the American Physiological Society; the Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC; the Dean's Office of the College of Medicine, UNMC and The Nebraska Medical Center. Corporate sponsors were Data Sciences International, AD Instruments, North Central Instruments, and the Bruker Biospin Corporation – EPR Division. He then thanked the staff of the Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology for their help and support during his presidency: Pearl Sorensen, Linda Tegeder, Janine Wilson, Cindy Norton, and Richard Robinson.

The meeting began with the research keynote address by Joey Granger, Ph.D., University of Mississippi Medical Center. The title of Dr. Granger's presentation was "Pathophysiology of Hypertension in Response to Placental ischemia During Pregnancy."

Dr. Granger's address was followed by Young Investigator Presentations by Carol Fassbinder-Orth, Ph.D., Assistant Professor from Creighton University and Jennifer Wood, Ph.D., Assistant Professor from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. The speakers were selected to present their research projects based on the quality of their submitted abstracts.

Following the Young Investigator Presentations, Dee Silverthorn, Ph.D., University of Texas-Austin, presented the education keynote address entitled, “Teaching in the Interactive Classroom”.

Dr. Pisarri called the NPS business meeting and luncheon to order. Irving H. Zucker, Ph.D., President of APS and Chair of the Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology (UNMC) presented an update on the state of the American Physiology Society. Dr. Zucker highlighted current programs and strategic goals of the parent society. Dr. David Holtzclaw highlighted the activities that took place during APS sponsored Phun Week and the 7th Grade College and career fair that took place at Metropolitan Community College on April 18, 2008. Harold D. Schultz, Ph.D. presented an update as NPS representative to the APS Chapter Advisory Committee. Cindy R. Norton, Executive Director and Administrator, Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC, presented the current financial status of NPS. She noted that the current financial status of the NPS is sound. Ms. Norton called for a vote to reinvest the Chapter Certificate for Deposit for additional year and invest $1500 of the Lee Zucker funds into a 12-month Certificate for Deposit. Motion passed.

Dr. Pisarri presented a plaque NPS Past-President, Harold D. Schultz, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology in recognition of his innovative efforts in planning the 2007 Combined Iowa-Nebraska Physiological Society Meeting. Dr. Pisarri then
presented a plaque to Cindy R. Norton, Executive Director, in recognition of her ongoing dedication to the NPS and her meticulous organization of the annual meeting.

The afternoon portion of the meeting was dedicated to poster viewing and judging. Posters were judged in the undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral categories from institutions that included: University of Nebraska at Lincoln, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Creighton University, University of South Dakota, and Wayne State College. After the judges’ rankings were compiled, the each group of judges met to finalize the awards.

The NPS business meeting reconvened and Dr. Pisarri presented awards to individuals in each of the categories. In the undergraduate category, award recipients were: 1st place, Sumit Kar, UNMC; 2nd place, Tiffany L. Bohlender, UNL; 3rd place, Rachael Farrar UNMC. Award recipients in the graduate category were: 1st place Lee Zucker Graduate Student Research Award, P. Richard Grimm, UNMC; 2nd place (tie), Sarah Clayton, UNMC, and Laura Liete, UNMC. In the postdoctoral category, award recipients were: 1st place, Amit Mitra, UNMC; 2nd place, Muhammad Bari, UNMC; 3rd place, Yangfeng Ding, UNMC. Recipients received certificates and monetary awards of $250 (1st place), $100 (2nd place), or $50 (3rd place).

Dr. Pisarri again thanked this year’s sponsors for their support and thanked all individuals who helped make the meeting a success. Dr. Pisarri then introduced Dr. Kaushik P. Patel Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC as the incoming 2008-2009 NPS President.

The meeting attracted students from institutions throughout the state and promoted interdisciplinary contacts among individuals interested in the physiological sciences at the local level. It also highlighted goals on education for future physiologists.

Officers for NPS the coming year are:
- **President:** Kaushik P. Patel, Ph.D. University of Nebraska Medical Center
- **President-Elect:** George J. Rozanski, Ph.D. University of Nebraska Medical Center
- **Past President:** Thomas Pisarri, Ph.D., Creighton University
- **Secretary/Treasurer:** Jessica Meendering, Ph.D., University of Nebraska at Omaha
- **Councilor:** Janet E. Steele, Ph.D., University of Nebraska at Kearney
- **Councilor:** Barbara Engebretsen, Ph.D., Wayne State College
- **Councilor:** G. Patrick Lambert, Ph.D. Creighton University

The meeting concluded at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy R. Norton CPS/CAP
Executive Director
Nebraska Physiological Society Poster Winners

Thomas E. Pisarri, Ph.D. (left) and Sumit Kar (right)
1st place Undergraduate Poster Award

P. Richard Grimm (left) and Thomas E. Pisarri, Ph.D. (right)
1st Place Lee Zucker Graduate Poster Award

Thomas E. Pisarri, Ph.D. (left) and Amit Mitra, M.D., Ph.D. (right)
1st place Postdoctoral Research Poster Award