Minutes of the Nebraska Physiological Society 13th Annual Meeting

The thirteenth annual meeting of the Nebraska Physiological Society (NPS) was held on Saturday, September 11, at the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s (UNMC) Storz Pavilion in Omaha, NE. Attendance at the meeting totaled 85 registered individuals, including undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty members and high school teachers. Thirty-five research posters from six research institutions were presented. The meeting began at 8:30 a.m. with welcome and introductory remarks from George J. Rozanski, Ph.D., NPS President and Professor, Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC. Dr. Rozanski thanked this year's sponsors for their support including the American Physiological Society and the Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC. Corporate sponsors were Data Sciences International, North Central Instruments, and VisualSonics, Inc. Finally, Dr. Rozanski especially thanked the staff of the Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology UNMC for their help and support during his presidency: Cindy Norton, Pearl Sorensen, Janine Wilson, and Debra Davis.

The scientific portion of the meeting began with the research keynote address by Hannah V. Carey, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine. The title of Dr. Carey's presentation was "Unraveling Mysteries of Hibernation: From Basic Science to Biomedical Application"

Dr. Carey's address was followed by alternate sessions, the Lee Zucker Featured Student Presentations and the Teacher’s Breakout Session. The Lee Zucker Featured Student Presentations were presented by two undergraduate students, Brian Derby from the University of Nebraska -Lincoln and Sumit Kar from Creighton University, and two graduate students, Ryan Cornelius from UNMC and Jing Yang also from UNMC. The speakers were selected to present their research projects based on the quality of their submitted abstracts. Each student was allowed a 15 minute session followed by a short question/answer period.

Dr. Thomas A. Pressley, Ph.D., Professor, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and Dr. David Holtzclaw, PhD., Instructor, UNMC facilitated the Teacher’s Breakout session. This year, the teacher's breakout session was a discussion on inquiry-based learning and how to implement it into the K-12 classroom.

Following the alternate sessions, Dr. Pressley presented the educational keynote address entitled, “Teaching and Learning Physiology with the ‘I-Phone’ Generation”.

Dr. Pressley’s address was followed by a luncheon and Table Topic Talks. This element during the luncheon was new to the NPS meeting. A total of nine topics were designated this year. Students and postdoctoral fellows signed up for their topic of interest during registration. Drs. Irving Zucker and Matthew Zimmerman chaired the topic, Pipes and Pumps: What’s New in Cardiovascular Physiology. Dr. Pressley chaired, What I Should Expect from My PhD/What Others Expect from Me Being a PhD. Drs. Pamela Carmines and Yulong Li chaired, What Do Kidneys and Lungs Have in Common. Dr. Hannah Carey chaired, How Can Physiologists Contribute to Global Change Research. Dr. Keshore Bidasee chaired, Life After Getting
a PhD. Graduate students, Erin Rosenbaugh and Tamra Llewellyn chaired the topic, So You Are Thinking About Grad School. High school teachers, Ed & Lee Brogie chaired, Engaging K-12 Students in Science Research. Dr. William Mayhan chaired, Getting Published. Dr. Steven Sansom chaired the topic, Strategies for Writing Successful Grants.

The afternoon portion of the meeting began with poster viewing and judging. Posters were judged in undergraduate and graduate categories from institutions that included: University of Nebraska at Lincoln, UNMC, Creighton University, University of Nebraska at Omaha, University of South Dakota, and Wayne State College. Each poster was critiqued by three faculty members. The change to the poster judging this year was that the presenters were not ranked. They only received the comments from the judges.

Following the poster viewing and judging, Dr. Rozanski called the NPS business meeting. Dr. Carmines presented an update on the state of the American Physiological Society (APS). She highlighted current programs and strategic goals of the parent society. Dr. Holtzclaw highlighted the activities that took place during APS sponsored PhUn Week. Dr. Harold Schultz presented an update as NPS representative to the APS Chapter Advisory Committee. Dr. Hong Sun briefly presented the current financial status of NPS. Cindy R. Norton, Executive Director and Administrator, Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC, noted that two Certificates of Deposit would be matured in November 2010. Ms. Norton suggested reinvesting these CDs for additional year. Dr. Rozanski called for a vote. Motion passed. Dr. Rozanski then presented certificates to all the teachers, certificates and gift cards to poster presenters in high school, undergraduate and graduate categories. Gift card were $50 for the Lee Zucker Featured Student Presenters and $25 for the rest of the presenters. APS donated $500.00 and the NPS donated $250.00 for the awards.
Dr. Rozanski presented a plaque to NPS Past-President, Kaushik P. Patel Ph.D., Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC, in recognition of his innovative efforts in planning the 2009 NPS Meeting.

The NPS business meeting reconvened and Dr. Rozanski declared the election results for NPS 2011-2012 President and NPS 2010-2011 Councilors. Dr. Rozanski then introduced Dr. G. Patrick Lambert, Department of Exercise Science, Creighton University as the incoming 2010-2011 NPS President. Dr. Rozanski again thanked this year’s sponsors for their support and thanked all individuals who helped make the meeting a success.

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 and teaching activities on education for science teachers.

2010 -2011 Officers:

President: G. Patrick Lambert, Ph.D., Creighton University
President-Elect: Barbara Engebretsen, Ph.D., Wayne State College
Past President: George J. Rozanski, Ph.D., University of Nebraska Medical Center
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Councilor: Keshore R. Bidasee, Ph.D., University of Nebraska Medical Center
Student Councilor: Anindit Mikherjee, University of Nebraska Medical Center

The meeting concluded at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hong Sun, MD, PhD
NPS Secretary/Treasurer