FINAL REPORT ON THE

NEBRASKA PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

12th Annual Meeting
Chapter of the American Physiological Society

Physiology - The Science of Life

Saturday, September 12, 2009
Omaha, Nebraska
The twelfth annual meeting of the Nebraska Physiological Society (NPS) was held on Saturday, September 12, at the University of Nebraska Medical Center Sorrell Center in Omaha, NE. Attendance at the meeting totaled 101 registered individuals, including undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty members and eight school educators. Forty-five research posters from seven research institutions were presented. The meeting attracted students from institutions throughout the state, and surrounding states of South Dakota and Iowa. It 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. The meeting began at 9:00 a.m. with welcome and introductory remarks from Kaushik P. Patel, Ph.D., NPS President and Professor, Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, University of Nebraska Medical Center. Dr. Patel thanked this year's sponsors for their support. Sponsors included the American Physiological Society; the Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC; Corporate sponsors were Biospherix, Ltd., Data Sciences International, and VisualSonics. 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, and Cindy Norton. He also thanked the graduate students that helped with the setting up of the rooms and the easels.

The meeting began with the research keynote address by Allan Kim Johnson, Ph.D., University of Iowa. The title of Dr. Johnson’s presentation was "Broken Hearts, Sadness, and the Dr. Selye’s Other Axis of Evil."

Dr. Johnson’s address was followed by two alternate sessions, the Young Investigator Scientific Presentations or the Teacher’s Breakout Session. The first Young Investigator Presentation was given by Matthew C. Zimmerman, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, from the Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, University of Nebraska Medical Center and the second by Sonia M. Rocha-Sanchez, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, School of Dentistry, Creighton University. The speakers were selected to present their research projects based on the quality of their submitted abstracts.

New to the NPS meeting this year was the Teacher’s Breakout Session that was arranged by Dr. David Holtzclaw, Instructor, Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC, Dr. Barbara Engebretsen, Wayne State College and Dr. Stephen DiCarlo. The teachers participated in hands on projects that could be performed in the classroom. Dr. Holtzclaw and Dr. DiCarlo demonstrated a cardiovascular activity, which involved Starling’s Law. Dr. Barbara Engebretsen performed a molecular biology activity.

Following the breakout sessions, Stephen DiCarlo, Ph.D., Professor, Wayne State University presented the education keynote address entitled, “Understanding is the Residual of Thinking”.

Following the education talk, Dr. Patel called to order the NPS business meeting lunch. Irving H. Zucker, Ph.D., Past-President of APS and Chair of the Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology presented an update on the state of the American Physiology Society. Dr. Zucker highlighted current programs and strategic goals of the parent society. Next, 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. Next, Harold D. Schultz, Ph.D. presented an update as the NPS representative to the APS Chapter Advisory Committee. Next, 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 NPS is sound. Ms. Norton called for a vote to reinvest the Chapter Certificate of Deposit for an additional year and reinvest $1200 of the Lee Zucker funds into a 12-month Certificate. Motion passed. Next, the membership participated in a
discussion regarding the roles of the officers and councilors for the annual meeting and other activities by NPS. Dr. Patel stressed the importance of having specific defining roles for the officers and councilors for the meeting and recommended that the new slate of officers identify these responsibilities. Dr. Patel presented certificates to all the teachers that participated in the NPS 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 Nebraska at Omaha, University of South Dakota, and Wayne State College. After the judges' rankings were compiled, each group of judges met to finalize the award recipients.

The NPS business meeting reconvened and Dr. Patel presented awards to individuals in each of the categories. The American Physiological Society (APS) donated $500.00 for awards and NPS donated $650.00 so that three awards could be given in each category.

Recipients received certificates and monetary awards of $250 (1st place), $100 (2nd place), or $50 (3rd place).

**Award recipients in the undergraduate category were:**
- 1st place: Sumit Kar, University of Nebraska Medical Center
- 2nd place: Neil B. Huben, University of Nebraska at Omaha
- 3rd place: Bridget Leuschen, University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Award recipients in the graduate category were:**
- 1st place Lee Zucker Graduate Student Research Award, Halvor S. McGee, Creighton University
- 2nd place (tie) Sarah Clayton, University of Nebraska Medical Center and Erin Rosenbaugh, University of Nebraska Medical Center
- 3rd place Anindit Mukherjee, University of Nebraska Medical Center

**With a three-way tie for first-place award recipients in the postdoctoral category were:**
- P. Richard Grimm, University of Nebraska Medical Center
- Amit Mitra, University of Nebraska Medical Center
- Ruifang Yang, University of Nebraska Medical Center

Dr. Patel presented a plaque to NPS Past-President, Thomas E. Pisarri Ph.D., Department of Biomedical Sciences, Creighton University, in recognition of his innovative efforts in planning the 2008 Nebraska Physiological Society Meeting.

Dr. Patel again thanked this year's sponsors for their support and thanked all individuals who helped make the meeting a success. Dr. Patel then introduced Dr. George Rozanski, Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, UNMC as the incoming 2009-2010 NPS President.
NPS Officers for 2009-2010 Term:

**President:** George J. Rozanski, Ph.D. University of Nebraska Medical Center

**President-Elect:** G. Patrick Lambert, Ph.D. Creighton University

**Past President:** Kaushik P. Patel, Ph.D. University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Hong Sun, M.D., Ph.D., University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Councilor:** J. David Holtzclaw, Ph.D., University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Councilor:** Barbara Engebretsen, Ph.D., Wayne State College

**Councilor:** Keshore R. Bidasee, Ph.D., University of Nebraska Medical Center

**Student Councilor:** Erin Rosenbaugh, University of Nebraska Medical Center

The meeting concluded at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy R. Norton CPS/CAP
Executive Director
Teacher’s Breakout Session

A-1

A-2

A-3

A-4

A-5
Interesting Lectures

B-1

B-2

B-3

Other Highlights
- Logo Redesign Contest (October 15)
- Member Needs Survey 2010
- Strategic Plan Progress 2010 and 2011
- 125th Anniversary of APS: San Diego 2012
Young Investigator Presentation
Student Presentations
Graduate Students

E-1

E-2

E-3

E-4
Undergraduate Students
Postdoctoral Research Fellows

G-1

G-2
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A-1 Teachers participating in the teacher’s breakout session

A-2 Organizers for the teacher breakout session, from left to right, J. David Holtzclaw, Barbara Engebretsen and Stephen DiCarlo

A-3 Dr. Stephen DiCarlo demonstrating classroom activities

A-4 Ed and Lee Brogie and Barbara Engebretsen participating in classroom activities

A-5 Group picture of teachers receiving certificates

B-1 Dr. Allan Kim Johnson, University of Iowa, Research Keynote Speaker

B-2 Dr. Stephen DiCarlo, Wayne State University, Educational Keynote Speaker and NPS President, Dr. Kaushik P. Patel, Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, University of Nebraska Medical Center

B-3 Dr. Irving H. Zucker, APS Past-President, Professor and Chair of Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, University of Nebraska Medical Center giving an update on The American Physiological Society Activities.

C-1 Young Investigator Award presentation by Matthew C. Zimmerman, Assistant Professor, Department of Cellular and Integrative Physiology, University of Nebraska Medical Center and Dr. Kaushik Patel

C-2 Young Investigator Award presentation by Sonia M. Rocha-Sanchez, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, School of Dentistry, Creighton University and Dr. Kaushik Patel

D-1 Liang Xiao and Dr. Thomas Pisarri discussing Liang’s research poster

D-2 Sumit Kar and Dr. Stephen DiCarlo discussing Sumit’s research poster

D-3 Members viewing some of the 45 posters

D-4 Members view some of the 45 posters

E-1 1st place Lee Zucker Graduate Student winner, Halvor S. McGee, Creighton University and Dr. Kaushik Patel
Tied 2nd place Graduate Student winner Erin Rosenbaugh, University of Nebraska Medical Center and Dr. Kaushik Patel

Tied 2nd place Graduate Student winner Sarah Clayton, University of Nebraska Medical Center and Dr. Kaushik Patel

Group photo of all graduate student participating in the meeting

1st place Undergraduate winner – Sumit Kar, University of Nebraska Medical Center and Dr. Kaushik Patel

2nd place Undergraduate winner Neil B. Huben, University of Nebraska at Omaha and Dr. Kaushik Patel

3rd place Undergraduate winner, Bridget Leuschen, University of Nebraska Medical Center and Dr. Kaushik Patel

Group photo of all undergraduate students participating in the meeting

Tied for 1st place, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, G. Richard Grimm, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Amit Mitra, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Ruifang Yang, University of Nebraska Medical Center and Dr. Kaushik Patel

Group Photo of all the Postdoctoral Research Associates participating in the meeting.