Division of Neurobiology

Message from the Chair

James Murray

Our new student/postdoc representative is Ms. Darcy Kato Ernst (darcy.kato@gmail.com), a graduate student at UC Berkeley in the Department of Integrative Biology working with Dr. George Bentley. Please contact her if you have any concerns about issues that affect students and postdocs in the Division or in the Society.

We are still planning to offer a free loan of a set of neural recording equipment to one researcher courtesy of ADInstruments (http://www.adinstruments.com/). Details will be forthcoming this year.

We are still soliciting nominations for new divisional officers, so please send those to me or to Secretary Tom Pirtle.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting in Salt Lake.

Message from the Program Officer

Duane McPherson

Greetings to all DNB members and affiliates!

Final ordering is in progress for the 2011 meeting program, following our Division Program Officer meeting on September 24-25 in Salt Lake City. More than 1100 abstracts were submitted for this meeting, which is comparable to the number at the 2004 meeting in New Orleans. The number of neurobiology abstracts submitted was significantly low, compared to last year (I don't know what it was in 2004). The number of contributed neurobiology talks is just enough to make one full-day session on Thursday (16 talks), including some that border naturally with behavior. The number of posters is about 30, which are distributed across three poster sessions (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday).

There are two neuro-related symposia in the 2011 program: one on central pattern generators ("I've Got Rhythm") and one on ecological aspects of neurobiology ("Neuroecology"). These symposia are scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, respectively. The organizers have put a lot of work into developing these symposia, and I hope you will find them interesting.
Wanted: Judges for Best Student Paper competition

We have a good number of student posters and talks that were submitted for Best Student Paper (BSP) in the DNB. Altogether there are 14 BSP abstracts, with a majority in the form of posters. As always, we need judges to attend the poster and oral sessions so that we can give these students proper attention for the effort that they have put into their presentations. Please volunteer a bit of your time to be a judge for the Best Student Papers! If you are willing, send your name to me by e-mail and I will send you the author/title information of the BSP submissions. It is vital that we have judges lined up before the meeting, because BSP poster presentations will begin on the first regular day of the meeting (Tuesday).

Important Notice about Choosing Topics for Abstract Submissions

I would like to emphasize the importance of choosing a Topic within category A (Neurobiology and Behavior) when you submit your neuro-related abstracts. And within Topic A, please choose Neurobiology or one of the neurobiology-related topics (this year we also had A.8, Nervous system structure and function). In general, the topic that you pick as topic1 will define the division to which your abstract is sent for sorting. And unless there is a glaring mismatch between that choice and all the other abstracts sorted by that program officer, that is where your abstract will stay. So if you perceive your abstract as belonging to Neurobiology, please choose that as your topic1. As Program Officer for Neurobiology, I do look at all the abstracts in Neurobiology and Behavior, but I don't have the leisure to look at all the other abstracts. The same is true for all the other DPOs. We do use the secondary and tertiary topic choices to help us sort the abstracts, particularly if an abstract doesn't fit well under its first topic. But in general we go with your choices. As a footnote, regarding keywords, they are a tool that others can use to find your presentation, but we don't use them for abstract sorting.

Symposium Proposals Needed!

We need suggestions for a neurobiology symposium for the 2013 meeting! It would be nice if an organizer materialized at the same time, although that is not a strict requirement. If you have an idea for a symposium, please send it to me or incubate it a while and bring it to our Business Meeting in Salt Lake City. The DNB business meeting will be on Wednesday afternoon, following the poster session. Check the program for the exact time, but I think it is scheduled from 5:15 to 6:00 p.m.

Another Joint DAB-DNB Social!

Following the success and positive remarks about our joint Animal Behavior-Neurobiology Social at the Seattle meeting, we will again have a joint social at Salt Lake City. The social will take place on Tuesday, following the DAB business meeting (which I think is scheduled 5:15-5:45 p.m.). Note that the placement of our business meeting on a separate day will allow those of you with DAB affiliation to attend both business meetings.

I look forward to seeing many of you in January!

Message from the Secretary

Thomas Pirtle

Greetings to all members of the Division of Neurobiology and other interested readers. We look forward to the January 2011 meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah. Please
note that to qualify for discounted registration fees, registration and payment must be submitted by December 3rd, 2010. As indicated by the Program Officer, we anticipate many student presentations and posters within the DNB and this means that we will need some volunteers to help judge the presentations! It's important and not too difficult. Some important dates to keep in mind are the Opening Plenary Session and Grad Student/Post Docs Welcome and Meeting Orientation on January, 3rd, 2011. Please visit http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2011/ for additional information regarding the 2011 meeting.

The steering committee of East Coast Nerve Net (ECNN) is excited to announce that the 2011 meeting is scheduled from March 25th to the 27th. Our meeting will take place again this year at the Marine Biological Laboratories in Woods Hole, MA. In the past, the conference has hosted presentations on a broad array of neurobiological and neuroethological topics utilizing a plethora of model preparations (http://crab-lab.zool.ohiou.edu/nervenet/).

The encouragement of graduate student and senior undergraduate posters and presentations has been a mainstay of the ECNN meeting that we are excited to continue. We intend to fund a limited number of travel awards to students in 2011 as we did in 2009. Please consider passing on this preliminary information about the meeting to your peers.

We look forward to seeing you in Salt Lake City.