

SBN "e-letter" for August, 2007

Announcement from the President

Dear SBN Members,

On Monday, July 30th, I attended a ½ day meeting in Washington DC sponsored by NIH and designed to get feedback from scientific societies on potential ideas to improve the Peer-Review System.

The meeting was run by Elias Zerhouni (the director of NIH), Larry Tabak (internal NIH) and Keith Yamamoto (external UCSF). There were about 100 people from societies ranging from the American Dental Society to the Endocrine Society (very diverse).

There was acknowledgement by the organizers and participants that Peer-Review is an outstanding system and that the current dissatisfaction with it is more about the funding level than the process. That said they still are very serious about making some changes.

There are two ways that we can have an impact on the future of peer-review. One is that as individuals we can go to their survey at the website below and fill out the form. The deadline for all responses, including this form, is Sept 7, 2007...really soon.

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-07-074.html>

In addition I can write a note on behalf of SBN. There are a few specific changes that were suggested by Zerhouni and colleagues that we should address in a letter, and online although those questions are not set up well to deal with these new ideas. These are ideas that were “tossed out” by Yamamoto but I think some of them are under serious consideration.

1. Shorter applications (15 pages) are clearly going to happen but if you have objections now is the time.
2. Merit based grant mechanisms; the idea is to fund the researcher not the proposal.
3. Caps on the number of NIH grants a researcher can apply for in a set time period.
4. Going to more flexible deadlines by use of electronic submissions.
5. Using an “editorial board” instead of panels for proposal review.
6. Increased use of “modern technology (teleconference etc)” to hold panel meetings at which many (or all) of the members are not in the same room.
7. Coupled perhaps with shorter applications might be a reduction in the requirement for technical details or preliminary data.
8. Another idea for the technical details is to have this part reviewed by a panel of experts in those fields and their assessments would be given to the panel.

For additional information, the Summer 2007 "From the Desk of Dr. Elias Zerhouni" Newsletter is a special issue on **Peer Review**.

<http://www.nih.gov/about/director/newsletter/Summer2007.htm>

I'd like to receive input from you on these points as soon as possible. I am sorry about the short notice ! Please send emails to me at Rissman@virginia.edu

Best wishes,
Emilie

Job Postings (3)

1) Postdoctoral Position in Behavioral Endocrinology

A postdoctoral position (up to 2 years) in behavioral endocrinology is available at the University of California, Riverside, beginning Fall 2007 or Winter 2008. We are developing a new research program focusing on stress and reproductive behavior in monogamous rodents, and seek a postdoc with experience in immunohistochemistry and/or intracerebral cannulation and neuropeptide administration. Experience with radioimmunoassay and/or enzyme immunoassay would also be advantageous. The University of California, Riverside is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Under Federal Law, the University of California may employ only individuals who are legally authorized to work in the United States as established by providing documents specified in the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.

If interested, send a brief cover letter and CV to:

Dr. Wendy Saltzman
Department of Biology
University of California
Riverside, CA 92521
(951) 827-6356 (phone)
(951) 827-4286 (fax)
saltzman@ucr.edu
<http://biology.ucr.edu/people/faculty/Saltzman.html>

2) Postdoctoral Research

Requirements: Applicants must have a doctoral degree (Ph.D., M.D., D.V.M.) and publications in reviewed journals. Applications will be accepted from graduate students completing their doctoral degree requirements but the degree must be completed before the applicant can begin their postdoctoral appointment.

Duties: 1. Assist in the design of interdisciplinary research that may include developmental, anatomical, neurochemical, cell biological, molecular biological and immunological fields; 2. Plan and carry out experiments and analyze data; 3. Prepare manuscripts for publication; 4. Help supervise and guide junior researchers working on related projects; 5. Attend scientific seminars and participate in journal clubs; 6. Prepare talks and posters of research results for presentation at national or international meetings.

Application Procedure: Send resume and three letters of reference to Melissa Hein, Department of Biomedical Sciences, 102 Physiology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1680. Questions may be directed to Melissa Hein at: (970) 491-6098 or e-mail: Melissa.Hein@ColoState.EDU; FAX: (970) 461-7569 or to Stuart Tobet; stuart.tobet@colostate.edu; 970-491-1672.

The Department of Biomedical Sciences: This interdisciplinary department contains over 30 faculty and the international reputation of the faculty members is demonstrated by their ability to attract strong extramural support. Faculty research interests are focused in cellular, molecular and integrative biology, reproductive biology, and neurobiology, with relevant emphasis in areas related to neuronal differentiation, degeneration and regeneration, ion channels and membrane physiology, synaptic mechanisms, neuronal circuitry, chronobiology, sensory biology, artificial neural networks, gonadal function, and neuroendocrinology. The department is highly interactive and offers postdoctoral fellows a friendly but rigorous learning environment. There is ample opportunity for informal interactions between fellows and faculty, thus encouraging the kind of discussions and collaborations that are critical to success in the cutting-edge atmosphere of modern biomedical research. Program faculty members are housed in modern research buildings with state-of-the-art equipment. All of the training faculty members have laboratories that are within relatively close proximity. University facilities that support research efforts include electron microscopes, flow cytometer and fluorescent activated cell sorter, confocal microscopes, DNA, RNA and protein sequencing and syntheses labs, a mass spectrometer lab, and three facilities under development for genomics, proteomics, and transgenic animal research. The hard work of research is balanced by the unique opportunity to relax and reflect in the mountains and canyons of beautiful Colorado.

Further information is available at: <http://www.cvmbs.edu/bms/>

Colorado State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and complies with all Federal and Colorado State laws, regulations and executive orders regarding affirmative action requirements in all programs.

Expires: 01/31/08

3) Post-doctoral Position at Virginia Tech

Reproduction in Tropical Birds

An NSF funded postdoctoral position is available in the lab of Ignacio Moore at Virginia Tech to study the behavioral ecology and reproductive biology of rufous-collared sparrows in Ecuador. Current projects include: neuroendocrine regulation of reproduction, territorial and mating behavior, and population differentiation in terms of timing of reproduction and genetics. Please see the Moore lab website for more information on our research. Future research projects will allow some flexibility

depending on the interests of the individual who is hired. The position could involve extended periods of field work in Ecuador. Experience studying behavior, endocrinology, ecology, birds and/or working in the tropics are desirable but not required.

Position includes a competitive salary and fringe benefits. Funding is available for one year and possibly more contingent upon satisfactory progress. VT has an active behavioral ecology group.

Interested candidates should email a CV including the names of three references along with a statement of interest to:

Ignacio Moore- itmoore@vt.edu

Moore lab website: <http://www.biol.vt.edu/faculty/moore/>