



SBN

Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology

E-Newsletter

December 2008

Contents: **SBN Announcements (6)**
 General Announcements (2)
 Job Postings/Training Opportunities (3)

SBN Announcements

1) Membership Renewal

It is time to renew your membership in SBN for 2009! To help ease the process, the website can now accept credit cards for your yearly dues. This is an exciting time in behavioral neuroendocrinology and for our society in particular. We have an excellent meeting being planned this coming June 25-27 at Michigan State University. The society has a newly created Public Education and Membership committees as well as new membership in the American Institute of Biological Sciences. The website continues to evolve into a significant site to obtain up-to-date information about our society, the field of behavioral neuroendocrinology and our members. We encourage you to renew your membership to maintain SBN's vitality and growth into the future.

2) Nominations for SBN Officers

The membership committee (Art Anold, Jessica Mong and Anne Etgen) seeks nominations for President-Elect and for Secretary. Please send the name of your nominee for these important positions to committee chair Art Arnold at arnold@ucla.edu.

3) Call for Feedback on Poster Awards at SBN Annual Meeting:

Each year the Awards Committee and a few brave volunteers are faced with the daunting task of evaluating a large number of posters, tabulating the results, and deciding on the winners. The Executive and Awards Committees would like to hear from the membership on whether we should continue to hold a poster competition and if so whether we should limit the number of posters. One way we could do this by restricting the competition for example to senior graduate students that have a complete story to tell. We are very interested in hearing from all of you on this issue. Please send your comments to Matt Grober at : biomsg@langate.gsu.edu.

4) Call for Proposals for Symposia/Mini-Symposia at Annual SFN Meeting

SBN encourages members to submit proposals for symposia and mini-symposia for next year's Society for Neuroscience meeting. This is an excellent format to increase the profile of

behavioral neuroendocrinology within the larger neuroscience community. Guidelines for submitting proposals can be found on the SFN website (www.sfn.org). Members with ideas for symposia can contact Past-SBN President Geert de Vries (devries@cns.umass.edu) who is a member of the SFN program committee to discuss ways in which SBN might assist with development of the proposal.

5) Call for Nominations: Daniel S. Lehrman Lifetime Achievement Award

Nominations are being accepted for the 4th Daniel S. Lehrman Lifetime Achievement Award in Behavioral Neuroendocrinology.

The purpose of this award is fourfold. We wish to honor the lifetime achievement of the most distinguished investigators in our field, open an opportunity for the SBN members to show their appreciation and respect, educate the younger members of our field about the life and work of our distinguished foremothers and forefathers and their own academic lineage, and create a public education/public relations opportunity to invite the press to an exciting scientific presentation at our annual meeting.

AWARD CRITERIA: Investigators that have sustained a record of significant original research, distinguished scholarship, and highly effective mentorship in any field of behavioral neuroendocrinology may be nominated. They may be either retired or still active in research, provided they have been a full professor (or foreign equivalent, if outside the U.S., or industry equivalent, if working outside academia) for more than 10 years and have trained a significant number of students and research associates who have, in turn, made exceptional contributions in behavioral neuroendocrinology.

NOMINATIONS: Submit a letter of nomination, including a detailed description of the nominee's most significant contributions to research, scholarship and mentorship and a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae. More than one nomination letter or jointly written nomination letters are helpful to the committee. Electronic applications are preferred.

Send materials by March 15, 2009 to
Elaine Hull, Chair, SBN Awards Committee
hull@psy.fsu.edu

The award, in the form of an engraved plaque, will be presented at the banquet of the annual Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology Meeting in June, 2009.

Daniel Lehrman was one of the most influential scientists in our field. Lehrman was an astute observer of the social interactions between animals in natural environments, and he was largely responsible for making the connection between these behavioral changes and the hypothalamic-pituitary system. Thus, he can be seen as one of the founders of Behavioral Neuroendocrinology. Through his original and creative behavioral experiments, coupled with his ability to incorporate contemporary methodological developments in neuroendocrinology, he made an enormous impact in elucidating the reciprocal relationship between hormones and behavior. Through his scholarship, mentoring and teaching, and most notably his leadership role in the founding of the Institute for Animal Behavior at Rutgers University, he influenced a whole generation of scientists studying animal behavior. Many current members of SBN can trace their academic lineage to Lehrman. Preference will be given to nominees who share many of the best characteristics of Daniel Lehrman.

6) Holiday Wishes

The SBN Executive committee (Emilie Rissman, Greg Ball, Geert de Vries, Ruth Wood and Barney Schlinger) extends to the members our best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season and for a wonderful and scientifically productive 2009!

General Announcements

1) 5th International Meeting "STEROIDS AND NERVOUS SYSTEM"

February 15-18, 2009, Torino, Italy.

An international conference on "Steroids and Nervous System" will be held in Torino, Italy in February 2009. Early registration and abstract submission **DECEMBER 15**

<http://www.dafml.unito.it/anatomy/panzica/neurosteroids/SNS09/HOME.html>

Before the meeting we have organized a Conference on Hormones Brain and Behavior (February 13)

<http://www.dafml.unito.it/anatomy/panzica/neurosteroids/SNS09/ICHBB.htm>

and two satellite symposia (February 14)

<http://www.dafml.unito.it/anatomy/panzica/neurosteroids/SNS09/14.htm>

Instructions for registration are here:

<http://www.dafml.unito.it/anatomy/panzica/neurosteroids/SNS09/REGISTRATION.htm>

We invite young researchers (under 35) to apply for our fellowships program (in this case the deadline is December 1st)

<http://www.dafml.unito.it/anatomy/panzica/neurosteroids/SNS09/FELLOWSHIPS.htm>

This year we have also organized the Luciano Martini prize for young endocrinologist

<http://www.dafml.unito.it/anatomy/panzica/neurosteroids/SNS09/PRIZES.htm>

PROGRAM OF THE CONFERENCE

Symposia:

- Importance of co-regulatory factors for steroid receptor action in the brain
- Steroids and pain
- Estrogen-induced non-classical signaling in the brain: mechanism and role
- Pathogenetic mechanisms mediated by glucocorticoid receptors in psychiatric disorders: from bench to clinics
- Vitamin D the forgotten neurosteroid
- Sex differences in, and hormonal influences on, cannabinoid-regulated biology
- Neurosteroids and GABA-A receptors

Round Tables:

- Neurosteroids and pregnancy: long term effects on development
- Androgens and androgen receptors

Satellite Symposia:

- Unexpected actions of steroid receptors regulating reproductive and social behaviors
- Gender-specific therapeutic strategies based on neuroactive steroids: in search for innovative tools for neuroprotection

For further information:

<http://www.dafml.unito.it/anatomy/panzica/neurosteroids/SNS09/HOME.html>

The conference is organized in different, plenary lectures, symposia and posters' presentation. Each symposia will run for half day and will comprise 4-5 invited lectures with additional short communications (selected by the Organizing Committee) to complete the program. Any presentation related to the interactions among steroid hormones and the nervous system will be accepted. However, presentations that will not fit inside of the pre-programmed symposia will be only accepted in poster format. The conference will be held in **Torino** at Villa Gualino, in the pleasant environment of the hill of the town close to the river Po. Torino can easily be reached

either by train or by airplane. Please distribute this information to your colleagues and return the annexed form, a photocopy or e-mail information to the conference secretariat in order to receive further information.

2) The Organization for the Study of Sex Differences (OSSD)

The OSSD is soliciting nominations (self-nomination encouraged) for a 4-year term as Founding Editor-in-Chief (EIC) of their new peer-reviewed journal *Biology of Sex Differences* (BSD), the official journal of the OSSD. The EIC has editorial responsibility for *Biology of Sex Differences* (BSD) and is therefore responsible for the scientific quality of the journal. Applications must be submitted to the Chair of the Publications Committee, Kim Wallen (kim@ossdweb.org), by January 9, 2009. For more details please visit the OSSD homepage: <http://www.ossdweb.org/>

Job Postings/Training Opportunities (3)

1) The Department of Psychology at the State University of New York at Binghamton

invites applications for two tenure-track positions at the assistant professor level to begin Fall 2009, pending budgetary approval. The positions will add to a cluster in lifespan neuroscience; individuals who focus on development and/or aging are strongly encouraged to apply. One appointment will be made in the Behavioral Neuroscience program. The second will be in developmental cognitive neuroscience, broadly construed. The department is organized into programs in Behavioral Neuroscience, Cognitive and Behavioral Sciences, and Clinical Sciences, and applications from individuals with research interests in any of these areas will be considered.

Preference for one position will be given to behavioral neuroscience applicants whose research program integrates developmental neurobiology with the study of behavior.

In addition, we seek a developmental cognitive neuroscientist whose methods might include (but are not limited to) neuropsychology, human electro-physiology, optical imaging, or transcranial magnetic stimulation.

The Behavioral Neuroscience program has a strong research emphasis in the neural underpinnings of behavior, with special interests in development, alcohol/drug abuse, neuroplasticity, learning, memory, sensory coding and stress.

Current research in the Cognitive and Behavioral Sciences program has strengths in the domains of visual and auditory perception, learning and memory, language processing, executive function, and development and aging.

Clinical science research foci include experimental psychopathology of autism, schizophrenia, affective and anxiety disorders, and personality disorders as well as research on marital dysfunction, alcohol abuse, neurobehavioral systems, and dissociation.

Successful candidates will be expected to establish an independent research program capable of attracting external funding and demonstrate a commitment to undergraduate and graduate teaching. More information about the department is available at <http://www2.binghamton.edu/psychology>.

Send a statement of research and teaching interests, curriculum vitae, reprints, and three letters of recommendation. 1) By email to gDaniels@binghamton.edu; include "BNS faculty position" or

“DCN faculty position” in the header. 2) By paper to either BNS or DCN Search, ATTN: Ms. Gina Daniels, Department of Psychology, Binghamton University (SUNY), P.O. Box 6000, Binghamton, NY 13902-6000. Applications will be reviewed as received, but those received by December 15 will be guaranteed consideration. Binghamton University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

2) PhD Student or Post-doctoral Fellow in Songbird Physiology and Behavior

A position for a Ph.D. student or post-doctoral fellow is available in the laboratory of Kiran K. Soma at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.

Ph.D. students may enter through the Psychology Dept, Zoology Dept, or Graduate Program in Neuroscience.

International and Canadian students and postdocs are eligible for fellowships from UBC, Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, NSERC, CIHR and NIH. Additional funding is available via grants from CIHR, NSERC and NIH to Dr. Soma.

This research focuses on songbird endocrinology, neurobiology, immunology, and behavior, using field and laboratory studies. See <http://www.psych.ubc.ca/faculty/profile/index.psy?fullname=Soma,%20Kiran&area=Behavioural%20Neuroscience&designation=core&keyword>. There are two main themes: (1) local synthesis of steroids in the brain (“neurosteroids”) and regulation of behavior, and (2) local synthesis of steroids in the immune system (“immunosteroids”) and development of the immune system.

Applicants should be highly motivated, productive and detail-oriented; think independently, critically and creatively; and work well in a team. Research experience is necessary, although it need not be with birds.

UBC has an excellent international reputation and an active research environment, including the Life Sciences Institute and Brain Research Centre. Vancouver, on the Pacific coast, is considered one of the world’s most livable cities, with a diverse culture and numerous outdoor recreational activities.

Applicants should email ksoma@psych.ubc.ca with a statement of how their interests fit with this research program and a CV including contact information for 2-3 references. Review of applications will begin in January 2009 and continue until a suitable candidate is found. Start date is flexible.

3) Graduate Student and Post-doctoral Fellow Positions: Reproductive Neuroendocrinology, University of California, San Diego

There are now openings for new graduate students and post-doctoral fellows to join a reproductive neuroendocrinology research lab at the University of California, San Diego in the Department of Reproductive Medicine. Individuals with backgrounds in biopsychology, neuroscience, biology, physiology, or molecular biology are encouraged to apply. Research is conducted primarily in rodents, addressing the interaction of hormones (sex steroids) and neuropeptides (kisspeptins, GnRH) in coordinating the brain’s regulation of puberty and reproduction (see Kauffman et al., Trends in Neurosciences, 2007 for a review). Lab techniques include a combination of animal work (including knockout mice and other rodent species) and bench work (in situ hybridization, RT PCR, immunocytochemistry, hormone analysis, neuroanatomy, microscopy, etc.). Potential graduate students are sought beginning Fall 2009 or Fall 2010 and can apply via the U.C. San Diego Biomedical Sciences graduate program. Prospective post-doc positions are available

beginning February 2009. Sufficient funds are available for salary (plus benefits) and research supplies. Interested individuals should contact Dr. Alexander Kauffman at ask47@u.washington.edu (please include an updated CV).