



SBN

Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology

E-Newsletter

June 2008

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OUR 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

The SBN 2008 Meeting in Groningen on July 7 – 10 is just about a month away. We have a terrific program lined up. Check it out at:

<http://www.rug.nl/bcn/sbn/scientificProgram>

If you haven't registered, please do so now at:

<http://www.rug.nl/bcn/sbn/index?lang=en>

If you are presenting a poster, please note that the poster boards are to be 120 x 120 cm. If you already have a poster larger than this, please notify Christel Westenbroek at C.Westenbroek@med.umcg.nl for accommodations.

****Please note suggestions:**

We encourage you to keep the amount of text down and the font size up. Remember that people interested in more detail can always ask questions. See the sample poster on the meeting website before beginning your own. We encourage you to use even less text than this sample poster if possible. Please note that the sample poster has different dimensions than the poster boards in Groningen. It is included here as an example for content, not size.

[Click HERE for sample poster!](#)

We also encourage you to compose a short summary that can be read in a minute or two. This should briefly discuss essential features about your poster for people who are quickly stopping by:

- Why did you do the study?
- What did you find?
- Why should the person reading it be interested?
- Try to get your major points across in a minute or two.

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

SBN has established a Public Education committee. Lori Flanagan-Cato is serving as Chair, along with the following members: C. Sue Carter, Bradley Cooke (Post-doc member), Julia Heiman, Donna Maney, Vasiliki Michopoulos (Graduate Student member), Charles Roselli and Jennifer Swann.

A Message from the Chair of the Public Education committee, Lori Flanagan-Cato:

On behalf of the newly formed Public Education Committee, I welcome the input of the SBN community. Our general goal is to inform the public about the relevance of behavioral neuroendocrine research. Disseminating information to the public is an important educational goal in its own right. An added benefit, we hope, will be that a better appreciation for the benefits of biomedical research will reduce misunderstandings that lead to activism against animal research. Feel free to contact myself or committee members with your experiences in the realm of public education. We are very interested in incorporating the perspectives of the society into developing a strong public education program.

Public Education Committee Mission Statement:

The Public Education committee of the Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology (SBN) has the broad goal of communicating to the public the goals, discoveries, and public benefits of our research efforts. To accomplish this, our short-term goals are:

- 1) To develop and post policy statements on the SBN web page on topics important to the community, such as the teaching evolution and the value of conscientious animal research.
- 2) To develop liaisons to umbrella scientific organizations which educate lawmakers about the basic science value and clinical relevance of SBN research.
- 3) To develop a society plan to proactively protect members from "animal rights" targeting.
- 4) To post educational "briefings" on the SBN website that explains members' research in laymen's terms.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS: SOCIETY FOR NEUROSCIENCE (SFN)

Although SBN has no official stance on SFN officers, there are several behavioral neurobiologists running for Councilor positions, including our own Past-President Art Arnold. These individuals share research interests with many of our members and would likely provide leadership in the area of hormones, brain and behavior within the SFN. We encourage our members to participate in this important election.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2008 please go to the SBN website (www.sbn.org) to fill out your renewal notice. In addition, if you have new students, post docs, or colleagues that would benefit from becoming SBN members, please direct them to our website.

FRANK BEACH AWARD NOMINATIONS (updated April 8, 2008)

Nominations are being accepted for the 19th Frank A. Beach Award in Behavioral Neuroendocrinology. This award is meant to recognize a junior faculty member conducting outstanding independent research in the area of Behavioral Neuroendocrinology. Investigators conducting original research in any area of Behavioral Neuroendocrinology may be nominated by any SBN member. Coordination of the nominating process can be done by having the nominating individual work with the nominee's PhD and/or postdoctoral advisor(s). Nominees should meet the following requirements:

- 1) They should not be more than 12 years post receipt of the Ph.D.
- 2) They must hold a tenure-track academic rank of Assistant Professor (or foreign equivalent if outside the United States).
- 3) They should be nominated before a tenure decision has been made.

An ideal candidate would be an Assistant Professor in their third or fourth year, doing high quality, independent, original research in Behavioral Neuroendocrinology. The nominator(s) should submit a single letter of nomination and a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae. Additional materials will not be considered in the selection process. The winner will present a short lecture (about 20 minutes) and receive the award and a honorarium check at the Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology Social at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience on Nov. 15 – 19 in Washington, DC. The text of the lecture will also be published in *Hormones and Behavior*. Nominations are due by **August 1, 2008**, and should be submitted to Elaine Hull, Chair of the Awards Committee at hull@psy.fsu.edu or sent by mail to:

Elaine Hull
Florida State University, Department of Psychology
Eppes Hall

145 Convocation Way,
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1270

REPORT ON AIBS COUNCIL MEETING (May 14, 2008)

SBN is now a member of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS). Barney Schlinger was selected to be the SBN representative to the AIBS council that met on May 14, 2007 in Washington DC. For those unfamiliar with AIBS, it is an umbrella organization that represents about 200 societies, university departments and government agencies that are in some way biological in nature. These groups represent a wide spectrum of biology, many of which have similar interests to those of SBN.

The daylong meeting largely focused on three main topics. AIBS has a Public Policy/Public Affairs office devoted to keeping tabs on government or societal issues related to biology, bringing such issues to the attention of members and developing and implementing strategies to deal with these issues. Their current focus is legislation that seeks to prevent the teaching of evolution and to promote the teaching of alternative viewpoints on the origins of life. Several states have enacted laws similar to this already or have legislation of this type on the books. These are labeled as "Academic Freedom" laws, but the name is simply a guise to promote the teaching of creationism and intelligent design in the biology classroom. If enacted, these laws can require biology teachers to teach these "alternative" viewpoints.

The Public Policy group had previously discussed taking a stance on animal rights extremist groups, but has made little progress. Other AIBS member societies are entangled with these extremist groups, so there is common ground for developing a collective front to assist all the societies.

AIBS is actively engaged in efforts to promote web-based projects to improve open-access biological publishing, ease of access to biological journals and the web-based Encyclopedia of Life, (EOL). The EOL is an ambitious project working to create a single site dedicated to displaying information about and pictures of as many of the planet's species as possible. The database-like site is planned to include the organisms' taxonomy, genetics, behavior and ecology. SBN members that do comparative research should be encouraged to contribute behavioral and neuroendocrine information to the EOL about their species of interest.

SBN members might also consider sending manuscripts to the AIBS journal, *BioScience*. Our society and various fields of research may gain exposure by publishing papers in this journal that has a readership of varied and diverse biologists.

There was considerable discussion about efforts to promote COPUS and the "2009-Year of Science" initiative. COPUS is "a grassroots initiative to unite diverse scientific stakeholders in an effort to improve the general scientific literacy and engagement among the public". There are now 222 participating organizations with a strategic outlook that includes:

- 1) Creating a COPUS Network of all the participating organizations to enhance communication and collaboration across scientific disciplines to achieve the aforementioned goals;
- 2) Integration with the Understanding Science website; and
- 3) Celebrating 2009 as the “Year of Science”

2009 has been selected for a variety of reasons. It is the 200th anniversary of Darwin’s birth, and the 150th anniversary of the publication of “On the Origin of Species.” It is also the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln’s birth, who was responsible for establishing the National Academy of Science. There was great enthusiasm to develop events throughout the year to promote science and science education. COPUS has created “hubs” throughout North America to assist local chapters in the design and implementation of these programs. Several societies plan to have their 2009 annual meetings connected to this theme and SBN might consider a similar focus at our own meeting.

By way of summary, AIBS has functions that are important to our society and to many of our members. The Public Education committee in particular will benefit from a connection with the AIBS public policy/affairs office. If members have comments or questions about AIBS please contact Barney Schlinger at schlinge@lifesci.ucla.edu.