



# SBN

## Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology

March 2010

SBN E-News

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## SBN Announcements

### SBN Treasurer

It is time to elect a new treasurer. Ruth Wood has served the SBN with distinction and we are grateful to her for her service. I thank the treasurer nomination committee (Kim Wallen, Chair; Katherine Wynne-Edwards and Lance Kriegsfeld) for soliciting nominations and assembling the ballot.

The treasurer will serve for a three year term and will join myself, Jeff Blaustein, Emilie Rissman and Chris Wagner as a member of the executive board of the society.

The election will be open from **March 15 - May 15, 2010** on the [SBN website \(www.sbn.org\)](http://www.sbn.org). You will need to use your member login to access the ballot. Your last name is your user name and your member number is your password, unless you have changed it. You will be able to request your password on the site if you have forgotten it. Please **VOTE TODAY!**

The candidates for Treasurer are Bruce S. Cushing and Teresa S. Horton

**Bruce S. Cushing. PhD.** Behavioral Ecology, Michigan State University, postdoctoral studies with Drs. Ernst Reese, University of Hawaii, and Polley McClure, Indiana University. He is an integrated Behavioral Neuroscientist who brings a comparative and evolutionary approach to studying the mechanisms underlying the expression of social behavior. He has held a number of positions including Chair of Biology and the Director of the Integrated Bioscience Program at The University of Akron. He has worked with a variety of species such as spiders, lobsters, scorpions, polar bears, weasels, mice, and voles, to name a few. For the past fifteen years his research has focused on the interaction of steroids, especially estrogen, and the neuropeptides oxytocin and vasopressin, in regulating the expression of prosocial behavior, using the socially monogamous prairie vole as the primary animal model. Major contributions include demonstrating an

organizational effect of oxytocin on estrogen receptor alpha expression during neonatal development and a direct link between estrogen receptor expression and male prosocial behavior. He is currently working to develop the prairie vole as a translational model for studying social deficit disorders and PTSD. He has been active in SBN since the first annual meeting in Baltimore, judging poster sessions and participating in the mentor lunches. As Chairman of the Department of Biology at Akron he managed a budget of more than \$2 million and \$3 million for an NIH Program Project Grant. It is his desire to contribute to SBN by serving as Treasurer.

**Teresa H. Horton, PhD.** BS, Zoology, University of Washington 1979. PhD, Biology, University of Utah 1984, postdoctoral studies with Dr. Neena Schwartz, Northwestern University and Dr. Milton Stetson, University of Delaware. Prior to her current position at Northwestern University as Research Associate Professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Physiology and Director of the Interdisciplinary Committee on Evolutionary Processes, Dr. Horton was a member of the Department of Biological Sciences at Kent State University. She describes herself as an evolutionary physiologist who studies the mechanisms by which the neuroendocrine system integrates information from the body and the environment to regulate energy consumption, expenditure, and reproduction to optimize survival and reproduction, thus her research interests span the broad expanse that defines the Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology. Her current research examines the role of estrogen receptor alpha signaling pathways in the control of steroid negative feedback on GnRH secretion and temperature regulation (a.k.a. hot flashes). Since joining the SBN she has served as Chair of the Education Committee and Chair of the Website Committee. She has served other organizations in the capacity of treasurer and looks forward to the opportunity to serve the SBN in this capacity.

### **Present your research at SBN 2010!**

The 2010 Society of Behavioral Neuroendocrinology Annual Meeting will be held at the Toronto Hilton in Toronto Canada July 18-21. Below are some important dates to keep in mind.

**Abstract submission deadline: Friday April 9, 2010 at NOON CST.**

**Registration and Housing deadline:** The deadline for early registration and to secure conference rates at the Toronto Hilton will be **Friday April 30, 2010 at NOON CST.**

Visit the SBN 2010 Meeting Website for more information:  
<http://www.sbn.org/meetings/2010/>

### **SBN Presidents**

The first President of SBN, **Dr. Art Arnold**, is now the founding Editor-in-Chief of a new journal, *Biology of Sex Differences*, the official journal of the Organization for the Study of Sex Differences (OSSD). This journal is a peer-reviewed, online journal encompassing all aspects of the effects of sex on biology and disease. Further information regarding the journal can be found at <http://www.bsd-journal.com/info/update>.

Dr. Jacques Balthazart, a past-president of the SBN has recently published a book in French entitled "Biologie de l'Homosexualité" (2010 Éditions Mardaga, Wavre, Belgium). In this book he marshalls evidence from animal and human studies indicating that the origins of homosexuality, like any other sexual orientation, involves an interplay of environmental and biological factors, especially neuroendocrine processes. In the Francophone world the prevailing opinion among many intellectuals has been that Homosexuality is largely based on variation in social experience with little or often no significance given to the enduring effects of variation in hormone secretion and its possible effects on brain development. Freudian theories of the origin of homosexuality are still prominent in some circles. Jacques's book has received extensive attention from the Francophone press in Europe (i.e. Switzerland, France, and Belgium). He has also appeared on several prominent TV and radio talk shows in France and Belgium. An English language version of his book will be published in the USA late in 2010.

### **SBN on Facebook**

The SBN Facebook page now has 138 members. Please check it out and consider joining if you haven't already.

### **SBN Media Contest**

This year the Public Education Committee is sponsoring our first-ever MEDIA CONTEST. Selected videos will be posted on the SBN website to be accessed by the public with the goal of improving public science literacy within the topic of behavioral neuroendocrinology.

Graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and faculty are eligible to participate in this contest. SBN membership includes innovative educators, with a flair for creativity and wit. The popularity of the internet creates an extraordinary opportunity for scientists to reach out to the general public. Our target audience for this video contest is children K-12 and their teachers.

The criteria for the contest are: Originality; Visual appeal; Informative; Interesting without trivializing science; Appropriate for K-12. Length should be 3-5 minutes.

SBN is especially interested in these topics for videos: Gender differences; Diversity of hormone effects; Hormones across the lifespan; Hormone effects in various animal models; Clinical cases; Hormonal rhythms; Social bonds.

The winners will be announced at the SBN annual meeting (July 2010). Winning videos will be premiered at the SBN banquet.

Submissions must be received by June 1, 2010 (preferred format is on a DVD). Send to: Lori Flanagan-Cato, Department of Psychology, 3720 Walnut Street, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia PA19104.

## **General Announcements**

### **Summer School of Behavioral Neuroendocrinology**

The Summer School of Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, an intensive one-week course in the basic principles of behavioral neuroendocrinology, is planned (pending funding) for July 10-17, 2010 on the campus of Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Leaders in the field will be brought to Emory from all over the U.S. to discuss topics such as sex differences in behavior and the nervous system, the effects of hormones on brain structures and processes, and the neuroendocrinology of stress. In addition to these discussions there will be workshops on bioinformatics and the analysis of hormone-dependent behaviors. The course is intended for undergraduates (or recent graduates) who are contemplating applying to graduate school. The aim is to give trainees an appreciation for behavioral neuroendocrinology as a discipline, as well as a sense of what it is like to have a career in science. Following the one-week course, trainees will attend the annual meeting of the Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology (SBN) in Toronto, Canada, July 18-22, 2010. Attending the SBN meeting is an excellent way for trainees to find graduate programs and faculty mentors with matching interests.

All travel expenses, room, and board in Atlanta and Toronto will be paid by the program. Students wishing to participate must commit to attending the entire course and SBN meeting (July 10-21, 2010). Note that travel to Canada requires a passport or a driver's license AND birth certificate.

To apply, please visit [www.ssbne.org](http://www.ssbne.org). Application materials include the online application form, a cv, college transcript (unofficial is sufficient), and a 1-2 page statement of career goals and scientific interests. Applicants should arrange for 1-3 letters of recommendation to be sent directly to [ssbne@emory.edu](mailto:ssbne@emory.edu). Members of underrepresented minority groups are especially encouraged to apply.

### **SBN Members Encouraged to Submit Proposals to IBRO**

The official **CALL FOR SYMPOSIA** for the 2011 IBRO meeting in Florence, Italy (July 14-19, 2011) has been posted as of February 1, 2010 in the IBRO website (<http://www.ibro2011.org/>) with a deadline of **April 30, 2010**.

In the next few months, the program committee will be selecting the speakers for the Plenary Lectures, stimulating submission of proposals for Symposia and finally selecting Symposia/Workshops among those which had been submitted.

### **PLENARY LECTURES**

We predict to have 9 Plenary Lectures. As one of them will be a Presidential Lecture (whose speaker will be invited by our President Gaetano Di Chiara) we will have to finally converge on 8 invited speakers. Since the number of lectures is much smaller than the number of Themes you represent, each of you should propose at least one speaker with a topic of interest for a broad audience. I will then make a list of the speakers proposed and we will vote for ranking them. Only at that point, we will officially invite them to participate in the Congress. I just remind you the invited speakers for plenary lectures will be fully waived by the organization (fee+travel+accommodation). **A tentative deadline for your invited speaker suggestions is February 28,**

**2010.** Nominations for Plenary Lectures should be sent directly to Anne Etgen at [anne.etgen@einstein.yu.edu](mailto:anne.etgen@einstein.yu.edu).

### **STIMULATE PROPOSALS FOR SYMPOSIA**

We should also stimulate as many Symposium Proposals as possible, by inviting our colleagues and friends of high scientific value to answer the call and submit proposals, trying to take into account gender and geographic issues that are part of the IBRO mission. The forms to submit a call can be found in the website:

[http://www.ibro2011.org/site/CALL\\_FOR\\_SYMPOSIA.asp](http://www.ibro2011.org/site/CALL_FOR_SYMPOSIA.asp).

Please contact Anne Etgen at [anne.etgen@einstein.yu.edu](mailto:anne.etgen@einstein.yu.edu) for help with developing a proposal on the following theme: **NEUROENDOCRINE & AUTONOMIC REGULATION.**

### **Student Travel Awards**

Grant money for travel to conferences is scarce, but on March 5, 2010, an article in the Science Careers Blog listed a potential funding source: NextBio, a life science company, is offering competitive student travel awards for conference travel. Here's the info:

Applicants must submit a one-page essay telling how NextBio has assisted them in their research and must include a link to the applicant's NextBio profile (which is free to set up). First, second, and third-place winners will receive funding of \$1000, \$500, and \$250 respectively. Grant applications must be submitted to NextBio by March 30, 2010. Recipients will be notified by April 29, 2010.

The original article and instructions to apply can be found at:

<http://blogs.sciencemag.org/sciencecareers/2010/03/student-travel.html>

### **Meeting Announcement: International Congress of Neuroendocrinology**

July 11-15, 2010, Rouen, France

The International Program Organizing Committee, chaired by Gareth Leng, has prepared a stellar **Scientific Program**. The Local Organizing Committee proposes a very exciting **Social Program**. During summer 2010, Rouen, the Capital of Normandy, will be the host of an exceptional **Impressionism Festival**. For details, visit our website <http://icn2010.univ-rouen.fr>.

Five Satellite Symposia will be organized before or after the congress (<http://icn2010.univ-rouen.fr/page.php?page=satellite>).

We are all looking forward to welcoming you in Rouen in July 2010.

## **Job Postings/Training Opportunities**

**Postdoctoral Fellowship in Behavioral Neuroscience, Dept.**

### **of Psychology, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee**

Postdoctoral fellowship available Sept. 1, 2010 to study how aging, ovarian hormones, and environmental enrichment affect memory and hippocampal function in rodents. This work is focused on identifying the molecular mechanisms in the hippocampus through which hormones and enrichment modulate memory in young and aging rodents. Candidates should have a Ph.D. in Neuroscience, Pharmacology, Psychology or related discipline, and should be highly motivated and able to work both independently and as part of a team. Experience in molecular biology/biochemistry, stereotaxic surgery, and behavioral testing especially desirable. Additional information on the lab is available at <http://pantheon.yale.edu/~kf54/>. Please send CV with names of three references and a statement of research interests to Dr. Karyn M. Frick at [karyn.frick@yale.edu](mailto:karyn.frick@yale.edu).

### **Research Assistantship in Behavioral Neuroscience, Dept. of Psychology, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee**

Full-time research assistant available Sept. 1, 2010 to study how aging, ovarian hormones, and environmental enrichment affect memory and hippocampal cell signaling in mice. This work is focused on identifying the molecular mechanisms in the hippocampus through which hormones and enrichment modulate memory in young and aging rodents. The successful candidate will be involved in behavioral testing, stereotaxic surgery, drug infusions, and biochemical assays. Although training will be provided, candidates should have prior research experience with rodents. Candidates should have a bachelor's degree in Psychology, Neurobiology, Biology or related field. Additional information on the lab is available at <http://pantheon.yale.edu/~kf54/>. Please send CV with names of three references to Dr. Karyn M. Frick at [karyn.frick@yale.edu](mailto:karyn.frick@yale.edu).