



SBN

Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology

E-Newsletter

October 2008

Contents:

- SBN Announcements**
- General Announcements**
- AIBS Announcements**
- Job Postings/Training Opportunities**

SBN Announcements

Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology 13th Annual Meeting Last Opportunity Call for Proposals

The thirteenth annual meeting of the Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology will be held at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan, USA, on June 25 - 27, 2009, with a pre-meeting workshop on June 24. Meeting details will soon be posted on the SBN website at <http://www.sbn.org/>.

We now seek proposals for **symposia**, **keynote speakers**, and the **pre-meeting workshop**. We welcome input from SBN members at all career stages – student through professor emeritus. Please email your proposals or questions to the SBN Program Committee chair, Sheri Berenbaum (sberenbaum@psu.edu). Proposals must be received by **October 19, 2008** to receive full consideration from the Committee.

Symposia

The meeting will include six symposia: the Young Investigators Symposium, and five general symposia. We seek proposals for the five general symposia, each of which is expected to feature three or four speakers. A suggested format is a brief introduction or overview by one person (perhaps the symposium organizer), followed by three full length talks. Please provide a title and a brief rationale for why the topic is timely and likely to be of great interest to the SBN membership. Include the names of four or five suggested speakers and their areas of expertise. ***Please do not invite proposed speakers until the symposium is accepted.*** Priority will be given to symposia with broad representation from the international community and to speakers and topics that have not been represented at recent meetings; programs from past SBN meetings are available on the society website (<http://www.sbn.org/>). The Program Committee may recommend combining two proposals and/or substituting speakers.

Keynote Speakers

The meeting will feature two keynote addresses. Please propose outstanding scientists who are also excellent speakers; please include a short description supporting your nominee(s). There is particular interest in having a speaker on evolution in light of the bicentenary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his seminal work, *On the Origin of Species*.

Pre-Meeting Workshop

The workshop is a half-day event on a single topic, held prior to the regular meeting. The format is generally more didactic in style than symposia and may include an introduction to the field, historical perspective, a focus on unresolved problems within a field, emerging issues, etc. Translational topics are especially encouraged. The format is flexible (please be creative) and may include small breakout discussion groups. This is a great opportunity to introduce students to a field and/or to bring together researchers in a single area for extended discussion. In your proposal, please include a title, a rationale, and five or six suggested participants. ***Please do not invite proposed speakers at this time.***

SBN Program Committee:

Sheri Berenbaum, **Chair**

Julie Bakker

Andy Bass

Jeff Blaustein

Alexander Kauffman

Randy Nelson

Inga Neumann

Lauren Ritters

GianCarlo Panzica

Tracy Shors

Stuart Tobet

Gert ter Horst

2008 Beach Award Winner

The Awards Committee is pleased to announce the 2008 winner of the Frank A. Beach Award, Dr. Hans Hofmann. Dr. Hofmann is currently an assistant professor in the Integrative Biology Department and a Fellow of the Institute for Cellular and Molecular Biology at the University of Texas/Austin. He received his PhD in 1997 from the Max-Planck Institute in Seewiesen, Germany, and the Department of Zoology at the University of Leipzig, working with Drs. Franz Huber and Klaus Schildberger. He studies the molecular and endocrine underpinnings of social behavior within an evolutionary framework, and he is one of the founders of behavioral genomics. He uses numerous cellular and molecular techniques, bioinformatics, as well as fieldwork in East Africa, to study African cichlid fishes. His work has been published in top journals of different fields, including *Nature*, *PNAS*, *J Neuroscience*, *J Neurobiology*, *Animal Behavior*, *BMC Genomics*, *Genomics*, *Molecular Ecology*, *ProcRSoc*, *Endocrinology*. In July 2007, he was appointed as an Editor of *Behavioral Ecology*, the leading journal in this field. The Beach Award will be presented at the SBN social at the Society for Neuroscience meeting, Monday, November 17, at 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you there for Dr. Hofmann's stimulating talk and congenial fellowship.

New Behavioral Neuroendocrinology officer at NSF

John Godwin has agreed to serve as a program director in the Neural Systems Cluster of the Integrative Organismal Systems Division of the Biology Directorate (IOS and BIO). This is a rotating position that he will hold for one year (10/08-9/09). Together with Steven deBelle (sdebelle@nsf.gov), he will be handling the modulation portion of the NSC portfolio. Modulation includes primarily the neural and hormonal regulation of complex behaviors, circadian biology, and learning and memory. Interested investigators should contact either Steven or John with questions in these areas. Other program directors in the Neural Systems Cluster include Dr. Martha Flanders (Activation; mflanders@nsf.gov) and Dr. Aixa Alfonso (Organization; aalfonso@nsf.gov). Thanks to John for agreeing to perform this important task.

New Associate Editors for *Hormones and Behavior*

Three new Associate Editors have been selected for *Hormones and Behavior*. They are Jeanne Altman, Ruth Wood and Larry Young. Our thanks to Andy Bass, Peg McCarthy and Kim Wallen for their prior service as Associate Editors.

General Announcements

Endocrine Society Bridge Funding

The Endocrine Society invites applications for its 2009 Bridge Grant Program (**Deadline Dec. 1, 2008**). The program is open to members engaged in basic, clinical, and translational science whose projects have been denied funding by a federal agency or large granting institution. For more information see http://www.endo-society.org/awards/bridge_grants/index.cfm.

The James McKeen Cattell Sabbatical Awards

For over half a century, the James McKeen Cattell Fund has provided support for the science and the application of psychology. The Fund offers a program of supplementary sabbatical awards (James McKeen Cattell Fund Fellowships). These awards supplement the regular sabbatical allowance provided by the recipients' home institutions, to allow an extension of leave-time from one to two semesters. Information on the history of the fund, as well as all application materials, requirements for award eligibility, and a list of previous recipients are available at: <http://www.cattell.duke.edu/> or <http://www.psychologicalscience.org/awards/cattellfund/>

The deadline for receipt of applications for sabbaticals commencing in the 2009-2010 academic year is December 1, 2008.

We are pleased to announce that the Cattell Sabbatical Award Fund has formed an alliance with the Association for Psychological Science (APS). Cattell Sabbatical Awardees are announced annually at the APS Spring Meeting and a profile of each award winner is published in the APS Observer. APS also has a website announcing the award.

AIBS (American Institute of Biological Sciences) Announcements

SBN is a member of AIBS. Periodically, AIBS announcements of interest will be included within our monthly newsletter

a) AIBS Lectures Free Online at <http://www.aibs.org/media-library/> (or buy on DVD) *

The AIBS Media Library contains upwards of 70 plenary lectures by some of the world's most eminent biologists recorded at AIBS Annual meetings from 2000 onwards. You can view synchronized audio, video, slides, and transcripts for free. You can also buy the talks on DVD. Previous years' meetings' topics have included infectious diseases; invasive species; bioethics; evolution & medicine; and biodiversity science, economics, & policy.

b) AIBS COSPONSORS SECOND PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES' FORUM

The date and location for a second forum for the presidential campaigns to share their visions and perspectives on science-related policy issues has been announced. Organized by Scientists and Engineers for America, "Presidential Perspectives on Energy and Innovation," will be held on Tuesday, October 21, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the Kresge Auditorium on the campus of Stanford University (555 Nathan Abbott Way, Stanford, California).

Representing the campaigns:

- Kurt E. Yeager, Co-chair, McCain California Energy Security Coalition
- Daniel M. Kammen, Senior Adviser on Energy and Environmental Policy for Barack Obama

The forum may also be viewed live online at <http://www.sharp.sefora.org/candidate-forum/>

Questions will be accepted from the audience, or in advance at Questions@SEforA.org

c) CONGRESS EXTENDS FUNDING, SCIENCE AGENCIES FLAT

On 30 September, President Bush signed into law the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act (H.R. 2638, P.L. 110-329), a stopgap measure that funds the federal government through 6 March 2009 or until the enactment of regular appropriations bills. The continuing resolution (CR) funds the majority of the federal government at FY 2008 appropriations levels, with exceptions for relief and recovery from natural disasters. The National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy (DOE), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) received an additional \$400 million under a supplemental FY 2008 spending bill that passed in June, yet did not receive that additional funding in the CR. NIH is facing a budget that is just one percent over the FY 2007 amount, due to the elimination of \$150 million received in the supplemental. According to a Science news article, due to the uncertainty of how much NIH will receive for the remainder of FY 2009, the agency will likely award fund fewer grant applications in December.

d) NOW IN THE AIBS BOOKSTORE: "COMMUNICATING SCIENCE: A PRIMER FOR WORKING WITH THE MEDIA"

A new publication from AIBS, "Communicating Science: A Primer for Working with the Media," by Holly Menninger and Robert Gropp in the Public Policy Office, will prepare scientists for successful and effective media interviews.

Recognizing that many scientists are reluctant to engage in media outreach, "Communicating Science" outlines compelling reasons for scientists to interact with the media and describes key differences between journalism and science that may not be apparent to practicing scientists. Step-by-step, Menninger and Gropp walk scientists through the entire interview process - from appropriate questions to ask when a reporter calls to practical advice for looking and sounding one's best on-air or on-camera. The information and advice in "Communicating Science" is presented in eight easy-to-read chapters that provide vital

information for scientists new to media outreach, as well as a quick refresher for seasoned experts - an ideal text for a graduate course on science communication or a professional development course for students and faculty. The primer's authors speak from their own experiences as PhD scientists in the biological sciences with years of experience in media outreach. "Communicating Science: A Primer for Working with the Media" is available now at <http://www.aibs.org/bookstore/>

Job Postings/Training Opportunities

Graduate Student Opening in the van Anders Social Neuroendocrinology Lab at the University of Michigan

Dr. Sari van Anders is looking for one or more graduate students to join the new Social Neuroendocrinology Lab at the University of Michigan for September 2009. Students from psychology, neuroscience, biology, or diverse backgrounds including anthropology and gender studies are encouraged to apply. Research is conducted with healthy adults, so opportunities for clinical students are limited. Research in the lab addresses links between steroid hormones and both sexuality and partnering/pair bonding. A major focus is social modulation of testosterone with attention to gender and diverse populations. Alongside these topics, future directions include attention to immune function, steroid receptors, and neural imaging. This is a human lab, so interested students should have experience working with human participants (or be enthusiastic about learning).

Interested students should contact:

Sari M. van Anders, PhD, Assistant Professor
Departments of Psychology & Women's Studies
University of Michigan

E-Mail: smva@umich.edu

Website: <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~smva/index.html>