

## SBN "e-letter" for September, 2007

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### Letter from the President

August 24, 2007

Dear SBN Membership,

I recently received a note from Toni Scarpa and Diane Stassi (at the NIH Center for Scientific Review). They are asking for help from scientific societies in their quest to compile a list of potential study section members. They are interested in identifying experienced senior scientists who have received peer-reviewed grants from NIH, or other federal agencies, to serve on panels. The commitment is for 4 years of service. As you are all aware it is extremely important that we have good Behavioral Neuroendocrinologists on study sections. I am pleased that NIH is taking this step to include our expertise and encourage you to volunteer. Please send me your name, official address, recent funding history, area of expertise, and indicate which study section you feel you could best serve. I thank you in advance for serving the public good and our field in this manner.

Best wishes,

Emilie

### Announcements (5)

- 1) **Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology  
12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Call for Proposals**

The twelfth annual meeting of the Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology will be held in Groningen, The Netherlands (Gert ter Horst, local organizer) from July 9th (pre-meeting workshop) through July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Meeting details will soon be posted on the SBN website ([www.sbn.org](http://www.sbn.org)).

We are now seeking proposals for **symposia, keynote speakers**, and the **pre-meeting workshop**. We welcome input from SBN members at all career stages – student through professor emeritus. You can email your proposals or questions to the SBN Program Committee chair, Jeffrey D. Blaustein ([Blaustein@cns.umass.edu](mailto:Blaustein@cns.umass.edu)). **Proposals must be received by October 6, 2007 to receive full consideration from the Committee.**

## **Symposia**

The meeting will include six symposia: the Young Investigators Symposium, the Presidential Symposium and four general symposia. We are seeking proposals for the four 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. We will give priority to symposia with broad representation from the international community. We encourage speakers and topics that have not been represented at recent meetings; you may check the programs of the last several SBN meetings to avoid duplications (available at [www.sbn.org](http://www.sbn.org)). When reviewing symposia suggestions the Program Committee may recommend combining two proposals and/or substituting speakers. Ideas for creative formats for the symposia are welcome. *Please do not invite speakers at this time.*

## **Keynote Speakers**

The meeting will feature two keynote addresses. Please send us your ideas for outstanding scientists who are also great speakers, and include a few words about why you think your nominee(s) would be appropriate. Since the 2008 meeting will be held in Europe, it is a particularly good time to include scholars from the international community in the program.

## **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 (you are invited to be creative) and has in the past included time for breaking up into small groups for discussion. 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:**

Julie Bakker	Jeffrey Blaustein, <b>Chair</b>	Andy Bass
Nancy Forger	Randy Nelson	Inga Neumann
Tracy Shors	Gert ter Horst	Stuart Tobet
Zuoxin Wang	Ruth Wood	Catherine Woolley

**2) The 2009 SBN Annual Meeting** will be held at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan from June 24-27.

### **3) Call for candidates for Editor of *Hormones and Behavior***

Candidates are sought for the editorship of *Hormones and Behavior*, the official journal of the Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology. The Editor should have an outstanding research record and a broad vision for the field consistent with the goals of the Society. To ensure a smooth transition, candidates should be willing to work in parallel with the current editor prior to assuming their duties in January 2009. Please send a statement of interest, including an outline of your qualifications including a CV, or suggestions for candidates along with a brief explanation of why they should be considered, to the Chair of the search committee, Michael Baum, before November 15, 2007.

Michael Baum (Chair) ([baum@bu.edu](mailto:baum@bu.edu))  
Barry Everitt

Greg Ball      Anne Etgen  
Ellen Ketterson

#### **4) Letter from NIH**

Dear Colleague:

As you probably know, NIH is undertaking a comprehensive look at our entire system of research support, including the peer review system, in order to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness. We are inviting you to participate in this discussion.

NIH has formed the Peer Review Working Group of the Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD), one of whose functions is to seek advice from the scientific community on all aspects of the peer review process. As one approach, the Working Group is hosting three 4-hour consultation meetings:

Chicago, September 12, 2007, at the Fairmont Princess;  
New York City, October 8, 2007, at the Embassy Suites;  
San Francisco, October 25, 2007, at the Renaissance Parc 55.

We hope that you will join us at one of these meetings; a common agenda for all three is enclosed. To attend, please register at <http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov/>

In one segment of the meeting, participants will make brief presentations (less than 5 min each) offering specific strategies or tactics for enhancing NIH peer review and research support. In particular, we are seeking bold, unconventional approaches to perceived issues. Our goal is ambitious but important: craft a system with a minimum of bureaucratic burden that identifies and funds the best scientists to do the best science. If you wish to make a presentation, please notify Drs. Vesna Kutlesic ([kutlesicv@od.nih.gov](mailto:kutlesicv@od.nih.gov)) and/or Lawrence Tabak ([tabakl@mail.nih.gov](mailto:tabakl@mail.nih.gov)) by COB Friday, August 31, with a brief (<250 words) summary of your idea.

Depending on the response, it may be necessary for us to select a subset of speakers, attempting to avoid redundancy and remain within time constraints. We shall notify those who will be speaking, and will post all germane written statements on the website. Moreover, as shown on the agenda, most of the meeting will be devoted to open discussion, so there will be substantial opportunity for direct input at the meeting. These consultation meetings will be excellent opportunities for you to advise NIH on ways to meet the challenges of identifying and supporting outstanding, innovative science in the 21st century in the face of a sharply increased load on the peer review system. Should you be unable to attend, however, we hope you will contribute written comments on the peer review process through the Request for Information (RFI) link on the website above, or directly at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-07-074.html>

We look forward to your suggestions, and hope to see you at one of the consultation meetings. Should you have questions, please contact Dr. Vesna Kutlesic at the NIH at 301-435-3670 ([kutlesicv@od.nih.gov](mailto:kutlesicv@od.nih.gov)).

Best regards,  
Lawrence Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D.,  
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, NIH  
Co-Chair, Peer Review Working Group of the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director

Keith R. Yamamoto, Ph.D.,  
University of California-San Francisco  
Co-Chair, Peer Review Working Group of the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director

## **5) Meeting Announcement**

The Organization for the Study of Sex Differences ([www.ossdweb.org](http://www.ossdweb.org)) is convening its second annual scientific meeting from June 4-6, 2008 in New Orleans, LA. For details see the following link: [http://www.ossdweb.org/meeting\\_2008.html](http://www.ossdweb.org/meeting_2008.html)

## **Job Postings (2)**

**1) The University of Texas, Department of Psychology, invites applications for a tenure-track faculty position in Behavioral Neuroscience to begin Fall 2008.** We are especially interested in outstanding candidates who will foster interactions among sub disciplines within the Department. Successful candidates will be expected to teach undergraduate and graduate courses, develop a strong research program, direct graduate research, produce demonstrated evidence of successful research productivity, exhibit a commitment to service, and support and enhance a diverse learning and work environment. In addition to the above, other candidates in Cognition and Perception, Clinical, Evolutionary Psychology, and Social and Personality may also be considered. Review of applications will begin immediately.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The expected employment date is September 1, 2008. Position funding is pending budgetary approval. Applicants should at a minimum have PhD in hand or expected by August 2008, documented evidence of teaching excellence, and a clearly defined research agenda.

### **Applicant Instructions:**

Applications should include letter of interest, three letters of recommendation, current curriculum vita, representative scholarly publications, and evidence/potential for excellence in teaching.

Applications should be addressed to: Faculty Search Committee, Department of Psychology MC: A8000, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78712. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply.

Department/Unit URL: <http://www.psy.utexas.edu/>

Background check conducted on applicant selected.

The University of Texas at Austin is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

## **2) LABORATORY TECHNICIAN / RESEARCH SPECIALIST**

Full-time position in Behavioral Neuroendocrinology lab at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Our research interests include the genetic and neuroendocrine bases of social behavior, hormonal modulation of sensory processing, and the environmental regulation of reproductive function. The position involves techniques such as DNA extraction, primer design, PCR, in situ hybridization, immunohistochemistry, light microscopy, behavioral analysis, and working with small animals, including wild songbirds. Some fieldwork is possible but not required. **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** Bachelor's degree in a scientific field and two years of research experience, or equivalent combination of experience, education, and training. Please contact Dr. Donna Maney, [dmaney@emory.edu](mailto:dmaney@emory.edu) or 404-727-7470.