



# SBN

## Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology

September 2009

SBN E-News

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## SBN Announcements

### Frank Beach Award

The SBN awards committee is pleased to announce Frances Anne Champagne as the recipient of the 2009 Frank Beach Award in Behavioral Endocrinology. Dr. Champagne is Assistant Professor of Psychology at Columbia University, a position she has held since 2006. She obtained her PhD in 2004 from McGill University working with Michael Meaney. She then moved to the University of Cambridge where she did a postdoctoral fellowship with Barry Keverne. Dr. Champagne emerged as the top candidate out of an outstanding group of eleven nominees for this year's Beach award. She has a distinguished early career that will undoubtedly impact behavioral neuroendocrinology for years to come. Her primary research focus, investigating epigenetic mechanisms and transgenerational effects on variance in maternal behavior, was viewed by the awards committee as cutting edge. Her productivity was seen as already outstanding. As stated in her nomination letter, "Frances Champagne exemplifies the Beach tradition of delving as far into brain mechanisms as current technology allows, even while maintaining a strict behavioral focus." It is a pleasure to acknowledge her accomplishments and her promise of future achievement by naming her as this year's choice for the award. The Beach Award will be presented at the Behavioral Neuroendocrinology Social at the Society for Neuroscience meeting, Monday, October 19, at 6:45 p.m. We hope to see you there for Dr. Champagne's stimulating talk.

### 14th Annual Meeting Call for Proposals

The fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology will be held at the Toronto Hilton in Toronto, Canada, July 18 -21, 2010, with a pre-meeting workshop on July 18. Meeting details will be posted on the SBN website ([www.sbn.org](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, Catherine Woolley ([cwoolley@northwestern.edu](mailto:cwoolley@northwestern.edu)). Proposals must be received by Friday, October 9, 2008 to receive full consideration from the Committee.

### *Symposia*

The meeting will include six symposia: the Young Investigators Symposium, a Presidential Symposium, and four general symposia. We seek 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. Each proposal should include a title, a brief rationale for why the topic is timely and likely to be of great interest to the SBN membership, and the names of four or five suggested speakers along with 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 ([www.sbn.org](http://www.sbn.org)). Please note that the Program

Committee may recommend combining proposals and/or substituting speakers.

#### *Keynote Speakers*

The meeting will feature three keynote addresses. Please propose outstanding scientists who are also excellent speakers, and include a short description in support of your nominee(s). As with symposia, we encourage keynote speaker nominations from the international community.

#### *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 and may include small breakout discussion groups; please be creative. This is a great opportunity to introduce trainees to a field and/or to bring together researchers in a single area for extended discussion. Proposals should include a title, a rationale, and five or six suggested participants. Please do not invite proposed speakers at this time.

Thank you in advance for your interest in the 2010 SBN Annual Meeting!

#### *SBN Program Committee*

Julie Bakker, Sheri Berenbaum, Jeff Blaustein, Juan Dominguez, Alexander Kauffman, Ashley Monks, Inga Neumann, GianCarlo Panzica, Lauren Ritters, Rae Silver, Stuart Tobet, Catherine Woolley, Chair

#### **SBN Policy Statements**

The SBN Public Education Committee has drafted several policy statements to be posted on the SBN webpage. We would appreciate suggestions/comments from the general membership before they are posted.

#### **POLICY STATEMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ANIMALS IN BEHAVIORAL NEUROENDOCRINE RESEARCH**

The Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology, as a professional society for basic and clinical researchers in neuroscience, endorses and supports the appropriate and responsible use of animals as experimental subjects. Knowledge generated by neuroscience research on animals has led to important advances in the understanding of diseases and disorders that affect the nervous system and in the development of better treatments that reduce suffering in humans and animals. This knowledge also makes a critical contribution to our understanding of ourselves as a unique and uniquely complex. An added benefit from these studies has been to highlight that the animals themselves are interesting and complex on their own right and well deserving of our study. Continued progress in understanding how the brain works and further advances in treating and curing disorders of the nervous system require investigation of complex functions at all levels in the living nervous system. Such treatments are used often then to care for animals as well.

Research must be done on animal subjects only when no adequate alternative exists. The Society takes the position that scientists have an obligation to contribute to this progress through responsible and humane research on animals.

The U.S. Public Health Service's Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (PHS policy) and the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (the Guide) describe general policies and procedures designed to ensure the humane and appropriate use of live vertebrate animals in all forms of biomedical research. The Society finds the policies and procedures set forth in the PHS policy and the Guide to be both necessary and sufficient to ensure a high standard of animal care and use. All Society members are expected to conduct their animal research in compliance with this policy. Members are required to verify that they have done so when submitting abstracts for presentation at the Annual Meeting or manuscripts for publication in *Hormones and Behavior*.

#### **POLICY STATEMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH FUNDING**

A half century of sustained investment by the United States Federal Government in biomedical research has dramatically advanced the health and improved the lives of the American people.

However, with the continued decline in real dollars allocated to biomedical research each year by the federal government, the opportunities to discover life-changing cures and treatments will drastically decrease.

The Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology remains deeply concerned about the future of biomedical research in the United States without sustained support from the federal government. The Society strongly supports the continued increase in federal funding for biomedical research in order to provide the additional resources needed to enable American scientists to address the burgeoning scientific opportunities and new health challenges that continue to confront us.

#### POLICY STATEMENT ON K-12 TEACHING OF EVOLUTION

National business leaders, politicians, and scientists have joined together in recognition of our collective need to reinvigorate science education and our nation's innovation enterprise. Various reports have warned that students in the United States are not being adequately educated in science and mathematics. International assessments of student performance in science continue to show that U.S. students lag behind their international peers. Corporate leaders continue to express concern about their ability to hire scientifically and technically skilled U.S. citizens. In contrast, our economic competitors have recognized that scientific research is the key to their domestic well being and are making significant investments in education.

The Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology maintains that discounting and ignoring scientific evidence that one finds counter to their personal belief system is an individual choice. However, it is unacceptable to incorporate religious beliefs into the science curriculum, whether sanctioned by the state or practiced by individual teachers. It is the responsibility of science educators at all levels to stay well informed and to educate their students on the major principles across all disciplines of science. Evolution is the unifying principle of modern biology. Within biological science, the reality of evolution is not controversial. Thus, literacy in 21st century biological science includes the fundamental concept of evolution.

#### POLICY STATEMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF BASIC RESEARCH

Of the research conducted in the field of behavioral neuroendocrinology, a substantial portion does not immediately result in marketable products for the health care industry. How, then, does such research benefit society? To answer this question, it is important to understand the goals of basic biological research. You may not be aware that the majority of biological research conducted in the U.S. is not focused on any one particular application, such as a treatment for a human disease.

Rather, its goal is to expand knowledge and understanding of basic underlying principles. A large part of the mission of the National Institutes of Health is "to expand the knowledge base in medical and associated sciences in order to enhance the Nation's economic well-being and ensure a continued high return on the public investment in research". This is the type of research that most behavioral endocrinologists conduct. An understanding of basic human biology is essential in order to develop treatments for disorders and disease.

Imagine if your mechanic did not have a basic understanding of how a car is supposed to work. The same is true in medicine - in order to develop treatments, we need to begin with a solid foundation of knowledge of how the body works when it is functioning properly.

In most cases, this foundation of knowledge comes from conducting basic research with a variety of model organisms, or species that are well-suited for the in-depth study of a particular question or system.

For example, Hodgkin and Huxley, scientists who studied how nerves conduct impulses, chose to work with squid because they have large neurons that were easy to study. As a result, most of what we know about the conduction of nerve impulses in humans originally came from research on squid. Similarly, most of what we know about genes and pattern development in humans originally came from work on fruit flies. More recent research has confirmed that the mechanisms that operate in these models hold true for humans and other mammals. Behavioral endocrinologists work with a wide variety of model organisms including rats, mice, songbirds, sheep, fish, and frogs.

Many of the most valuable diagnostic tools and treatments for human disease have their origins in

basic research. For example, early 20th century scientists developed a technique called nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) in order to understand the molecular structure of chemicals. These scientists did not at the time realize the implications for human health, yet their technology led directly to magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) which is now used world-wide for the diagnosis of human diseases and injuries. Similarly, the 20th century study of the structure of DNA led directly to highly effective cancer treatments, even though the scientists who made those early discoveries did not have such treatments in mind at the time.

Although many of us are not studying humans or human disease directly, the results of our research will and already do contribute toward an understanding of a wide variety of human disorders.

#### **SBN Website**

The website committee is soliciting ideas about the SBN website. We want the SBN website to be the best source of information as possible. If there are any functions that you would like to see on the society website, please send your suggestions to Randy Nelson at [rnelson@osu.edu](mailto:rnelson@osu.edu). We are always soliciting announcements about meetings, faculty jobs, postdoc positions, technical positions, graduate programs, suggested links of interest, etc. for posting on the website, as well as any newsworthy information about members of the society, including pictures, or events of interest to members of the society. Posting will of course depend on the volume and nature of the material submitted. The website committee also requests that SBN committee chairs send us announcements pertaining to their committees for posting. The website committee is working to get an interactive forum online. Soon, we will need volunteers to beta test the forum. If interested please contact a member of the website committee.

## General Announcements

#### **Teaching Tools**

Science Nation is a new video series showcasing scientific discoveries that impact human lives, created for the National Science Foundation by former CNN senior science producers. Tune in to watch these two-minute and five-minute programs to learn more about breakthroughs in scientific research on topics such as extremophiles, artificial retinas, Greenland ice cores, Emperor penguins, biofuels, and atom-thin nanofibers. Episodes are released every Monday and can be found at [www.nsf.gov/news/specialreports/sciencenation/index.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/news/specialreports/sciencenation/index.jsp)

#### **Commentary on Animal Rights Terrorists**

A very informative article on the actions of animal rights groups can be found in the September 16 issue of Journal of Neuroscience. The article entitled Animal Rights Terrorists: What Every Neuroscientist Should Know is written by Jeffrey H. Kordower, the Chairman of the Committee for the Use of Animals in Research for the Society for Neuroscience. The article can be found at <http://www.jneurosci.org/cgi/content/full/29/37/11419>

## Job Postings/Training Opportunities

#### **Graduate Training Opportunity at University of Michigan**

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 diverse and interdisciplinary Social Neuroendocrinology Lab at the University of Michigan for September 2010. Students from psychology, neuroscience, biology, anthropology, or gender/women's studies are encouraged to apply. We study social modulation of testosterone with attention to gender/sex and sexual diversity, and focus on social behavioral contexts linked to sexuality, partnering/pair bonding, and nurturance. For example, we study how sexual activity modulates hormones and health parameters, with relevance for sexual health and disease transmission. We also study how changes in close relationships affect hormones, to understand how intimacy affects physiology and health.

Alongside these topics, future directions include fMRI and measurement of steroid receptors. This is a human lab, so 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  
Neuroscience Program University of Michigan

Email: [smva@umich.edu](mailto:smva@umich.edu)

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

### **Postdoctoral Position at University of Massachusetts, Amherst**

POSTDOCTORAL POSITION IN SOCIAL OR CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY OR NEUROSCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST. The postdoctoral scholar will work on an NIH-funded longitudinal study of newlywed couples that examines interactions among social, clinical and endocrine factors. The post-doc will have the opportunity to receive training in each of these areas through the project, the UMass Department of Psychology, the UMass Neuroscience and Behavior Program, and related research centers (Center for Neuroendocrine Studies, <http://www.umass.edu/cns>, and the Center for Research on Families, <http://www.umass.edu/family>). Primary roles of the postdoctoral scholar will be data analysis and preparation of manuscripts for publication, collaborating with the PIs to develop grant applications that build upon findings from the parent grant, and working collaboratively with other members of the research team. The ideal candidate will possess a Ph.D. in social/personality psychology, clinical psychology, or a closely related field of psychology or neuroscience, a record of published research, strong statistical skills, and expertise in one or more of the substantive foci of the project (close relationships, analyses of social interactions, endocrine functioning, and internalizing psychopathology). Experience with multi-level modeling and longitudinal data analyses is preferred, but we will consider candidates who have the ability to quickly obtain this training at UMass within the first few months of the position. The position will begin January 2010 and continue through July 2011. Applicants should submit a CV, statement of research interests, and three letters of recommendation to Professor Paula Pietromonaco, Department of Psychology, 135 Hicks Way, Tobin Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003, [monaco@psych.umass.edu](mailto:monaco@psych.umass.edu). Applicants are encouraged to submit their materials via email. Review of applications will commence October 15, 2009 and continue until the position is filled. The University of Massachusetts is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and members of minority groups are encouraged to apply.

### **Tenure track position at the University of British Columbia**

The Department of Psychology at the University of British Columbia ([www.psych.ubc.ca](http://www.psych.ubc.ca)) invites applications for a tenure-track position in Behavioural neuroscience, which will begin 1 July 2010. This position is budgeted for the Assistant Professor level. Candidates must have a PhD before commencing the position.

We are seeking someone who can add to the departmental strength in animal-based behavioural neuroscience. (Primate facilities are not available.) We are seeking individuals with strong research records appropriate to a research-oriented doctoral program, who have strong commitments to teaching and research supervision of undergraduate and graduate students. The successful candidate will be expected to maintain a program of effective teaching, graduate supervision, scholarly research leading to publication, and service.

The starting salary for the position will be commensurate with experience. The University of British Columbia hires based on merit and is committed to employment equity. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority. This position is subject to final budgetary approval.

Applicants for the position should send a curriculum vitae, samples of their scholarly work, statements of their research and teaching interests, evidence of their teaching abilities and effectiveness (course outlines, student evaluations, etc.), and at least three confidential letters of recommendation to:

Chair, Faculty Search Committee

Department of Psychology  
University of British Columbia  
2136 West Mall  
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z4

The closing date for applications is: 16 October 2009.

**Tenure track position at University of Colorado at Boulder**

Specialization - Expertise in integrative physiology, which is defined as the study of biological function by linking observations from molecules to whole organisms. Applicants must demonstrate that they add synergy to existing strengths in the department.

Rank - Tenure-track position at the level of assistant professor. Start Date- August 16, 2010

Qualifications - Applicants must have an earned doctorate and have completed postdoctoral training. Previous research by the Applicant must be published in premier scientific journals, including physiology journals. Evidence of an ability to obtain extramural grant support and some teaching experience is preferred. Individuals will be expected to teach one of the core courses for the undergraduate degree in integrative physiology.

Responsibilities - (1) to establish an independent research program that is supported by awards from extramural agencies; (2) to contribute to the teaching mission of the undergraduate program; (3) to provide teaching and mentoring for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows; and (4) to perform service for the department, university, and profession.

General Information - The faculty roster for the Department of Integrative Physiology includes 23 tenured and tenure-eligible faculty and 9 instructors. The department offers the BA, MS, and PhD degrees in Integrative Physiology. The undergraduate and graduate programs comprise about 1400 and 60 students, respectively. For more details on the department and the university, visit our website (<http://www.colorado.edu/intphys>). The Boulder campus is one of three in the University of Colorado system, and is approximately 35 miles from the Health Sciences Center in Denver.

Application Procedure - A description of the position can be found at the website [www.colorado.edu/ArtsSciences/Jobs](http://www.colorado.edu/ArtsSciences/Jobs). Applications are only accepted electronically at <https://www.jobsatcu.com>, posting #807546. The following must be attached for your application to be complete: (1) Cover letter stating qualifications and interests in integrative physiology, research goals, an explanation of how your expertise adds synergy to existing strengths in the department, and teaching qualifications; (2) Current curriculum vita; (3) Three original research articles; and, (4) List of three references (please include email address for each referee).

Review of the applications will begin on November 1, 2009, and will continue until a candidate is identified. Additional information can be obtained by phone (303-492-3122), fax (303-492-4009), or email ([marsha.cook@colorado.edu](mailto:marsha.cook@colorado.edu)). The University of Colorado at Boulder is committed to diversity and equality in education and employment.

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