NeuroTransmitter Issue 05  Autumn 2009

Neuroscience Graduate Studies Program

Professional Development

Great Lakes Vision Research Conference – November 21 in Columbus, OH
American Society of Cell Biology Meeting – December 5-9 in San Diego, CA

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Upcoming Events

• Graduate & Professional Schools Visitation Day - November 2

• Neuroscience Poster Day - November 3
   Location: Biomedical Research Tower
   Time: 3-5 pm

• Neuroscience Seminars (12-1 pm in 105 BRT, unless otherwise noted)
   November 9 – Valina Dawson, PhD, Professor, Johns Hopkins University
   “PAR, A New Signal Important in Neuronal Survival and Neurotoxicity”
   Host: Dr. Randy Nelson
   December 14 – Christian Hansel, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Chicago
   “Cellular mechanisms of synaptic and non-synaptic plasticity in cerebellar circuits”
   Host: Drs. John Oberdick and Mike Zhu

Director’s Chair

The new academic year has begun and the NGSP Program is off to a great start! Our newest graduate students are off and running, taking classes and performing lab rotations. Please give the new students a warm Buckeye welcome when you have the chance. Our more senior graduate students have had a busy and productive quarter, with several papers being published and multiple students winning awards. The NGSP committee elected two Co-Directors, John Oberdick and Dana McTigue, who are excited about working together and with the rest of the committee to ensure the NGSP program continues along an upward trajectory. We would also like to welcome Drs. Bahseen Kaur and Jonathan Godbout who recently joined the NGSP committee.

This upcoming academic year we are looking forward to the first Neuroscience Poster Day as well as several excellent seminar speakers who will be visiting as part of the Neuroscience Signature Program seminar series. Have a fun and productive fall!

2009-2010 Incoming Student Preview

The NGSP program welcomes 12 new students:

- Brant Jarrett – Brant graduated from Brigham Young Univ. with a BS and MS in Psychology. Brant is interested in the relationship between stress and health specifically how stress affects the immune system.
- Jason Nease – Jason received a BS from Biology from the Univ. of Louisiana – Lafayette and an MS in Biophysics from Ohio State. He is interested in systems neuroscience and is currently in Dr. Joe Travers lab.
- Dylan Nielson – Dylan is an MD/PhD student who graduates summa cum laude from Clemson Univ. He is interested in researching the mechanism by which biological processes shape motivation and alter behavior.
- Puneet Sodhi – Puneet graduated with Honors earning a BS in Neuroscience and Psychology from the Univ. of Michigan. Her research interests are Neurogenesis, molecular and cellular neuroscience.
- Christopher Hansen – Christopher graduated from Allegheny College with a BS in Neuroscience and Psychology. Christopher is interested in exploring areas of pharmacological treatment involving cholinergic regulation in attentive and cognitive function.
- Katelin Hansen – Katelin received a BS in Biology and a BA in Music from the Univ. of Richmond. Katelin is interested in neurodegenerative diseases, specifically Alzheimer’s disease. She was awarded a two-year fellowship from the OSU Graduate School.
- Thomas Hirschauer – Thomas is an MD/PhD student who graduated summa cum laude from the Univ. of Dayton with a BS in Biology and Physics. He is interested in Behavioral, Computational, and Systems Neuroscience.
During the summer quarter Martha Garland, Vice Provost and Dean of Enrollment Services and Undergraduate Education, announced that the SEI instrument will be available only in electronic form.

According to the SEI website, the following factors were the driving force behind making the online switch:

- Data Equivalency
- Security
- Accuracy and Timeliness
- Comment boxes
- Production Time
- Cost
- Instructional time
- Standard distribution

Online SEI forms will be accessible through Buckeye Link and Carmen beginning Friday, November 20. A general message will be posted on Carmen starting November 20 reminding students to complete their SEIs. Additionally, messages will be sent via email to students and instructors notifying them of the online SEI forms. Once the SEI forms are activated there are three events that will deactivate the online forms:

1. Once a student submits an evaluation for a particular class number/Instructor combination, the student cannot access the form again.
2. Posting grades for students immediately deactivates their access to online SEIs.
3. The end date for autumn 2009 classes is Friday, December 4. No autumn 2009 SEI forms will be active after 11:59 pm on December 4.

Completing the Online SEI – Students
1. Go to Buckeye Link
2. Click on My Student Center
3. Then click on My Class Schedule
4. Be sure you are looking at your schedule for the current quarter. You must be officially enrolled in a particular instructor’s course to access his or her SEI form.
5. Locate the instructor you wish to rate, and click on the Evaluation button in that row. No evaluation button? Either forms haven’t been sent via email to students and instructors notifying them of the online SEI forms or one of the SEI forms is missing for that course.
6. Provide your ratings on the 10 SEI items, along with any comments you wish to provide.
7. When you are finished evaluating the instructor, click on the Submit button.

Obtaining Course SEIs – Instructors
1. Visit your SEI Faculty Center. If you are unfamiliar with the Faculty Center, go to Buckeye Link and click on the link titled “Navigating Faculty Center” for an overview.
2. Look at your teaching schedule for the current quarter. If the black and white SEI icon is missing for a course, you will not receive SEIs for that course. If you wish to have SEIs for a course that is missing the SEI icon, you must contact your department’s scheduling staff to update your information. The SEI staff cannot assist with the course scheduling system.
3. No later than the sixth Friday of the quarter, click on each SEI icon that appears.
4. Contact the SEI staff early in the quarter if you wish to have SEIs for an ineligible class, or if you wish to opt out of SEIs for an eligible class.

For more information visit: ureg.ohio-state.edu/ourweb/scansurvey/sei.html

Student Publications
4. Ghai K, Zelnick, C. Fischer, AJ. Serotonin released from amine neurons is scavenged and degraded in bipolar neurons in the retina Journal of Neuroscience 2009 Jul 8 (Epub ahead of print).

Announcements
- Congratulations to Soluman Culver and his wife Rachael Bongini on the birth of their new daughter Amalie Elise Bongini-Culver who was born on August 4, 2009.
- Payroll deduction of non-tuition related fees begins in October for students on a Graduate Associate or Graduate Fellow appointment. Remember to check your pay stubs to verify that the deductions are accurate.

Stuart Mangel, Dana McTigue Randy Nelson
Kate Karolina – Student Rep
Bart Naughton – Student Rep
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For more information visit: ureg.ohio-state.edu/ourweb/scansurvey/sei.html

Source: SEI website and information. The SEI staff cannot assist with the course scheduling system.

We anticipate this transition making a significant contribution toward the University’s “green” initiative.

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Tracy Bedrosian – Tracy graduated from the Univ. of Michigan with a BS in Neuroscience. She is interested in pursuing research in behavioral neuroendocrinology.

Ashley Fen – Ashley double-majored in Zoology and Biochemistry at Colorado State Univ. She is interested in circadian cycles, hypothalamic control of internal processes, and immune responses relating to neurology. She was awarded a one-year fellowship from the OSU Graduate School.

Balthanie Golden – Balthanie received a BS degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is interested in molecular and cellular neuroscience.

Christopher Hansen – Christopher graduated from Allegheny College with a BS in Neuroscience and Psychology. Christopher is interested in exploring areas of pharmacological treatment involving cholinergic regulation in attentive and cognitive function.

Katelin Hansen – Katelin received a BS in Biology and a BA in Music from the Univ. of Richmond. Katelin is interested in neurodegenerative diseases, specifically Alzheimer’s disease. She was awarded a two-year fellowship from the OSU Graduate School.

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Puneet Sodhi – Puneet graduated with Honors earning a BS in Neuroscience from the Univ. of Michigan. Her research interests are Neurogenesis, Neuro-oncology, Memory, and Neural Stem Cell Research. Puneet was awarded a one-year fellowship from the OSU Graduate School.

Ryan Steele – Ryan received a BS degree in Biological Science from the Univ. of Missouri Rolla. He is interested in central nervous system repair, specifically dealing with neurodegenerative diseases.

James Walton – James graduated summa cum laude with a BS in Biology from the Univ. of Southern Maine. He worked as a Research Associate in Randy Nelson’s lab prior to entering the program. James was awarded a one-year fellowship from the OSU Graduate School.