

Spring 2015

SNIPs

An Official Newsletter from the
Society on NeuroImmune Pharmacology



Report from Past President, Howard Fox
2014 Meeting in New Orleans
20th Annual SNIP Scientific Conference
InterContinental Hotel
New Orleans, Louisiana
March 26-29, 2014

What a milestone – our 20th meeting. And as with the others, it was extraordinarily successful. A record number of attendees, approaching 250, joined us, and as the norm we had a great turnout from SNIP

members, other scientists, and a bevy of trainees. This couldn't have happened without the support of all of SNIP, and especially the Meetings Chair, Dr. Rick Noel of the Ponce School of Medicine and Health Sciences, and our local host, Dr. Patricia Molina of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center. All members of the meeting committee, local organizing committee, session chairs, and innumerable other volunteers combined to make this a memorable occasion.

We were honored with three fascinating Plenary talks: Dr. Matt Rizzo (University of Iowa) speaking on “Drugs, Brains and Cars: Bench to Roadside,” Dr. Barbara Mason (Scripps Research Institute) on “Gabapentin

as a Novel Treatment for Alcohol Dependence” and Richard Miller (Northwestern University) on “Chemokine receptor signaling regulates neural stem cell function in the developing and adult nervous system.” The Opendra “Bill” Narayan lecturer, Dr. Brian Wigdahl (Drexel University) continued the



outstanding tradition of showing excellence in neurovirology research in his work on HIV. Our banquet speaker, Dr. George Koob (Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, NIH) capped off the meeting with a fascinating presentation on alcohol, systems activated in rewards and substance abuse, and the future goals of the NIAAA.

Through this year's meeting the society continued to foster interdisciplinary research bridging the fields of Immunology, Pharmacology, and Neuroscience, along with a special emphasis on how drugs of abuse and infectious diseases, such as AIDS, interact and modulate the neuroimmune axis. In addition to the Plenary Talks and featured speakers, major symposia were organized around contemporary topics promoting our mission, with stimulating presentations. These sessions were on 1) Exosomes and Neuroimmune Interactions, 2) Neurogenesis and Repair, Drug Abuse, 3) NeuroImmunity HIV/AIDS: Perspectives from Addiction Neuropharmacologists, 4) Neuropathic pain/Neuroimmune Interactions in Pain Modulation, 5) Pharmacology & Signaling of Drugs of Abuse, HIV, cART, drugs and the brain, 6) Inflammation: At the Core of Substance Abuse-Disease Spectrum Interaction.

In addition, as per our tradition, trainees and early career investigators were featured and highly supported. The Early Career Investigator Symposium chose the exceptional submitted abstracts for platform presentations. A poster session highlighted the other excellent abstracts from this group, and a second poster session from the other





investigators. Numerous awards were given to early career investigators, including many travel awards and meeting waivers, prizes and certificates. The travel awards were supported by a NIDA funded R13 DA023184 awarded to Dr. Sulie Chang, Seton Hall University.

Additional training/mentoring/networking opportunities for trainees was provided by the annual SNIP Meet-the-Mentors Lunch and the NIH grant writing workshop. Many NIH staff members participated in this, and I would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Jag Khalsa of NIDA for his long-term commitment to the field and advising new investigators in career paths. This was recognized by the society this year in his being the recipient of the first SNIP Lifetime Service Award. Others receiving awards at this year's meeting were Dr. Pravin Singhal (Hofstra North Shore LIJ Medical School) who received the Herman Friedman's Founder Award, Dr. Guy Cabral (Virginia Commonwealth University) the Distinguished Service Award, Drs. Madhavan Nair (FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine) and Michal Toborek (University of Miami Miller School of Medicine) the Wybran Award, and Dr. Sanjay Maggirwar (University of Rochester Medical Center) the Outstanding Service and Support Award. Numerous other generous donations were received in support of the meeting and I would like to thank them and all of the sponsors of SNIP throughout our existence for helping us to become the vibrant society serving our members, science and society.



Howard Fox, Past President of SNIP

Welcome to the 21st Annual SNIP Conference ***Miami, Florida*** ***April 22-25, 2015***

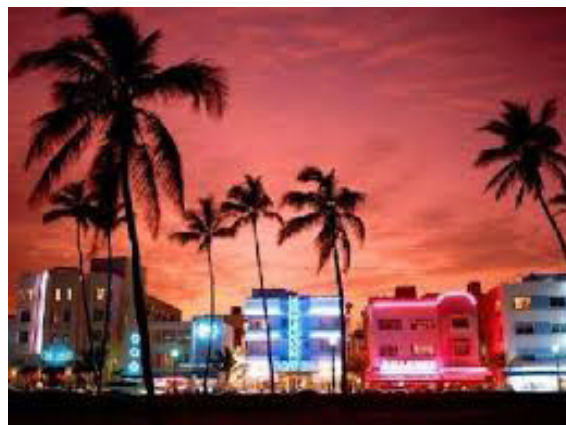
It's my pleasure to welcome you on the behalf of SNIP Executive Committee and SNIP Council to 21st meeting of the Society of NeuroImmune Pharmacology, to be held in Miami from April 22-25. This is the annual meeting that brings the group of investigators together covering the areas of pharmacology, neuroimmunology and neuropathogenesis. This meeting, like any other previous meetings, will continue to foster the interaction between established and junior investigators. I am proud to report that we continue to support graduate students and post-docs. It has been long-standing tradition to nurture the next generation of scientists.

This year we have conferred 49 travel awards to student and post-doctoral scientists. Further we will have an exclusive session devoted to students and post-docs and the 6 best abstracts have been selected for oral presentation. We will also have a "Meet the Mentors" lunch where students and post-docs will have the opportunity to interact with established investigators in groups of 6-8 (4-6 students and 2 established scientists). This year the Bill Narayan Memorial lecture will be delivered by Dr. Rouse whereas Drs. Hanson and Hope will deliver other 2 plenary lectures. There will be 6 other symposia of which 5 were selected by the meetings committee from a list of impressive submissions by SNIP members. The 6th symposium

will include presentation selected from general abstracts.

I take this opportunity to thank the entire executive committee and council for their hard work. However, Drs. Noel and Kaul (Meetings committee), Nair and Toborek (Local organizing committee), and Santosh Kumar (ECITA Chair) deserve special mention for their hard work. On behalf of society, I would also like to thank NIDA for a R-13 grant (PI-Dr. Chang), Miami Center for AIDS research (Dr. Pahwa), Society for Personalized Nanomedicine (Dr. Nair), Institute of NeuroImmune Pharmacology (Dr. Nair), University of North Dakota (Dr. Wynne) and Ponce Research Institute (Dr. Thompson) for financial contribution. I must say that society would not be where it is without uncompromised support from all of you and we are proud to have such a strong group of dedicated members. Thank you and enjoy the meeting!

Anil Kumar, President of SNIP



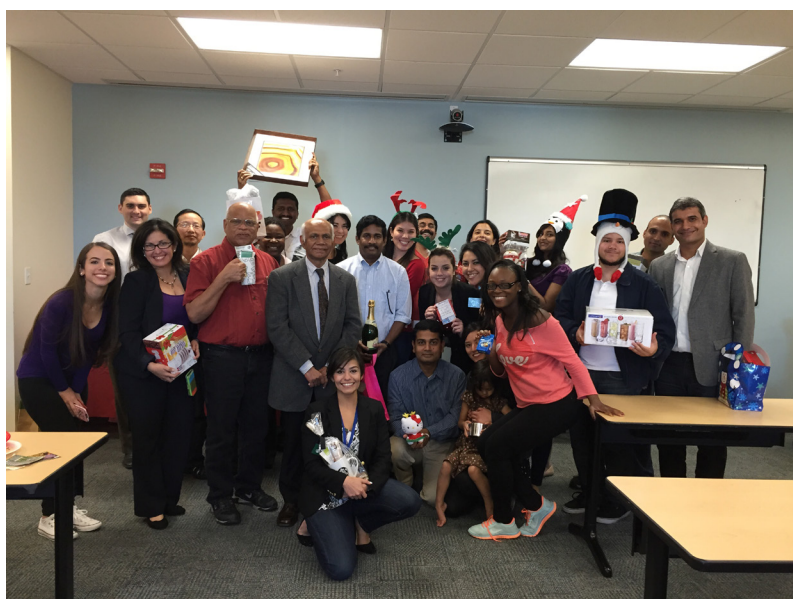
Local Organizing Committee for 21st SNIP Conference: Institute of NeuroImmune Pharmacology at Florida University

The Institute of NeuroImmune Pharmacology (INIP) at Florida International University is a multidisciplinary institute focusing on translational research and training on the interaction of the human immune system, substance

use/abuse and HIV infection as well as drug targeting.

INIP's research aims to develop and sustain a program of translational research and training in drug use/abuse and HIV. It serves to provide academic leadership in the field of Neuroimmunology, foster translational research in drug use/abuse and HIV, and facilitate bench to bedside research in Neuroimmunology.

Further, INIP serves to promote extramural funding-based research, training and instrumentation in Neuroimmunology and most importantly, promote collaboration between the institute and community, academic, industrial, and governmental institutions at the regional, national, and international levels in the areas of drug use/abuse, HIV and Neuroimmunology.



SNIP Leadership:

Executive Committee

Anil Kumar, Ph.D., President
Howard S. Fox, M.D., Ph.D., Past President
Sanjay B. Maggirwar, M.B.A, Ph.D., President Elect
Michal Toborek, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary
Rosemarie Booze, Ph.D., Interim Treasurer

Councilors

Anil Kumar, Ph.D.
Howard S. Fox, M.D., Ph.D.
Sanjay B. Maggirwar, M.B.A, Ph.D.
Michal Toborek, M.D., Ph.D. 2014
Richard J. Noel Jr., Ph.D., 2013-2016
Pravin Singhal, M.D., 2013-2016
Santosh Kumar, Ph.D., 2012-2015
Jialin Zheng, M.D., 2014-2017
Kurt F. Hauser, Ph.D., 2013-2016, At-large
Marcus Kaul, Ph.D., 2013-2016 At-large
WenZhe Ho, M.D., M.P.H., 2013-2016 At-large
Madhavan Nair, Ph.D., 2014-2017 At-large
Rosemarie Booze, Ph.D., 2014-2017 At-large
Christoph Stein, M.D., 2013-2016, At-large, Non-US
Sarman Singh, M.D., 2013-2016, At-large, Non-US
Howard E. Gendelman, M.D., Ex Officio, Editor-In-Chief, JNIP
Maureen H. Richards, Ph.D., 2014-2017 Early Stage
Councilor At-large

***This newsletter was published on April 20, 2015
by Jialin Zheng, SNIP Communications Committee
Chair, and Jaclyn Ostronic from the University of
Nebraska Medical Center.***

Early Career Investigator Travel Award Winners 2015

In order to promote interest in the field of NeuroImmune Pharmacology and to recognize the excellent work being done by Early Career Investigators in this field, the Society provides Early Career Investigator Travel Awards (ECITA) to graduate students and post-doctorate trainees (within 5 years of Ph.D.) working with a SNIP member and seeking funds to attend the annual conference of the Society on NeuroImmune Pharmacology. For the 2015 SNIP Scientific Conference, a total of 59 abstracts were submitted. Of which 34 graduate students and 17 post-doctorate fellows were awarded. The ECITA awards were made in 4 categories: \$750+registration waiver, \$500+registration waiver, only registration waiver, and "certificate of excellence". The certificate of excellence was given to the 3rd candidate of the same PI. In addition, the top 3 from each graduate student and post-doctorate fellow category were selected for symposium presentation. It is worth noting that this is the highest number of awards given to Early Career Investigators, which suggests a growing trend of the society. The ECITA committee thanks the SNIP leadership for this.

ECITA Awardees	Mentor	University
Pre-doctoral		
Addai, AB	Dash, CV	Meharry Medical College, TN
Ande, A	Kumar, S	University of Missouri – Kansas City
Bertrand, SJ	Booze, RM	University of South Carolina – Columbia
Cai, Y	Bush, S	University of Nebraska - Medical Center
Cao, L	Kumar, A	University of Missouri – Kansas City
Cisneros, IE	Ghorpade, A	Univ. of North Texas – Health Science Center
Cranston, MC	Booze, RM	University of South Carolina – Columbia
Elliott, DM	Nagarkatti, M	University of South Carolina – Columbia
Fernandes, N	Potula, R	Temple University School of Medicine
Gangwani, MR	Kumar, A	University of Missouri – Kansas City
Ginwala, R	Jain, P	Drexel University College of Medicine
Harrison, EB	Fox, H	University of Nebraska – Medical Center
Hill, JD	Persidsky, Y	Temple University School of Medicine
Jaureguiberry-Bravo	Berman, JW	Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Jones, ME	Lysle, DT	University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
Kadri, F	Peruzzi, F	Virginia Commonwealth University
Li, W	Gendelman, HE	University of Nebraska – Medical Center
Lopez, SN	Boukli, NM	Universidad Central del Caribe
Ma, TC	Ho, WZ	Temple University School of Medicine
Martínez-Orengo, N	Noel, R	Ponce Health Sciences University
Maubert, ME	Nonnemacher, MR	Drexel University College of Medicine
McTish, E	Jain, P	Drexel University College of Medicine
Merkel, SF	Ramirez, SH	Temple University School of Medicine
Nash, BS	Meucci, O	Drexel University College of Medicine
Nookala, A	Kumar, A	University of Missouri-Kansas City
Rodriguez-Valentin, M	Boukli, NM	Universidad Central del Caribe
Rozzi, SJ	Mocchetti, I	Georgetown University

Sagar, D	Jain, P	Drexel University College of Medicine
Sido, JM	Nagarkatti, M	University of South Carolina - Columbia
Sullivan, NT	Wigdahl, B	Drexel University College of Medicine
Wang, F	Roy, S	University of Minnesota
Wang, Y	Zheng, J	University of Nebraska - Medical Center
Wu, B	Zheng, J	University of Nebraska - Medical Center
Xu, E	Xiong, H	University of Nebraska – Medical Center

Post-Doctoral

Andrews, AM	Ramirez, SH	Temple University School of Medicine
Bam, M	Nagarkatti, M	University of South Carolina
Dalvi, P	Dhillon, NK	University of Kansas Medical center
Dave, S	Hu, XT	Rush University Medical Center
Hui, L	Geiger, JD	University of North Dakota
Jayant, RD	Nair, M	Florida International University
Meng, J	Roy, S	University of Minnesota, St. Paul
Midde, NM	Kumar, S	University of Tenn - Health Science Center
Moidunny, S	Roy, S	University of Minnesota, St. Paul
Moran, LM	Booze/Mactutus	University of South Carolina
Pandey, RP	Ghorpade, A	Univ. of North Texas – Health Science Center
Periyasamy, P	Buch, S	University of Nebraska – Medical Center
Rao, PSS	Kumar, S	University of Tenn - Health Science Center
Shah, A	Kumar, A	University of Missouri-Kansas City
Sharma, U	Roy, S	University of Minnesota, St. Paul
Soliman, ML	Chen, X	University of North Dakota
Zhou, Y	Ho, WZ	Temple University School of Medicine

The SNIP recognizes the service of ECITA committee members (Drs. Kumar (Chair), Nonnemacher, Rivera, Datta, Haorah, Thangavel, Ramirez, Booze, Wang, Tang, Royal, Meléndez, Jain, Khan, Lan, Richards, Singh, Agudelo, Dash, Silverstein, Amedee, and El-Hage), and thanks them for their wonderful job in reviewing the ECITA applications.

SNIP MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the SNIP is to:

Promote research and serve as a reliable source of information in the pharmacology, immunology, and neuroscience of the neuroimmune axis; foster exchange of information and ideas on neuroimmune pharmacology by holding an annual SNIP Conference, maintaining a Society website (s-nip.org), and supporting and promotion the Society journal, the Journal of Neuroimmune Pharmacology (JNIP); increase understanding of the etiology, prevention, and treatment of neuroimmune disorders; define the neuroimmunomodulatory properties of neuroimmune innervations and regeneration, and of endogenous and exogenous neuroimmunomodulatory substances, such as hormones, neuropeptides, neurotransmitters, cytokines, chemokines, and substances of abuse; promote translational research and a better understanding of the role played by infectious diseases, such as AIDS, and of inflammation and stress in disorders of the neuroimmune axis; encourage financial support from funding agencies, industry, and the SNIP membership to effect the SNIP mission.