



SNIPs

A newsletter of the Society for Neuroimmune Pharmacology

Annual Report and Next Steps

by *Olimpia Meucci*

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Please [click here](#) before 8/1/2018 for a short survey about the future of the Communications Committee agenda

I am very glad to report that the SNIP Communications Committee was very productive this past year, and I would like to open this newsletter by thanking the committee members for their enthusiastic participation and valuable contribution. As some of you may know, the vast majority of our efforts so far went into the restructuring and revamping of the Society's website as well as other activities related to its branding (e.g. new logo, letterhead, newsletter, s-nip email). If you have not done so already, I encourage you to fully explore the new website and take a look at its new features, including - among other things - a Members only section with full access to the JNIP, and a section of the News corner dedicated to updates from the NIH. The main goal for this second year is to enhance SNIP's visibility and presence both nationally and globally. To this end, we plan to expand our social network and share the SNIP banner with interested sister societies and other relevant organizations. The other major goal of the website remains to support the SNIP members by providing up to date and useful information related to the society's activities and the field of Neuroimmune Pharmacology. Therefore, we would like to hear from you. **Please take a few minutes to send us your feedback, using the link to the short survey shown in the side bar.** We have several new ideas and are interested in your suggestions. For instance, we are currently working on a pilot for a membership database that would serve both as a general source of information for SNIP officers and the council as well as a starting point for new collaborations between new and seasoned SNIP members. However, we would like to give priority to initiatives that matter the most to the community. Additionally, please let us know via the survey (e.g. add a note in response to question 8) if you would like to receive email notifications when the site is updated or when new content is added to it. Thanks in advance for your input. I hope you find the website and this newsletter of value. Enjoy the summer!

2018 SNIP/ISNV joint meeting summary

by *Peter Gaskill*

Communications committee

Olimpia Meucci (Chair)
Lena Al-Harhi
Shilpa Buch
Marco Consentino
Peter Gaskill
Maria Cecilia Marcondes
Richard Noel
Michael Nonnemacher



The 2018 SNIP meeting in Chicago, held at the Swissotel overlooking Lake Michigan, was both an incredible success and completely unique in the history of SNIP, as it was the first ever joint meeting with the International Symposium on Neurovirology. While the idea for a joint meeting has been around for many years, this meeting was set in motion more than a year prior at the 2016 ISNV meeting in Toronto. Over the course of the next 18 months, under the leadership of Drs. Jonathan Geiger, Lynn Pulliam, Marcus Kaul and Igor Koralnick, a small group of board members from both societies worked to make

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2018 SNIP/ISNV joint meeting summary:

Chicago meeting by the numbers

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the joint meeting a reality. This group included Ms. Sondra Weiss and Drs. Jennifer Gordon, Sanjay Maggirwar, Michael Nonnemacher, Peter Gaskill and Fred Krebs.

As you hopefully saw in Chicago, the hard work paid off and resulted in the 2018 SNIP / ISNV meeting in Chicago being the largest, most successful meeting that SNIP has ever held. There were more than 400 registered attendees at this conference. These registrants included scientists from more than 110 different institutions located in more than 31 states and territories, from a total of 10 different countries. More than 160 of the participants were trainees. There was an enormous amount of NIH participation in the meeting, with representatives from 8 different NIH institutes participating in a number of different aspects of the meeting. This meeting received far and away the greatest amount of sponsorship either society had ever seen, raising more than \$100,000 from more than 30 institutions, centers, individuals and pharmaceutical companies. And although both SNIP and ISNV have raised money from pharmaceutical companies in the past, for the first time this year we held an industry sponsored lecture and display, as Perkin-Elmer hosted a breakfast symposium discussing their unique alpha technology and the many ways it could be applied to assays focused on neurovirology and neuroimmunology. This event, along with the Perkin-Elmer



Carla Shatz, presents the 2018 Adarsh Kumar Memorial Lecture.

display and poster were extremely well received and will hopefully pave the way for similar events in the future.

Scientifically, the meeting was incredible, featuring a total of 20 symposia, with joint ISNV-SNIP symposia in the mornings and parallel sessions hosted by both societies meeting in the afternoons. These included a number of keynote lectures as well as two separate Early Career Investigator symposia with a total of 14 10-minute talks highlighting trainee research from both societies. This format offered tremendous variety of topics, covering all aspects of neurovirology and neuroimmune pharmacology. Among the many highlights were an exciting NIH satellite event on the Role of Astrocytes as a CNS Reservoir for HIV, a fascinating symposium on the Intersection of Immune Function and Neurodegeneration in Parkinson's and Alzheimer's and Dr. Shatz's lecture about the role of pruning and plasticity in development and disease. There were several other keynote lectures as well, including the Audrey Gilden Lectureship featuring Robert Fujinami, the Richard Johnson Lectureship featuring Janice Clements and the Bill Narayan Lectureship featuring J. Victor Garcia-Martinez. In addition to the symposia, the conference poster session, held on Thursday the 12th, was the largest we have ever held, with more than 320 posters. It was extremely well attended, both for the incredible science and

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SNIP 2018 Perkin Elmer sponsored Breakfast Chicago, IL, USA

Committees for the 2018 Meeting

SNIP committee

Marcus Kaul (Chair)
Peter J Gaskill (Vice Chair)
Richard J Noel Jr. (Past Chair)
T. Celeste Napier
Nazira El-Hage
Marisela Agudelo

Kelly Jordan-Sciutto
Cecilia Marcondes
Gretchen Neigh
Italo Mocchetti
Eliseo Eugenin

ISNV committee

Lynn Pulliam (Co-Chair)
Brian Wigdahl (Co-Chair)
Sulie Chang
Jennifer Gordon

Steven Jacobson
Kamel Khalili
Avindra Nath
Michael Nonnemacher

Local organizing committee

Lena Al-Harhi (Co-Chair) Igor Koralnik (Co-Chair)
Edward Campbell Eileen Martin Richard Miller

2018 SNIP/ISNV joint meeting summary:

DISC event a huge success

by Kelly Jordan-Sciutto

As a part of the 2018 ISNV/SNIP joint meeting the Diversity and Inclusion SNIP Committee (DISC) had several events in partnership with the ISNV Junior Scientists Committee and the SNIP Early Career Investigator Committee. DISC was established in 2016 by Dr. Michal Torborek and the executive committee of SNIP to expand and highlight diversity within our society and the wider scientific community. Dr. Kelly Jordan-Sciutto, from the University of Pennsylvania, continued to chair this committee whose members are Drs. Lena Al-Harhi, Joan Berman, Rosemarie Booze, Shilpa Buch, Peter Gaskill, Jonathan Geiger, Cecilia Marcondes, Loyda Melendez, Olimpia Meucci, Servio Ramirez, and Kimberly Williams.



Rick McGee, Associate Dean and Professor at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine presents the DISC lecture on Inclusive mentoring.

During the joint meeting with ISNV, DISC sponsored two events to promote DISC's mission. The first event was the DISC Mentoring and Networking event, which was held in collaboration with the ISNV Junior Scientists Committee, after the opening reception on April 11th, 2018 in the Swissotel. This event was sponsored by Dr. Jonathan Geiger and the Alumni Association for the University of North Dakota. At this event, we hosted a speaker, Dr. Rick McGee, Associate Dean for Faculty Recruitment and Professional Development and Professor of Medicine at Northwestern University. He provided an overview of the best mentoring practices, resources on mentoring, and the importance of culturally aware mentoring. Following Dr. McGee's talk, we held a one-hour networking event, giving members from different institutions and career levels an



Mentoring and Networking Event sponsored by the Diversity and Inclusion SNIP Committee and the ISNV Junior Scientists Committee.

opportunity to get to know each other. The event was very successful, with over 100 people staying for the entire evening.

The second event hosted by DISC during the meeting was the second Adarsh Kumar Memorial Lecture, which was the plenary lecture on Friday April 13th. This lecture was sponsored by DISC using a generous donation from Dr. Mahendra Kumar. The speaker for this lecture was Dr. Carla Shatz, SAPP Family Provostial Professor, David Starr Jordan Director, Stanford BIO-X Director and Professor of Biology & Neurobiology at Stanford University. Dr. Shatz gave a fascinating lecture on her life time of research examining mechanisms of circuit formation in the CNS and the role of neuro-immune interactions in this process. The lecture was extremely well received and highlighted not only Dr. Shatz's exceptional scientific accomplishments, but also the value of women in the academy. Overall the DISC events were a tremendous success, and we look forward to continuing to include these types of events and themes in our society for years to come.



DISC networking group activity.

If you have any suggestions about new content, would like to offer ideas or material, or volunteer for a special SNIP-related task, please email me at omeucci@s-nip.org. Feedback and questions are always welcome. See you in Portland!

2018 SNIP/ISNV Joint Meeting Summary:

ECITA travel award winners

by Gurudutt Pendyala

An “**Early Career Investigator**” is defined as: a full-time student in a graduate program (M.S., M.P.H., Ph.D., or M.D. degree), a full-time participant in a medical residency or medical fellowship program, or a full-time post-doctoral fellow within five years of receiving the doctoral degree (Ph.D.) or within two years of completing residency training (M.D.). For the 2018 SNIP/ISNV meeting there were 73 abstracts submitted and considered for travel awards. Of these abstracts, 53 were from pre-doctoral students and 20 were from post-doctoral fellows. The ECITA committee scored the abstracts considering: A) scientific merit, B) clarity of writing of the submitted abstract, and C) the Early Career Investigator’s NIH biosketch as a predictor of future career potential. Each category was scored on a 1 to 5 scale with 1 being the best. Each abstract was reviewed by 5 members of the ECITA committee. The predoctoral awards received 6 full travel awards (\$750 and registration waivers) and 14 received partial awards (\$450 plus registration waiver). The post-doctoral awards received 6 full travel awards.



2018 ECITA committee

Marisela Agudelo, Chair
 Angela Amedee
 Ankit Shah
 Charles Mactutus
 Habibeh Khoshbouei
 James Haorah
 Loyda M Meléndez
 Michael Nonnemacher
 Nazira El-Hage
 Prasun K Datta
 Sabita Roy
 Samikkannu Thangavel
 Santosh Kumar
 Servio Ramirez
 Shao-Jun Tang
 Vanessa Rivera-Amill
 Vir Singh
 Walter Royal
 Xu Wang
 Yunlong Huang

Predocs

Student	Mentor	Institution
Fatma Abdalla	Hari K. Bhat/Anil Kumar	School of Pharmacy, University of Missouri Kansas City
Daniel Ojeda-Juarez	Marcus Kaul	University of California, Riverside, School of Medicine
Hang Su	Howard Gendelman	University of Nebraska Medical Center
Alexander Allen	Brian Wigdahl	Drexel University College of Medicine
Pamela Quizon	Matthew Strauss	College of Pharmacy, University of South Carolina
Janice Lozada-Delgado	Valerie Wojna/Yamil Gerena	University of Puerto Rico
Benjamin Patters	Santosh Kumar	University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Amanda Blaker	Bryan Yamamoto	University of Toledo College of Medicine
Jocelyn Rivera-Ortiz	Richard Noel	Ponce Health Sciences University
Venkata Viswanadh Edara	Anuja Ghorpade	University of North Texas Health Science Center
Gordon Hill	Olimpia Meucci	Drexel University College of Medicine
Wenfei Huang	Sulie Chang	Seton Hall University
Jennifer Marcy	Vanessa Pirrone	Drexel University College of Medicine
Bianca Cotto	Dianne Langford	Lewis Katz School of Medicine Temple University
Kelly Wilson	Johnny J. He	University of North Texas Health Science Center
Kiran Madugula	Pooja Jain	Drexel University College of Medicine
Andrew Speidell	Italo Mocchetti	Georgetown University Medical Center
Biao Zhang	Wen-Zhe Ho	Temple University Lewis Katz School of Medicine
Jamie Marino	Michael Nonnemacher	Drexel University College of Medicine
Omar Velez Lopez	Loyda Melendez Aponte	University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus

Postdocs

Applicant	Mentor/COI	Institution
Amrita Datta Chaudhuri	Norman Haughey	Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Susmita Sil	Shilpa Buch	University of Nebraska Medical Center
Ana Leda	Michael Toborek	Miller School of Medicine, University of Miami
Kimberly Williams	Kelly Jordan-Sciotto	School of Dental Medicine, University of Pennsylvania
Roosbeh Nikkhah-Moshaie	Madhavan Nair	Florida International University, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine
Midhun Thomas	Harris Gelbard/Santhi Gorantla	University of Nebraska Medical Center

2018 SNIP meeting summary: continued from page 2

the wonderful food, and showed off the amazing variety of research being conducted by these two societies. Finally, the NIH held an extremely well-attended session on their changing HIV agenda covering the current priorities and grant review protocols in use for HIV associated applications to multiple NIH institutes.



Janice Clements present at the NIMH/NIH premeeting on Astrocyte as a HIV CNS reservoir.

In addition to the scientific content, this meeting featured a number of additional events focused on trainees. These included a networking event just following the opening reception, the Mentorship luncheon on the 11th and the JNIP/JNV Editorial Recruitment session on the 12th. The networking event, which was a great success, was sponsored by the Diversity and Inclusion SNIP Committee and was a follow-up to the tremendously popular event that was held at a similar time at the last meeting. It was again organized by Dr. Kelly Jordan-Sciutto, and featured a short talk from Dr. Rick McGee on Inclusive Mentoring and a series of 20-minute meet-and-greet sessions at different tables that enabled mentors and mentees to get to know each other. The Mentorship luncheon modeled the traditional SNIP Meet the Mentors luncheon, and was tremendously successful, with attendance by more than 150 mentors and mentees. It was sponsored by the young investigator committees from both societies and organized by Drs. Marisela Agudelo, Ruth Brack-Werner and Jay Rappaport. This luncheon featured tables focused on a



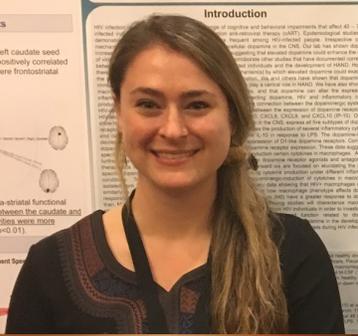
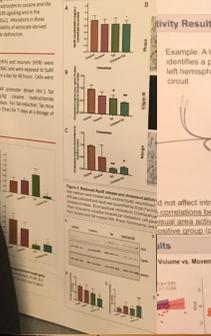
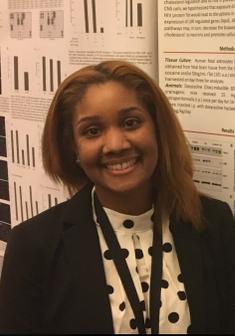
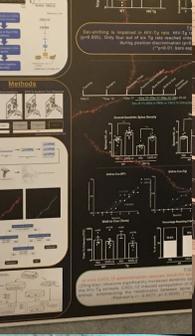
Robin Taylor presents at the Student and Postdoctoral JNIP/JNV Recruitments for Reviews and Editorial Board Assignments

a number of different topics, enabling trainees to get advice and insight on a variety of different subjects during the meal. The JNIP/JNV Editorial Recruitment was a new event this year and was organized by Drs. Howard Gendelman and Kamel Khalili. This interactive session gave students and post-docs insight into journal review and provided the unique opportunity to potentially join the editorial board for JNIP or JNV as a junior member for 2 years.

As always, the meeting closed with an awards banquet, held the evening of Friday the 13th. Although there was no formal speaker this year, the dinner was lively and entertaining, as both Drs. Igor Koralnick and Johnny He kept the mood joyful with jokes and stories as they presented the society awards. This year, SNIP presented four awards and ISNV presented their Pioneer award, which is presented in recognition of outstanding individual achievement in the field of neurovirology. The ISNV pioneer in neurovirology went to Dr. Peter Kennedy, from the University of Glasgow, who has made seminal discoveries in research on Varicella Zoster virus, and in the role of neurotropic viruses in HIV infection. The first SNIP award, the Wybran award, is the Society's highest award, and went to Dr. Avindra Nath who has been a leader in the study of the neuropathogenesis of HIV infection. This award is named in honor of Dr. Joseph Wybran, who made seminal contributions to the nascent science of neuroimmunopharmacology. This award is given to a scientist for extraordinary contributions to the advancement of the fields of neuroimmunology, drugs of abuse, and immunity to infections. The Herman Friedman Founders Award went to Dr. Madhavan Nair, and the Lifetime Achievement Award went to Dr. Mahendra Kumar. The last, but certainly not least, SNIP award was a well-deserved distinguished service award to Dr. Woody "Yu" Lin from NIDA. The banquet closed with recognition of all the early career travel awardees from societies, announcements about the locations for the SNIP and ISNV meeting locations for 2019, and an abundance of enthusiasm for another of these combined meetings in the future. For the current information on the upcoming SNIP meeting, please go to www.s-nip.org.



2018 Wybran Award received by Dr. Avindra Nath (center) presented by the new SNIP president Dr. Johnny He (right). ISNV president, Dr. Igor Koralnik (left), joins in congratulating Dr. Nath.





SNIP 25th Annual Meeting
April 10 – 13, 2019
Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront