

Spring 2017

SNIPs

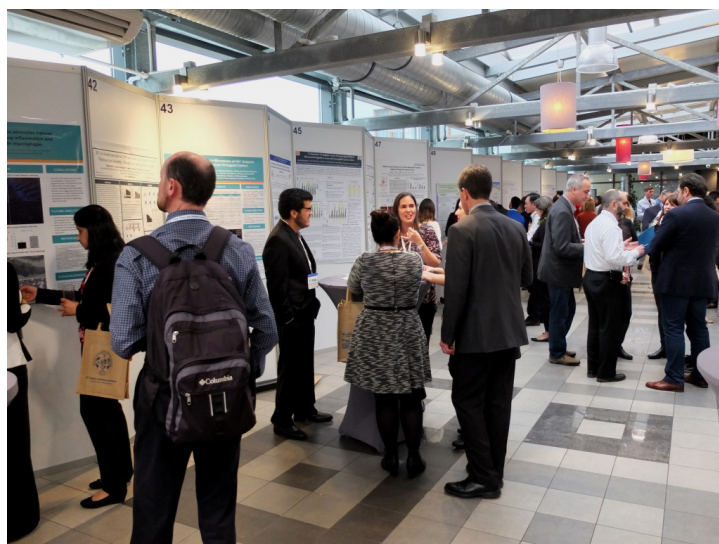
An Official Newsletter from the
Society on NeuroImmune Pharmacology



Report on the 2016 Meeting in Krakow 22nd Annual SNIP Scientific Conference Hotel Galaxy April 6-9, 2016

We had a very successful 22nd Annual Conference of the Society at the Hotel Galaxy in Krakow, Poland. There were over 180 registered participants, and nearly participants 20 who did not register in advance. The program brought together basic, translational, and clinical scientists to share their research and discuss the relevance of their findings. There were 116 posters, 32 talks, 5 plenary-levels, 7 symposia, and 19 trainees in oral presentation format. Though the majority of attendees came from universities in the United States, a sizeable number also came from European institutions.





Welcome to the 23rd Annual SNIP Conference Philadelphia, PA, USA on March 29 - April 1, 2017

On behalf of the organizers and the president, Dr. Michal Toborek, the chair of the meetings committee welcomes you to the 23rd Scientific Conference of the Society on Neuroimmune Pharmacology (SNIP). The meeting will take place in the historic city of Philadelphia, in the state of Pennsylvania (PA), USA, from March 29 to April 1, 2017. The conference will present a selection of the latest and most advanced research in the intersecting areas of neuroscience, immunology, pharmacology and its translational aspects.

Drug and alcohol abuse as well as HIV infection and AIDS continue to be an important part of the scientific program, but this year also brings new scientific and organizational features in order to engage new contributors from the spectrum of the scientific community and to continue the formation of international connections of our society. First, SNIP collaborates with Philadelphia's City-Wide NeuroAIDS Group sponsored by the Comprehensive NeuroAIDS Center (CNAC) at Temple University to convene prior to the opening event of the 23rd scientific conference a satellite symposium focusing on HIV in the CNS. Second, SNIP formed the Diversity and Inclusion SNIP Committee (DISC) in July 2016 which will be hosting the 1st Annual DISC Networking Hour following the first poster session on Wednesday, March 29th, and sponsor the 1st Annual DISC Lecture on Friday, March 31st. Third, specific attention will be drawn by separate symposia to the roles of the dopaminergic and cannabinoid systems, alcohol and mitochondria in various aspects of drug abuse, HIV infection, neuroimmunity and neuronal injury and

degeneration. Fourth, one symposium will specifically address emerging health threats by neurotropic viruses. Fifth, neuroinflammation will be the focus of a locally organized symposium displaying international scientific connections by featuring local and international speakers. Sixth, one symposium will discuss in depth the potential of the gut microbiome to affect the neuroimmune axis and outcomes of drug abuse. Seventh, one symposium is dedicated to computational and systems biology, another area of fast growing scientific relevance. Eighth, a workshop will address alternative career options related to neuroimmune pharmacology outside of the academic setting.

SNIP has a long-standing commitment to support the developing generations of young scientists. Therefore, SNIP bestows Early Career Investigator (ECI) Travel Awards (ECITA) onto pre-doctoral and postdoctoral scientists using a competitive application and committee based evaluation process. However, all ECIs will present their work at a special ECI poster session that will kick off the meeting on Wednesday evening, March 29th. Moreover, a number of trainees selected by the ECITA and DISC committees will have the chance to present their research in 5 five-minute short talks during a special symposium on Saturday, April 1st. In addition, the 'Meet the Mentors' lunch on Thursday, March 30th, will provide trainees and all ECITA recipients with the chance to network with senior and experienced scientists.

The conference includes two major poster sessions, a format of presenting science that



traditionally provides the most direct opportunity for discussion. The first session showing the ECI posters on Wednesday, March 29th, will be followed by the 1st annual DISC networking hour that features Dr. Ana Nuñez as speaker. She will address diversity, equity and inclusion in neuroimmune pharmacology as a mentoring challenge. A second poster session will be held on Thursday, March 30th, showcasing the scientific work of postdoctoral and non-ECI participants. Four plenary lectures will cover some major new scientific and technological developments. Dr. David Sulzer will give the first plenary talk on Thursday morning discussing 'antigen display by dopamine neurons'. Dr. Paul Kenney will present on 'immune signaling in the habenula and nicotine addiction' at the second plenary talk on Thursday afternoon. The third plenary talk will be the 1st Annual DISC Lecture presented by Dr. Astrid Cardona. Dr. Cardona will discuss that the 'absence of fractalkine/CX3CR1 induces perivascular clustering of microglia and fibrinogen leakage during systemic inflammation in mouse models of diabetic retinopathy'. The fourth and final plenary talk will be the Bill Narayan Lecture featuring Dr. Serena Spudich, who will speak about 'establishment of CNS HIV-1 reservoirs and brain injury: Is typical antiretroviral therapy too little, too late?'.

Eight symposia are scheduled throughout the conference that will discuss specific topics. The presidential symposium on Thursday, March 30th, will investigate dopamine neurotransmission in HIV-1 Infection. The second symposium will discuss novel mechanisms of CNS infection by emerging neurotropic viruses. The third symposium will examine the role of the microbiome in health and disease: Implications in HIV disease progression and drug abuse. Friday, March 31st, will start with the fourth, this year's local host symposium, that will consider neuroinflammatory bases of cognitive impairment and other CNS disorders and feature local and international speakers. The fifth symposium will investigate mechanisms of mitochondrial dysfunction associated with HIV-induced neurotoxicity. The sixth symposium will discuss the interaction of alcohol and neuroimmune pharmacology. Friday's session will conclude early and alternative program options are offered for the remainder of the afternoon: i) a workshop entitled 'Exploration of alternate career options

for the young investigators in neuroimmune pharmacology', and ii) free time to visit historic sites in Philadelphia. On Saturday, April 1st, the seventh symposium will explore the role of cannabinoids in the immune system. Later in the morning, the ECI symposium will provide trainees an opportunity to present their research in 5 five-minute short talks. The eighth and last symposium of the conference will present computational and systems biology applied to the brain.

Philadelphia is a city of tremendous historic importance to the USA. A few free hours in afternoon of Friday, March 31st, will provide an opportunity to explore and discover the city's historic sites. During this year's conference banquet and following the awards ceremony, Dr. Paul McGonigle, will revisit with all participants drug discovery attempts in the academic setting. This conference would not have been possible without the support and contributions of numerous people, companies and academic institutions. We thank the Fisher Scientific, VWR International, Rainin Instrument Company, GlaxoSmith Kline (GSK) Pharmaceutical Company, several institutions of Drexel University, College of Medicine, Pharmacology / Physiology Department, Drexel - Biomedical and Professional Studies Graduate School, Drexel college of Medicine - Anatomy and Neurobiology Department, Drexel - Department of Biology / Drexel Research, several institutions of Temple University - Center for Substance Abuse Research (CSAR), Comprehensive NeuroAIDS Center (CNAC), University of Pennsylvania - Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), the Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine and the University of North Dakota. We thank Dr. Howard Gendelman for generously supporting the awards of SNIP. The preparation of this commentary was supported by NIH grants MH087332, MH104131, MH105330, DA026306 (MK). Finally, we thank Springer and the Journal of NeuroImmune Pharmacology for allowing us to republish this commentary.

Marcus Kaul, Ph.D., SNIP, Meetings Committee Chair, modified from the April 2017 JNIP (DOI <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11481-017-9737-6>).

Local Organizing / Scientific Committee

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Medicine
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Center
Barry Waterhouse, Rowan University

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 promoting 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.

SNIP Leadership:

Executive Committee

Michal Toborek, M.D., Ph.D., President
Sanjay Maggirwar, M.B.A., Ph.D., Past
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Jonathan Geiger, Ph.D., President Elect
Santosh Kumar, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary

This newsletter was published on March 25, 2017 by Jialin Zheng, SNIP Communications Committee Chair, and Matthew Mitchell from the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

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Marcus Kaul, Ph.D., 2016-2019
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Marisela Agudelo, Ph.D., 2015-2018
Madhavan Nair, Ph.D., 2014-2017 At-large
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Toby Eisenstein, Ph.D. 2016-2107 Ad-hoc member
Howard E. Gendelman, M.D., Ex Officio

Early Career Investigator Travel Award Winners 2016

To promote interest in the field of Neuroimmune Pharmacology and 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. For the 2017 SNIP Scientific Conference, 41 graduate students and 22 post-doctoral fellows were given travel awards. All awardees received a registration waiver, 35 were awarded a full travel award of \$750 and 13 were awarded a certificate of excellence. Candidates receiving past SNIP support or representing the 3rd trainee from a mentor received only registration waiver or certificate of excellence. The top 6 graduate students and the top 6 post-doctorate fellows were selected by the ECITA committee to give a talk at the Early Career Investigator Symposium. Six speakers were also selected by the Diversity and Inclusion SNIP Committee (DISC) to give a talk at the DISC Symposium. Special thanks to the ECITA and DISC committees, and the SNIP leadership for their service and support.

ECITA Awardees

Pre-doctoral

ECITA Awardees	Mentor	University
Liao, K	Buch, S	University of Nebraska Medical Center
McLaurin, KA	Mactutus, CF	University of South Carolina
Borgmann, K	Ghorpade, A	University of North Texas Health Science Center
Ojha, CR	El-Hage, N	Florida international university
Tiwari, Sneham	Nair, M	Florida International University
Zhou, RH	Ho, Wenzhe and and Li, JL	Temple/Wuhan University, China
Lutton, EM	Ramirez, SH	Lewis Katz School of Medicine
Zhao, RZ	Huang, YH	University of Nebraska Medical Center
Zhang, L	Roy, S	University of Minnesota
Hill, JD	Persidsky, Y	Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University
Jaureguiberry-Bravo, M	Berman, JW	Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Joshi, C.R	Ghorpade, A	University of North Texas Health Science Center
Nookala, Anantha Ram	Kumar, A	University of Missouri-Kansas City
Wallace, JW	Al-Harhi, LA	Rush University Medical Center
Wenzel, ED	Mocchetti, I	Georgetown University
Strauss, MJ	Zhu, J	University of South Carolina
Lapierre, J	El-Hage, N	Florida International University
Cannella, L.A	Ramirez, SH	Lewis Katz School of Medicine Temple University
Hermes, D.J	Fitting, S	University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
Ohene-Nyako, M	Napier, T.C	Rush University
Guo, Le	Ho, Wenzhe	Temple University School of Medicine
Martinez-Orengo, N	Noel, R	Ponce Health Sciences University
Patters, BJ	Kumar, S	University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Singal, M.S.C	SETH, P	National Brain Research Centre, India
Xu, Xiqiu	Ho, Wenzhe and Zhou, Li	Wuhan University, China
Ranjit, S	Kumar, S	University of Tennessee Health Science center
Veilleux, CA	Eugenin, EA	Rutgers University
Grlickova-Duzevik, E	Cao, L	University of Maine

Lakpa, L	Geiger, J. D. and Chen, X	University of North Dakota
Arabatzis, TJ	Cao, L	University of New England
Rodriguez-Santiago, RE	Rivera-Amill, V	Ponce Health Sciences University
Deaver, JA	Toborek, M and Eum, SY	University of Miami
Lambo, R	Noel, R	Ponce Health Sciences University
Edara, VVC	Ghorpade, A	University of North Texas Health Science Center
Cranston, MN	Mactutus, CF	University of South Carolina
Coelho, MC	Cosentino, MC	University of Insubria
Balog, EM	Mactutus, CF	University of South Carolina
Gong, Y	Kumar, S	University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Garcia-Justiniano, J	Rivera-Amill, V	Ponce Health Sciences University
Abdalla, F	Anil, K and Bhat, H	University of Missouri Kansas City
Dutta, R	Unwalla, H	Florida International University

Post-Doctoral

Campbell, LA	Harvey, BK	National Institute on Drug Abuse
Lutgen, V	Al-Harhi, L	Rush University Medical Center
Meng, J	Roy, S	University of Miami
Rodriguez, M	El-Hage, N	Florida International University
Pandey, R	Ghorpade, A	University of North Texas Health Science Center
Sharma, U	Roy, S	University of Miami
Midde, NM	Kumar, S	University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Bertrand, L	Toborek M	University of Miami
Skowronska, M	Toborek, M	University of Miami
Luo, F	Ho, WZ and Hou, W	Wuhan University
Malik, S	Eugenin, EA	New Jersey Medical School-Rutgers University
Sil, S	Buch, S	University of Nebraska Medical Center
Cantres-Rosario, YM	Melendez, LM	University of Puerto Rico
Nikkhah-Moshaie, Roozbeh	Nair, M	Florida International University
Avila, Diana	Toborek M	University of Miami
Chivero, ET	Buch, S	University of Nebraska Medical Center
Leda, AR	Toborek, M	University of Miami Miller
Moidunny, S	Roy, S.	University of Miami
Cho, HJ	Toborek, M	University of Miami
Khan, Nabab	Geiger, J	University of North Dakota
Parikh, NU	Mahajan, S	University at Buffalo
Wang, Yang	Wang, Jing	Zhengzhou University, China

ECITA Awardees are expected to attend all sessions of the conference to be eligible for travel award support.

The SNIP recognizes the service of ECITA committee members (Drs. Agudelo (Chair), Amedee, Shah, Mactutus, Khoshbouei, Haorah, Meléndez, Nonnemacher, El-Hage, Datta, Roy, Thangavel, Kumar, Ramirez, Tang, Chang, Rivera-Amill, Sing, Royal, Wang, Huang), and thanks them for their wonderful job in reviewing the ECITA applications.



Florida International University is recognized as a Carnegie engaged university. It is a public research university with colleges and schools that offers more than 180 bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs in fields such as engineering, international relations, architecture, law and medicine. As one of South Florida's anchor institutions, FIU contributes \$9.8 billion each year to the local economy. FIU is Worlds Ahead in finding solutions to the most challenging problems of our time. FIU emphasizes research as a major component of its mission. FIU has awarded over 200,000 degrees and enrolls more than 54,000 students in two campuses and three centers including FIU Downtown on Brickell, FIU@I-75, and the Miami Beach Urban Studios. FIU also supports artistic and cultural engagement through its three museums: the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, the Wolfsonian-FIU, and the Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU. FIU is a member of Conference USA and has over 400 student-athletes participating in 18 sports. For more information about FIU, visit <http://www.fiu.edu/>.

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY AND INSTITUTE OF NEUROIMMUNE PHARMACOLOGY**

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine at Florida International University is currently seeking 2 non-tenure Assistant Professor Faculty positions, for a full-time appointment within the Department of Immunology. Candidate should have experience in studying the fundamental neuro-immune molecular mechanisms of neuro-AIDS, drugs of abuse in HIV and associated neurocognitive disorders using novel techniques such as confocal microscopy, gene array, digital RT-PCR and /or OMICS using in vitro culture and in vivo animal models. Further, candidates who also have expertise in the fields such as development of point-of-care (POC) sensing devices for detection of biomarkers and on-demand drug delivery protocols using smart nanoparticles for use in CNS diseases including HIV /drug abuse areas are preferred. Candidates with significant experience in flow cytometry, therapeutic targeting to brain using anti-HIV drugs/ BDNF bound nanoparticles to protect neurons from HIV/substance of abuse induced cognitive pathology are also encouraged to apply. Significant experience in molecular mechanistic studies to understand the fundamental mechanisms of latent HIV infections and selective gene editing strategies to eliminate latent HIV infection in the context of drug abuse areas are also preferred. It is also expected that the candidate publishes at least 2-3 first authored manuscripts per year in high impact scientific journals.

An immersive track record of scientific productivity in terms of peer-reviewed publications in the areas of sensor development for personalized health care and nano-engineered strategies for drug delivery, and minimum qualifications include a PhD or MD or MD/PhD in Chemistry or Bionanotechnology. Preferred qualifications include minimum three to five (3-5) years of post-doctoral experience in respective fields.

Qualified candidates are encouraged to apply to Job Opening within the Department of Immunology at <https://facultycareers.fiu.edu/> and attach cover letter, statement of interest and curriculum vitae including contact information, details of academic qualifications, research activities, and notable publication list in a single pdf file. Candidates will also be requested to provide names, addresses, fax numbers, telephone numbers and electronic mail addresses of three potential referees who will be contacted as determined by the search committee. Review will continue until position is filled.

FIU is a member of the State University System of Florida and an Equal Opportunity, Equal Access Affirmative Action Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.