



# SNIPs

A newsletter of the Society for NeuroImmune Pharmacology

## Welcome to the new newsletter

by Olimpia Meucci

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Welcome to the new Society's newsletter edited by the Communications Committee. The SNIPs will divulge in a simple and synthetic fashion 'bites' of information concerning the Society, including the aftermath of the latest annual conference, announcements related to upcoming meetings, and other relevant facts or news of potential interest to the SNIP members. Special thanks to Mike Nonnemacher and Peter Gaskill for helping put this Fall 2017 issue together!

On behalf on the new Communication Committee (please see full list below), I would like to start by introducing the SNIP's new logo – the very first product of the committee's work – that made its debut in the summer of 2017. We selected this logo out of over 180 proposals submitted in response to our CrowdSPRING project. Artists from around the globe contributed to this effort and there were many excellent candidates. The design we picked is meant to represent the SNIP's main disciplines of Neuroscience (brain), Immunology (shield/connecting figure), and Pharmacology (pill), and to evoke themes valued by our Society, i.e. collaboration, excellence in discovery, and diversity. We hope you like it, ....but do not get to attached to the colors. In the future, we plan to propose the same graphic elements in different colors as a symbol and constant reminder of intellectual flexibility and renewal - key elements of innovation and scientific progress.

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## 2018 SNIP meeting Announcement

by Jonathan Geiger



Dear SNIP members, trainees and friends,

It is with great enthusiasm that we are announcing the opening of abstract submissions and registration for the 24<sup>th</sup> Scientific Conference of the Society on Neuroimmune Pharmacology. The previous meeting which was very well attended and beautifully organized was held in Philadelphia. That conference was a huge success and we have summarized various aspects of the meeting throughout the rest of this newsletter.

This year's meeting will be held about 6 months from now at the Swissotel in Chicago, April 10-14, 2018. For our first ever joint meeting, we have teamed up with the International Society for NeuroVirology (ISNV). As a result, the meeting this year will be 4-day meeting instead of our usual 3-day meeting. The meeting will take advantage of each society's expertise and it is sure to be an attractive and exciting venue.

The conference will open with a satellite meeting held by the NIMH on Tuesday, April

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### Communications committee

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

# 2017 SNIP meeting summary: Philadelphia meeting by the numbers

by Peter Gaskill

The 2017 SNIP meeting, which was the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting and was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was a rousing success and was record breaking in a number of different ways. Perhaps most importantly, we had a total of 274 registrants for the Philadelphia meeting, making this the largest meeting that we have ever had. These registrants included scientists from more than 23 states and territories, 7 countries, and a number of attendees from industry and several NIH institutes. Among the registrants were more than 100 trainees, of whom 63, 41 graduate students and 22 post-docs, received travel awards. This meeting also received the highest level of sponsorship we have ever achieved, receiving donations from more than 25 institutions, centers, individuals and, for the first time, several pharmaceutical companies. We were thrilled to collaborate with all these entities to receive these donations, and are excited to maintain and build on these connections in the future.



SNIP 2017 general session in Philadelphia, PA, USA

Scientifically, the meeting was a tremendous success. It featured 9 symposia including the young investigators symposium, which was again set up as to feature a large number of 10 minute talks, highlighting research from a number of our trainees. All of the symposia were well



Lee Campbell, winner of the DISC Presentation Award, presenting his work at the trainee symposium.

received, and the “local” symposium, which examined the Neuroinflammatory Basis of Cognitive Impairment and Other CNS Disorders, and featured speakers from across the US and Europe, was especially well-received. In addition to the symposia, the conference featured two poster sessions, held on the first and second nights of the meeting. These were extremely well-attended, and each night featured around 80 poster presentations, which showed the wide variety of science represent by the SNIP community.

The scientific highlight of the meeting were the four keynote lectures held throughout the conference. These included the 23<sup>rd</sup> Presidential symposium, featuring Dr. David Sulzer, and the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Pharmacology symposium, featuring Dr. Paul Kenny, the 1<sup>st</sup> Adarsh Kumar Memorial Lecture, featuring Dr. Astrid Cardona and the 11<sup>th</sup> Bill Narayan Memorial Lecture featuring Dr. Serena Spudich and a Banquet Presentation featuring Dr. Paul McGonigle. The inaugural Adarsh Kumar memorial lecture, sponsored by the newly created Diversity and Inclusion SNIP Committee (DISC), commemorates the life and work of Dr. Adarsh Kumar, a beloved colleague and active participant in SNIP

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## Committee for the 2017 Meeting

### SNIP committee

Marcus Kaul, Chair  
Peter Gaskill, Vice-chair

Richard J. Noel Jr., (Past Chair)  
Celeste Napier

Gretchen Neigh  
Maria Cecilia Marcondes

Guy Cabral  
Italo Mocchetti

### Local organizing committee

Olimpia Meucci, Drexel University - **Chair**  
Peter Gaskill, Drexel University - **Associate Chair**  
Elisabeth Van Bockstaele, Drexel University  
Brian Wigdahl, Drexel University  
Toby Eisenstein, Temple University  
Kamel Khalili, Temple University  
Jay Rappaport, Temple University  
Ellen Unterwald, Temple University  
Julie Blendy, University of Pennsylvania  
Ron Collman, University of Pennsylvania

Kelly Jordan-Sciotto, University of Pennsylvania  
Chris Pierce, University of Pennsylvania  
Angelo Lepore, Thomas Jefferson University  
Sue Menko, Thomas Jefferson University  
Piera Pasinelli, Thomas Jefferson University  
Joan W. Berman, Albert Einstein College of Medicine  
Norm Haughey, Johns Hopkins University  
David Sulzer, Columbia University Medical Center  
Barry Waterhouse, Rowan University

# 2017 SNIP meeting summary: Inaugural DISC event a huge success

by Kelly Jordan-Sciutto



**Ana Nunez**, the Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and a Professor of Medicine at Drexel University gives inaugural DISC seminar.

One new aspect of the SNIP meeting during 2017 was the first set of events sponsored by the Diversity and Inclusion SNIP Committee, or DISC. This committee was established by Dr. Michal Toborek and the executive committee of SNIP to promulgate diversity within our society and the wider scientific community. Dr. Kelly Jordan-Sciutto, from the University of Pennsylvania, was chosen to be the first chair of this committee. Under her leadership, the inaugural members of the committee were selected to be Drs. Jonathan Geiger, Joan Berman, Lena Al-Harhi, Shilpa Buch, Rosemarie Booze, Loyda Melendez and Kimberly Williams.

During the meeting in Philadelphia, DISC held two separate events to help draw the attention of the society to the importance of diversity in science. The first event was the DISC happy hour, which was held after opening reception on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in the Doubletree hotel. 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. Ana Nunez, the Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and a Professor of Medicine at Drexel University. She spoke for about 25 – 30

minutes on the current status of diversity in academic institutions, how to improve the diversification of our community and the importance of diversity to scientific endeavors. For this last point, she specifically discussed a number of studies which show that diverse groups more efficiently and successfully problem solve than do homogeneous groups. After Dr. Nunez finished, the group spent another hour and a half at an organized series of icebreakers, giving members from different institutions and career levels an opportunity to get to know each other. The event was very successful, with around 100 people staying for the entire evening.



**DISC** happy hour sponsored by Jonathan Geiger.

The second event hosted by DISC during the meeting was the inaugural Adarsh Kumar Memorial Lecture, which was the plenary lecture on Friday the 30<sup>th</sup>. This lecture was sponsored by DISC using a generous donation from Dr. Mahendra Kumar. The speaker for this lecture was Dr. Astrid Cardona, an associate professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. Dr. Cardona gave a fascinating lecture on the Absence of fractalkine/ CX3CR1 induces perivascular clustering of microglia and fibrinogen leakage during systemic inflammation in mouse models of diabetic retinopathy. The lecture was extremely well received and highlighted not only Dr. Cardona's excellent science, but also echoed the themes Dr. Nunez discussed by highlighting the value of her diverse background and experience in her journey to where she is today. 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.

## Introduction from Page 1

Our next goal for this first semester of mandate is to rejuvenate the SNIP website. The new site will be designed and managed by our Webmaster, Ivo Sabev, who has been working with SNIP for the past eight years. Each member of the Communication Committee will be contributing content to a specific section of the website. We expect the new site to go live by the end of 2017/early January 2018. This will not be a problem for the 2018 conference, as this year abstracts submission will be managed through a joint ISNV/SNIP site (more info about this below) and the current SNIP website will remain active until the new one is ready.

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](mailto:omeucci@s-nip.org). Feedback and questions are always welcome. See you in Chicago!

# 2017 SNIP meeting summary: ECITA winners

by Marisela Agudelo

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 2017 SNIP meeting there were 63 abstracts submitted and considered for travel awards. Of these abstracts, 41 were from pre-doctoral students 20 were from post-doctoral fellows, and 2 were from MD/Ph.D. or MD applicants. 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.

Because of a very generous executive committee, all abstracts received some form of an award. The pre-

## 2017 ECITA committee

Angela Amedee	Samikkannu Thangavel
Ankit Shah	Santosh Kumar
Charlie Mactutus	P S Shantanu Rao
Habibeh Khoshbouei	Servio Ramirez
James Haorah	Shao-Jun Tang
Loyda Melendez	Vanessa Rivera
Michael Nonnemacher	Vir Singh
Nazira El-Hage	Walter Royal
Prasun Datta	Wen Zhe Ho
Sabita Roy	Yunlong Huang

doctoral awards received 24 full travel awards, 9 Certificate of Excellence with registration waivers, and 8 registration waivers. The post-doctoral awards received 9 full travel awards, 4 Certificate of Excellence with registration waivers, and 7 registration waivers. The MD/PhD or MD applicants received 1 full travel award and 1 registration waiver. The table of all winners are located on Page 5.



2018 from Page 1

10<sup>th</sup>. That night there will be an opening reception followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Diversity in Science event; both events are open to both societies. Each morning, Wednesday through Saturday, will begin with a continental breakfast and feature joint sessions between both societies. These include sessions focused on (1) Intersection of Immune Function and Neurodegeneration in Parkinsons' and Alzheimers' Disease, (2) Chronic Immune Activation and Substance Abuse, (3) Animal Models in Neurological Disease, (4) Novel Strategies Towards Elimination of HIV, (5) NeuroHIV and Alcohol Use, (6) Drug Abuse, Aging and other Comorbidities in HIV infection, (7) Neuroinflammation, Neural Function and Translational Research: Establishing a Window to the Brain, (8) Strategies Against Neuroinflammation and Neurological Infection, and (9) Demyelinating Diseases. In the afternoons, parallel sessions will be held that are more specific to each society but all are welcome to attend whichever session that interests them. There will be a joint poster session of both societies Wednesday evening. This will be different than in past years in that all levels of scientists will present at the same time. Finally, the gala dinner will be held Friday evening and will include awards to prominent scientists as well as student awards. Students and post-doctoral fellows are encouraged to apply for travel awards. Abstracts and registration is now open and submissions for all abstracts including travel awards are due by December 15, 2017. For more information on the meeting please visit [www.s-nip.org](http://www.s-nip.org).

The organizing committee for this joint meeting has been working long and hard to make this a fantastic meeting. The venue is very attractive! Chicago will be very welcoming and it has some great sites to visit and cuisine to eat!

We look forward to seeing everyone in Chicago! Let us know if you need any additional information.

# 2017 ECITA travel award winners

## Predocs

Student	Mentor	Institution
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	Wuhan University, China
Lutton, EM	Ramirez, SH	Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University
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-Harathi, 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, S.H	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	Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Temple University
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

## Postdocs

Applicant	Mentor/COI	Institution
Campbell, LA	Harvey, BK	National Institute on Drug Abuse
Lutgen, V	Al-Harathi, 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

## MD or MD/PhD

Applicant	Mentor/COI	Institution
Parikh, NU	Mahajan, S	University at Buffalo
Wang, Yang	Wang, Jing	Zhengzhou University, China

## 2017 SNIP meeting summary: continued from page 2



**Meet the mentors lunch** pairs senior scientists with junior investigators.

meetings who passed away in 2016. Her work on the impact of HIV infection on neurotransmission, and particularly the human dopaminergic system, was also commemorated in the Presidential symposium, which focused on the role of dopamine and the dopamine transporter in HIV-associated Neurocognitive Disorders.

In addition to the scientific content, this meeting featured a number of additional workshops and non-scientifically focused events for trainees. These were sponsored by the Early Career Investigator Committee, chaired by Dr. Marisela Agudelo, and some, including the DISC happy hour and the Adarsh Kumar Memorial Lecture, were co-sponsored by DISC. The marquee trainee event, the Meet the Mentors Lunch, took place in the mezzanine restaurant area overlooking the Doubletree registration area. Unlike in previous years, this year the event featured tables of various sizes which each focused on a distinct topic. This was a great success, as the luncheon was attended by 131 trainees and mentors, and received very favorable reviews. In addition to these events, this conference also featured workshops on NIH grant writing and exploration of alternate career options.



**SNIP 2017 gala dinner** in Philadelphia, PA, USA.

As always, the meeting concluded with a gala banquet on Saturday night, which featured the presentation by Dr. McGonigle, and the presentation of awards. In addition to this presentation, the banquet saw the distribution of the awards for poster presentation. This year, the best predoctoral posters were all won by students from Drexel, Cheng-Han-Chung, Rashida Ginwala and Monique Maubert. The post-doctoral poster awards went to Nabab Khan from University of North Dakota, Jae Kim from

Harvard and Ernest Chivero from University of Nebraska Medical Center. The awards for best presentation were sponsored by both DISC and ECITA this year. The DISC awardees for best presentation were Lee Campbell from the NIDA Intramural Research Institute and Jennillee Wallace from Rush University. The ECITA awardees were Kathleen Borgmann from the University of North Texas Health Science Center and Victoria Lutgen from Rush. Following these awards, all of the travel awardees received award certificates, which resulted in a large, happy scrum of awardees on stage.



**2017 Wybran Award** received by Dr. Kamel Khalili, Chair of Neuroscience and Director of the Comprehensive NeuroAIDS Center at Temple University, presented by Dr. Jonathan Geiger.

In addition to the conference awards, the society awards were also presented. These included two service awards, the Distinguished Service Awards, to Dr. Abraham Bautista from NIAAA and Dr. Jemoyhan Joseph from NIMH, and the Outstanding Service and Support Award, which were received by Dr. Olympia Meucci and Dr. Peter Gaskill from Drexel University. The Herman Friedman Founders award went to Dr. Shilpa Buch, and the Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Dr. Howard Gendelman, both from University of Nebraska Medical Center. The final award given, and the Society's highest award, was the Wybran Award, 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. This year, the award went to Dr. Kamel Khalili, Chair of Neuroscience and Director of the Comprehensive NeuroAIDS Center at Temple University.

After the awards, the newly elected president, Dr. Jonathan Geiger, wrapped up the highly successful meeting by announcing that the 2018 meeting would take place in April 2018 in Chicago, and for the first time, would be held jointly with the International Symposium on Neurovirology. For the current information on the upcoming SNIP meeting, please go to [www.s-nip.org](http://www.s-nip.org).



# International Symposium on NeuroVirology

held jointly  
with the

# Society on NeuroImmune Pharmacology



April 10-14, 2018  
Swissôtel  
Chicago, Illinois, USA

#### ISNV Meetings Committee

Lynn Pulliam (Co-Chair) Steven Jacobson  
Brian Wigdahl (Co-Chair) Kamel Khalili  
Sullie Chang Avindra Nath  
Jennifer Gordon Michael Nonnemacher

#### Local Organizing Committee

Lena Al-Harathi (Co-Chair) Eileen Martin  
Igor Koralmnik (Co-Chair) Richard Miller  
Edward Campbell

#### SNIP Meetings Committee

Marcus Kaul (Chair) Kelly Jordan-Sciotto  
Peter J Gaskill (Vice Chair) Cecilia Marcondes  
Richard J Noel Jr. (Past Chair) Gretchen Neigh  
T. Celeste Napler Italo Mocchetti  
Nazira El-Hage Eliseo Eugenin  
Marisela Agudelo

[www.isnv.org](http://www.isnv.org)

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