



Thanks To Everyone For A Successful 2014 Meeting!

by Fiona Zeeb and Samantha Mahabir

We are both proud to be guest editors of the July IBNS newsletter following the great meeting in Las Vegas. We both had a wonderful time, met new friends, saw some interesting Vegas-inspired costumes, and learned a lot of great science. The Keynote lectures delivered by Dr. Jared Young and Dr. John Waddington demonstrated the great research being done using animal models to better understand the complex behaviour disrupted in psychiatric disorders. Dr. Margaret Morris' Presidential Lecture discussed the importance of studying obesity in animal models to help curb this devastating disorder afflicting the population of the 21st century. Lastly, the Bench-to-Bedside Lecture by Dr. Charles Raison was insightful and revealed how treatment of the body using heat can significantly improve function outcome of patients suffering from major depression.

After such a successful 2014 meeting we are already excited about the 2015 meeting in the beautiful city of Victoria, located on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada! This meeting will be packed full of even more great science and we look forward to seeing you all there.

In this issue of the IBNS newsletter, we have solicited feedback from attendees of the 2014 IBNS meeting, will give you some expert advice on responding to peer-reviewers and writing a rebuttal letter, highlight the importance of scientific outreach activities, discuss the Brain Safety Initiative that took place in Las Vegas before the IBNS meeting, and highlight some accomplishments by IBNS members.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the IBNS Newsletter and we look forward to seeing you in Victoria next year.

Save the Dates!

2015 IBNS Meeting
Fairmont Empress
June 2 – 7, 2015
Victoria, BC Canada

Thanks for a Successful Meeting!

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IBNS CALL FOR NEWS

Would you like to submit an article or member news for our next IBNS News edition? We would love to hear from you!

Please make your submission to [Elena Choleris](mailto:Elena.Choleris)

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Impressions of IBNS 2014: Las Vegas, Nevada

by Samantha Mahabir

The IBNS 2014 meeting was amazing and many people had great things to say! This year's meeting had just over 250 attendees and really showcased the science happening around the world. A few conference attendees were asked for their impressions on this year's meeting: we thank Rafaela Cordeiro, Jacqueline Ferland, Julianne Jett, Jacob Leary, Jennifer Lymer, Richard Matta and Drs. Wendy Adams, Elena Choleris, Stephen Kent and Anthony Kline for their response. Here is a summary of the many reasons why they loved this year's meeting.

Some Outstanding Presentations

There was a great group of past and new attendees with many impressive posters and presentations. Some of the presentations that stood out include, "Christopher Lowry on temperature and depression," says Dr. Stephen Kent and Jacob Leary. Other outstanding presentations were, "sociosexual behaviors of male rats in a seminatural environment by Xi Chu," says Richard Matta and, "keynote Charles Raison's environmental/physiological factors in depression," says Dr. Wendy Adams. Jacqueline Ferland liked the presidential lecture about food on the brain by M.J. Morris.

Networking

IBNS also provides great networking opportunities for both old and new attendees. The first night included a student social and welcome reception. There was also the "Meet the Professionals" lunch and the magnificent Vegas themed costume banquet! Dr. Elena Choleris says, "The opportunity to meet up with colleagues and friends is one of the best aspects of IBNS." Jacob Leary and Julianne Jett mention that the size of IBNS makes networking easy! "The "Meet the Professionals" lunch provided an amazing opportunity," says Rafaela Cordeiro.

Socials

The student social, welcome reception and banquet were three great events held at IBNS. Dr. Anthony Kline says, "The opening reception was nice and the singer was outstanding!" Richard Matta enjoyed the actual casino game dealers and Dr. Wendy Adams likes that IBNS provides the first drink, which helps with socializing. "The awards banquet was great with the highlight being a chance to watch a lot of P.I.'s letting loose on the dance floor," says Jacob Leary. Julianne Jett also liked the closing ceremony because it was good to see a more relaxed side to science...a reminder that we are all humans!

Sight Seeing in Vegas!

Aside from the wealth of knowledge the meeting had to offer, so did Vegas! Las Vegas is a great location for sightseeing; you can find just about anything there! Many of our attendees had a chance to step outside of the meeting and enjoy some of Vegas' best scenery. Jacob Leary recommends the Red Rock Canyon to anyone going back to Vegas. Jennifer Lymer agrees and also points out the Grand Canyon as something to do outside of Vegas. Richard Matta enjoyed Old Vegas, saying, "It had all the strange and bizarre things you didn't find on the strip!"

Oldies and Newbies

For some IBNS members this was their first meeting and they had great things to say. The size of the meeting was what made it great. Jacqueline Ferland says, "I liked the intimate feel of the smaller meeting." Jennifer Lymer liked that IBNS brings people from different fields together. Richard Matta explains that the most rewarding aspect of IBNS is the feedback you receive during the poster sessions. Dr. Wendy Adams exclaims that the meeting was stimulating and fun and Rafaela Cordeiro enjoyed the conference as a whole. Some of our new members will definitely be coming back! Jacob Leary indicates that IBNS was a fantastic meeting and he will make every effort to attend next year in Victoria! Julianne Jett will continue to attend IBNS in the future with the hope of having more workshops for young scientists!

What's great about IBNS is that it also has a decent group of committed and loyal members who keep coming back because they enjoy the meeting so much. Dr. Stephen Kent is a regular, as this was his 8th meeting, and he says, "IBNS is attractive because of the people and their open and engaging style, and the breadth and quality of the science." Dr. Anthony Kline likes that IBNS is an intimate setting; a smaller meeting where trainees and faculty can interact. Dr. Elena Choleris points out that she likes the tweets because they give a real-time perspective of people's thoughts and impressions of the meeting.

IBNS 2014 was spectacular with great scientists from around the world. Based on the positive feedback, IBNS 2015 at the Fairmont Empress, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada is definitely something to look forward to!



IBNS Awards & Leadership

Congratulations to our IBNS Award Recipients, who were honored at the IBNS Awards Banquet in Las Vegas:



Lifetime Achievement Award

Stefan Brudzynski
Brock University
Dept. of Psychology
St. Catherines,
Ontario, Canada

College of Fellows Induction

Jared Young
University of California, San Diego
Dept. of Psychiatry
La Jolla, California
United States



College of Fellows Induction

Charles Heyser
University of California, San Diego
Dept. of Neuroscience
La Jolla, California
United States

Twitter Contest:

Best Tweeter
Kelsy Erivin
University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada

Funniest Tweet
Matt Young
Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Atlanta, Georgia, United States

Costume Contest Winners:

First Place
Cards & Dice
Susanne Brummelte, Cindy Barha, Fiona Zeeb and Joanna Workman

Runners Up
Sonny & Cher
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Heyser
Queen of Hearts and Her Court
Karen Szumlinski

Poster Awards:

80 posters for trainees, 27 judges, maximum score 110 points

First Place

Mumeko Tsuda,
Postdoc, (110 points)
Modulation of male social behaviors by parathyroid hormone 2 receptor expression in the medial amygdala.
Section on Fundamental Neuroscience, NIMH, NIH, Bethesda, MD, USA

Second Place

Andrew Murtishaw,
Student, (108 points)
Chronic LPS-induced Inflammatory Response in a Diabetic Model of Alzheimer's Disease.
Department of Psychology, Division of Neuroscience, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Third Place (tie)

Cristina Banuelos,
Student, (107 points)
GABA(B) receptor signaling and behavioral flexibility in aging.
Departments of Neuroscience, University of Florida, College of Medicine, Gainesville, FL.

Julianne Jett,

student, (107 points)
Noradrenergic dysregulation of glutamate in the mPFC: A potential mechanism for cognitive dysfunction in rats exposed to chronic unpredictable stress.
Department of Pharmacology and Center for Biomedical Neuroscience, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

IBNS Leadership:

To our Council members, who are transitioning out of their posts, thank you very much for your service to this organization.

D. Caroline Blanchard
Past President

Francesca Cirulli
European Councilor

Francisco Gonzalez-Lima
USA Councilor

Corina Bondi
Student Councilor

Welcome to our incoming Council members and thank you for volunteering your time and efforts to further IBNS!

Mikhail Pletnikov
President-Elect

Tomasz Schneider
European Councilor

Kim Gerecke
USA Councilor

Julianne Jett
Student Councilor

LOOK FOR PHOTOS AND VIDEOS FROM THE IBNS 2014 MEETING ON OUR FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE PAGES!

FOLLOW THE LINKS BELOW...



Tips and Tricks for Crafting a Rebuttal Letter

by Fiona Zeeb

Responding effectively to peer-reviewers is a very important part of publishing. We've interviewed two editors of scientific journals—Dr. Stan Floresco, associate editor of *Neuropsychopharmacology*, and Dr. Joseph Huston, editor of *Behavioural Brain Research*—and two successful researchers with great publishing records—Dr. Robert Gerlai, Professor at the University of Toronto Mississauga, and Dr. Paul Fletcher, Professor and Senior Scientist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health—and summarized the best tips and tricks to help you craft a great rebuttal letter.

1. Convince the editor and reviewer that your paper is worthy of publication

Dr. Floresco reminds us that the final decision comes from the editor, so, "When crafting your rebuttal, you have to try and convince both the editor and the reviewer." The best way to do this is to, "Ensure that the reviewer knows that you have taken his/her comments seriously..." by addressing every issue raised by the reviewer, Dr. Fletcher says. Dr. Gerlai mentions that you should consider the peer review process as a "test drive" for your paper. If the reviewer is confused or misunderstands your point, then other readers may as well. This is the time to address those issues and improve your manuscript.

2. Remember, the reviewer is not always right—but neither are you

The reviewer is your peer; not your enemy. "The peer-reviewer may have a different opinion but it isn't the only opinion that may be correct. It's all about how you respond," says Dr. Gerlai. Even if you disagree with the reviewer, it does not mean their point is invalid. Dr. Fletcher suggests that you take some

time to "digest the comments" from the reviewer and not respond in haste. He also points out that manuscripts, including his own, were often "significantly improved, in part, thanks to the reviewer's comments". Furthermore, Dr. Fletcher strongly believes that, "There is always a way to write more concisely," and Dr. Huston notes that, "Shortening usually improves rigor and clarity." Dr. Floresco suggests that when you receive comments you do not agree with, you should, "Present arguments as to why you don't feel it's a major cause for concern." Find space to respond to the reviewers concerns—both in your rebuttal letter and in your manuscript.

3. Structuring your response

Dr. Huston recommends being polite and presenting a "clear point-by-point response." The most important message relayed by everyone interviewed was to be respectful and give a thorough response. It's your job to make the editor and the reviewer's job as easy as possible. "The onus is ultimately on you to convince them," says Dr. Floresco. Dr. Fletcher reminds us that your "responses should be thorough, but concise, and on topic." It is also useful to "identify the location of the altered text (by page and line number) and often reproduce text in the response letter." The reviewer should not have to hunt for your changes in the manuscript, but should discern from the response letter if their concerns have been adequately addressed.

4. Your paper has been rejected. Now what?

Don't be discouraged. Dr. Fletcher notes you need to understand why your manuscript has been rejected. Was it an issue of impact? Suitability of the journal? Experimental flaw? Assuming

the paper is not flawed you can resubmit elsewhere, but, "Absolutely, revise the manuscript according to the previous reviews," says Dr. Fletcher. Firstly, remember that the reviews were genuine and likely meant to be helpful. Secondly, the same reviewer may be asked to review your manuscript again ("This happens!"). When thinking of where to resubmit, picking the journal with the next highest impact factor is not always the best strategy. "Submit your work where it will get the most visibility to others in your field," says Dr. Floresco. Look at your reference list and see if any journals stand out. Lastly, Dr. Gerlai reminds us to, "Learn from the feedback, improve on the paper, and submit to a journal that is relevant to your field."

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IBNS Outreach

by Julianne Jett, Chantelle Terrillion & Dr. Rosalinda Guevara Guzmán



A primary goal of IBNS is to support the advancement of behavioral neuroscience by promoting public awareness and advocacy efforts. As an international society, the issues challenging the progression of behavioral neuroscience can differ pending on where our members live, such as laws restricting animal or clinical research, poor infrastructure/funding, language barriers, small political presence, limited mental healthcare policies, etc. In efforts to educate our members and increase IBNS's involvement in outreach/advocacy initiatives on an international level, we asked IBNS members from different countries for insight on what challenges they face as behavioral neuroscientists. Rosalinda Guevara Guzmán, MD, PhD, professor in the Department of Physiology at Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), graciously represented Mexico. We would like to continue this topic in future newsletters. If you are interested in increasing awareness of an issue that challenges or promotes behavioral neuroscience in your country, please contact the IBNS newsletter Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Elena Choleris (echoleri@uoguelph.ca).

Q: What is a challenge that hinders the advancement of behavioral neuroscience in Mexico?

Doctor Rosalinda Guevara Guzmán (RGG): Neuroscience is the strongest

field of research in Mexico, yet only ~20% of this research is related to behavioral neuroscience. Thus, behavioral neuroscientists in Mexico must attend international meetings, such as IBNS and SfN, to keep their research current and competitive. Further, the Mexican Government only applies 0.34% of its GDP to research, a small portion of which funds behavioral neuroscience efforts. Consequently, this lack of resources hinders behavioral neuroscientists' opportunities for establishing collaborations, enhancing education/training, implementing cutting edge techniques, and producing publications. Without additional financial support, the infrastructure needed to advance behavioral neuroscience in Mexico will continue to struggle.

Q: What efforts are taking place in Mexico to advocate for behavioral neuroscience research?

RGG: Organizations, such as the Sociedad Mexicana de Ciencias Fisiológicas, Mexico Chapters of the Society for Neuroscience, and the Asociación Mexicana por las Ciencias Conductual-Contextuales, are recent developments in Mexico that aim to promote and support contextual behavioral science by forging national and international research collaborations, educational programs, and clinical services. The International Brain Research Organization's "Return Home Program" is another recent development that holds great promise for promoting neuroscience in Mexico. This initiative awards start-up grants to young scientists from developing countries that return home to open a lab. Thus, this effort counteracts "brain drain" and promotes the advancement of

neuroscience research in developing countries, like Mexico.

Q: How can IBNS members who are local and abroad stay informed and/or participate in outreach efforts promoting behavioral neuroscience in Mexico?

RGG: The SJR SCImago Journal & Country Rank is a resource that can help visualize how behavioral neuroscience in Mexico is progressing in comparison to that of other countries (<http://www.scimagojr.com/journalrank.php>). Practically any initiative that helps Mexico train and retain its behavioral neuroscientists will advance the field in Mexico. These efforts may include IBNS members establishing one-on-one short-stay academic training opportunities between labs in American or European Institutions and Mexico. IBNS, as an organization, could also source a travel award to its annual meeting specifically for trainees from Mexico. Alternatively, IBNS or its members can contact the Federation of Neuroscience Societies in Latin America, the Caribbean and the Iberian Peninsula (FALAN) to get more involved in advocating for behavioral neuroscience in Mexico. FALAN has had some success in securing travel, training, and start-up grants for young scientists in Mexico, but would greatly benefit from additional support from international organizations, like IBNS. More information on FALAN outreach and advocacy efforts can be reached at the website <http://falan-ibrolarc.org/drupal/tags/newscourses>, or by contacting me, a FALAN representative, directly (rguevara@unam.mx).

Brain Safety Initiative: The Outcome

In Las Vegas, IBNS sponsored the Brain Safety Initiative at William V. Wright Elementary School on Monday, June 9, 2014. The original idea behind this program was to get our members to share their knowledge of the brain and to make some small steps towards promoting brain safety among school age children.

Monica Bolton, a member of our IBNS 2014 Local Organizing Committee, was instrumental in making this initiative happen and, along with Andrew Murtishaw and Michael Langhardt, lead some exciting and informative presentations for the students. As bicycle accidents are the most common cause of brain injury in this age group, the committee decided to focus on this topic and instruct the children in ways to safely engage in activities such as biking, skateboarding, etc.

Through online and email fundraising efforts, IBNS members donated over \$1000 to promote this initiative and provide bike helmets to the neediest children in the area.

On Tuesday, June 10, at Wright Elementary school, IBNS members including our President, Dr. Stephen Kent, and the Chair of the IBNS Education and Training Committee, Dr. Jonathan Brigman, presented the funds raised by our members to the Safe Routes to Schools Program. Members of the Wright Elementary School Administration, the Clark County School District School-Community Partnership Program, and the Safe Routes to Schools Program were there for the presentation of the funds.

This is a great accomplishment and we would like to extend our thanks to everyone involved for their support!



Member News

Honors and Awards:



Dr. Corina Bondi, a postdoctoral associate at the Safar Center for Resuscitation Research at the University of Pittsburgh, is the first recipient of the Nancy Caroline Award from the Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation. This award acknowledges her novel work on the application of frontal lobe assessments in preclinical models of acute brain injury. The Safar Center honors Dr. Peter Safar, a legendary figure in the field of acute medicine who is known as the Father of Modern Day Resuscitation—he was also one of the founders of the field of critical care medicine and was a Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Pittsburgh from 1960 until 2003. Dr. Nancy Caroline, one of Dr. Safar's earliest fellows, is often credited with crafting the first manual for paramedics and was one of the early pioneers in the development of paramedic systems. The Nancy Caroline Award is thus an award that honors the top trainee each year at the Safar Center. Research in the Safar Center currently focuses on conditions such as traumatic brain injury and cardiac arrest—particularly the neurological sequelae of those diseases.

Publications:

Dr. Rani Vasudeva's recent article was highlighted on the cover of *Chemical Neuroanatomy*. This article demonstrated that a cluster of nitric oxide synthase (NOS) cells that were previously identified as part of the dorsal raphe nucleus (DRN), are actually the rostral-most extension of the lateral dorsal tegmental nucleus (LDT). These findings will impact interpretation of both past and future investigations of either region. Furthermore, the article also demonstrated that these NOS cells express the serotonin 1A receptor, providing a new group of neurons for antidepressant agents to modulate the brain outside the classic 5-HT system.

Nu Rho Psi, the National Honor Society in Neuroscience

by G. Andrew Mickley, Ph.D., Executive Director, *Nu Rho Psi*

Nu Rho Psi, the National Honor Society in Neuroscience, was founded in 2006 to: (1) encourage professional interest and excellence in scholarship, particularly in neuroscience; (2) award recognition to students who have achieved such excellence in scholarship; (3) advance the discipline of neuroscience; (4) encourage intellectual and social interaction between students, faculty, and professionals in neuroscience and related fields; (5) promote career development in neuroscience and related fields; (6) increase public awareness of neuroscience and its benefits for the individual and society; and (7) encourage service to the community.

Students who become members of *Nu Rho Psi* are selected based on their superior scholarly accomplishments as well as their excellent work in research.

Members receive membership certificates and lapel pins as an indication of the honor they have earned. *Nu Rho Psi* offers competitive travel awards for members to attend and present their research at the annual Society for Neuroscience meeting. *Nu Rho Psi* also offers competitive small grants to facilitate member's senior theses or summer research projects. Grants and other awards are available to *Nu Rho Psi* Chapters that foster educational and community outreach opportunities. *Nu Rho Psi* membership is for life and it is often a springboard for the networking and collaboration of like-minded colleagues.

The honor society has grown steadily since its inception. *Nu Rho Psi* now has over 2000 members and 43 chapters at colleges and universities across the U.S.

Membership in *Nu Rho Psi* is granted only through our chartered schools and any accredited college or university in the U.S. may apply for a *Nu Rho Psi* charter. The application process is aimed at determining the likelihood that the school has the curriculum, resources and desire to foster development of the neuroscience education of their members. The *Nu Rho Psi* National Council is investigating if there is sufficient demand to extend charters to schools on an international basis. So schools outside the U.S. should express interest and the Council can take this into account as this decision is made over the next year or so.

Questions about *Nu Rho Psi* and the charter application process may be directed to the Executive Director, G. Andrew Mickley, Ph.D.: amickley@bw.edu. See also: <http://www.nurhopsi.org>

