THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ARIZONA PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Charles M. Tipton

During November 20 and 21 of 2009, the Medical Campus of the University of Arizona hosted the Second Annual Meeting of the Arizona Physiological Society (AzPS). One hundred members registered for the event, or 85% of the membership, that included 43 Regular Members, 11 Post-Doctoral Trainees, 29 Graduate Student Members, and 17 Undergraduate Student Members from four university sites in Arizona [Figure 1 here]. In addition, 10 undergraduate student members from the UA Physiology Club assisted in the preparation and conduct of the meeting.

To reinforce the objective of enhancing professional development of Graduate Student Members, the opening session, chaired by Scott Boitano (UA), featured 9 informative oral presentations by graduate students. The presentations covered diverse topics, the discussions were interesting and at times lively, and the results were most rewarding for advisors and mentors. Kate Lindborg (UA) was subsequently awarded 1st prize for her presentation entitled "Chronic endocannabinoid receptor-1 antagonism improves metabolic parameters beyond those with reduced caloric intake in lean and obese Zucker rats."

Following the oral presentations, members moved to an adjacent building for 15 graduate student poster presentations. Like the oral presentations, the topics were varied, the discussions were interesting; conducted in a crowded environment, lively and at times, intense. [Figure 2 here] Gabrielle Brown (UA) poster entitled "Enhancement of platelet activation and aggregation by erythrocytes: role of red cells in thrombosis" was subsequently awarded the 1st prize for graduate students.

The evening session of the first day was hosted by President Stan Linstedt (NAU) and included the APS Keynote Lecture by Dr. Jeff Sands, Juha P. Kokko Professor of Medicine, Director of the Renal Division, at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. His well presented lecture was entitled "Regulation of renal urea transport by vasopressin" and was frequently listed on the evaluation form as a highlight of the meeting. [Figure 3 here] Following the lengthily discussion of his lecture, a reception was held in the foyer until closing that was enjoyed by all and like the lecture, was highly rated on the evaluation form. [Figure 4 here].

The second day began with 8 poster presentations by Regular Members and Post-Graduate Trainees and by 7 Undergraduate Student Members. They covered a diverse number of topics such as "Site-directed mutagenesis of the CBM in aldolase: molecular tool for the study of metabolic compartments in vascular smooth muscle" by Johana Vallejo (Midwestern U) and as "Three-dimensional architecture of the renal inner medulla of the desert rodent Dipodomys Merriami: potential impact on the urinary concentration mechanism" by Vinno Urity (UA) which was subsequently awarded the 1st prize for a poster by an undergraduate student.

Besides the posters, a symposium was chaired by Christos Katanos (ASU) entitled "Insulin resistance and diabetes: mechanisms and clinical aspects" that included presentations by Katanos, Hussein Yassine (UA-Phoenix) and by Erik Henriksen (UA) which attracted much attention and discussion. It also received many favorable comments on the evaluation form. To recognize Arizona physiologists who have made a difference, the Arizona Distinguished Lecture was initiated in 2008. For 2009, Christopher Blodi (NAU) introduced J. Richard Coast (NAU) whose presentation was entitled "Fatigue and training of the respiratory muscles. It was
well received and extensively discussed because the topic has controversial components in respiratory and exercise circles. [Figure 5 here].

Before lunch, an AzPS business meeting was scheduled with President Lindstedt presiding. He announced the results of the election of officers which indicated Scott Boitano (UA) would be the President-Elect for the 2009-10 term. [Figure 6 here]. He then introduced Johanna Vallejo who invited AzPS members to attend the 2010 meeting in Glendale, AZ which will be held on November 5th and 6th on the campus of Midwestern University campus. President Lindstedt then introduced Tom Pannabecker, Secretary-Treasurer of AzPS who presented monetary prizes to 9 individuals who were selected to receive awards for their oral or poster presentations ($100 for first prize, $50.00 for second prize, and $25 for third prize). [Figure 7 here].

The final scheduled event before closure was the free communication section for 6 Regular Members and Post-Doctoral Trainees chaired by John Konhilas (UA). The first paper was by Chad Carroll (Midwestern U) that was entitled *Cyclooxygenase enzyme activation in human skeletal muscle after acute resistance exercise* while the last speaker was Thanh Cao (UA-Phoenix) who spoke on *In vitro human fibroblast (HF) injury repair in response to modeled repetitive motion strain (RMS) and myofascial release (MFR)*. Despite the intent to return home, the discussions were serious, interesting and sufficiently extensive that the session went overtime.