Recent activities of the Gulf Coast Physiology Chapter

The 6th Gulf Coast Physiology Society Meeting was held on May 20-21, 2011 on the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) campus in Jackson, MS. There were 68 abstracts uploaded to the online submission site for the meeting and a total of 106 attendees representing 8 different institutions (University of Mississippi Medical Center, Tulane University, Louisiana State University Health Science Center-New Orleans, Louisiana State University Health Science Center-Shreveport, University of South Alabama, University of Alabama Birmingham, Emory University, Tougaloo College). The local organizing committee consisted of Drs. Michael Ryan (Chair), Heather Drummond, Christine Maric and David Stec from the UMMC Department of Physiology.

The two day meeting opened on Friday afternoon May 20 with a keynote lecture from Dr. Douglas C. Eaton, Distinguished Professor and Chair of Physiology at Emory University and past President of the American Physiological Society. Dr. Eaton delivered his talk entitled “ENaC Regulation and Dale Benos: A Man Before His Time” in honor of the late Dr. Dale Benos, 79th President of the American Physiological Society from the University of Alabama Birmingham. The remainder of the scientific program included an oral session on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning (May 21). Each oral session consisted of 3 invited speakers and 3-4 abstract selected presentations. In order to highlight the exciting work of early career physiologists in the Gulf Coast Region, no speaker who presented in the oral sessions held a rank higher than Assistant Professor.

A breakfast poster session was held on Saturday morning. All abstracts submitted to the meeting were accepted and programmed for the poster session. Awards were given to the top 2 in each a postdoctoral and student category. The Gulf Coast Chapter would like to congratulate Wengcheng Li (Tulane) and Suttira ‘Joy’ Intapad (UMMC-Physiology), winners in the postdoctoral category, as well as Liu Liu (Tulane) and Vicky Rands (Tulane), winners in the student category. The Poster Judging Committee consisted of Michael Garrett and Jan Williams (UMMC-Pharmacology), Anna Thalacker-Mercer (UAB), Jason Gardner and Jerry Breslin (LSUHSC-NO), Khalid Matrougui and Kathleen Hering-Smith (Tulane), Xiangming Zha (USA), Karen Stokes (LSUHSC-Shreveport), and Lusha Xiang and Barbara Alexander (UMMC-Physiology).

A brief chapter business meeting took place at the conclusion of the scientific presentations on Friday afternoon. Two major items of business were discussed. The first was to approve the new leadership of the Gulf Coast Chapter. A Nominating Committee was formed prior to the Gulf Coast Meeting to recommend a new President, Treasurer/Secretary and 3 Councilors. The Nominating Committee consisted of Drs. Christine Maric (UMMC), Jason Gardner (LSUHSC-NO), Anna Thalacker-Mercer (UAB), Natalie Bauer (USA), Karen Stokes (LSUHSC-Shreveport) and Minolfa Prieto (Tulane). Dr. Stokes presented the recommendations of the committee to the meeting attendees and a motion was made and seconded to approve the new leadership. The motion was carried with no dissenting votes. The new leadership for the Gulf Coast Chapter is as follows:
The second order of business was to determine a location for the next Gulf Coast Physiology Meeting. Dr. Thomas Lincoln, Chair of Physiology at the University of South Alabama, volunteered to host the next chapter meeting in 2013. A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously to accept Dr. Lincoln’s offer. Although a call was made, no additional business was raised or discussed. The business meeting was adjourned after a motion was made, seconded and carried. The business meeting was followed by a banquet at a local restaurant.

Meeting participants enjoyed a casual evening of food, conversation and entertainment at a local restaurant (Duling Hall) in Jackson, MS.

The Gulf Coast Chapter received financial support for the meeting and would like to gratefully acknowledge its sponsors. The sponsors of meeting were as follows:

The UMMC Department of Physiology
The UMMC Center for Excellence in Cardiovascular Renal Research: Hypertension and Cardiorenal Training Program
The UMMC Faculty Scholarship Exchange Award
The American Physiological Society
Data Sciences International
Harlan Laboratories
Kent Scientific Corporation
Phoenix Technical Services, Inc.
Fisher Scientific

At the conclusion of the Saturday morning session, the winners of the poster competition were announced and the meeting was adjourned.