The 4th Annual Meeting of the Indiana Physiological Society was held at the University of Southern Indiana (USI) in Evansville, IN, on February 22nd, 2014. The day began with the arrival of the Phun Bus (a charter bus delivering participants from Indianapolis).

As participants stepped off the bus, they were welcomed by temperatures near 60 degrees, and over 100 additional participants gathering in the University Center. As onsite registration closed, there were 31 faculty and scientists, 84 undergraduate and graduate students, and 77 high school students in attendance for a record setting 192 participants.

In addition to conference participants, there were booths sponsored by Data Sciences International and Kent Scientific, as well as graduate and professional programs throughout Indiana. The conference kicked off with a light breakfast and an engaging talk given by Dr. Joey Barnett, Professor of Pharmacology, Medicine, Pediatrics and Pathology, Microbiology & Immunology at Vanderbilt School of Medicine. Dr. Barnett completed his undergraduate degree at USI and was happy to be back on campus giving his talk titled “Atypical TGFβ signaling: Surprising Roles in Embryos and Adults”.

The remaining time before lunch included four additional talks given by graduate, undergraduate, and high school students and a 45 minute coffee break allowing time to view the 26 student posters on display.
Student Poster Sessions

In the afternoon, a buffet lunch was followed by three breakout sessions. The first breakout was titled “Careers in Physiology” and was designed for junior and senior level undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral students. This breakout included a panel discussion featuring professional members of academia and industry from throughout Indiana and provided a great opportunity for students to network. The second breakout session included physiology classroom activities and was designed for high school and undergraduate educators. This hands-on session shared physiology-based activities for use in the classroom. The third breakout was designed for high school and early undergraduate students with the goal of preparing them for their academic future. This session also featured a panel including undergraduate, graduate, and medical students who shared their academic path and advice. A professional health careers advisor moderated the
Immediately following the breakout sessions, a second keynote talk was given by Dr. Derek Leishman, Senior Research Fellow at Lilly Research Laboratories - Global Lead for Safety Pharmacology and Head of the Diabetes and Cardiovascular group. His thought provoking talk was titled “Physiology and predicting whether a new drug will work and be safe: 18th Century logic and 21st Century technology”. 

Leishman Family
Refreshments and additional time to view posters followed Dr. Lieshman’s talk. The day then wrapped up with four student talks, election of officers, and presentation of awards.

The student travel award went to:

- Stacy Dineen, IU School of Medicine - Exenatide specifically enhances Ca2+ buffering by SERCE in coronary smooth muscle cells from lean, healthy Ossabaw swine

Awards were also presented to:

- Yi-Chun Chen, IU School of Medicine - Mitogen-inducible gene 6 haploinsufficiency protects mice against streptozotocin-induced diabetes
- Reyan Coskun, International High School of Indiana - Elucidating the Neurochemical Circuits Mediating a Novel, GABAergic Model of Hot Flash Vulnerability
- Andrew Lutkewitte, IU School of Medicine - An emerging link between the negative EGFR feedback regulator Mig6 and hepatic glucose production
- Emily Weigand, Ball State University - Mitochondrial distribution and dynamics during naturally-occurring synapse loss

Results of elections:

- President Elect: Richard Klabunde, Ph.D. – Marion University School of Osteopathic Medicine
- Treasurer: Thad Wilson, Ph.D. - Marion University School of Osteopathic Medicine
- Counselor: Brian Dewar, Ph.D. – Taylor University
- Counselor: Laura Michael, Eli Lilly
- Student Counselor: Stephanie Flaig – IUPUI
- Student Counselor: Jillian Noblet – IU School of Medicine
Pictured (L to R)

Thad Wilson – Treasurer; Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine
Richard Klabunde – President-Elect; Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine
Jullian Noblet – Student Counselor; Indiana University School of Medicine
Stephanie Flaig – Student Counselor; Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine
Not pictured: Counselors Brian Dewar from Taylor University and Laura Michael from Eli Lilly.

There were many people to thank at the completion of the meeting including six undergraduate students at USI who served on a planning and implementation team, USI’s continuing education staff who assisted with website design and implementation of online registration, a local high school student who took pictures throughout the day and uploaded them to a sharing site, faculty who served as judges, the sponsors and many more.