**1st Annual Meeting of the Indiana Physiological Society**

The Indiana Physiological Society (INPhys) held its first annual conference on the 5th of February, 2011 at the Van Nuys Medical Science Building at the Indiana University School of Medicine (IUSM) in Indianapolis, IN. The theme of the meeting was “Physiology – Leading the way in mechanistic and translational research”. The meeting was attended by 118 people, including 16 post-doctoral fellows and 53 students, representing 12 institutions across the state, which was remarkable given severe ice and snow conditions. Overall, we achieved our main purpose of INPhys in promoting the increase of physiological knowledge, its dissemination, and its utilization in the state of Indiana. In particular, the contribution of students in their early phase of training enriched the meeting. Indiana is the home to over 50 universities and colleges, so the outreach of INPhys can have a major impact.

The INPhys meeting was opened by Dr. Michael Sturek, President of INPhys and Chair of the Department of Cellular & Integrative Physiology at IUSM. He cordially welcomed the attendees to the meeting. His colorful address touched on the rich history of physiology in the state of Indiana, highlighting the key role that Dr. Alec Clowes and the Eli Lilly & Company played in the development of insulin therapy. He pointed out the role of Charles Best, a medical student at the University of Toronto, in the discovery of insulin and emphasized that the first presentation on insulin at a scientific society was at the APS Meeting in New Haven, CT in December 1921. Another Indiana contribution was Ferid Murad, M.D., Ph.D., who received his B.A. from DePauw University in Greencastle, IN and won the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine in 1998 for the role of nitric oxide in physiological regulation. Sturek’s address also challenged the audience to consider the bright future that lay ahead – a future that will be shaped by the postdoctoral fellows and students in attendance.

INPhys attendees owe many thanks to the Organizing Committee and staff who lead the efforts: Dr. David Basile, Dr. Bonnie Blazer-Yost, Dr. Suzanne Young, Joyce Lawrence, Dr. Sturek, Dr. Glenn Bohlen, Tracy McWilliams, Stanley Stump, Ellen Leonard, and Jessica Friedrich. Special recognition goes to Dr. Young, whose broad knowledge of the scientific content and her attention to details of the logistics and organization made the meeting a success.

Dr Sturek’s address was followed by the Keynote Speaker, Dr. John Hall, Arthur Guyton Professor and Chair of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. His speech was entitled, "Pathophysiology of Hypertension in Obesity/Metabolic Syndrome." The clarity, relevance, and integrative nature of Dr. Hall’s presentation struck a chord with all in attendance and set a tone for what turned out to be an excellent meeting.

The afternoon session was highlighted with a presentation by another guest speaker, Dr. Matthew Breyer, from the Department of Biotherapeutics Discovery from Eli Lilly & Company. His discussion entitled, “Mouse models of Diabetic Nephropathy – Lost in Translation” touched upon the dearth of mouse models in this field and highlighted the hurdles that that must be overcome to translate laboratory findings into treatment regimens that can be applied in patients.

In addition to the guest speakers, the day was highlighted by 10 short presentations with several from graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. These sessions were moderated by IUSM physiology graduate students Julia Hum and Brent Penque, exemplifying the important role of students in making the meeting a success. Presentations and posters were at all levels of physiological research and reinforced not only the theme of translating from cellular and molecular to human subjects research, but also using human/clinical findings to guide cellular and molecular studies. Many opportunities for discussions were available during
two separate poster presentations, which included 52 posters. The INPhys was able to provide 10 awards for graduate students presenting outstanding abstracts. These students were Sally Head, Meredith Kohr, Ketrija Touw, Zachary Berwick, Aarthi Maganti, Soyoung Park, Nolan Hoffman, Julia Hum, Lisa Riegle, and Anne Hillyard. Please visit our website to view our program, abstracts, and list of attendees (http://physiology.medicine.iu.edu/indiana-physiological-society/).

In closing statements, Dr. Michael Sturek announced the newly elected officials for INPhys for 2011-2012.

President: Dr. Bonnie Blazer-Yost.
Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. David Basile
President-Elect: Dr. Derron Bishop
Council: Dr. Kenneth Gould
Council: Dr. Mari Hooper
Student Council: Meredith Kohr

The meeting ended with a social hour at the University Place Conference Center on the IUPUI campus. Support for the inaugural meeting came from the American Physiological Society, the Department of Cellular & Integrative Physiology at IUSM, Kent Scientific Corporation, and the Indiana University Conference Fund.

Aarti R. Chawla, Student member
David P. Basile, Secretary/Treasurer
Michael Sturek, President
The start of the record-setting ice and snow conditions did not chill the enthusiasm of the attendees.

Atrium of Medical Sciences building at Indiana University School of Medicine was the site for posters and lunch.
President-Elect Bonnie Blazer-Yost and President Michael Sturek greeted attendees. Sturek gave a history of physiology in Indiana and introduced Keynote Speaker John Hall and guest speaker Matt Breyer.
Keynote Speaker John Hall of the University of Mississippi.

Guest speaker Matt Breyer of Eli Lilly & Company.
Jeff Elmendorf discusses posters with student member and Councilor Brent Penque (right), who also moderated the first session.
Student member Julia Hum moderated the second session.
John Lopshire of the Krannert Institute of Cardiology discusses posters with organizing committee member Suzanne Young.

Undergraduate student Nehal Parikh presents her first poster at the INPhys meeting.
Graduate students Zach Berwick and Mikaela McKenney interpret data in a poster.

Awards for graduate students presenting outstanding abstracts were given to (left to right) Ketrija Touw, Lisa Riegle, Zachary Berwick, Anne Hillyard, Nolan Hoffman, Julia Hum, Meredith Kohr, and (not present) Soyoung Park, Sally Head, and Aarthi Maganti.