The 22nd annual meeting of the Iowa Physiological Society (IPS) was held at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City, IA 52242 on September 29-30, 2017. The theme of the meeting was entitled ‘Advances in Cardiovascular, Renal and Metabolic Functions in Health and Disease’. The major objectives of the annual meeting were to facilitate exchange of scientific knowledge, and provide career development and networking opportunities for trainees, investigators and educators in physiology-related disciplines from colleges and universities in Iowa and neighboring states. The large success of the 2017 IPS meeting was reflected by 70 abstract submissions and 160 registered participants!

The meeting was supported by generous contributions from the American Physiological Society (APS), APS Career Opportunities in Physiology Committee, University of Iowa (UI) Abboud Cardiovascular Research Center (ACRC), UI Department of Molecular Physiology and Biophysics, UI Department of Pharmacology, UI Department of Health and Human Physiology, and corporate sponsors including DSI, ADInstruments, Biotechné, Kent Scientific Corporation, TSE Systems, ThermoFisher Scientific and Bachem.

I would like to thank the IPS officers and members of the UI Organizing Committee who volunteered to make the IPS conference a grand success. The 2017 IPS officers included - Rasna Sabharwal, PhD, FAHA – President (UI), James Lang, PhD – Past President (Iowa State University, ISU), Lilian Yuan, PhD – President-Elect (Des Moines University, DMU), Melissa Bates, PhD – 2018 President-Elect (UI), Francesca Di Sole – Secretary/Treasurer (DMU), Mark Chapleau, PhD, FAHA, FAAS – Advisory Committee (UI), Harald Stauss, MD – Advisory Committee (UI), and Ronald Torry, PhD – Advisory Committee (Drake University). The UI Organizing Committee included Rasna Sabharwal, PhD, FAHA (IPS President); Melissa Bates, PhD (2018 President-Elect); Mark Chapleau, PhD, FAHA, FAAS (IPS Advisory Committee); Harald Stauss, MD (IPS Advisory Committee); Barry London, MD, FAHA (Director, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine & ACRC); Francois Abboud, MD, FAHA, FAPS (Founding Director, ACRC); Curt Sigmund, PhD, FAHA, FAPS (Chair, Department of Pharmacology); Kevin Campbell, PhD, FAPS (Chair, Department of Molecular Physiology & Biophysics); and Kim Alan Johnson, PhD (Distinguished Professor, Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences).

The highlights of the two-day meeting included two keynote research presentations, a IPS Lifetime Achievement Award, career development workshop, three invited short talks by early-career investigators who have recently established their labs, abstract-based poster and oral sessions, and Friday evening reception for socializing and networking. 18 of the submitted trainee abstracts were selected for 10-minute oral presentations, while the remaining were included in the ‘A Minute to Win It’ poster session. Trainee presentations were judged for poster and oral competitions and awards were given to best presentations in undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral categories.

Day 1 of the meeting began with opening remarks from the IPS President Rasna Sabharwal and Barry London (Director, UI Division of Cardiovascular Medicine & ACRC). Darren Casey, PhD (UI Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science) introduced the first keynote research presentation by Michael Joyner, MD (Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN) on “Exercise Physiology: What Next”. This was followed by a short-talk by Erika Boesen, PhD (UNMC, Omaha, NE) on “Iron is a Novel Contributor to Renal Injury in Lupus Nephritis” and six-abstract based trainee oral presentations. The afternoon session resumed with a short-talk by Matthew Potthoff, PhD
(UI Dept. Pharmacology) on “Endocrine Regulation of Carbohydrate Homeostasis by the Liver” and six-abstract based trainee oral presentations. Francois Abboud (Founding Director, ACRC) introduced the IPS Lifetime Achievement Award presentation by Ulla Kopp, PhD, FAPS (UI Division of Nephrology) on “Afferent Renal Sensory Innervation”, while Virend Somers, MD, PhD (Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN) presented a special interest seminar on “Sleep Apnea & Sleep Deprivation – Does Sleeping Less Make You Fat?” The day ended with Reception and Poster Session moderated by Gary Pierce, PhD, Amy Sindler, PhD and Melissa Bates, PhD (UI Dept. Health & Human Physiology).

Day 2 of the meeting began with Mark Chapleau’s (UI Dept. Internal Medicine) introduction of keynote research presentation by Ann Schreihofer, PhD, FAPS (UNTHSC, Fort Worth, TX) entitled “Autonomic and Cardiovascular Consequences of Metabolic Syndrome: Insights from Obese Zucker Rats”. This was followed by special interest seminar by Angela Grippo, PhD (NIU, DeKalb, IL) on “Thought-Provoking Interactions Between Psychology and the Cardiovascular System”, short-talk by Janice Robertson, PhD (UI Dept. Molecular Physiology & Biophysics) on “Investigating the Driving Forces of Membrane Protein Assembly in Membranes”, and the last of the six-abstract based trainee oral presentations. The afternoon program included APS COPC-sponsored career workshop by Christine Schnackenberg, PhD (Glaxo Smith Kline, King of Prussia, PA) and Kathy Ryan, PhD (US Army Institute of Surgical Research, San Antonio, TX) on diverse career opportunities available to students with PhDs, and DSI-sponsored research workshop by Justin Grobe, PhD, FAHA (UI Dept. Pharmacology) on “Vasopressin and G-protein Signaling in Preeclampsia”. This was followed by announcing the 2017 poster and oral trainee presentation award winners, as mentioned below. Finally, the conference ended with the award ceremony and concluding remarks from myself.

• Undergraduate Student Oral Presentation: Christopher Sidwell (UI)
• Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation: Benjamin Mardia (Drake)
• Graduate Student Oral Presentation: Lucas BonDurant (UI)
• Graduate Student Oral Presentation: Rachel Luehrs (UI)
• Graduate Student Poster Presentation: Ahmed Aladham (DMU)
• Graduate Student Poster Presentation: Sharon Idiga (UI)
• Postdoctoral Fellow Oral Presentation: Po Hien Ear (UI)
• Postdoctoral Fellow Poster Presentation: Colleen Johnson (UI)
• Postdoctoral Fellow Poster Presentation: Masashi Mukhoda (UI)

As the 2017 IPS President, it has been my great pleasure and honor to serve in this role. I have strived to promote the Iowa Chapter and interact with colleagues in the region. I will continue to support IPS/APS mission as we endeavor to advance IPS in the region.

Sincerely,

Rasna Sabharwal, PhD, FAHA
President, Iowa Physiological Society

Dated: February 6, 2018