The 17th Annual Meeting of the Iowa Physiological Society

September 29th, 2012

The 17th Annual Meeting of the Iowa Physiological Society (IPS) was held on Saturday, September 29th at the Olsen Medical Education Center on the campus of Des Moines University (DMU) in Des Moines, IA. The meeting was financially supported by the American Physiological Society (APS), DSI, Kent Scientific, Cyber Anatomy Corp., and Des Moines University. The meeting organization was supported by the Continuing Medical Education Department of Des Moines University.

The meeting began with Opening Remarks by IPS President Kim Tran, MD, PhD, from the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Des Moines University. Following the opening remarks, a research presentation was given by Dr. Kimberly Huey, Associate Professor, College of Pharmacy, Drake University. Her talk was entitled “Skeletal Muscle Adaptation to Chronic Changes in Loading and Activation”. A teaching presentation followed by Dr. Mike Lyons, Grandview University. His presentation was entitled “Peer Collaboration to Improve Understanding and Retention of Complex Concepts”. This was followed by another teaching presentation, “PBL, TBL, CBL — What the hell? What can I do if I’m trapped in a lecture-based curriculum?” by Dr. Matthew Henry, Des Moines University. A coffee break and poster session followed, with presentations from graduate, undergraduate, postdoctoral fellows and faculty investigators. The Keynote Address in Physiological Research was then delivered by Dr. Michael Sturek, Indiana University School of Medicine. The title of his address was “Mechanistic and Translational Research in Coronary Vascular Biology”.

In the afternoon, there were two group activities that concurrently took place. The group discussion on research worked on the theme “Current challenges of doing research at the levels of community colleges, undergraduate environment, medical school and graduate school levels and how to adapt your research tool kit and network to meet those challenges.” This group was moderated by Drs. Harald Stauss, University of Iowa, Dr. Julia Moffitt, Des Moines University, and Dr. Mike Sturek, who started the discussion with a short presentation titled “Productively stupid … and loving it.” The presentation was based on a 2008 essay by Martin Schwartz, “The importance of stupidity in scientific research” in Journal of Cell Science. Active discussion followed with exchanges of challenges and how to cope with them in doing research at the many different environments.

The group discussion on teaching focused on the theme “Current challenges of teaching physiology at the levels of community colleges, undergraduate environment, medical school and graduate school levels and how to adapt your teaching tool kits to meet those challenges.” This group was moderated by Drs. Thomas Pressley, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Matt Henry, Des Moines University, and Dee Silverthorn, University of Texas at Austin. Following the group discussions, representatives from the moderators of each group presented highlights from the discussion to the whole audience.

A research presentation was then given by Dr. Vanja Duric, Des Moines University, on the “Role of MKP-1 in Neurobiology of Depression”. After a coffee break, another session of poster viewing and poster competition took place. The Keynote Address in Physiology Teaching was then delivered by Dr. Dee Silverthorn, University of Texas at Austin. The title of her talk was “The Up Side Down Lecture: How to make students come to class”. The afternoon sessions ended with poster awards and recognitions. Six prizes were given to the graduate and undergraduate categories. The first prize winners received $200.00, the 2nd prize winners received $100.00 and the third prize winners, $50.00. The first prize in the graduate category went to Amanda Jepson, a DO student at Des Moines University. The first prize in the undergraduate category went to Lara Terry, a Drake student working in the mentored research program at Des Moines University. The second prizes in graduate and undergraduate categories went to
Katrin Hollinger, Iowa State University, and Ashley Urra, St. Ambrose University. The third prize winners in the graduate and undergraduate categories went to Michael Stencel, Des Moines University, and Michelle Godar, Drake University. Concluding remarks were given by Dr. Kim Tran, Des Moines University.

IPS business meeting followed. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Kim Tran, DMU, and attended by Drs. Harald Stauss, University of Iowa, Julia Moffitt, Des Moines University, Ron Torry, Drake University, Matthew Henry, DMU, Jackie Brittingham, Simpson College, Joshua Selsby, Iowa State University, and Mike Lyons, Grandview University. Dr. Joshua Selsby was unanimously elected to be President of IPS in 2013. Dr. Jackie Brittingham is the President-Elect. A major focus of the discussions was related to the IPS Physiology Seminar Series that was funded through the APS Chapter Activity Grant program. The board also discussed the potential of IPS participating in some PhUn Week activities.

Kim Tran, MD, PhD,
Past President, IPS

A few photos from the meeting:

Dr. Kimberly Huey presented a research talk

Dr. Sturek delivered the Keynote Address in Research

Dr. Silverthorne delivered the Keynote Address in teaching

Dr. Tran with all poster winners.
Front row: undergrad category: Lara Terry, Michelle Godar, Ashley Urra; Back row: graduate category: Amanda Jepson, Katrin Hollinger, Michael Stencel.