The 18th Annual Meeting of the Iowa Physiological Society

September 21st, 2013

The 18th Annual Meeting of the Iowa Physiological Society (IPS) was held on Saturday, September 21st at Des Moines University in Des Moines, IA. The meeting was supported by The American Physiological Society (APS), the Harman Endowment (Iowa State University), DSI, and North Central Instruments. Preparation and execution of the meeting was supported by the Continuing Medical Education Department of Des Moines University.

IPS President, Joshua Selsby, Ph.D., from the Department of Animal Science, Iowa State University began the meeting with a welcome and opening remarks. Those remarks included a change to the printed program as an emergency caused our scheduled APS Keynote Speaker in Physiology Research to be unexpectedly called away. Dr. Selsby gave this address instead in a talk entitled “PGC-1α pathway activation as a treatment for Duchenne muscular dystrophy”. This address was followed by research reports given Shanthi Ganesan, a Ph.D. student from Iowa State University, and Daniel Beltran, Ph.D., University of Iowa. The morning session concluded with the APS sponsored Address in Research Advocacy delivered by T. Richard Nichols, Ph.D., Georgia Technical Institute, entitled, “Advocacy for physiology research.”

The morning session was followed by a break during which the meeting participants were able to continue discussions regarding research advocacy and enjoy their lunch. During this time there was also a poster session where undergraduate and graduate students, post docs, and faculty members were able to present their recent findings. Undergraduate and graduate student presentations were evaluated and awards given for 1st – 3rd in each category complete with monetary awards. The undergraduate category was won by Zachary Kadow, Drake University, followed by Aubrey Lambach, Drake University, and Alisa Pajser, Drake University. The graduate category was won by both Kevin Ehlers, Des Moines University, and Katrin Hollinger, Iowa State University, and in third place was Michelle Burgard, Des Moines University.

In the afternoon session research talks continued with presentations from Kim Tran, MD, Ph.D., Des Moines University, Rasna Sabharwal, Ph.D., University of Iowa, Erica Thomas, Des Moines University, who was selected for an oral presentation based on her submitted abstract, Gary Pierce, Ph.D., University of Iowa, and Vitor Lira, University of Iowa. The meeting then shifted somewhat to focus on the teaching of physiology. Jackie Brittingham, Ph.D., Simpson College and Justin Brown, Ph.D., Simpson College, updated attendees with results of their novel and innovative teaching methods. The Keynote Address in Physiology Education, entitled, “How to get your students’ attention without wearing a clown suit” was given by Bryon Wiegand, Ph.D., University of Missouri. Dr. Joshua Selsby, Iowa State University, then delivered closing remarks and adjourned the meeting.

The IPS business meeting took place immediately after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. The business meeting was chaired by the IPS President, Dr. Joshua Selsby, Iowa State University and attended by board members Drs. Harald Stauss, University of Iowa, Jackie Brittingham, Simpson College, Kim Tran, Des Moines University, and Mike Lyons, Grandview University. Dr. Jackie Brittingham was unanimously elected president and Dr. Mike Lyons, Grandview University, is the new President-Elect. Dr. Rasna Sabharwal, University of Iowa, was elected secretary and treasurer. Discussions focused on planning the next IPS meeting and specifically if the meeting should be held in conjunction with other regional societies and if the regional community would be better served by hosting the IPS meeting in
the spring. Discussions also focused on ways to encourage participation in the IPS Physiology Seminar Series that was funded through the APS.

Sincerely,

Joshua Selsby, Ph.D.
Past President, IPS

Some photos taken during the meeting:

Dr. Kim Tran presented a research talk
Dr. Gary Pierce presented a research talk
Dr. Vitor Lira presented a research talk
Dr. Jackie Brittingham delivered a research talk
Dr. Justin Brown delivered a research talk
Dr. Bryon Wiegand delivered the Keynote Address in teaching

Katrin Hollinger discusses her poster
T. Richard Nichols delivered the APS-sponsored address in Research Advocacy