

## **OHIO PHYSIOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING for 2016, November 19th**

The 31st annual meeting of the Ohio Physiological Society was hosted by the Department of Physiology and Cell Biology at The Ohio State University Wexner College of Medicine in Columbus, OH, on November 19, 2016. This year's meeting was organized by Dr. Noah Weisleder, who served as President of the Ohio Physiological Society. The Ohio Physiological Society (OPS) was founded in 1986 and was the first American Physiological Society (APS) chapter in 1995. The OPS was established with the purpose of enhancing and advancing the field of physiology as a coordinated discipline consisting of the many subdisciplines working at the molecular, cellular and organ system levels of organization in both basic and applied areas. This mission was in full view at this year's meeting bringing together more than 130 attendees, with over 70 posters presented by trainees at levels of experience ranging from high school students to postdoctoral fellows. Poster presentations were complemented by platform presentations from trainees and early career faculty. These attendees came to Columbus from 17 different Ohio colleges and universities in all four corners of the State. With such a broad representation it was a very robust meeting that addressed several aspects of physiology and related fields.

The day began with a series of short talks provided by trainee speakers that were selected from the submitted abstract. Jennifer Petrosino (Ohio State University), Rachel Lane (Findlay University), Holly C. Cappelli (Northeast Ohio Medical University) and Eric J. Reid (Wright State University) presented in the first session on topics ranging from pericardial fat accumulation to sodium channel activity in Huntington's Disease. The second session featured talks from Subhra S. Nag (Cleveland State University), Breana Cervantes (Ursuline College), Brian Paleo (Ohio State University) and Ameet Chimote (University of Cincinnati) on the effects of hypoxia, potassium channel function and plasma membrane repair.

The trainee talks were followed by the poster presentations where faculty judges volunteered to evaluate over 70 posters. These poster presentations were used to select the winners of the Peter Lauf Travel Award to support presentation of their studies at the APS annual meeting. Nosayba Al-Azzam (University of Akron), Mohamed Elzarka (University of Cincinnati), Kevin McElhanon (Ohio State University) and T. Alex Ruwe (University of Cincinnati) were the recipients this year. Research Awards for particularly meritorious presentations were awarded to Taylor Banh (Ohio State University), Holly C. Cappelli (Northeast Ohio Medical University), Jae-Hoon Chung (Ohio State University), Raphael J. Crum (University of Dayton), Brian Hansen (Ohio State University), Sangeetha Kandoi (University of Cincinnati) and Joshua L. Stricker (Wright State University).

After lunch, the APS-supported Keynote Presentation was delivered by Dr. Joseph T. Brozinick who is a Senior Research Advisor at Eli Lilly Co. and Chair of the APS Endocrine Division. Dr. Brozinick is a leader in the efforts to identify new disease targets that regulate metabolism in skeletal muscle by insulin and muscle contraction and how these processes are altered in insulin resistant states such as metabolic syndrome or Type II Diabetes. At Eli Lilly Co., in collaboration with several groups, he leads efforts aimed at discovering disease progression biomarkers and biomarkers for many disease states. He also leads several external collaborations with both academia and industry. His presentation on "*The Role of Sphingolipids in Muscle Insulin Resistance: Correlation or Causation?*" was well received by all of the attendees and generated significant discussion following his talk.

The late afternoon sessions provided an opportunity for early career faculty and senior postdoctoral fellows to present the research underway in their laboratories. Dr. Megan Meuti presented her work on the molecular regulation of insect seasonal physiology. Dr. Perwez Alam provided a talk on how Rb1 and Meis2 genes contribute to inhibition of cellular senescence and promote cardiac repair. Dr. Maegen Ackermann's talk focused on how intercalated disc obscurins regulate intracellular signaling and effect the development of heart failure. Dr. James W. McNamara spoke on cardiac Myosin Binding Protein-C regulation of myosin head order. After a short break, Dr. Leslie Consitt presented a talk on her studies of insulin-stimulation in the elderly and how they indicate metabolic inflexibility in this population. Dr. Kathleen Broomall talked on circadian rhythm indicators as prevention techniques for gestational diabetes. Dr. Kristin Stanford discussed her studies on exercise-induced biomarkers of brown adipose tissue activity. The final talk of the session was provided by Dr. Li Zuo who presented on his work on the role of reactive oxygen species and breast cancer cells.

Our meeting concluded with a reception and buffet dinner at the Ross Heart Hospital. The business meeting of the OPS unanimously elected Dr. Dan Halm as the Treasurer of the OPS for a 3 year term. We were particularly grateful to have the founder of the OPS, Dr. Peter Lauf, join us in Columbus this year and provide some comments on the history of the OPS and his appreciation of the efforts of the organizers for this year's meeting. He also helped present the trainee travel and research awards before the dinner. Support for these awards and the conference in general was provided by grants from the APS Chapter Activity Grant Program and the OSU Margaret T. Nishikawara Merit Scholarship Fund, Dr. Nishikawara was dedicated to graduate student training and development. By her direction, this fund continues her commitment to graduate student training by supporting the development of students pursuing a career in physiology and cell biology. The OPS would like to sincerely extend our thanks to all of the sponsors who contributed to the success of our 2016 meeting. We expect another exciting meeting next year.