

## Tennessee Physiological Society Meeting 2011 – October 13-14, 2011

### Meeting Report:

Approximately fifty students, fellows and faculty assembled at the Quillen College of Medicine at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City for the third annual meeting of the TPS. In addition to the host institution, attendees represented the University of Tennessee Health Science Center – Memphis, Meharry Medical College and Vanderbilt Medical School. The two-day meeting featured the research of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows presented in a morning symposium and afternoon poster session.

The meeting began on the evening of Thursday, October 13 with a welcome reception followed by an opening lecture by David Williams, PhD, Professor of Surgery at Quillen COM. Dr. William's talk was titled "***Macrophage scavenger receptor A (SR-A): It's not just about cholesterol anymore!***" and set the tone for a very lively and interactive meeting. As much of Dr. William's research relates to the function of the innate immune system, his lectures was especially timely in light of the recent awarding of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discoveries in innate immunity. The Friday morning symposium featured six graduate students and two postdoctoral fellows presenting their research to a receptive audience. Discussions of student research continued over lunch and onto the early afternoon poster session. A total of twenty-two posters were displayed in the foyer outside the main lecture halls for Quillen medical classes. A panel of TPS members evaluated student poster presentations and selected two students for TPS travel awards to be used for the EB2012 meeting in April. These students and their poster titles are:

### **Exogenous Ubiquitin Inhibits Chronic $\beta$ -Adrenergic Receptor-Stimulated Cardiac Myocyte Apoptosis and Myocardial Remodeling.**

Christopher R. Daniels, Cerrone R. Foster, Sana Yakoob, Mahipal Singh, Krishna Singh. Department of Physiology, Quillen College of Medicine, JHQ Veterans Affairs Medical Center East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN 37614

### **Novel KCC3 mouse models to study ACCPN, a degenerative neuropathy disorder.**

Jinlong Ding, José Ponce-Coria, and Eric Delpire. Department of Anesthesiology, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, TN 37232

Judges remarked that the quality of all presentations was so good it was hard to choose just two for the travel awards. Next year the Society hopes to make additional travel awards and this was discussed at the business meeting later in the day.

Coincident with the afternoon poster session were two breakout sessions. One session led by a representative of AD Instruments, presented the latest hardware and software available for basic research and for teaching physiology to undergraduate and graduate students and new products for medical physiology courses. A second breakout session featured a discussion and information exchange among faculty from Meharry and Quillen interested in Phun Week activities.

Following the poster and breakout sessions, attendees reconvened for the APS Invited Keynote Lecture delivered by William Aird, MD, Director of Vascular Biology Research, Harvard Medical School. Dr. Aird's lecture was titled "***Vascular bed-specific regulation of the von Willebrand factor gene***". In his talk, Dr. Aird covered a broad range of topics, from the genetic mechanisms underlying phenotypic diversity and plasticity of endothelial cells to the evolutionary origins of the endothelial cell system in vertebrates. To illustrate this latter point, Dr. Aird described his studies of endothelial structure and function in hagfish, organisms that diverged from the major vertebrate lineages over 500 million years ago.

A brief business meeting followed the keynote lecture. ZhongMao Guo, PhD of Meharry Medical College was introduced as the next TPS president and plans were announced for election of the 2013 president. The TPS2012 meeting will be held at Meharry. Members were asked to reach out and recruit additional members, especially physiologists at four-year colleges and universities in Tennessee. Recipients of the Peter Lauf and Norma Adragna student travel awards for EB2012 were announced (see above). These travel awards are possible because of a generous donation from Drs. Peter Lauf and Norma Adragna to establish the award fund. As the TSP is now a 501(c)(3) organization making donations to TPS tax deductible, plans to seek additional donors and gifts to the student travel and awards fund were discussed.

The TPS2011 meeting was made possible by support from the Quillen College of Medicine Department of Physiology and the Office of the Dean of Medicine. In addition, office staff of Physiology managed local arrangements including scheduling lecture halls, poster session space, and food and beverages served throughout the meeting (reception, breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks, etc.). Corporate sponsorships were received from Kent Scientific, AD Instruments, and Fisher Scientific. The American Physiological Society provided funding to support the keynote speaker and student awards.



*Graduate student and postdoctoral fellow presenters in the morning symposium session are pictured. From left to right are José Ponce-Coria, Emmanuel Okoro, Jinlong Ding, David Gibbons, Toh Gang, Rachel Lippert, Brandon Panaro, session moderator Cerrone Foster and TPS president Tom Ecay.*



*Some TPS2011 attendees assembled for a group photo after the keynote lecture and prior to the business meeting.*



*Recipients of Peter Lauf and Norma Adragna TPS2011 travel grants to EB2012 are Chris Daniels of Quillen College of Medicine (center left) and Jinlong Ding of Vanderbilt Medical School (center right). The awards were announced and recognition certificates presented by Evangeline Motley-Johnson of Meharry Medical College (left) and keynote speaker William Aird of Harvard Medical School (right).*