Physiological Genomics Group Fall 2016 Newsletter

Editor’s column:

The Physiological Genomics (PG) Group is an interest group of research scientists including, but not limited to, senior and junior faculty members, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate students within the American Physiological Society with over 600 members. The objectives of this Fall 2016 Newsletter of the PG Group are to update our members by briefly summarizing and highlighting the scientific and social activities, which were held at 2016 Experimental Biology Meeting in San Diego, CA, and will be held at the incoming 2017 Experimental Biology Meeting in Chicago, IL., April 22-26, 2017.

We look forward to your timely abstract submission and participation in the PG group’s EB2017 programming and Awards Luncheon, and welcome your constructive comments and suggestions to further grow and expand the PG group both socially and scientifically.

Sincerely Yours,

Minolfa C. Prieto, M.D., Ph.D.
Editor

Tamas Alexy, M.D., Ph.D.
Co-Editor

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dear APS/PG Group members,

It is my pleasure to serve as the Chair of the Physiological Genomics (PG) Group Steering Committee for the 3rd year, and here I would like to provide you with this progress report. The PG Group continues to serve APS members across all sections and interest groups, who are involved in physiological genomic research, including genomics, epigenomics, metabolomics, transcriptomics, bioinformatics, gene transcription, RNA interference and miRNAs, and transgenic animal models. During last 2 years, we set out five major goals to grow the PG Group: a) to expand the PG Group; b) to improve our Experimental Biology (EB) programming; c) to hold the Annual PG Group Research Conference prior to the EB meeting; d) to establish the PG Group Distinguished Lectureship Award in physiological genomics research; and e) to establish close collaborations with the journal Physiological Genomics as our members’ home journal. I am pleased to report that the progress is going well in all five areas. Indeed, the number of members in the PG Group remains strong well above 600 active members. With Drs. Bina Joe & Mike Garrett’s initiatives, the PG Group has been able to add a jointed symposium with American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG) to our EB 2016 and EB2017 programming, respectively. Again, the PG Group will continue to hold the Annual PG Group Research Conference immediately prior to the EB2017 meeting. At the PG Group 2016 Annual Research Conference in San Diego, Dr. Curt Sigmund of the University of Iowa was selected to deliver the PG Group’s Distinguished Lecture in Physiological Genomics Research, and Dr. Jeremy Prokop, Ph.D., of HudsonAlpha was selected for the PG Group’s New Investigator Award, which was sponsored by the journal Physiological Genomics. Finally, the PG Group has successfully raised funds from a number of pharmaceutical/biotech sponsors and our members to support the Distinguished Lectureship Awards, New Investigator Awards, and Trainee Awards at previous and future EB meetings. Taken together, I would like to thank all members of the PG Group Steering Committee and our members for their continuous support of the PG Group, and encourage you to submit your abstracts to the PG group’s EB2017 programming. I am looking forward to seeing you at the PG Group’s Pre-EB2017 Annual Research Conference, symposia, feature topic, Trainees Highlight Session, as well as Business/Awards Luncheon at EB2017 in Chicago, Illinois.
1. Overview of 2016 PG Group Activities. The meeting began with welcome comments and summary of the last year activities by PG Chair, Dr. Joe Zhuo. It was noted that there are 600+ members currently affiliated with PG group, and that the Saturday PG conference (prior to EB meetings) continues to be a success. It was noted that the PG group will now be able to offer a distinguished lectureship award of $500 to the keynote speaker at the upcoming meeting EB2017. It was noted that the current steering committee offices expire at the end of the EB2017 meeting, and that any current committee members should provide nominations (self or of others) to fill these roles for the next three year term. Current members wishing to continue participation as officers in the PG Group should contact Dr. Zhuo as soon as possible.

2. Pre-EB 2017 PG Group Annual Research Conference Planning. Dr. Joe Zhuo asked each of the steering committee members to provide suggestions for the symposium proposals for the upcoming pre-EB2017 PG Group Pre-EB conference. There was discussion on whether these proposals should be more technical/methods in nature or research topics. There was general agreement that both techniques symposiums and research symposiums were appropriate, and that these could alternate either within each year or between years. Committee members were asked to submit proposal ideas no later than the end of September to Dr. Joe Zhuo.

3. Scientific Program Committee. Mike Garrett provided a summary of EB2017 programming for the PG group. The committee agreed that programming the Trainee Symposium on Sunday was ideal as this allows the PG group Business/Awards luncheon to be held on Monday during the EB meeting.

Chicago EB2017 Meeting Schedule for Physiological Genomics Group Program
Saturday 1:00-5:15, Room 194B (250 people): 4th Annual APS Physiological Genomics Conference
Sunday 10:30-12:30, Room 192C (200 people): Trainee Highlights in Physiological Genomics
Sunday 3:15-5:15, Room W194B (250 people): Symposium (Single Cell Analysis and Genomic Approaches)

4. PG Group Business and Awards Luncheon. Dr. Zhuo provided an update on PG group finances, indicating that 2 one-time donations have been received to support PG group activities. It was also noted that there are prospects for additional support being pursued by Drs. Joe Zhuo, Minolfa Prieto, Damian Romero, and Tzung-Shi Lu, respectively. It was noted that the EB2017 meeting in Chicago is not located in a part of town not close to restaurants and the Monday business and awards luncheon may post some logistical difficulties, but that Dr. Min Du was investigating the options available.

5. Trainees’ Committee. Dr. Allison Kriegel provided a summary of how last year trainee symposium was organized. There was discussion whether international trainees should be provided awards to help offset their travel costs, or if all the awards should only be based purely on the merit of the abstract. While it was recognized that international trainees may have a greater costs (which may limit the participation of some individuals), it was generally agreed that the quality of the abstract should be the primary consideration. It was also noted that this is a trainee award, and not specifically a travel award. Therefore trainee awards will continue to be allocated based on merit.

6. Awards Committee. Dr. Mike Massett provided a summary of last award selection process, indicating that 25 abstracts from trainees were reviewed from those submitted to EB2016 who self-identified by undergraduate, graduate, or post-doctoral students. Of the 25, eight were selected for oral presentation to the PG trainee symposium based on the quality of the written abstracts. Awardee were selected based on the oral presentations scores (obtained at meeting) in combination with the written abstract score. The top 3 candidates were awarded cash awards ($300, $200, $100). There was also discussion whether to increase the new investigator award from $500 to $1000. After discussion, the general consensus was to keep the new investigator award at the current $500 level.

7. Industry-foundations Liaison Committee. Dr. Damian Romeo provided an update on current fundraising activities. Attempts are being made to renew the DSI award previously given to the PG group. In addition, 20+ company contacts have been obtained and Drs. Romeo and Sen are working with the APS development office to send formal letters to solicit donations and/or provide named awards.

8. International Relations Committee. Dr. Tzong-Shi Lu provided an update on efforts to recruit new members from the international community including European, Australian, Asian and South American scientists.
We are very pleased to announce the various events sponsored by the PG Group during the EB2017 meeting in Chicago, IL. We have an exciting program this year, especially with the addition of two jointly sponsored PG symposiums. The official program is as follow:

Saturday 1:00-5:15, Room W194B
4th Annual APS Physiological Genomics Conference

Sunday 10:30-12:30, Room W192C
Trainee Highlights in Physiological Genomics

Sunday 3:15-5:15, Room W194B
Symposium (Single Cell Analysis and Genomic Approaches)

Monday 3:15-5:15, room W192C
Featured Topic (Novel genetic risk factors and early-pregnancy mechanisms contributing to preeclampsia)

Tuesday 8:00-10:00, room W190A
PG/ASHG Symposium (TBD)

Tuesday 3:15-5:15, room W190B
History/PG (Twenty Years of Physiological Genomics)

We encourage all researchers, especially trainees (junior faculty members, post-doctoral fellows, graduate, and undergraduate students), who are conducting research in any area of physiological genomics to submit their abstracts for consideration as an oral or poster presentation once the abstract submission site opens. There will be several excellent opportunities for oral presentations, including our 4th Annual APS Physiological Genomics Group Research Conference, Featured Topic, and Trainee Highlights session (see below). A number of abstracts will be chosen for oral presentations in the Featured Topics session, 8 for the Trainee Highlights session, and up to 6 for Pre-EB2017 Annual Research Conference. Oral presentations will be selected from abstracts submitted to the Physiological Genomic Group categories (Numbers 1295, 1300 to 1309, and 1340). Oral presentations during the Trainee Highlights session will be judged by the PG Group Award Committee and the three top presenters will be awarded cash awards. All trainee presenters will receive a certificate of research excellence to recognize their work.

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Mike Garrett (mrgarrett@umc.edu) or Joe Zhuo (jzhuo@umc.edu). We look forward to having you present your exciting research findings at EB2017.
The PG Group Awards Committee presented Dr. Jeremy W. Prokop, Senior Scientist at HudsonAlpha with the Physiological Genomics Group New Investigator Award for 2016. Dr. Tzongshi Lu of Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women’s Hospital placed second. Dr. Mopidevi Brahma Raju of the University of Toledo was awarded third place. The New Investigator Award recognizes an outstanding young investigator pursuing research in Physiological Genomics. The awardee must be the first author or a senior author of a Physiological Genomics.

The PG Group Awards Committee also recognized trainees for excellence in research at Experimental Biology 2016 in San Diego. Dr. Di Feng of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Havard Medical School won the Physiological Genomics Trainee Research Excellence Award. Second and third place awards were given to Jolyane Meloche of Laval University and Amelia Mazzone of the Mayo Clinic, respectively. Recognition awards were presented to five other trainees (Jianglei Chen, Evan DeVallance, Joshua Gaudette, Alice Mathews, and Virginia Reverte Ribo).

Drs. Jia L. Zhuo, Chair of the PG Group, and Drs. Mike Massett and Elaine Choung-Hee Lee presented The Physiological Genomics Top Trainee Research Excellence Award to Di Feng (Left panel) from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. The 2nd place award was presented to Jolyane Meloche of Laval University (Middle panel), and the 3rd place award to Amelia Mazzone of the Mayo Clinic (Right panel). Recognition Awards for research excellence were presented to other five trainees during the PGG Awards Luncheon held during the EB2016 in San Diego, CA. Congratulations to all of them!

PG Group's Business Luncheon held during the 2016 Experimental Biology Meeting in San Diego, CA
**Physiological Genomics Group New Investigator Award**

**Call For Nominations**

The PG Group, with generous support from *Physiological Genomics*, *Illumina*, *DSI*, *ADInstruments*, *Vector BioLabs*, is proud to present the 2017 PG Group New Investigator Award (with a value of $500) at EB'2017. The objective of the PG Group New Investigator Award is to actively stimulate innovative research in physiological genomics and to recruit talented young scientists to the field of physiological genomics research. Each year, the PG group invites nominations (or self-nominations) from young investigators who have authored publications in Physiological Genomics between January and December from the previous 5 years. The criteria of nominees (or applicants) for the PG Group New Investigator Award include: a) the first author or a senior author of a Physiological Genomics publication in the previous 5 year; b) not be above the rank of Assistant Professor (or academic/industry equivalent) at the time of nomination or application; and c) have earned their Ph.D. degree within the last 15 years.

Nominations for the 2017 award should be submitted online by January 30, 2017. Please go to APS awards page, and select PG Group (http://www.the-aps.org/mm/awards/Group-Awards/pgg-2). Nomination materials should include: 1) a letter of nomination (1 page) describing the significance and quality of the nominee’s article published in Physiological Genomics; the innovation and relevance of the nominee’s current area of physiological genomics research; and the merit of the nominee in scholarly and research efforts (self-nominations will be accepted). 2) the nominee's recent CV. 3) a reprint of the nominee's article published in Physiological Genomics.

Applications will be reviewed by the Awards Committee of the PG Group. The awardee will be recognized at the PG Group Business/Awards Luncheon, EB2017 meeting in Chicago, IL.

**For correspondence, please contact**: Michael Massett, Ph.D., Chair of the APS/PG Group Award Committee, Department of Health and Kinesiology Texas A&M University, 213F Heldenfels Hall, TAMU 4243 College Station, TX 77845-4243. Phone: (979) 862-4687  Fax: (979) 847-8987.

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**Distinguished Lectureship Award in Physiological Genomics Research**

**Call For Nominations**

Dear APS/PG Group Colleagues,

The PG Group Steering Committee would like to solicit nominations or self-nominations for the 2017 Distinguished Lectureship Award in Physiological Genomics Research. This award currently consists of $500 to partially reimburse travel expenses of the recipient. The goal of this award is to recognize distinguished lifetime achievements in physiological genomics research by a scientist, who has made a significant contribution to the field of physiological genomics. The selected awardee will deliver a lecture at the PG Group’s 2017 Annual Research Conference in Chicago, IL, on Saturday, April 22, 2017, and be honored at the PG Group’s Business/Awards Luncheon on Monday, April 24, 2017, respectively. All nomination (or self-nomination) materials, including the candidate’s curriculum vitae and a nomination letter highlighting the candidate’s achievements in physiological genomics-related research, should be sent to Dr. Jia L. Zhuo, the Chair of the PG Group via e-mail: jzhuo@umc.edu no later than January 30, 2017.

The PG Group Steering Committee
TOP REASONS TO PUBLISH WITH PG:
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If you have questions, please contact: Dr. Bina Joe, Editor-in-Chief
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The 2016 Trainee Highlights in Physiological Genomics Session featured a stimulating array of research topics from trainees, ranging from microRNAs and long non-coding RNAs to computational modeling of RNA-sequencing data. We would like to congratulate the following trainees: Dr. Di Feng of Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School, who won the Physiological Genomics Trainee Research Excellence Award. Second and third place awards were given to Jolyane Meloche of Laval University and Amelia Mazzone of the Mayo Clinic, respectively. Recognition awards were presented to five other trainees, Jialei Chen, Evan DeVallance, Joshua Gaudette, Alice Mathews, and Virginia Reverte Ribo.

Please join us for the upcoming Trainee Highlights in Physiological Genomics Session at EB2017 meeting to be held on Sunday, April 23, 10:30-12:30, Room 192C, in Chicago, IL. Oral presentations for this session will be selected from abstracts submitted by trainees including junior faculty members, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, as well as high school students (page 4). Three top abstract presenters will be given a cash award, and five other oral presenters will be recognized with the award of a certificate of excellence in physiological genomics research.

### Acknowledgements - Contributions to PG Group

(Only to October 2016 & will be updated in Spring 2017 Newsletter)

**Corporations**
- ADInstruments
- Bowen Bioscience LLC
- Data Sciences International, Inc. (DSI)
- Illumina
- Physiological Genomics
- Shiao's Chemical Co., Taiwan
- Vector BioLabs

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