Meet Our New Chair

Experimental Biology 2011 marked the start for a new Chair of the APS Respiration Section. Wolfgang Kuebler was born in Cologne, Germany, in 1967. He received his MD and doctorate degrees (Dr med; summa cum laude) at the University of Munich, Germany, in 1997. From 1997 to 1999, he worked as a Fellow of the German Research Foundation (DFG) with J. Bhattacharya at Columbia University.

Kuebler is Staff Scientist in the Keenan Research Centre of St. Michael's Hospital and Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto; as well as Professor for Physiology at the Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin on an endowed professorship of the German Heart Institute, Berlin.

Kuebler is a lung biologist whose research focuses on translational research in pulmonary and microvascular physiology. His research aims to integrate basic research on cell signaling and communication pathways to the level of the intact organ and organism. This approach allows identification of new basic patho-mechanisms in disease models for pulmonary injury, edema or hypertension. Kuebler and colleagues then apply this knowledge in the development and preclinical testing of new therapeutic strategies for the treatment of these diseases.

A member of the APS since 1998, Kuebler previously served as Chair of the Program Committee of the Respiration Section and Joint Program Committee Representative. In addition to this APS work, Kuebler is a member of the Strategy Committee of the European Society for Microcirculation and Editorial Boards of American Journal of Respiratory Cell and Molecular Biology and Microcirculation.

Call for Nominations

To celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the APS, the History of Physiology Group plans a symposium honoring significant research accomplishments of APS members. Our section is to forward two published examples, with rationales, of significant studies in respiratory physiology (lung biology or control of breathing) that warrant mention and recognition at EB2012. Studies from 1887 to present are welcome, though our section dates from 1933. Authors must be (have been) APS members but publication in APS journals is not required. Linda Allen (LAllen@The-APS.org) can access membership records to confirm your nominee’s eligibility.

Send suggestions to kueblerw@smh.ca by Aug 1. Based on your submitted proposals, the Respiration Section Steering Committee will select two outstanding examples for inclusion in the 2012 program.
The section recognized out-going Chair Marilyn Merker UW Madison (above, with Wolfgang Kuebler) and Secretary-Treasurer Irene Solomon SUNY (below) for their three years of outstanding service to the section and the APS.

Respiration Section members Gordon Mitchell UW Madison and Frank Powell UC San Diego (pictured above and below, respectively, at the section banquet) were each honored at the APS Business Meeting. Both Mitchell and Powell are completing their three-year term as APS Councillor. Gentlemen, thank you for your service.

At the Respiration Section Banquet Pulitzer Prize-winning science journalist and author Deborah Blum, Professor of Journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison spoke based on her latest book, The Poisoner's Handbook: Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York

Trainees past and present as well as long-time friends and colleagues were on hand to hear their mentor, Dr Jahar Bhattacharya Columbia, deliver the 2011 Comroe Lecture.

APS President Peter Wagner UC San Diego joined us for the banquet and praised the Respiration Section as one of the Society’s most active and dynamic.

Our Trainee Committee Diva – or is that Goddess? Melissa Bates UW Madison

Judith Creighton UA Birmingham accepts the New Investigator Award at the Respiration Section Banquet.

Mary Townsley U South Alabama asks a question at the Trainee Highlights Breakfast.
Please consider making a donation to the Respiration Section to support Section activities including the banquet and student travel awards. Your support is needed and would be much appreciated. Donations can be made online at:

http://www.the-aps.org/sections/respire/index.htm

Trainee Highlights

The Annual Trainee Highlights Breakfast hosted by the Respiration Section at EB2011 was a shining success for the second year in a row. Melissa Bates, Erica Dale-Nagel and Jessica Snow created the event, which was convened this year by Bates and Dale-Nagel (right) who were joined by Nicole Nichols (center) and Patricia Villalta (left).

The inaugural Trainee Highlights Breakfast caught the attention of the APS, and this year APS President Peter Wagner spoke at the breakfast to commend our section for creating the event and to announce that other sections are being encouraged to follow our lead.

The Respiration Section established a fund to support the breakfast in future years, and the APS has agreed to match up to $25,000. The goal is to create a $50,000 endowment, which would garner revenue to fund the event annually. Donations are being accepted at https://www.the-aps.org/ebuspprod/OneClickDonation/tabid/229/Default.aspx?ProductId=973. If each regular member of the Respiration Section could donate $30 we would reach our goal; please consider making a donation.

Advocates Needed

During EB 2011 I was fortunate to go with other APS members to visit Capitol Hill. My group included seasoned advocates for science and a member of the APS Science Policy staff. Two things struck me. First, Congressional staff in the six offices visited was receptive to hearing from bench scientists about the impact of federal funding on research programs and how federally-funded research benefits Americans. Second, despite their support for scientific research, none of the offices I visited appreciated how deleterious cuts in funding would be to a generation of scientists. Nearly all viewed research funding as another program that should be cut to share the burden during these difficult economic times.

I left my meetings convinced that greater advocacy by scientists is imperative. Members of Congress are typically in their home districts during August to visit with constituents. This provides an excellent opportunity for scientists to tell elected representatives why they should support scientific research. I urge you to make the time to let your Members of Congress know why they should make federal funding of scientific research a priority. Contact information and upcoming events for Senators and Representatives are available on their individual websites, which can be found at www.senate.gov or www.house.gov. Information on pertinent issues and preparing for advocacy interactions are available at www.the-aps.org/pa/advocate/.

In addition, the APS Science Policy staff a valuable resource.

Please consider contacting your Members of Congress during this critical time to advocate for the future of scientific research. -- Roy Sutliff, Emory University, APS Respiration Section and Advocacy Committee.
What’s your history-of-respiratory-research IQ??

The feeling of it to my lungs was not sensibly different from that of common air; but I fancied that my breast felt peculiarly light and easy for some time afterwards. Who can tell but that, in time, this pure air may become a fashionable article in luxury. Hitherto only two mice and myself have had the privilege of breathing it.

— Joseph Priestley


What was “it”?

Email your answer to betaylor@alaska.edu. All correct answers will be entered in a prize draw to be made at the Respiration Section Banquet at EB2012.

Corporate Sponsors

We acknowledge the continued support of The American Physiological Society and generous support of our corporate sponsors who have provided funds to help support our scientific and social programs at EB2011.

Grass Technologies representatives Ken Cook (far left) and Joe Nickerson (center left) enjoy the banquet with out-going section Chair Marilyn Merker Medical College of Wisconsin (center right) and Michael Harris UA Fairbanks (far right).


Hillary (left) and Charles (right) Ward of CWE enjoyed the section banquet.