Hello and best wishes from your secretary. This is a time for major changes in the section, some already in place and some potentially in the near future. After serving the section as chair for four years, Dave Evans is stepping down to re-explore the dubious honor of being chair of the Zoology Department at the University of Florida. Dave served us well, with wisdom, wit, and enthusiasm. We wish him well. Stepping in as chair is Stan Lindstedt. Stan has already served the section for two years as councilor and is taking over the reins as new issues loom over the section.

LETTER FROM THE NEW SECTION CHAIR, STAN LINDSTEDT

Dear members of the Comparative Section,

Dave Evans has “passed the torch” to me as the Chair of our section. I want to take this opportunity to thank Dave publicly for all he did during his tenure as our chair. Thanks in part to his leadership, Comparative Physiology is alive and well as there is (what I perceive as) a “back to the future” resurgent interest in organismal and integrative physiology. As we move forward over the next few years, I see a great opportunity of our section to take a significant leadership role in capitalizing on this rediscovery that all biological molecules actually exist within a functioning animal. Their biological context is now being recognized as important as their isolated structure and function (the pendulum is swinging back!).

Kicking-off that rediscovery tour, Jim Hicks has organized what is sure to be a wonderful meeting in the fall of next year: Comparative Physiology: Evolution, Integration and Applied. This meeting will take place 24-28 August 2002 in San Diego. The preliminary program is available on line at:

http://www.the-aps.org/meetings/aps/san_diego/home.htm

In addition to this specialty meeting, Jim has also been busy with plans for our section’s participation in EB2001, New Orleans 20-24 April, 2002. Most notably, the August Krogh Distinguished Lectureship is scheduled for Sunday, April 21, 8:00 AM. We are very fortunate to have speaking this year, Albert F. Bennett, Univ. of California, Irvine. His presentation, “Experimental Evolution: Generating Biological Novelty for Functional and Genetic Analyses” promises to be an Al Bennett extravaganza. In addition, we will hold a luncheon on Sunday to both honor Al and to give students and postdocs (and others) an extended chance to interact with him over lunch. Make plans now to include both the lecture and lunch on Sunday. Please note that there are several awards that our section is entitled to or eligible for – please take special note of these for students and postdocs planning on presenting at this meeting!


1) Comparative Section Young Investigator Award (3 awards, $500 each). These are travel awards for recognition of meritorious research by young investigators. These awards are exclusively for our section – they represent a great opportunity. Deadline for applications is Jan. 15, 2002.

2) Proctor and Gamble. Comparative Physiology should receive (at least) one of these $500 awards for presenting Predoctoral students. Deadline, 7 Nov.

3) Professional Opportunity Awards – 36 awards of $500 to go across all sections.

In addition to the great job done by Jim, Sinya Benyajati (section treasurer) has taken a section lacking bountiful financial riches and has used her creativity and hard work to get us into financial health. In particular she has done a great job at finding a mechanism to once again recognize our Scholander prizewinners. Sinya deserves both our gratitude and deep appreciation for all she has
accomplished! Finally, Steve Warburton has the time-consuming task of secretary. Thanks to Steve for his commitment as well (this newsletter being one tangible consequence).

So, I have the advantage of taking over at a time when, on the whole, our section is thriving. Of course, we can always find ways to become even better. One opportunity that has come our way is an offer from the *Journal of Experimental Biology* (Company of Biologists) to fund an additional plenary speaker at either our specialty fall meetings or perhaps every other year at EB. One of the section tasks will be to find how this gift (up to $2,000 per meeting) can be best used. We are very grateful to JEB for this confidence in our section as they feel this association will be mutually beneficial.

Finally, I present an issue for our section’s pondering. Is it time to consider changing our name to better reflect our philosophical underpinnings? I wonder if “Comparative Physiology” best captures our collective research foci of “Evolution, Integration, and Application” that Jim has brilliantly summarized as our next theme meeting. While I recognize that for most of us, the term *comparative* is both very positive and certainly descriptive of our approach. However, I wonder if we could generate more enthusiasm for section membership by redefining ourselves perhaps as Integrative Physiology or perhaps Comparative and Integrative Physiology or ??? This is just a thought that I toss out for the section’s consideration and possible discussion.

Please feel free to send any suggestions, gripes, ideas my way. As section chair I would prefer to come up with a few duds (bad ideas?) if that is the price for a few innovations. Hope to see a great turnout in New Orleans in April.

*Stan Lindstedt,*
Chair, APS Comparative Section

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**EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY 2002**

November 7 is the abstract deadline for Experimental Biology 2002 in New Orleans April 20-24. If you haven’t received the call for papers, the forms and program are available on-line at www.faseb.org/meetings/eb2002/call/. Three featured topics sessions are planned by members of the comparative section, Living at extreme temperatures: genes to organisms (M. Marjanovic), Integration of volume regulation and cardiovascular function, an application of comparative physiology (K. Olson), and Ontogeny of Cardiorespiratory mechanisms: an evolutionary perspective (S. Warburton). Abstracts selected by the organizers for inclusion in a featured topic session will be presented twice, once as a poster and again in the oral session. This is an excellent chance to reach a wide audience.

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**FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT: THE UBC LEGACY SYMPOSIUM**

*aka: The Symposium to Honour the Retirement of the UBC “Big 4”;
John Phillips, Peter Hochachka, Dave Randall and Dave Jones*

*Announcement communicated by Bill Milsom. Contact Bill for more information at Milsom@zoology.ubc.ca*

A one day symposium is being organized for Thursday, August 29th, 2002 in San Diego to honour the end of an era; the retirements of John Phillips, Peter Hochachka, Dave Randall and Dave Jones from the Department of Zoology at the University of British Columbia.

The symposium is being organized as a satellite symposium of the Conference on “The Power of Comparative Physiology: Evolution, Integration and Applied” sponsored by the American Physiological Society, Section of Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry. Because the four could never agree to retire on the same day, we have chosen to take the opportunity of scheduling this event as a satellite symposium of this International Meeting to honour the collective contribution these four have made to comparative biochemistry and physiology world wide. There will no doubt be other specific events organized for each of the individuals closer to their specific retirement dates, but we felt we could not
pass up the opportunity to bring together former students, post docs, collaborators, colleagues and friends who contributed to, and benefited from the unique environment that was cultured at UBC. The symposium will be a single day event culminating in an evening social at the Birch Aquarium at Scripps/UCSD.

Also, we would also like to assemble a felicitation volume of mini-reviews highlighting the breadth and depth of the influence of this group on comparative biochemistry and physiology. We invite all colleagues and associates to consider submitting a short article of 5-10 printed pages on any topic they consider appropriate for this event. In assembling this volume, we would like to capture the advances made, and challenges faced, by comparative biochemists and physiologists during the last four decades particularly as influenced by our honorees. Authoritative reviews of relevant work would be gratefully accepted, as would more philosophical essays, humorous articles or even poems. We hope to have the volume finished in time for distribution at the event. To accomplish this, however, we will need to receive all articles before May 31st 2002. This will allow us time to produce the final product for late August.

Further details about all aspects of this event will be made available later this fall.

**CHANGES IN AJP REGULATORY, INTEGRATIVE AND COMPARATIVE PHYSIOLOGY**

The editorial office for *AJP Regulatory, Integrative and Comparative Physiology* section has been moved to Berlin since August 1, 2001. The new Editor-in-Chief is Dr. Pontus Persson, Johannes-Müller-Institute for Physiology, Humboldt-University, Berlin (phone, +49 30 450 52 81 62; fax, +49 30 450 52 89 72; email, monika.sonnabend@charite.de). Associate editors are Drs. Joey Granger, Thomas Lohmeier, Jürgen Schnermann, Allen Cowley, and William Cupples from North America and Ole Skott, Heimo Ehmke, and Holga Scholz from Europe. The major categories for the journal include: cardiac, renal and respiratory integration; thirst and volume, electrolyte homeostasis; neurohumoral control of circulation and hypertension; local control of circulation; regulation in genetically modified animals; model organisms and comparative functional genomics; development and tissue plasticity; appetite and obesity; inflammation, cytokines, and temperature regulation.

Furthermore, all authors are now requested to submit their manuscripts online via APSCentral (www.apscentral.org) using PDF files. For details please refer to the special notice from the AJP office and the editorial by Pontus Persson published in the AJP, Regulatory, Integrative and Comparative Physiology; August, 2001 (volume 50, No. 2.) Dr. Persson also plans to publish short overviews on highlighted areas called “In Focus”.

For a few more months, the Associate Editor’s office for comparative physiology will continue to handle all the manuscripts submitted prior to August 1, 2001 and those currently pending. I would like to take this opportunity to express my hearty appreciation to all the members of Comparative Physiology Section for your support by submitting your manuscripts to AJP and by reviewing the manuscripts sent in by others. During my six-year tenure, we received 100-115 new manuscripts and 30-40 carryover manuscripts per year, and comparative physiology was able to maintain high scientific quality. This success is solely due to the excellent quality of submitted studies and critical, helpful reviews.

Since the new Regulatory, Integrative and Comparative section does not include an associate editor for comparative field, I, with the help of Drs. Dave Evans and Bill Dantzler, raised a strong concern to the APS Publication Committee chaired by Dr. Dave Benos (BENOS@PHYSIOLOGY.UAB.EDU). We requested that the manuscripts dealing with comparative studies should be reviewed with appropriate measures by comparative physiologists/biologists who have expertise in this area of research, and that the manuscripts be handled by the associate editor specified for comparative field. Although the APS and Publication Committee recognizes the importance of comparative studies and supports the comparative section, they prefer the manuscripts be handled by the editorial office and associate editors described above. They agreed, however, to appoint as a special editor for comparative field, Dr. John Pritchard, (Department of Cell & Molecular Pharmacology, NIEHS, Research Triangle Park, NC27709-2233; phone: 919-541-4054; fax: 919-541-
5737; E-mail: pritchard@niehs.nih.gov) and several comparative physiologists to the editorial board. If you have any questions/comments regarding the new editorial office and manuscript review process, please contact Dr. Pontus Persson or John Pritchard. Since the term for the editorial board appears to be only one year, resulting in a quick turnover, I encourage you to write Dr. Persson if you wish to serve on the editorial board, and attach your curriculum vitae and field of expertise (include keywords). As you may know, starting in January 2002, all APS members receive all of the APS journals free online. Also, if a member is the first or last author of an accepted manuscript, all the color figures in that paper will be published free. These incentives may help you encourage your associates and colleagues to join APS. I thank you again for your generous service and would appreciate your continued support of AJP.

Hiroko Nishimura
Associate Editor, AJP Regulatory, Integrative and Comparative Physiology

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that the Comparative Physiology Section's account is finally healthy (for the first time since 1996) thanks to the support of our members and our colleagues in the industry. We are most thankful to GlaxoSmithKline and University of Alaska Press for their generous support of the Scholander Awards. University of Alaska Press donated copies of the autobiography book of P.F. Scholander to be given as part of the annual Scholander Awards as well as for the Section to sell and raise money for our endowment fund. We plan to continue to build up our endowment fund to expand our awards both in terms of numbers and travel assistance, and we need continued support from our members. You can help the Section in many ways:

1) Send your donation check made payable to the "American Physiological Society/Comparative Section Restricted Account" to The American Physiological Society, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814-3991.


3) Attend our Comparative Physiology Section Luncheon at EB 2002 in New Orleans. The date, place, and ticket sale will be announced in our Spring Newsletter.

Sinya Benyajati
Treasurer, APS Comparative Section

CHANGE IN THE SECTION IDENTITY? An editorial note from the secretary

There have been suggestions that the comparative section should consider re-examining its identity and perhaps even change the section name. The apparent removal of comparative physiology representation from the editorial board of AJP RIC suggests that the American Physiological Society has a contingent that thinks comparative physiology is best left by the wayside, no doubt because we don't enhance the impact factor of the journal. On the other hand, we have had strong support for specialty meetings, symposia and special topics proposals, suggesting the feelings at the upper levels of the society are not uniform. In order to address this issue, the steering committee suggests opening up a discussion to begin to assemble opinions and options, with the idea of a more formal discussion at either EB 2002 or the Fall Comparative Conference. At this point, we would like to solicit opinions as to the means of such a preliminary discussion or even if such discussion is worthwhile. Of course we understand that everyone is overwhelmed and for that reason, we do not intend to flood everyone's email by using the list serve. We propose to use an on-line forum allowing interested members to log on follow the discussion at times and places most convenient for each of us. We also hope this format will encourage input from our more junior members, post-docs and graduate students, who have a
significant interest in the future of our society and our section. Please send your comments regarding the value of such an on-line discussion to me, the section secretary, Steve Warburton (swarburt@nmsu.edu) or to the new Section chair, Stan Lindstedt (stan.lindstedt@NAU.EDU).