Hello and salutations from your secretary. As always at this time of year, it is time to make sure your travel reservations are in place for Experimental Biology 2004. This year EB 2004 is being held in Washington DC on April 17 – April 21. February 13, 2004 is the deadline for early registration. On-line registration is currently active and preliminary programs for each society are available on-line www.faseb.org/meetings/eb2004/meetinginformation.html. Please set aside Monday, April 19, 2004, 2:00 -3:00 pm for the August Krogh Distinguished Lectureship by Dr. William Dantzler, “A Vertebrate Renal Odyssey -Organic Solute Excretion and Water Conservation in Reptiles, Birds and Mammals”.

Please support the sessions sponsored by our section listed below.

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<tr>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Nagy and John Speakman</td>
<td>Non-invasive body composition analysis in small animals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karl Karnaky</td>
<td>Insect models of epithelial tissue transport</td>
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<td>Suzanne Munns</td>
<td>Cardiovascular and Respiratory Constraints on Exercise</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sohozo Sugiura and Ron Ferraris</td>
<td>Comparative Regulation of Renal and Intestinal Phosphorus Processing and Transport: From Molecules to Environment</td>
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The EB 2003 Comparative Physiology section business meeting/luncheon will provide a forum for the presentations of the Scholander Awards and the Young Investigator Awards, and for students and post-doctoral fellows to meet and interact with the Distinguished Lecturer, Dr. William Dantzler of the University of Arizona, Phoenix Arizona. This event is Tuesday April 20, 11:30-1:30 at the Grand Hyatt. To order tickets, please contact Sinya Benyajati, Treasurer, APS Comparative section: siribhinya-benyajati@ouhsc.edu, 405-271-2132. Students and fellows who participate in the Scholander Competition may order tickets free of charge. A limited number of tickets may be available at EB. And congratulations to Suzanne Munns, UC Irvine, winner of the EB03 Scholander Award for her poster “The Effects of Exercise on Venous Return, Blood Pressure and Abdominal Pressure in Varanus exanthematicus”.

Please help us move our section into a strong financial position by making donations to help build the endowment fund to keep this important comparative physiology award activity going in the future. Send your check made payable to the "American Physiological Society/Comparative Section Restricted Account" to The American Physiological Society, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814-3991. Additionally, we extend our sincere thanks to Bill Milsom for providing copies of Peter Hochacka’s last book for distribution to our awardees. The donation is an apt reminder of Peter’s unflagging support of young investigators and exciting new science.
As usual, the Comparative Section provides three Young Investigator Awards to candidates who have completed their PhD within the past 10 years, are a member of APS, and are presenting a talk or poster at EB2004 dealing with comparative physiology. Applicants should submit their abstract, a copy of the abstract submission confirmation page, a one-page CV and a one-page summary of research accomplishments and goals via email to Jim Hicks, chair of the Comparative Section (jhicks@uci.edu) by **January 5, 2004**. The winners will be notified by email before March 1.

The APS has created a new Award that our younger members should not confuse with the earlier “Young Investigator Award”. The new award is available to a much wider range of applicants. The Comparative Section New Investigator Award ($1000) recognizes outstanding investigators in the early stages of their career. Candidates should be investigators who have made meritorious contributions to the scientific areas represented by the APS Comparative Section. They should not be above the rank of Assistant Professor or a comparable position in a research track at an academic institution or an industry (e.g. Scientist, Sr. Scientist, Research Investigator, etc.) They should receive nominations from at least two regular members of the APS. Candidates will be judged on their publications, how the publications relate to the APS section to which they have applied, and evidence for independence and promise (grant funding, peer review activities, etc.) Although this is not an abstract-based award, awardees are expected to attend EB and make an oral or poster presentation. The candidate must be an APS member in good standing. Candidates should submit a curriculum vitae, 2 nomination letters from APS members, and 3 reprints to The American Physiological Society, Membership Office, by **January 30, 2004**. Applications will be forwarded to the appropriate section for review. A list of all APS awards and associated deadlines for EB2004 is available at [www.the-aps.org/meetings/eb2004/awards/index.htm](http://www.the-aps.org/meetings/eb2004/awards/index.htm).

And from David Goldstein, “A reminder for the New Year: The scientific program committee for the 2006 conference entitled “Comparative Physiology: Integrating Diversity” is now accepting proposals for symposia. To submit your proposal, go to: [http://www.wright.edu/biology/aps/](http://www.wright.edu/biology/aps/). This conference follows in the series of highly successful inter-society conferences in comparative physiology, most recently in San Diego in August, 2002. The 2006 meeting is tentatively scheduled for San Antonio, Texas in October; venue and date will be confirmed following approval of the meeting by APS Council next year. An exciting program of symposium proposals will be the foundation for gaining that approval. So, please submit your proposal; the deadline is April 1. Do not hesitate to contact any of the committee members directly if you have any questions; e-mail links are available on the conference web page. We look forward to working with you all to create another excellent meeting.”

You may recall the poll put forward regarding a name change for the section. The section chairs approved the request for a name change, but the APS council rejected the proposed name change. Jim Hicks is now formulating a new strategic approach and an update will be forthcoming. For more information about your society and section contact one of the steering committee members. Below is a list of the current Steering Committee. Contact information is available at [www.the-aps.org/sections/compar/steering.htm](http://www.the-aps.org/sections/compar/steering.htm).

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<th>Chair and SAC Representative</th>
<th>Jim Hicks</th>
<th>Term ends 2007</th>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Steve Warburton</td>
<td>Term ends 2003</td>
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<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Sinya Benyajati</td>
<td>Term ends 2004</td>
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<td>JPC Representative</td>
<td>David Goldstein</td>
<td>Term ends 2005</td>
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<td>Committee on Committees</td>
<td>Michele Wheatly</td>
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<td>AJP Liaison</td>
<td>John Pritchard</td>
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<td>Liaison with Industry</td>
<td>Steve Wood</td>
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<td>Training Member</td>
<td>Rudy Ortiz</td>
<td>Term ends 2006</td>
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As many of you are aware, the change in editorship of American Journal of Physiology included the appointment of a new Editor-in-chief for the Regulatory, Integrative and Comparative section of the journal, Pontus Persson. After some initial confusion and mixed messages regarding
Dear Comparative Physiologist:

Over the last two years the editors of *AJP – Regulatory, Integrative, and Comparative Physiology* have worked hard to increase the impact of our journal without sacrificing its historic commitment to comparative work. Although there was a good deal of uncertainty at the time of the transition to a new editorial team, I hope that it is now clear to all that this team is committed to seeing the very best in comparative physiology published in our journal. Several of the *In Focus* articles have dealt with comparative themes, and submissions of comparative work are up again this year. Please continue to send your very best work to *AJP – Regulatory, Integrative, and Comparative Physiology*.

However, there is an area where we as a Section can help raise the profile of the comparative approach to physiological problems still further. We need to identify areas and authors for some really first class review articles for *AJP – Reg* that would showcase comparative physiology. To that end, please send me your suggestions of authors (including yourself) and topics for such articles.

Thank you very much for any help you can provide. A series of excellent comparative reviews would go a long way toward sustaining the momentum built so far and keeping the spotlight squarely on the importance of comparative physiology to the journal and the discipline.

Sincerely yours,

John B. Pritchard, Ph.D.
Associate Editor, *AJP – Regulatory, Integrative, and Comparative Physiology*
Phone: (919) 541-4054; FAX: (919) 541-5737; e-mail: pritcha3@niehs.nih.gov

And from Malcolm Gorden, this status report as of 12/03 on Comparative Physiology Programming for the 2005 IUPS Congress including the announcement of the August Krogh lecturer!

Substantial progress has been made with respect to the scientific program for the 2005 Congress. Much remains to be done but the glacier is moving. More than 30 proposals for comparative physiological sessions were received.

1) Selection of the August Krogh Lecturer has been completed. A participatory democratic electoral process [developed by David Goldstein (APS), Malcolm Gordon (IUPS), and Harald Aars (Scandinavian PS)] considered ten nominees (five men, five women) from many countries. The Lecturer selected is Roy Weber, Aarhus University, Denmark.

2) About 12 identified "tracks" will include about 60% of programming for invited symposia and featured topics. Two of these tracks will be comparative physiological in content. Track titles will be: "Thermoregulation and energetics: from genes to environment" and "Ecophysiology for the 21st Century." There will be about six 2-hour sessions per track, probably 4 symposia and 2 featured topics in each.
3) Additional comparative physiological symposia and featured topics will be included in the "non track" parts of the program. Most decisions about these should be finalized by February 2004.
4) The call for submitted abstracts should go out in early 2004. Everyone concerned hopes that many excellent comparative physiological papers will be submitted.
5) A 2-day duration Satellite Symposium entitled "Biophysical/biomechanical adaptation and bioinspired engineering" will be held just before the Congress at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), Pasadena, CA. This symposium will be primarily comparative in approach.

Questions concerning the comparative physiological parts of Congress programming may be sent to Malcolm Gordon (msgordon@ucla.edu).

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**Short course announcement: Biology of the Heart**

a Ph.D. course at Department of Zoophysiology Aarhus University, DENMARK, July 5-9 and July 12-16, 2003. Instructors: Stephen Jay Warburton (University of New Mexico), Ted W. Taylor (The University of Birmingham) Hans Gesser, Einer Larsen and Tobias Wang (University of Aarhus), Anders K. Pedersen (Skejby Sygehus).

**Course description:**

This course will cover very broad aspects of cardiac physiology in animals. Based on the functional properties of hearts and blood vessels, we will discuss the evolution of cardiac structure and function in different animals and shed light on clinical aspects of heart disease. The course will adopt a comparative approach. The common mechanisms that are shared among all animals will be highlighted. Moreover, special adaptations to unique environmental stressors or behavioral patterns will be discussed to show unique ways of solving particular physiological problems. The course will rely extensively on knowledge gained from other physiological disciplines and will contain strong elements of endocrinology, neurophysiology, respiratory physiology, exercise-metabolic physiology as well as biochemistry. The course will focus on functional implications and will integrate function at the whole animal level with cellular and molecular mechanisms. The first week of the course will be mainly theoretical, while the second, optional week, will allow for experimental student projects and demonstration of specific techniques. The theoretical part will be divided into roughly three, albeit interconnected, sections. The initial classes will cover basic concepts of cardiovascular physiology at all levels of organisation. Secondly, the phylogenetic diversity, evolution, and development of cardiac form and function will be discussed. Finally we will delve into medical aspects of cardiovascular biology, primarily by investigating how disease states are related to the basic principles of structure and function.

**Practical information**

For a text, we will use Mohrman and Heller “Cardiovascular Physiology”. We will also read primary literature, both classic papers and those that are recently published. The classes will be held at The University of Aarhus. We can arrange for accommodation for approximately 50 US$ per night, and we will arrange for dinners and try to help with any other practical problems. The course is funded by The Velux Foundation, but a small fee may be charged. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS COURSE, PLEASE CONTACT TOBIAS WANG: tobias.wang@biology.au.dk.

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And finally, this will be my last newsletter seeing that my term as secretary is ending with the convening of EB2004. If comparative physiology is listed as your primary affiliation with APS, you will be receiving ballots asking you to vote for the positions of Secretary as well as Industry Liaison. I would strongly encourage younger members of the society to contact the steering committee of this section and let them know if you would be willing to be considered for a position on the steering committee as future vacancies arise. Can you say “networking”?

Cheers and best wishes!

Steve Warburton, Section Secretary, Northern Arizona University
Other upcoming meetings:

2006 Comparative Physiology conference -- Start planning now for this one!

We are now soliciting symposium proposals for the 2006 conference entitled “Comparative Physiology: Integrating Diversity.”

To submit your proposal on-line, go to: www.wright.edu/biology/aps

This conference is sponsored by the American Physiological Society and follows in the series of highly successful APS conference in comparative physiology, most recently in San Diego in August, 2002.

The 2006 meeting is tentatively scheduled for San Antonio, Texas in October; venue and date will be confirmed following approval of the meeting by APS Council next year. An exciting program of symposium proposals will be the basis for gaining that approval. So, please submit your proposal; the deadline is April 1. Direct any questions to David Goldstein at david.goldstein@wright.edu

Annual Meeting Society for Experimental Biology
Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh, 29 March to 2 April. For more information see www.sebiology.com

Canadian Society of Zoologists Annual Meeting “Imaging Across the Scales”

Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting
New Orleans, Lousiana 5 January to 9 January. Please note these dates are revised! For information see: www.sicb.org/meetings/2004/index.php3.

And for those plan ahead:
March 31 - April 5, 2005
From genomes to functions: 35th Congress of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS) which includes sessions on Evolutionary Physiology as well Environmental Physiology