

ISNR NEWSLETTER

May 2009

Thirteenth International Symposium on Neural Regeneration

Asilomar Conference Center - Pacific Grove, California
December 9-13, 2009

The Thirteenth International Symposium on Neural Regeneration will be held at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, California from December 9-13, 2009. The meeting will be co-sponsored by the US Department of Veterans Affairs (Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development and Rehabilitation Research and Development Service), the Paralyzed Veterans of America (Spinal Cord Research Foundation), the National Institutes of Health (National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke) and the United Spinal Association.

The keynote speaker for this year's symposium will be Jeffrey Lichtman from Harvard University. Featured talks will be given by Ravi Bellamkonda from Georgia Tech/Emory University, Colin McCaig from University of Aberdeen, Cheng-Ming Chuong from University of Southern California, Charles Howe from Mayo Clinic, and Peter Ellaway from Imperial College London. Following the format of preceding neural regeneration symposia, the pro-

gram is divided into six sessions, including: 1) Peripheral Nerve Regeneration, chaired by Rajiv Midha; 2) Updating the Community: Progress and Suggestions Regarding SCI-Replication Studies (NIH-NINDS, ForeSCI), chaired by John Steeves; 3) Retinal Regeneration, chaired by William Hauswirth; 4) DEBATE: Demyelination is a therapeutic target for SCI, chaired by Keith Crutcher; 5) Reorganization and Plasticity, chaired by Larry Jordan; and 6) Emerging Topics, chaired by Jane Lebkowski. The speakers for each of these sessions and their titles are given in the program on the following pages.

A complete list of symposium speakers and titles for each session is also available on the ISNR Website: www.rehab.research.va.gov/Neural/neural.htm. Please see the Editor's Comments section later in this newsletter for additional information about the website.

Similar to past symposia, talks are scheduled for morning,

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late afternoon and evening sessions, with afternoons free for viewing posters or for the multitude of activities available at the conference center or in the surrounding area.

The Asilomar Conference Center is a State of California facility located in Pacific Grove, just south of Monterey and about 100 miles south of San Francisco. Asilomar State Beach is across the road from the conference center and is quite inviting for pleasant walks or spectacular views of the coast. Local attractions include the Monterey Bay Aquarium on Cannery Row, the Museum of Natural History, Point Pinos Lighthouse and the Pacific Grove Art Center. To the south of Pacific Grove is 17-mile drive and Pebble Beach golf course. Further south is Carmel and site of the Carmel Mission. The town of Carmel also hosts numerous art galleries and

unique shops and within driving distance is Point Lobos State Reserve. The weather is generally warm and sunny in December, although evenings can be cold and rain is always possible. Dress at Asilomar is casual, and you should be aware that the main meeting room has limited heat so bring some warm clothes just in case.

Registration

Space is limited at Asilomar and early registration is advised. Rooms and meals are on a package basis. Most rooms are for occupancy by two or more people and sharing arrangements are encouraged, which will reduce the cost per person. Day use arrangements are possible, but these are on a fee basis, and also require registration. To register, please detach or photocopy the registration form in the newsletter (or download the form from the website) and fill in the appropriate information. Include a check drawn on a US bank or money order (purchase orders or credit cards cannot be accepted) for the appropriate registration fee(s) in US dollars made out to Regeneration Research Symposium and mail it to the Office of the International Symposium on Neural Regeneration at the address on the registration form. Upon receipt of your registration form and fee, we will forward the forms and information for making your lodging arrangements directly with Asilomar. Please do not contact the conference

center directly without having registered. The registration fee is \$100 for conference attendees, \$30 for graduate, post-doctoral students or residents in training (a letter from the program director verifying the training status is required for qualification for the student registration rate). There is a \$20 fee for accompanying persons not attending the symposium, but planning to participate in the social activities, including the symposium banquet.

Attendance at and participation in the symposium by minorities and women is invited and encouraged.

Posters and Abstracts

Free communication will be presented in the form of posters. Two poster sessions have been scheduled, one on Thursday afternoon, December 10 and one on Saturday afternoon, December 12. Symposium registrants are invited to submit poster abstracts, the deadline for which is September 1. An individual may be first author on only one poster, but laboratory groups may submit more than one abstract. All abstract submissions (both oral and poster) should be submitted directly to the conference email address. Follow the instructions on the website. If the number of abstract submissions exceeds available poster space, abstracts received after September 1 will not be considered. Please note that final

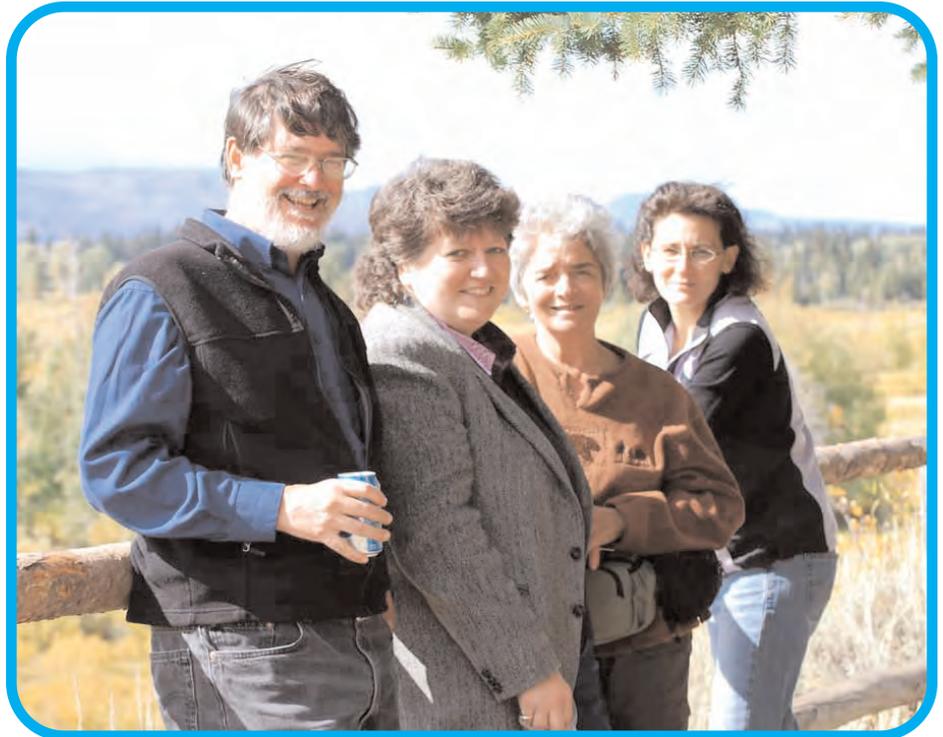
acceptance of an abstract requires prior receipt of the registration form and fees. Therefore if you plan to submit a poster abstract you must also register for the meeting by September 1, 2009.

Two of the poster abstract submissions will be selected for short (15 minute) platform presentations during the last session on Emerging Topics. There is a box to check on the submission form of the poster abstracts in order to be considered for a platform presentation. The two individuals from the poster abstract submissions that are selected for short platform presentations will be notified in writing by mid-October.

Again for this year, the Fredrick Seil ISNR Trainee Award will be presented. This award is given in honor of Dr. Fredrick Seil, the first director and founder of the symposia series, and symbolizes his long-term commitment to both the symposium itself and the students and fellows who attend these meetings. The award will be given to the two best poster presentations by students or postdoctoral fellows, and will be chosen by two teams of planning board members who will review the poster presentations. The awardees will be recognized at the banquet, will have their names added to the Fredrick Seil Award Plaque, and will also each receive a check for \$250.

2011 Session Proposals

We would encourage potential contributors to begin thinking now of ideas for a session for the Fourteenth International Symposium on Neural Regeneration, which will be held at the Asilomar Conference Center in December, 2011. Session proposals are due by July 1, 2010 so they can be reviewed by the program planning committee at its meeting in late July or August of next year. The program planning committee meets well in advance of the symposium in order to allow adequate time for application for symposium support funds after a program has been generated. The format for a session proposal is available from our office, and the format must be followed for a proposal to be duly considered.



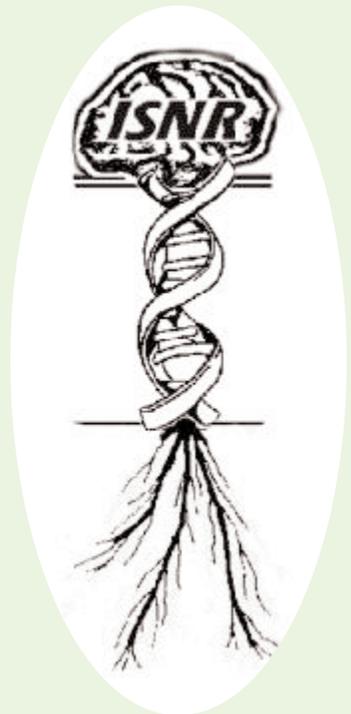
A special thank you to representatives of our sponsoring organizations who were present at the ISNR Planning Board Meeting held September 2008 in Wyoming. Pictured with Roger Madison (l to r) Naomi Kleitman (NIH/NINDS); Vivian Beyda (United Spinal) and Patricia Dorn (VA Rehabilitation R&D).

To Submit an Abstract

Refer to the ISNR website:

www.rehab.research.va.gov/Neural/neural.htm for instructions regarding poster abstract submissions. Multiple poster abstracts may be submitted; however, each abstract must have a different first author. Please indicate whether you would like to be considered for a 15 minute platform presentation. Final acceptance of submissions requires prior registration for the meeting.

The deadline for poster abstract submission is September 1, 2009. First authors of poster abstracts will be sent instructions for mounting their poster by Nov. 15, 2009. Poster boards are approximately 8 feet wide by 4 feet high. If you have any questions, please contact the ISNR office at (919) 286-0411, ext. 7691 or send an email to isnr@mc.duke.edu.



The Director's Chair

From the Office of the International Symposium on Neural Regeneration



The International Neural Regeneration Symposia began in 1985, and have been held on a biennial basis since that time. The primary sponsor has been the Department of Veterans Affairs, with the NIH continuously co-sponsoring the symposia since 1987. In more recent years, generous support has also been given by the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation and the United Spinal Association; all of whom co sponsored the symposia since 1999. The 2009 symposium will be the thirteenth meeting in this series. The generous support of all our sponsors is gratefully acknowledged.

The primary purpose of the symposium is to present current work in neural regeneration, especially in areas of research in which there has been some notable recent progress or in which particularly interesting issues have been raised.

A secondary purpose is to foster an atmosphere that is both stimulating and conducive to a free interchange of ideas

among investigators, or between investigators and students. The Symposia series have become an established and regularly occurring event with high attendance by both students as well as internationally recognized experts in the field of neural regeneration.

For those who are not familiar with the meeting format, the following material should help to paint a picture of the symposium. The ISNR has a single session format, which includes morning, late afternoon and evening presentations with afternoons free to view posters or relax in pleasant natural surroundings or have a quiet discussion with one or more colleagues and/or students. This format has proven to be quite successful in terms of maximizing interactions among participants. During the previous twelve symposia a great deal of interchange took place at these symposia among scientists, among scientists and students, and among scientists and clinicians.

The morning sessions each

include an introductory overview by the session chairman (15 minutes) and four presentations (20 - 25 minutes each, followed by a 5 - 10 minute question/discussion period). The two evening and one late afternoon sessions are similarly organized, except that there are three speakers per session. The major topics for each symposium are chosen for their timeliness, current interests, and recent progress. Also a factor is their novelty to the symposium, in the sense that these areas of research will not have been covered in depth in recent symposia. Session speakers are chosen on the basis of the contribution they can make to a session and the "cutting edge" quality of their work in a particular area. An attempt is made to balance the subject matter covered in a session.

Debate

The debate has proven to be a popular session and 2009 will continue the tradition. The debate entitled: "Demyelination is a therapeutic target for SCI" will again be moderated by Keith Crutcher (University of Cincinnati). Presenters will represent "affirmative" and "negative" views of the proposition followed by a rebuttal period.

Student Support

The United Spinal Association has again provided funds for partial support of symposium attendance by graduate

students, postdoctoral fellows or clinical residents in training. Applications for support should include the following: 1) a letter indicating the applicant's area(s) of scientific interest and what benefits he/she would expect to attain from attending the symposium; 2) a curriculum vitae or resume; and 3) a letter from the training director both in support of the applicant and verifying the applicant's training status. While presentation of a poster is not a requirement for an award, a statement of intent to present a poster accompanied by a poster abstract will enhance an application. Applications must be received

by October 1, 2009 and should be sent to Dr. Madison. (see address for registration materials). Applicants will be notified of the evaluating committee's decision before October 28. Women and minority students are invited and encouraged to apply.

United Spinal Awards

Again this year, an additional small group of presenters will be recognized with the "ISNR 2009 United Spinal Poster Award" for exemplary presentations. These awards will be chosen by planning board mem-

bers who will review the presentations.

Symposium Website

The website contains basic information about the conference itself, registration, abstract submission, contacting ISNR and student travel awards. You will also find a list of scheduled guest speakers, a copy of previous newsletters, a photo gallery with pictures from prior symposia and previous conference information. There are also links to ISNR sponsors: NIH, PVA and United Spinal.

2009 ISNR Planning Committee Members

Director - Roger Madison
Duke University
Durham VAMC

John Steeves
ICORD
Univ. of British Columbia

Michael Sofroniew
Univ. of California
Los Angeles

David Gardiner
Univ. of California, Irvine

Jacqueline Bresnahan
Univ. of California
San Francisco

Jane Lebkowski
Geron Corporation

James Guest
Univ. of Miami

Keith Crutcher
Univ. of Cincinnati



Pictured from L to R: J. Guest; N. Kleitman; K. Crutcher; P. Dorn; R. Madison; V. Beyda; J. Bresnahan; M. Sofroniew; D. Gardiner; J. Lebkowski; J. Steeves.

Guests from co-sponsoring institutions:

Vivian Beyda
United Spinal Association

Naomi Kleitman
NIH/NINDS

Patricia Dorn
VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Service

13th ISNR - Program

Wednesday - December 9, 2009		6:00 PM	DINNER
3:00 PM	Arrival of participants and check-in		
6:00 PM	DINNER	Session Two: 7:15 - 9:00 PM (or beyond)	DEBATE - Proposition: Demyelination is a therapeutic target for SCI
7:30 PM	Welcome and Keynote Address Jeffrey Lichtman Harvard University Cambridge, MA "Connectomics"	7:15 PM	Moderator: Keith Crutcher
		Affirmative:	Hans Keirstead University of California, Irvine
Thursday - December 10, 2009			Michael Fehlings University of Toronto
Session One: 8:15 AM Peripheral Nerve Regeneration			Jeffrey Koscis Yale University/VA Connecticut Healthcare
8:15	Chair: Rajiv Midha University of Calgary Calgary, Alberta, Canada		Blair Calancie SUNY Upstate Medical Univ. (Syracuse)
8:30 AM	Rajiv Midha "Repair of Nerve Injuries Using Skin Derived Precursor Cells"	Negative:	James Guest University of Miami (Florida)
9:00 AM	Christian Krarup University of Copenhagen (Denmark) "Changes in axonal properties during maturation after regeneration: A study using threshold tracking on nerve in vivo"		Phillip Horner University of Washington (Seattle)
			Wolfram Tetzlaff ICORD/Univ. of British Columbia
9:30 AM	Tessa Gordon University of Alberta (Canada) "Strategies to enhance peripheral nerve regeneration"		Robin Franklin University of Cambridge
		Friday - December 11, 2009	
10:00 AM		Session Three: 8:15 AM Retinal Regeneration	
	Roger Madison Duke University/VA Medical Center Durham, NC "Low-Voltage Nerve Electrophoresis In Vivo: Role in Peripheral Nerve Regeneration"	8:15 AM	Chair: William Hauswirth University of Florida (Gainesville)
10:30 AM	BREAK	8:30 AM	Daniel Goldman University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) "Molecular mechanisms underlying Muller glia dedifferentiation and retina regeneration"
11:00 AM	Featured Speaker Ravi Bellamkonda Georgia Tech./Emory University (Atlanta) "Role of Biomaterials in Facilitating PNS and CNS regeneration"	9:00 AM	Thomas Reh University of Washington (Seattle) "Neural regeneration: the eyes have it."
12:00 Noon	LUNCH	9:30 AM	Raymond Lund Oregon Health Sciences Univ. (Portland) "Use of human forebrain-derived progenitor cells to stabilize photoreceptor degeneration and vision loss"
1:00 PM	Featured Speaker Colin McCaig University of Aberdeen (Scotland) "Regulating brain cell behaviours with physiological electrical signals"	10:00 AM	William Hauswirth "Leber congenital amaurosis gene therapy clinical trial: one year outcomes"
2:00 PM	Viewing: Poster Session 1		

13th ISNR - Program

10:30 AM	BREAK	9:00 AM	Michael Beattie University of California- San Francisco "A link between synaptic plasticity and excitotoxicity in spinal cord injury"
11:00 AM	Featured Speaker Cheng-Ming Chuong University of Southern California Los Angeles, CA "Regulation of Ectodermal Skin Stem Cells: Regeneration in physiological molting and after Wounding"	9:30 AM	James W. Grau Texas A&M University College Station, TX "Learning within the spinal cord"
12:00 Noon	LUNCH	10:00 AM	Linda Sorkin University of California - San Diego "Peripheral inflammation induces acute changes in dorsal and ventral horn glutamate signalling"
1:00 PM	Featured Speaker Charles Howe Mayo Clinic College of Medicine Rochester, MN "CD8 T cell-mediated injury of demyelinated axons in an animal model of multiple sclerosis"	10:30 AM	Larry Jordan (15 minute summation) The University of Manitoba Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
2:00 PM	Poster Session 1 Poster Removal	10:45 AM	BREAK
2:30 PM	Poster Session 2 Set-Up	11:00 AM	Featured Speaker Peter Ellaway Imperial College London (United Kingdom) "Motor-Evoked Potentials"
6:00 PM	DINNER		
Session Four: 7:15 - 9:00 PM PANEL DISCUSSION - Updating the Community: Progress and Suggestions Regarding SCI-Replication Studies (NIH-NINDS, ForeSCI)		12:00 Noon	LUNCH
7:15	Chair: John Steeves Moderators: John Steeves (ICORD) Naomi Kleitman (NIH/NINDS)	1:00 PM	Viewing: Poster Session 2
8:15 PM	Panel: Oswald Steward University of California - Irvine Phillip Popovich Ohio State University (Columbus) Dalton Dietrich University of Miami (Florida)	Session Six: 4:15 - 6:00 PM Emerging Topics	
Saturday - December 12, 2009		4:15 PM	Chair: Jane Lebkowski Geron Corporation Menlo Park, CA
Session Five: 8:15 AM Reorganization and Plasticity		4:30 PM	abstract speaker 1
8:15 AM	Chair: Larry M. Jordan The University of Manitoba Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada	4:45 PM	abstract speaker 2
8:30 AM	Michael Sofroniew University of California-Los Angeles "Recovery of function via pathway reorganization after spinal cord injury"	5:00 PM	Adam Ferguson (outcome measures) University of California, San Francisco "Bionformatics for Translational Spinal Cord Injury"
		5:30 PM	Theo Hagg University of Louisville (Kentucky) "PTPs and vasculature as neuroprotective targets"
		6:00	BREAK
		6:30	Symposium Banquet
		7:30	Awards Ceremony (Banquet Hall)

Symposium Registration Form

Thirteenth International Symposium on Neural Regeneration
December 9-13, 2009
Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, CA, USA

Upon receipt of payment with this Registration Form,
you will be sent an Asilomar Housing Registration Form.

REGISTRATION FORM - THIRTEENTH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON NEURAL REGENERATION

December 9-13, 2009 - Asilomar Conference Center - Pacific Grove, CA

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
Fax: _____ Email: _____

I plan to present a poster: Yes ___ No ___ (Abstract Deadline is September 1, 2009)

Please enclose a check/money order made out to "Regeneration Research Symposium" to cover the following:

Registration Fee (regular)	_____	\$100
Registration for accompanying person (not attending the conference)	_____	\$ 20
Registration for a student, fellow or resident (with letter from training director)	_____	\$ 30
	_____	\$ Total

Please circle student status: Graduate Student Post-Doc M.D. Post-Doc Ph.D. Resident

Name of accompanying person: _____

Sorry, credit cards or purchase orders are NOT accepted. Please send a check drawn on a US bank or money order in US dollars.

Please mail this form plus payment to.

Roger Madison, Ph.D., Director
International Symposium on Neural Regeneration
VA Medical Center (Bldg. 16/Room 38)
508 Fulton Street
Durham, NC 27705 USA

Questions - Please call (919)286-0411, ext. 7691, fax (919)286-6811 or email isnr@mc.duke.edu