

The EC Review

Todd Ahern, Executive Committee Student Rep

After a great deal of summer-time reviewing (see *Central Sulcus*, August 2005), the Executive Committee (EC) has gotten down to business. The EC oversaw the installation of the revised curriculum, created and filled a second DGS position, and approved new faculty applications. The NIH training grant was also renewed. And thanks to many committees the new website went public.

The revised curriculum was a major change from 2004-2005. Moving IBS-526 Neuroanatomy and Systems Neuroscience to the fall semester, enrolling our first-years in GDBBS Biochemistry (IBS 555), and pushing the now slimmer Cellular Neuroscience to second semester, was a welcome shift. The first semester now provides an immediate introduction to general neuroscience and the underlying biochemistry, while the second semester completes the picture and provides time for a substantial first rotation. Although somewhat shortened, most students will conduct three rotations over the spring and summer. Overall, both the organization of the curriculum and the nature of the courses have received positive feedback from our newest student members.

The NS program now has two DGSs. After a period of review, Ron Calabrese and Larry Young were confirmed by the EC and both have settled into their re-

spective positions. Ron opted to administer to the first- and second-year students while Larry oversees the third-years and above. Ron has met several times with the first-years and has advised the second-years about the written qualifying exam. Larry just finished supervising the third-years' oral qualifying exams.



Todd Ahern

Several new faculty members have been added to our ranks: Anthony Chan (Human Genetics), Elizabeth Buffalo

(Yerkes), Gary Bassell (Cell Biology), Lisa Parr (Yerkes), Peng Jin (Human Genetics), Astrid Prinz (Biology), Andrew Escayg (Human Genetics), Joe Cubells (Human Genetics), Timothy Duong (Yerkes), and Robert Liu (an associate faculty member from Biology).



Jill Bordelon

Each is doing very exciting research, and many already have NS students in their labs. Be sure to check them out on our website—www.emory.edu/NEUROSCIENCE. As many of you know, the NIH training grant serves as a major source of support for our program. In May 2005,

Yoland Smith applied for a renewal of the grant and in early October a company of reviewers visited Emory to assess the program. In November, Yoland received notice informing him that

our program received first-rate reviews and chances are we will increase our number of NIH training grant slots. Many thanks to the efforts of our faculty and students and for the innumerable hours that Yoland spent on this project during his first year as Program Director.

Finally, after much deliberation and several rounds of editing, the Emory Neuroscience Program has gone public with a spiffy new website—www.emory.edu/NEUROSCIENCE.



Yoland Smith

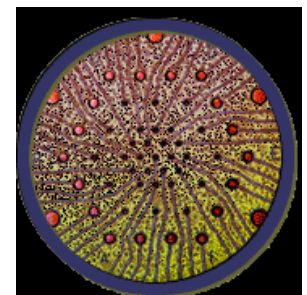
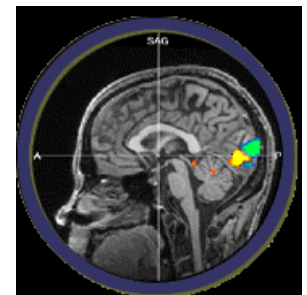
Sleeker and more easily navigable, the new format is sure to serve the program well. Liz de Goursac, who maintained our old site and cultured this massive project from start to finish, deserves our thanks, as does the rest of the website committee, Terrence Michael

Wright, Amy Lee, Yoland Smith, Dieter Jaeger, and Sonia Hayden. Again, be sure to attend our Frontiers Lectures on Thursdays (or Fridays) at 12:15pm in the Whitehead Auditorium!

As stated in the August 2005 edition of the *Central Sulcus*, this newsletter will serve as a forum to keep the NS program up-to-date on the activities of the NS Executive Committee. Please be sure contact either Jill Bordelon (jbordel@emory.edu) or Todd Ahern (tahern@emory.edu), your student representatives, with any questions or concerns.

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Career Development Committee

From Charlene Cole

A career development committee is being organized to introduce students to the various opportunities or usage of their PhD. Interim Dean Keith Wilkinson and Monica Taylor are the advisors.

The members of this committee include:

Andrea McCollum PBEE

Charlene Cole NS

Valerie Truax BCDB

Anjali Shah GMB

Jill Harley MSP

Elizabeth Lindsey PBEE

Troy Querec IMP

Kroshona Tabb NS

Rebekah Taylor IMP

Frederick Schnell IMP

Carlos Goller MMG

Cliff Michaels NS

Suzanne Judd NHS

Our objective is to inform students about and provide information and opportunities regarding potential careers in science policy/law (patent, etc), education (at research one institutions/liberal arts/ K12/community college), industry (they're set-



Charlene Cole

ting up internships for students to perform with a select group of companies throughout the US), non-profit, business, science writing (for which a couple of courses have already been generated).

In other words: We intend to introduce more meaningful career development experiences and resources. We want to create an environment where we provide training in fields of interest and support to those who want to pursue careers within or outside of academia.

Into the Great Wide Open...

Emory's neuroscience program has awarded Ph.D. degrees to 6 students since August of 2005. We wish them all the best of luck.

Ricardo Caceda 8/11/2005, Advisor: Charles Nemeroff - Neurotensin I receptor overexpression in the nucleus accumbens displays antipsychotic-like properties

Stan Nakanishi 8/29/2005, Advisor: Timothy Cope - Signaling Mechanisms Regulating Motoneuron Excitability and Ia afferent-Motoneuron Synaptic Efficacy in the Adult Rat

Wendy Hasenkamp 11/1/2005, Advisor: Scott Hemby - NMDA Receptors in the Entorhinal Cortex in Schizophrenia

Dinesh Raju 11/18/2005, Advisor: Yoland Smith, Thalamostriatal Systems in Rat and Monkey: An Examination of Synaptology, Synaptic Plasticity, and Topography

Olga Poisik 1/31/2006, Advisors: Yoland Smith and P. Jeffrey Conn (external advisor)-Functions of Metabotropic Glutamate Receptors in the Rat Globus Pallidus

Masa Kuwajima 1/31/2006, Advisors: Yoland Smith and Randy Hall - Distribution and Expression of Group I Metabotropic Glutamate Receptors in the Globus Pallidus and Subthalamic Nucleus: Regulatory Effects of Homer Proteins and Dopamine Depletion

Focus on... Brain Awareness Month

Brain Awareness Week nationwide is March 13-19th but its such a big deal here in Atlanta that we have extended it to an entire Brain Awareness Month. The events that take place in March are an opportunity for all of us to venture out of the lab and teach the public about what we love most... BRAINS! There are many ways that you can help— everything from visiting a local classroom to judging in science fairs to helping with special events. Please contact the Emory student member of the ACSFN committee, Kim Maguschak at kmagusc@emory.edu to help out.



First grader's examine a human.

A big thanks goes to the rest of the volunteers who help make Brain Awareness Month a success including faculty members Pete Wenner and Shawn Hochman and our GSU student counterparts Dayna Loyd and Michael Black.



When comparing rodent and primate brains, the students notice more wrinkles in the monkey brain.

The road to fame and fortune... (okay maybe not fortune) Neuroscience students have been busy.

Neuroscience students have been up to their usual. Publishing, presenting award winning research, getting married, having babies, and getting ready to conquer the world. Okay maybe we were just kidding about that last one. Here are some highlights:

Fellowships and Grants:

Jenn Felger—ARCS fellowships.

James Olzman—Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA)

Travel Awards:

Rayna Bauzo—Experimental Biology meeting in San Francisco

Jamie Hatcher - Society of Toxicology Meeting in San Diego

James Olzman - American Society of Cell Biology MAC travel award

Liz Kirk - received one of 7 ASCB/Worthington Pre-doctoral travel awards for the 45th annual meeting of the American Society for Cell Biology in San Francisco

Other Awards:

Kim Dougherty—Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities

James Olzman—First Place Poster Presentation, Emory University Graduate Division of Biological and Biomedical Sciences Symposium

Rayna Bauzo—will become member of AS-PET's minority committee

Career Announcements:

Eric Backes has been hired by the biotech company Amgen in Thousand Oaks, CA as a Senior Medical Writer.

Student Publications:

Schank JR, Ventura R, Puglisi-Allegra S, Alcaro A, **Cole CD**, Liles LC, Seeman P, Weinschenker D (2005) Dopamine beta-Hydroxylase Knockout Mice have Alterations in Dopamine Signaling and are Hypersensitive to Cocaine. *Neuropsychopharmacology*, 2005 Dec 14 [E-pub ahead of print]

Schank JR, Liles LC, Weinschenker D (2005)

Reduced anticonvulsant efficacy of valproic acid in dopamine beta-hydroxylase knockout mice. *Epilepsy Research*, 65: 23-31

Ahern TH, Javors MA, Eagles DA, Martillotti J, Michell HA, Liles LC, Weinschenker D. (2005) *The Effects of Chronic Norepinephrine Transporter Inactivation on Seizure Susceptibility in Mice*. *Neuropsychopharmacology*. Jul 27 [Epub ahead of print]

Hemanth P. Nair, **Alisa R. Gutman**, Michael Davis, and Larry J. Young. Central Oxytocin, Vasopressin, and Corticotropin-Releasing Factor Receptor Densities in the Basal Forebrain Predict Isolation Potentiated Startle in Rats. *J. Neurosci*. 2005;25:11479-11488

Dougherty KJ, Sawchuk MA, and Hochman S. Properties of mouse spinal lamina I GABAergic interneurons. *J Neurophysiol*. 2005 Nov; 94(5): 3221-7.

Munoz JR, **Stoutenger BR**, Robinson AP, Spees JL, Prockop DJ. Human stem/progenitor cells from bone marrow promote neurogenesis of endogenous neural stem cells in the hippocampus of mice. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2005 Dec 13;102(50):18171-6.

On a personal note:

Seth Jones married Abbie Dement on July 16 at Wieuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta. They honeymooned in Breckinridge, Colorado. Abbie is a Professional Engineer in Atlanta.

Nicola Hanson got married in October to Justin Ducote.

Kristen Sager married her fiancé, Mike, at Logan Ridge Winery in Ithaca, NY.

Lily Iskhakova and **Dinesh Raju** were also married in 2005 to their respective fiancés.

Jesse Schank got engaged in May and is getting married later

this year.

Liz Degoursac is happily engaged to Greg Ward with a wedding planned for later this year.



Brooke Stoutenger got engaged on Dec 22 to Dave Snyder.

Kelly Watts and her husband had a son, Sullivan, on May 23, 2005. He weighed 8 lbs 3 oz. There are pictures on sullivansworld.com.

Todd Ahern

and his wife also welcomed a daughter, Miriam Gianna Ahern, into the world June 28th, 2005, 10lbs. 7oz.



Jesse Schank, Randy Hall, Dave Weinschenker, Meier Friedman (genetics program), Nick Menzies (RSPH) and **Cliff Micheals** ran in the 15th annual 30k Ekiden Relay as the Emory Neuroscience team on Sept 25th, winning the corporate division and finishing 11th overall.

Multiple Neuroscience members also participated in the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) walk, generating over \$5000 on two teams. The genetics team that included NS members **Elyse Katz, Liz Degoursac, Lizabeth Martin, Kroshona Tabb**, and **David Wienshenker** raised \$2965 and the CBN cares team including NS members **Jill Bordelon, Jenn Felger, Alisa Gutman, Andrea Liatis, Juhn Pulliam**, and **Rebecca Rosen** raised \$2426. Elyse Katz and Alisa Gutman were the top earners for each team and were awarded a Bread-for-a-Year card from Panera for their efforts. In addition, one of our own students, **Liz Degoursac** is on the board for NAMI. Please contact her (ldegoursac@bellsouth.com) if you wish to volunteer.

Something missing? Contact Zoe at zdonald@emory.edu



Qualifying exams are over but recruitment is just starting!

It's that time of year again... the time when, not so long ago, all of us came to Emory with butterflies in our stomachs and maybe a vague notion of what we wanted to do with our lives. Now we are on the other side of the fence and will need everyone's help to make this year's recruitment a success. The two student reps on the admission's committee, **Meag Ward** and **Zoe Donaldson**, will be organizing two weekends to allow potential students to get to know us and our program a little bit.

Recruitment dates:
February 16-18, 2005
March 2-4, 2005

Please join us Friday at noon for a special Frontiers with student speakers in the WH seminar room and at 4:30 for the GIN reception in the 4th floor lobby of Rollins.

Who to contact with questions, recommendations, offers of help, etc.:
 Meag Ward—mward8@emory.edu
 Zoe Donaldson—zdonald@emory.edu

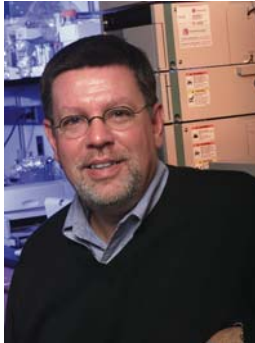


Leonard Howell,
 Admissions Committee
 Chair

Announcements, Announcements, Announcements!

Steve Warren, Chair of Human Genetics and NS faculty member was nominated to the National Academy of Medicine. Congratulations Steve!

Congratulations also to all the third year students who passed their oral qualifying exams! Now in the words of my own advisor, "Go do some science."



Steve Warren

Upcoming Financial Seminar

The NS Program is going to sponsor a post Oral exam, mid-recruitment, pre- spring break...***Tax Seminar***. We actually have one among us who enjoys balancing books & spreadsheets and working on itemizing deductions! Besides doing her own home repairs, **Elyse Katz** is a self-taught financial wiz.

On ***Wednesday, February 22 at noon,*** Elyse will hold a Tax & Finance Seminar for all our



Elyse Katz

Program Grad students. Come and find innovative ways of handling your graduate level stipend, training grant funding, and work on ways to give less tax to the government and keep more of your money.

Elyse will also present ideas on ways to keep your financial records easily manageable. The program will provide light snacks, feel free to brown bag it.

NS Retreat Highlights

This year's NS retreat was held at Lake Lanier. The weekend the students started off at Sonia Hayden's house where she generously offered to host the pre-retreat party where our first year students had a chance to get to know the rest of us a bit better. The next day, we spent time with our faculty and enjoyed an informative morning that included a debate on the benefits of both traditional and alternative medicines as well as data blitzes from a number of faculty who gave creative "one-slide" presentations. Some of the highlights are shown here.



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Editor:
Zoe Donaldson

Great Minds...



www.emory.edu/NEUROSCIENCE

The Emory Neuroscience Graduate Program leads to the Ph.D. degree and is designed to provide a broad background in modern neuroscience, as well as specialized training in a wide range of specific research areas and techniques. The particular areas of strength in our program are further described on our website. The broad range of research interests coupled with a collaborative atmosphere make the Emory Neuroscience Program well suited to provide a strong, dynamic and exciting environment in which to pursue graduate studies.

For more information please contact Sonia Hayden at shayden@emory.edu or (404) 727-3707.

For comments on this newsletter please contact Zoe Donaldson at zdonald@emory.edu.

THE NEW WEBSITE IS UP!

Our new website is up! Check it out at www.emory.edu/NEUROSCIENCE. Thanks to the hard work of the NS website committee and especially the dedication of our own **Liz Degoursac** we have a website that reflects the hard work and quality of our program. The website committee consisted of Amy Lee, Liz Degoursac, Dieter Jaeger, Yoland Smith, Sonia Hayden and T. Michael Wright. The designer was Heather Wilson. A big thank you also to faculty member Chris Hartzell who provided the photos.

Please feel free to submit additional photos along with a short caption and full name of the researcher so we can continually update our front page. Submissions and questions can be sent to Liz Degoursac at edegour@emory.edu. Thanks Liz!

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Neuroscience

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Collaboration

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Welcome to the Emory Neuroscience Graduate Program

Neuroscience research at Emory has grown dramatically in the last decade with the recruitment of many renowned scientists. The broad spectrum of research expertise in cellular, molecular, behavioral, developmental, and systems neuroscience provides our students a unique environment in which to pursue their graduate education. The program includes over 90 neuroscientists drawn from 13 University and Medical School departments and the Yerkes Regional Primate Center, as well as collaborators from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Many faculty come from the departments of Pharmacology (ranked #1 university in the world by "The Scientist" magazine for impact in pharmacology and toxicology research), Neurology (ranked 3rd nationally in total NIH funding), Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences (ranked 9th nationally in total research funding), and Rehabilitation Medicine (ranked 4th nationally in total NIH funding). Thus, our program provides access to excellent labs focused on a wide variety of specialties within neuroscience.

Dr. Luella Liu - Migration of neural progenitor cells

Dr. Manjiv Chh - Neural circuitry underlying communication behavior

Laboratory photos courtesy of
Chris Hartzell - www.chhartzell.org