It is my great pleasure to update you on the recent activities of the Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience. After a very hot summer, the new semester began in August with an excellent presentation in the OCNS seminar series from Dr. Jason Kim. Since then we have heard outstanding presentations from Dr. Michael Elliot from the Department of Ophthalmology at OUHSC, Dr. Peter Fox from the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio and Dr. Andy Dillin from the Salk Institute.

This summer, OCNS started a new Post-Doctoral/Junior Faculty Program that meets monthly over lunch to discuss topics such as grant writing, future careers and the latest research from its members.

The Meet the Professor program, established in 2006, continues to meet each semester and enables our neuroscience graduate students to meet with clinical faculty and develop a greater understanding of the translational aspects of neuroscience.

The fourth Mini Medical School was held on a beautiful fall evening with 300 students attending the event. Special thanks to the speakers, Drs. Robert Blair, David Gordon, Daniel O'Donoghue, Phebe Tucker and Celeste Wirsig-Wiechmann, and to our organizers, Dr. John Campbell, Dr. Brandt Wiskur and Rachel Yi.

The Neuro Night series continues to draw amazing crowds; in fact, the Male vs. Female Brain program drew a record attendance of 150! The 2011 schedule is virtually complete, and it is posted online at www.okneuroscience.com.

As we move into 2011, this is a special year for OCNS - our 20th anniversary. Please watch our website for the dates of a series of special events to celebrate the occasion.

Best Regards,

[Signature]
**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS:**


Goodman MD, Qin C, Thompson AM, Foreman RD. (In Press) Upper thoracic postspinal dorsal column neurons conduct cardiac mechanoreceptive information, but not cardiac chemical nociception in rats. *Brain Research.*


* OCNS Members in bold

**CONT'D PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS:**


**AWARDS AND HONORS:**

Aaron Chaloner, OCNS Graduate Student: Veterans Affairs Predoctoral Associated Health Rehabilitation Research Fellowship, “Understanding Pain of Gastrointestinal Origin Following Early Traumatic Experiences in Individuals that Serve in OIF/OEF.”

Lei Ding, Ph.D.: Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) from National Science Foundation (Title: Large-Scale Computational Neuroimaging of Brain Electrical Activity).

Robert D. Foreman, Ph.D.: Invited speaker for the following: Canadian Neuromodulation Society Meeting; China National Congress of Peripheral Vascular Disease of Integrated Western & Traditional Chinese Medicine; American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians and North American Neuromodulation Society; Case Western Reserve University Hospitals (Dept of Anesthesiology, Div of Pain Medicine).

Beverley Greenwood-Van Meerveld, Ph.D.: Chair of Research Forum, “The Aging Gut” International Meeting of Neurogastroenterology and Motility (Boston, MA); Member of the VA Research Career Scientist and GS15 Promotions Committee; Chair of VA Research & Development Committee; Editorial Board of Journal of Steroids & Hormonal Science and World Journal of Gastrointestinal Pathophysiology.

Anthony C. Johnson, M.S., OCNS Graduate Student: NIH / National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Research Service Pre-doctoral Award, “Central Molecular Mechanisms of Stress-Induced Visceral Hypersensitivity”.

William R. Lovallo, Ph.D.: NIH / National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Grant ($632,000), “Neuroimaging in the Oklahoma Family Health Patterns Project”.


Sarah X. Zhang, M.D.: Recipient of Macular Degeneration Research Award from American Health Assistance Foundation; Young Investigator Award at the XIV International Symposium on Retinal Degenerations; Recipient of Dr. William Talley Research Award from Harold Hamm Oklahoma Diabetes Center.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Dr. Kenneth E. Miller long-term member of OCNS, on his appointment as the new Chair of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine.
MINI-MEDICAL SCHOOL

OCNS hosted the fourth Mini Medical School for high school and undergraduate students. More than 300 students and sponsors traveled from all over Oklahoma to attend this event.

MINI-MEDICAL SCHOOL "graduated" over 300 undergraduates, high school, and middle school students from throughout central Oklahoma on Tuesday evening, October 26th. Both the East and West lecture halls of the College of Medicine were filled, and students had The Brain Explained to them by Dr's. Bob Blair and Dan O'Donoghue followed by exciting research and clinical presentations by Dr's. David Lee Gordon and Celeste Wirsig-Wiechmann. OU medical student and OCNS graduate student volunteers met with students during the intermission when students were able to put their hands on human brain specimens and tour learning modules for the experience of simulating a "day in the life of a medical student". A Final Exam was administered before students left for the evening laden with good information on what it takes to apply and be successful in the OU College of Medicine. Dr. Phebe Tucker, Associate Dean for Student Affairs for the OU College of Medicine, who welcomed the students in each lecture hall, will be looking for some of their names among the applicants to medical school in the next few years!

- John W. Campbell, Ph.D.
OCNS Associate Director of Special Programs

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

As the new Associate Director for Research of OCNS, my goal will be to develop programs and provide opportunities to grow neuroscience research on the OUHSC campus. I will provide information, opportunities, and an environment that fosters the academic development of our young neuroscientists on campus. My strategic plan will involve providing our Neuroscience graduate students and post-doctoral fellows with the tools to direct them on a path toward their own independent research careers. Providing readily accessible up-to-date information on pre- and post-doctoral grants specific to neuroscience will alert students and fellows to potential sources of funding. OCNS will apply to the National Institutes of Health and other funding agencies for neuroscience training grants. These competitive stipends will assist students, fellows and their mentors in furthering their own research programs. In addition to presenting their research at OCNS luncheons, seminars and other venues, students and fellows will continue to have the opportunity to present their research at the OCNS Symposium and compete for travel awards. Other programs that I plan on rolling out over the next 12 months will include identifying cooperative research relationships with clinician/scientists interested in neuroscience, as well as implementing a Research in Progress seminar program for those investigators interested in discussing new and exciting areas of their own research in a collegiate setting.

- Michelle Callegan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Departments of Ophthalmology, Microbiology and Immunology

Dr. Mary Kay Gumerlock, Department of Neurosurgery, was the subject of OCNS’s “Meet the Professor” series in September. “Meet the Professor” luncheons give current graduate students the opportunity to meet with faculty members in a casual setting. Dr. Gumerlock gave an overview of her career and research interests. After her presentation, OCNS students and Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences students enjoyed a casual question and answer session.

OCNS Vision:
"To provide educational opportunities for graduate students"
STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Two new students have entered the neuroscience graduate program.

Kathryn Klump (pictured left) is in the neuroscience graduate program as an M.D./Ph.D. student. Kathryn’s mentor is Dr. James McGinnis.

Mandi Brock (pictured right) is a neuroscience graduate student. Mandi’s mentor is Dr. Anne Pereira.

OCNS POST-DOC PROGRAM

OCNS recognizes the opportunity to contribute to the professional development of junior neuroscientists at OUHSC. In March 2010, OCNS started inviting post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty members from across campus to monthly lunches that provide the members with a forum to present their research in a collegiate environment, participate in professional development lectures from senior professors and campus leaders, and discuss potential inter-campus collaborations. The meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at noon in BRC 1276; the next meeting is scheduled for January 2011. Approximately 10 attendees per month have participated as their schedules allow, and there is plenty of room for more!

The OUHSC Graduate College has recently developed a post-doctoral development program, and OCNS looks forward to joint efforts this upcoming year to develop rewarding and successful careers for OUHSC post-docs and junior faculty members.