New Boost for the Graduate Program in Neuroscience

Over the past year the Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience (OCNS) graduate program was extensively reviewed by a series of internal and external reviewer’s. The reviewer’s identified that the OCNS graduate program as a unique interdisciplinary graduate program at the OU Health Sciences Center. The leadership of the OCNS program was considered strong and supported by the efforts of a core of very dedicated voluntary faculty. The students reported that they are very satisfied with the program and morale is high. Overall the internal and external reviews expressed enthusiasm for the neuroscience graduate program, and made several substantive recommendations and suggestions to improve the program. Many of these suggestions have already been initiated such as Meet the Professor breakfasts and others such as development of an internal strategic plan and involvement of OCNS members in the hiring of neuroscientists on campus will follow over the coming months. Importantly, funding to support three first year Neuroscience graduate students will become available to the OCNS graduate program in 2008.

In summary, the review of the neuroscience graduate program at OU Health Sciences Center was a very positive and fruitful experience. I believe that the future of our neuroscience graduate program is exciting, and will result in trained Neuroscientists that are capable of establishing themselves as independent scholars at the frontier of neuroscience upon their graduation.
Faculty and Student Highlights

**FACULTY PUBLICATIONS**


E. D. Ross, C. I. Prodan, Marilee Monnot. Human facial expressions are organized functionally across the upper-lower facial axis. *The Neuroscientist* (accepted for publication, June, 2007).


Venkova K., G. Fraser and ahead of print) *Digestive Diseases and Sciences (epub ahead of print)*


**FACULTY AWARDS**

David Garrison, Ph.D., National Center for Medical Rehabilitation (NCMRR) of National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (HICHD, National Institutes of Health (NIH) award for "Comparison of Common Areas of Brain Function During Motor Execution, Imagery, and Passive Observation (Mirror Neurons) of the Same Task: a fMRI Study". *Beverley Greenwood-Van Meerveld* VA Merit Review “Understanding Pain of Gastrointestinal Origin in Women that Serve in OEF/OIF”


*Beverley Greenwood-Van Meerveld*. Johnson and Johnson Pharmaceutical Research and Development L.L.C.

*Beverley Greenwood-Van Meerveld*. Tranzyme Pharma.


**FACULTY HONORS**

Kenneth Miller, Ph.D., Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at OSU received the OSU Regents’ 2007 Distinguished Research Award for outstanding and meritorious achievements in research, a distinguished record of the past and continuing excellence in research, and recognition national and internationally.

Kenneth Miller, Ph.D., was selected “Professor of the Spring Semester in Basic Sciences” by the OSU-CHS Medical Class of 2010.

**STUDENT PUBLICATIONS**


**STUDENT AWARDS**

Brent Myers won the OMRF Award for Basic Sciences Oral Presentation at GREAT.

Yumi Ueki won the Sigma Xi Award for Basic Science Poster Presentation at GREAT.

Jumping Chen awards: 2007 Outstanding Graduate and a 2007 Graduate Student Association Award for Scientific Achievement.

Ting He: awarded an OMRF Pre-Doctoral Scholarship.
Future Neuroscientists?

Left: Daughter of Kenneth Hensley, Associate Member, Free Radical Biology and Aging Research Program, OMRF. Middle: Daughter of Brent Myers, OCNS Ph.D. Candidate. Right: Daughter of Ting He, OCNS Ph.D. Candidate.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Special Thanks to: Mentors and Committee Members

Neuroscience Student Defenses

Junping Chen
May 24, 2007

Anthony Johnson
March 28, 2007

Raniyah Ramadan
August 15, 2007

Jason Karpac
June 18, 2007

Hari Vittal Rao
June 13, 2007

Dianca Graham
August 16, 2007

CONGRATULATIONS!

Special Thanks to: Mentors and Committee Members
Neuroscience Student Defenses-Continued

The Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience had seven students defend in the Spring and Summer Semesters: Chris Cox, Ph.D., Anthony Johnson MS, Junping Chen, Ph.D., Jason Karpac, Ph.D., Hari Vittal Rao, Ph.D., Raniyah Ramadan, Ph.D. and Dianca Graham, Ph.D. Congratulations and best wishes for successful careers in science to all of our graduates.

We welcome into Neuroscience the following five doctoral candidates beginning first with our direct track students; Candice “Nikki” Howell, mentor Beverley Greenwood-Van Meerveld, Ph.D.; Aaron Chaloner, mentor Beverley Greenwood-Van Meerveld, Ph.D.; Benjamin Grant, mentor Dean Myers, Ph.D.; Junie Warrington, mentor Muna Naash, Ph.D. and our incoming GPiBS track student, Jessica Heatherly, mentor James Rand, Ph.D.

We would also like to recognize two students Yumi Ueki, mentor John Ash, Ph.D. and Charlotte Chung, mentor Jordan Tang, Ph.D. for successful completion of their General Exam.

The Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience is proud of these students and looks forward to hearing about their future successes.

The 2007 Neuroscience Symposium, Brain Imaging

The Oklahoma Center for Neuroscience Symposium, Brain Imaging is being held on October 18th at the Cox Business Services Convention Center.

OCNS student organizers, Brandt Wiskur, Brent Myers, and Daniel Payette have done an excellent job of selecting and inviting the speakers for this year’s event along with organizers, Rheal Towner, Ph.D., Beverley Greenwood-Van Meerveld, Ph.D. and Theresa Rush. OCNS students, Yumi Ueki and Charlotte Chung are organizing the poster session.

Our invited speakers are Bruce Berkowitz, Ph.D., Wayne State University; Zaver Bhujwalla, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University; Wayne Drevets, M.D., National Institute of Mental Health; John Gore, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University; and Kamil Ugurbill, Ph.D., University of Minnesota. Our local speakers are Rheal Towner, Ph.D., OMRF and Chaouki Khoury, M.D., M.S., University of Oklahoma HSC.

New this year, The University of Oklahoma College of Medicine is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to sponsor continuing medical education for physicians and has designated this educational activity for a maximum of 5.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

For more information or to register on-line, please go to our website at www.okneuroscience.com. Please plan to submit an abstract for poster presentation. Graduate students can compete for two-$500 travel awards to attend a national meeting to present their research. Posters presented are not topic specific (ie. posters should reflect each student’s specific research interest).