Neuropharmacology Division Report (October 2006 to March 2007)

A. Annual Meeting Programming

**EB2007 meeting.** At the EB2007 meeting in Washington, D.C. in April 2007, the Division of Neuropharmacology will sponsor five symposia in addition to one symposium as a joint presentation with DDDRA. In addition, Neuropharmacology will co-sponsor numerous additional symposia with other Divisions.

- **Cannabinoids and Endocannabinoids II: Response to Pathogenic Processes** Chairs: Ben A. Bahr and Somnath Mukhopadhyay
- **Perinatal Stress Alters Drug Responses into Adulthood** Chair: Mike J. Kuhar
- **Nicotine Modulates Adolescent Brain Plasticity: Molecular, Neurochemical and Behavioral Changes** Chairs: Shannon G. Matta, Burt M. Sharp, and Frances M. Leslie
- **Impact of Pharmacogenomics on the Treatment of Neuropsychiatric Disorders: From Drug Target to Targeted Therapy** Chair: Laura K. Nisenbaum
- **Ray Fuller Symposium: Promise and Pitfalls in the search for new drugs targeted at metabotropic glutamate receptors.** Chair: Darryle Schoepf

The Division also elected to present a postdoctoral research competition in its program slot at EB2007. Postdoctoral abstracts submitted for the competition were reviewed by a five-member panel of the Executive Committee and the top five abstracts were chosen based upon the rules adopted by the Division. The postdoctoral candidates chosen are listed below. The competition will be judged by a panel selected from the Executive Committee and first, second and third place winners will be selected and awarded monetary prizes. In addition, the first place winner will be invited to join the Executive Committee for the next year. Dr. Susan Amara will serve as Chairperson of the session and also give a presentation. The competition will be held May 1, 2007 from 3:30 – 5 PM.

**Division for Neuropharmacology Postdoctoral Scientist Award Finalists**

Chair: Susan G. Amara

- Neurotransmitter transporters: A dance of domains and substrates. **Susan G. Amara, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine**
- Reciprocal modulation of function between the D1 and D2 dopamine receptors and the Na+/K+-ATPase, a novel member of the dopamine receptor signalplex. **Lisa A. Hazelwood, NINDS, NIH**
- Enhancement of endogenous cannabinoid responses through FAAH inhibition provides cellular and functional protection against excitotoxic brain damage. **David A. Karanian, University of Connecticut**
- Distinct roles of spinal muscarinic receptor subtypes in control of glycinergic input revealed by muscarinic receptor knockout mice. **Hong-Mei Zhang, University of Texas, Houston**
Alteration in acetylcholinesterase glycosylation of rat brain in memory disorder.  

**Amitava Das, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine**

Impaired HPA axis and their feedback regulation in SERT knockout mice.  

**Xue Jiang, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston**

The Division also received 21 abstracts for the Predoctoral Poster Competition to be held on Sunday, April 29, 2007. The posters will be judged by Division members and first, second, and third place monetary awards will be given. The first place winner will be asked to join the Executive Committee for the upcoming year.

In addition, the Division solicited nominations for the Ray Fuller Symposium for EB2007 and received five nominees from which Dr. Sol Snyder was chosen for recommendation for the Fuller Lectureship at EB2007. Unfortunately, Dr. Snyder withdrew as Ray Fuller lecturer. Thus, the Neuropharmacology Division voted on the candidates tied for second place in the previous Divisional ballot, Drs. Phil Skolnick and Darryl Schoepp. The Executive Committee approved the choice of Dr. Schoepp being chosen and presented to ASPET for approval, which was subsequently offered and accepted.

Dr. Darryle D. Schoepp, Lilly Research Labs will present the Ray Fuller Lecture "Case Study from Bench to Bedside: Modulators of mGlu2 and mGlu3 Receptors to Treat Psychiatric Disorders” on April 30, 2007. The symposium will follow as below.

**Ray Fuller Symposium: Promise and Pitfalls in the Search for New Drugs Targeted at Metabotropic Glutamate Receptors.** Chair: Darryle D. Schoepp

mGluR5 negative allosteric modulators: in line for multiple clinical proof of concept testing.  

Vincent Mutel, Addex Pharmaceuticals, Plan Les Ouates, Switzerland

Roles of mGluRs in synaptic plasticity: implications for therapeutic interventions.  

Graham L. Collingridge, University of Bristol, United Kingdom

Allosteric potentiators of metabotropic glutamate receptors as a novel approach for treatment of CNS disorders.  

P. Jeffrey Conn, Vanderbilt University

mGlu receptors: Beyond the regulation of synaptic transmission.  

Ferdinando Nicoletti, University of Catania, Italy

**Ray Fuller Lecture in the Neurosciences at EB2008**

David Sibley brought forward the nomination from the Division for Neuropharmacology of Phil Skolnick to be the Ray Fuller Lecturer for 2008. The Program Committee enthusiastically accepted the proposal.

**GPCR Satellite Colloquium.** Upon a request from the Colloquium organizing committee, the Executive Committee agreed to help support the GPCR Colloquium with a $500 donation.

**Mixer at EB2007 Meeting.** A mixer hosted by the Neuropharmacology Division will be held directly following the Postdoctoral Competition and will include a Business Meeting
of the Division and recognition of the Postdoctoral Competition, as well as the Predoctoral Competition.

Symposium for the EB2008 Meeting.

The Division solicited proposals for symposia for the EB2008 meeting. Three proposals were submitted with the Neuropharmacology Division as the primary sponsor. The Executive Committee will forward its recommendations to the ASPET Program Committee based upon the rankings of the proposals by Executive Committee vote. We are assured of only one slot at the EB2008 meeting.

B. Division Awards at Experimental Biology 2006 and 2007:

Support for the awards at EB2006 came in part from the contributions from: Eli Lilly Corporation in support of the Neuropharmacology Graduate Student Best Abstract Awards and DOV Pharmaceuticals in support of the Neuropharmacology Post Doctoral Scientist Awards. The Division will continue to receive support for both Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Competitions from Eli Lilly and DOV Pharmaceuticals.

C. ASPET 2008

ASPET Centennial plans include a Neuropharmacology Division symposium slot thematically connected to a major past discovery. The Division has been polled for ideas for such a symposium to be included in the 2008 Centennial Program. The Division may also contribute to centennial mini-reviews to be published in connection with the celebration.

Centennial Proposals: We received 8 proposals. These were circulated amongst the Executive Committee for voting. One was selected (with 2 backups) for presentation at the ASPET Program Committee in November. The selected proposal was approved by the Program Committee as follows:

"New Experimental Approaches to Treatment of Schizophrenia: Moving Beyond Monoamine Antagonists" Chair: Dr. Jeff Conn

D. Election of Officers:

Dr. P. Jeffrey Conn, Vanderbilt University, was elected President-elect. Dr. Margarita Dubocovich, Northwestern University, was elected by the membership to the position of Secretary/Treasurer. Terms of office for both newly elected officers will begin in July 2007. Dr. Phil Skolnick, due to rotate off the Executive Committee, was invited to remain on the Executive Committee for 2 additional years. Drs. Kathryn Cunningham and Charles Murrin have rotated off the Executive Committee, as have the previous poster award winners, Drs. Anita Lakatos and David Arthur.

E. Non- ASPET Meeting Sponsored Events

The Division advertised a mixer in the SFN 2006 program at a cost of $250 in an attempt to draw new members. The mixer was held at 5:30 PM to attract the most attendees at the
Omni Hotel directly across from the Convention Center. Attendance was approximately 200.

The Executive Committee of the Neuropharmacology Division of ASPET met on October 17, 2006, in the Omni Hotel during the Society for Neuroscience meeting in Atlanta, GA. The minutes of this meeting are posted on the Division’s web site.

F. Web-Based Activities – the Division web site remains fully operational and new materials concerning the Division and other pertinent matters are constantly being added.

G. Financial Report: The expenses continue to be within allocated division funds. The Division has seen continued growth in membership. Therefore, we should be able to continue our previous efforts.

Prepared by Sandra Welch, Ph.D., Division Secretary-Treasurer
March 5, 2007