Name of Division: **NEUROPHARMACOLOGY DIVISION**

Status of Division Activities for Year:

A. **Annual Meeting Programming:**

For 2015, Neuropharmacology Division will sponsor 4 Symposia and our Post-doctoral completion as well as co-sponsor 13 additional symposia:

**2015 Sponsored by Neuropharmacology:**

1. **Neuropharmacology Division Postdoctoral Scientist Award**
   
   **Finalists-** Keynote Speaker: Brigitte Kieffer, McGill University, The Douglas Hospital, Montreal, Québec, Canada. **TBD- time/place.

2. Therapeutic effects of alpha-2 adrenoceptor agonists and antagonists in the treatment of major neuropsychiatric disorders: Relative contributions of autoreceptors vs postsynaptic alpha receptors.  
   *Chair: S. Langer*

3. Pharmacology of neuronal regeneration and repair  
   *Chairs: J. Marchant, B. Grill*

4. Common pathways and mechanisms of chronic pain and opioid addiction  
   *Chair: S. Ingram*

5. Elucidating the Molecular Underpinnings of Behavior Using Pharmacological Knock-In Mouse Models  
   Chair: R. Blakely

- **2015 co-sponsored by Neuropharmacology:**

1. New Therapies for an Old Problem: The NINDS-Sponsored Anticonvulsant Screening Program  
   *Chairs: J. Kehne, K. Wilcox*

2. Speed Networking for Careers Beyond the Academic Bench  
   *Chairs: J. Clark, P. McGonigle*
3. ASPET Presidential Symposium: Navigating the Future of Biomedical Research
   Chair: A. Fleckenstein

4. Emerging Roles of Trace Amine Associated Receptor 1 (TAAR1) in Drug Abuse and Mental Disorders
   Chairs: J-X. Li, G. Miller

5. Protein Trafficking and Drug Development
   Chair: P. M. Conn

6. Psychomotor Stimulant Addiction: Lessons from Methamphetamine
   Chairs: R. Desai, M. Nader

7. Novel Therapeutic Targets and Preclinical Models of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder
   Chairs: C. Jones, M. Nedelcovych

8. ASPET Journal Symposium: Reproducibility in the Pharmacological Sciences: Moving the Discussion Forward
   Chair: D. Abernethy

9. Biased GPCR Signaling in Drug Development: From Theory to Physiology
   Chairs: S. Rajagapol & A. Christopoulos

10. “Can We Talk?” Strategies for Collaborative Pharmacology Education
    Chairs: A. Gorman, J. Reuben and J. Szarek

11. Structural and Dynamic Basis of Receptor-ligand Interactions
    Chairs: E. Ortlund and S. Traynelis

12. Structural Basis for Ion Channel Pharmacology
    Chair: W. Catterall

13. Moving Beyond Traditional Stimulants: Emerging Characteristics and Therapeutic Applications of Atypical Reuptake Inhibitors
    Chairs: L. Carter, B. Blough
2015 Business Meetings and Mixer:

- NEU Executive Committee Meeting: Monday, March 30, 7:30 AM – 9:00 AM, TBD – Westin Boston Waterfront
- NEU Business Meeting: Monday, March 30, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM - Prior to Mixer in Room 106 Boston Convention Center – Westin Boston Waterfront
- Behavioral Pharmacology and Neuropharmacology Divisions Joint Mixer Monday March 30, 2014 (room 106) 6:30 pm–8:00 pm Westin Boston Waterfront

B. Division Awards:
The NEU division will continue to offer incentive travel awards to encourage the submission of abstracts from post-doctoral and graduate student trainees. The division will sponsor a two-tier competitive early trainee award. The first tier is based upon abstract quality and be given in the form of a travel award. The members of the Executive Committee reviewed abstracts. Committee members selected their top 6 abstracts (if they had a COI, they indicated the COI and selected their top 5). The abstracts that were selected by the most committee members were granted the first tier of the awards. For the post-docs, these recipients will compete in the oral presentation competition. There were 15 pre-doctoral applications and 9 post-doctoral applications. The first tier award is $300.

Travel Award Recipients:
Graduate Students:
Chun, Lani
Mitchell, Nathan
Lucke-Wold, Brandon
Laprairie, Robert
Nackenoff, Alex
Stansley, Branden

Post-doctoral Fellows:
Paterniti , Irene
Fraser, Rheaclare
Adamah-Biassi, Ekue
Tonsfeldt , Karen
Bobbeck, Erin
Voge, Kara

The second award will be given based upon poster presentation (graduate students) or speaker presentation (post-doctoral fellows). This year we increased the number of post-doctoral fellows competing and shortened the presentation times. Prizes for both competitions are:
1st place: $750
2nd place: $500
All winners were pre-travel award grantees.

**Postdoctoral Scientist Award Winners:**
First Place - **Abigail Schindler**, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. VTA GABA(A) receptors mediate maladaptive disinhibition of dopamine release in the NAc – a potential mechanism for increased risk taking behavior following adolescent voluntary alcohol intake
Second Place - **Amy Moritz**, Molecular Neuropharmacology Section, NINDS, Bethesda, MD, Identification of a novel, highly potent D3 dopamine receptor-selective agonist
Third Place - **Erin Bobeck**, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY. Mu opioid receptor activity is regulated by endothelin converting enzyme-2

**Graduate Student Best Poster Competition Winners:**
First Place - **Karen Tonsfeldt**, Oregon Health & Science Univ., Portland, OR. Changes in extrasynaptic GABAA receptors in the periaqueductal gray with morphine tolerance.
Third Place - **Cody Siciliano**, Wake Forest Univ. Sch. of Med. Winston-Salem, NC. Biphasic mechanisms of amphetamine action at the dopamine terminal.

Robert Laprairie, Dalhousie University, Helifax, Canada. The therapeutic efficacy of cannabinoid receptor type 1 (CB1) ligands in Huntington's disease may depend on their functional selectivity.

**NEW AWARD**
An Early Career Investigator Award for 2015 will be open open to Primary members of the division. Details regarding eligibility and deadlines have been posted on the Neuropharmacology Division website and shared via email. The details are as follows:

**Neuropharmacology Division Early Career Investigator Award**

The Neuropharmacology Division is seeking nominations for the inaugural Neuropharmacology Early Career Investigator Award to be presented at the ASPET meeting in Boston in March 2015. The award is to recognize and honor a young investigator who is working in any area of Neuropharmacology. The award is open to early career stage investigators from all types of organizations, including academia, industry, private, or government institutions. An early career stage investigator is defined as someone who at the time of nomination is under 40 years of age or, if over
40 has been in an independent position for no more than 5 years. An independent position is considered to be one that is responsible for securing and administering their own budgets for research (traditionally a faculty position, or a team leader in a non-university setting). The recipient will receive a plaque, free registration to the EB meeting, up to $1000 to use towards attending the subsequent meeting and become a member of that year’s program committee, with the expectation that he/she will put together a Early Career Award Symposium, on a theme of his/her choosing. The nomination should include the applicant’s CV, 2 letters of support indicating the applicant’s promise for success in the field of Neuropharmacology, and a letter from their departmental supervisor/chair indicating the "financial independence" of the investigator. Please submit your nominations to lbohn@scripps.edu by December 15, 2014, 5:00 PM PST

We received 7 truly outstanding applications from young investigators; most of these individuals were not previously members of ASPET.

The committee (17 members) evaluated the nomination packets and ranked applicants. COIs were noted and, due to the outstanding participation of the committee, COIs did not impact on the voting. The competition was extremely tight among the top three nominees and the average scores only varied by a small margin. Furthermore, since the top three candidates would not be eligible next year, since this was the first offering of the award, and since our overall goal is to encourage new and active members in ASPET, we decided for this first round to also award a year of membership in ASPET and registration fees to attend ASPET.

The winner will receive a plaque, a position on the NEU Executive Committee, and $1000 towards travel to the meeting. (CHECK). In addition, the NEU has offered the opportunity for the winner to organize a symposium for 2016 (much in the mode of the Axelrod Award process). In fact, all participants were encouraged to please submit symposia ideas.

C. Nominations for Officers:

There were no new elections or appointments this round.

We modified the description of our division “Terms and Charge” to include wording that would allow us to rotate off non-active members from the committee.
D. Non-ASPET meetings supported/sponsored by Division:
The Neuropharmacology Division hosted a social at the Society for Neuroscience 2015 Annual meeting in Washington DC at the Marriott (CHECK ) on Sun, CHECK, 2014. The symposium was very well attended by researchers that are not currently active in ASPET. As one individual commented: “I don’t usually go to ASPET, but when I look around this room- These are my people!” Several NEU members participated- from the executive committee, Dr. Devi and Dr. Bohn as well as past Chair and Secretary Treasurer, Dr. Daws and Dr. Barker attended. Dr. Sibley, ASPET president-elect, also attended. Overall, there was outstanding NEU division and ASPET representation (Judy Sluiziak, Rich Dodendorf and Suzie Thompson were very helpful). NEU members will follow up with personal reminders for symposium submissions discussed that evening.

We will focus on recruiting membership to ASPET and will use this opportunity to solicit neuropharmacology-directed symposia. Flyers with information to raise awareness of neuroscientists to the Neuropharmacology division and to ASPET will be distributed (see image).

Last year the Neuropharmacology division sponsored IUPHAR ($5,000). And the International Narcotics Research Conference ($5,000). At the INRC, symposia and membership were solicited.
We are interested in developing guidelines for further contributions (i.e. only one sponsorship every so many years, etc.) to avoid concentrating outreach in only one direction.

This year, we have received several funding requests that will be reviewed at the NEU business meeting.

B. Web-based activities:

We have added a link to external conference website announcements to our page. We have also appointed a Communications Officer, Dr. Anil Kumar, who will help to maintain our page.

Financial Report:

To be added by ASPET office

Respectfully submitted,

Laura M. Bohn, PhD,
Chair, Neuropharmacology Division