



**Division Reports to Council
(March 2018)**

Name of Division: **Neuropharmacology**

Status of Division Activities:

A. Annual Meeting Programming and Events:

At **EB 2018** the NEU Division will sponsor three symposia: The Nancy Zahniser Memorial Symposium, a symposium organized by our NEU Division Early Career Investigator Award Winner, Dr. Carrie Ferrario from the University of Michigan Department of Pharmacology and our Postdoctoral Scientist Oral Presentation Competition.

1. NANCY ZAHNISER MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM: THE DOPAMINE TRANSPORTER IN HEALTH AND DISEASE. Chairs: Lynette Daws and Habibeh Khoshbouei.
2. THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR DESSERT: EXAMINING THE EFFECT OF INSULIN AND HIGH FAT DIET ON NEUROTRANSMISSION, MOTIVATION AND COGNITION. Chairs: Carrie Ferrario and Lawrence Reagan.
3. DIVISION FOR NEUROPHARMACOLOGY POSTDOCTORAL SCIENTIST AWARD FINALISTS. Chairs: Stella Tsirka and John Traynor.

At **EB2018** the NEU Division is also co-sponsoring the following five Symposia:

1. COMPUTATIONAL APPROACHES TO G PROTEIN-COUPLED RECEPTOR STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION
2. JULIUS AXELROD SYMPOSIUM: THE PLURIDIMENSIONALITY OF G PROTEINCOUPLED RECEPTOR (GPCR) SIGNALING
3. TEACHING INSTITUTE: FLIPPING NOT FLOPPING: ACTIVE LEARNING STRATEGIES FOR GRADUATE AND HEALTHCARE PHARMACOLOGY
4. TRANSPORTERS AT THE BLOOD-CNS BARRIERS

5. PATHWAYS TO SOLUBLE EPOXIDE HYDROLASE INHIBITORS

At **EB 2018** The NEU Division will hold/announce the following competitions:

- The Early Career Independent Investigator for award for 2018 will be announced at the Business meeting. Information concerning the 2019 award will be presented.
- A Postdoctoral Scientist Oral Presentation competition
- A Best Abstract (poster) competition for undergraduates, post-graduates and postdoctoral scientists.

All awards will be presented at the NEU business meeting.

At **EB 2018** The NEU Division will hold the following events

- NEU Executive Committee meeting
Monday, April 23, 2018
7:00-8:15 AM
Marriott Marquis (ASPET headquarters hotel), San Diego Marina
- NEU Business Meeting
Monday, April 23, 2018
6:00-6:30 PM
Room 16B, San Diego Convention Center
- NEU joint Mixer with BEH Pharm Division
Monday, April 23, 2018
6:30-8:30 PM
Rancho Santa Fe 1-3
Marriott Marquis (ASPET headquarters hotel), San Diego Marina

B. Division Awards:

2018 Neuropharmacology Early Career Independent Investigator Award:

This year's winner is Dr. Richard Daneman, Assistant Professor in the Departments of Neuroscience and Pharmacology at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). Dr. Daneman has made important discoveries that have changed our understanding of how the blood-brain barrier which impedes drug delivery to the central nervous system is regulated to treat neurological disease.

Richard will receive a plaque, free registration for the **2018 EB** meeting plus a \$1000 travel award. He will also serve on the NEU Division Executive Committee.

Note, following discussions of the Division-Sponsored Awards Working Group, after 2019 the “Early Career Independent Investigator Award” of NEU will be renamed the “Early Career Award.” Criteria for the NEU Early Career Award will be revised to be consistent with other divisions.

The NEU Graduate Student Best Abstract Award and NEU Postdoctoral Scientist awards at EB2018:

We have 10 applicants for the Postdoctoral Competition. Each will give a 15 min presentation on their research in our dedicated Postdoctoral Competition Symposium.

There were a total of 40 submissions for the NEU Abstract (poster) competition. Of these NEU invited 20 (2 undergraduates, 12 graduates and 6 postdocs) to compete at EB 2018.

The Neuropharmacology Postdoctoral Scientist Awards and the Neuropharmacology Graduate Student Best Abstract Awards are supported by Division funds. First place winners received \$750 and become NEU Executive Committee members; 2nd place \$500; 3rd place \$250. Each 1st place winner will receive complementary registration for EB 2019.

C. Nominations for Officers:

There are no new nominations for this year:

Congratulations to the following who were elected to NEU Division leadership roles:

NEU Chair Elect: *Kelly Standifer* (Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center).

NEU Secretary/Treasurer Elect: *Shaifali Bhalla* (Midwestern University, Chicago).

We thank Erwin Lucki (Uniformed Services University) and Daniel Morgan (Penn State) for standing for office in these elections.

D. Non-ASPET meetings supported/sponsored by Division:

The NEU Division hosted a mixer at the Society for Neuroscience 2017 Annual Meeting in Washington DC. The mixer was attended by 76 ASPET members and 61 non-members. Of the non-members 6 are in the process of becoming members.

The NEU Division wishes to thank ASPET Council for providing \$2000 towards the cost of this successful mixer.

We propose to hold an ASPET mixer at SfN in November 2018 and have requested Council to provide funds towards this in a separate memo.

E. Marketing and Communications Efforts:

Dr. Luisa Torres, a postdoctoral researcher at Cornell University, is the communications officer for the NEU division. She collects information about recent awards received by ASPET members and generates “members-in-the-news” write-ups to be included in ASPET’S quarterly publication, *The Pharmacologist*. She also interviews ASPET-associated faculty members to generate blog publications about their most recent scientific discoveries.

To date, Dr. Torres has generated three members-in the news write-ups, which have been published in the September 2017, December 2017, and March 2018 issues of *The Pharmacologist*. She has also produced two blog posts, one of which was published in January 2018 in the ASPET website. Another post will be published in the ASPET website at the end of March 2018.

F. Executive Committee Communications:

A Teleconference of the whole NEU executive committee was held on September 12th 2017 to discuss a variety of topics including symposia for EB2018, Nominations for officers, awards, communications, funding, programming and the SfN mixer.

In addition, John Traynor (NEU Chair) and Stella Tsirka (NEU Sec/Treasurer) are in constant communication by email and /or phone and communicate with other executive members on an as-needed basis to discuss projects related to programming, competitions and awards etc. All future communications will include the Chair and Secretary/Treasurer Elect.

G. Upcoming Projects, Events, Ideas and Proposals:

The NEU committee have discussed the possibility of removing the NEU Postdoctoral Competition Symposium and the Symposium dedicated to our Early Career Independent Investigator Award. These symposia use two of our symposium slots and so severely limit our ability to accept new and innovative symposia. This will be even more acute when EB is shortened in 2019.

This conversation will be reconvened and a decision made at our next executive meeting at **EB 2018**.

H. Other:

NEU Budget update:

The final budget report for 2017 was provided by ASPET on February 27, 2018. During the 2017 year the NEU division was allocated \$18,145 and was also supported by an extra \$2,000 from Council towards the SfN mixer. A carry-over deficit from 2016 amounted to \$1,198, thus making the starting budget for NEU \$18,947 for 2017.

The Division's expenses include hospitality charges for the EB2017 and SfN2017 conferences (\$9,979), travel awards (\$4,877), administrative expenses which cover mailings, telephone, AV, the exec meeting, complimentary registrations to the ASPET Annual Meeting at EB2017, and the plaques for outgoing officers. Our total final expenses were \$17,726, which leaves NEU with a positive balance of \$1,221, to be carried over to the 2018 budget.

We did offer the ASPET Washington Fellows \$500 for their proposed symposium at EB2017 on "Next generation of science, scientific diversity and policy". However, they were unable to obtain sufficient additional funding for their symposium.

Name of person preparing report: **John Traynor (Chair, NEU) and Stella Tsirka (Secretary/Treasurer, NEU).**

Name of Council liaison: **David Sibley**

Date of submission: March 14th 2017