



UNIVERSITY of
ROCHESTER
MEDICAL CENTER
MEDICINE of THE HIGHEST ORDER

The School of Medicine & Dentistry

Notes from the NGP Director



Dear colleagues,
I hope you all had a restful summer and are ready for an exciting new academic year. Please join me in welcoming our entering class. We have four students joining our graduate program this Fall and you can read a little about them below. Our current students organized the second annual bootcamp to prepare the incoming students for graduate school and pass on nuggets of wisdom and inside information – the new students are now ready to hit the ground running! Please introduce yourselves when you see them around the halls.

The past season saw many new initiatives and achievements by our faculty and students. We said goodbye to Danny Rogers, Veena Ganeshan, Dan Marker, Nathan Smith and Anasuya Das. We congratulate these freshly baked PhDs and wish them much luck in the future. We will also miss Brandon Bader who has returned to medical school, and Lauren Cummings who is now working at Maris Systems in Spencerport. Luckily they are both still local and we hope they stay in touch and wish them well on their current path. Our students continue to rake in publications and awards and we have had a record number of F30/31s awarded in the last few months. Make sure to check out the

description of our Brain Awareness Week event. The students worked hard to bring fun information about the brain in the form of hands-on activities to over 600 students in grades K-3 in local area schools. Also the newly formed med-grad student group (PONS) will enhance our student experiences and help expand our outreach efforts in the coming year.

On September 13th we held a very successful annual Neuroscience Retreat. Thank you to Doug Portman and his student committee for organizing this wonderful event. We also finally have an active Society for Neuroscience chapter in Rochester with the first business meeting happening at the retreat. I hope that many of you were able to attend. Thanks to Krystal Huxlin for spearheading this effort. The chapter will be a great resource for enhancing our current activities, providing new opportunities and bringing the neuroscience community together. You can read more about the chapter below.

I want to thank Ed Freedman and Gail Johnson Voll for their long and dedicated service on the steering committee and welcome new members Tania Pasternak, Liz Romanski and Lisa Opanashuk. As our program continues to evolve please check out our webpage:

<http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/education/graduate/phd/neurosciences/>

where you can find lots of information about the program, including the make-up of our committees. We are constantly updating the website and welcome any suggestions for further improvements. We also have a Facebook page which has listings of upcoming and recent events. Click on the icon on our webpage to get there. I also encourage everyone to participate in the events that we sponsor including the weekly student seminar session, which is held in K-307 at 4pm on Mondays. This year we will hold monthly happy hours directly following the seminars. Look out for e-mails about those!

In closing I want to mention the first NGP faculty meeting held last March. This was a very useful event and I want to thank all of those who attended. We had a lively discussion which informed many of the changes we have made to the program this year. We will have another faculty meeting in October 2013. I encourage all the faculty to attend. However, I'd love to receive feedback and suggestions for the program from faculty, students and community members at any time. Your input is important!

Did you know.....

Based on feedback from faculty and students, as well as new mandate from the Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs office, we are piloting a number of new initiatives for first year students this year. Incoming students have been assigned a first year advisory committee that can provide mentoring before a student joins a lab and forms a committee. The first year advisory committee is composed of two faculty members and a senior graduate student. Thank you to Tania Pasternak, Lisa Opanashuk, Ed Freedman, Chris Holt, Rick Libby, Pat White, Jean Bidlack and Liz Romanski, as well as Kelli Fagan, Ryan Dawes, Adrienne Chesser and Grayson Sipe for their service on these committees. The committees provide advice on areas that include (but are not limited to): expectations in graduate school, balancing classes and lab work, study habits, choosing a rotation and eventually a thesis lab, reading the scientific literature, scientific writing, qualifying exams, interacting with faculty and students, networking and future career options. The advisory committee will also provide input on first year evaluations which will occur at the end of each semester in the first year and be reported to the Senior Associate Dean for Education. The faculty in the advisory committee will also provide critical feedback on written rotation reports. Formal instruction in writing during the first year is now required by Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs office. We have chosen to implement this in the form of two written rotation reports (MSTP students need only complete one) whose completion will be tied to receiving a grade in NSC 503 (NSC Student Seminar). *(continued on page 4)*

Neuroscience Graduate Program Newsletter - Fall 2013



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Students Entering in 2013

We hope you have had a chance to meet our students who are entering the Neuroscience Graduate Program this fall. If not, you can take a glance at their profile below. This year's class consists of two Ph.D. students, two M.D./Ph.D. students, and three NBA MD-MS students.



Michael Chen graduated from the University of Rochester in May 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences: Cell and Developmental Biology. In 2008, he began working in Dr. Maiken Nedergaard's lab, where he obtained the bulk of his research experience. He comes with an outstanding research record including five publications, on two of which he is the first author. In the future, Michael is interested in doing translational research as a physician-scientist.

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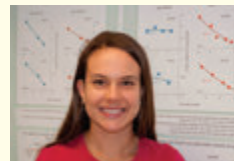
Felix Ramos-Busot completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Puerto Rico majoring in biology. He spent two summers at the University of Rochester as a summer undergraduate researcher. He worked in Dr. Harris Gelbard's lab where he studied the effect of Mixed Lineage Kinase-3 inhibitor on LPS-induced neuroinflammation in a spatial memory behavioral test. He also worked in Dr. Stephen Dewhurst's lab where he tested Mixed Lineage Kinase-3 inhibitors on primary mouse astrocytes to modulate pro-inflammatory cytokine secretion due to HIV-Tat exposure. He is very interested in the pathology of neurological disorders.

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Nguyen Mai graduated from the University of California in Los Angeles. During her undergraduate career she worked as a clinical research assistant, translator, medical community volunteer, caseworker, and medical office assistant. Her experiences (with clinical trials) led her to join the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) at the University of Rochester Medical School because she can see pre-clinical endeavors translated into viable treatments. Her work with Dr. Scott Fears at UCLA's Center for Neuro-behavioral Genetics inspired her to seek research opportunities in neuroscience.

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Stephanie Syc graduated from Brown University with a major in neuroscience. Upon graduating from Brown, she sought a position as a research coordinator in order to apply her academic knowledge and garner experience in the field of clinical research and patient care. She wanted to affirm her desire to pursue medicine. Further clinical research and personal experiences guided her to pursue an MD/PhD degree. She wants to study the mechanisms of cognition, develop treatment strategies, and implement these strategies in the care of her patients.

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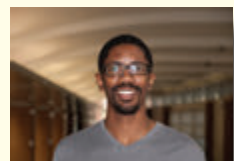
Aimee Morris has a unique background. She was an undergraduate student at the Eastman School of Music. She is an accomplished French horn player. While an undergraduate at the Eastman school, she also completed the required pre-medical course work at the University of Rochester where she is respectively pursuing a medical doctor degree. Aimee's post-lecture question to Dr. Jonathan Mink on dystonia in musicians turned into a year-out research fellowship. Aimee is pursuing a combined MD-MS degree.

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Catherine O'Leary graduated from Cornell University majoring in Biology. Currently she is a third year medical student at the University of Rochester Medical Center who is taking a year out from her clinical training to do research in Dr. Benjamin Crane's lab as a part of a combined MD-MS program. She will work on a project which involves using a vestibular stimulus to quantify perception of visual motion or vection.

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David Paul completed his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Hope College in Holland, MI. In 2010 he was accepted to the University of Rochester medical school where he joined the Academic Research Track program and realized the importance of research as a primary element of providing patients with hope and healing. David is part of the MD-MS program and this year he will be working on a project titled, "Heterogeneity in microstructural white matter changes of the anterior visual pathway following suprasellar tumor decompression."

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Milestones - Year 2013 - 2014

Qualifying Exams

Helen Wei, "Astrocyte-mediated functional hyperemia in cerebral capillaries"

John O'Donnell, "Are astrocytes essential for norepinephrine-mediated reorganization of network activity during stress?"

Christina Cloninger, "Behavioral Evidence for a Specific Auditory Motion System in Humans"

Adrienne Chesser, "The Role of Autophagy in Clearing Pathological Forms of Tau"

Brandon Bader, "The Role of BARHL2 Transcription Factor in Specifying Neuronal Subtype in Mouse Olfactory Development"

PhD Thesis Defenses

Danny Rogers (PhD), "Novel Approaches for Targeting Undifferentiated Cells in Neuroblastoma"

Veena Ganeshan (PhD), "The Role of p75^{NTR} and its signaling pathways in Fenretinide (4-hydroxyphenyl retinamide)-induced apoptosis in neuroblastoma cells"

Daniel Marker (PhD), "URMC-099, a Novel Kinase Inhibitor with Drug-like Properties, is Neuroprotective in Models of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Associated Neurocognitive Disorders"

Nathan Smith (PhD), "Astrocytes Role In Lipid Mediated Synaptic Activity"

Anasuya Das (PhD), "Retinotopic organization and specificity of perceptual learning in cortical blindness"

Student Publications 2013

Decampo DM, Fudge JL (2013 Oct 01). Amygdala projections to the lateral bed nucleus of the stria terminalis in the macaque: Comparison with ventral striatal afferents. *J Comp Neurol.* 521, 3191-216.

Wu MD, Montgomery SL, **Rivera-Escalera F**, Olschowka JA, O'Banion MK (2013 Aug 01). Sustained IL-1 β expression impairs adult hippocampal neurogenesis independent of IL-1 signaling in nestin(+) neural precursor cells. *Brain Behav Immun.* 32, 9-18.

Collage RD, Howell GM, Zhang X, **Stripay JL**, Lee JS, Angus DC, Rosengart MR (2013 Jul 24). Calcium Supplementation During Sepsis Exacerbates Organ Failure and Mortality via Calcium/Calmodulin-Dependent Protein Kinase Kinase Signaling. *Crit Care Med.* In press.

Fernandes KA, Harder JM, Kim J, Libby RT (2013 Jul 01). JUN regulates early transcriptional responses to axonal injury in retinal ganglion cells. *Exp Eye Res.* 112, 106-17.

Saul ML, Helmreich DL, Callahan LM, Fudge JL (2013 Jun 15). Differences in amygdala cell proliferation between adolescent and young adult rats. *Dev Psychobiol.* In press.

Guo L, **Stripay JL**, Zhang X, Collage RD, Hulver M, Carchman EH, Howell GM, Zuckerbraun BS, Lee JS, Rosengart MR (2013 Apr 01). CaMKI α regulates AMP kinase-dependent, TORC-1-independent autophagy during lipopolysaccharide-induced acute lung neutrophilic inflammation. *J Immunol.* 190, 3620-8.

Ghosh S, Wu MD, Shaftef SS, Kyrkanides S, LaFerla FM, Olschowka JA, O'Banion MK (2013 Mar 13). Sustained interleukin-1 β overexpression exacerbates tau pathology despite reduced amyloid burden in an Alzheimer's mouse model. *J Neurosci.* 33, 5053-64.

Tong J, Liu W, **Wang X**, Han X, Hyrien O, Samadani U, Smith DH, Huang JH (2013 Feb 15). Inhibition of Nogo-66 receptor 1 enhances recovery of cognitive function after traumatic brain injury in mice. *J Neurotrauma.* 30, 247-58.

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Student Fellowships

Revathi Balasubramanian, predoctoral NYSTEM training grant (July 2012-June 2014)

Adrienne Chesser, NIEHS F30 Individual Predoctoral Fellowship, "Mitochondrial Dynamics Underlie Gene-Environment Interactions in Parkinson's" (July 2011-June 2015)

Ryan Dawes, 2013 Breast Cancer Research Grant, from the Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester, NY, "*Breast Cancer Exosomes, Novel Intermediaries in Psychosocial Stress-induced Tumor Pathogenesis*" (April 2013-March 2014)

Danielle deCampo, F30, NIH Individual Predoctoral Fellowship, "An extended amygdala path implicated in early life stress" (July 2012-July 2016)

Kelli Fagan, F31, NIH Individual Predoctoral Fellowship, "Genetic control of a sexually dimorphic neural circuit" (September 2013-August 2016)

Julianne Feola, F31 NIH (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship, "The Role of Astrocytic Transglutaminase 2 in Mediating Ischemic Stroke Damage" (September 2012-September 2015)

Training grant in Hearing, Balance, and Spatial Orientation, 5T32DC009974, current NGP appointees: **Christina Cloninger**, **Colin Lockwood** (July 2013-June 2014)

Neuroscience Training Grant, T 32NS07489, current appointees: **Matthew Cavanaugh**, **Michael Chen**, **Heather Natola**, **Felix Ramos-Busot**, **Rebecca Rausch**, **Aleta Steevens** (September 2013-August 2014)

Adam Pallus, **Rebecca Lowery**, and **Brianna Sleezer**, Visual Science (CVS) fellowship for research support (January 2013-December 2013)

Jennifer Stripay, F31 NIH (NRSA) Individual Predoctoral Fellowship, "Identifying c-Cbl as a critical point of intervention in glioblastoma multiforme" (September 2013-August 2016)

Wei Sun, Individual Predoctoral Fellowship from the American Heart Association (July 2012-June 2014)

Helen Wei, HHMI Med-Into-Grad Fellowship (September 2013-August 2014)

Laura Yunes-Medina, F31, NIH Individual Predoctoral Fellowship to promote diversity in health-related research, "Defining CHOP-10 Dependent Adaptive ER Stress Pathways in Neurons" (August 2013-July 2017)

Did you know....

(continued from page 1)

The reports will be in the format of a scientific paper and include a Title, Abstract, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results and Discussion and are expected to be 2-4 single space pages in length. A proposal will still be required at the beginning of the rotation period. A critical aspect of the rotation reports is to provide students with consistent feedback throughout the first year to ensure that their skills improve and that they are provided with the support they require, depending on their level of competency. Thus the advisory committee will provide feedback on several sections of the report during the semester to allow time for rewriting. Rotation advisor feedback to the student before or along with submission to the first year advisory committee is welcome but not required.

Additionally please note that the deadlines for the **part I** and **part II** qualifying exam have been moved up to **June 1st** of the summer between the second and third years, and **October 1st** of the third year, respectively.

These changes are now reflected in the NGP Student Handbook which can be found at:
<http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/education/graduate/phd/neurosciences/program/handbook.cfm>

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Student Awards



Simantini Ghosh received a travel award from AD/PD conference chair, Dr. Roger Nisch in March 2013 in Florence. She presented a paper, "Interleukin 1 beta as a regulator of tau pathology in vivo."

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Kelli Fagan, a third-year NGP student in Doug Portman's lab, won first place at the URM Graduate Student Society Poster Competition held on April 5, 2013, Rochester, NY. She also received Honorable Mention in Neurobiology for her poster at the Genetics Society of America: 19th International C. elegans Meeting.



Revathi Balasubramanian, a fifth-year NGP student in Lin Gan's lab, won the 2013 Edward Peck Curtis award for excellence in teaching by graduate students, Rochester, NY.

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The 2013 Vincent du Vigneaud commencement award for PhD research went to **Ethan Winkler**, an MD/PhD student in Dr. Zlokovic's Lab. To date he has 12 publications, six of which he is first author or shares that position with Dr. R. Bell. These include publications in some of the very best journals like *Nature* and *Nature Neuroscience*.

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Ryan Dawes, a third-year student in Dr. Ed Brown's lab won a travel award from the Schmitt Program on Integrative Brain Research. Ryan plans to use this award to attend the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Advances in Breast Cancer Research Conference. It's being held in San Diego from October 3rd-6th, 2013.

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Anasuya Das, a student in Dr. Krystel Huxlin's lab defended her PhD thesis on July 18, 2013. Anasuya was awarded the Doty Award for Excellence in Neuroscience Dissertation Research during 2013 Neuroscience Retreat.

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Christina Cloninger, a 4th-year student in Dr. Gary Paige's lab won 2nd place in John Bartlett Poster Session during 2013 Neuroscience Retreat, Rochester, NY.

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Faculty Honors

NATIONAL AWARDS



ACADEMIA EUROPAEA Member-Elect

Maiken Nedergaard, Co-Director of Center for Translational Neuromedicine and Frank P. Smith Professor of Neurosurgery

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CHAMPALIMAUD FOUNDATION Antonio Champalimaud Vision Award

David Williams, Dean for Research in Arts, Sciences, and Engineering
Director, Center for Visual Science
Professor, Optics, Ophthalmology, Biomedical Engineering, Brain & Cognitive Sciences

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COGNITIVE SCIENCE SOCIETY Fellow-Elect

Richard Aslin, the William R. Kenan Professor of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, director of the Rochester Center for Brain Imaging

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SOCIETY FOR NEUROSCIENCE Secretary-Elect

Tatiana Pasternak, Professor, Neurobiology and Anatomy

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

FACULTY TEACHING, MENTORING & DIVERSITY AWARDS

Richard Libby, PhD
Jonathan Mink, PhD
John Olschowka, PhD
Kerry O'Banion, PhD
Robert Dirksen, PhD
Douglas Portman, PhD

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News & Other Events

Simantini Ghosh, MBA student, got married in summer 2011, and on August 1st 2013 she gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, Imon.



Dan Zaksas received his PhD in neuroscience in 2007. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School. In February 2013 he was promoted to a senior leadership position within the Dudnyk advertising agency. As a VP, Scientific Director, Dan provides scientific guidance and medical strategy at Dudnyk. (In the pic, Dan is on the left)



Kathleen McAvoy graduated in 2011. She is a post-doc in the lab of Amar Sahay at Harvard Stem Cell Institute. Her project is focusing on strategies to enhance adult hippocampal neurogenesis to improve cognition.



Catherine O'Leary, MD-MS student, started running in 4th grade as a fun way to spend time with her dad, and never stopped. This October she'll be running in the NYC marathon with the Racing for Veterans (R4V) team.

Team R4V creates life changing opportunities for America's veterans and makes a substantial impact on the physical, mental and emotional health of veterans and their families. Katie is also raising funds for her team. If you wish to help her in her goal, please use this link <http://www.razoo.com/story/runkatierun>



In 2008, **Yasser Elshatory** earned a PhD degree in neuroscience from URM. As a medical doctor he continues his education at the Dean McGee Eye Institute at the University of Oklahoma. This year he was awarded Dr. and Mrs. T.E. Acers Resident Honor Award. (In the pic, Yasser is 2nd on the left)



Above is **Ling Pan** who graduated with a PhD in neuroscience in 2007. She then moved to Boston with her family and joined the laboratory of Dr. Li-Huei Tsai at Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a postdoctoral scientist in 2008. She studies DNA damage and chromatin modification in neurons and how these processes contribute to the progression of neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease (AD) and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). She recently published two research articles on this topic in Nature Neuroscience. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, photographing and handcrafting. While gradually acclimated to the busy city life, she still misses the peace and convenience of Rochester. This picture was taken in her recent summer vacation in Yellowstone National Park.



Steve Raiker graduated in 2010 and is currently in his 2nd year of a post doctoral NRSA fellowship to continue his work in the lab of Tom Schwarz at Boston Children's Hospital. His project is aiming to characterize the contribution of fast axonal transport to synaptic morphogenesis and maintenance.



(above pic of GSS; Jennifer Stripay is 3rd from the left in the 2nd row; Ryan Dawes is 2nd from the right)

NGP graduate students, Jennifer Stripay and Ryan Dawes, are involved in the Graduate Student Society (GSS). GSS hosted its Annual PhD Poster Session and Awards this past April. Students from across the Medical Center had an opportunity to present and discuss their thesis projects. Several of our NGP students presented work at this year's poster session and 4th Year student Kelli Fagan took home the first place award for her category: an \$800 travel scholarship.

GSS also hosted the first URM Graduate Student Career Workshop in June. Alumni from several departments came back to give presentations and share in discussions with students regarding their personal experiences and career advice, particularly for those interested in careers outside of academia.



After graduating from NGP, **Maria Diehl** (4th from the left, bottom row) started working in the Quirk lab, which studies learning and memory of fear. Maria works on a project that focuses on the causal role of prefrontal areas in the expression of avoidance behavior using an optogenetic approach in rats. There're 12 students and 2 postdocs in the lab (incl. Maria). The lab is very dedicated to spreading awareness about neuroscience, especially during the Brain Awareness Week. They helped kids from all over Puerto Rico to learn about neuroscience and the brain. In her free time Maria and her husband Ethan explore the island and write a blog to document their adventures in Puerto Rico: <http://mandelivebythesea.blogspot.com>



News and Other Events

Brain Awareness Week 2013



On March 11–17th, volunteers from the Neuroscience Graduate Program and Department of Neurobiology & Anatomy took part in Brain Awareness Week, a world-wide outreach program dedicated to introducing the public to the field of neuroscience and increasing awareness of the benefits of neuroscience research.



The volunteer group, which consisted of graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and faculty members, traveled to four local elementary schools and, over the course of five days, worked with **over 600** young students in kindergarten through 3rd grade!



The children took part in multiple activities that taught them how sensory systems and corresponding brain areas tell them about the world. Check out some of those activities below.



The week-long program received rave reviews from children, teachers, and parents, and proved a greatly rewarding experience for our volunteers. In coming years we'd like to expand this program to reach more schools, broadening the impact our students and faculty can have on the local community.



JOIN US NEXT YEAR!!!!



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News and Other Events

(PONS) - PREDOCTORAL ORGANIZATION FOR NEUROSCIENCE



The Predoctoral Organization for Neurosciences (PONS) is a group of medical, graduate, and dual-degree students at the University of Rochester who are brought together by a common interest in the neurosciences. Our mission is to increase neuroscience awareness in Rochester and Western New York through an integrated organization that:

- 1) Exposes predoctoral students to current topics and research opportunities in interdisciplinary neuroscience, including basic, applied, and translational neuroscience
- 2) Provides relevant neuroscience education to community members

The first Roundtable Luceon Series, a new event hosted by the Predoctoral Organization for the Neurosciences (PONS), was on **Friday, September 20th**. Students and guest faculty members, Dr. Ania Majewska, Dr. Margot Mayer-Pröschel, and Dr. Harris Gelbard discussed **current topics in glial biology**.

ROCHESTER CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY FOR NEUROSCIENCE



Earlier this year, we were pleased to announce the reactivation of the Rochester Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience (SFN). At this time, the Chapter is still in the process of self-organizing. We will shortly hold elections for the establishment of a Chapter Council, which will govern local activities and interface with the larger SFN organization. We are creating a dedicated Rochester SFN Chapter web site, to be hosted by the University of Rochester. We have established contact with the newly formed Pre-doctoral Neuroscience Student Organization, PONS and are in the early stages of planning some exciting activities for Brain Awareness Week 2014. Our first Chapter meeting will take place during the Neuroscience Retreat, to be held at the Memorial Art Gallery on Friday September 13th, 2013. This inaugural meeting will be a great opportunity for everyone to become better informed about the Chapter's role and capabilities for enhancing neuroscience-related endeavors, as well as to contribute ideas for expanding these roles and capabilities locally and nationally. To receive information and announcements about the Rochester Chapter, please contact the current chapter representative, Dr. Krystal Huxlin at huxlin@cvs.rochester.edu



Neuroscience Plays Softball

Recreational softball continues to be popular among the Rochester Neuroscience community as the Myoclonic Jerks once again fielded a large team to compete in the URM/River Campus softball league. The team consists of more than 20 players, including post-docs, students and technicians from neuroscience labs as well as friends from outside of science. With a team this large, games are often raucous and lively; and something not to be missed. The "Jerks" have consistently ranked in playoffs due to hard work and team spirit! Space on the team is limited. Please contact co-captains Emily Kelly or Jack Walter with interest or questions. The league is in need of a new Monday night team- gather your friends and form a new team!

Past Events



This past May, during Rochester's Lilac Festival, a group of Neuroscience graduate students and members of their labs took a break from experiments and qualifying exams to attend the Wine and Chocolate tasting event that has become a highlight of the Festival. This event featured dozens of local wineries offering samples of their wares, as well as local chocolate, cheese, pickles and other delicious treats all under a large tent. With good food, drink and friends it was the perfect start to another Rochester summer!

GRADUATE VISITATION PROGRAM - September 20, 2013

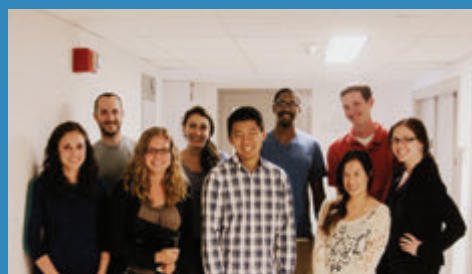
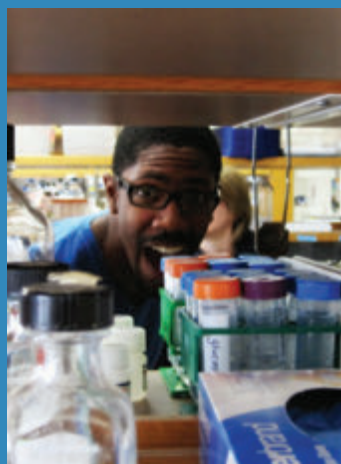
Every year the Kearns Center for Leadership and Diversity invites a number of students from underrepresented backgrounds (minority status, low income, first generation) to the University of Rochester to visit various departments, get a feel for the campus, and meet professors, students, and Deans in preparation for their graduate applications in the fall. This year NGP hosted two students: Cecilia Chow and Ismael Santiago. We thank you our faculty and students for supporting this event.

Neuroscience Graduate Program Newsletter - Fall 2013



Past Events

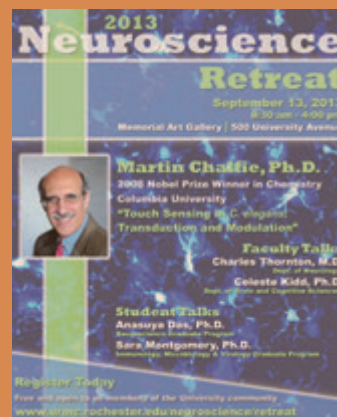
Bootcamp 2013



This year the Neuroscience Graduate Program hosted its second-annual First-Year Boot Camp, an orientation program for incoming students designed to introduce the people, places and research within the graduate program. The four-day curriculum featured student- and faculty-lead laboratory demonstrations, journal clubs and chalkboard research talks, culminating in a program-wide student BBQ. The program was made possible by the efforts of more than 25 NGP faculty and students who volunteered their time to usher in the new class.

2013 Neuroscience Retreat

The 2013 Neuroscience Retreat was held at the Memorial Art Gallery on Friday, September 13, 2013. This year the invited keynote speaker was Dr. Martin Chalfie, 2008 Nobel Laureate. Despite the fact that Dr. Chalfie could not attend at the last minute, the Retreat was a great event, enjoyed by all.





Future Events - Mark Your Calendars

PHD THESIS DEFENSES

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Friday, November 1, 2013

Danielle deCampo, *"An Extended Amygdala Path with Implications for Early Life Stress"*

Monday, November 4, 2013

Kimberly Fernandes, *"The JNK pathway is a critical regulator of retinal ganglion cell death following axonal injury"*

THESIS PROPOSALS

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Monday, October 7, 2013

Xiaowei Wang, *"The Role of Na⁺-K⁺-2Cl⁻ Cotransporter-1 in Early Seizure Activities Following Traumatic Brain Injury "*

Monday, November 18, 2013

Evan McConnell, *"Optogenetically Induced Nonsynaptic ATP Mediated Neuroglial Signaling in Axons"*

OTHER EVENTS

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- **NEW** NGP Happy Hour, September 30, 2013 at 5:00 pm in KRMB 2-9919
consecutive Happy Hours will be held on 10/28/13, 2/24/14, 3/31/14, 4/21/14
- NGP Faculty Meeting, October 2013
- Undergraduate Research Day, October 25, 2013
- SFN Conference, November 9-13, 2013, San Diego
- NGP Holiday Party, December 2013
- Interview Weekend Dates:
1/30/14-2/1/14 & 2/27/14-3/1/14



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Neuroscience Trivia

BEFORE THEY WERE SCIENTISTS....



To find the answers go to page 16.

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Alumni Updates

We are asking your assistance with updating our alumni database. Information we need is marked in **RED**. Please contact Ania Dworzanski at ania_dworzanski@urmc.rochester.edu with updates. Information in **BLUE** has been recently updated.

David Gooler, PhD, 1982, NSC, Instructor, Dept. of Speech and Hearing Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Campaign, 901 S. Sixth Street, Campaign, IL

Caroline Little (Cribari), MD, PhD, 1998, **Neurobiology & Anatomy, Women's Hospital, Mountain View, CA**

Scott Ng-Evans, PhD, 1999, NSC, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Russel Ferland Jr., PhD, 2000, NSC, Associate Professor and Associate Director, Center for Neuropharmacology and Neuroscience: Albany Medical College, Albany Medical College, 47 New Scotland Avenue, MC-136, Albany, NY

Tim Mhyre, PhD, 2000, NBA, Analyst in the Office of Sponsored Programs, Washington State University, Pullman, WA

Nikolaus McFarland, MD/PhD, 2001, NBA, Assistant Professor of Neurology, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Jay Nierenberg, MD/PhD, 2001, NBA, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry, NYU Longone Medical Center, New York, NY

Mary Maida, PhD, 2001, NSC, Medingen Group, LLC, Clerisy Corp., Rochester, NY

Randall Hayes, PhD, 2001, NSC, Assistant Professor, Biology Education, North Carolina A&T, State University, Greensboro, NC

Tina Huang, PhD, 2001, NSC, Director of Research, Transparent Corporation, Columbus, OH, 43202; Scientist III, Nutritional Immunology Laboratory, Jean Mayer USDA HNRCA at Tufts University, Medford, MA

Adnan Siddiqui, MD/PhD, 2003, NBA, Associate Professor of Neurosurgery and Radiology, University at Buffalo, the State University of NY, Buffalo, NY

Andrew Custer, PhD, 2003, NSC, Patent Attorney, Blue Ocean Enterprises, Inc., San Diego, CA; J.D., University of Florida, Levin College of Law (2009)

Michael Froehler, MD/PhD, 2004, NSC, Clinical Assistant Professor, Dept. of Neurology, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Michael Hanna, PhD, 2004, NSC, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biological & Environmental Sciences, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Commerce, TX

Seth Perry, PhD, 2004, NSC, Research Assistant Professor, Biomedical Engineering, URM, Rochester, NY

Luisa Scott, PhD, 2004, NSC, Research Associate, Section of Neurobiology, University of Texas, Austin, TX

Patricia Sheridan, PhD, 2004, NSC, Research Assistant Professor, Dept. of Nutrition, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Renee Miller, PhD, 2004, NSC, Lecturer, BCS, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY

Rebecca Sappington, PhD, 2004, NSC, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN

ChiaWen (Kitty) Wu, PhD, 2005, NSC, Pipeline & Portfolio Planning at Genentech, San Francisco, CA

Zhenhua Wu, PhD, 2005, NSC, Senior Research Scientist, Merck, Boston, MA

Chiayu Chiu, PhD, 2005, NSC, Associate Research Scientist, Dept. of Neurobiology, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Jill Weimer, PhD, 2005, NSC, Associate Scientist, Sanford Research/USD and Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatric at University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Min Zhu, PhD, 2006, New England, Neurological Associates, Lawrence, MA

Kuei-Cheng Lim, MD, PhD, 2006, NSC, Instructor in Epilepsy, Neurology, University of Pennsylvania Health System, Philadelphia, PA

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Alumni Updates

Zhiyong Yang, PhD, 2006, NSC

Jason Hamilton, PhD, 2007, NSC, Senior Scientist, Regenerative Medicine department at Athersys, Inc., Cleveland, OH

Charles Wuertzer, PhD, 2007, NSC, Faculty, Biology Dept., MCC, Rochester, NY

Roberto Fernandez-Romero, MD/PhD, 2007, NBA, Assistant Professor, Neurology Dept, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Solomon Shaftel, MD/PhD, 2007, NBA, in 2013 graduated from residency program in Ophthalmology Dept., UCSD, CA; He was accepted into a two year oculoplastics fellowship at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA (2013-2015)

Xiaohai Wang, PhD, 2007, NSC, Senior Research Biologist, Dept. of Neuropharmacology, Merck Research Laboratories, Boston, MA

Daniel Zaksas, PhD, 2007, NSC, Scientific VP, Dudnyk, Horsham, PA

Ziye Sui, PhD, 2007, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Peking University, Peking, China

Karthik Venkatesh, PhD, 2008, NSC, Sr. Medical Writer, MMS Holdings Inc., Detroit, MI

Erin Johnson Venkatesh, PhD, 2008, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, University of Michigan Medical School, Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience Institute, Ann Arbor, MI

Yasser Elshatory, MD/PhD, 2008, NSC, Resident, Dean McGee Eye Institute, Department of Ophthalmology, Oklahoma, OK

Pushkar Joshi, PhD, 2008, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Stanford University, Dept. of Biology, Stanford, CA

Ling Pan, PhD, 2008, NSC, Research Scientist, Picower Institute for Learning & Memory, MIT, Cambridge, MA

Xiaoyan Lin, PhD, 2008, NSC, Research fellow at National Institutes of Health, Washington D.C. Metro Area

Matthew Bellizzi, MD/PhD, 2008, NSC, Sr. Instructor in Neurology, Division of Neuroimmunology, URMC, Rochester, NY

Yanan Guo, PhD, 2009, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA

Onanong Chivatakarn, PhD, 2009, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Salk Institute, La Jolla, CA

Laurie Robak, MD/PhD, 2009, NSC, Resident, Medical Genetics/Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, One Baylor Plaza, Houston, TX

Nancy Oberheim Bush, MD/PhD, 2009, NSC, Neurology Resident, Class of 2015, UCSF, San Francisco, CA

Irah King, PhD, 2009, NSC, Assistant Professor, McGill University, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Montreal, Canada

Grace Vangeison, PhD, 2009, NSC, Market Manager, Millipore Corporation, Billerica, MA

Virginia Cuzon, PhD, 2009, NSC, NIH, Bethesda, MD

Aaron Cecala, PhD, 2009, NBA, Assistant Professor of Physiology, Elizabethtown College, PA

Bernard Gee, PhD, 2009, NSC, Faculty, Dept. of Psychology, Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT

Sarita Kishore, PhD, 2009, NBA, 2010-internship through University of Washington in Boise, Idaho, 2011-residency in Ophthalmology in Louisville, KY

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Alumni Updates

Qi Cui, MD/PhD, 2009, NBA, Ophthalmology Resident (Class of 2015), UCSF, San Francisco, CA

Carolyn Tyler, 2009, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Princeton University, Dept. of Molecular Biology, Washington Rd., LTL 123, Princeton, NJ

Ditte Lovatt, PhD, 2009, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Fellow at Center for Technology Transfer, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

KyungWha Lee, PhD, 2009, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, City College of New York, Itzhak Mano lab, NY, NY

Yuriy Shapovalov, MD, PhD, 2010, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Majewska Lab, URM, Rochester, NY

Lynette Desouza, PhD, 2010, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, India

I-Chen Yu, PhD, 2010, NSC, Research Fellow at Indiana University School of Medicine

William Mowrey, PhD, 2010, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, HHMI, Anthony Leonardo's lab at Janelia Farm, Chevy Chase, MD

Sarah Bliss Matousek, PhD, 2010, NBA, Freelance Editor at BioScience Writers, currently studies Health Management at Boston University School of Public Health

Deborah Ryan, PhD, 2010, IGPN, Post-doctoral Fellow, Portman Lab, Box 645, URM, Rochester, NY

Michael Moravan, MD/PhD, 2010, Resident physician in radiation oncology, URM, Rochester, NY

Marina Dobрева, PhD, 2010, NBA, Bulgaria

Michael Pesavento, PhD, 2010, NBA, Neurology, San Jose CA

Arnulfo Torres, PhD, 2011, NSC, Medical Writer at Freelancer - Medical Communications

Stephen Raiker, PhD, 2011, NSC, research fellow in Thomas Schwarz's Lab affiliated with Children's Hospital Boston/Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

Susan Lee, MD/PhD, 2011, NSC, Resident Physician, Child Neurology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH

Michael Jacob, MD/PhD, 2011, NBA, Resident in Psychiatry, UCSF, San Francisco, CA

Kathleen McAvoy, PhD, 2011, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Harvard Stem Cell Institute, Amar Fahay Lab, Boston, MA

Cory Hussar, PhD, 2012, NSC, Senior Medical Writer at The Curry Rockefeller Group, LLC, Tarrytown, NY

Zhuoxun Chen, PhD, 2012, NSC, Post-doctoral Fellow, Jeff Rothstein's lab, Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD

Crystal McClain, PhD, 2012, NSC, Research Associate, Ben Simons and Robin Franklin lab, University of Cambridge, UK

Sally Duarte, PhD, 2012, NBA, Post-doctoral Fellow, Max Planck, Institute, Jupiter, FL

Youngsun Cho, MD/PhD, NBA, 2012, Psychiatry Resident, Yale School of Medicine, Anticevic Lab, New Haven, CT

Katherine Selzler, PhD, 2012, NBA, Associate Consultant, Scientific Communications, Indianapolis, IN

Maria Diehl (Faryna), PhD, 2012, NSC, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Puerto Rico, Quirk Lab, San Juan, PR

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Alumni Updates

Michael Wu, MD/PhD, 2012, MSTP student, 4th year of medical school, URMC, Rochester, NY

Ethan Winkler, MD/PhD, 2012, MSTP student, 4th year of medical school, URMC, Rochester, NY

Sarah McConnell, PhD, 2012, Course Coordinator, Human Anatomy at [Ithaca College](#), Adjunct Faculty, Monroe Community College, Rochester, NY

Phillip Rappold, MD/PhD, 2013, MSTP student, 4th year of medical school, URMC, Rochester, NY

Danny Rogers, MD/PhD, 2013, MSTP student, 4th year of medical school, URMC, Rochester, NY

Veena Ganeshan, PhD, NSC, 2013, Post-doctoral Fellow, Schor Lab, URMC, Rochester, NY

Daniel Marker, MD/PhD, 2013, MSTP student, 4th year of medical school, URMC, Rochester, NY

Nathan Smith, PhD, NSC, 2013, Research Scientist, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

Anasuya Das, PhD, NSC, 2013, Post-doctoral Fellow, Marisa Carrasco's lab, Center for Neural Science at NYU, NY

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Answers to Neuroscience Trivia



John O'Donnell



Gary Paige



Grayson Sipe



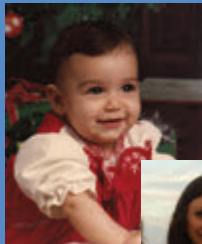
Jonathan Mink



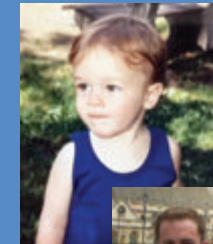
Rebecca Lowery



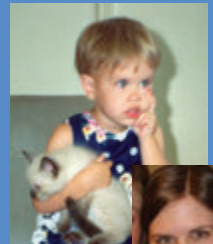
Heather Natola



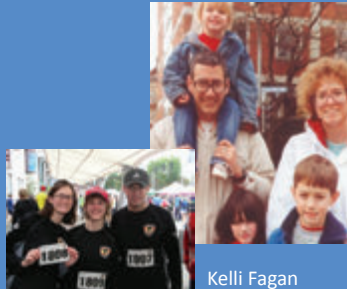
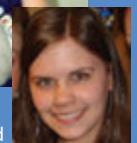
Julie Feola



Matt Cavanaugh



Berkeley Farenthold



Kelli Fagan



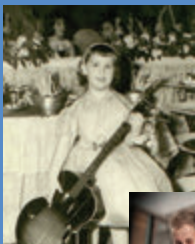
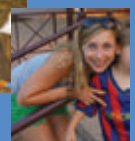
Chris Holt



Evan McConnell



Aleta Stevens



Nina Schor



Ryan Dawes



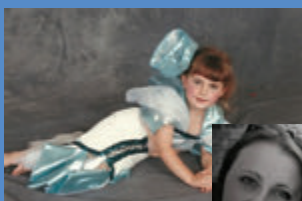
Susanne Pritchard



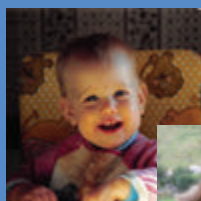
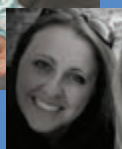
Mark Noble



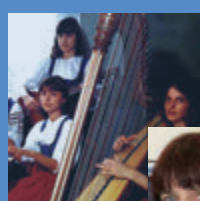
Ania Majewska



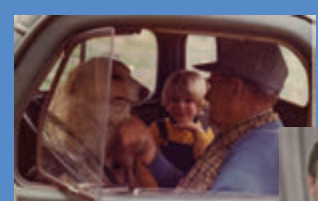
Jennifer Stripay



Christina Cloninger



Margot Mayer-Proschel



Benjamin Crane

