

Message from the President



Ety (Tika) Benveniste

I started my term as ASN President at the 2013 ISN/ASN Meeting in Cancun, Mexico (April 2013). This meeting was a great success due to the efforts of Steve Levison, Past ASN President, and the tremendous support provided by the ISN officers Phil Beart, Alois Saria and Monica Carson. The scientific content of the meeting was outstanding, and the Plenary Speakers were stellar. ISN was instrumental in planning the meeting and providing substantial fiscal support, which allowed for reasonable registration fees, support for the invited speakers, travel awards to young investigators, and support for the Satellite meetings.

A major change has occurred with respect to ASN NEURO, which was started by Tony Campagnoni, the Founding Editor-in-Chief. Monica Carson is serving as the current Editor-in-Chief. The 2014 ISI impact factor for ASN NEURO is 4.436, which is excellent and places ASN NEURO in the top quartile of neuroscience journals. In fall of 2013, Portland Press (PPL) gave notice to ASN that they were not going to continue publishing ASN NEURO, as such, ASN began negotiating with several other publishers, and just recently signed a 10-year agreement with SAGE Publications, Inc., and made the transition to the new publisher. We do want to thank Clare Curtis from PPL for her dedication over the past few years to ASN NEURO.

The Scientific Program for the 2014 ASN meeting was outstanding, and many thanks to Erhard Bieberich and the Scientific Program Committee for all their hard work. Similarly, Seema Tiwari-Woodruff has done a great job as the Local Host, and many thanks to her and the Host Committee.

Regarding fundraising and support for the meeting, ISN has been generous in their support of the 2014 meeting, and the NIH funded the R13 application at a dollar amount of \$20,000, so that is great news. Sponsor contributions were down 11% from 2012, a reflection of the fiscal times.

As always, many thanks to Sheilah Jewart, Tim Stassinis, Ed Cross and Christian Schmitz for all the behind-the-scenes work that enables ASN to hold a wonderfully organized meeting, which I am sure will be the case for our Atlanta 2015 meeting. I thank Steve Levison for all his help in getting me up-to-speed on the responsibilities of President, and ASN Council for productive work.

Tika Benveniste, ASN President

Secretary's Message



Vladimir Parpura

It is my pleasure to report on two new initiatives ASN has launched to continue to increase the benefits for the ASN members. i) We established an on-line interface for the annual meeting registration fees and the ASN membership dues based on the World Bank rankings of the countries. At the time of paying registration fees/membership dues, the interface automatically adjusts a percent discount based on the workplace country of the member, which one can select from a pop-up menu; the amount of discount is also displayed. ii) Additionally, we have introduced reduced price for 2- and 3-Year ASN Membership. In this progressive plan 2-year membership dues will be discounted by 10% (e.g., at present 1-year membership costs \$125 and the proposed 2-year membership would be \$225, as opposed to 2 x 1 year rate which is \$250); and 3-year membership dues will be discounted by 20% (at the present yearly rate that would be \$300, as opposed to paying \$375 for 3 x 1-year dues).

Vlad Parpura, ASN Secretary

Treasurer's Message



Susan McGuire

The Treasurer's activities for FY2013 included submission of the completed tax forms for the first full year under the new fiscal year, July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013 and participation in discussion involving financial issues with the ASN Officers and Council.

The savings and checking accounts remain at Chase/WAMU and all other funds are fully invested in a Morgan Stanley LLC account managed by Josh Uthe, CRPS®, AIF®. We finished March 2013 with a 4% return on investment after fees, ~1%, using a very conservative strategy. Therefore our yield is ~5%, which is what our Investment Policy Statement states that we hoped to achieve. The Treasurer, who serves as Fiduciary, works directly with the Investment Manager on behalf of all ASN Officers to monitor progress and assure alignment with ASN goals. Both the Treasurer and Treasurer-Elect (Jean Harry) have access to the online investment account which provides monthly, quarterly and yearly reports.

The ASN would like to thank Scott T. Brady, George J. Siegel, R. Wayne Albers, and Donald L. Price for their continued support of ASN through income from the royalties and sales of the Basic Neurochemistry textbook which totaled \$25,122.04 in 2013 and 2014 royalty payments. In excess of \$180,000 was raised in support of the 2014 ASN meeting in Long Beach, CA with the assistance of the ASN Officers, ASN Office Manager (Sheilah Jewart), the Program Chair (Erhard Bieberich), Local Host Committee Chair (Seema Tiwari-Woodruff) and Session Chairs. We are grateful for grant support from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and the International Society for Neurochemistry. Funds from NIH and ISN were used to provide Travel Awards for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and young investigators. Additionally, we are appreciative of meeting support from Avanti Polar Lipids, Biogen Idec, Genzyme-Sanofi MS Clinical Trials, GGRI/Georgia Regents University, UAB Educational Foundation, UAB Department of Cell, Development & Integrative Biology, and The Long beach Convention & Visitor's Bureau.

Membership dues payments are lower than in previous years, but back to the levels we saw in 2010 and 2011. The shift in how we handle bank and credit card charges has continued to keep this item lower in our ASN Office Expense Budget; however, it appears that the overall has increased due to an increase in our use of web hosting of Council meetings. An analysis of the Profit and Loss Statement shows a loss of ~\$15,000 associated with the 2014 meeting due to lack of attendance. Our attendance was approximately 100 people less than normal, causing our cost per person to increase dramatically despite valiant cost saving efforts by Sheilah Jewart and the Officers.

Susan McGuire, ASN Treasurer

ASN Council and Officers

Elected Officers:

Etty (Tika) Benveniste, President
Vladimir Parpura, Secretary
Susan McGuire, Treasurer
Babette Fuss, President-Elect
Sandra Hewett, Secretary-Elect
Jean Harry, Treasurer-Elect
Steven W. Levison, Past-President

Officers Appointed by the Council:

Douglas Feinstein, Intersociety Liaison
George DeVries, Historian

Business Manager/Meeting Planner:

Sheilah Jewart

Members of the Council:

Steven Barger
Erhard Bieberich
Ernesto Bongarzone
Cheryl Dreyfus
James Hewett
DiAnna Hynds
Eric Murphy
Michael Nichols
Juana Pasquini
Arturo Soto Ortega
Seema Tiwari-Woodruff
Emma Wilson

Alternates to the Council:

Colin Combs and Michael Fox



Councilors and Officers at the 2014 Long Beach Annual Meeting

(Left-right) From row: Eric Murphy and Emma Wilson; Mid row: Sandra Hewett (Secretary-Elect), DiAnna Hynds, Jean Harry (Treasurer-Elect), Tika Benveniste (President), Seema Tiwari-Woodruff, Steve Barger, and Juana Pasquini; Back row: Jim Hewett, Cheryl Dreyfus, Steve Levison (Past-President and Parliamentarian), Mike Nichols, Vlad Parpura (Secretary), Babette Fuss (President-Elect), and Susan McGuire (Treasurer); Not pictured: Sheilah Jewart (Business Manager), Erhard Bieberich, Ernesto Bongarzone, Colin Combs, Michael Fox and Arturo Ortega

The 2014 ASN meeting – a bittersweet success



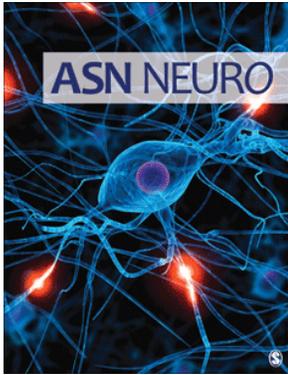
Erhard Bieberich

The 2014 (45th) ASN meeting took place at a great venue with wonderful opportunities to explore the coast life of Southern California: Long Beach, a city in immediate vicinity to LA. The first day, Saturday March 8th, was dedicated to the traditional pre-meeting workshop and the public forum. The 2014 conference was chaired by Drs. Erhard Bieberich (scientific program chair) and Seema Tiwari-Woodruff (local chair). The chair of pre-meeting workshop, Dr. Jean deVellis, organized a terrific line-up of high-profile speakers on the topic “Glia/Immune interactions, Pathophysiological Mechanisms of Neurodegeneration and Targets for Therapeutics”. With 60 participants, the pre-meeting workshop was well-attended. Also very successful was the public forum entitled “Marijuana, the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly”, which included speakers from different perspectives and ensured a lively discussion of this controversial topic. Other true

highlights were the four plenary speakers, who did fantastic jobs in presenting their latest research on the four topics of our meeting: Building the nervous system (Dr. Arnold Kriegstein), glial function in health and disease (Dr. David Rowitch), cellular metabolism and neural transmission (Dr. James Rothman), and neurodegeneration (Dr. Li Huei-Tsai). In particular, we were honored to welcome Dr. Rothman, who was awarded last year’s Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his work on synaptic vesicle trafficking and fusion. In addition to the plenary speakers, the meeting offered a vast variety of outstanding scientific sessions (36 in total). Of the two awards traditionally given by the society at the annual meeting, the Jordi Folch-Pi award was given to Dr. Beth Stevens, an exceptional and very productive young scientist. In 2014, there was no nominee for the Marian Kies award. In comparison to previous meetings, the number of attendants was low (384), which entailed some austerity measures such as limitations in providing free refreshments. Reasons for low attendance were discussed in depth and are likely to include the continuing reduction in funding and the occurrence of additional and related meetings at the West Coast. Despite these issues, the meeting concluded with the banquet on Wednesday March 12th, and as usual, with eager participation of all the attendees on the dance floor of the Hyatt Regency at Long Beach. This year we honored Dr. Robert K. Yu, who has supported ASN and attended our meeting for the last 45 years starting with the first meeting in Albuquerque, NM in 1970.

Erhard Bieberich, 2014 Scientific Program Committee Chair

ASN NEURO has a significantly improved impact factor of 4.436



On July 30th, 2014, we learned that ASN NEURO's 2014 ISI impact factor (IF) had increased to 4.436. This is an 18% increase over last year (2013 IF = 3.638). Our new IF places us solidly in the top quartile of neuroscience journals! This is an amazing accomplishment for such a young journal.

ASN NEURO has moved to SAGE Publishing

As announced at the ASN business meeting, beginning June 5th, 2014 ASN NEURO has a new publisher: SAGE Publishing. Therefore, manuscripts should be submitted at: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/asnneuro>.

A bit of history: We launched ASN NEURO in February of 2009 with Portland Press Ltd (PPL) as our publisher. PPL was an outstanding choice as the first publisher of ASN's society journal. After one year PPL had established ASN NEURO as an indexed journal on PubMed. With the strong support of Society members, and the assistance provided by PPL and in particular, from Dr. Clare Curtis, ASN NEURO soon achieved a very strong impact factor. But as our 5-year contract came to an end both PPL and the ASN re-evaluated our relationship and future needs and we mutually agreed not to renew the contract.

ASN officers and council hired Dr. Graham Lees to serve as our consultant and he solicited proposals from publishers to host ASN NEURO. Several publishers expressed strong interest in ASN NEURO, and after reviewing several competitive proposals, and meeting with the publishers representatives, we selected SAGE Publishing. Shortly before the March 2014 ASN annual meeting we signed a 10-year publishing contract.

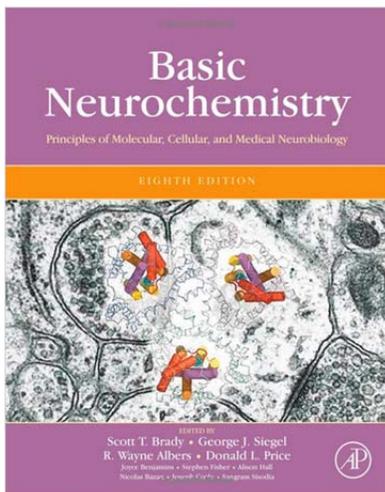
ASN NEURO is now transitioning from being a new journal without a reputation to a young journal seeking to maintain its early momentum and the high quality of its publications while expanding the numbers and range of papers being submitted. We have achieved this while decreasing the open access publication costs to \$999 for ASN members.

The journal will be transitioning to a Highwire and a Scholar One based platform which will provide ASN NEURO with a number of benefits including new inline video and data formats and toll-free linking with other highwire journals. The digital archives of ASN NEURO will be transferred to SAGE ensuring that all of the legacy articles will be fully accessible through the ASN NEURO portal.

Please sign up for ASN NEURO table of contents alerts here: <http://www.uk.sagepub.com/emailAlerts.sp>.

Steven W. Levison, Chair, ASN Journal Oversight Committee

The Basic Neurochemistry Textbook



The 8th edition of the book continues to do well (over 2500 copies sold since it was published in December of 2011), thus, tracking at the same rate as the 7th edition sales at the same time point after publication, which the publisher feels is fantastic. Given that the market for hard cover text books has shrunk, they are very happy with the performance. Elsevier is also interested in publishing additional titles in the general area that are more specialized.

The publisher is extremely interested in signing more complementary books in this area, in part to create a marketing cluster surrounding Basic Neurochemistry; of course, nothing that directly competes with Basic Neurochemistry. However, Elsevier feels that the breadth of the field warrants more publications, so if the members have ideas/topics they think need to be covered or sections of the book which they think warrant expansion into solo entities, Elsevier would be very open to feedback.

The Editors have begun preparations for the next edition of *Basic Neurochemistry* which is currently targeted for 2016 publication.

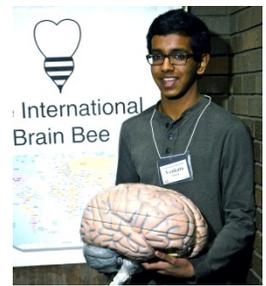
Scott Brady, *Basic Neurochemistry* co-Editor

2014 USA National Brain Bee



Adam Elliott

ASN collaboration regarding the USA National Brain Bee Competition in March, 2014 was a great success. A record 48 Brain Bee Chapters participated in this premier neuroscience competition for high school students. Adam Elliott from New Jersey is now the 2014 National Champion, and he will represent the USA at the International Championship in August competing against 20 other countries. Second place went to Venkata Macha from Birmingham, Alabama. The ASN is now an important part of the Brain Bee Program. First Prize is now considered ASN award for 2014, and it was presented on ASN behalf to the Champion as the American Society for Neurochemistry First Place Award. ASN dedication to the



Venkata Macha

neurochemists of the future will be acknowledged during presentations at the Society for Neuroscience Convention in November, at the American Neurology Association Convention in October and, hopefully, at the ISN Convention in Cairns, Australia in 2015.



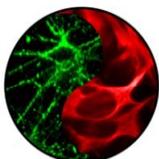
2014 USA National Brain Bee Competition Participants

Norbert Myslinski, Founder and Director USA National Brain Bee

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- Molecular and Cell Biology of the Nervous System
- Glial Cell Biology
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On-line Abstract Submissions:
September 15 - November 30, 2014
www.ASNeurochem.org



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