Welcome to the fall 2014 version of Physiology Canada! My name is Eric Accili and I am the new President of the Canadian Physiological Society.

First, some background on me. After a B.Sc. in Biology, I went on to obtain a M.Sc. in Physiology from Franco Loi at UBC, where I worked on spinal chemoreception. I continued my doctoral studies at UBC with Alison Buchan where I focused on gut peptides from the enteric nervous system. Some of you may remember me as an energetic graduate student member of CPS. For my postdoctoral studies, I moved to the University of Milan, Italy, with Dario DiFrancesco, to study peptide and cAMP signaling in the pacemaker of the heart. This was an amazing experience and I was able to attend a number of European Meetings, including two for the Physiological Society in the UK. Following my time in Europe, I joined Arthur “Buzz” Brown’s laboratory at the Rammelkamp Institute (Case Western Reserve University) in Cleveland Ohio, where my focus shifted to the molecular biology of ion channel and signaling proteins.

In 1998, I joined the School of Kinesiology at Simon Fraser University as a full faculty member, where I received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor. Since 2005, I have been a Tier II Canada Research Chair and Associate Professor in the Department of Cellular and Physiological Sciences at UBC. My current research program focuses mainly on the structure, function and molecular evolution of Hyperpolarization-activated Cyclic Nucleotide-gated (HCN) channels.

I am excited to serve as the President of CPS and I am keen to move forward on new initiatives. I know that the society has moved away from the annual winter meeting and has begun to host meetings jointly with other societies or organizations, to promote participation from our membership. Members have recently attended the First Pan-American Congress of Physiological Sciences (PanAm 2014), in Iguassu Falls, Brazil, Aug 2-6 2014, Physiology Without Borders. Also, the Canadian Association of Neuroscience partnered with CPS for a satellite meeting Linking Primate Brain Circuits to Behavior, which was held in Montreal. In this issue are summaries of those meetings from those who attended, as well as a summary of the UA Physiology Centenary, which was a great success. I will be meeting with our council to discuss this initiative and to develop a strategy that might include participation in more scientific meetings like these, identify more opportunities and partners, and to grow our membership. I would encourage members to let us know of you have ideas about meetings and other issues that you feel would strengthen the society. I can be contacted directly or members of the CPS Council, who I list below, can also be approached.

Eric Accili, President (Department of Cellular and Physiological Sciences, UBC)
Stephen Sims, Past President (Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Western University)
Catherine Chan, Treasurer and Secretary (Department of Physiology and Dept. of Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Sciences, University of Alberta)
Rob Rose (Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology & Biophysics, Dalhousie University)
Zhong-Ping Feng (Associate Professor, Physiology, University of Toronto)
Gerald Zamponi (Professor & Department Head, Physiology & Pharmacology, University of Calgary)
Lingyun Wu (Professor, Department of Health Sciences, Lakehead University)
Thomas Claydon (Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology, Simon Fraser University)
Andrea Green (Chercheure adjointe, Departement de physiologie, Universite de Montreal)
**Report on Panam 2014**

The inaugural Pan-American Congress of Physiology (*PanAm 2014; Physiology without Borders*) took place August 2-6, 2014 in beautiful Iguassu Falls, Brazil hosted by the Brazilian Society (*Sociedade Brasileira de Fisiologia*, *SBFis*). Two former presidents, Doug Jones (*UWO*) and Rui Wang (*Lakehead*) participated on the Organizing Committee for the past 5 years and current Past-President Stephen Sims along with Doug Jones were more recently on the Scientific Program Committee.

As per the agreement between the various societies for the model in which each society would provide some travel support for presenters from their respective countries, CPS provided financial support to Canadians who were presenters and did not receive full travel support from meeting revenues for the meeting, with those participating in CPS sponsored presentations receiving a higher level of support.

About 930 delegates from all over North, Central and South America as well as some international representatives attended and were treated to Brazilian hospitality and culture. Canada was well represented at the conference, with the third highest number of attendees behind Brazil (1st), and USA (2nd).

Quentin Pittman (*Calgary*), whose work on how neonatal infection affects subsequent fever responses gave one of the five plenary lectures which was not only of great scientific interest but also addressed a major theme of the conference, that of communications between the periphery and the brain to modulate physiological responses. Also from Canada, two of the fifteen excellent Keynote addresses were given by Rui Wang (*Lakehead*) whose talk was entitled *Physiology of Hydrogen Sulfide: Searching for the Smell of Life*” and John Peever (*Toronto*) whose talk was entitled “The Dark Side of the Brain - Unravelling Mechanisms and Functions of Sleep”.

The success of this inaugural meeting was evident in the unanimous approval to hold a 2nd PanAm meeting, in 2019, mid-way between the quart-annual IUPS meetings. A Steering Committee from Chile, Argentina and Cuba are evaluating what country will host the 2nd PanAm and no later than this December 2014 their decision will be announced. Stay tuned!

**Next up for Brazil:** hold the dates of August 1 - 5, 2017, for the 38th World Congress of the IUPS (“Rhythms of Life”) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
Dignitaries at the opening ceremonies (left to right): Dr. Michael Spyer (Physiological Society of United Kingdom); Dr. Penny Hansen (International Union of Physiological Science-IUPS); Dr. Claudia Capurro (Argentinian Society of Physiology); Dr. Carolina Escobar (Mexican Physiological Society); Dr. Kim Barret (American Physiological Society); Dr. Jane Reckelhoff (Co-chair of the International Scientific Programming Committee); Dr. Benedito Machado (Brazilian Society of Physiology and Co-chair of the Local Organizing Committee); Dr. Juan Reyes (Chilean Society of Physiology); Dr. Douglas Jones (Canadian Physiological Society); Dr. Rodrigo Iturriaga (Latin American Association of Physiological Science); Dr. Alberto Dorta Contreras (Cuban Physiological Society); Dr. Arif Siddiqui (South Asian Association of Physiologists)

Entertainment at the Conference banquet.

Report on CAN 2014

At the 2014 Canadian Neuroscience Meeting (CAN-ACN) held in Montreal, CPS and the Canadian Action and Perception Network (CAPnet, http://www.cap-net.ca) teamed up to organize a satellite symposium: “Linking primate brain circuits to behavior: advancements and applications.” This one-day symposium focused on the direct link between brain activity and sensory perception and behaviour.
Report on CAN 2014  Continued...

The symposium highlighted numerous Canadian systems-neuroscience labs applying techniques such as single unit neural recordings, functional MRI, and Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation to understand brain circuits in humans and non-human primates.

The symposium was a great success with 102 registered attendees. The symposium’s program highlighted 18 student and post-doc presentations, with papers by graduate students Matthew Leavitt (McGill) and Christophe Martin (Université de Montréal) receiving awards for outstanding presentations. Dr. Marlene Cohen, of the University of Pittsburgh Department of Neuroscience and Center for the Neural Basis of Cognition, gave a fantastic keynote address “What simultaneously recorded neurons can tell us about how attention improves perception”. The abstract booklet for this symposium is available on the CAN-ACN website: http://can-acn.org/satellite-linking-primate-brain-circuits-to-behavior-advancements-and-applications.

Based on the success of this symposium, discussions are underway for organizing another joint CPS-CAPnet event at a future CAN-ACN meeting.

Financial support for this symposium was generously provided by CPS, CIHR INMHA, CAPnet, Vision Health Research Network of Quebec, and McGill University’s Centre for Applied Mathematics in Bioscience and Medicine. The organizing committee was Erik Cook (Chair, McGill University), Doug Crawford (York University), Kathleen Cullen (McGill University), Andrea Green (Université de Montréal), Ravi Menon (University of Western Ontario) and Steve Scott (Queen’s University).

UA Physiology Centenary

The University of Alberta Department of Physiology Centenary Celebration. Physiologists from near and far gathered in Edmonton in May to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Department back in 1914. The Centenary Committee organized a 2-day symposium comprised of speakers with past departmental affiliations, which turned out to be a star-studded lineup. The symposium began with a video presentation from Sir Denis Noble at Oxford, who was a visiting professor in Edmonton. Dr. Noble’s elegant lecture challenged us to celebrate physiology as the centerpiece of systems biology, and this challenge was taken up by the various speakers who followed including Rui Wang (Lakehead), Stephen Archer (Queens), Tim Kieffer (British Columbia), Wayne Giles (Calgary), Dick Stein (Emeritus, Alberta), Andrew French (Dalhousie), Robert Wong (SUNY), Keir Pearson (Emeritus, Alberta), Susan Jacobs (Emeritus, Alberta), Simon Jarvis (Greenwich, UK) and Marek Duszyk (Emeritus, Alberta). The Canadian Physiological Society Centenary Lecture was given by Dr. Diane Finegood, current CEO of the Michael Smith Foundation and former Scientific Director of INMD at CIHR. Dr. Finegood spoke eloquently of her personal journey through science and how the current funding situation challenges this type of curiosity-driven meandering. Like Dr. Noble, she questioned whether a purely reductionist approach could ever solve the biggest problems that society faces.

A highlight of the centennial celebrations was the dinner attended by faculty, honoured guests, graduate and undergraduate students, and family members. The after-dinner lecture delivered by Dr. Es Saunders, former department chair and co-author of THE BOOK provided a great overview of the many departmental accomplishments over the years. The photos from the 1960s, 70s and 80s of current faculty members in their youth were particularly enjoyed by the audience. The Department is grateful to the Canadian Physiological Society for its awarding of a Promotional Fund grant to support the symposium.

Dr. Noble’s lecture and some photos of the proceedings are available on the Department’s website at: http://www.physiology.ualberta.ca/en/SpecialEventsPhotosVideos/Centennial%20Celebration%202014.aspx

Job Ads

Australia – Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute - Postdoctoral Fellow in Vascular Biology

Novel pathway regulating vascular tone and blood pressure

- World Class Research Institute
- Not-for-profit Organisation
- Close to public transport in Darlinghurst
- Up to 3 years, subject to funding
Job Ads  Continued...

The Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, established in 1994, is recognised as an international centre of excellence in biomedical research with a focus on heart disease and cardiovascular biology. Employing 200 staff, the Institute conducts research into the prevention of heart disease and undertakes cutting edge research. We are seeking an enthusiastic post-doctoral scientist to join an international team and who wants to forge a career in vascular physiology in the laboratory of Professor Roland Stocker, who leads the Vascular Biology Division.

The project extends previous studies by Professor Stocker’s laboratory (Nat Med 2010;16:279; Crit Care Med 2011;39:2678) and aims at characterizing the mechanism underlying indolamine 2,3-dioxygenase-dependent regulation of vascular tone. The successful candidate will be highly motivated, have experience in vascular biology and will be sufficiently dynamic to move the project forward whilst working in a multi-disciplinary research team.

The successful applicant will hold a PhD in Physiology or related subject and have proven experience in wire and/or pressure myography. Experience with small animal handling and microsurgery is essential. Knowledge of cell and molecular techniques is desirable and familiarity with redox biology is an advantage.

Salary will commensurate with qualifications and experience. Salary packaging and superannuation options also apply.

Further information is available from Prof Roland Stocker at: r.stocker@victorchang.edu.au.

Include a cover letter, current CV, proof of qualifications and details of three referees with your application. Email all applications to: recruitment@victorchang.edu.au or apply online at our website: http://www.victorchang.edu.au

Applications close Monday, 25 August 2014

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**Call for Nominations**

**Stevenson Award**

Departmental Chairs and Research Directors are encouraged to nominate suitable applicants from other Universities and to facilitate the nomination of their young faculty by Chairs/Directors from other Universities. Each year the Canadian Physiological Society offers a Visiting Professorship to an outstanding young Canadian Physiologist. The purpose of the Visiting Professorship is to promote collaboration and exchange of information among investigators at Canadian Universities and to strengthen graduate training programs in physiological research. The Society will provide travel expenses for the visiting professor; living expenses will be the responsibility of the host University. The award enables a distinguished young investigator from another Canadian Institution to visit the host university and to give a lecture and/or graduate seminars.

The selection of the Visiting Professor will be the responsibility of the Council of the Canadian Physiological Society and will be based on the scientific achievements of the candidate. Nominees for this award will be, or is expected to become, a member of the Canadian Physiological Society. The Visiting Professorship will not be awarded to candidates after the tenth year from receiving their first faculty position. In the event that more than one host University has requested the chosen recipient, the University which first placed the request will be given preference.

*Nominations should be sent to the Secretary of the Society at the address given below. Each nomination should include a letter from the sponsor setting out the proposed itinerary and include the curriculum vitae of the candidate.*

*Nominations must be received by the Secretary before November 1.* Electronic versions of letters of nomination and supporting documents should be sent to:

Dr. Cathy Chan
e-mail: cbchan@ualberta.ca
Call for Nominations Continued...

Macintosh Senior Visiting Professorship of the Canadian Physiological Society

Each year the Canadian Physiological Society offers a Senior Visiting Professorship to an outstanding senior Canadian Physiologist. This Senior Visiting Professorship is named in honour of Dr. F.C. (Hank) MacIntosh and is sponsored by the Corporate Patrons of the Canadian Physiological Society. The purpose of the Visiting Professorship is to promote collaboration and exchange between physiology departments and investigators at Canadian Universities. The visiting professor would be encouraged to visit two or more departments within the same geographical region of the country, so nominations can come from a single department or jointly from two or more. The visiting professor would be expected to spend several days at each institution giving seminars, meeting other investigators and holding sessions with the host department’s graduate students.

The selection of the Senior Visiting Professor will be the responsibility of the Council of the Canadian Physiological Society and will be based on the scientific achievements of the candidate. Nominees for this award should be a member of the Canadian Physiological Society and have made a contribution to the Society. Normally, the Visiting Professorship will not be awarded to candidates before the tenth year from receiving their highest degree.

Nominations should be sent to the Secretary of the Society at the address given below. Each nomination should include a letter from the sponsor/s setting out the proposed itinerary and include the curriculum vitae of the candidate. Individuals who wish to be considered for the F.C. MacIntosh Visiting Professorship are encouraged to approach departments for sponsorship, but they cannot apply directly.

Nominations must be received by the Secretary before November 1. Electronic versions of letters of nomination and supporting documents should be sent to:

Dr. Cathy Chan
e-mail: cbchan@ualberta.ca

The International Union of Physiological Sciences is soliciting member organizations for candidates for chairs of three IUPS commissions:

- Commission I – Locomotion
- Commission III – Endocrine, Reproduction and Development
- Commission IV – Neurobiology

One of the major tasks of Commissions is to help develop the program for IUPS Congresses, the next one of which is scheduled for 2017 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We also encourage Commissions to organize or promote other events during non-Congress years, and allocate a small budget for this purpose from IUPS funds.

Commission chairs are able to select members of their respective commissions. Members serve a four year term, renewable for a second four years.

More information about the Commissions can be found on the IUPS website at: http://iups.org/about-us/commissions. Please forward any nominations to the IUPS Manager:

Steven Webster
e-mail: Steven.Webster@case.edu.

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The CPS Promotional Fund

Up to $2,500.00 will be available twice a year to organizers of CPS events which stimulate physiology research, integration and/or teaching in Canada. For example, the funds can be used as seed money for the holding of a regional meeting, or promotion of the CPS at a national or international conference. There will be two competitions for funds, with application deadlines January 1st and July 1st. Multiple awards may be allocated at any competition. Any funds available from the January competition will be carried forward to the July 1st competition. Regular CPS members are eligible to apply. Send a 1-2 page proposal to the secretary of the CPS, describing the amount requested, date, location and nature of the planned event. Indicate how the requested funds will support the event and how the event will foster Canadian physiology. Events sponsored by the CPS Networking Fund will display a CPS banner to promote the Society and recognize its financial support.

For detailed information please visit the CPS website.

Upcoming Physiology Meetings

If you would like to alert other CPS members to an upcoming meeting, please send details to Dr. Cathy Chan: cbchan@ualberta.ca

CPS Website

We’d like to brighten up our website. If you have photographs or original drawings or diagrams that depict the science of physiology that you’d like to submit, send them to Cathy Chan at: cbchan@ualberta.ca.

Note that photographs with recognizable people will not be accepted except in the case of award winners.

Submissions & Contact Information

We welcome your contributions for features including: “Who am I? Where am I?”, “Physiology history in Canada”, Abstracts of recent PhD theses, Job advertisements (free to CPS members; a small fee applies for non-members).

Past-President Stephen Sims will be soliciting nominations for the positions of Vice-President, Secretary and two Councillors in the near future. If you would like to be considered, please contact Stephen at: Stephen.Sims@schulich.uwo.ca.

For other matters, contact:

Dr. Cathy Chan
email: cbchan@ualberta.ca