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International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS)

Physiology was in the spotlight at this congress, held in the revitalized city of Birmingham, England’s second largest city. The convention attracted 3068 attendees from around the world to the city-center convention center situated along the historic canal network. The photograph below shows the restored canal district with convention center in the background (and the very lively Malt House pub, at left overlooking the canal).

Reflecting the international nature of Physiology, this meeting hosted the largest ever delegation from Africa, and, due to the diplomatic efforts of the IUPS directors, delegates from North Korea were able to attend the conference for the first time ever. Canadian participants were active contributors to the congress. CPS members Drs Melanie Woodin and Erik Cook led symposia and presented their research. Canada was represented on IUPS Council by CPS members Drs. Quentin Pittman and Penny Moody-Corbett, who, along with Drs. Doug Jones and Stephen Sims attended the General Assembly meeting. Dr. Penny Hansen (Memorial University), who has served as chair of the IUPS Education Committee, was elected to the IUPS governing board.

This was the 37th International congress of IUPS, stretching over a 124-year period. Canada last hosted two of these congresses, in Montreal (1953) and Vancouver (1986). These mega-meetings are quite distinct from the smaller, more intimate meetings such as Gordon Conferences. But such a congress offers exceptional breadth and diversity. The opening address in Birmingham was from Sir Paul Nurse, one of the 2001 Nobel Prize winners for Physiology or Medicine (recognized for a molecular understanding of cell division). Acknowledging the importance of other sciences to provide the tools to advance, he argued physiology remains central to understanding how the human body functions in health and disease. Dr. Nurse went on to introduce Dr. Denis Noble, President of the IUPS. Denis’ President’s Lecture, entitled "The Music of Life", expanded on his theme of systems biology and the integration of physiological sciences with evolutionary biology. He argues that the genome is more akin to an organ of the cell, but is not its dictator.
From CPS President Stephen Sims Continued...

Future IUPS congress meetings were also established at the General Assembly meeting. Brazil was confirmed to host the 2017 IUPS in Rio de Janeiro, with the Brazilian Society of Physiologists leading "The Rhythms of Life".

Planning extended still further, with the competition held for hosting the 2021 IUPS congress. Proposals were heard from Vienna, Seoul, and Beijing. Beijing was the overwhelming choice of delegates for hosting the 2021 IUPS Congress meeting. This was the second bid championed by the Chinese Association of Physiologists. The strengths included firm government and local support, combined with relatively economical costs for attendees.

Membership in the International Union of Physiological Sciences: Essential contributions from NRC

Canada’s membership in the International Union of Physiological Sciences is at the highest level, that of "Adhering Bodies". The National Research Council of Canada is the official organization representing the physiological scientists and pays the yearly dues. Adhering Bodies are entitled to voting delegates at the General Assembly. In turn, when an Adhering Body represents one or more societies, each of these societies is termed a "Supporting Society", which does not pay dues. The Canadian Physiological Society is categorized as a "Supporting Society".

I give this background to remind physiologists from across the country that the National Research Council’s support is an essential element in sustaining our presence on the international stage. In addition to paying the IUPS dues, the NRC provides limited support for participation in governance. I remind members to acknowledge the ongoing support for our membership in IUPS. At a time of ongoing budget cuts, every mention of this with media or politicians will offer benefits.

Regards,

Stephen Sims
President

Save the Date: "Physiology without Borders", Iguaçu Falls, Brazil, August 2-6, 2014

The CPS has partnered with other Physiological Societies of "the Americas" to plan the 1st Pan-American Congress of Physiological Sciences "Physiology without Borders", which is being held August 2-6, 2014.

The Brazilian Physiological Society is hosting the Pan-American Congress of Physiological Sciences "Physiology without Borders". The Iguaçu River and the waterfalls form the boundary between Brazil and Argentina. The waterfalls are recognized as one of the New Seven Wonders of Nature, and promise to be an unforgettable location for a scientific meeting. Start planning (and saving) now to attend. Abstract Submission and Registration will open February 17, 2014.

Keynote Lecturers:
Of 16 total keynote lectures, Canadian scientists are well represented:
- John Peever (Toronto) - The Dark Side of the Brain - Unraveling mechanisms and functions of sleep.
- Rui Wang (Lakehead) - Physiology of Hydrogen Sulphide: Searching for the Smell of Life.
- Quentin Pittman (Calgary) - A Neuro-Endocrine-Immune-Symphony.

Symposia Leaders:
Canadian researchers also are organizing and leading a number of symposia, showcasing a range of topics:
- Inflammation and Metabolic Disease: the Physiological Crossway - Chair: Amira Klip (Canada)
- Regulation of the Enteric Epithelial Barrier - Chairs: Wallace MacNaughton (Canada) & Derek McKay (Canada)
- Role of Autonomics in Cardiovascular Function - Chair: Douglas L. Jones (Canada)
- Plasticity in the Auditory System - Chair: Stephen G. Lomber (Canada)
- New Comparative Insights into Cardio-Respiratory Control - Chairs: Francisco Tadeu Rantin (Brazil) & William K. Milsom (Canada)

Visit the Congress website at: http://panam2014.com/

The scientific program is at: http://itarget.com.br/newclients/panam2014.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Programacao%20Cient%C3%ADfica.pdf
**Travel Awards to Attend the Pan-American Congress of Physiology: Brazil**

Álvaro Osório de Almeida (AOA) Award by the Brazilian Society of Physiology (SBFis): Professor Álvaro Osório de Almeida was a pioneer in developing Physiology in Brazil in the beginning of last century. In his honour and to distinguish young physiologists, SBFis grant this award every year during the SBFis Annual Congresses. The 2014 edition of the AOA Award will occur in the context of the PanAm-2014 and all undergraduate, graduates students and post-doctoral fellows up to 30 year old registering for the PanAm-2014 and from any country will be eligible for the AOA Award. The chair of this edition of the AOA Award will be by Dr. Vagner R. Antunes, President-Elect of SBFis.

All those students applying for the AOA award will have their abstracts evaluated by members of the SPC of PanAm-2014 and by senior physiologists participants in the Scientific Program of PanAm-2014 and those ranked in the top 20 will receive a travel award by the LOC. The 5 top will be invited to deliver a 10 minute talk followed by 5 minutes of questions by the members of the evaluating committee in a special session during the PanAm-2014. The session for the 5 oral presentations of the top 5 abstracts will be in the evening of Tuesday (August 5, after 6:00 pm) and it will not be in parallel with any other session. The members of the evaluating committee will be indicated by Dr. Vagner R. Antunes, the chair, and they will select the winner of the AOA Award, edition 2014. The value of the travel awards to be granted to the top 20 in the raking of the AOA Award as well the value for the winner of the AOA Award-PanAm-2014 will be dependent on the funds available and will be announced by the LOC in the middle of June on the website of the PanAm-2014.

To apply to the AOA award the undergraduate or graduate student must fill-up the following requirements:

1. Submit a first-authored abstract;
2. Register the abstract in the AOA Award clicking the correspondent box in the submission process;
3. Agree with AOA award rules, and
4. Be no older than 30 years before the last day of the PanAm-2014 (August 6, 2014).

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"**Linking Primate Brain Circuits to Behavior**, Montreal, May 25, 2014"

The Canadian Association of Neuroscience is meeting, May 25 2014 in Montreal, and has partnered with CPS for a satellite meeting on Linking Primate Brain Circuits to Behavior. The notice for this meeting and call for abstracts has been posted on the [CPS website](http://www.cpssscp.ca/student-travel-fund). Abstracts should be written in CAN-ACN format (~250 words), in a common word processing document (such as Word) and emailed as an attachment to: [erik.cook@mcgill.ca](mailto:erik.cook@mcgill.ca). Closing date for abstract submission: **February 21, 2014**.

Registration website: [http://can-acn.org/2014-registration](http://can-acn.org/2014-registration)

Note that this meeting emphasizes student oral presentations, so is a good opportunity for trainees to gain presentation experience. Student members of the CPS are eligible for travel support to attend this meeting. They must be CPS members and chosen to present. The travel awards issued by CPS vary in amount, and take proximity into account. Check the [CPS website](http://www.cpssscp.ca/student-travel-fund) - Student Travel Fund for further details: [http://www.cpssscp.ca/student-travel-fund](http://www.cpssscp.ca/student-travel-fund)

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**Encourage Nominations for CPS Lectureships and Membership**

We encourage physiologists to consider nominating their successful colleagues for the awards offered by CPS. The F. C. (Hank) MacIntosh Senior Visiting Professorship of the CPS and the James A.F. Stevenson Visiting Professorship recognize distinguished established and young investigators and provides travel funds for them to visit another Canadian university, present a lecture and interact with graduate students and faculty. Check the criteria on the [CPS website](http://www.cpssscp.ca/student-travel-fund) and consider nominating one of your colleagues.

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**CPS offers Members Support to Attend CPS-sponsored Events**

Members of the Canadian Physiological Society who are invited participants and / or organizer of symposia at CPS-sponsored meetings are eligible for travel awards of up to $1000, so we encourage membership and participation.

Further, CPS has a limited number of up to $1000 Travel Reimbursements to student presenters who are Student Members of the Canadian Physiological Society at the time of submission of their abstract (or ~6 months prior to the meeting date). Details of the student travel award are available at: [http://www.cpssscp.ca/student-travel-fund](http://www.cpssscp.ca/student-travel-fund)
**Partnership Group For Science And Engineering (PAGSE)**

CPS also is a partner in the national consortium Partnership Group For Science And Engineering (PAGSE), a national cooperative association of >25 organizations in Science and Engineering. PAGSE represents members from industry, academia and government sectors and strives to inform decision makers in Ottawa through regular discussions of scientific matters. One example is a monthly breakfast meeting referred to as "Bacon and Eggheads", whose objective is to inform parliamentarians about advances in science and engineering.

There are also regular meetings (held in Ottawa, but joined by teleconference). The October speaker is Elizabeth Dowdeswell, President and CEO, Council of Canadian Academies. She has previously served as Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program, according to her website. The speakers at PAGSE events are opinion leaders in Canada at the interface of science and government.

Participation in the Canadian Physiological Society is a rewarding experience, offering exposure and collaborative opportunities. Consider responding to the call, and encourage others in your departments / units to join the Society and participate.

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**2014 Centennial Celebration of the Department of Physiology at the University of Alberta**

We are pleased to report that 2014 is the centenary of the Department of Physiology at the University of Alberta. As describe by the Department’s communication, "the original Faculty of Medicine opened its doors in 1913, and thus the modern-day Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry celebrated its centenary in 2013. However, the Chairs of the first two Faculty of Medicine departments, Anatomy and Physiology, did not begin their work until 1914. With the later transfer of Anatomy from departmental to divisional status, the Department of Physiology will become the first department in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta to reach this 100-year milestone."

The department will celebrate this landmark achievement May 29 and 30, 2014, by hosting an on-campus Centennial Symposium featuring presentations by past and present members of the department, with proceedings to be published in the Canadian Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology.
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](http://www.cpsociety.ca).

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Positions Available

Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University Tenure Track Faculty Position in Pharmacology

The Department of Physiology and Pharmacology at Western University invites applications from outstanding early career investigators to fill a probationary tenure-track position at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor. If qualifications and experience warrant, the appointment will be made with tenure.

Qualified applicants must have a PhD in Pharmacology or a related field as well as an outstanding record of achievement in Pharmacology research and teaching. The successful candidate will be expected to:

1. establish and maintain a vigorous externally-funded research program,
2. excel in teaching pharmacology at the undergraduate and graduate level,
3. supervise undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral research trainees, and
4. demonstrate a potential for developing innovative approaches within a collaborative research environment.

The Department of Physiology and Pharmacology is the largest basic medical science department in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry with over 85 associated faculty members, 125 graduate students, 25 postdoctoral fellows, and 40 staff. Our Department is research-intensive, with a strong commitment to graduate, undergraduate, and professional education. Areas of research excellence include pharmacology and physiology of the cardiovascular, neural, musculoskeletal, reproductive and endocrine systems; developmental biology; stem cells and regenerative medicine; drug metabolism and safety; molecular oncology and chemotherapy. New recruits will have access to state-of-the-art research core facilities. For more information about our department, please visit: [www.uwo.ca/physpharm](http://www.uwo.ca/physpharm). Western is one of Canada’s leading research-intensive universities, and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry has a long history of excellence in basic biomedical, applied, and clinical research. Western has a full range of academic and professional programs for over 32,000 undergraduate and graduate students. Further information about the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry and Western can be found at [www.schulich.uwo.ca](http://www.schulich.uwo.ca) and [www.uwo.ca](http://www.uwo.ca). Western’s Recruitment and Retention Office is available to assist in the transition of successful applicants and their families.

The application should include:

1. a detailed Curriculum Vitae,
2. a brief statement of research and teaching accomplishments as well as future plans,
3. copies of representative publications, and
4. the names of three referees. Please Email the complete application to:

Dr. R. Jane Rylett, Chair  
Department of Physiology and Pharmacology  
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry  
Western University  
physpharm.admin@schulich.uwo.ca

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Review of applications will begin after April 30, 2014. Positions are subject to budget approval. Applicants should have fluent written and oral communication skills in English. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Western is committed to employment equity and welcomes applications from all qualified women and men, including visible minorities, aboriginal people and persons with disabilities.
Postdoctoral Position – Cardiovascular Electrophysiology: A Postdoctoral Fellowship position is available in the laboratory of Dr. Robert Rose at Dalhousie University where we are investigating cellular and molecular mechanisms of heart disease.

Experience with patch-clamping isolated cells is required and direct experience in cardiac electrophysiology would be an advantage. Available projects are focused on ion channel physiology, particularly in the sinoatrial node and atrial myocardium, in heart disease. Studies are performed in animal models as well as human tissue.

The successful applicant will have the opportunity to join a dynamic laboratory and be involved in multidisciplinary cardiovascular research. The laboratory routinely utilizes numerous experimental approaches including molecular biology, patch-clamping, high resolution optical mapping and in vivo electrophysiology. The successful applicant will also have the opportunity to contribute to the writing of manuscripts and to attend / present at leading international conferences.

Funding for this position is available for 2 years, with the possibility of extension. Salary will be based on experience and is competitive with all international standards. Applicants should have a PhD degree and send a cover letter, CV and the names / contact information for 2-3 references to:

Robert A. Rose, PhD
Department of Physiology and Biophysics
Faculty of Medicine
Dalhousie University
Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building – Lab 4J
5850 College Street
PO BOX 15000
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada   B3H 4R2
Email: robert.rose@dal.ca

For more information on the laboratory, please visit the following webpage:
http://www.physiology.dal.ca/people/faculty/homepage.php?fid=48