



# IBNS News

Volume 11, Issue 2

October, 2007

Melanie A. Paquette, Editor

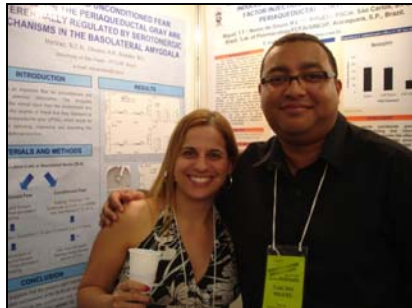
## 2007 IBNS ANNUAL MEETING IN RIO DE JANEIRO HAS RECORD ATTENDANCE

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the IBNS drew the highest attendance in IBNS history with the total number of registrants reaching 264, of which 50% were students. As always, attendees were internationally diverse, representing 24 countries. The highest attendance by country was from Brazil (111), followed by the United States (82).

The number of abstracts submitted was 207, the same number submitted for the 2006 Annual Meeting in Whistler, B.C., and just under the maximum number of abstracts submitted to date for an IBNS meeting: 211 were submitted for the 2002 Annual Meeting in Capri, Italy.

The Meeting began on Tuesday, June 12 with Registration, a Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Social, and a Welcome Reception. Both Social and Reception featured complimentary hors d'oeuvres and beverages. Scientific content included two keynote speakers: John Aggleton (Cardiff University, UK) and Ivan Izquierdo (PUCRS, Brazil). Joseph Huston (University of

Dusseldorf, Germany) delivered the Presidential Lecture. Two Wayner/ NNOXe Awards were conferred after their recipients' presentations: the 2006 award was given to William T. Greenough (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL), and the 2007 award was given to Donald Stein (Emory University, Atlanta, GA).



Raquel Martinez (University of São Paulo, Brazil) and Tarciso Miguel (Federal University of São Carlos, São Paulo, Brazil) pose in front of their posters.

Six symposia, including 25 speakers, covered topics including social and emotional behavior, early life stress, animal models for mental health research, and fear- and anxiety-like behaviors. Two oral sessions, comprising 10 presentations, discussed the neural substrates of behavior

and animal models of behavior and disease. Twelve student travel award winners spoke in the Slide Blitz. Names and affiliations for the travel award recipients may be found in the 2007 Annual Meeting Program. A total of 167 Posters were presented in two evening poster sessions, accompanied by hors d'oeuvres and wine.

The Annual Banquet, followed by a live band and dancing, was held on Friday night. The meeting adjourned on Saturday, June 16 after the final oral session and a Student Workshop on Preparing an Effective CV, led by Susan Powell, Christine Hohmann, and Haim Einat and

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Pão-de-Açúcar

attended by nearly 30 students. For organizing the superb scientific content of this meeting, we offer thanks to the Program Committee: Andrew Holmes (Chair), Jacki Crawley (Co-Chair), Gary Cooper, Francisco Guimaraes, Scott Hall, Sarah Johnson (student representative), JC Jorge, Kelly Lambert, Gerlinde Metz, Emmanuel Onaivi, Holger Russig, and Bianca Topic.

Corporate Sponsors for the 2007 Annual Meeting included: Elsevier Science Inc., San Diego Instruments,



Cristo Redentor

and Stoelting Co. Exhibitors included: Clever Sys., Medbook, Panlab S.L., TSE Systems, and Viewpoint Life Sciences. We greatly appreciate the financial support of these sponsors and exhibitors.

Three satellites were held in Brazil prior to the IBNS Annual Meeting: 1) Primate Models for Psychiatric Disorders, June 8-10, Joao Pessoa, organized by Carlos Tomaz and Marilia Barros (Universidade de Brasilia; see article in this Newsletter for more information),



Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas

2) Learning and Memory, in honor of the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of Ivan Izquierdo (a keynote speaker at the IBNS Annual Meeting), June 10-11, Curitiba, organized by Claudio Da Cunha (Federal University of Parana State, Curitiba), and 3) Predatory Odor: An Animal Model for the Study of Anxiety, June 12, Rio de Janeiro, organized by Robert Blanchard (University of Hawaii).

Attendees enjoyed the 2007 meeting locale: the Rio Othon Palace Hotel on



Streetcar in Santa Teresa

Copacabana Beach. From the rooftop pool, guests had a view of Copacabana Beach with its distinctive sidewalks, the Pão de Açúcar (Sugarloaf Mountain), and the Cristo Redentor (Christ the Redeemer) statue on the mountain of Corcovado, at 710 meters above sea level. A popular one-day tour enjoyed by many of the attendees included these two attractions, as well as the Metropolitan Cathedral, Maracanã Stadium, the Sambodrome (where tourists could dress in the costumes of Carnivale), and lunch at a rodizio churrascarias where waiters sliced various grilled meats directly onto diners' plates. Other popular destinations included the Santa Teresa neighborhood with its distinctive yellow trolley and the inland lagoon.

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Scenarium, a Club in Lapa

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In the evenings, Brazilian students and professors escorted visitors to the district of Lapa, where a favorite hangout was the Scenarium, a three-floor dance club decorated with eclectic antiques. There, attendees enjoyed cachaça (the local sugar cane liquor) in the form of caipirinhas.

The Brazilians were also happy to provide samba instruction to the live music that played there.

Special thanks goes out to the Local Organizing Committee: Marcus Lira Brandão (Chair, FFCLRP, Campus USP, São Paulo), Eliane Volchan (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro), and Claudio da Cunha (Universidade Federal

do Parana, Curitiba). We also appreciate the friendliness of the Brazilian attendees who made all of the international visitors welcome. Combined with the scientific content of the meeting and the beautiful location, the efforts of these individuals made for an extremely successful Annual Meeting.

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**Join us for the next Annual IBNS Meetings!**

**June 17-22, 2008**

**Frenchman's Reef & Morning Star Marriott Beach Resort  
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands**



**June 9-14, 2009**

**Wyndham Grand Bay, Isla Navidad Resort  
Manzanillo, Mexico**



## AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF IBNS PRESIDENT ROBERT GERLAI: A CAREER DUE TO GENETIC PREDISPOSITION

Robert Gerlai was born in the large cosmopolitan city of Budapest, the capital of Hungary. From an early age, it was clear he loved animals. *“My parents told me many stories about times I was too young to remember. They told one story about when I was two years old and two elderly ladies came to check on me playing in the sand box, just to learn, to their horror, that the plastic bucket normally designed for sand was converted into a habitat for hundreds of little frogs. Then there was the story about the cute, tiny little hedge-hog that I caught - and of course took home. It grew up in the small flat we owned to become a massive, very territorial male poking everyone’s feet every evening.”*

As a child, Robert kept almost all possible creatures that one can catch, buy, or otherwise obtain. *“Initially, my parents hoped I would grow out of this fascination about animals. My father, a mechanical engineer, always hoped I would become a mathematician. Although I always liked math, my passion for animals never subsided.”*

At age 11, Robert won the



student competition in Biology at his primary school, and soon enough his teachers and parents alike realized that he was serious about this discipline. He completed his high school studies at the Szilágyi Erzsébet Secondary Grammar School (or Gymnasium, as they call it in Hungary) with a specialization in biology. He then went on to study (yes, again!) experimental biology at the Eötvös Loránd University of Sciences in Budapest.

Robert became more and more interested in the genetics of behavior and obtained a prestigious graduate scholarship from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences that allowed him to complete his Ph.D. thesis on this topic in 1987. He fondly recalls the wonderful years spent studying the genetic architecture of observable differences between strains of paradise fish with his supervisor Professor Vilmos Csányi. *“I loved*

*this work. I enjoyed the complex statistical principles of quantitative genetics, and we discovered a number of interesting facts about how behavior is inherited in paradise fish. Professor Csányi was (and still is) a charismatic leader, and we were doing pioneering studies that were intellectually challenging. However, I also saw the downside: almost nothing was known about the neurobiology of this species, and molecular genetic tools were non-existent. This was the reason why I decided to try something different.”*

Upon the conclusion of his Ph.D. studies, Robert was invited to become a visiting professor at the University of Toronto, where he first worked in the Department of Psychology and then in the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute of the Mount Sinai Hospital. At the Institute, he started using transgenic as well as electrophysiological techniques to disentangle the mechanisms of learning and memory. *“I found a wonderful colleague there – or rather, he found me: John Roder. It was a match*

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*made in heaven. John was an amazing molecular immunologist, - who at that time started to become interested in behavior and brain function. He was looking for a behavioral biologist. It worked! Under his leadership, we created the first behavioral neurogenetic research core in Toronto and were among the first in the world to utilize transgenic technologies in the analysis of complex behavioral phenomena, including cognitive processes.”*

Robert spent almost 5 years at the Institute, but when he received an invitation to join Genentech, he could not resist. *“Genentech is the founder of biotech. They are the most reputed biotechnology company. Initially, I was hesitating about whether to accept their job offer. I was worried it would be a one-way street. I never wanted to abandon academia. What will happen to my publication record and academic freedom? Would I just have to follow orders from now on? These were the thoughts running back and forth in my head. But then all my colleagues I asked told me how wonderful Genentech was, so I took the plunge: I*

*joined Genentech and moved to San Francisco.” Robert spent four scientifically-rewarding and prolific publication years in Genentech’s Department of Neuroscience. There he discovered the role of EphA tyrosine kinases in memory using an unorthodox approach for which he coined the term “protein targeting”.*

Subsequently, he joined another famous company, this time Big Pharma: Eli Lilly and Co in Indianapolis. Again, he managed to maintain his strong publication record at Lilly, publishing 23 papers over the three-year period there, mainly in the area of learning and memory, but using a combination of genetic and pharmacological approaches. To round up his Industry experience, after Lilly, he joined the small biopharmaceutical company Saegis, near San Francisco, as Vice President of Research. *“It was a fascinating company. Fast, efficient, and very maneuverable, like a speed boat compared to the gigantic Titanic of Lilly. We were looking for memory-enhancing compounds and running clinical trials on some excellent leads. I gained tremendous insights at Saegis, not only into*

*science but also into how to run a company, how to run clinical trials, and how to consider issues important for the Federal Drug Administration.”*

But despite the excitement and the rapidly-evolving career, which Robert enjoyed, his heart was always in academia, and in the end, he returned. After Saegis, he went to the University of Hawaii at Honolulu as a full professor in the Department of Psychology. He decided to leave after a year, mainly for family reasons, and joined University of Toronto at Mississauga, where he has been professor of behavioral neuroscience and behavior genetics, as well as the Associate Chair of the Department, for almost four years to date. *“Toronto has a vibrant scientific community and a multi-ethnic culture. It’s a wonderful place. With this new position, I decided to start fresh in my research as well: I switched to a new species, zebrafish, and I have been studying numerous behavioral aspects of this species, using molecular and pharmacological methods.”*



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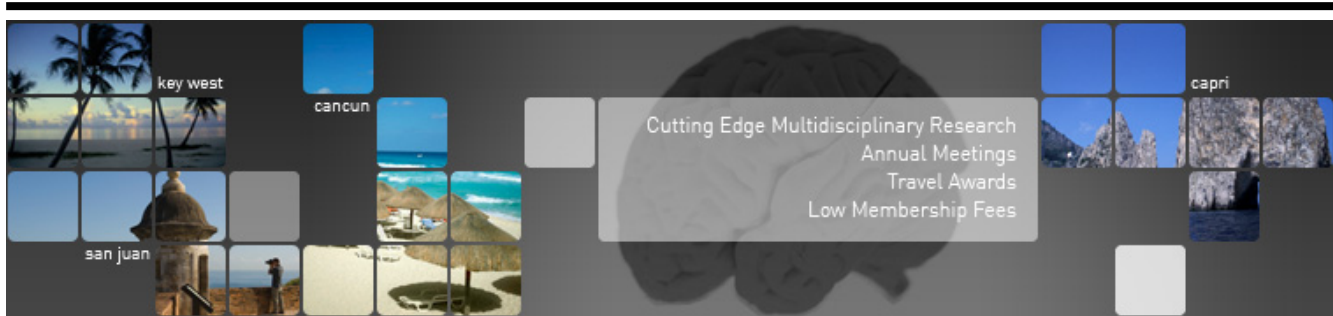
Indeed, throughout Robert's career, his behavior genetics research has been characterized by multi-disciplinarity.

The recognition of his accomplishments is exemplified by the more than 100 papers he has published in peer-reviewed journals and books, as well as his positions as permanent or ad hoc grant referee for a number of

funding agencies, including NIH and NSF in the USA, NSERC and CIHR in Canada, MRC and Wellcome Trust in the UK, and many more. He is an editor of several books and special issue journals, serves on the editorial boards of the peer-reviewed journals 'Cognitive Processing' and 'Genes Brain and Behavior', and has served in leading posts for our own Society as well as the

International Behavioral and Neural Genetics Society (IBANGS).

In his spare time, Robert enjoys painting landscapes and portraits (oil on canvas), riding his motorcycle (a cruiser, for those of you who know what that means), windsurfing, and just relaxing with his children, Mark and Flora, and his wife Julia in his home in Oakville, Ontario.



A NEW LOOK FOR THE IBNS WEBSITE: <http://www.ibnshomepage.org>

WOW!! Have you seen the new look for our website? Congratulations to Stephen Kent and his associate Yuan Wang for developing a new look for IBNS in our website design contest, which was unanimously approved by the IBNS Council. For winning the contest, Stephen will receive a waiver of his meeting registration fee for the 2008 Annual Meeting of the IBNS in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. The new design for our homepage has already been launched,

and the rest of the website will be updated with the same design in the near future.

The IBNS website is your source for information about Annual Meetings, the Society's organization, membership benefits, employment opportunities, contact information, and links of interest, including links to the four official journals of IBNS: Brain Research Bulletin; Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews; Pharmacology,

Biochemistry and Behavior; and Physiology and Behavior.

IBNS membership fees are very reasonable, and students receive discounts. Membership benefits include discounted registration fees for Annual Meetings, eligibility for Student and Postdoc travel awards, eligibility to join the Mentoring Program, and access to the Members-Only portion of the website, which includes access to the Member Directory.

IBNS SATELLITE MEETING OVERVIEW: PRIMATE MODELS FOR PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS  
JUNE 8-10, 2007, LITTORAL HOTEL, JOÃO PESSOA, BRAZIL

By Carlos Tomaz & Marilia Barros

As our understanding of human brain functions and mechanisms expands, we seem to face increasingly more complex issues, which in turn require more refined animal models for future investigations. Initial studies were urged further by new developments in the field of functional imaging, demonstrating significant similarities between the human brain and data obtained in animals. Structures, pathways, and neurochemicals are currently being mapped in great detail in a wide range of animal subjects. In fact, primates are currently being employed in studies aimed at elucidating several neurological disorders.

Therefore, this IBNS Satellite Meeting intended to provide a forum of discussion related to new directions in the development of non-human primate models, varying from single-unit recordings of neurons to complex behavioral and physiological inter-relationships. The program included three symposia and a poster session, including

graduate and undergraduate students, as well as presentations of research using an anatomical, behavioral and/or pharmacological approach to investigate psychiatric disorders. In the first Symposium, dealing with models of drugs of abuse and schizophrenia, Christian Müller (University of Dusseldorf, Germany) demonstrated that, in rats and marmoset monkeys, NK3-receptors may have an essential role in the acute locomotion and anxiety effects of cocaine, possibly mediated by complex interactions with the mesolimbic dopamine response. Furthermore, Charles W. Bradberry (University of Pittsburgh, USA) presented data indicating that rhesus monkeys show a pattern of cognitive dysfunction remarkably similar to the deficits observed clinically, in terms of neurochemical and cognitive testing, suggesting the use of such subjects in assessing the sequelae of cocaine dependence. Valdir Pessoa (University of Brasilia, Brazil) presented a new approach for investigating the



“perceptual deficit hypothesis” of schizophrenia using the Mueller-Lyer illusion in capuchin monkeys. As disturbances in social skills and working memory are also important aspects of schizophrenia, Hisao Nishijo (University of Toyama, Japan) used pharmacological, anatomical and behavioral testing to demonstrate that the amygdala is essential for the full expression of pre-frontal cortex roles in executive functions and social behaviors of PCP-treated monkeys.

During the second Symposium on cognition

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and epilepsy, Olavo Galvão (University of Pará, Brazil) and Clotilde Tavares (University of Brasilia, Brazil) presented several behavioral tests to assess various frontal lobe learning and memory tasks in capuchin monkeys. Luiz Eugênio Mello (Federal University of São Paulo, Brazil), on the other hand, characterized a new model of chronic temporal lobe epilepsy in marmoset monkeys using systemic administered pilocarpine to induce status epilepticus.

The last Symposium on anxiety and depression had Marília Barros (University of Brasilia, Brazil) reviewing the pharmacological and behavioral validation of the Marmoset Predator Confrontation Test, a new ethologically-based procedure to evaluate anxiety-related behaviors and fear-induced avoidance in primates. Michael Davis (Emory University, USA) demonstrated the use of fear conditioning and fear inhibition in rhesus monkeys, using the fear-potentiated startle test to assess various anxiolytic compounds and the influence of amygdala lesions in rhesus

monkeys. Finally, Maria Bernadete Cordeiro de Sousa (Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil) reported that marmoset monkeys display distinct behavioral and cortisol changes following different challenging situations, which may in turn be exploited in disorders associated with high/low responsiveness of the HPA axis.

In summary, new and different approaches to the study of psychiatric disorders in non-human primates were presented. In addition, participants took part in the various cultural and social events. Typical regional cuisine was enjoyed for lunch at

Magai restaurant, while a shrimp and fish dinner buffet at a seaside restaurant was truly appreciated. One of the highlights was watching the sunset with classical and regional live music concert, followed by (farró) dancing. Therefore, this Satellite Meeting provided a valuable, fruitful and enjoyable forum for scientific and cultural information exchange among researchers from many countries and backgrounds. The establishment of important collaborative work is also a strong point resulting from this Meeting.



Attendees of the Satellite Meeting.

INTERNATIONAL MENTORING PROGRAM INITIATIVE INVITES PARTICIPANTS AT ALL CAREER LEVELS: HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR MENTORING RELATIONSHIP



By Nancy Ostrowski and Christine Hohmann

In May of 2006, the IBNS Council met in Whistler, B.C. at the Annual Meeting and approved a pilot International Mentoring Program, Co-Chaired by Drs. Christine Hohmann and Nancy Ostrowski as a special project of the Education Committee.

A Liaison Committee, whose members assist with the “matching” process, consists of: Drs. Robert Adamec, Robert and Caroline Blanchard, Wim Crusio, Robert Gerlai, Andrew Holmes, Jan Juraska, Kelly Lambert, Larry Reid, Henry Szechtman, and Marlene Wilson.

This is the third in a series of IBNS newsletter articles about the International Mentoring Program. Please see the previous two IBNS newsletters for the other articles in the series, “How to Get Started” (Fall, 2006) and “What to Expect in a Mentoring Relationship” (Spring, 2007).

How can you benefit most from the IBNS International Mentoring Program? Below are some suggestions that may help.

1) **Perform a critical self-appraisal.** Determine what will help you to thrive. Use

this information to ensure your mentor is a good match and that you receive the most benefit from the mentoring relationship. Examples of some questions you can ask yourself include:

a. What are/were my objectives when starting this position (graduate school/post-doc/assistant professorship)? Am I on track? If not, how do I get back on track? Are my goals still the same?

b. What are my objectives for the next year? What are the challenges? How can I prepare for them? Who can help?

c. What are my mid- and long-term objectives?

d. How could I quantify my objectives?

e. How do I feel about my work so far? How can I improve the situation?

f. What type of training do I require for advancement? What type of training do I desire? Have I built this into my short-range plans?

g. Am I optimizing my strengths? Am I doing

what I enjoy? How can I merge these even better?

h. What skills do I need to develop? What are my weaknesses? How will I address those weaknesses?

i. What type of career do I want to pursue? Am I interested in academia, industry, government, or other options? Do I want to work at a small or large institution? Would I consider working in a foreign country? Do I want to combine careers?

j. What kind of projects do I want to work on in 1, 5, and 10 years? Would I like to continue in my same area of research or shift to a different area?

k. What makes me happy? How do I define success for myself? Are my plans leading me there?

2) **Write a paragraph about what you want to accomplish in a mentoring relationship.** Based on your self-appraisal, identify what is most important to achieve on both a short- and long-term basis. Use this to complete your Mentoring Profile, available on the IBNS website.

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Your profile should be sent to a member of the Liaison Committee who you select. This Member will use it to find a good “match”.

**3) Identify several members of IBNS that could serve as potential Mentors based on your mentoring needs, and give this list to the Liaison Committee.** If you have trouble identifying a suitable mentor, ask a Liaison Committee Member for help. They may be able to suggest individuals who would provide the type of support that you need. A candid discussion at the beginning of the process with a Liaison Committee Member can go a long way in finding you the best Mentor for your needs.

**3) Contact the Mentor.** Once the Liaison Committee Member you have contacted “matches” you to a Mentor, you should contact your new Mentor via email, phone, or in a face-to-face meeting whenever possible. Skype and videoconference are good, economic alternatives. Both parties should get to know each other and agree upon a series of objectives for the mentoring relationship, a timetable, and the degree of confidentiality. By the time

the IBNS meets in St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands in 2008, both parties should have established a solid foundation

for the mentoring relationship. The meeting can provide additional opportunities to address specific needs (e.g., feedback on the poster presentation; introduction to colleague seeking new Postdoctoral Fellows, etc.).

**5) Make it a priority to meet frequently during the IBNS Annual Meeting and at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting.** Dining together, off-site excursions, scientific discussions, joint visitations of posters, etc., can provide ample opportunities to get to know each other and address personal and scientific objectives. These meetings also serve as opportunities for making additional opportunistic introductions.

**6) Agree upon specific plans for a minimal schedule for contact.** At least 4-5 additional contacts during the year should sustain the relationship, but there should be flexibility. The important aspect is that the Mentor be available when needed.

**7) Engage your Mentor with specific requests.** Each relationship is unique, and the expectations and needs of

the Mentee should be discussed before or early in the relationship. Sometimes it is hard for a Mentee to know what should be expected from a Mentor. While there are no hard-and-fast rules, some examples of mentoring activities that would not typically be considered out-of-bounds include:

- Inviting the mentee to present and/or to meet colleagues at the mentor’s institution
- Collaborating on a cross-disciplinary research project
- Serving on a thesis or dissertation committee
- Introducing a graduate student to potential postdoctoral mentors or a postdoctoral fellow to potential employers
- Helping to design a technically challenging series of experiments
- Providing expert opinions on data interpretation and analyses
- Counseling regarding job placements and tailoring a C.V.
- Editing or providing comments on manuscripts, competitive award applications (including IBNS travel awards), grants, etc.
- Providing information about specific programs, investigators, awards, techniques or opportunities
- Advocacy/objective opinions in situations where there is scientific ambiguity

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- Teaching new techniques
- Providing emotional support or advice
- Providing advice on: balancing career and family, traveling and adapting to a foreign country and/or culture, etc.

**8) Articulate what you need and want from your Mentor.**

Mentees should feel free to verbalize what they do and do not need or want. And, one Mentor should not be expected to provide “all things” to their Mentee. At any time, if the Mentor, Mentee, or both feel that they are not a suitable match (e.g., the Mentee needs more time than the Mentor can provide), Mentees should seek a new Mentor. After each year, the Mentor and Mentee should openly engage in an evaluative dialogue regarding whether the objectives of the mentoring relationship are being accomplished and whether they would like to continue the relationship for another year.

**8) Remember that mentoring relationships do not last forever.** Mentoring relationships often are put ‘aside’ or change character when the needs of one or both parties change. Often the mentoring sessions decrease in frequency if the Mentee has met and/or outgrown his/her specific goals, or if mutual expectations are not being fully met. Sometimes,

schedules just become too dense to allow the “luxury” of a mentoring session (a noteworthy fallacy). One or both parties should openly verbalize their intent to change the nature of the relationship, thus freeing the other to move on or seek another mentoring relationship. This should not be viewed negatively, as it is the nature of human growth and development.

**10) Remember that mentoring relationships are professional relationships.**

They exist to facilitate and nurture the professional development and all the personal aspects that contribute to professional success. They often lead to long-lasting friendships but that is neither a goal nor should it be an expectation. One does not need to like their Mentor in order to benefit from the interactions.

**11) Evaluate your experiences, develop some personal “best-practices” and do it again!**

The IBNS International Mentoring Program is actively recruiting participants at all career levels to participate. If you would like to learn more or participate as a Mentor, Mentee, or both, please review the two preceding

articles in this series, “How to Get Started” (Fall 2006) and “What to Expect in a Mentoring Relationship” (Spring 2007).

**If you have questions about the IBNS International Mentoring Program, you may contact Christine Hohmann (chohmann@morgan.edu) or Nancy Ostrowski (nlo@lilly.com; telephone 317-276-5192) for assistance.**

As this is a pilot program with the goal of providing IBNS members career support, your suggestions and comments are welcome. If you have joined us in this new IBNS initiative as a Mentor or Mentee, the Co-Chairs will be seeking formal evaluative feedback and suggestions for improving the program in the future.

We are confident that a mentoring relationship can provide support for career development and advancement and can be a fun and rewarding way to develop and nurture long-term relationships with your colleagues.

Good luck with your mentoring relationship!

- The Mentoring Initiative Co-Chairs

2007-2008 IBNS ORGANIZATION

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2001: John Bruno  
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1995: Linda P. Spear  
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