



# IBNS News

Volume 14, Issue 2

November, 2010

Melanie A. Paquette, Editor

## INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE SOCIETY

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IBNS was founded in 1992 to encourage research and education in behavioral neuroscience. Our ~719 members from 36 countries consist of scientists, clinicians, teachers, and others with a background and interest in the relationship between brain and behavior.

## IBNS ANNUAL MEETINGS: STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO, MAY 24-29, 2011 AND KONA, HAWAII, JUNE 5-10, 2012 By the Local Organizing Committee

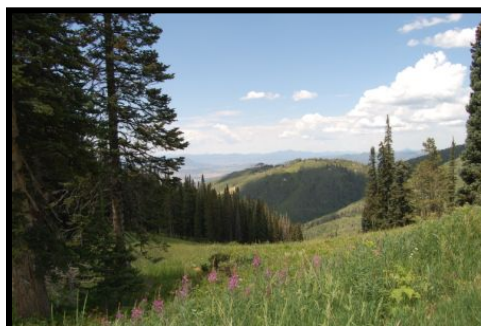
The next Annual Meeting of the IBNS will take place at the Sheraton Steamboat Springs in Colorado from May 24-29, 2011. The program will include plenary lectures, oral communications, and poster sessions.

This meeting boasts fascinating science and great affordability with room rates starting at \$109 (single or shared room) and airfare under \$300 from many parts of the U.S. Furthermore, student and postdoctoral members of IBNS are eligible for Travel Awards.

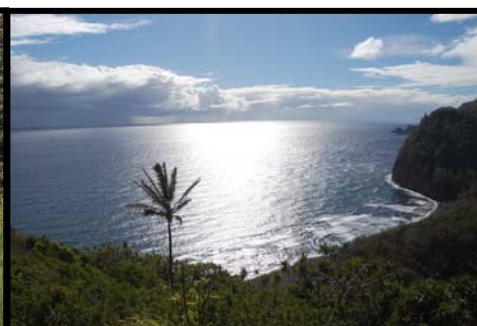
### Important Dates in 2011

- Jan. 14 - Travel award deadline
- Feb. 1 - Travel award notifications
- Feb. 8 - Abstract deadline
- Apr. 1 - Exhibitor registration and advertisement deadline
- Apr. 22 - Hotel reservation deadline
- May 2 - Online registration deadline (On-site registration available)
- May 2 - Registration refund deadline

The 2012 Annual Meeting will be held June 5-10 at the Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort in Kona, Hawaii.



Steamboat Springs, Colorado, 2011



Kona, Hawaii, 2012

### JOIN IBNS IN SAN DIEGO

**Booth #3919**  
 San Diego Convention Center

**Reception**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 16**  
**6:30-8:30 pm**  
 San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina  
 San Diego Ballroom C

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## SPOTLIGHT ON IBNS TREASURER STEFAN BRUDZYNSKI

By Stefan Brudzynski

It is quite a difficult task to write my own biography because many events of my professional life, which have their roots in the remote time and space of postwar Europe, may be interesting from my perspective, but are no longer interesting or relevant for younger generations. However, while trying to overcome this difficulty, I will begin with an observation that my genuine interest in nature and animal behavior dates from the 1950s when I was in elementary school in Poland. I had already decided to become a scientist as a schoolboy in the fourth grade. This decision was by no means based on any of my achievements, but was the result of my enthusiastic and very well-trained teachers, as well as my elementary school curriculum, which was heavily loaded with basic science subjects. Although we have equally talented and qualified teachers in North America today, teaching natural science to young children, particularly in elementary schools, is a far cry from what I experienced as a very young child. My interest and fascination with biological science at such a young age can only be compared today to how young people feel when they deal with engaging computer games.

In the first year of my undergraduate studies at the University of Łódź in Poland, I asked my supervisors for permission to volunteer in research carried out on animal brains in the Department of Animal Physiology. As a result of this involvement, I was allowed to start my Master's thesis project a year earlier, and I graduated



with an M.Sc. degree in zoology/physiology (neurophysiology) in 1969. That same year, I received a position as a junior Assistant, which included both teaching in the physiology laboratory using frog preparations, as well as participation in a research team. Then, in 1972, I was fortunate to benefit from a pre-doctoral research fellowship in autonomic functions and behavioral neuropharmacology in the Department of Pharmacology at the Medical University of Pécs in southern Hungary. The main subject of my studies was induction of emotional states by cholinomimetic agents and their measurement by autonomic symptoms and emitted vocalization. I finished my Ph.D. at my home University in 1977 in behavioral neuropharmacology and behavioral neurophysiology, which was a very long name for what is known today as biopsychology. I worked for some time as a senior Research Associate, then underwent Postdoctoral training in the Department of Physiology at the

University of Western Ontario in Canada. There, I studied the neural basis of locomotor behavior in rats. My mentor was Professor Gordon J. Mogenson (1931-1991), a biopsychologist and behavioral physiologist, who is most well-known for his pioneering studies of the nucleus accumbens and his idea that the accumbens represents an interface between the limbic system and striatum and is responsible for translation of emotions into motor acts.

It is not possible to list all of my past positions and appointments across my various departments at six universities in Poland, Canada, Germany, and the U.S.A. in this short biography. However, one important position involved clinical neuroscience training at the University Hospital in London, Ontario. I subsequently obtained my first independent position as an Assistant and then Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences at the University of Western Ontario in 1988 and 1991, respectively. It was in London, Ontario in 1990 that we demonstrated for the first time that ultrasonic vocalization in rats can be induced pharmacologically by direct stimulation of the brain. Since then, the main focus of my studies has been the cholinergic and dopaminergic mechanisms responsible for the initiation of ultrasonic vocalization and vocal communication in laboratory rats.

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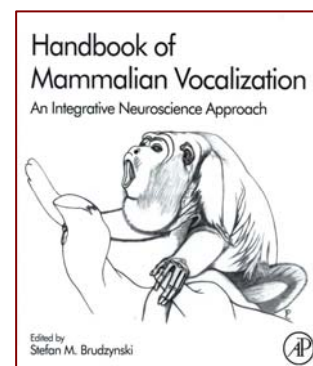
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I was recruited to Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario in 1997 to help reorganize the interdisciplinary Neuroscience Program. In 2001, I was promoted to Full Professor of Psychology & Neuroscience in the Department of Psychology, and I served as the Director of the Brock Centre for Neuroscience from 2003-2006. My research at that time was focused on studying vocal expression of emotional states in mammals. The essence of these studies may be summarized in two sentences: Mammalian species express their negative or positive emotional states by emitting specific vocalizations. The negative states and their vocal signaling are initiated by activity of the tegmental cholinergic system, and the positive states and their signaling by activity of the tegmental dopaminergic system.

While writing my own biography, I feel I should refrain from listing the honors and awards I have received for research and teaching. I would only mention that I earned a second doctorate, D.Sc. (Doctor of Science), from the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw, Poland in 2007 in the discipline that was called for the first time by its proper name – Neuroscience. Finally, a short summary of my 40+ years of uninterrupted teaching and research work includes: 13 different subjects taught, 50 undergraduate and graduate theses supervised, 65 full experimental research papers and 6 book chapters published, and a recently edited “*Handbook of Mammalian Vocalization. A Neuroscience Approach*”, published by Academic Press/Elsevier in 2010.

Although I am a member of at least a dozen of scientific societies, I view my membership in the IBNS as a

special one. Professional contacts with my IBNS colleagues have been interesting and enriching. The IBNS scientific meetings have always been organized without parallel sessions, so that participants are able to attend all sessions and have contact with all speakers and poster presenters at the meeting. I regard this opportunity as a valuable feature of our Society and a unique chance for scientific discussions and further development. I have been a member of the IBNS since 1993, and I have served on the IBNS Council since 2004. I received the distinction of becoming an IBNS Fellow in 2005, and I have held the position of IBNS Treasurer since 2006.



## ALTERNATIVE CAREERS FOR PH.D.S

### By Melanie Paquette

This ongoing segment of the Newsletter highlights “non-traditional” career options for individuals with graduate degrees.

Name: Frances A. Colón

Job Title: Science Advisor for Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Birthplace: San Juan, Puerto Rico

### Training

- 1997, B.S., University of Puerto Rico
- 2004, Ph.D., Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

### Job Description

I advise the U.S. government on environment, science, technology and health policy with Latin America and the Caribbean. The job requires extensive travel in the region where I represent the U.S. in meetings and negotiations with ministers from partner countries to advance our scientific cooperation with these partners.

Salary: \$100,000

Hours/Week: 40

### Pros

- High-level engagement with decision-makers in the U.S. and abroad

- Travel to countries I would never visit on my own
- I feel like I am truly making a difference and changing the world even if just a step at a time

### Cons

- Not easy to move up based on merit because of pay schedule and time you have to spend at different levels before being promoted
- It's the government, bureaucracy can sometimes get you down

### Career Trajectory

I graduated from Brandeis University in 2004 with a Ph.D. in Neurobiology, but always knew that

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bench life and grant writing were not for me, as much as I loved the experimental method and the gratification of discovering what no one else yet knows. I arrived at the U.S. Dept. of State in 2006 as an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Technology Policy Fellow. This program provides scientists with the opportunity to advise the government on science policy, and in my case, science diplomacy. My two years as a fellow were spent on Muslim world outreach through promotion of innovative science and math curricula. During that time, my work took me to Oman, Jordan, Tunis and the Philippines. Upon completion of the Fellowship, I was offered the Science Advisor position in the bureau that handles Western Hemisphere Affairs, and I now get to work with the region of the world that I am most passionate about, Latin America and the Caribbean. I truly adore my job. Where else does a scientist get to meet President Obama in an elevator, staff Secretary of Energy Chu during bilateral meetings with regional Energy Ministers and work at the Honduran embassy during the first coup in the region since the 80's?

Some concrete examples of my day-to-day work: I will advise the Western Hemisphere Assistant Secretary of the Department of State for example on what scientific or environmental themes are most ripe for cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, taking into account our foreign policy interests in the region. I'll get a call from our

Ambassador in Lima, Peru asking me how to best frame Peru's forestry issues to get the attention of our senior climate change negotiators. I helped create the substantive focus behind the President's Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas, announced last Spring. I have been involved in discussions regarding collaboration on energy efficiency and renewable energy between our country and Chile, for example, as we just opened a new renewable energy center there, we are working with Mexico on wind and with Brazil on biofuels, etc. These bilateral meetings, when they occur at the Minister level, force actions to be taken if decisions are made or cooperation promised. It's officers like me that then put meat on the bones of the original agreement to "collaborate".

I had to perform outside of my "science comfort zone" at the Honduran embassy, yet I was able to apply many of the transferrable skills I acquired in grad school. You learn to look at detail, but also see the big picture, you take in a lot of information and make best guess predictions that you act on based on what you know. The Honduran crisis was a perfect example of a situation where you are gathering information (what exactly happened during the coup, what do we know) and have to decide on the next steps based on your data. I was there to back up our Political Section during a time it was understaffed. While this was far removed from my science topics, because I had the knowledge of the region and fluency in the language and was considered someone who would understand the

cultural nuances, I was sent to help. I sat in on many meetings to determine next steps, which were sometimes taken the same day, and it could be best described as an analysis of the data and constant proposing of new hypotheses as we worked our way through the crisis. I met with Congressmen to explain our position, gathered information from people on the ground, translated and provided input as a team member. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to be a part of history and show that we "scientists" can do just about anything.

### **Is it possible to balance your job with family?**

I think we all have to make choices. It is impossible to have everything without some sacrifice or compromise along the way, if only for some time. I have chosen to delay having a family because I am at the peak of my career, and the hectic travel schedule and 12-hr days would leave me little time to be a good parent.

### **Advice**

Do what you feel most passionate about, what makes your heart race. This is what will make you get up in the morning, especially when the going gets rough, which can happen often during life. It should not feel like a job, but like you get up to do your hobby every day. That's when you know it's right for you. Don't feel like a Ph.D. degree dictates a certain path. The world is your oyster, and you will be surprised at all the doors your degree can open

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up for you and all the things you are automatically qualified to do. Who doesn't want an analytical thinker and problem-solver who can write, present and is trained in details and big-picture thinking all at once?

Name: Molly McElroy

Job Title: Senior  
Communications Officer,  
American Association for the  
Advancement of Science  
(AAAS)

Birthplace: Syracuse, NY

### Training

- 1999, B.A. in Psychology, University of Richmond, VA
- 2007, Ph.D. in neuroscience, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### Job Description

My job is a mix of science writing, media outreach and project management. For science writing, I attend AAAS events (e.g. science education workshops, policy briefings, science lectures) and then write a story about the event for Aaas.org. Some of the stories are videos, and all include photos that I take at the event. For the media outreach aspect of my job, I respond to media inquiries, such as a reporter calling us to find an expert on a particular science topic. I also help coordinate media outreach, including selecting news briefing topics, at the AAAS Annual Meeting, which attracts hundreds of

reporters from around the world. Project management-wise, I help administer the AAAS Kavli Science Journalism Awards.

**Salary:** \$40,000-65,000

**Hours/Week:** 40

### Pros

- Interviewing people and writing stories for the AAAS website
- Being part of team of AAAS writers
- Organizing news briefings at the AAAS meeting.

### Cons

- Some administrative work

### Career Trajectory

I had my first inkling that I would pursue science writing as a career when I was an undergrad at the University of Richmond. I had been accepted into a graduate program for neuroscience, and I was having cold feet. I decided to go ahead with the Ph.D. because I loved neuroscience so much.

Once in grad school, I became absorbed in the research questions and really engaged in what I was learning in class. My teaching assistantships were fun, and I enjoyed working with students. The neuroscience program that I was in at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign had a great lecture series, which helped me feel like part of the neuroscience community at the university. But by my third or fourth year, I began feeling frustrated with slow research progress - not an uncommon feeling among grad students! I began to wonder whether I had enough

patience to continue in a research career.

As I grew more frustrated, I remembered my early interest in science writing. I spoke with my Ph.D. adviser about it, and she put me in touch with some local science writers. One of them wrote for the university's news bureau and had written a press release on my adviser's work. Under his mentorship, I ended up doing a part-time, unpaid science writing internship at the university's news bureau. The internship was a great way to learn how to write and to confirm that I did want to pursue a science writing career.

Some people ask me why I decided to finish my Ph.D., considering how I decided to make a switch to a non-research career while still in grad school. At the time, I felt like I had invested enough time in graduate school that I didn't want to give up. Plus, I still enjoyed my research enough to continue, and I realized that I needed to get more science writing experience while in graduate school, so that once I graduated I had a chance of getting a job.

So, while still in grad school, I did a few things to try to launch myself into science writing. I went to the annual meeting of the National Association of Science Writers ([www.nasw.org](http://www.nasw.org)) and networked with other science writers. I did a little bit of freelance writing. I applied for and received a AAAS Mass Media Fellowship

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[<http://www.aaas.org/programs/education/MassMedia/>], which placed me in the newsroom at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for a summer. It was such a fun summer! Among the dozens of stories that I wrote during the 9-week internship, I particularly remember my stories on bird extinction, tick-borne illnesses, a creepy-crawly mud rash, and a soy sauce marinade that could have heart-healthy benefits.

It was so hard to return to grad school after my summer at a newspaper! But thankfully, I was close to finishing my Ph.D. I quickly collected and analyzed the rest of my data, spent an enjoyably intense month of writing my dissertation, and then I moved to Boston for a science writing internship at Harvard Medical School.

Chilled to the bone in a Boston winter, I balanced my part-time writing internship with finishing my dissertation. I traveled back to Urbana-Champaign to defend it and then again later to attend the graduation ceremony. It was a harried time, but I think it also helped me wrap up my dissertation more quickly. I couldn't really let my dissertation languish or add "just one more little thing," because I had internship responsibilities as well.

At Harvard Medical School, I wrote for their bi-monthly newsletter, Focus. It reported studies published by the faculty at Harvard Medical School. This gave me the chance to find creative ways to report basic

science discoveries and some stories on therapies. And I developed some freelancing contacts that ended up providing me income during my later search for full-time employment.

The winter internship at Harvard lasted three months. Soon after I spotted the first spring crocus, I was well into a search for my next job. I had considered whether I should go to journalism school to get some formal training as a science writer. There are several great science writing master's programs around the United States, and I wondered whether I should invest the time and money in one of them. I decided against it, because I didn't want to go into debt (although there are some fellowships available). And I thought that with a Ph.D. and several internships behind me, that surely I could get some sort of paying job.

I was right. Thank goodness! It took a few months and two rounds of job searching to find my job in the Office of Public Programs at AAAS, but it was worth the wait. I've been on the job since September 2007. The job is a good mix of responsibilities, and I am happy with the skills and contacts that I am building here. I work on a team of science writers, many of whom are former newspaper reporters. I'm getting on-the-job training in news writing, and I've taken some short classes on writing and video editing. So, in a way, I'm now getting the "formal training" I once agonized over.

### **Is it possible to balance your job with family?**

Yes, it's usually 8:30 am – 5:00 pm.

#### **Advice**

Some people ask whether I need a Ph.D. to do my job. You don't, and I'm the only writer on our news team who has one. But I'm glad I have it because I think the analytical training it gave me helps me weed through the science that I encounter when reporting. Also, I may someday have a job that requires more hard science, and I will be better prepared for that.

Getting off the academic track can be scary. It's less predictable, in that you no longer have the progression from student to postdoc to professor. But there are so many great jobs that Ph.D.s can do. Living in Washington, D.C., I've met so many other Ph.D.s in non-academic jobs. They do policy work for the federal government, science societies or educational organizations. They do research in government labs or think tanks. They teach at high schools. So, don't think that you'll be the lone ranger or oddball about getting off the academic path. Lots of Ph.D.'s are science writers too. As the IBNS newsletter has reported previously, there are lots of types of science writing, including medical writing and science textbook writing. My job is like that of a press officer at a university, in that I write news releases and do media outreach on behalf of AAAS. My job also includes being a "reporter" for AAAS, in that I attend AAAS activities and write stories about them.

## MEMBER NEWS



**Dr. Claire Advokat**, Ph.D. used her sabbatical in Spring of 2010 to work on a textbook entitled, "A Primer of Drug Action". This 12<sup>th</sup> edition book, authored by Julien, Advokat and Comaty, will be available in 2011 from Worth Publishers. Claire is a Professor of Psychology at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA, USA and a Founding Member of IBNS.



Congratulations to **Dr. Jodi Lukkes**, Ph.D. and **Andrew Burke**, IBNS members who are now engaged! The wedding will take place on June 18, 2011 in Vermillion, SD with a reception to follow in Yankton, SD. Jodi is a postdoc at the University of Colorado in Boulder and served as the IBNS Student Representative in 2009-2010. Andrew is a graduate student at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion and will receive his Ph.D. in May of 2011.



**Dr. Joanne Berger-Sweeney**, Ph.D., M.P.H. has been named Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Tufts University, effective August 23, 2010. She moved to Tufts from Wellesley College, where she served as Associate Dean.

IBNS student member **Vicente Martinez** from the University of Washington in Seattle, WA is currently in the Neuroscience Scholars Program, which provides funding for students to attend the Annual Meeting of the SfN, as well as other professional development activities, over a 3-year period. This program, administered through SfN, allowed Vicente to attend the Annual Meeting of the IBNS in Sardinia, Italy, as well as Biological Psychiatry in Paris, France and In Vivo Methods in Brussels, Belgium.

In Oct. 2010, **Dr. Melanie Paquette**, Ph.D. joined Eli Lilly as a Neuroscience Medical Liaison, specializing in Neurology and Pain. She will be based in San Antonio, and her territory will include Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Melanie was previously an Instructor in the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. She has served as the Secretary of IBNS since 2007 and the Newsletter editor since 2006.



**Dr. Jared Young**, Ph.D. won the Non-Clinical Psychopharmacologist of the Year award for the British Association for Psychopharmacology this year. He also published in three high-impact journals (impact factors ~9-15): 1) Perry, Minassian, Paulus, Young, et al. A Reverse-Translational Study of Dysfunctional Exploration in Psychiatric Disorders: From Mice to Men. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 2009; 66(10): 1072-1080, 2) **Young & Geyer**. Action of modafinil-increased motivation via the dopamine transporter inhibition and D1 receptors? *Biol Psychiatry*. 2010; 67(8): 784-787, and 3) **Young, Powell, Risbrough, Marston, & Geyer**. Using the Matrics to Guide Development of a Preclinical Cognitive Test Battery for Research in Schizophrenia. *Pharmacol Ther* 2009; 122(2): 150-202. Jared is a postdoc in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of California at San Diego, CA, USA. Co-authors Powell, Risbrough, and Geyer are also IBNS members, and Dr. Mark Geyer is a past-president of IBNS.

IBNS members: email your news to the Editor, Melanie Paquette at [paquette.skybridge@gmail.com](mailto:paquette.skybridge@gmail.com). Newsletters are released twice each year, before SfN in the fall and IBNS in the spring.

**2010 TRAVEL AWARDEES IN SARDINIA, ITALY.**

Graduate student and postdoctoral awardees are pictured (not in order) with IBNS President Dr. Kelly Lambert (far right): **Dr. Michael Vincent Baratta**, MIT, Cambridge, MA USA; **Ms. Cindy Kaur Barha**, Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver, CANADA; **Ms. Elizabeth Thomas Cox**, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC, USA; **Ms. Lauren Kristen Dobbs**, Oregon Health & Science Univ., Portland, OR USA; **Ms. Catherine Anne**



**Marcinkiewicz**, Univ. of Florida, Gainesville, FL USA; **Mr. Noam Miller**, University of Toronto, Toronto, CANADA; **Dr. Jodi L. Pawluski**, Maastricht University, Maastricht, THE NETHERLANDS; **Mr. Brandon Lance Pearson**, Univ. of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI USA; **Mr. Robert Raymond Rozeske**, University of Colorado-Boulder, CO USA; **Mr. Sandy Richard Shultz**, University of Western Ontario, Ontario CANADA; **Ms. Jessica Anne Siegel**, Oregon Health & Science Univ., Portland, OR USA; **Dr. Kate Marie Wassum**, University of California, Los Angeles, CA USA; **Dr. Ingo Willuhn**, University of Washington, Seattle, WA USA.

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