



IBNS News

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Melanie A. Paquette, Editor

PLAN AHEAD FOR ANNUAL MEETING: JUNE 8-13, VILLASIMIUS, SARDINIA, ITALY By Paolo Follesa & Giovanni Biggio on behalf of the Local Organizing Committee

The 2010 Annual Meeting includes an invited Presidential lecture, 2 poster sessions, 3 keynotes, 3 oral sessions, 10 symposia, a grant workshop, and Meet the Professionals lunches, as well as two pre-meeting events: a Special Satellite and a Presidential Symposium. We advise attendees to plan a few extra days before or after the meeting to enjoy the area.

GENERAL INFO: Sardinia (in English \sär- di-nē-ə\ or \sär-di-nyə\; and in Italian, *Sardegna*, \sär- dā-nyä\)) is the second-largest Mediterranean island after Sicily at 24,090 km² (9,301 mi²). The nearest land masses are the French island of Corsica (North), the Italian peninsula (East), Tunisia (South), and the Spanish Balearic Islands (West). Spoken languages include Italian and Sardinian, but in tourist areas, hotels and resorts, most personnel also speak English.

Average temperature in June is 21.3 °C (70 °F) with a range from 16.1-26.6 °C (61-80 °F), and there are an average of 9.6 hours of sun/day and 2 days of rain/month. Sardinia is part of Italy but has regional autonomy, which gives the right to create laws and carry out administrative functions. The total population in 2008 was 1,670,219 with a density of 69.3/km² (179.6 mi²).

The currency is the € (Euro), which is stronger than the US dollar (USD) and Canadian dollar (CAD). Exchange rates are about 1.33 and 1.36, respectively,

so the nightly rate of €99/€137 for double/single occupancy at the all-inclusive Tanka Village Resort is the equivalent of USD \$132/\$182 or CAD \$135/\$184.

GETTING THERE: The conference hotel is the Tanka Village Resort in Villasimius: www.atahotels.it/en/schede/atahotel_tanka.html.

Reservations must be made by May 13 using the Hotel Accommodation Form (download from the bottom of the Annual Meeting webpage: www.ibnshomepage.org/annualmtg10.htm). For airfare and car rental discounts, see: www.ibnshomepage.org/travel_discounts_IBNS.htm



Sardinia has three international airports: Cagliari-Elmas (55 km/34 mi from Villasimius), Alghero (260 km/162 mi), and Olbia-Costa Smeralda (320 km/199 mi). All three are connected with mainland Italian cities and many European destinations in the UK,

Scandinavia, Spain, France and Germany. Flights between Sardinian airports are limited to one daily Cagliari-Olbia flight. From the USA and Canada, the best way to reach Cagliari is though a mainland Italian International Airport. Another option is to take a ferry to Cagliari from mainland Italy, France, or Spain, which is less expensive, but takes longer. A shuttle bus between Cagliari Airport and the Tanka Village Resort will be provided (prices on Annual Meeting webpage). **To use the shuttle service, you must submit a Transportation Form and payment by May 13** (download from Annual Meeting webpage).

FOOD: The resort is all-inclusive, meaning that the daily charge covers room and board (breakfast, lunch and dinner buffet). Oasys Restaurant offers a wide variety of dishes that range from traditional Mediterranean and Italian to particular Sardinian specialties, accompanied by wine and beer. Other à la carte menu

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restaurants (not included in the room and board charge) include a wood oven Pizzeria and a children's restaurant. Bars and cafés are found throughout the resort, including the central square, beach and discotheque. More restaurants and bars are in Villasimius, a few kilometers away, reached by taxi or minibus (reserve at front desk).

GETTING AROUND: Local bus routes include Villasimius and Cagliari: www.arst.sardegna.it/orari_e_autolinee/Trova_la_tua_destinazione_e_gli_orari_di_partenza/percorso&comune=CAGLIARI&arrivo=921&partenza=234.

From downtown Cagliari, you can tour the city or the whole island of Sardinia:

www.gotosardinia.com/trasporti_a_cagliari_e_provinc.htm. Car rentals are available near the square of "Piazza Matteotti", where the bus terminal and train station are also located: www.avis.com/car-rental/location/details.a

[c?LOCATIONCODE=CGL](http://www.avis.com/car-rental/location/details.a?LOCATIONCODE=CGL).

Vespa motorbikes can be rented at the Cagliari Airport www.isolarent.it/en/il-nostro-parco-moto/vespa-gt-lx-125-in-noleggio-all-aeroporto-di-cagliari.html. Or travel by train: www.trenitalia.it/ms/v/index.jsp?vnextoid=ad1ce14114bc9110VgnVCM10000080a3e90aRCRD.

ACTIVITIES: Tanka Village Resort is famous for splendid beaches and entertainment, including sports, music, theater and discotheques. Facilities include: 2 soccer fields, 6 tennis courts, basketball/volleyball courts, bocce lanes, driving range, 18 hole golf course, 9 hole mini-golf course, free gym with

instructor, pay gym, Olympic-sized fresh-water pool, and children's pool with games.

There are many activities outside the resort: www.villasimius.org/e_linkutiliasp. One-day excursions can be made to downtown Cagliari (50 km), Barumini Nuragic Fortress (110 km), Carloforte and Isola di San Pietro by ferry (140 km), or to the islands by motorboat or sailboat (1 km): www.laviadelmare.com/e_escursioni.asp. Scuba divers can visit the Sub Center Tanka (www.subcentertanka.com/) in the heart of Marina Protetta of Capo Carbonara, a protected sea area. There are also sunken ships to be explored. There are plenty of other activities in Villasimius:



View of the Tanka Village Resort from the Sea

www.easymius.it/en/public/home. Rent a boat and visit secluded bays or take sailing lessons.

Villasimius' modern marina, connected to the town center by bike and pedestrian trails, is the ideal starting point to explore the enchanting coast. If you want to travel around Sardinia, visit the official tourist web site at: www.sardegnaturismo.it/en/.

Villasimius has long, very fine, white sand beaches and transparent turquoise waters: www.villasimiusonline.it/inglese/natura/spiagge.htm. The town has kept its wild appeal thanks to areas where the extensive, thick Mediterranean foliage blends into the sea. Villasimius is one of

the pearls of Sardinia, protected by natural parks that maintain the typical Southern Sardinian landscape. Capo Carbonara (www.ampcapocarbonara.it/e_dovesiamo.htm) is a marine reserve covering the entire sea area around the coast of Villasimius, including the beautiful islands of Isola dei Caoli and Serpentara with their harsh conditions that prohibit unauthorized access. Inland, not far from Villasimius, in a slightly mountainous area perfumed by myrtle, is the Sette Fratelli Natural Park (NP) (www.montesettefratelli.com/parco_dei_sette_fratelli.htm) with cool, green forests inhabited by large numbers of deer. Not far away are 3 other NPs: Asinara (www.stintino.net/AsinaraUK.htm); Archipelago of La

Maddalena

(www.parks.it/parco.nazionale.arcip.maddalena/Epar.php);

and Gennargentu

(www.parcogennargentu.it/), 10 regional parks, 60 wildlife reserves, 5 WWF oases, and 25 natural monuments.

Art and History

fanatics will appreciate

Villasimius' 14th century Old

Aragonite Fortress, 15th century

Catalan-Aragonite towers, and

archeological museum with

Phoenician, Punic and Roman

artifacts (www.villasimius.org/e_storia.asp).

Shopping is

available in Cagliari at Via

Garibaldi, Via Manno, and Via

Roma. **Shows and Events** in

Cagliari are held at the Roman

amphitheatre or the Opera, which

will be playing "I PURITANI"

with music of the Italian

composer Vincenzo Bellini

during early June:

www.teatroliricodicagliari.it/home.htm?lang=en.

We look forward to welcoming you to Sardinia!

APRIL 2009 EARTHQUAKE DAMAGES TOWN, UNIVERSITY IN L'AQUILA, ITALY
By Antonella Gasbarri, Dean of Faculty of Educational Sciences, L'Aquila University



6 April 2009, 3:32 a.m.: An earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale shook my town, L'Aquila, in the heart of Italy's Abruzzo Region. As soon as I felt the earth shaking, I realized that this terrible monster was going to devastate our land, and the beautiful medieval town where I live and work was about to face a terrible moment in its history. Yet, I could never have imagined how many lives (and friends) would be lost, nor how many historical buildings, homes and magnificent artworks would be destroyed by the force of that devastating earthquake.

80% of the historical centre, with its ancient and precious churches and buildings, was destroyed, and the most important institutional buildings were seriously damaged: the Government buildings of Regional and Province Authority, the City Hall, the schools and the University, which, I am proud to say, has for many years been one of the most prestigious in Italy. Every year, many young people from all over Italy enrolled in our University for its high quality teaching and research activities.

Immediately following the earthquake, we were all petrified, frozen by fear and uncertainty...but then we began to react and work harder than we ever had before, demonstrating strength and a will to overcome

the tragedy that had hit our lives. Personally, although my own home and the buildings of our Faculty, including the one that housed my office, were severely damaged, my first efforts, together with our Rector Prof. Ferdinando Di Orio and my colleagues, were aimed at understanding how serious the situation was and trying to save and recover everything that we could. We immediately realized that the town of L'Aquila was no longer the one we had known and loved before the 6th of April. The historical centre before the earthquake was like a campus; more than 13,000 students from cities across Italy lived there and, unfortunately, many of them lost their lives, killed in their prime by a cruel fate and, as we are learning from legal investigations, also due to the incompetence and superficiality of some builders and safety supervisors. The tragedy that struck our town and its citizens, taking the lives of 308 victims, including 55 students, did not however demolish the greatest resource of our city: the University.

Immediately following the earthquake, students were wearing T-shirts with the slogan "I WILL NOT COLLAPSE". And this has been the case. Now, many months after the event that

so dramatically and tragically changed our lives, we can assess those interventions aimed at rebuilding the economic, social and cultural foundations of our injured town. Unlike cultural recovery, particularly at the University and schools, economic recovery is still slow. In regards to teaching activity, the efforts of our University professors were exceptional, as classes were organized in tents and temporary structures.

Our Rector, Professor Ferdinando Di Orio, has fought with all his strength against the idea of moving the University to other parts of the Region, as he considers rebuilding the University essential to the rebuilding of L'Aquila. Prof. Di Orio's commitment and perseverance, capability and wisdom, together with the constant support of all of the professors, researchers, administrative staff and the renewed faith of our amazing students, have allowed for a miracle: we have had 20,000 enrollments for the 2009-2010 academic year (more than twice the number estimated), with only a 20% decrease, compared with the previous year. I say "only" 20% because the forecast was catastrophic, and we did not

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believe such results could actually take place. I am very proud to add that my Faculty, Educational Sciences, actually had an increase in enrollment of almost 17%. This required hard work and commitment by both professors and students, who are still facing many difficulties due to the lack of available student housing and damaged facilities; many are commuting every day to L'Aquila from other cities many kilometres away.

We have analyzed the devastating effects of the earthquake, and it is now time to try to return to our daily lives. Even if the tragic events of April 6th will never be forgotten, we must try to face the future with optimism and the will to overcome hardships and become

better than before. In fact, the future offers us the opportunity to improve the quality of our institutions, of our economic-social-cultural structure, to optimize our resources and do our best to rebuild L'Aquila and our lives.

Taking into account that L'Aquila was founded in the Middle Ages as a "town-territory" and through the centuries gained a central position among the surrounding towns, we could indeed plan our rebuilding to re-balance functions between the centre and the outlying territory. Schools, offices, sporting centres and companies will therefore have to be decentralized, while the historical centre will once again serve as the natural fulcrum of political, cultural and religious functions. In this scenario, the

University will return to its historical location within the ancient walls of L'Aquila as a cultural and economic reference point, in accordance with the city's role, which in my opinion already existed before the earthquake, of a "university town".

**Palazzo Carli
Univ. building**



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2010 IBNS TRAVEL AWARD WINNERS



Graduate Student Travel Awards

- 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
 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

Postdoctoral Trainee Travel Awards

- Dr. Michael Vincent Baratta, MIT, Cambridge, MA USA
 Dr. Jodi L. Pawluski, Maastricht University, Maastricht, THE NETHERLANDS
 Dr. Kate Marie Wassum, University of California, Los Angeles, CA USA
 Dr. Ingo Willuhn, University of Washington, Seattle, WA USA

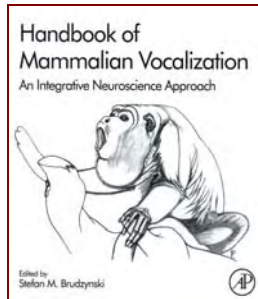
Presidential Travel Awards

- Dr. Leonie de Visser, Utrecht University, Urecht, THE NETHERLANDS
 Dr. Melanie A. Paquette, Univ. of TX Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX USA

Note: Presidential Travel Awards are new this year. They serve to recognize young scholars at early stages of their careers who not only have made an impact in behavioral neuroscience, but have also significantly contributed to the success of the Society.

MEMBER NEWS

Robert Adamec, Ph.D. is the recipient of the IBNS Outstanding Achievement Award for 2010. This Award recognizes Bob's enormous and long-reaching impact on the field of behavioural neuroscience. It also recognizes his long-standing support of our Society.



Stefan Brudzynski, Ph.D., who is the Treasurer of IBNS, recently edited the "Handbook of Mammalian Vocalization: An Integrative Neuroscience Approach", which will be published in 2010 by Academic Press/Elsevier. The book represents a major resource in vocalization research with extensive references, 46 chapters organized in 11 sections, and a total of 78 contributors from 13 countries, including Drs. Myron Hofer, John D. Newman, John G. Nyby, and Gillian Sales. Many IBNS members also contributed, including **Drs. Robert J. Blanchard, Jaak Panksepp, Alan Siegel, and Steven W. Porges.** More information is available at: www.elsevier.com/wps/find/bookdescription.careers/719106/description#description.

Jacqueline N. Crawley, Ph.D. is currently serving as the President of the International Behavioural and Neural Genetics Society (IBANGS), which will hold its Annual Meeting in May, 2010 at

Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Jacki served as the President of IBNS in 2000 and is the Chief of the Laboratory of Behavioral Neuroscience at the Intramural Research Program at NIMH, where she studies behavioral phenotypes of genetic mouse models of autism. Her laboratory recently published an article in *Neuropsychopharmacology* (Silverman et al., 2010; 35:976-989) showing that their mouse model of autism can be used to evaluate potential treatments. It is entitled, "Repetitive self-grooming behavior in the BTBR mouse model of autism is blocked by the mGluR5 antagonist MPEP".

On Nov. 23, 2009, **Cheryl Frye, Ph.D.** was honored with the Distinguished Alumna Award from Boston Latin School, the first and oldest high school in the country, on the occasion of their 375th anniversary. Cheryl is the first woman, first scientist, and youngest recipient of this prestigious award. She was recognized with this award due to her contributions to basic and clinical research on novel actions, sources and mechanisms of steroids and for her years of dedication to various educational neuroscience programs. Previously recipients include businessman Joseph Kennedy, composer/conductor Leonard Bernstein, and conductor Arthur Fiedler. Cheryl is a Professor at The University of Albany, SUNY in NY.



Nancy Ostrowski, Ph.D. underwent open-heart valve replacement surgery in February 2010. An IBNS Fellow who has attended 12 of the 18 IBNS meetings to date, Nancy hopes to be back on her feet for the 2010

meeting in Sardinia. She is the Coordinator of Global Patient Safety at Eli Lilly and Company.

Nicholas W. Gilpin, Ph.D. is authoring a new website devoted to describing the neurobiology of addiction to alcohol, opiates, psycho-stimulants, cannabis, and nicotine. The target audience will be people around the world that work in the field of addiction, but may not have a deep understanding of the way drugs affect the brain. Nick is a Senior Research Fellow in the laboratory of IBNS member **Dr. George Koob** at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, CA. He has been working on this project with NIDA, Medical Directions, Inc. (in Tucson, AZ), and the UCLA Laboratory of Neuroimaging. The site should be available by June 1 at: www.drugabuseresearchtraining.org.



Allan Kalueff, Ph.D. has been named Fellow of Newcomb College Institute. In the past year, he published 5 edited books, including "Experimental Animal Models in Neurobehavioral Research" (NOVA Science), "Experimental Models in Serotonin Transporter Research" (Cambridge University Press), "Transgenic and Mutant Tools to Model Brain Disorders" (Humana Press), "Neurobiology of Grooming Behavior" (Cambridge University Press), and "Translational Neuroscience in Animal Research: Advancements, Challenges, and Research Ethics" (NOVA Science). His two other edited



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books are currently in press with Humana Press and will be published later this year: "Zebrafish Neurobehavioral Protocols" and "Zebrafish Models in Neurobehavioral Research". In May 2010, Allan will chair the 14th International Stress and Behavior Conference. He also serves a Guest Co-Editor of the special 2010 Issue of Progress in Neuropsychopharmacology and Biological Psychiatry, dedicated to new experimental paradigms and concepts in biological psychiatry. Allan is an Assistant Professor of Pharmacology at Tulane University Medical School in New Orleans, LA.

Congratulations to the new IBNS Fellows: **Henry Szechman, Ph.D.** and **Mikhail Pletnikov, Ph.D.**

Congratulations to **Donald Stein, Ph.D.** and his wife on their upcoming 50th anniversary!

Stephen Kent, Ph.D. has been

named Acting Head of the School of Psychological Science at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia, where he is an Associate Professor. Steve was also part of the organizing committee for a one-day Behavioural Neuroscience meeting held in Melbourne on July 10, 2009 that featured 22 talks and 31 posters. A total of 130 scientists from across Melbourne attended. Most were from the University of Melbourne, but some were from the Howard Florey Institute, Monash University, La Trobe University and Swinburne Institute of Technology. Steve recently completed a term as the Australasian Councilor to IBNS (2006-2009) and has been



especially helpful with the IBNS Newsletter for his editing skills.

Matz Larsson, M.D., Ph.D.

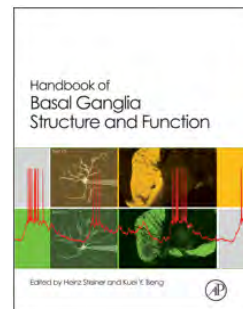
recently published an article in Fish and Fisheries (Larsson, 2009; 10: 344-355), a leading journal in the field, in which he suggested 3 new hypotheses of the evolution of schooling behavior in fish: (I) auditory masking of pressure waves emitted during group locomotion, and (II-III) confusing predators due to overlapping pressure waves and blurring of predators' electro-sensory perception. The article is entitled, "Possible functions of the octavolateralis system in fish schooling" and suggests that similar "acoustical advantages" may have influenced the evolution and behavior in birds and dolphins. Matz works at Lungkliniken Örebro University Hospital in Sweden and will present his findings in May, 2010 at Evolutionary, Ecology and Ethology of Fishes (EEEF) in Vancouver, Canada and in June, 2010 at IBNS.



Oz Malkesman, Ph.D., M.B.A.

recently had a paper accepted to Biological Psychiatry (Malkesman et al., 2009; in press), entitled: "The female urine sniffing test: A novel approach for assessing reward-seeking behavior in rodents". The paper demonstrates that sniffing of estrus female urine by male mice is sensitive to behavioral and genetic manipulation and to SSRI treatment. Ultrasonic vocalizations, helplessness, sweet solution preference, and accumbens dopamine release were also assessed. Oz is a Research Assistant Professor at the Center for Neuroscience & Regenerative Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in

Bethesda, MD. Oz is a new member of IBNS, and one of his co-authors on the paper is IBNS member **Jacki Crawley, Ph.D.**



Heinz Steiner, Ph.D. recently edited the "Handbook of Basal Ganglia Structure and Function", together with Kuei Tseng, M.D., Ph.D. It was released in February 2010 and is volume 20 of Elsevier's "Handbook of Behavioral Neuroscience" series. The Series Editor is IBNS past-president **Joseph Huston, Ph.D.** Heinz is an Associate Professor at The Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in North Chicago, IL. More information is available at: www.elsevier.com/wps/find/bookdescription.cws_home/720714/description#description.

JOIN US AT OUR
20TH ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 24-29, 2011
SHERATON STEAMBOAT RESORT
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO, USA



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NEUROSCIENCE SCHOLARS PROGRAM: CAREER ENRICHMENT, CONFERENCE TRAVEL By Eimeira Padilla, Neuroscience Scholar & 2009 IBNS Travel Award Winner



The Neuroscience Scholars Program (NSP) is a 3-year fellowship program that seeks to promote diversity in neuroscience research. It is funded by NIH/NINDS and administered by the Society for Neuroscience (SfN). Eligible individuals include underrepresented minorities who are citizens or permanent residents of the USA and are enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program or are postdoctoral trainees.

Over the 3-year fellowship period, NSP provides complimentary SfN membership, travel support for Annual SfN Meetings, SfN registration and abstract fee waivers, an online subscription to The Journal of Neuroscience, and additional enrichment funds (up to \$2000) that can be applied towards attendance at other conferences (such as IBNS), workshops, or visits to labs or institutions that will directly enhance your career. Other benefits include a mentorship program where you can interact with experienced faculty-level or post-doctoral scientists that can help provide guidance or opportunities to network, expand professional contacts, and acquire professional skills.

This is my first year as a Neuroscience Scholar, and I share this title with 17 other newly awarded recipients. Being in this program really enhanced my SfN experience. It provided

the funds to register to an SfN-sponsored workshop, which I attended on my first day in Chicago. I really enjoyed this experience, where I was able to interact with top scientists involved in the field of depression research. Throughout the rest of the week, between attending the conference lectures, symposia, and poster sessions, the NSP arranged an orientation, a diversity poster session, receptions, and a mentor-scholar breakfast. All of these activities enriched my experience compared to previous SfN conferences I have attended. I recommend that students or post-doctoral fellows apply to this program, as it not only provides funds for travelling to conferences, but can also serve to enhance networking opportunities and further your career. For more info, visit: www.SfN.org/index.aspx?pagename=NeuroscienceScholars_Main The next deadline is **May 21, 2010**.

FIRST BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK IN NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA IS A HUGE SUCCESS By Catherine Marcinkiewicz, Student Member of IBNS

In January, 2009, I founded the North Central Florida Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience (SFN), and I have served as Chapter Representative ever since. This year, we decided to launch our first annual Brain Awareness Week (BAW) Program, which actually turned into a month-long event. Our first outreach initiative was organized in collaboration with the Center for Precollegiate Education (CPET) at the University of Florida (UF), where I am currently working toward my Ph.D. in Neuroscience. Together with 8 of my fellow graduate students in Neuroscience and Psychology, we hosted a group of 40 high school students from Lake Highland Preparatory School in Orlando, FL. These students traveled to UF on March

16, 2010 for a 4-hour event, which included lectures, hands-on neuroscience activities, and a laboratory tour.

When they first arrived, the students were divided into four groups and rotated through 4 lab stations that emphasized: Human Brain Anatomy; Evolution and Development of the Nervous System; Sensorimotor Systems; and Neurons, Synapses, and Chemical Signaling. The first two stations included brain specimens on loan from faculty at UF, including a human brain and spinal cord; dolphin, sperm whale, and manatee brains; and a variety of brains from other mammals, reptiles, and fish. For sensorimotor systems, students



Catherine Marcinkiewicz exposes high school students to neuroanatomy as part of BAW.

engaged in activities involving prism goggles, memory tests, and retronasal olfaction. Finally, for Neurons, Synapses, and Chemical Signaling, students performed experiments on the flatworm planaria, which have observable behaviors in response to drugs like citalopram and haloperidol.

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Students also participated in a lab tour led by a UF faculty member. During the tour, they learned how to mount their own rat brain sections onto slides. Since this particular lab is interested in mapping out the tactile and auditory processing centers in the manatee, the students also had a chance to observe a brain dissection from a manatee head that had arrived that same day.

On March 19 of that same week, the Chapter organized a seminar by Daniel Weinberger, Director of the Genes, Cognition and Psychosis Program at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). The talk, "The Simple Truth about the Complex Genetics of Schizophrenia,"

attracted 150 faculty, students, and medical residents from 13 different departments and 5 colleges across campus, along with board members of the McKnight Brain Institute and the Gainesville Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

Most recently, our Chapter secretary Ethan Anderson has arranged classroom visits to Lincoln Middle School on April 15 and 22. Our first activity on April 15 was a basic sheep brain dissection, emphasizing neuroanatomy, which draws upon information from classic case studies in Neurology, including Phineas Gage and H.M. On April 22, we did the hands-on flatworm planeria lesson that proved so successful

during the high school visit.

The Chapter also co-sponsored a campus-wide BAW organized by the undergraduate Neuroscience Club from April 5-9. Each day focused on a different theme: Sleep, Stress, and Exercise; Mental Health and Disorders; Neuroanatomy and the Senses; an Undergraduate Research Forum; and Creativity and the Brain. Our Chapter loaned out brain specimens, prism goggles, and information pamphlets. We also co-sponsored the 2010 Psychology Undergraduate Research Forum organized by the Graduate Student Advisory Board and the Psychology Graduate Student Organization. We funded the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes for undergraduate posters at this event.

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. (See the Spring '07, Fall '08, Spring '08, and Spring '09 issues for other articles in this series.) This issue features Brad Wible, a Senior Editor at Science Magazine; Anne Sperling, a Health Science Policy Analyst at NIMH; and Janet Hardin Young, a Consultant at Parenteau BioConsultants, LLC.

Name: Brad Wible

Job Title: Senior Editor,
Science Magazine

Birthplace: York, PA

Training

- 1997, B.S., Drexel University
- 2004, Ph.D. in Neuroscience, Northwestern University
- 2004-2005, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Oregon

Job Description

Read and solicit manuscripts bridging science, education, and

public policy; shepherd manuscripts through internal and external discussion/review process; work with authors of selected manuscripts to respond to editor/reviewer concerns, streamline/edit/clarify writing for broad audience; work with production staff to make the final piece look good.

Hours/Week: 45

Average salary: not given

Pros

- paid to read about cool ideas
- be a generalist, not focused on any one particular niche of science (e.g., read about bioethics one week, climate change the next, intellectual property the next)
- focus not on the research, but on how it can be put to use in public policy, education, etc.
- write/edit a great deal when helping authors improve/polish
- learn how a magazine works
- The high profile of the publication makes it gratifying to see broad coverage of our content in wider media circles.

- Get to pursue ideas for content and invite submissions

Cons

- Weekly publication = weekly deadlines; too many unsolicited submissions/manuscript ideas to consider, too many ideas to solicit, too little time

Career Trajectory

I realized in graduate school, after doing volunteer museum work in exhibit development and science writing for the university's press office, that I probably wasn't cut out for the tenure track. I loved my lab, my work, still find the topics fascinating, but I think I'd had enough. There were parts of my personality, skill set, interest set, that weren't really used very much or at all. But I wanted to see if things would change upon "graduating" to post-doc, upon moving to a new place, a new lab, new research. I don't regret the decision at all, it was very enlightening, but I still felt like

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I needed to get out. While a postdoc, I did more volunteer science writing for the university's press office and one paid gig for the alumni magazine. And I applied for every job and fellowship under the sun, including two from AAAS: the Mass Media Science and Engineering Fellowship, and the Science and Technology Policy Fellowship. I was fortunate to be awarded both.

And they changed my life. I left my postdoc to spend the summer as a media fellow writing about science for the Los Angeles Times. I then drove across the country to DC to begin my policy fellowship at the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research. I learned a ton about behavioral/social sciences, but also about "how the sausage is made" and how science does (and often doesn't) influence policy making, and vice versa. After NIH, I worked at AAAS in the Research Competitiveness Program (RCP), managing panels that advise how to develop/manage research and education institutions/programs. While working at RCP, I wrote freelance for Kellogg Insight, a research magazine at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. They offered me a full-time job writing/editing the magazine, which I accepted. After only a few months, however, the Science editor position was announced, and I jumped at the opportunity. I've been at Science since June of 2009. I love it. It allows me to stimulate and use so many different interests, passions, and skills.

Advice

Be flexible...very flexible. And be driven by things about which you're passionate. To gain experience, I volunteered to write up articles for the university's press office, alumni magazine, etc. Researchers would publish

articles, I'd interview them about the work, write up a press release, we'd push it out and hope that the local paper, radio station, whatever, would cover it. So in general, I just took the approach of looking at whatever institution I was at, making calls/emails for "informational interviews" and then boldly asking if there was any help I could offer and/or experience I could get. That's also how I got my museum gig in exhibit development, which involved researching the topics, thinking about ways to communicate to museum goers, then even building some prototypes (which turned out to be pretty bad!) and taking them out on the museum floor to ask people what they thought. So I guess students should just be fearless, take the "nothing to lose by asking" approach, and simply find any writing outlet that interests them, particularly those that might be hard up for staff/time, and see what comes of it. On a pragmatic/resource angle, I got my freelance Kellogg School gig, which turned into a full-time job, on the National Association of Science Writers listserv (www.nasw.org). [Editor's note: You must be a member of NASW to access the job list. Dues are \$35-40 (students) and \$75-90 (regular).]

Name: Anne Sperling

Job Title: Health Science Policy Analyst, NIMH

Birthplace: Long Island, NY

Training

- 1998, B.S., Cornell University
- 2004, Ph.D., University of Southern California
- 2004-2006, Postdoctoral Fellow, Georgetown University Medical Center

Job Description

- Serve as a key Institute negotiator on major initiatives involving data sharing
- Analyze, evaluate, and interpret aspects of the NIMH grant portfolio and initiatives and develop ways to better accomplish the NIMH mission
- Conduct data analysis to prepare and edit briefing documents in response to Congressional, Departmental, or Inter-Agency requests

Hours/Week: 40

Average salary: \$87,000-\$130,000 per year, DOE.

Pros

- I feel connected both to the research community and to the public.
- I get to see projects to completion on a relatively short timescale. I can leave work most days with a sense of accomplishment.
- I usually have 'normal' hours.
- I have a much broader view of science and its impact on society, as well as society's impact on science, than I ever had as a bench scientist.
- My position is comparatively stable, the benefits are good, and my work schedule is wonderfully flexible. I'm allowed to work from home twice a week.

Cons

- You are bound by governmental laws and regulations that affect what you can say and do in ways that don't apply when you work for private industry or as a researcher at a university. This is not so much a 'con' as a caution.

Career Trajectory

As an undergraduate, I majored in biology (focused on neurobiology - my preference from very early on), and my family/friends/self assumed I would go into medicine. I soon realized that while I liked biology, I didn't want to go into medicine - I wanted to go into

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neuroscience. To make sure, I volunteered in a psychobiology lab during my sophomore year, studying an avian model of spatial memory. I enjoyed the work and the familial atmosphere of the lab, and my volunteer position developed into an undergraduate honors thesis. However, what I really wanted to study was reading and language. I took an independent study course and a lecture course in psycholinguists, and so (inadequately?) educated, I applied to graduate schools that had solid cognitive neuroscience programs. My area of focus was perceptual underpinnings of developmental dyslexia, and I was a relatively fortunate graduate student, publishing several papers, two of them in rather high impact journals. At the same time, I pursued 'extra-curricular' activities: speaking at elementary and high schools in conjunction with the Society for Neuroscience's 'Brain Awareness Week'; volunteering as a judge at the state science fair; developing my writing skills. Given my area of focus, I came into regular contact with children, educators, and parents with health and behavior needs, but who were completely disconnected from the research going on around them. More and more, I grew interested in the people at the heart of the research, in writing and communicating for and to them, that I began to lose my enthusiasm for the cloistered academic life. I heard about the AAAS Science and Technology Policy fellowships, and contemplated applying, but worried it would be a one-way street - what if I were wrong, and academia was really the best fit for me? So, I put the policy aspirations on hold and applied for a post-doctoral fellowship. Although I learned important new research techniques and advanced my training and publication record, I wasn't

satisfied. I wanted people and policy, not windowless rooms and statistics, which, unfortunately, was what my life had become. Frankly, I also wanted more job security, and the seemingly endless years stretching before me of competing for grants and position was incredibly disheartening. I applied for the AAAS fellowship, was accepted, and then was placed at NIMH (in the exact office where I am today). It was a great fit and a positive challenge for my skills and abilities. I have had to learn a lot about mental disorders (dyslexia not being one), but the brain is the brain, whether the disorders you study are developmental, acquired, mental, or behavioral - what I chiefly needed was mental flexibility and a willingness to learn, and academia prepared me well. And many skills I acquired as a graduate student have been transferable. Jitters about presenting my work? I remember that I successfully defended my dissertation, thank you very much, I'm trained to analyze data and solve thorny problems, and I know my way around a computer. After two years as a fellow, I was hired as a regular employee. I enjoy and value what I do, though occasionally, I find it insanely frustrating. That's called reality when you're working in government.

Is it possible to balance your job with family?

I think so, especially given the flexibility of hours and telework possibilities. However, I would imagine that it might be challenging to work part-time in this position; I am not sure if the individual could remain a government employee to do so (perhaps as a contractor).

Advice

If you are interested in a job in science policy, it is important to seek out opportunities to write/edit/communicate with the

public regarding your science while you are still a student or postdoc. Give a guest presentation in a high school science class. Volunteer by giving tours at a local science museum. Submit science stories to your local newspaper or radio station. Create a science blog. Get used to communicating with the public because being able to work in both worlds is essential.

More info on the AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships is at: <http://fellowships.aaas.org>

Name: Janet Hardin Young

Job Title: Consultant, Parenteau BioConsultants, LLC

Birthplace: Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Training

- 1991, B.S., Georgia Inst. of Technology
- 1997, M.S. & Ph.D., Georgia University School of Veterinary Medicine
- 1997-2002, Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard Medical School

Job Description

I am a partner in a small life science management consulting firm that works with biotech start-ups, medical device companies and big pharma. We assist companies in strategic planning and moving products from the bench to the market place by providing preclinical and clinical support. We also conduct scientific due diligence of life science companies for investment companies, which is a comprehensive evaluation of the company's scientific resources (e.g., pipeline, resources, etc.). Companies looking to be

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acquired or preparing for the next step of financing will undergo such due diligence to identify areas they need to shore-up to increase their value. We also: write non-clinical reports to regulatory bodies (e.g., FDA), assist with answering specific questions from the FDA (e.g., by writing expert opinions or additional literature reviews), design custom preclinical studies, develop marketing material, and identify and evaluate new sources of materials and technologies.

Hours/Week: 40-80; variable
Average salary: \$60,000-150,000, depending on hours

Pros

- Flexible schedule
- Ability to work from home
- Diversity of projects & clients

Cons

- Lack of internal support (You have to be a "jack of all trades".)
- Marketing and sales aspects of job (I am not a sales person by nature.)
- Lack of long-term planning (Most clients wait until the last minute to call.)

Career Trajectory

In 1992, at the end of my postdoctoral training, I had to decide if I was going to stay in academics or go into industry; and if I went into industry, would I join a start-up company or a larger, established company. Based on what I perceived as my strengths, weaknesses and interests, I decided to join a small biotech company. The company, Organogenesis in Boston, MA, is a tissue engineering company. They were just entering clinical trials with their allogenic, cellular skin replacement and needed an immunologist to oversee the preclinical and clinical safety testing. In 1998, we received FDA approval for the first cellular tissue-engineered

product. During those 6 years, I had begun to work more and more with other departments, such as regulatory and marketing. So, a year later, when my husband needed to move for his career, I began to telecommute from North Carolina. My position changed to Director of Technology Implementation, and my role was to be the scientific support for the other departments within the company. I gained a lot of experience working outside my specific niche. My time was split equally between working from home and traveling. I found I worked well from home, but also enjoyed the travel aspect too. In 1992, I left Organogenesis and started consulting on my own. At first, I worked mostly for people I already knew, doing subcontract work. Then, in 1995, I joined Parenteau BioConsultants, LLC as a partner.

Is it possible to balance your job with family?

Yes, and this is one of the benefits of the job. My children are older (9 and 12) and in school. Having a flexible schedule allows me to be a part of their activities and also to pick up the slack around the house when things happen (and they always do!). I am not sure working from home would work with young children who are home all the time. I should say I have been able to decrease my travel schedule over the past few years. Many consultants I know have a heavy travel schedule, which can put a strain on their family life.

Advice

Ask questions of everyone. Don't be afraid to explore an unusual track. This is especially true in science; be aware of what is happening in the fields around you and how they can impact your work. The ability to discern and relate findings from other fields to your work will give you an advantage, whether you go

into industry or academics. To get experience, look into: Gearson Lehrman Group (www.glgroup.com).

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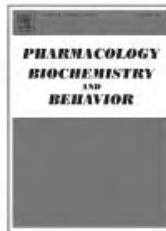


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