University of Cincinnati hosted the 26th annual meeting of the Ohio Physiological Society (OPS2011) on October 6–7, 2011. Themed “From Molecules to Metabolic Disease”, OPS2011 spanned from molecular and computational physiology to diabetes and obesity. Opening the meeting, OPS President Bryan Mackenzie, PhD (University of Cincinnati) welcomed Ernest M Wright, FRS (UCLA–David Geffen School of Medicine) to deliver the plenary lecture entitled “Sodium–glucose cotransporters (SGLTs) as new drug targets for diabetes”, which was followed by a reception and banquet.

In all, 130 attended from institutions throughout Ohio and northern Kentucky, ensuring a vibrant and productive annual meeting. Three platform sessions throughout day two comprised featured presentations “Understanding how protein interaction networks are reconfigured in the cancer cell” by Robert Ewing, PhD (Case Western Reserve University), “Emerging roles of TRPC3 channels in atherosclerosis” by Guillermo Vazquez, PhD (University of Toledo), and “The lean phenotype: Physical activity, energy expenditure, and aerobic capacity” by Colleen Novak, PhD (Kent State University), as well as six trainee oral communications that had been selected from among the 60 abstracts submitted to the poster sessions.

OPS this year presented two awards from the Peter K. Lauf Travel Award Program. The awards—$500 each, intended to defray the costs of attending Experimental Biology 2012, San Diego—were presented to graduate students Daniel Luther (Northeast Ohio Medical University) for his poster presentation “Absence of type VI collagen paradoxically improves cardiac function, structure and remodeling following myocardial infarction”, and Shruti Marwaha (University of Cincinnati) for her poster presentation “Feedback in Sonic hedgehog circuits with cytokines in H. pylori mediated gastritis.”

University of Cincinnati’s department of molecular & cellular physiology provided additional cash prizes (of $100 each) for poster presentations at OPS2011. These were awarded to: undergraduate level, Huong-Thao Tran (Wright State University); graduate level, Stephanie Buccini (University of Cincinnati), Jeannine Crum (Wright State University) and Gopinath Sundaramurthy (University of Cincinnati); postdoctoral level, Ameet Chimote (University of Cincinnati).

Elections were held to fill society office: Dan Halm, PhD (Wright State University) was elected Treasurer and will serve a second, three-year term (ending fall 2014), and Gary Meszaros, PhD (Northeast Ohio Medical University) was elected President. Dr Meszaros will serve one year each as President Elect, President and President Emeritus and will host and chair the OPS meeting in 2013. Passing the gavel to incoming President Lynn Hartzler, PhD (Wright State University), Bryan Mackenzie thanked the presenters, session chairs, judges and local organizing committee for ensuring the success of OPS2011. Support for OPS2011 came from the host institution, the American Physiological Society, vendor sponsors and members’ donations. Closing the meeting, Lynn Hartzler, OPS President for 2012, invited members to the 27th annual OPS meeting, which will be held at Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio in October 2012.

Bryan Mackenzie, PhD, OPS President
OPS Meeting 2011

Banquet

Reception

Featured Speaker Ernie Wright and Ernest Foulkes
Posters
Awards

Peter K. Lauf Student Travel Award and OPS2011 Poster Prize awardees are congratulated by Peter Lauf and OPS President Bryan Mackenzie at the Tangeman University Center, University of Cincinnati, on 7 October 2011. Pictured (from left to right) are Jeannine Crum, Gopinath Sundaramurthy, Shruti Marwaha, Peter Lauf, Daniel Luther, Stephanie Buccini, Ameet Chimote, and Bryan Mackenzie; not pictured, Huong-Thao Tran.

Reception