

Annual Meeting of the Ohio Physiological Society

The Ohio Physiological Society held its 28th annual meeting at the Northeast Ohio Medical University Conference Center in Rootstown, OH on October 17-18, 2013. A total of 125 attendees from 14 of Ohio's universities congregated at NEOMED for the event. The OPS was able to attract, for the first time, a Nobel Laureate to deliver the opening keynote address! Dr. Ferid Murad from George Washington University delivered his talk entitled "Discovery of nitric oxide and cyclic GMP in cell signaling and their role in drug development." Dr. Murad's talk was enthusiastically received and celebrated with a wine and cheese reception and elegant banquet. It was a momentous event and we appreciate the financial support from the American Physiological Society to support the keynote dinner of the OPS.

On Friday morning, the general meeting opened with outstanding research presentations by postdoctoral fellows Dr. Federica Accornero (Univ. of Cincinnati) and Jessica Francl (NEOMED), graduate students Richard Pye (Wright State Univ.) and Wenda Zhou (Univ. of Akron), and Professor Maureen Peters (Oberlin College). This was followed by the morning poster session and lunch which was sponsored by VisualSonics (Bret Hawkins, representative was in attendance). The latter half of lunch was highlighted by 18 student "blitz" presentations, which were 90 seconds in length designed to stimulate interest for the afternoon poster session. The afternoon oral presentations were delivered by graduate students Suzanna Logan (NEOMED), Qiming Duan (Univ. of Toledo) and Matthew Gorr (Ohio State Univ.) and Assistant Professor Dr. Sam Crish (NEOMED). The topics were diverse and stimulating, and the exchange of ideas throughout the conference was robust.

A total of 52 posters were displayed, presented and judged for the conference. The students who presented at the lunchtime blitz session were eligible for the Dr. Peter K. Lauf Travel Awards to attend the Experimental Biology Meetings in April 2014 (San Diego). Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Lauf, along with the APS and the OPS, a total of four of these awards were made possible. Two graduate students, Ali Shawki (University of Cincinnati) and Rituparna Ganguly (NEOMED) and two undergraduates, Sam McCright and Nelson Freeburg (both from Oberlin College) earned these prestigious travel awards with outstanding poster presentations. Congratulations to all of these poster competition winners and to all of our presenters for their high quality research presentations and posters.

Dr. Gary Meszaros, 2013 President of OPS, organized the meeting with an outstanding committee of faculty and administrative staff at NEOMED. Dr. William Chilian, chair of the Department of Integrative Medical Sciences, provided significant support and assistance as did the outstanding office staff from NEOMED of Karen Greene, Carolyn Miller, Danielle Nichols, and Dennis Finneran.

Before concluding the meeting, Dr. Peter Lauf (Wright State Univ.), the founder and strong supporter of the OPS, gave concluding remarks about his enthusiasm for the young scientists, their mentors, and research projects. He also thanked the faculty and staff at NEOMED for hosting a successful and stimulating conference, and Dr. Ferid Murad, Nobel Laureate, for taking time to visit and deliver the keynote address.



The 2013 Ohio Physiological Society Peter K. Lauf award winners: (Left to Right): Undergraduate student winners Sam McCright and Nelson Freeburg (Oberlin College), Dr. Peter K. Lauf (Wright State Univ.), graduate student winners Rituparna Ganguly (NEOMED), and Ali Shawki (Univ. of Cincinnati).