

Annual Meeting of the Ohio Physiological Society

The Ohio Physiological Society held its 29th annual meeting at Miami University's Marcum Conference Center in Oxford, OH on October 17-18, 2014. A total of 68 attendees from 9 of Ohio's universities congregated at Miami for the event. The conference began with a banquet on Friday evening and the general meeting opened with outstanding research presentations by new Assistant Professors Dr. Jenna Monroy and Dr. Melanie Lott (Denison University), postdoctoral fellows Dr. Nadja Grobe (Wright State University) and Ameet Chimote (University of Cincinnati) and graduate students Joseph Santin (Wright State University), and Xian Liu (Miami University). This was followed by the student data blitz presentations which were about 2 minutes in length and designed to stimulate interest for the afternoon poster session. We then broke for lunch and the briefest business meeting in the history of the organization at which it was determined that Dr. Terry Hinds (University of Toledo) would take over the Presidency of the OPS and organize the 2015 meeting at UT.

Following a delicious lunch, the plenary speaker, Dr. William Karasov, Professor and Chair (University of Wisconsin-Madison) gave an excellent presentation on his work in digestive physiology. Dr. Karasov has long been a leader in comparative digestive physiology and his work on diverse problems in this field has led to a very distinguished career. The talks from Dr. Karasov and the morning speakers spanned the range of physiological inquiry and all received excellent questions which were a testament to the enthusiasm of the attendees for any and all challenges in our field.

The meeting then moved into the poster room, where a total of 28 posters were displayed, presented and judged. The buzz of the room continued for several hours before reconvening in the presentation room for announcements of awards. 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 2015 (Boston). Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Lauf, Mark Kesselem from Data Sciences International (DSI) and the OPS, a total of two of these awards were made possible. Two graduate students, Joseph Santin (Wright State) and Roslin Thoppil (NEOMed) earned these prestigious travel awards with outstanding presentations. Six additional "Honorable Mention" awards were given as well. These awards were given to Gemma Aldana (Denison University), Elizabeth Bailey (Denison University), Shimpi Bedi (Wright State University), Jake Hendershot (University of Cincinnati), Ann Olyer (Denison University) and Panjak Patyal (Wright State University). Congratulations to all of these competition winners and to all of our presenters for their high quality research presentations and posters.

Dr. Paul Schaeffer, 2014 President of OPS, organized the meeting with the assistance of graduate students Kristen Demoranville, Adam Parlin and Jussara Chaves. Further, the meeting would not have been possible without the generous support of the Miami University College of Arts and Science, the Departments of Biology and of Kinesiology & Health as well as the Graduate College, all of whom provided significant support and assistance. Before departing the meeting, Dr. Peter Lauf (Wright State University), the founder and continuing champion of the OPS, gave concluding remarks about his enthusiasm for the young scientists, their mentors, and research projects. He also thanked the organizers for hosting a successful and stimulating conference.



Dr. Peter K. Lauf Travel Award winners Roslin Thoppil & Joseph Santin with 2014 OPS President Paul Schaeffer.



Honorary Mention Awardees Panjak Patyal, Gemma Aldana, Elizabeth Bailey, Shimpi Bedi, Jake Hendershot & Ann Olyer with 2014 OPS President Paul Schaeffer.