

32nd Annual Meeting of the Ohio Physiological Society

The Ohio Physiological Society held its 32nd annual meeting at the Northeast Ohio Medical University Education and Wellness (NEW) Center in Rootstown, OH on October 27th, 2017. A total of 145 attendees from 12 of Ohio's universities, as well as 4 attendees from Marshall University (West Virginia) and 12 from Western Pennsylvania (Washington and Jefferson College, University of Pittsburgh, Westminster College) came to NEOMED for the event. Drs Gary Meszaros (2017 Ohio Chapter President) Joseph Zarconi (Associate Dean) and William Chilian (Chair of Integrative Medical Sciences) from NEOMED came to the podium to welcome the attendees and keynote speaker. An outstanding Keynote Lecture was delivered by Dr Kenneth Walsh, Distinguished Professor and Director of the Whitaker Cardiovascular Institute at the Boston University School of Medicine. Dr Walsh's lecture, entitled "*A common physiological link between hematological cancer and cardiovascular disease*" was spirited and well-received by a crowd that swelled to nearly 200 people. In addition to displaying his cutting-edge scientific studies, Dr Walsh included several appreciated pieces of mentoring and advice to the next generation of science trainees.

Graduate student talks were the focus of the oral presentations at the conference, with 6 graduate students being selected to present their research: Kevin McElhanon from Ohio State University (Noah Weisleder, mentor), Isha Mhatre from NEOMED (Jason Richardson, mentor), Loren Geiss from the University of Dayton (Carissa Krane, mentor), Alex Ruwe from the University of Cincinnati (Bryan McKenzie, mentor), Tori Czech from NEOMED (Moses Oyewumi, mentor), and Darren Gordon from the University of Toledo (Terry Hinds, mentor). The postdoctoral oral presentation was given by Dr Taejeong Song from the University of Cincinnati (Sakthivel Sadayappan, mentor).

During lunchtime, an additional 22 student "blitz" presentations were given, which were 90 seconds in length designed to stimulate interest for the afternoon poster sessions. In this group of presentations, there were nine that came from very talented undergraduate students! The afternoon was highlighted by two poster sessions that covered diverse and stimulating topics, and the exchange of ideas throughout the conference was robust. A total of 64 posters were displayed, presented and judged during these sessions.

The students who presented at the lunchtime blitz session followed by their poster sessions were eligible for the Dr Peter K. Lauf Travel Awards to attend the Experimental Biology Meetings in April 2018 (San Diego). Thanks to the generosity of Dr. Lauf, along with the Biomedical Sciences and Integrated Pharmaceutical Medicine Graduate programs (NEOMED), a total of 6 of these \$750 travel awards were made possible. *The 2017 Peter K. Lauf Travel awardees for the 2017 OPS were as follows:*

Lauren Geiss (University of Dayton, Carissa Krane, mentor), Darren Gordon (University of Toledo, Terry Hinds, mentor), Chinmay Bakshi (University of Cincinnati, Nira Ben-Jonathan, mentor), Abdul-rizag Hamoud (University of Toledo, Terry Hinds, mentor), Anurag Jamaiyar (NEOMED, Liya Yin, Mentor), and Emma Teal (University of Cincinnati, Yana Zavros, mentor).

Additional outstanding poster presentation awards were given to four undergraduate students and three graduate students: Aubrey Rose (Ohio State), Justin Dunham (U Cincinnati), Samrawit Ghebrigiabih (U Akron), Nicholas Baker (Washington and Jefferson College); Kyle Spainhower

(Youngstown State), Kevin Budge (NEOMED), Minqi Huang (Marshall). The outstanding postdoctoral poster awards were earned by Anantha Kanugula (NEOMED) and Lakshminarayan Teegala (U Akron). Congratulations to all of these poster competition winners and to all of our presenters for their high quality research presentations and posters.

The conference benefitted from significant support, planning and execution from our outstanding staff at NEOMED of Karen Greene, Ileen Ciccozzi, and Nicole Smallwood and generous financial support from several offices at NEOMED, Summa Hospital, Akron Children’s Hospital, Best Medical and Research Supplies, FugiFilm-VisualSonics, VDM Biochemicals and B&B Microscopes LTD.

Before concluding the meeting, Dr Peter Lauf (Wright State University), the founder and ardent 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, with a special acknowledgement for Karen Greene, who has orchestrated a total of four OPS conferences at NEOMED dating back to 1993. He and all of our members thank Dr Ken Walsh, for taking time to fully participate in the 32nd Annual Ohio Physiological Society conference and delivering such an enthusiastic and superb keynote address. The business meeting then concluded as the “presidential torch” was passed from Dr Gary Meszaros to the 2018 OPS President Dr Bryan Mackenzie, as he and the University of Cincinnati will host the 33rd annual meeting in the fall of 2018.

Submitted by: Dr. Gary Meszaros, OPS President 2017



Loren Geiss



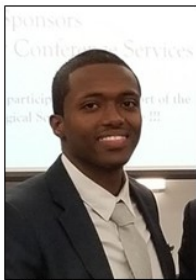
Darren Gordon



Chinmay Bakshi



Dr. William Chilian and Dr. Kenneth Walsh



Abdul-rizaaq Hamoud



Anurag Jamaiyar



Emma Teal



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