

Society for Research on Biological Rhythms



Newsletter

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February 2008

From the President -

February 13, 2008

Dear SRBR Members,

I am delighted to welcome you to our first SRBR Newsletter! The SRBR Newsletter is a creation of our new Committee on Communications, which I charged with evaluating, recommending and implementing ways to enhance communication within the Society. Recognizing the high potential for positive impact, the Committee, Frank Scheer (Chair), Janis Anderson, Ralph Mistlberger, and Shelley Tischkau, accepted the challenge.



Outcomes of their efforts include: 1) developing a website worthy of our Society, a resource that brings people to it because it is interesting and informative, and 2) launching an e-newsletter, as an out-reach arm of the Society. Shelley Tischkau volunteered, and was approved by the Board, as Newsletter Editor. Updates on both of these endeavors appear in this issue of the Newsletter.

Membership and the 2008 SRBR Biennial Meeting are of immediate importance. You are receiving this e-mailing because you are, or have been, an SRBR member. If you have not yet rejoined, please take a moment to do so now by visiting the website <<http://www.srbr.org/>> It is easy to join, and membership comes with privileges, including the *Journal of Biological Rhythms*, full website access and subscription to the SRBR Newsletter! We now have 3 categories of membership: Regular, Emeritus and Trainee. Membership is very reasonable, and reduces fees for meeting registration. Join now for full benefits!

Focus is on the 2008 SRBR meeting. Ravi Allada (Chair) and the Program Committee summarize the excellent, cross-cutting program they have developed. Check the website for the full program. Two special pre-meeting events are scheduled on Saturday, May 17. 1) Trainee Professional Development Day. Organized by Ken Wright together with the committee of regular and trainee members, this new event will include faculty presentation/discussions on how to succeed in science and meet-the-professor opportunities. Trainee Day can accommodate ~100 student, post-doctoral and resident trainees. Advise those you know to register early. 2) The Aaron Lerner Memorial Symposium, “*The importance of melatonin to research in biological*

rhythms”, is open to all meeting registrants and will convene that afternoon. The SRBR 2008 Biennial Meeting will officially commence with the Opening Reception poolside that evening!

So, mark May 17-21 on your calendar, start drafting your abstracts and plan to join us at Sandestin by the sea!

Martha Gillette, President



Trainee Development Day Focuses on the Future of Rhythms Research

The SRBR is sponsoring Trainee Professional Development Day at the 2008 meeting. This event is an entire day devoted to scientific and career development activities for students, postdoctorals and residents. The day consists of a keynote address and a series of workshops. The SRBR trainee day will be held on Saturday May 17, 2008 and will end with the opening reception of the main conference. The goal of the Trainee Development Day is to enable the next generation of biological rhythm researchers to learn from and interact with faculty members in a more informal and intimate setting than is allowed by the main conference. Our hope is that this will increase interest in and commitment to a career in biological rhythms research, and thus help foster this next generation of investigators. All trainees are encouraged to attend this day. Attendance is free. Please see the SRBR conference webpage for more information.

The Society will offer a limited number of research merit travel awards to help defray the cost of attending the SRBR meeting. Please refer to the conference webpage for more information.

Ken Wright, Chair, SRBR Trainee Affairs Committee

Melatonin Symposium in Memory of Aaron Lerner

As many of you may know, Aaron Lerner died on February 3rd 2007 aged 86. He was destined to provide a fundamental and increasingly important step in our understanding of chronobiology and sleep, by the isolation and characterization of melatonin in 1958. He remained interested in the extraordinary ramifications of his discovery for the rest of his life, although his major interests were elsewhere: he was a brilliant dermatologist who founded the department of dermatology at Yale University in 1956 and chaired the department during its development as an international center of excellence for 30 years.

In view of the importance of melatonin to multiple aspects of biological rhythm research, a symposium will be held in conjunction with the biennial meeting of the SRBR as a tribute to this great man. The symposium, entitled "*The Importance of Melatonin to Research in Biological Rhythms*", will take place on Saturday, May 17th, from 1400-1730h at the conference center in Sandestin, FL. The intent of the program is to cover the story of melatonin, in relation to biological rhythms, from its inception to future prospects in research and clinical therapeutics. Organized by Jo Arendt and Al Lewy, the program will feature prominent scientists, each of whom has made a major contribution to the field. Attendance at the symposium will be open to all SRBR registrants.

Exciting Program Set for Biennial Meeting

Dear Colleagues,

As you probably know, the Eleventh Meeting of the SRBR will be held this year at the Sandestin Beach Resort in sunny Florida. The meeting will officially kick off on Saturday evening May 17th with the Opening Reception. The scientific session will run from Sunday morning (May 18th) through Wednesday evening (May 21st), ending with the Pittendrigh-Aschoff lecture and the banquet.

Putting together the program has been both an exciting but daunting task. Each year, the function of clocks is evident in an ever-widening array of biological functions and model systems. Elucidating the underlying molecular mechanics of circadian timekeepers has opened up new avenues to understanding the contribution of biological clocks to human diseases, such as depression, obesity and cancer. We have developed a series of symposia that reflects this depth and breadth, highlighting areas of excellence as well as new and growing areas. One theme of the meeting is cross-fertilization: we attempted to include representatives from multiple model organisms within each symposium, highlighting our remarkably biodiversity. We also tried to keep concurrent sessions to a minimum to maximize the possibility that people from different fields will be exposed to each others' work and each other. We thank the many members who have given us many great ideas with which to work. Although we did need to fix the program relatively early to secure funding for the meeting, we tried to incorporate your ideas where we could.

Please visit the conference website

(<http://www.conferences.uiuc.edu/conferences/conference.asp?ID=292>) or go to www.srbr.org for more details on the meeting. And don't forget to submit an abstract to present your work at the meeting. The deadline is March 1. We look forward to seeing you in Florida.

Program Committee:

Chair - Ravi Allada, M.D., Northwestern University

Hiroki Ueda, M.D., Ph.D., RIKEN
Michael Nitabach, J.D., Ph.D., Yale University
Shantha Rajaratnam, Ph.D., Monash University
Bambos Kyriacou, Ph.D., University of Leicester
Fred Turek, Ph.D., Northwestern University
Russell Van Gelder, M.D., Ph.D., Univ of Washington, USA
Phyllis Zee, M.D., Ph.D., Northwestern University
Carla Green, Ph.D., University of Virginia
Joe Bass, M.D., Ph.D., Northwestern University

New Website Under Construction

Dear SRBR Members,

We are excited to bring you the first issue of the SRBR Newsletter. The Newsletter will serve as the out-reach arm of the Society. Second, a new SRBR Website will be launched in the coming weeks. The Website will be redesigned and expanded, will increase the transparency of the SRBR and serve as a Forum for its members. New features will include membership directory, highlight of members' laboratory, and—yes—a forum. These are two exciting new developments with the aim to enhance communication within the SRBR.



For SRBR members: To have a **web-link to your laboratory** included on the Website at the launch, please send an email with in the subject heading “Laboratory Web-Link”, and as content: (1) URL; (2) Laboratory name; and (3) Institution to Karen Nichols (srbrmembership@ad.uiuc.edu) before March 7th.

With the founding of the Committee on Communications, Martha Gillette, PhD as President of the SRBR recognized a critical opportunity for enhancing the cohesion among the SRBR community. The Committee includes Janis Anderson, PhD, Ralph Mistlberger, PhD, and Shelley Tischkau, PhD. We hope these new instruments will “significantly enhance communication within our Society in ways that help us better serve the members and build camaraderie within the Society” [Martha Gillette].

Best regards,

Frank AJL Scheer, Chair, SRBR Committee on Communications

From the Newsletter Editor -

Welcome to the first issue of the SRBR newsletter! This publication represents the efforts of the newly formed committee on communications to enhance the transmission of information within our society. We hope to use the newsletter as a forum to provide SRBR members with information regarding the society. Some ideas that are being considered for regular features in the newsletter include: a letter from the President; reports from SRBR committees; news from NIH and other relevant funding agencies; advertising for upcoming SRBR meetings and other meetings of interest; highlights of the SRBR and other meetings of interest; awards and recognition of members; letters to the editor; and lab highlights.

Our plan is to publish the newsletter quarterly. Although this first issue has been sent to the SRBR membership via e-mail, future issues will be posted to the new SRBR website (currently under construction). Upon posting to the website, the membership will receive an e-mail containing the headlines for articles with links directly to the website. Development of the newsletter remains in its infancy and we invite your feedback and suggestions. This is your newsletter, and your participation will make it a document that everyone looks forward to reading. I look forward to working with all of you on this project!

Shelley Tischkau -- Newsletter Editor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shelley".