

**Musings from the Director.....**



Another academic year rapidly draws to an end. The past academic year saw a significant increase in our membership, including the size of our active chemosensory base, with another base hire potentially in the offing. I was most pleased to hear from Dr. Susan Sullivan, the NIDCD Program Officer for the chemical senses, that she considers UF among three recognized centers of chemical senses research in the US (along with the Monell Center in Philadelphia and the Rocky Mountain Center in Denver). That suggests we're on a healthy trajectory with a concomitant gain in potential competitiveness for grants, collaborations with industry, and public visibility. Sincere thanks to everyone for helping get us where we are!

We didn't schedule a chemical senses seminar for April due to the national chemical senses meeting (AChemS) being held April 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> just down the road in Bonita Springs (Ft. Meyers). This meeting brings very many of the national and international chemical senses scientists literally on our doorstep. I encourage everyone to attend even if just for one or two days. The meeting hotel is an especially nice family friendly venue (see page 6).

We won't be resuming our regular seminar series until the Fall term, but I want to remind everyone to save the date - Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> - for this year's Joint UF/FSU Chemical Senses Symposium, which will again be held at UF (see page 3). A detailed schedule for that will appear shortly. We also plan to put the News and Announcements on hold for the summer term and resume again with the Fall term in August, but we'll continue to distribute announcements of special interest to the membership such as the Joint Symposium throughout the summer term.

**In This Issue**

**Director's Musings**

Page 1

**Featured Member**

Page 2

**Save the Date: Monday, June 2 -**

**UF/FSU Joint Annual Chemical Senses Symposium**

Page 3

**Positions Available**

Page 4

**NIH Announcements**

Page 5

**Upcoming Chemical Senses Meetings**

Page 6

P.O. Box 100127

Phone: 352-294-5360

Fax: 352-294-5365

## Featured Member

---

### Dr. Neil E. Rowland

**Professor and Chair  
Department of Psychology  
330 Psychology Building  
University of Florida**



Contact:

[nrowland@ufl.edu](mailto:nrowland@ufl.edu)

This month we're pleased to feature member Dr. Neil Rowland, Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology. Dr. Rowland's laboratory here at UF performs research in food intake, a behavior that is critically dependent upon the chemical senses, and consequences of abnormal eating such as anorexia or obesity.

Obesity has become a major problem for human society. It takes a measurable toll on health measures such as diabetes, hypertension, and longevity and a less measured but arguably greater toll in psychological factors like quality of life and self-esteem. Animal models can help dissect the interaction between genes and environment in eating behavior. One project in his lab investigates how economic costs imposed on food affect total intake (demand) and pattern of eating (large vs small meals) in mice. They study mice of various genetic backgrounds, including those with an obese phenotype. Some of these studies involve choice among foods of varying costs. In other projects they investigate the neural signals that may be responsible for eating, primarily by examining the effects on food intake of drugs that target specific chemical systems. One unanticipated direction emerging from this work is a new animal model for anorexia nervosa, for which they are currently seeking funding in collaboration with member Dr. Shawn Dotson.

Another major project in the lab is part of a multi-institution project, funded by a 5-year T01 (NIH) grant entitled, 'Energetics, disparities and lifespan: A unified hypothesis' (PI: Dr. David Allison, U. Alabama Birmingham). In Dr. Rowland's RO1 subproject, cohorts of mice live their natural lives with either predictable or unpredictable food availability, and various health-related measures including body fat content are being collected across the natural life span.

We are most pleased to have Dr. Rowland as an active member of our chemical senses research community.

## **Save the Date: Monday, June 2**

### **UF/FSU Joint Annual Chemical Senses Symposium**

---

This year we will again hold the Joint UF/FSU Chemical Senses Symposium to showcase chemical senses research across our two institutions and help foster the legacy of Florida being one of five international 'hotspots' of chemical senses research from which the field arose over 60 years ago. This year it will again be held at UF. The venue will be changed from the University Hilton Hotel and Conference Center to the McKnight Brain Institute on the campus proper. We hope attendees will find the new venue even more convenient. Free parking will be available in the outpatient parking garage only a few hundred yards from the Brain Institute. Sleeping rooms will again be provided at the Hilton for attendees from FSU, which will also be the site of the post-meeting reception. A detailed program including venue details will be available closer in.



## Positions Available

---

### POSTDOCTORAL POSITION IN OLFACTORY SYSTEMS NEUROBIOLOGY

A postdoctoral position is available studying odor coding and processing in the mouse olfactory system. In the laboratory of Dr. Matt Wachowiak at the University of Utah. A major focus of the laboratory is understanding how the olfactory bulb processes information in the context of active sensing using a combination of optical and optogenetic tools, genetic and viral targeting of defined cell types, and electrophysiological recordings. Preparations include both anesthetized and awake behaving animals. The lab is well-equipped to support a number of potential projects depending on interest and expertise.

Postdoctoral researchers will be part of a strong and growing community of systems- and cellular-level neuroscientists at the University of Utah, with excellent resources including multiple setups for *in vivo* two-photon imaging, whole-cell and multichannel extracellular recordings and optogenetics. Salt Lake City also provides an excellent quality of life for those with a love for the outdoors and a modest cost of living. PhD graduates with an interest in sensory systems are encouraged to apply. Experience with *in vivo* mammalian neurophysiology and data analysis is important. Interested persons should send a CV and a brief e-mail ([matt.wachowiak@utah.edu](mailto:matt.wachowiak@utah.edu)) message describing their interests and relevant experience.

Lab web site: <http://brain.utah.edu/research/wachowiak/>





## NIH Announcements

---

- **NIDCD Small Grant Program (R03)**  
[\(PAR-13-057\)](#)  
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders  
Application Receipt/Submission Date(s): February 26, 2013; June 26, 2013; October 18, 2013; February 26, 2014; June 26, 2014; October 28, 2014; February 26, 2015; June 26, 2015; October 28, 2015
- **NIDCD Clinical Research Center Grant (P50)**  
[\(PAR-13-062\)](#)  
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders  
Application Receipt/Submission Date(s): February 22, 2013; May 30, 2013; October 1, 2013; January 30, 2014; June 2, 2014; October 1, 2014; February 2, 2015; June 6, 2015; October 1, 2015
- **NIDCD Research Grants for Translating Basic Research into Clinical Tools (R01)**  
[\(PAR-14-009\)](#)  
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders  
Application Receipt/Submission Date(s): June 23, 2014, February 23, 2015, October 23, 2015, June 23, 2016, February 23, 2017
- **Notice of Participation of NIDCD in RFA-NS-13-013 Collaborative Research on Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy and Delayed Effects of Traumatic Brain Injury: Neuropathology and Neuroimaging Correlation (U01)**  
[\(NOT-DC-13-004\)](#)  
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders
- **Notice of Participation of NIDCD in RFA-NS-13-014 Pilot Projects on Sports-Related Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Research (R21)**  
[\(NOT-DC-13-005\)](#)  
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders
- **Notice of Participation of NIDCD in RFA-NS-13-015 Pilot Projects on Sports-Related Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Research (R03)**  
[\(NOT-DC-13-006\)](#)  
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders
- **NIDCD Research Grants for Translating Basic Research into Clinical Tools (R01)**  
[\(PAR-14-009\)](#)  
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders  
Application Receipt/Submission Date(s): June 23, 2014, February 23, 2015, October 23, 2015, June 23, 2016, February 23, 2017

~~~~~  
**UFCST Travel  
graduate students and  
postdocs**  
~~~~~

The Center provides travel awards for graduate students and postdocs at the University of Florida on an ongoing basis. We encourage applications from young scientists whose main area of interest is not the chemical senses, but who would benefit from exposure to the field. We will also consider requests from graduate students and postdocs actively working in the chemical senses to attend the AChemS annual meeting or other scientific meetings of relevance to chemical senses research. Please submit requests for support in the form of a letter to the Center office at [ufcst@ufl.edu](mailto:ufcst@ufl.edu) at least one month before the start of the meeting. Please include in the request the estimated cost of travel, registration, and housing while at the meeting, and whether or not you intend to make a scientific presentation. Graduate students should submit letters that are countersigned or otherwise supported by their mentor. UFCST Travel Awards will be governed by the University of Florida travel guidelines.



## Upcoming Chemical Senses Meetings

---

**April 9-13, 2014**

**AChemS 2014 Annual Meeting**

Hyatt Regency

Bonita Springs (Fort Meyers), FL

<http://www.achems.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3962>

**\* ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: January 6, 2014**

<http://meetingassistant5.com/ACheMS2014/>

**May 11-13, 2014**

**SenseAsia 2014**

SingEx, Singapore

<http://www.senseasia.elsevier.com/>

**July 2014, 2014**

**Chemical Signals in Vertebrates 13**

University of Illinois

<http://www.life.illinois.edu/isce-csiv/>

This meeting, now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, focuses on chemical ecology with particular emphasis on chemical signals in terrestrial vertebrates, but has an increasingly broad representation of chemical senses research.

**September 10-14, 2014**

**ECRO XXIV Dijon**

Dijon, France

<https://colloque.inra.fr/ecro2014>