

News and Announcements

Musings from the Director.....



As 2014 draws to an end, it seems appropriate to reflect on the notable growth in Center faculty we experienced over the past year. Dr. Jeffery Martens was hired as the new Chair of Pharmacology. Dr. Steven Munger was a new preeminence hire, also in Pharmacology. Dr. Munger serves as the Center's new Associate Director. While still technically a postdoc, Dr. Jeremy McIntyre is the holder of an NIH Pathways to Independence (K99/R00) award that is scheduled to transition him to a faculty position during the upcoming year. Negotiations are currently underway in Biology that, if successful, will bring two established chemical senses faculty to campus during the upcoming year. Having up to five new chemosensory scientists join our ranks represents a significant gain in core faculty that will precipitate stronger, more diverse research initiatives.

While the Fall term begins to wind down this month, we still have an upcoming seminar of interest to the chemical senses community. Dr. Nathan Schoppa, who studies neural connectivity in the olfactory CNS, will be speaking at FSU (see item 3). Plans are to teleconference his talk to UF. Our UF seminar series continues in the Spring term (see item 4). Before you tuck into your Holiday dinner be sure to think about abstracts for the annual national chemical senses meeting (AChemS, see item 6) since the abstract deadline is January 5th, 2015, even though the meeting is not until April. Abstracts can be submitted any time before then at: <http://meetingassistant5.com/AChemS2015/>.

As this is the last issue of the News and Announcements before the Holidays, I want to take the opportunity to extend my warmest wishes to each of you as you enjoy the many smells and tastes of the Holiday season. There is probably no better time of the year to reflect on the importance of the chemical senses to our quality of life.

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Featured Member

Dr. Christopher Batich, Professor
Dept. of Materials Science and Engineering
College of Engineering
University of Florida



Contact:

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This month we're pleased to feature one of our members from UF's College of Engineering, Dr. Chris Batich. Dr. Batich epitomizes the unique research potential our Center can offer the field in being part of such a large, diverse, and centralized university as UF.

Dr. Batich obtained a PhD in chemistry from Rutgers University, did a post-doc at the University of Basel in Switzerland, and then spent seven years at the DuPont Central Research Department before coming to UF in 1980. He has been involved in research for applications of materials to biomedical devices in numerous collaborative projects with the UF Health Sciences Center. From 1997 until 2001 he was the founding director of the graduate Biomedical Engineering Program that has now formed a department, and was the PI of the Whitaker Foundation Grant dedicated to that activity. From 2008 until 2010, he was founding associate director and chief operating officer of the new Clinical and Translational Science Institute at UF and participated in writing the \$25 million dollar grant from the NIH that began that institute. He is currently a liaison for Public-Private activities in the CTSI, and is a joint member of the UF BME Department as well as a professor in the Materials Science and Engineering Department. He has published about 140 peer reviewed papers and is an inventor or co-inventor on 61 patents which were developed while at UF. A number of those have been licensed and commercialized and now bring income to the university.

While at DuPont and subsequently at UF, Dr. Batich has worked with surface modification and analysis of polymeric materials in the context of drug delivery and preventing neurodegeneration. Most recently, his research has expanded into several Florida High Tech Corridor-funded projects on developing long-lasting spatial chemical repellents for various insects. Collaborators on those projects include Drs. Phil Koehler and Roberto Pereira in the Dept. of Entomology and Nematology (IFAS), as well as Dr. Dan Kline at the US Department of Agriculture facility in Gainesville. Dr. Brad Willenberg, another collaborator on the project recently accepted a faculty position at UCF.

As you can imagine, we are most pleased to have Dr. Batich as a member of our active and growing chemical senses research community.

Upcoming Chemical Senses Seminar at FSU

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

'Signal processing in a single olfactory bulb glomerulus'

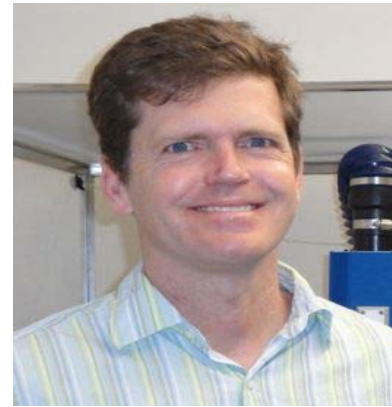
Nathan E. Schoppa, PhD

Professor, Department of Physiology and Biophysics
University of Colorado School of Medicine
Denver, CO

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

3:30 PM

Rm A211, PDB (new Psychology Building)



Contact:

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Dr. Schoppa is interested in understanding mechanisms used by the brain to process olfactory cues. He focuses on two structures, the olfactory bulb and the piriform cortex, asking basic questions about what neurons are present, how they are connected, and how groups of neurons work to affect a particular output for a circuit. Methodologically, he combines electrophysiological and optical recordings in brain slices, confocal microscopy, as well as computational and ultrastructural approaches. He also uses transgenic/viral techniques for labeling specific cell-types and optogenetic manipulation.

Note: This lecture is at FSU in Tallahassee. To attend this or all chemical senses lectures at FSU, you can park in one of four reserved spaces in front of the new Psychology Building on W. Call St. Move the parking cone if necessary, then go inside the building and ask the receptionist for a parking permit to display on your windshield. Be sure to return the permit before you leave! If you wish, you can also use the office maintained for visiting UF faculty and students in the Psychology Building, which is equipped with a phone and computer for your use. Ask the receptionist for directions and a key.

Note: If your schedule will not allow driving to FSU, we plan to live stream this lecture to the MBI conference room on the 5th floor of the McKnight Brain Institute, just outside of the Center office, Rm L5-101B.

LUNCH WITH THE
SPEAKERS
IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWS THE
SEMINAR

Faculty are reminded to encourage their postdocs and grad students (sorry, no faculty) to take advantage of the opportunity to meet with each of our speakers immediately following their seminar.

These luncheons are provided at no charge and are held just upstairs from the seminar room in the MBI conference room, Rm L5-101B. Take the elevator to the 5th floor and turn right immediately on exiting the elevator.

If you have a student or postdoc who would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please have them contact Cheri Brown (browncl@ufl.edu) to reserve a spot since seating is limited.

UFCST's

Chemical Senses Spring 2015 Seminar Schedule

In case you haven't already done so, be sure to save the dates for the remainder of our Fall seminar series. All seminars are held at Noon in the Deweese Auditorium in the McKnight Brain Institute, 1149 Newell Dr. Don't forget, the seminars are followed immediately by a meet-the-speaker luncheon for graduate students and postdocs who sign up in advance (browcl@ufl.edu).

Wednesday, January 7 – Dr. Lisa Stowers, Scripps Research Institute, San Diego

Dr. Stowers studies how cues in the environment are detected and transformed into electrical activity in the brain to generate behavior. Her lab is identifying the coding logic of all aspects of the system, including: (1) specific pheromone chemosignals that generate stereotypic behavior, (2) sensory neurons that detect pheromones and other specialized chemosignals, and (3) the neural and molecular mechanisms in the brain that result in stereotypic behavior. They are studying several independent stereotypic behaviors in the mouse: male-male aggression, pup-suckling, inter-species fear, female reproductive behavior, and scent marking, to determine the neural mechanisms that specify each behavior as well as the common mechanisms that underlie general principles of stereotypic behavior.

Wednesday February 4 – Dr. Tom Bozza, Department of Neurobiology, Northwestern University

Dr. Bozza studies the molecular genetics and physiology of olfaction. His work addresses the fundamental question in biology as to how systems, from individual proteins to organisms, recognize molecular structure, taking advantage of the vertebrate olfactory system as a remarkable molecular recognition device. Animals can detect odorous chemicals at extremely low concentrations, and can discriminate among an enormous number of structurally diverse molecules. The long-term goal of his work is to understand how the nervous system encodes molecular information, and how neural circuits give rise to learned and innate olfactory-driven behavior.

Wednesday March 4 – Dr. Ivan de Araujo, The J.B. Pierce Foundation Laboratory, Yale University

Dr. de Araujo studies the neurobiology of feeding, specifically the role of the neurotransmitter dopamine in feeding behavior. His laboratory is specifically interested in identifying the gastrointestinal and neural nutrient sensors that – in contraposition to oral sensors – mediate the impact of calorie intake on tonic dopamine levels in dorsal striatum. Their studies make use of a combination of techniques including behavioral, neurochemical (brain microdialysis), electrophysiological, neuroanatomical, and optogenetic methods. Current projects in his laboratory investigate the influence of sugar-derived calories in the formation of alimentary habits (via its effect on dorsal striatum dopamine release), and the role of the vagus nerve and its brainstem target in mediating the reinforcing properties of dietary fat.

NIH Announcements

- NIDCD Research Career Transition Award for Nurturing Clinician-Investigators (K22) (RFA DC-15-002)
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DC-15-002.html>
- NIDCD Small Grant Program (R03) (PAR-13-057)
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)
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)
- NIDCD Research Grants for Translating Basic Research into Clinical Tools (R01) (PAR-14-009)
Application Receipt/Submission Date(s): June 23, 2014, February 23, 2015, October 23, 2015, June 23, 2016, February 23, 2017



Upcoming Chemical Senses Meetings

~~~~~ **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 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.

December 8-9, 2014

Digital Olfaction Society 2014

Tokyo Institute of Technology
Japan

www.olfaction-site.com

April 22-25, 2015

AChemS 37th Annual Meeting

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point
Bonita Springs, FL

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

June 5-9, 2016

ISOT 2016 – 17th International Symposium on Olfaction and Taste

Yokohama, Japan

<http://www.isot2016.com/>