

University of Florida

CENTER FOR SMELL AND TASTE

News and Announcements

Musings From the Director.....



The beginning of a new term is always an exciting time in academe and this term promises to be no exception for the Center, with the arrival of several new members. We feature another one in this issue (see page 2).

One of our goals for 2014 will be to initiate the conceptual groundwork necessary to compete for a Clinical Center (P50) grant from the NIH. Earlier, we received a planning grant (R21/R33) to put the necessary infrastructure in place for these awards such as HIPPA-compliant record keeping, so that is done. We'll have more to say about that initiative in future issues.

Typically we use the first newsletter of the year to recognize our new Corporate Affiliate members. We are pleased to have Firmenich, Inc. on board – actually, on board again since they were our founding Corporate Affiliate. Firmenich, Inc. is an international flavor and fragrance company headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with local offices in Lakeland, Florida. We thank Firmenich, Inc., for recognizing the potential of the Center to partner with industry to address common goals and for helping to foster our 'town and gown' initiative.

Finally, I want to remind everyone again that the abstract deadline for the main national chemical senses meeting (AChemS) is Monday, January 6th. It may be too late to submit an abstract by the time you read this if you haven't already done so, but even if you don't present I encourage you to plan to attend this very informative and scientifically rewarding meeting, especially given that this year it returns to Florida (see page 5).

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Featured Member

Dr. Elizabeth Capaldi-Phillips

Executive Director, UF Online
Office of Academic Affairs
University of Florida



Contact:

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We're continuing to feature our new members. This month we're featuring Dr. Elizabeth 'Betty' Capaldi-Phillips. Betty was a former Provost at UF, who is returning to serve as the Executive Director of UF's Online, UF's online bachelor's degree programs, in the Office of Academic Affairs. Betty is a trained psychologist with an earned Doctorate in Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin. She has a courtesy appointment in the Department of Psychology. Throughout the administrative part of her career Betty has maintained an active research laboratory.

Her research focuses on psychological factors that affect food consumption. Recently her lab has been studying bitterness suppression of cruciferous vegetables, with the goal of increasing palatability and consumption. They are looking at the effect of prototypical tastants, particularly sucrose and sodium chloride, on bitterness ratings and whether their effect is mediated by individual differences in taste sensitivity. By increasing liking of vegetables in children using conditioned flavor preference techniques, they have taught 3-5 year old children to like Brussels sprouts through flavor-nutrient and flavor-flavor conditioning.

In related work they also study how presentation of a food affects food intake. Most recently they have shown that people eat less of a food it is cut up into pieces. They are currently investigating the underlying perceptual and cognitive mechanisms responsible for this effect, which is emerging to be more of a perceptual phenomenon. This work recently was summarized in a review in *Eating Behaviors* (Wadhera, D. & Capaldi-Phillips, E.D. (2014). A review of visual cues associated with food on food acceptance and consumption. *Eating Behaviors*, 15(1), 132-143. doi: 10.1016/j.eatbeh.2013.11.003).

We are most pleased to have Betty join UF's growing chemical senses research community. Her expertise will clearly enhance the Center's ability to help IFAS's Plant Innovation Program to develop more consumer-acceptable Florida produce.

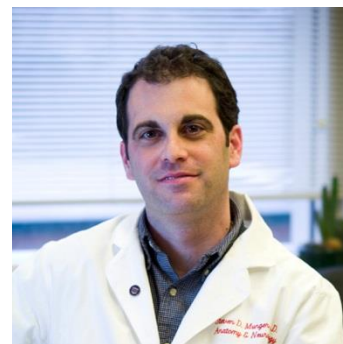
Upcoming Chemical Senses Seminar

Sponsored by the Center for Smell and Taste and the McKnight Brain Institute

“A common molecular toolkit for alimentary chemosensation: implications for taste, nutrient assimilation, and metabolic disease”

by

**Steven D. Munger, Ph.D., Professor
Dept. Anatomy and Neurobiology
Dept. Medicine, Div. Endocrinology,
Diabetes, and Nutrition
University of Maryland School of Medicine
20 Penn St., Room S251
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**Wednesday, January 29, 2014
12:00 Noon**

**DeWeese Auditorium, Room LG-101
McKnight Brain Institute**

The body requires an array of specialized chemoreceptors along the alimentary canal to recognize and respond to compounds in foods that influence ingestive decisions and initiate physiologic processes critical for nutrient assimilation and metabolic homeostasis. Interestingly, many chemosensitive cells in the gustatory, gastrointestinal and associated systems rely on the same families of receptors, transduction molecules, and bioactive peptides to detect sugars, amino acids, and even potential toxins. The seminar will address how this common molecular toolkit allows the body to control these processes and ways that these pathways could be targeted to impact obesity and related metabolic diseases.

*LUNCH WITH
Dr. Munger
IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWS THE
SEMINAR:*

Faculty are reminded to encourage postdocs and grad students to take advantage of the opportunity to attend the luncheon with Dr. Munger immediately following the seminar on **Wednesday, January 29th** in **Rm. LG-5-101B, McKnight Brain Institute.**

These luncheons are provided at no charge and are an excellent opportunity to meet with the Center's speakers one-on-one. If you have a student or post doc who would like to attend, please have them e-mail us at ufcst@ufl.edu to reserve a spot since seating is limited.



NIH News

- **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

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**UFCST Travel  
graduate students and  
postdocs**  
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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.



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/>