

News and Announcements

Musings from the Director.....



Welcome everyone to the New Year and the start of a new term! I hope you had more than ample opportunity to savor many tastes and smells of the Holiday season. We jump right into the term with a visit and seminar by Dr. Lisa Stowers on January 7th (see item 2). Count on an outstanding and interesting presentation as Dr. Stowers helps us understand the mysterious world of pheromones in mammals.

Be sure to pencil in the dates for the remainder of our Spring chemical senses seminars (see item 3). We envision the Spring term will be an especially busy one, given the prospect of as many as 5-6 potential new faculty hires in the chemical senses in various units across campus. These are in various stages of negotiations, so be sure to stay tuned for forthcoming announcements. The prospect of being able to significantly increase the size of our chemical senses community at UF during 2015 is most exciting, indeed.

The first N&A of the calendar year is when we typically acknowledge the importance of our corporate members and our chemical senses colleagues in the flavor, fragrance, food, and beverage industries, many of which maintain local operations here in Florida even though they are large multinational corporations. We are particularly proud to acknowledge the financial support of our Corporate Affiliates, those corporations that contribute a minimum of \$2,000 per annum to help foster the mission of the Center and expand town-gown interaction. Currently we have just one active Corporate Affiliate, Firmenich, Inc., based in Geneva, Switzerland, with local operations in Lakeland FL, but we look forward to expanding our Corporate Affiliates in 2015. Corporate Affiliates are very special to our mission, and we give them hearty thanks.

Again, welcome back to what could be a very exciting year for our chemical senses community.

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Upcoming Chemical Senses Seminar at UF Wednesday, January 7, 2015

‘How the Sense of Explains a Female’s Unpredictable Behavior’

Lisa Stowers, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Molecular
and Cellular Neuroscience
The Scripps Research Institute
La Jolla, CA

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

12:00 Noon

De Weese Auditorium, Room LG-101A
McKnight Brain Institute



Contact:

stowers@scripps.edu

Dr. Stowers is an emerging leader in olfactory research who studies pheromone chemosignals, their receptors, and the neural and molecular mechanisms in the brain that result in stereotypic behavior in mammals, including male-male aggression, pup-suckling, inter-species fear, female reproductive behavior, and scent marking. She is revealing the neural mechanisms that specify each behavior as well as common mechanisms that underlie stereotypic behavior in general.

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 (brownc1@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 our spring 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 (brownc1@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


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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

Upcoming Chemical Senses Meetings

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/>