

**University of Florida**

## **CENTER FOR SMELL AND TASTE**

### **News and Announcements**

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



March continues the Spring seminar season. This past month we had an exciting seminar at UF by Dr. Kristin Baldwin (Scripps Research Institute) on using state of the art approaches to understand generating neuronal diversity and connectivity in the olfactory system and one at FSU by Dr. Ralph Norgren (Penn State U.) on the search for sweet. This month we follow with one at UF by Dr. John Hayes (Penn State U) on the genetic basis of food choice (see page 3) and another at FSU by Dr. Regina Sullivan on the developmental neurobiology of infant attachment (see page 4).

Again this month I'm pleased to be able to recognize special achievements of our members. This month laudits go out to Dr. Rebecca Butcher, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, who received a prestigious Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship, given to early-career scientists recognized as rising stars of the next generation of scientific leaders. Congratulations Rebecca!

Although it is still some months away, I want to encourage everyone to save Monday, June 2 for this year's Joint UF/FSU Chemical Senses Symposium, to again be held at UF (see page 5). Be sure to announce the date to everyone in your research group.

The Center benefits greatly from the return of overhead it gets from members' grants. UF makes a special distribution of 7.5% of the overhead generated by a grant to any center or institute specified by the PI. This amount is divided if multiple centers or institutes are specified. This special allocation does not diminish the overhead received by the PI nor the PI's department. I therefore want to encourage PIs to specify the Center to receive this special allocation when you are asked to assign the overhead of your grant(s). This will be the last month to remind members who haven't already done so to consider planning to attend the main national chemical senses meeting (AChemS) in early April in Ft. Meyers (see page 7). The proximity of this national meeting to UF provides a special opportunity to experience the full role and scope of research in our field, not only nationally but also internationally due to the number of foreign chemical senses researchers typically in attendance.

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## Featured Member

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### Dr. Nemat Keyhani

**Professor, Department of Microbiology and Cell Science  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Science  
University of Florida**



Contact:  
[keyhani@ufl.edu](mailto:keyhani@ufl.edu)

This month we're pleased to feature member Dr. Nemat Keyhani in the Department of Microbiology and Cell Science. Dr. Keyhani received his PhD from the Johns Hopkins University in 1994. His laboratory here at UF performs research in two main areas. First, he studies tripartite interactions between *Beauveria bassiana*, a fungal pathogen of arthropods, their insect hosts, and plant partners with which the fungus forms associations. This project involves fundamental and applied research in host-pathogen interactions and insect biological control. They use a variety of approaches including molecular (gene knockouts, transcriptomics), biochemical (enzyme assays, yeast two-hybrid), and cell biological (microscopy; electron, fluorescent, and Atomic Force) to probe fungal development, insect virulence, and plant interactions. Second, he also studies chemical communication in insects. His lab examines proteins involved in olfaction and ligand transport in a number of insects including mosquitoes, the tsetse fly, and ants – including the pesky fire ant. In particular, he is interested in exploring the contributions of these proteins within the framework of the biochemistry and evolution of insect social behavior. As a molecular biologist and insect chemical ecologist, Dr. Keyhani epitomizes the broad diversity of expertise that the Center brings to bear on chemical senses related issues and questions at the University of Florida.

# Announcing the Center's Upcoming March Seminar

Sponsored by the Center for Smell and Taste, the Department of Neuroscience, and the McKnight Brain Institute

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

Faculties are reminded to encourage postdocs and grad students to take advantage of the opportunity to attend the luncheon with Dr.

Hayes immediately following the seminar on **Wednesday, March 12th** in **Rm. L5-101B**, **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](mailto:ufcst@ufl.edu) to reserve a spot since seating is limited.

## **“Genotype-phenotype associations and human behavioral nutrigenetics: insights and pitfalls”**

by

**John E. Hayes, Ph.D.**  
**Assistant Professor, Department of Food Science**  
**Director, Sensory Evaluation Center**  
**The Pennsylvania State University**  
**University Park, PA**



**Wednesday, March 12, 2014**  
**12:00 Noon**

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

Chemosensation varies across individuals due to polymorphisms in receptor genes. Dr. Hayes will argue this variation is sufficient to influence food choices in humans. His laboratory has phenotyped over 500 individuals since 2011 to build three genotype-phenotype datasets to explore relationships between orosensory phenotypes, liking, food intake, and chemosensory polymorphisms. He will discuss genotype-phenotype associations for non-nutritive sweeteners and salt replacers, as well as novel evidence that some previously published reports may reflect spurious associations due to linkage disequilibrium.

# **Announcing an Upcoming Chemical Senses Seminar in the Rushton Scholars Series at FSU**

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## **‘Maternal control over brain activity in developing infant amygdala’**

by

**Dr. Regina Sullivan, Ph.D.  
Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry  
Nathan Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research  
New York University School of Medicine  
New York, NY**



**Wednesday, March 26, 2014  
3:30 PM**

**Psychology Building  
Rm PDB A211  
Florida State University**

Dr. Sullivan's research interests include understanding the neurobiology of infant attachment to the caregiver and the impact of attachment quality on development of the brain to control cognitive and emotional development. Dr. Sullivan will be in residence in Psychology from March 26<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup> for faculty, postdocs, and graduate students interested in meeting with her one-on-one. The Center maintains an office in the Psychology building at FSU for such purposes. The receptionist in the lobby can direct you to it.

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

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

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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 foci of chemical senses research from which the field arose over 60 years ago. This year it will again be held at UF, although the venue will be changed from the University Hilton Hotel and Conference Center to the McKnight Brain Institute on campus proper. We hope attendees find the new venue even more convenient. Sleeping rooms at the Hilton will again be provided 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.







## NIH Announcements

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- **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](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

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**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>