

Tennessee Physiological Society Holds First Annual Meeting

The Tennessee Physiological Society (TPS) held its first annual meeting on Friday, October 23, 2009 at the Vanderbilt University Student Life Center. The meeting was hosted by the Vanderbilt Department of Molecular Physiology & Biophysics and also supported by the Department of Anesthesiology. Peter K. Lauf, Chair of the APS Chapter Advisory Committee, officiated and witnessed the birth of TPS. By a majority vote, attendees approved the bylaws and thereby officially created the Society. The bylaws had been previously approved by APS council, officially recognizing TPS as the Tennessee Chapter of the American Physiological Society. By a majority vote, the first

slate of TPS officers was approved. Eric Delpire from the Department of Anesthesiology at Vanderbilt University was recognized as TPS President, Donald Thomason from the Department of Physiology at University of Tennessee Health Science Center recognized as TPS President-elect, and Tom W. Ecay from the Department of Physiology at East Tennessee State University recognized as the TPS Treasurer.

The one day meeting was organized with morning talks, lunch, afternoon poster session, keynote address, and dinner. Four Tennessee institutions were represented in the morning talks: Ronald Emeson from the Department of Pharmacology at Vanderbilt spoke on Prader-Willi syndrome and serotonin receptor editing. Zhongmao Guo from the Meharry Medical College spoke on the protective role of the aryl hydrocarbon receptor pathway against atherosclerosis. Carole Williams from the Department of Physiology at East Tennessee State University spoke on neuropeptide, neuromodulation and cardiac ischemia. Charles Leffler from the Department of Physiology at University of Tennessee Health Science Center, spoke on carbon monoxide and newborn cerebral blood flow. Finally, representing the Vanderbilt Postdoctoral fellows, Kevin Erreger presented his work on the regulation of amphetamine-induced dopamine release by glucagon-like peptide-1.

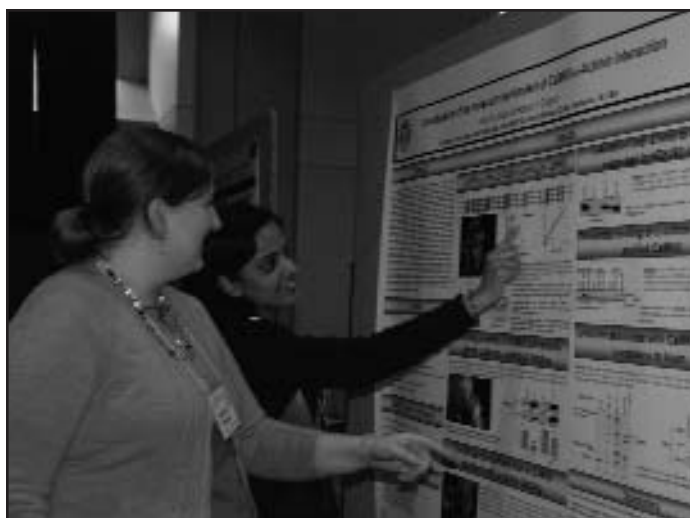
Three events were held in the afternoon: the first event was a poster session with 29 posters featuring a variety

of physiology topics. The second event, which occurred concomitantly to the poster session, was a gathering of high school students with two Vanderbilt physiologists: Maureen Gannon and Alyssa Hasty. Maureen and Alyssa, who work on diabetes and obesity, respectively, cleverly used these two disorders to introduce Physiology and talk about integration of the different organs and systems involved. They both told the students how they got interested in science, how their individual paths led them to end up working in the same institution, and what they like and dislike in their job. The third event was the keynote address by Alan Verkman from the University of California San Francisco. The title of the address was "Chloride channels: discovery and applications of small-molecule modulators." Verkman spoke on systemic diarrhea in third world countries, traveler's diarrhea, cystic fibrosis, chloride channels, the multiple processes involved in their regulation, and the additional transport pathways involved in chloride movement, all as possible targets for the development of new therapeutics. He presented an impressive synopsis of all his successes and efforts in developing new chloride channels inhibitors.

With this initial success, and with a determination to reach out to more institutions and physiologists, TPS will hold its next meeting at UTHSC in Memphis in the fall of 2010. ❖



Alan Verkman presents the Keynote Address.



Nidhi N. Jalan (back) and Heather Gosnell (front), both Vanderbilt graduate students, discuss a presented poster.



Don Thomason, Alan Verkman, Eric Delpire, Peter K. Lauf, Norma Adragna, and Tom W. Ecay.