

NY-ACS BIOCHEMICAL TOPICAL GROUP — JOINT MEETING WITH THE NYAS BIOCHEMICAL PHARMACOLOGY DISCUSSION GROUP

New Developments in Ion Channel Biology and Drug Discovery

Organizers: Mark Bowlby
Wyeth Research, Princeton
John Dunlop
Wyeth Research, Princeton

Ion channels remain a relatively under-exploited target class in terms of drug discovery yet significant advances have been made in understanding the basic biology of many therapeutically relevant channels. This symposium will discuss the latest developments in ion channel drug discovery.

“Voltage Dependent Neuronal Calcium Channels”

Terry Snutch
University of British Columbia, Vancouver

“TRPV1 and Pain”

Alan Wickenden
J&J PR&D, San Diego

“Nav Channels as Targets for Chronic Pain”

Mark Bowlby
Wyeth Research, Princeton

“Effects of Acid Sensing Ion Channels on Fear-related Behavior”

John Wemmie
University of Iowa, Iowa City

Date: Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Time: 1:00 – 5:00 PM

Place: New York Academy of Sciences
2 East 63rd Street
New York, NY

Space is limited. To reserve a seat, go to the calendar at www.nyas.org/bpdg and fill out the online reservation form, e-mail BPDG@nyas.org or call 212.838.0230 x322.

NYAS Members and BPDG Affiliates may attend BPDG meetings free of charge. Non-members may attend for \$20. Non-member students and postdoctoral fellows may attend for \$10. To become a Member of the Academy, visit <http://www.nyas.org/landing.html>.

QUEENSBOROUGH STUDENT WINS FIRST PLACE RESEARCH AWARD

Queensborough Community College was in a class by itself at the American Chemical Society Middle Atlantic Research Conference (MARM) 2006 on June 4th through 7th at Hershey, PA. The conference, which mostly four-year colleges and universities normally attend, features original research in Chemistry and Related Sciences. Hosted by the SE Pennsylvania Section and the Susquehanna Valley Section of the American Chemical Society, the conference generated approximately 60 undergraduate research presentations. Remarkably, 30 of them were by Queensborough Community College students.

First Place Award

Queensborough Community College Chemistry Honors student Rosa Rosales won the first place undergraduate award for her research on *Probing the Interaction Between the Enzyme Dihydropteridine Reductase (DHPR), Cofactor and Inhibitors Using Spectroscopy Techniques*. “It really is quite significant,” said Dr. Paris Svoronos, Professor and Chairperson of the Queensborough Community College Chemistry Department. “It’s unusual enough for a community college to attend the conference; our freshman and sophomore students not only attended but also competed with juniors and seniors of four year colleges. And Rosa Rosales’ research stood out, winning first place in this very competitive environment.”

A Head Start On Original Research

Queensborough Community College’s delegation of 45 proved very prolific as well; 50% of the research presentations were made by Queensborough Community College students. “We began participating in research conferences in 2000 for the first time,” said Dr. Svoronos, who was named Community College Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation and CASE in 2003. “At this point we are making a significant contribution.” A key factor the high level of performance is the training that Chemistry students receive at Queensborough Community College. “We offer courses that specifically train students in Chemistry research and presentation; this gives our students an advantage in producing original research that has been published in peer-

reviewed articles. We also offer internships and opportunities for students to work in connection with grants awarded to the College and internships sought by its faculty. As a result, our students have the kind of preparation that is necessary to excel at conducting research and delivering oral presentations,” said Dr. Svoronos.

Queensborough Community College students conduct research separately from their course work, working on weekends, semester and spring breaks and after classes. “The Chemistry faculty is very supportive of student research. We are always there to offer guidance, ideas and encouragement, which helps students focus on research topics that truly break new ground,” commented Dr. Svoronos.

Scholar’s Scholar

First place winner Rosa Rosales was selected to be a Scholar in the American Chemical Society’s Scholars Program. The Society recognizes the top 100 Chemistry scholars nationwide. Mentored by Dr. Ruel Desamero, she will be a research intern for the second consecutive summer at the Cornell University Nanobiotech Center. She plans to continue her pre-med studies in the fall.

Looking to 2008

Building on its success at the 2004 Undergraduate Research Symposium of the

American Chemical Society-NY section and the 2005 MARM Conference, Queensborough Community College was awarded the hosting of the 40th MARM Conference in 2008, sponsored by the New York section of the American Chemical Society. “I’m very proud of the leadership our students have shown at the various conferences, not only MARM,” said Dr. Svoronos. “Our participation as host in 2008 will be the first time a community college and a CUNY institution has ever hosted this conference. We are expecting more than 800 presenters and research exhibitors from several dozens of colleges and universities. I am thrilled that the College is hosting MARM and look forward to the breakthroughs ahead for our talented students.”



Chemistry Honors student Rosa Rosales wins first place undergraduate award at American Chemical Society Conference.



A record 45 members of the Queensborough Community College student and faculty participated in the American Chemical Society Middle Atlantic Research Conference (MARM) in June 2006 at Hershey, PA