

AMSPC 2023 Meeting Minutes

2023 ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 22 – 26
PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO

AMSPC
ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL SCHOOL PHARMACOLOGY CHAIRS



January 23, 2023

Welcome and Introductions

Bina Joe, PhD, President (2022-2024)

Physiology and Pharmacology

University of Toledo, College of Medicine

- Dr. Joe opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees.
- Asked the new meeting attendees to introduce themselves.
- Asked the former AMSPC chairs to introduce themselves.
- Asked the rest of the meeting attendees to introduce themselves.



Bina Joe, PhD

Reflections of the Past President

Kent E. Vrana, PhD, Immediate Past President (2019-2022)

Pharmacology, Penn State University

- Provided an overview of his education and training
 - BS in Biochemistry, University of Iowa
 - PhD in Biochemistry (Pharmacology minor) from Louisiana State University Medical Center
 - Post-doctoral training at the Carnegie Institution of Washington in Baltimore, MD (on the Johns Hopkins University campus)
 - Began faculty career at West Virginia University as an assistant professor in 1986.
 - Joined Wake Forest University School of Medicine in 1991 and became a full professor in 2001.
 - Named Chair of the Department of Pharmacology at the Milton S. Hersey Medical Center at Penn State in 2004 after Elliot Vesell stepped down.
- Announced that he plans to step down as Chair of Pharmacology at Penn State in January 2024, but will remain active as an NIH funded researcher and faculty member.
- Provided a brief history of the AMSPC and how it was created after ASPET was asked to join the AAMC's Council of Academic Societies (now called the Council of Faculty and Academic Societies-CFAS).



Kent Vrana, Ph.D.

- The first meeting of the AMSPC was held at the Experimental Biology meeting in Atlantic City, NJ., April 14th, 1969.
- Discussed the fact that AMSPC members have voiced concerns going back ~50 years about Pharmacology losing its identity as a distinct medical school discipline.
- Provided an overview of the great impact his predecessor at Penn State, Dr. Elliot Vesell had on the field of pharmacology.
 - Pioneer in the field of Pharmacogenomics
 - Founding Chair of Pharmacology at the Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, where he served as chair for 32 years
 - President of AMSPC 1980-1982
- Described the “Value of Being a Member of AMSPC”
 - Established great friendships (e.g., Joe Moerschbaecher)
 - Learned about managing difficult faculty, conducting faculty interviews, and other important roles that chairs must fulfill.
 - Traveled the world (e.g., Ecuador/Galapagos, Panama, Hawaii, Costa Rica)
 - Dancing and Entertainment at the meetings
 - Many professional opportunities and experiences (e.g., getting advice, visiting capitol hill, working with others on the Knowledge Objectives)
- Described his “Joys of Being a Department Chair”
 - 80-20 rule: 80% of the grief comes from 20% of the faculty.
 - “This too shall pass”
 - Revel in your mistakes and learn from them.
 - The servant leader approach really works.
 - No one will remember your grants and papers, but they will remember your mentorship and support.
 - Seeing your research grow through others (students, post docs & other faculty).
 - Be honest, genuine, and generous with your time.
 - Don’t be afraid of (or avoid) difficult situations.
 - Be adaptable because your environment will change.
 - Be seen as an asset to both the faculty and the administration and be the “Rain Man” (the person who makes things happen).
 - Take time for yourself and for your laboratory.
- Comments from the Audience on the “Joys of Being a Department Chair”
 - Being your own boss
 - Traveling and meeting people from all over the world
 - Keeping the next generation interested in the field

ASPET Strategic Plan Update

Catherine Fry, Ph.D.

Director of Education, ASPET

David Jackson, MBA, CAE

Executive Officer, ASPET

- Strategic Planning Survey (regarding the future of the society) was sent to the larger ASPET community in October 2022. 925 members responded, 209 nonmembers responded
- The ASPET Council and Strategic Planning Task Force met in November 2022 to discuss the feedback from that Strategic Planning Survey, and to map the vision and strategy for ASPET's future.
- Jan/Feb 2023 the mission, vision, values, etc., of ASPET will be discussed further by the committee.
- March/April 2023, the committee will finalize and communicate the new Strategic Plan.
- The general framework for the goals of the Strategic Plan will be:
 - To provide a professional home for pharmacology and
 - a sense of community
 - a site for promoting mentoring activities
 - an inclusive and diverse culture
 - To provide an attractive science resource
 - At the end of the day, educate the community as to what is going on in the field.
 - Provide a leading voice in promoting the field.
 - An advocate for Pharmacology specifically that is not integrated with other fields and forgotten.
 - A proactive society that engages the media, participates in capitol hill meetings, etc.
- ASPET Annual Meeting 2023
 - May 18-21, St. Louis MO.
 - Highlights
 - No EB, more freedom, more intimate meeting, more time for networking, etc.
- Questions for the AMSPC members and a general discussion of important topics.
 - How can ASPET support your needs?
 - There needs to be more professional level mentoring (mentoring of mentors).
 - Recruiting into the field is a huge challenge.
 - Low salary for post docs needs to be addressed.
 - For recruiting, we need to send graduate students to undergraduate campuses.



Catherine Fry, PhD



David Jackson, MBA, CAE

- We need ways to get out the message regarding the advantages of being an academic faculty member as opposed to the alternative career tracks.
- The fact the average age of faculty when they receive their first NIH R01 is ~45 is a huge problem.
- The process for reviewing NIH proposals has needed an overhaul for years.

New Chair Presentations

Anne Dorrance, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair

Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology

Michigan State University



Anne Dorrance, PhD

- Moved to Michigan State University (MSU) from the Medical College of Georgia in 2007 (joined as Associate Professor)
- Roles at MSU to Date
 - Ph.D. program director for 10 years
 - Associate Chair for Education in 2018
 - Promoted to Professor in 2018
 - Interim Chair 2020
 - Appointed Department Chair, August, 2022.
- Department Demographics
 - Faculty spread across 3 colleges, Allopathic, Osteopathic, and Veterinary
 - 49 Affiliated Faculty
 - 34 Primary Faculty (20 tenure track and 14 fixed term faculty)
 - Assistant Professors have a good gender balance (50/50), not so for more senior faculty.
 - Large number of fixed time faculty (includes teaching faculty, core facility directors, lab directors, etc.).
- Research Focus Areas
 - Cardiovascular Pharmacology & Toxicology
 - Drug Discovery and Receptors
 - Environmental Toxicology
 - Hepatic Pharmacology & Toxicology
 - Immunopharmacology & Toxicology
 - Neuropharmacology & Toxicology
- Research Highlights
 - \$16 million in new funding (including Superfund)
 - Two T32s
 - One PPG (from NHLBI)
 - Significant investments have been made in core facilities.
- Vision for the Department
 - Increase diversity in faculty and students
 - Recruit new faculty
 - Increase extramural funds

- Build connections on campus for teaching as well as research especially for drug discovery and in vivo testing.
- Need a new strategic plan (current one is > 14 years old).
- Improve financial transparency and seek to improve the predictability of finances.
- Develop postbaccalaureate Medical School program
- Problems and Challenges
 - Aging building and not enough labs
 - Unstable university leadership
 - Henry Ford Health System Alliance to achieve NCI designation may absorb faculty
- Personal Challenges as a chair
 - Time management
 - Delegating
 - Difficult Conversations.

Sandeep Bansal, MD

Professor

Medical Educator

Anne Burnett Marion School of Medicine

Texas Christian University (TCU), Forth Worth TX

- Provided an overview of his recent work experience and history
 - Over the course of a decade, lived in India, the UK, the Caribbean, and the USA
 - Most recently was at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign before moving to TCU a little over 4 years ago.
- While working in Caribbean Medical schools he received the equivalent of 30 years of educational experience teaching 3 courses per year.
- Developed expertise in medical pharmacology education, curriculum development, course implementation, continuous quality improvement.
- Essentially helped develop two new medical schools from the ground up.
- Current position and environment
 - Oversees pharmacology instruction across the curriculum phases 1, 2, and 3.
 - There are no basic science (discipline) based departments
 - No discipline-specific course directors
- A typical week of phase 1 consists of content application on Mon, Wed, Thurs, & Fri and PBL (2 hrs) on Mon & Fri.
- Advantages of Curriculum
 - Pharmacology is covered in all three phases
 - There are ample opportunities to circle back and to cover basic pharmacology concepts as they relate to each organ and disease management.
 - There are drug discovery and development sessions included in the curriculum
- Challenges to the Curriculum
 - Pharmacology is diluted.



Sandeep Bansal, MD

- Reduced pharmacology content hours
- USMLE Step 1 is pass/fail, students not as motivated to study.

Heidi Ford, Ph.D.

Professor and CU Medicine Endowed Chair in Pharmacology
 Department of Pharmacology
 University of Colorado Denver



Heidi Ford, Ph.D.

- Provided an overview of her background and training.
 - Grew up in upstate New York.
 - PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Rochester
 - Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School
- Roles at UC Denver to Date
 - Joined as Assistant Professor in 2001
 - Promoted to Associate Professor in 2008
 - Promoted to Professor in 2014
 - 2017-present Associate Director of Basic Research
 - Became Chair of the Department in June, 2022
- Provided an overview of her research program which is focused on the role of developmental regulators in breast and pediatric tumorigenesis and metastasis.
- Characteristics of the Department
 - 18 primary faculty
 - 15 secondary faculty
 - 12 Instructors
 - 3 Emeritus Faculty
 - 32 Research Staff
 - 20 Post Docs
 - 52 Ph.D. Students
 - 7 Administrative Staff
- Strengths of the Department
 - Exceptional faculty with international reputations especially in neuroscience and cancer
 - Science in the department is highly mechanistic
 - Excellent graduate programs
 - Ranked #7 by the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research for NIH funding
 - On average each primary faculty member has >\$1.0 million in federal funds
- Mission and Vision for the Department (the four Is)
 - Interaction
 - Transparency and uniform expectations for salary coverage
 - Excellent staff to support research
 - Develop plans for increasing collaborative research
 - Regular Chalk Talks
 - Inclusion
 - Currently 30% women, but not very diverse and need to improve
 - Recruit exceptional scientists from diverse backgrounds

- Create new connections, sustain collaborations, and look for student and post doc leads.
 - Innovation
 - Currently ranked #4 by Nature for innovation
 - Encourage, cultivate, and expand interactions with pharmaceutical companies
 - Impact
 - Translate findings to the clinic, industry, and society
 - Commit to training the next generation
 - Increase philanthropy for basic science research
 - Diversify the funding portfolio
- What have I accomplished?
 - Defined new mission and vision for the department
 - Negotiated new funding model and salary metrics
- My Strengths
 - Mentoring
 - Being a good team player
 - Good grasp of the big picture
- My Challenges
 - I am a people person, so knowing when to be transparent is challenging.
 - Balancing my time is a challenge

Presentation of the AMSPC Presidents Award for Leadership in Pharmacology

By: Dr. Kent Vrana

To: Mary-Ann Bjornsti, PhD, President-Elect, FASEB

Chair of Pharmacology and Toxicology
 Newman H. Waters Chair of Clinical Pharmacology
 University of Alabama, Birmingham



Mary-Ann Bjornsti, Ph.D.

Comments by Dr. Bjornsti

- Experiences and thoughts as a departmental chair
 - Just completed 13 years as chair
 - Recruited 13 new faculty
 - Department now has new space investments.
 - Faculty are highly collaborative.
 - Perspective: Joe Simone was right “The Institution does not love you back”
 - So, enjoy the ride, keep your focus and vision, and learn how to manage your time (know when to say no)
 - The landscape is changing; institutions have developed a corporate mentality (“The Biomedical Institution”).
 - I have experienced 5 Deans in 13 years as a chair.
 - The metrics for success in our academic environment are journal impact factors, NIH indirect costs and Blue Ridge Rankings, etc., as opposed to valuing exceptional science and team-based collaborations. This limits diversity and the translational success of the work.

- The practice of valuing the role of the PI on an R01 grant as the major determinant of promotion should be changed.
- As chairs we should advocate for initiatives that are transformative from the bottom up and promote transdisciplinary science.
- We should also recruit mentors and focus more on early and mid-stage investigators.
- Comments about FASEB
 - FASEB is a federation of 28 different scientific societies
 - ASPET was one of the 4 founding members.
 - It has now been in existence for over 100 years and currently represents >115,000 scientists.
 - A top priority is to advocate for federal funding for scientific research on capitol hill.
 - Other activities and goals of FASEB
 - Support and defend the humane use of animals in research by promoting the rigor, reproducibility, transparency, and translational value of publications of animal studies.
 - Hosted a virtual congressional briefing with the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) entitled “Nonanimal Models in Biomedical Research: We Aren’t There Yet,” to educate congressional staff about the role of animal research in basic science, veterinary medicine, and pharmaceutical drug development.
 - Developed Fact Sheets for Animal Research, Workforce Training
 - FASEB Virtual Capitol Hill Day, March 2022- event produced 113 meetings with congressional offices background materials and talking points were compiled for the 73 advocates from 33 states who completed 62 Senate meetings and 51 House meetings.
 - 2023 FASEB Advocacy Priorities
 - Increase funding for federal agencies in fiscal year 2024
 - Enhance advocacy for the support of animal research
 - Support the implementation of the Chips and Science Act
 - Promote the strategic investment: FASEB Career Advancement and Research Excellence Support (CARES)
 - The FASEB DEAI (Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion) Program
 - See website: <https://fasebdiversity.secure-platform.com/a/page/care/caresinfo>
 - Building a culture of data sharing
 - Dataworks (Salon, Prize, Help Desk, Community)
 - Support the One Health Initiative



New Chair Presentations Continued

Koren Mann, PhD

Professor and Chair

Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics

McGill University

- Provided a brief history of her training
 - PhD in Pathology/Immunology from Boston University School of Medicine with David Sherr
 - Postdoctoral Fellowship in Oncology at McGill, Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research with Wilson Miller
- Roles at McGill to Date
 - 2009-2021 Assistant/Associate Professor, Gerald Bronfman Department of Oncology
 - 2021, Professor and Department Chair, Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics
- Provided an overview of her research program which is focused on the environmental health effects and toxicology of metals, particularly the effects of arsenic and tungsten on the immune system and how they can lead to different pathologies.
- Provided a description of her department:
 - 21 full members
 - 2 Assistant Professors, 4 Associate Professors, 15 Full Professors (top heavy and aging faculty)
 - Large number of associate members, affiliate members (industry partners) and adjunct faculty
 - Large undergraduate teaching program (400 students in 3-4 year programs)
 - 60 graduate students in MS and Ph.D. programs
- Vision
 - Teaching Excellence
 - Undergraduate enrollment has increased exponentially over the past decade.
 - Lack space for lab-based courses needed
 - Faculty Recruitment
 - Build infrastructure and links with industry
 - Enhance cohesiveness in the department
- Challenges
 - Understanding the hierarchy and bureaucratic framework (especially administrative and financial systems)
 - Lack of consistent administrative support
 - Infrastructure issues



Koren Mann, PhD

Sreejayan Nair, Ph.D.

Chair, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences

University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy

- Provided a history of his training

- Received BS, MS, and Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Manipal, Mangalore University, India.
- Received post-doctoral training at the Department of Medicine II, Klinikum Grosshadern, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany, and the Department of Physiology, University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center, Memphis, TN
- During graduate and post doc training, studied curcumin and other antioxidants, bile acids, and the role of NO in insulin signaling.
- Academic History
 - Joined the University of Wyoming, School of Pharmacy as an Assistant Professor in 2002 moved up the ranks over the years
- Research
 - Focuses on the molecular mechanisms of cardiovascular disease and diabetes.
 - Also investigates the role of cathepsin K in obesity associated cardiometabolic dysfunctions.
 - He has received funding from the NIH, the American Diabetes Association, and the American Heart Association, and has patents.
- Teaching and Administrative Duties
 - Teaches all of the pharmacology course
 - Directs the Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. program
 - Serves as Mentoring Coordinator for the Wyoming Sensory Biology Center (SBC), which is a phase I (P20) Center of Biomedical Research Excellence program (COBRE) funded by National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)
 - Has a key role in medical education at UW as part of the WWAMI, an acronym for the five states that participate in this program: Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho.
 - Serves as a Thread Faculty lead for Pharmacology which is weaved throughout the curriculum and composed of multiple integrated interdisciplinary blocks that bring together clinical, basic science and social scientists and educators.
- Challenges
 - Administrative burdens
 - Faculty attrition
 - Job descriptions-excessive teaching expectations
 - GA/TA support difficult to sustain
 - University's strategic plan to achieve R1 status
 - The curriculum
 - Pharmacology-Loss of identity
 - Reductionism-Pharmacology in some cases is reduced to a drug list
 - New drug approvals (so many MABs, difficult to keep up with)



Sreejayan Nair, Ph.D.

January 24, 2023

A New Chairs Speed Mentoring Session was conducted from 8:00 to 8:50 AM.

A Group Discussion of the Speed Mentoring Data with All of the Chairs Present followed

- Comments/questions made by the new faculty members
 - Very senior faculty members recruited me, now I am having to have difficult conversations with these same people.
 - It's the chair position, not me as a person talking.
 - I am too flexible with my time need to manage better.
 - I wonder how the faculty members view their position and how they would handle these situations if they were chair.
 - I now feel separated from the rest of the faculty to some extent, can't continue the same types of relationships, and must be careful what I say (a harmless joke can now be viewed very differently).
 - Its very time consuming to try to please people and not hurt anyone's feelings.
 - What does the Dean expect?
 - Don't lie or misrepresent anything, but you don't always have to share everything.
 - You are two people, a person and a chair.
 - I have had a faculty member screaming at me in front of others in the hallway.
 - How do you strategize to convince someone to retire when their productivity has declined? Offer Emeritus with carrots?
 - Position other faculty members to help guide where the department is heading?
 - Handling the 20%: it's not an entitlement, it is a job with responsibilities.
 - It's been said that if everyone is happy then you are not doing your job.
- Summary of the major topics of the general discussion
 - Time management
 - Building trust
 - Difficult conversations especially with older faculty
 - Transparency with faculty, when and how much?
 - Difficulties delegating when you know you can do a better job
 - Always wanting to please
 - Unstable university leadership
 - Understanding the hierarchy and bureaucratic framework in which the job operates
 - Aging buildings and infrastructure, lab space issues
 - Enhancing cohesiveness of faculty
 - Wellness of the faculty and helping them avoid burnout
 - Need tips on faculty recruitment strategies
 - Do I serve my faculty or the institution more?
 - What do Deans want from chairs?
 - How do I effectively articulate the needs of my faculty when competing with other chairs?
 - Faculty assessments and annual performance reviews. How do I relay my expectations most effectively?
- Additional discussion specifically about difficult interactions

- Don't argue by e-mail.
- It's OK to say I'm sorry when appropriate.
- Have someone else in the room or close when a very difficult conversation is going to occur.
- Document every difficult conversation and speak as if you are being recorded, because this may be the case (in some cases this is legal). This is also important because it is common for both the HR and Legal Affairs offices to get involved.
- Keep every e-mail.
- It gets personal sometimes, but do what you can to diffuse the anger.
- Additional discussion about building rapport with faculty, improving department success, etc.
 - Support social events (beer clubs, outside get-togethers, invite students, etc.)
 - Work to support mid-level faculty who have lost grants
 - Provide internal seed money when possible
 - Schedule chalk talks
 - Invite outside (paid) consultants. VPRs will some time support
 - Articulate and celebrate the "success" stories of your faculty.

Jon R. Lorsch, Ph.D.

Director

National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)

- Introduced by Michel Frohman, PhD, Stony Brook
 - Ph.D. Biochemistry, Harvard
 - Post-Doctoral Fellowship Training, Stanford
 - 1999-2013 Assistant Professor → Associate Professor
→ Professor, Department of Biophysics and Biophysical Chemistry, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
 - Became Director of NIGMS, 2013
- What's happening at NIGMS?
 - Providing support for more researchers to get access to cutting edge technologies, creating economies of scale, improving efficiencies of scientific research, and decreasing costs for initiating and conducting studies.
- Examples
 - Transformative High-Resolution Cryoelectron Microscopy (CryoEM) Program
 - 3 National Centers Funded: NY Structural Biology Center, Stanford, Oregon Health and Science University
 - CryoET Centers
 - An affiliated program
 - These programs are designed to broaden access to high-resolution cryoelectron microscopy (cryoEM) and tomography (cryoET) for biomedical researchers by creating national service centers and cultivating a skilled workforce through the development and implementation of cryoEM training material.
 - NIGMS National and Regional Resources (R24) Program



Jon R. Lorsch, Ph.D.

- Designed to provide access to a broad range of technologies, not widely available to most research laboratories, that are within the NIGMS mission
 - Supports resources that provide access to state-of-the-art facilities, equipment, technologies, research tools, software, and service to a substantial number of users on a national or multi-state regional basis to yield significant economies of scale in biomedical research.
 - Multiple Centers funded so far (e.g., Phenix R24 Resource, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; National Glycoscience Resource-CCRC Service and Training, University of Georgia)
 - The IDeA National Resource for Quantitative Proteomics
 - Program Goal: Provide unmatched and most cost-effective access to state-of-the-art quantitative proteomics platforms and skilled bioinformaticians, which will increase the capacity of NIH-supported researchers to perform cutting-edge research.
 - 3 Aims
 - Provide quantitative proteomics services to NIH-supported researchers. Increase efficiency of operation and leverage economy of scale to minimize costs.
 - Provide outreach opportunities to NIH-supported researchers.
 - Voucher program
 - Internship
 - Provide educational opportunities to NIH-supported researchers.
 - Workshops
 - Symposia
 - Web Resources
 - Supporting Cloud Computing initiatives to overcome bottlenecks in research.
 - Transformative Impact of the Lift-and-Shift Project
 - Goal: Work with Google and NIH STRIDES to lift-and-shift proteomics pipeline to the cloud for automated data analysis, delivery, consulting, and data storage.
 - Train the trainers
 - The NIH Science and Technology Research Infrastructure for Discovery, Experimentation, and Sustainability (STRIDES) initiative allows NIH to explore the use of cloud environments to streamline NIH data use by partnering with commercial providers. Website: <https://datascience.nih.gov/strides>
 - An NIGMS “Sandbox” with Multiple Learning Modules
 - Work in progress:
 - Funding 10 investigative teams to build learning modules
 - Developing a platform to deploy the Sandbox
- Maximizing Investigators’ Research Award (MIRA, R35) Updates
 - New paradigm for funding investigator-initiated projects
 - Begun in 2016
 - Now has both Established and Early-Stage Investigator options
 - One grant per person on subjects relevant to the NIGMS mission
 - No Specific Aims

- More Stable funding mechanism
- Goal is to by 2025 have 60% of R01 replaced by R35s.
- Dr. Lorsch showed several tables and bar graphs indicating success of the MIRA Program
 - MIRA conversion and renewal rates were more favorable than comparable R01 renewals, and MIRA award sizes were larger than R01 awards.
 - MIRA renewals remained larger in total dollar terms than comparable R01 renewals.
 - Productivity and Impact-Established MIRA investigators had higher productivity in terms of published papers.
 - Demographics-no significant disparities were evident. Early-stage investigators a bit more equitable, while women were more successful in the review than men in the established investigator program.
 - Early-Stage Investigators a bit younger on average compared to first R01, but still ~37, need to improve this.
- MIRA strategies to improve fairness
 - Outreach to underrepresented groups
 - Bias training for MIRA reviewers
 - Multi-stage funding mechanism to increase fairness
 - Early stage and established investigator applications reviewed separately
 - New FOAs will require Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives (PEDP)
- New budget items
 - CSR plans to increase the number of MIRA programs
 - NIGMS is working to increase funding amounts for renewals.
- NIGMS Training, Workforce Development, and Diversity Programs
 - Maximizing Opportunities for Scientific and Academic Independent Careers (MOSAIC)
 - Effort to enhance diversity within the academic biomedical research workforce, and is designed to facilitate the transition of promising postdoctoral researchers from diverse backgrounds into independent, tenure-track or equivalent research-intensive faculty positions.
 - Two components
 - An institutionally-focused research education cooperative agreement (UE5) to promote diversity.
 - Individual postdoctoral career transition awards (K99/R00) to promote diversity.
 - 23 NIH institutes, centers and offices participate in MOSAIC so a broad variety of biomedical research can be supported.
 - NRSA Fellowships
 - Advancing Research Centers
 - MSTP for IDeA and MSIs
 - The UNITE initiative
 - S10 Equipment Grants
 - The SPAD Program
- Other topics in the general discussion, question & answer session
 - Is there a post doc shortage?

- Should NRSA stipend levels be increased?
- How can we communicate better with the scientific community?
- How can we battle misinformation on social media?
- New Data Management and Sharing Expectations
- Any plans to allow K99/R00 to be converted to MIRA?

January 25, 2023

An Update of the Knowledge Objectives

Sandeep Bansal, MD

Knowledge Objectives

- A document designed to be used by faculty and course directors to use as a guide, to develop content for presentations, lectures, self-study modules, small-group activities, etc., for students
- It is not intended as a study guide for students
- The last iteration occurred in 2012, new addition completed in 2022, edited by Joe B. Blumer, Ph.D., and Robert J Theobald, Jr., Ph.D.
- It is now available on the AMSPC Website as a downloadable PDF file
<https://amspc.org/resources/Documents/KOs%20Final-2022%20edition-01092023.pdf>
- This iteration is the result of a partnership of AMSPC with ASPET's Division for Pharmacology Education (DPE).
- Originally the product and vision of Dr. James Fisher (AMSPC President, 1990-92) and other senior pharmacologists in 1984/1985.
- Now composed of an Introduction and 15 sections:
 - General Principles
 - Autonomics
 - Central Nervous System Pharmacology
 - Pulmonary Pharmacology
 - Cardiovascular Pharmacology
 - Renal Pharmacology
 - Gastrointestinal Pharmacology
 - Autacoids/Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory/Asthmatic Drugs
 - Cancer Pharmacology
 - Endocrine Pharmacology
 - Hemostasis and Blood Forming Organs
 - Toxicology
 - Vitamins and Herbals
 - Immunopharmacology
 - Antimicrobials
- Plans, suggestions, and questions about future revisions
 - Update every two years
 - Need to recruit new contributors (including section chairs, co-editors)
 - Would be an opportunity for junior faculty to demonstrate scholarship of teaching and bolster their CV, work on the national level with other contributing faculty.

- The document could be used for purposes beyond lectures and small group activities (e.g., facilitate “curriculum mapping” for LCME accreditation purposes)
- What topics/sections need to be added?
 - MABs?
 - Immunotherapy?
 - A “Biologics” Section?
- Do we need to create an app for the KOs?
- For the website, should be create a search site for the KOs, a searchable PDF?

Planning for AMSPC Website Resources Page

Dr. Kent Vrana and Karen Gottlieb

- Karen Gottlieb-Executive Manager
 - Handles website and planning
 - Has 25 years of experience in management
- Website
 - Job Postings-only members can post
 - Website is open access (publicly available)
 - Goal is to increase visibility of AMSPC and increase numbers and types of membership
 - Question. What should be on the website?
 - Meeting Minutes
 - Listing of the members and their spouses
 - Slides from annual meeting presentations
 - Faculty salary ranges
 - Cannot use AAMC data
 - Could survey members, but the data would have to be deidentified
 - Need to maintain firewalls for some information
 - Post doc listing in the recruiting section
 - Zoom and/or WebEx toolbox for chairs
 - Need a LinkedIn page
- Additional ideas for recruiting new AMSPC members, increasing visibility, etc.
 - AMSPC Happy Hour once per year
 - Each member call 1-2 pharmacology chairs who are not members and encourage them to join
 - Post information about the mentorship sessions at the meeting to advertise
 - If you are a member and you recruit new members should you get a discount for the next meeting?
 - Track the advertised chair positions and when a position is filled, post this information on the website.
 - Do we open our membership to Mexico?
 - Do we have a Mexican guest group, a Canadian guest group?
 - Include Chairs of Pharmaceutical Sciences Departments?
 - Shouldn't we be as inclusive as possible?



Karen Gottlieb

Presentation of AMSPC Award in Pharmacology Research and Administration

By: Dr. Kent Vrana and Bina Joe

To: Ray Dingledine, PhD
Professor and former Chair, Emory University

- Introduction of Dr. Dingledine by Dr. Kent Vrana
 - BS from Michigan State University in Biochemistry in 1971.
 - PhD in pharmacology under Avram Goldstein at Stanford in 1975.
 - Postdoctoral training from Leslie Iversen and John Kelly at Cambridge UK (1975-77), then Per Andersen at Oslo (1977-78).
 - Joined the Department of Pharmacology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1978 and rose to Professor.
 - Spent a sabbatical year (1990-1991) in Steve Heinemann's lab at the Salk Institute.
 - Moved to Emory University in 1992 as Chair of Pharmacology, a job he held for 25 years
 - For 11 years also served as Executive Associate Dean for Research in the Emory School of Medicine.
 - In 2010 he was elected to the US National Academy of Medicine.
 - In 2018 elected to the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.
- Presentation by Dr. Dingledine entitled: "From There to Here and Beyond"
 - Initial comments
 - Came in as a chair at Emory with little administrative experience or training.
 - Started out as abrasive and used to getting my way, but had to evolve.
 - Chaired the first strategic plan for pharmacology: Start out yourself with your own goals as opposed to using a commercial firm with generic goals.
 - Served as Editor of Molecular Pharmacology (1995-2000).
 - Created (with Haiyan Fu) The Emory Chemical Biology Discovery Center (ECBDC) in 2003.
 - 2011 – 2017 Chair, Society for Neuroscience Investment Committee
 - Published an article in 2018 entitled "Why Is It So Hard to Do Good Science?" in eNeuro which addressed the subject of cognitive biases in science.
 - Overview of his research interests and achievements
 - Modulation of glutamate (NMDA) receptor-mediated synaptic transmission using hippocampal slice electrophysiology and investigating how neurons and glia interact.
 - The role of cyclooxygenase-2 (COX2) signaling pathways in the cognitive deficits, impaired synaptic inhibition, and neurodegeneration caused by seizures.



Raymond Dingledine, Ph.D.

- Current research focuses on the roles of neuroinflammation in neurologic disorders. Especially interested in the role of EP2 receptor activation by prostaglandin E2 in COX-2 related pathologies. Studies demonstrate that EP2-mediated inflammation is a profound driver of COX-2 related pathologies in multiple chronic disorders.
 - Dr. Dingledine and his collaborators have developed a series of novel, competitive and allosteric EP2 receptor antagonists that are potent, selective, brain permeant and orally available. These EP2 antagonists are anti-inflammatory and provide a range of therapeutic benefits in animal models of epilepsy, head injury, arthritis, endometriosis and sepsis.
 - Over the years Dr. Dingledine and his collaborators have employed multiple techniques (high throughput pharmacology, electrophysiology, immunology, molecular biology, behavior and medicinal chemistry to study neurological diseases and to develop novel therapies that have generated multiple patents.
 - In 2019 he co-founded Pyrefin, Inc, and serves as Chair of its Board of Directors.
- Things I am particularly satisfied about.
 - Original Director of a new graduate program now named the Molecular and Systems Pharmacology graduate program.
 - Recruited a terrific group of faculty and outstanding/successful lab groups
 - Initiated a faculty discretionary account and swing space program
 - Co-created The Emory Chemical Biology Discovery Center and raised ~\$12 million to kick it off.
 - Helped facilitate the rise of Emory SOM to National Research prominence
 - Helped create the Game Changers, Millipub Club, and Emory 1% distinction programs
 - Game Changers (something that has changed the game & the world)
 - Development of HIV Drugs, more than 90 percent of people in the U.S. who have HIV, and many others around the world, take at least one of the drugs invented by Emory researchers.
 - Emory Cardiac Toolbox- one of the most widely applied cardiac imaging systems in the world, used by >14,000 hospitals
 - Millipub Club- honors current Emory faculty who have published one or more individual papers throughout their careers that have each garnered more than 1,000 citations.
 - Emory 1% Club- honors Emory faculty who have received a 1.0 percentile on an NIH grant. Pink sheet gets framed.
 - Handing off a strong department to our new chair, Dr. Haiian Fu.
- Final Slides
 - Life Post-Administration:
 - Cartoon Quote: “What the Hell was that? Something just swept over me like contentment or something.”

Raymond R. Mattingly, Ph.D. - AMSPC Treasurer Report
 Professor and Chair
 Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology
 Brody School of Medicine
 East Carolina University



Raymond R. Mattingly, Ph.D.

Balances

- **Checking account (Bank of America)**
 - \$51,427.04 on 1/24/23
 Was \$44,307.10 transferred from past Treasurer (Prof. D. Busija) on 9/22/22.
- **Reserves (ASPET)**
 - \$42,132.47 on 12/31/22

Membership

- Membership fees: chairs at \$200; emeritus at \$50

Summary						Keyword search	Advanced search	Saved searches
Level	Total	Active	Renewal overdue	Lapsed	New			
Admin	-	-	-	-	-			
Emeritus Member	16	13	5	3	-			
Member Chair	148	67	97	80	1			
Total	164	80	102	83	1			

- Advantages of new AMSPC website and online credit card payments.

Expenses

- **Society Management**
 - New contract signed 6/17/22: “AMSPC Independent Contractor Services Agreement” with TLC Events Group, Inc., effective 7/1/22 – 6/30/24. Administrative services (\$250/month), meeting planning (\$3,000).
- **Website**
 - \$175.61 [Kelly Gorelick, 11/1/22]
- **Annual Meeting**
 - Short on room allotment (again), but close and excellent management
 - Yes, we were short on the block, but only by 1 room (4 nights)

- We reduced by one lunch (did you notice? No “New Chairs” lunch this year) so that savings covered the loss on the room block nights
- We also had increased A/V due to rising costs/labor since pandemic and the addition of 2 days of wired internet connection for the Zoom calls.
- Two new awards: “AMSPC Presidents’ Award for Leadership in Pharmacology” and “AMSPC Award in Pharmacology Research and Administration”.
- Projected revenue neutral this year
- Taxes
 - Minimal fee
- Merchant fees
 - ~3%
- Mixer at ASPET?
 - Pre-pandemic, AMSPC mixer at FASEB/ASPET meetings
- Membership of CFAS/AAMC?
 - Previously terminated due to perceived lack of value
- **Sponsorship?**
 - Do we want to approach sponsors to help support our annual meeting or other initiatives?
 - List of contacts available

**Election of the Nominating Committee for Chair Elect, Secretary, and Counselor
Dr. Kent Vrana, Past President**

- Michael Frohman
- Don Bers
- Nancy Walworth

Final Meeting Discussion

- Mentoring session was well received, please continue.
- NIGMS Feedback-Please send to Kent
- What next year?
 - Add mentoring of URM
 - Center for Open Science Presentation
 - New Topics
 - Exciting areas in biotech, Large Pharma
 - What do pharmaceutical companies need?
 - Government Relations rep who holds important assignments
 - Educating Future Pharmacologists
 - Advocating for the profession

AMSPC 2024 Meeting

- AMSPC 2024 will be held January 21-25, 2024 in Cartagena, Colombia.
- Intercontinental Hotel
- Gorgeous fishing village on Colombia's Caribbean coast
- Safest city in the country.
- A UNESCO World Heritage City

