

**AMSPC Virtual Annual Meeting  
January 25-26, 2022**

January 25, 2022

**Welcome and Introductions – Kent E. Vrana, PhD**

- Dr. Kent Vrana, President of the AMSPC opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees.
- The next Annual meeting will be held January 22–26, 2023 in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.
- Minutes for the last meeting (January 2021) are posted online.
- Introduction of New Chairs
  - Susan Mooberry, PhD – UT Health San Antonio
  - Koren Mann, PhD – McGill University
  - Sara Jones, PhD – Wake Forest School of Medicine
  - Anne Dorrance, PhD – Michigan State University
  - Wissam Faour, PhD – Gilbert and Rose-Marie Chagoury School of Medicine
  - Bina Joe, PhD – University of Toledo
  - John Mantsch, PhD – Medical College of Wisconsin
  - J. Silvio Gutkind, PhD – University of California San Diego School of Medicine
- Future Meetings – It was suggested that due to some individuals not being able to travel, future meetings be offered as hybrid?
- Elections – Elections for a new President (2-year term) are forthcoming.



**Kent Vrana, Ph.D.**

**Michael S. Lauer, MD – Deputy Director for Extramural Research, National Institutes of Health**

- Summary of Trends
  - Increased number of awards and awardees
  - Increase number of early stage investigators
  - Increased proportion of women (but well below parity)
  - Persistent low proportion of Black Investigators
  - Increased success, funding rates despite more applications
  - Real costs stable, but variation greater, changes composition
- In the era of COVID-19 productivity and career trajectories have been negatively affected, especially of scientists in the earliest career stages.
  - NIH has put in place a number of policies to address this:
    - Extra grant no cost extensions
    - Leniency on late applications
    - Preliminary data post submission
    - Child care allowance for trainees
    - Expanding loan repayment programs
- Francis Collins stepped down as Director of NIH, October, 2021.
- FY 2021 Budget
  - NIH Intramural Research is 10.6% of the budget (\$4.54 Billion)
  - NIH Extramural Research is 54% of the budget (\$23.1 Billion)
  - There has been a marked increase since 2015



**Michael S. Lauer, MD**

- Over 50% of the K awards are awarded to women
- Early Stage Investigator = <10 years
- Research Integrity
  - The need for increased accountability regarding Research Integrity was discussed
    - Misconduct – Fabrication/Plagiarism
    - Consequences for Institutions and Investigators
    - Lying on applications – receiving money from other countries and not reporting the Conflict of Interest
    - Sexual Harassment – Institutions must be transparent and report issues to NIH.
    - Grants are issued to the Institution not the PI so ultimately the Institution is accountable.
- Change is on the Horizon
  - “Future aint what it used to be”. Previously 1 out of every 3 submissions was funded but there is much more competition now (“hypercompetitive” environment)
- Data Management
  - Effective January 25, 2023, every grant will have to have a data management and sharing plan.
- Distrust of science and other challenges
  - A great deal of distrust in science has developed in the last few years.
  - Research misconduct and sexual harassment continues to be a problem
  - Need system-wide changes
  - As researchers in science we need to remember:
    - Science is a work of communities not done as individuals
    - Diverse – need to overcome shared biases
    - Be open with methods used in research
- Overall
  - Budgets have increased
  - Priorities for NIH funding: Early career development, women, diversity by funding as many scientists as possible

**Presentations given by the following Chairs:**

**Sara R. Jones, PhD**

Professor and Chair

Department of Physiology and Pharmacology

Wake Forest School of Medicine

- Provided an overview of her life journey so far:
  - Training- UGA (BS), UNC (Ph.D.), Duke (Postdoc)
- Recruited to Wake Forest School of Medicine in 2000
- Roles at Wake Forrest to Date
  - Interim Chair, Neurobiology and Anatomy
  - Chair, Physiology and Pharmacology
  - Associate Dean, Basic Science
  - Professor, Physiology and Pharmacology



**Sara R. Jones, Ph.D.**

- Professor, Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine
- Dr. Jones then provided an overview of her research programs and her use of voltammetry and other sophisticated methods to evaluate neurotransmitters changes in the brain associated with compulsive alcohol and drug use and addiction.
- Finished presentation by discussing recent and current challenges:
  - COVID Lockdowns-No faculty were present on campus resulting in reduced cross collaborations.
  - Due to the merger of Wake Forest School of Medicine with Atrium Health, Clinical Research and Public Health has become the main focus and not Basic Science.
  - Basic science faculty have to figure out how to create more translational collaborations.

**John Mantsch, PhD**

Florence J. Williams Professor and Chair  
 Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology  
 Medical College of Wisconsin



**John Mantsch, PhD**

- Provided an overview of his training
  - Allegheny College-BS in psychology
  - PhD in Pharmacology & Toxicology, with a specialization in neuropharmacology, from LSU Medical Center (now LSU Health) in Shreveport.
  - Post-doctoral training under Dr. Mary Jeanne Kreek in the Laboratory on the Biological of Addictive Disease at the Rockefeller University
- Joined the Department of Biomedical Sciences at Marquette University in 2001, later became chair in 2009.
- Joined MCW in 2021
- Provided an overview of his research program which is focused on the neurobiology of stress, motivated behavior, and addiction.
- Discussed challenges at MCW:
  - Balance of Faculty - His department presently has no assistant professors
  - Co-recruitment with centers in 3 research areas
  - Medical curriculum redesign with a lot of case-based learning
  - Overhaul of Graduate education
  - Culture building during a pandemic
  - Departmental renovation 2022 (moving lab/office space)
  - Recruitment of a program coordinator
  - Sustainability
  - Leveraging initiative to support graduate education/trainee development

## **Koren Mann, PhD**

Professor and Chair

Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics

McGill University



**Koren Mann, PhD**

- Provided an overview of her training
  - BS in Biology from Nebraska Wesleyan University
  - Fulbright Fellowship in Marburg, Germany
  - PhD in Pathology/Immunology from Boston University School of Medicine
  - 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
  - 2016, Inaugural Director, Molecular and Regenerative Medicine Research Axis Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research
  - 2019, Graduate Program Director in 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.
- Finished presentation by discussing recent and current challenges:
  - First Female Chair
  - COVID campus environment
  - Enhancing the cohesiveness of faculty
  - Understanding hierarchical framework in which the job operates
  - Administrative (Reorganization of Medical School) – lack of employees
  - Financial – limited departmental funds

## **Beverley Greenwood-Van Meerveld, PhD**

Editor-in-Chief

The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (JPET)

Slides Presented by Kent Vrana

- Dr. Greenwood-Van Meerveld began as the new editor of JPET January 1, 2022 and succeeds Dr. Ken Tew.
- Dr. Greenwood is Professor Emeritus at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
- Vision Goals for JPET
  - Regain its position as the premier pharmacology journal
  - Have a global impact and encourage the highest quality research from national and international researchers
  - Embrace the values of diversity and inclusion;
  - Strive for the highest standards of experimental rigor and reproducibility.
- 2022-2025 Strategic Plan Highlights

- Revitalize the editorial board and editorial advisory board
- Seek global representation on the editorial board to include members from Canada, Europe, Asia, and Latin America
- Seek social media expertise
- Pursue a Teams-based approach and engage other ASPET divisions
- Challenges to overcome
  - Impact Factor = 4.03
  - Lack of diversity (e.g., women) on the Editorial Board.
  - Too US-Centric
  - Number of submissions down
  - Competition from multiple journals
  - Journal has become less selective
- Top 10 reasons to submit to JPET
  - A goal of 20 days from submission to first decision.
  - A goal of an average of 9 days from acceptance to online publication.
  - Spotlight emerging scientific talent in the field of pharmacology with a Highlighted Trainee Author Award each month.
  - Showcase new articles on the journal homepage that are particularly interesting or important by our editors each month, as Editor's Choice Articles.
  - A goal of early view of correct proofs published 16–24 days after acceptance and listed in PubMed days later.
  - FREE color figures for all authors
  - FREE PDF access for all authors.
  - FREE manuscript submission and reduced page charges for ASPET members.
  - Transfer option to MOLPHARM, DMD, and PR&P of papers rejected by JPET.
  - A goal that accepted articles will be considered for a podcast.
- Additional plans
  - Work on branding
  - Revise Home Page
  - New Readership Statement
  - New Award: The JPET Editors Performance Awards

January 26, 2022

**Comments and Remarks – Kent E. Vrana, PhD**

- A moment of silence was observed for those colleagues lost recently:
  - William Joseph Cook, PhD – East Virginia Medical School, 2019
  - Louise S. Harris, PhD – Virginia Commonwealth University, 2019
  - Joe M. Moerschbaecher III, PhD – LSU, New Orleans, 2021
  - Wolfgang H. Vogel, PhD – Thomas Jefferson, 2021
- Upcoming Elections
  - President
  - Treasurer
  - Please send nominations for President to Dr. Vrana.
  - Dr. Alvin Terry (AMSPC Secretary) will be sending out a “survey monkey” for voting.
- Upcoming Meetings – Hybrid Option

- Discussion Highlights:
  - Annual attendance has decreased in recent years
  - Hybrid meetings were difficult in previous meetings
  - In person meetings to be held every other year?
  - Economic issues with traveling would benefit from a hybrid option
  - Attendance decreased due to hybrid option.
  - Possibly alternate meetings from International to National and to be recorded for those that could not attend.
  - Collaborations- work person to person
- 2022 – 2025 JPET Strategic Planning Recap
  - Revitalize Editorial Board
  - Global Representation on Editorial Board
  - Social Media Expertise
  - Team-Based Approach
  - Improve JPET Impact Factor and ranking
  - Reasons to submit to JPET

**Jennifer Zeitzer**

Director, Office of Public Affairs

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)  
 “Washington Update”

- Omnibus Bill – there will be a total of \$45 billion for NIH in FY 2022, an increase of \$2.03 billion, or 4.7 percent, over FY 2021.
- Virtual Capitol Hill Day – March 10, 2022
  - Focus will be on FY 2022/2023 funding for NIH, NSF, etc.
- FASEB would like a representative from each state. If you would like to participate, please contact Ms. Zeitzer.
- The Washington environment, key legislative highlights, the budget outlook, and future FASEB activities were presented.
  - More details on each of these subjects can be found at: <https://www.faseb.org/science-policy-and-advocacy>



**Jennifer Zeitzer**

**Timothy M. Errington, PhD,**

Director of Research

Center for Open Science

- Dr. Errington provided a slide presentation and an overview of the current “data reproducibility crisis” which can undermine scientific credibility and self-correction.
- His slide presentation entitled “Investigating the replicability of preclinical cancer biology” is available at <https://osf.io/2bz6k>



**Timothy Errington, Ph.D.**

**David W. Busija, MD, PhD** - AMSPC Treasurer Report  
Professor and Chair, Department of Pharmacology  
Tulane University School of Medicine

- Dr. Busija has now been treasurer for 7 years and is ready to welcome a transition to a new treasurer.
- Dr. Busija shared the financial report for AMSPC (bank account totals, income from 2021 dues, 2021 expenses).
- Things to consider:
  - Meeting costs – annual meeting and mixer at EB are approximately \$8-9,000.
  - Due to COVID and the inability to travel, AMSPC has saved approximately \$16-17,000 over the last 2 years.
  - Not all members pay dues, need to be encouraged by leadership and other members.
  - Dues roughly equal yearly expenses, should annual dues be increased?
  - Need different investment strategies and accountability.
  - Treasurer currently has sole control of all funds.



**David Busija, PhD**

### **Melissa Huston**

Interim Executive Officer  
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics  
“ASPET Update”

- ASPET 2022 Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology will be held April 2-5 in Philadelphia, PA
  - 38 Pharmacology-focused symposia and workshops
  - Presidential Symposium
  - 600 Poster Presentations
  - Closing network event
  - Award Lectures
- ASPET Virtual Series “Focus on Pharmacology”
  - Launched in 2020 as a membership benefit
  - Up to 3 held per month
  - Recordings available in member portal
  - Webinar and interactive online sessions available
  - There is an average of over 70 registrations per sessions
  - Satisfaction ratings averages 4.6 out of 5 stars
- ASPET 2023 Annual Meeting will be held May 18–21, 2023 in St. Louis, Missouri



**Melissa Houston**

### **New Chair Presentation**

#### **J. Silvio Gutkind, PhD**

Distinguished Professor and Chair  
Department of Pharmacology  
University of California San Diego School of Medicine

- Provided an overview of his background and training



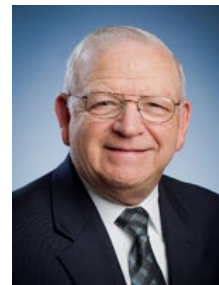
**J. Silvio Gutkind, PhD.**

- Ph.D. in Pharmacy and Biochemistry (Pharmacology), University of Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Postdoc NIMH, NCI, NIDCR
- 1998-2015 Chief, Oral and Pharyngeal Cancer Branch, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, NIH
- 2015- Professor, Department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, University of California San Diego (UCSD)
- 2015- Associate Director of Basic Science, UCSD Moores Cancer Center
- 2020- Chair, Department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine, University of California, San Diego (UCSD)
- Vision for Pharmacology – Pharmacology is the discipline that can harness the full potential of the current molecular revolution in medicine (Precision Medicine = Pharmacology 2.0)
  - The right therapeutic agent, for the right target, for the right patient, at the right dose, and at the right time
- Department Goal- A Premier Department of Pharmacology in the Nation, Recognized as a world Leader in Research and Training in Molecular Pharmacology and Precision Therapies.
  - How do we achieve it?
    - Translational Research Networks
    - Team Building and Growth
    - A Magnet for Talent and Diversity
    - Increase Communication & Leadership Opportunities
    - Innovation in Teaching and Training
  - A Matrix Organizational Structure
    - Vertical Disease Teams (Divisions)
    - Horizontal Research Themes, Approaches, and Technology (Programs)

**Discussion of the Knowledge Objectives (KOs) in Medical Pharmacology Led by: Robert Theobald, Ph.D.**

Professor, Department of Pharmacology  
A.T. Still University of Health Sciences

- Slides were presented to provide an overview of the history, purpose, and current status of the KOs.
- The 2012 Edition is the last full update
- Originally developed for Pharmacology Leaders and Faculty
  - May still be helpful for faculty who provide lectures in pharmacology
- There is a need for a more concise version
  - Needs to be paired down
  - Drug Lists as an appendix or addendum to each section
  - Question, will students use it or is there a need for an app?
  - Should it be modified for other disciplines beyond medicine (e.g., pharmacy, dentistry)?
- Current Needs-2022
  - Purpose and Preface still very relevant if not more so



**Robert Theobald, Ph.D**



- Need for consistency in pharmacology education with the blending of departments, loss of curricular time, vital to the education of medical students, and other healthcare providers
- Loss of identity of pharmacology in curriculum is not decreasing
  - Loss of formal course
  - Loss of trained pharmacologists teaching foundational concepts
- Academy of Pharmacology Educators
  - Recognized by ASPET as a Division (DPE)
  - Will be a source of support for updating KOs
- KO Update
  - Joint Venture between AMSPC and DPE-APE
  - Consider leadership roles for each group
  - DPE and APE have educational leaders and can mobilize and organize section committees
  - Recognition for efforts (Agreement?)
    - Could come through online publication at AMSPC and DPE websites
  - Copyright issues?
  - Timeline?

### AMSPC 2023

- AMSPC 2023 will be held January 23-26, 2023 in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

