

Winnipeg Chapter Society for Neuroscience  
2012 Annual Activity Report



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## 1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Winnipeg Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience (WCSN) was very active in 2012, achieving important objectives in the priority areas of research networking and outreach, and enhancing membership.

The research networking and arm of the WCSN is called the Manitoba Neuroscience Network (MNN). The MNN was founded in 2010 to facilitate interaction, collaboration and dissemination in the Manitoba neuroscience community, which up to that point had been largely fractionated and distributed throughout several campuses and university departments. In 2012, the MNN held its third annual scientific meeting, attended by over 120 basic and clinical faculty, trainees and exhibitors. There were expert visiting speakers from western (Dr. Quentin Pittman, University of Calgary) and eastern (Dr. Keith Murai, McGill University) Canada, local speakers highlighting their work here in Manitoba and trainee presentations. There was also a poster competition for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, as well as ample opportunity for socialization and networking. The MNN also hosted a neuroscience seminar and visiting speaker series. The series was held on the last Friday of each month jointly with clinical neuroscience rounds, yielding unprecedented opportunity for basic and clinical scientists to meet regularly and achieve cross-fertilization of ideas to fuel translational research. Visiting speakers included Dr. Sam David (McGill University) and Dr. Derek van der Cooy (University of Toronto). These sessions and accompanying activities were very well attended and received by WCSN members. The MNN has a very successful 2012 and looks forward to advancing the quality and efficiency of neuroscience research in Manitoba further in 2013.

The neuroscience outreach arm of the WCSN was also very active in 2012. During International Brain Awareness week in March, members hosted Dr. Adrian Owen, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience. Dr. Owen gave a very well-attended public lecture at the University of Manitoba, as well as a scientific lecture to members. There was also a special session for trainees to interact with Dr. Owen and a half-day symposium on Cognitive Neuroscience that gave Manitoba neuroscientists a tremendous opportunity to showcase their work in the presence of a work-leader in the field. The WCSN was also active in promoting neuroscience at the grassroots levels, engaging in project judging and giving awards for neuroscience excellence at the annual Manitoba Schools Science Symposium. This not only encourages students to consider neuroscience as a career choice early but also gives trainees a tremendous opportunity to be project judges. Overall, the WCSN made significant outreach contributions in 2012 and hopes to expand its footprint in the community in the coming years.

The WCSN is committed to the priority areas of neuroscience research networking and outreach. Consistent efforts and successes have resulted in a sustained year-to-year membership level of more than 120 faculty and trainees. With a dramatic expansion of neuroscience programs at the University of Manitoba over the next several years, this number is expected to grow further, fuelling growth in the WCSN priority areas and establishment of new priorities to benefit all Manitoba neuroscientists.

Sincerely,

Chris Anderson  
President, Winnipeg Chapter, Society for Neuroscience

## 2. WCSN COUNCIL LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION

### 2.1 Elected (2010 - 2012)

Elected Term: January 2010 - December 2012

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3. BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK (March 12-18, 2012)

The Winnipeg Chapter Society for Neuroscience (WCSN) participated in the International Brain Awareness Week campaign (March 12-18, 2012). The keynote speaker was Dr. Adrian Owen, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience and Imaging, Western University in London, Ontario. Following is a brief overview of the events held.

3.1 PUBLIC LECTURE by Dr. Adrian Owen "The Search for Consciousness" .

A public lecture was held on March 15th, 2012 at 6:30pm in the Frederick Gaspard Theatre at the University of Manitoba's Bannatyne Campus. President Barnard, Vice-President (Research and International) Jayas and Dean of Medicine Postl welcomed Dr. Owen to speak to the Winnipeg public about leading-edge neuroimaging of makes people AWARE. The talk was well attended (approx. 150 people).



L-R: Drs. David Barnard, Adrian Owen & Chris Anderson



### 3.2 SCIENTIFIC LECTURE by Dr. Adrian Owen “When Thoughts Become Actions: Imaging Disorders of Consciousness”.

A scientific lecture was held on March 16th, 2012 at 12:00 noon in Theatre C, University of Manitoba Bannatyne Campus. Approximately 100 neuroscientists and trainees were in attendance.



### 3.3 Cognitive Neuroscience Mini-Symposium

Our BAW visiting speaker is a Canada Excellence Research Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience. The WCSN gathered leading Manitoba cognitive neuroscientists with Dr. Owen to showcase and enhance local research programs. The program included talks by Drs. Jonathan Marotta, Debbie Kelly, Tammy Ivanco, Stephen Smith and Steve Prime, representing both University of Manitoba and University of Winnipeg.



Dr. Jonathan Marotta



Dr. Debbie Kelly



Dr. Tammy Ivanco



Dr. Stephen Smith



Dr. Steve Prime

### 3.4 Trainee Presentations/Luncheon

A trainee luncheon was also held with Dr. Owen. Graduate students Jill LeMaistre (Pharmacology & Therapeutics) and Ruoyang Shi (Anatomy and Cell Physiology) each gave research presentations. This was an excellent opportunity for our students, postdoctoral fellows and research associates to have an informal discussion with Dr. Owen. Over 40 trainees attended.

## 4. Manitoba Neuroscience Network

### 4.1 Manitoba Neuroscience Network Annual Scientific Meeting - June 4, 2012

The Manitoba Neuroscience Network held its' 3rd annual scientific meeting on June 4th, 2012 at the Hilton Suites Winnipeg Airport. Dr. Chris Anderson acted as Meeting Chair, and Dr. Gilbert Kirouac acted as Chair of the Program Committee. Two themes were showcased. Homeostasis, Neuroendocrine, cognition, behavior and Neural Excitability, Synapse, Glia. There were 2 keynote speakers, 4 invited local speakers (see below) and a total of 41 poster presentations. All submitted abstracts were ranked by a panel of 4 principal investigators. The top 6 in each of the student and postdoc categories were chosen for in-person judging in poster form at the meeting.

Student Category Winner: Edna Esteli Vasquez-Dominguez, Spinal Cord Research Centre  
"Acetylcholine induces a hyperpolarization of voltage threshold in neonatal rat spinal motoneurons."  
Student Category Runner-Up: Amrit Boese, Public Health Agency of Canada  
"Examining microRNAs in NMDA related excitotoxicity in prion induced neurodegeneration"

Postdoctoral Fellow Category Winner: Dr. Amit Kamboj, St. Boniface Hospital Research  
"Bnip3 up-regulation and mitochondrial dysfunction in PARP-1 induced neurotoxicity"  
Postdoctoral Fellow Category Runner-Up: Dr. Ali Saleh, St. Boniface Hospital Research  
"Evidence of a neuroprotective role of nuclear factor- $\kappa$ B in oxidative stress induced by rabies virus in adult rat dorsal root ganglion neurons."

### **Event Sponsors: Thank you to the following sponsors for their support**

- Platinum: Manitoba Health Research Council
- Gold: St. Boniface Hospital Research
- Silver: Faculty of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry & Spinal Cord Research Centre, Univ. of Manitoba
- Bronze: Sigma-Aldrich, Fisher Scientific, Health Sciences Centre Medical Staff Council, Departments of Human Anatomy & Cell Sciences, Physiology & Pharmacology & Therapeutics, University of Manitoba



*Following is a copy of the MNN2012 program:*

- 8.30 – 5.00 Registration desk open  
9.00 – 9.20 Opening Remarks: Neuroscience Research Interests in Manitoba

**Theme: Homeostasis, Neuroendocrine, Cognition, Behaviour**

**Chair: Dr. Hugo Bergen, Human Anatomy & Cell Sciences, University of Manitoba**

- 9.25 – 9.50 Nociceptin/orphanin FQ (N/OFQ)-induced modification of anxiety-like behaviours and dependent changes in N/OFQ-NOP gene expression during ethanol withdrawal

**Dr. Harinder Aujla**

Department of Psychology, University of Winnipeg

- 9.55 – 10.20 Opioid and cannabinoid homeostasis in viral epilepsy

**Dr. Marylou Solbrig**

Department of Medical Microbiology, University of Manitoba

- 10.20 – 10.40 Coffee Break, Poster Viewing

- 10.40 – 10.55 Not so 'bird-brained': Corvids as a model for complex social cognition

**Dawson Clary**

Department of Psychology

University of Manitoba

**11.00 – 12.00 Keynote Lecture: Hot baby: how early inflammation programs the brain**

**Dr. Quentin Pittman**

Department of Physiology & Pharmacology

Hotchkiss Brain Institute

University of Calgary



- 12.00 – 1.10 Lunch, Poster viewing

**Theme: Neural Excitability, Synapse, Glia: Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms**

**Chair: Dr. Emma Frost, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Manitoba**

- 1.10 – 1.35 Dysregulation of adenosine signaling in genetic mouse models: implications for stroke injury, mental illness and alcohol sensitivity.

**Dr. Fiona Parkinson**

Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics

University of Manitoba

- 1.40 - 2:05 The role of dorsal root ganglia activation and brain derived neurotrophic factor in multiple sclerosis  
**Dr. Mike Namaka**  
Faculty of Pharmacy  
University of Manitoba
- 2:10 - 2:25 PARP-1 and Bnip3 as mediators of mitochondrial dysfunction and neuronal death  
**Dr. Amit Kamboj**  
Division of Neurodegenerative Disorders  
St. Boniface Hospital Research
- 2.30 - 2.50 Coffee Break, Poster Viewing
- 2.50 - 3.50 Keynote Lecture: Glial cells: From brain glue to synaptic plasticity**
- Dr. Keith Murai  
Canada Research Chair & EJLB Scholar  
Department of Neurology & Neurosurgery  
McGill University
- 3.55 Closing Remarks
- 4.00 - 6.00 Poster Session and Reception



**A special thank you to the conference organizers!**



2012 MNN Meeting Chair  
**Chris Anderson, PhD**  
President, Winnipeg Chapter  
Society for Neuroscience



Program Chair  
**Gilbert Kirouac, PhD**

**Program Committee:**  
**Gilbert Kirouac, PhD (Chair)**  
Ruth Ann Marrie, MD, PhD  
James Nagy, PhD  
Mark Fry, PhD

Kelly Jorundson  
Executive Assistant

#### 4.2 Manitoba Neuroscience Network Seminar Series 2012-2013

The Manitoba Neuroscience Network seminar series is a monthly seminar held in conjunction the Clinical Neuroscience Rounds. Dr. Eftekhar Eftekharpour organized a total of nine seminars during the 2012-2013 academic year (two of the speakers were invited/sponsored by WCSN). The seminars are typically held in room PX236/238 PsychHealth Bldg. Importantly, these seminars are held jointly with Clinical Neuroscience Rounds to foster communications and collaboration between basic and clinical neuroscientists.

September 28, 2012	<b>Dr. Grant Hatch</b>
9:00 am	Professor, Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics, University of Manitoba  Topic: "Fatty acid transport across human brain microvessel endothelial cells: A unique role for arachidonic acid."
October 26, 2012	<b>Dr. Jun-Feng Wang</b>
9:00am	Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics, University of Manitoba  Topic: "Oxidative stress in bipolar disorder: implications for mood stabilizing treatment."
November 30, 2012	<b>Dr. Jiming Kong</b>
9:00 am	Professor, Department of Human Anatomy & Cell Sciences University of Manitoba  Topic: "Neurodegenerative diseases: the risk factor of aging."
January 18, 2013	<b>Dr. Samuel David</b>
12:00 noon	Professor, Department of Neurology & Neurosurgery, McGill University  Topic: Targeting inflammation in spinal cord injury. <i>Theatre B Bannatyne Campus</i>
January 25, 2013	<b>Dr. Tamra Werbowetski-Ogilvie</b>
9:00am	Assistant Professor, Department of Biochemistry & Medical Genetics, University of Manitoba  Topic: "Deconstructing medulloblastoma heterogeneity: targeting a spectrum of phenotypes."

February 22, 2013

**Dr. Derek Van der Kooy**

9:00 am

Professor, Department of Medical Biophysics University of Toronto

Topic: TBA

March 22, 2013

**Dr. Xin-Min Li**

9:00 am

Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Manitoba

Topic: "Depression: from clinical guidelines to neurobiology."

April 26, 2013

**Dr. Mogjan Rastegar**

9:00 am

Assistant Professor, Regenerative Medicine Program, University of Manitoba

Topic: "Epigenetics and Neural Stem Cell Modeling of Neurological Disorders.""

May 31, 2013

**Dr. Gordon Glazner**

9:00 am

Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics

University of Manitoba

Topic: "Decreased activity of neuronal NF-kappaB in diabetes mediates in vitro neuropathic changes."

## 5. MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

### 5.1 Membership Fee Schedule for 2012

#### 2012 MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE

Students	\$ 15
Postdocs, Residents, Associates, Technicians	\$ 30
Faculty, Professionals	\$ 60
*All-inclusive Lab rate	\$ 120

### 5.2 2012 WCSN Membership Summary of Categories

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	# of Members
Faculty	44
Postdoctoral Fellows, Residents, Techs.	29
Students	48
Other	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>123</b>

### 5.3 2012 WCSN Membership Detail Listing

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## 6. OUTREACH AWARDS/PRIZES

### 6.1 Manitoba Schools Science Symposium (MSSS)

The WCSN sent volunteer graduate student members to act as judges in April 2012. Presentations relating to the nervous system judged and 3 award winners were chosen.

#### **Congratulations to the following winners:**

1st Prize:	Ms. Malshi Karunatilake	(\$250)
2nd Prize:	Ms. Shreyas Devalapurkar	(\$150)
3rd Prize:	Ms. Samantha Brown & Sonya Strocen	(\$100)

We thank our 2 volunteer judges: Amrit Boese, Natasha Paddock

### 6.2 2012 B.Sc. (Med) Student Cash Prize

The WCSN provided a \$200 cash prize for the best neuroscience-related project by a B.Sc.(Med) student during summer of 2012. Mr. Ryan Dale was selected as the 2012 recipient for his project entitled: 'Use of diffusion MRI technique as a tool in the early detection of Alzheimer's Disease'

## 7. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

### 7.1 Winnipeg Chapter Society for Neuroscience - General Fund

Following is the annual financial report for the WCSN's General Fund. The report shows financial activity on two separate accounts : a) **124998-341600-1100** - held at the University of Manitoba; and b) **7150** - held at St. Boniface Research Centre. The advantage of holding accounts at both institutes is that the WCSN is able to take advantage of collecting membership dues, contributions, etc. thru internal methods (eg. journal entry).

YTD Financial Report on Revenue & Expenses (Period covering January 1 - December 31, 2012)			
	UNIV OF MB	SBRC	2012
	124998	7150	YTD
BUDGET CARRY OVER (PREV YR)	3,329.00	482.00	3,811.00
<b>REVENUE</b>			
GRANTS	0	0	0
MEMBERSHIP FEES (also includes \$ transferred in via Paypal thru BofM account)	2,265.00	656.90	2,921.90
SPONSORSHIPS	0	0	0
OTHER	0	0	0
INTEREST	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 2,265.00</b>	<b>\$ 656.90</b>	<b>\$ 2,921.90</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
ADMIN EXPENSES	0	0	0
AWARDS & HONORARIUMS (MSSS, B.SC.MED)	131.21	772.84	904.05
AV/PRINTING COSTS	0	366.06	366.06
TRAVEL	0	0	0
CATERING	(200.00)	0	(200.00) <sup>1</sup>
EQUIPMENT/FACILITY RENTAL	0	0	0
OFFICE & OTHER MISC SUPPLIES	90.00	0	90.00 <sup>2</sup>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 21.21</b>	<b>\$ 1,138.90</b>	<b>\$ 1,160.11</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>2,243.79</b>	<b>(482.00)</b>	<b>1,761.79</b>
CLOSING BALANCE (DEFICIT) AT DEC 31, 2012	\$ 5,572.79	\$ -	\$ 5,572.79

Notes:

1. Credit in catering budget line relates to journal entry to cover BAW expenses incurred during prior fiscal year .
2. The \$90 charge in Offer/Other budget line related to a coding error by Finance incurred in prior fiscal year.

7.2 Manitoba Neuroscience Network Fund

<b>YTD Financial Report on Revenue &amp; Expenses (Period covering January 1 - December 31, 2012)</b>			
	<b>UNIV OF MB</b>	<b>SBRC</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<b>124802</b>	<b>7050</b>	<b>YTD</b>
BUDGET CARRY OVER (PREV YR)	853.08	4,489.00	5,342.08
<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>			
GRANTS	0	0	0
REGISTRATIONS	3,390.00	2,190.00	5,580.00
SPONSORSHIPS	9,500.00	4,500.00	14,000.00
OTHER	0	0	0
INTEREST	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 12,890.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,690.00</b>	<b>\$ 19,580.00</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>			
ADMIN EXPENSES	0	1,160.00	1,160.00
AWARDS & HONORARIUMS	0	1,578.00 <sup>1</sup>	1,578.00
PRINTING COSTS	0	1,470.00	1,470.00
TRAVEL	289.58	0	289.58
POSTER BOARDS/EVOLUTION PRESENT. (AV)	900.00	1,443.00	2,343.00
FACILITY RENTAL/FOOD, ETC.	8,938.63	0	8,938.63
ADVERTISING	0	1,500.00 <sup>2</sup>	1,500.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 10,128.21</b>	<b>\$ 7,151.00</b>	<b>\$ 17,279.21</b>
CLOSING BALANCE (DEFICIT) AT DEC 31, 2012	\$ 3,614.87	\$ 4,028.00	\$ 7,642.87

Notes:

1. Awards/Honorariums include \$500 for MNN Speaker Dr. Samuel David
2. Advertising includes \$1,500 for CVENT for MNN2013 event.