***From the Admissions Committee Chair - Jeanne Frederick***

The NP admissions process is underway. Drs. Yingbin Fu, Julie Korenberg and David Krizaj have completed their commitments and we appreciate their past service. As the deadline was moved two weeks earlier, to December 31st, all applications have been reviewed. Candidates invited to interview possess varied backgrounds, e.g., molecular dynamics of GPCR activation, hybridoma cell line construction, voltage- and patch clamp electrophysiology, optogenetics and rodent fMRI imaging. Current committee members include: Hilary Coon (Psychiatry), Mike Deans (Otolaryngology), Chuck Dorval (Bioengineering), Jeanne Frederick (Ophthalmology), Chris Gregg (Neurobiology & Anatomy), Bryan Jones (Ophthalmology), Jason Shepherd (Neurobiology & Anatomy), Karen Wilcox (Pharmacology & Toxicology), Ayako Yamaguchi (Biology) and Jun Yang (Ophthalmology).

NP faculty are invited to meet the candidates at the JCC reception on February 13th—so save the date!

****New Program Manager for Neuroscience Initiative****

The Neuroscience Initiative was launched in Fall 2014, with the goal of uniting University of Utah academic, translational, and clinical neuroscience communities towards a better understanding of the brain in health and disease. To learn more about the Neuroscience Initiative, visit http://www.neurogateway.utah.edu/.

Becca Parker, PhD, who graduated from the Neuroscience Program in 2012, has returned to the University of Utah as the initiative’s program manager. As a graduate student, Becca studied chronic intracortical microstimulation and recording using microelectrode arrays under the mentorship of Drs. Bradley Greger and Richard Normann in Bioengineering and Dr. Paul House in Neurosurgery. Following graduate school, she completed a one-year postdoc at the University of Pittsburgh, studying the use of microelectrode arrays in dorsal root ganglia under the guidance of Drs. Douglas Weber and Robert Gaunt. For the past year and a half, she taught health-related courses such as anatomy and physiology as a full time science faculty member at Klamath Community College in Oregon.

As the Neuroscience Initiative program manager, Becca will assist interdisciplinary teams with proposal development, administer pilot grants, coordinate working groups and symposia, provide oversight for outreach activities including Brain Awareness Week, and serve as the primary contact for the Neuroscience Initiative. Feel free to send any questions her way. You can find her in EIHG 3140, call her at 801-585-0343, or email her at parker.becca@utah.edu.

****FACULTY AWARDS****

Stefan Pulst (Neurology, Chair) was awarded a senator Jacob Javits award for neuroscience from NINDS.
****NEW FACULTY****

Paul S. Bernstein, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences.
Research: Biochemistry and biophysics of nutritional interventions against ocular disease; carotenoid and omega-3 fatty acid metabolism and function in the human retina; genetics of macular and retina dystrophies and degenerations.

Hilary Coon, Ph.D., Research Professor of Psychiatry.
Research: Genetics of autism, suicide risk, nicotine dependence, and obesity; application of statistical methods to genetic data.
**RECENTLY PUBLISHED**


**POSTDOCTORAL POSITION**

A postdoctoral position is available in the laboratory of Dr. Timothy Simeone (NP’03) at Creighton University School of Medicine. This position is for a highly motivated individual with 0-2 years postdoctoral experience. The successful candidate will participate in two NIH funded projects: 1) investigating the role of mitochondria in synaptic, cellular and network excitability in epilepsy; 2) investigating the role of hypocretin neurons in sleep co-morbidities associated with epilepsy. Our laboratory employs a combination of in vitro and in vivo molecular/cellular, histochemical, electrophysiological, optogenetic and behavioral approaches in our experiments.

Qualified applicants must have a Ph.D. degree and experience with electrophysiological techniques. Evidence of strong written and verbal communication skills, organizational skills, as well as the ability to work collaboratively within a team environment is required. To apply, please email a curriculum vitae, a statement of research interests and career goals, and a list of at least three references of whom we can ask for letters of recommendation to timothysimeone@creighton.edu.