

## PNIG Newsletter Vol. 3, Issue 2

Happy holidays from the Psychiatry and Neurology Interest Group!

First and foremost, we would like to thank everyone who attended our last PNIG meeting on Dec 17th at noon. PNIG would also like to thank our three speakers:

Michelle Unser (the Residency Coordinator of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and PM & R at AMC), Dr. Higgins (Neurology Program Director and Professor of Neurology), and Dr. Bridget Frawley (PGY4, 4th year of neurology training).

If you missed that meeting and would like a brief summary as well as a copy of the informative handouts, please email PNIG at [pnig@mail.amc.edu](mailto:pnig@mail.amc.edu). Please note that the scanned documents will not be available until Jan 3rd. Hope you are not in a hurry!

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CALLING ALL WEB-DESIGNERS, WEB-MASTERS, WEB-GENIOUSES... actually, anyone who is able and willing to maintain a website will do!  
PNIG is looking for someone who can maintain our website [www.pnig.org](http://www.pnig.org); if you choose, you are welcome to call yourself WEB-(WHATEVER-YOU-WANT) ;) Please email us if you are interested.

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Speaking of our website, check it out at [www.pnig.org](http://www.pnig.org). There you will find useful links as well as information about opportunities in neurology and psychiatry.

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If you are interested in psychiatry, there are several conferences coming up...

SAVE THE DATE: Psychiatry Student Interest Group Network - Second Annual NY Region Conference: Saturday, January 19th

This year, the New York regional Psychiatry Student Interest Group Network conference will be held in conjunction with APSaA (the American Psychoanalytic Society) at the historic Waldorf-Astoria in New York City.

Registration for this conference, including meal and social events, is FREE. They will welcome students from other regions of the country as well as New York members.

Registration to the main APSaA conference, beginning January 16th, is also free for students attending the PsychSIGN conference.

The program for the student conference includes:

- Dr Glen Gabbard – Brown Foundation Professor of Psychoanalysis, and Director of the Baylor Psychiatry Clinic
- Dr Janis Cutler – Director of Medical Student Education at the New York State Psychiatric Institute / Columbia University
- Dr George Makari - director of Cornell's Institute of the History of Psychiatry
- Dr Prudence Gourguechon- President-elect of APSaA
- Young Psychiatrists Panel - local residents, fellows, and attendings who will speak about their own experiences and answer your questions about training in this exciting field
- Social activities include breakfast, lunch and a social hour

This is a great opportunity to learn more about psychoanalysis- its history, theories, and its role in modern-day psychiatry- from current practitioners. It's also a chance to get to know many of your future colleagues and to get advice and feedback from young trainees in psychiatry.

In order to register, please email us; registration may be completed through PNIG. More details to follow.

In addition to the PsychSIGN program on Saturday Jan 19th, you are welcome to attend APSaA sessions of interest to you. See the following link for a program of the conference.

<http://www.apsa.org/MEETINGSANDEVENTS/WINTER2008MEETING/tabid/169/Default.aspx>

Also...

SAVE THE DATE: American Physician Scientists Association, 4th Annual Meeting to be held on April 25-27, 2008.

This conference provides an exceptional opportunity to bring together future physician-scientists with leaders in the field from the American Society of Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians to exchange ideas and information as well as for students to pursue mentorship and professional advice. The value of one-on-one interactions

with colleagues in training and the exposure to current leaders in various fields are invaluable resources, and as such, APSA has decided to continue to hold its meeting with the ASCI, AAP, CSCR, and MWAFFMR to provide these same forums of interactions and discussion in a highly accessible fashion.

APSA 2008 Annual Meeting Web Site  
<http://meeting.physicianscientists.org>

All important information regarding the meeting will be regularly updated on the Annual Meeting Website so check back often.

Early registration is now open online for \$35.00 until April 11. Late registration will commence on April 12th through the meeting for \$80.00 and are limited based on space/funding availability.

Also in the field of psych...

SAVE THE DATE: Society of Biological Psychiatry 63rd Annual Scientific Convention & Meeting, Molecules to Mind: From Discovery to Recovery.

May 1-3, 2008 Washington D.C.

Please go to <http://www.sobp.org/meetings.asp> for more information.

We are not yet sure whether this convention is free for medical students

One more psych meeting...

SAVE THE DATE: Registration is now open for APA (American Psychiatric Association) Members for the 161st Annual Meeting on May 3-8, 2008!(Non-member registration starts January 2nd)

Why Attend the 2008 APA Annual Meeting?

- Network and collaborate with more than 18,000 colleagues from around the world
- Choose from over 1000 educational opportunities
- Listen to world-renowned speakers

Click on [http://www.psych.org/edu/ann\\_mtgs/am/08/index.cfm](http://www.psych.org/edu/ann_mtgs/am/08/index.cfm) to register or visit [www.psych.org](http://www.psych.org) for Annual Meeting information.

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Had enough of psych conferences?

Can't forget you neuro-fiends:

SAVE THE DATE: American Academy of Neurology, 60th Annual Meeting, "Chicago, Six Decades of Progress." April 12-19, 2008

Opportunities for Medical Students:

Through its Annual Meeting, the AAN offers medical students a variety of career development opportunities in neurology.

Benefits available to students include:

Applying for a travel scholarship to attend the Annual Meeting

Learning more about neurology through SIGN (Student Interest Group in Neurology)

Attending select Education Programs free through the Resident/Medical Student Rush

Saving money on Education Program fees by becoming a program monitor

Earning money by becoming a workshop subject

Attending the SIGN meeting

Contact: Cheryl Alementi (Administrator, Education) at [calementi@aan.com](mailto:calementi@aan.com)

or (651) 695-2737.

<http://www.aan.com/go/home>

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As always, here are some fascinating discoveries:

Activation of 5-HT<sub>1A</sub> receptors in medullary raphe disrupts sleep and decreases shivering during cooling in the conscious piglet.

[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?Db=pubmed&Cmd=ShowDetailView&TermToSearch=18094064&ordinalpos=7&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed\\_ResultsPanel.Pubmed\\_RVDocSum](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?Db=pubmed&Cmd=ShowDetailView&TermToSearch=18094064&ordinalpos=7&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultsPanel.Pubmed_RVDocSum)

Detection of the Moderately Beneficial Cognitive Effects of Low-Dose Treatment with Haloperidol or Clozapine in an Animal Model of the Attentional Impairments of Schizophrenia.

[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?Db=pubmed&Cmd=ShowDetailView&TermToSearch=18094665&ordinalpos=3&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed\\_ResultsPanel.Pubmed\\_RVDocSum](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?Db=pubmed&Cmd=ShowDetailView&TermToSearch=18094665&ordinalpos=3&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultsPanel.Pubmed_RVDocSum)

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Here's what's making headlines:

#### Advocacy Update

Appropriations negotiations continue between the White House and Congress. On Dec. 13, congressional Democratic leaders met the President's bottom line FY 2008 appropriations total for non-defense federal programs, with some additional funding for veterans programs. Specific funding levels for NIH and NSF are still being determined, but news reports suggest that NIH could receive some increase above last year.

On Dec. 11, the Senate passed the "Traumatic Brain Injury Act" which renews the NIH trauma research programs and the CDC state grants to assist brain injury patients entering treatment and rehabilitation programs. For further information on these stories, please visit the SfN Government and Public Affairs web page.

#### BRAINS IN SPACE

Even though astronauts have toured the universe for decades, scientists are just now beginning to understand how space's low gravity environment can affect the brain. New biological studies show that outer space, at least temporarily, impacts brain mechanisms involved in a variety of functions, including movement and navigation. The research may lead to the development of strategies that protect humans from the consequences of space travel as well as help those with related, earth-based ailments. In addition, the insights on the brain's ability to adapt to aspects of the space assault may help scientists find ways to initiate these adaptations in order to treat a variety of brain disorders.

If technology and science advance at a break-neck pace, recreational trips to outer space in this millennium are a good bet. But before you place a deposit on that moon-travel special, consider how the unusual change in environment, particularly the warp in gravity, could tinker with your brain.

On Earth, gravity's invisible downward force draws us toward the center of the planet and holds us on the surface. This pull, however, barely registers in space.

An increasing amount of biological evidence is now indicating that space's skimpy gravity impacts the brain in a variety of ways. The discoveries are leading to:

- An understanding of the importance of gravity on biological systems.
- New insight into the brain's ability to adapt to even the strangest situations.
- Clues on ways to ward off side effects of space flight as well as some related Earth-based ailments...

Read this article in its entirety at [http://www.sfn.org/index.cfm?pagename=brainBriefings\\_brainsInSpace](http://www.sfn.org/index.cfm?pagename=brainBriefings_brainsInSpace)

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NEXT PNIG MEETING IS TO BE ANNOUNCED!

We will you keep you posted.

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Lastly, please forward any neuro/psych articles or news to us so we may share them with our members.

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NEURONS- USE 'EM OR LOSE 'EM!

Happy holidays,  
Emanuela Sofroni  
AMC Class of 2011  
PNIG Communications Chair and 1st Year Liaison