

HBRI Newsletter

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Spring Edition

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Director's Focus

This year HBRI will be celebrating its 6th anniversary. The scientists at HBRI have made great scientific progress this past year and have developed promising drug candidates in the areas of:

Pain Management: HBRI has developed a series of anti-pain compounds that are more potent and likely to have less side effects for use in post-operative pain or for cancer patients. HBRI is collaborating with Marc Azar (Behavioral Pharma, Inc.), George Koob (The Scripps Research Institute) and Larry Toll (SRI International) to develop these promising compounds.

Smoking Cessation, Lung Cancer and Alcoholism: Promising new compounds have been developed to treat smoking addiction, lung cancer and alcoholism. The agents have shown potency and selectivity in pre-clinical studies. The work has been done in collaboration with Marc Azar (Behavioral Pharma, Inc.), Hiroshi Yamazaki (Tokyo University), Paul Hollenberg (University of Michigan) and George Koob (The Scripps Research Institute).

Depression: New anti-depressants were developed that have shown considerable promise in pre-clinical studies. Professors Jim O'Donnell (Univ. of Tennessee), Marco Conti (Stanford Univ.) and Aaron Janowsky (Portland Veterans

Administration Research Foundation) are collaborators.

Bipolar Disorder (a type of depression): HBRI was awarded a grant from the Stanley Medical Research Institute which is instrumental in supporting bipolar disease research. We are collaborating with Prof. John Kelsoe at UCSD.

Nerve Agent Antidotes: A detoxication catalyst is being developed to protect civilian and non-civilians from deadly nerve gas exposure. HBRI is collaborating with Drs. Doug Cerasoli and David Lenz (US Department of Defense) and Bob Shopes (Tera Biotechnology, LLC) to develop this technology.

Alzheimer's Disease: Potential treatments based on the recent finding that people who smoke seem to be protected from getting Alzheimer's Disease. This work is done in collaboration with Prof. Palmer Taylor (UCSD) and Dr. Ron Lucas.

HBRI would like to thank our collaborators that have contributed a great deal to our scientific progress (listed on page 4).

Last October we held our third Annual Gala (see page 3). The event was a great success. Proceeds were donated to the HBRI Fund at the San Diego Foundation and will be used to further research at HBRI to enable the translation of our research findings into real treatments.

HBRI Welcomes Postdoctoral Researcher Matthew Cerny

HBRI is pleased to announce that Dr. Cerny joined the institute in February of 2005 as a Postdoctoral Researcher. Dr. Cerny received his Ph.D in Medicinal Chemistry from the University of Kansas in 2004. His dissertation work focused on drug metabolism and cytochrome P450. He was a recipient of the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy and Graduate School Student Honor Symposium Award.

Dr. Cerny recently received a prestigious 3 year Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant from the American Cancer Society

entitled, "Cancer Prevention via Inhibition of Cytochromes P450, 2A6 and 2A13." The support from this grant will be used to study smoking cessation agents and lung cancer prevention. Dr. Cerny will collaborate with Drs. Eric Johnson and Jason Yano from the Molecular and Experimental Medicine Department at The Scripps Research Institute and Prof. Emily Scott (Kansas University).

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable diseases, disability and death in the United States. Smoking is also the causative factor in 80-90% of lung cancer

cases that have claimed over 160,000 lives in the United States in 2004.



Matthew Cerny, Ph.D.

HBRI looks forward to Dr. Cerny's important scientific contributions.



HBRI Celebrates 5th Anniversary During Open House

HBRI celebrated its 5th Anniversary during Open House last June. Guests enjoyed Caribbean food and music and had a chance to tour the labs. Participants also enjoyed an informative presentation by California Senator Deborah Ortiz on stem cell research and smoking cessation legislation. Senator Ortiz is the author of the nationally recognized law promoting stem cell research in California and has been deeply involved in shaping the state's policy on tobacco.



Drs. Jerry Hoffmeister and Ned Smith of The San Diego Foundation.



Keynote speaker California Senator Deborah Ortiz



HBRI Director John Cashman and Senator Ortiz



HBRI Scientist Dr. Andrew Baird and Dr. Linda Hill

Our special thanks to Fisher Scientific for their sponsorship of this event. We'd also like to thank Village Nurseries for their donation of palm trees and to David Preston and Associates for their kind donation.



Meredith Dow (KForce) and sponsor, Kimberlyn Wurfel (Fisher Scientific).



We all know someone who has been affected by Smoking Addiction or Alzheimer's Disease. Now you can help fight back by supporting HBRI's breakthrough research. For ways you can help, check out the "Ways I can help" insert.



Denise Lew, Ph.D., San Diego Foundation, assisted John Cashman in recognizing the students.

Student Summer Interns Recognized

The HBRI Student Science Education Partnership program enables local students with an interest in chemistry or biology to



HBRI students interns: Rebecca Jimenez, Daniel Cashman and Kera Hagan

conduct experiments under the supervision and mentorship of HBRI scientists. The students are able to gain hands-on scientific experience and learn what scientists really do.

The HBRI Student Science Education Partnership Fellowship recipients were recognized during HBRI's 5th Anniversary Open House. Last year's recipients were Andy Liu (Torrey Pines HS), Vignesh Raman (La Jolla Country Day HS), Daniel Cashman (Oak Ridge HS), Hue Sing Ly (UCSD), Kera-Marie Hagan (Lehigh Univ.) and Maybelle Cembrano (UCI). Special mention was given to Rebecca Jimenez (MIT) as the HBRI/Pfizer Research Fellowship recipient. The HBRI Student Science Education Partnership Fellowships were sponsored by a generous donation from Pfizer Global Research and Development, La Jolla,

a Blasker-Rose Miah Grant awarded by The San Diego Foundation and a generous contribution from the James S. Copley Foundation. HBRI wishes to express its gratitude to these organizations for their support of science education. We are currently



Andy Liu receives a certificate from John Cashman.

seeking donations for this year's internships. For more information please contact Lisa Cashman at lcashman@hbri.org.

Making A Difference A Gala Success

On October 23rd, HBRI supporters enjoyed a fabulous evening at the Fairbanks Ranch Clubhouse in Rancho Santa Fe.



Over 80 guests were treated to an informal fashion show featuring pieces from the **Peaches en Regalia Collection**, by models provided by **Hollywood Talent Associates, LLC**. Guests 'escaped the ordinary' with delicacies from **The Great Escape** catering, and bidding on 25-plus highly desired auction items.



Event Committee member John Pagliaro and guest Suzanne Swigart.



Speaker Dr. Doug Galasko and guest Dr. Diana Lurie.

Master of Ceremonies, Dr. John Cashman, HBRI Director, welcomed everyone to a very special evening and introduced the special guest speaker, Dr. Doug Galasko.



Event Committee member Stacy Ralph and Dr. Lee Ralph with sponsor Chad Carpenter (Equus Reality Advisors) and Maureen Carpenter.

Dr. Galasko, Professor of Neurosciences at UCSD and investigator at the UCSD Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, gave an insightful presentation on what is currently known about Alzheimer's Disease and the areas of research that are

being pursued providing us with hope for the future. The



Guest Lenore Hawkins with Sponsor Jeff Hawkins (Equus Reality Advisors).

program continued with dancing to the magical sounds of **transcendence**, graciously provided by SOTA Music, Inc.

A huge **THANK YOU** to all who attended, sponsored, and donated their gifts and time to the Gala. Your generosity helped to raise over \$17,000 that will continue to support HBRI's research.



Guests, Deb and Kurt Scherler with Event Committee member Dr. Mary Warren.

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HBRI Would Like to Thank. . .

James S. Copley Foundation



Research Collaborators

Dan O'Connor, Ron Kuczenski, John Kelsoe, Palmer Taylor and Nik Schork (UCSD)

George Koob, Eric Johnson and Jason Yano (The Scripps Research Institute)

Aaron Janowsky and Bob Johnson (Portland V.A. Medical Foundation)

Tetsuya Kamataki (Hokkaido University, Japan)

Dan Mercola (Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center)

Hiroshi Yamataki (Tokyo University, Japan)

Bob Shopes (Tera Biotechnology, LLC)

Tom Morton and Dan Schlenk (UCR)

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Our Mission

To conduct basic research related to disorders of the central nervous system and help develop new therapeutic agents that address these disorders and promote scientific learning through community service and public access.