

Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology Meeting Highlights

The Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology (ACDP) held its annual meeting at Playacar Palace, Playa del Carmen, Mexico, on December 1-4, 2011.

President Gary Sieck (Mayo Clinic) developed a program focused on physiology education, ranging from K-12 through faculty.

The fifth Arthur Guyton Lectureship was given by Paul Welling (Univ. of Maryland Medical School) on "Potassium Channels Find Their Way in Membrane Traffic." The interim chair research presentations were by David Kreulen (Michigan State Univ.) on "Neural Control of Veins in Hypertension" and by Jay Dean (Univ. of South Florida) on "Insights on Neuroprotection Against CNS Oxygen Toxicity." In addition, R. John Solaro (ACDP Distinguished Service Awardee from Univ. of Illinois at Chicago) discussed his scientific career in a presentation entitled "Tipping Points in a Scientific Life." The group also received an update on APS activities from current President, Joey Granger (Univ. of Mississippi).

The presentation focusing on K-12 physiology education was given by Bill Joyner (East Tennessee State Univ.)

entitled "An Epidemic, Childhood Obesity: Physical Activity With GoTrybe As Part of the Solution!" reporting on his group's efforts to formulate a youth fitness program (GoTrybe.com) that could be used with K-12 students. The graduate school presentation was by William Jackson (Michigan State Univ.) and entitled "National Directors of Graduate Studies (NDOGS) 2011: A Successful Collaboration Between Physiologists and Pharmacologists," reporting on the first joint meeting (ndogs.phmtox.msu.edu/facilities.html) between the two groups of graduate directors this past summer. Phil Clifford (Medical College of Wisconsin) presented on "Postdoctoral training: Qué es y qué debe ser?" pointing out the need for training beyond research training, especially in the area of careers. Meredith Hay (Univ. of Arizona) led a discussion of "Mentoring and career development strategies for faculty." For continuing education, Joseph LaManna, President of FASEB, brought members up-to-date information from Capitol Hill and NIH in his presentation "Challenging Times Ahead."

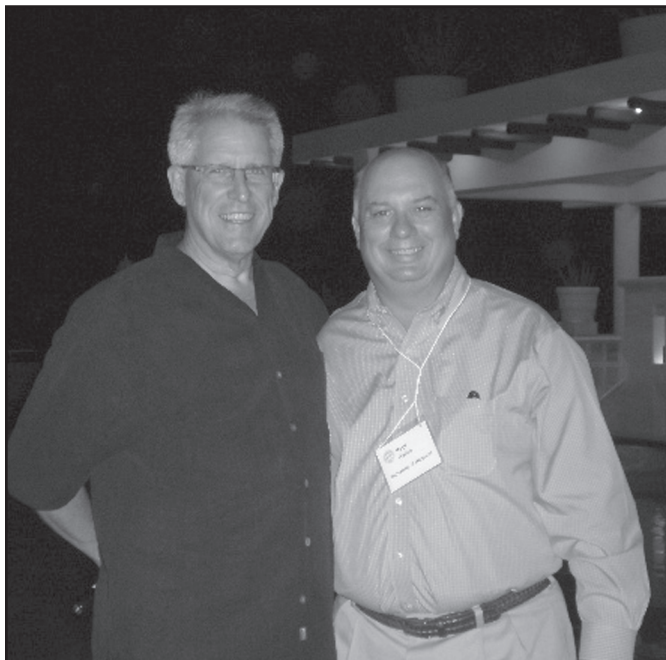
All non-scientific presentations are available on the ACDP website at

www.acdponline.org/Meetings/2011fallmeeting.htm.

Officer elections were held with the following results. Muthu Periasamy (Ohio State Univ. College of Medicine) was elected President-elect, Bishr Omary (Univ. of Michigan Medical School) and Charles Wood (Univ. of Florida College of Medicine) were elected to three-year terms as Councilor. R. Clinton Webb (Georgia Health Sciences Univ.) was elected to a three-year term as Council of Academic Societies (AAMC) Representative and L. Gabriel Navar agreed to serve for one additional year as the second CAS Representative to allow for staggered terms.

R. Clinton Webb (Georgia Health Sciences Univ.) was thanked for his service as Past President. Nicholas A. Delamere (Univ. of Arizona) was thanked for his service as Councilor.

President-elect Marshall (Chip) Montrose (Univ. of Cincinnati College of Medicine) announced the 2012 ACDP annual fall meeting location is still under consideration. For more information on the 2012 meeting, watch the website for news <http://www.acdponline.org/>. ❖



ACDP President Gary Sieck presents Paul Welling with the 5th Guyton Lectureship Award. Playacar Palace, Playa del Carmen, Mexico.

Solaro Honored at Annual ACDP Meeting

Gary Sieck (Mayo Clinic), President of the Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology (ACDP), presented the ACDP's highest award, the Distinguished Service Award, to R. John Solaro, Chair, Department of Physiology and Biophysics, Univ. of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), College of Medicine, during the organization's 2011 fall meeting in Playa del Carmen, Mexico.

Solaro was selected to receive the ACDP Distinguished Service Award for his long and illustrious service to ACDP, to science, and to physiology.

Solaro has been an educator, administrator, and researcher with significant impact in the field of molecular and integrated control of cardiac physiology, pathology and pharmacology. He has served as Chair of the Department since 1988. He is currently one of a handful of Distinguished Univ. Professors in the Univ. of Illinois System. He is the founder and past director of the UIC Center for Cardiovascular Research. He is an Honorary Professor at the Univ. of Manchester in England. At UIC, Solaro received the Univ. Scholar Award and the Faculty of the Year Award.

Solaro received his undergraduate degree in Pharmacy from the Univ. of Cincinnati. He then went to the

Department of Physiology at the Univ. of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, where he trained with F. Norman Briggs. He received his PhD in 1972. He was appointed Assistant Professor at the Medical College of Virginia that year, and in 1975-76, he was a Fellow of the American and British Heart Associations working with S. V. Perry in Birmingham, England. From 1977-1988, he was a professor at the Univ. of Cincinnati College of Medicine. In 1987, he was a Fogarty Fellow working with David Allen at Univ. College London.

The focus of Solaro's scientific work is on control of molecular motors of cardiac sarcomeres. He has done seminal work on the role of troponin in switching on contraction, on the role of myofibrillar protein phosphorylation in the control of cardiac dynamics in the transition to heart failure, and on the enhancement of myofibrillar activation by pharmacological agents, two of which, Acardi (Pimobendan) and Simdax (Levosimendan) are in clinical use. His current translational studies center on therapies involving peptides and micro-RNAs with an emphasis on common cardiac disorders and on cardiomyopathies genetically linked to mutations in sarcomeric proteins. These studies are currently funded by

three grants on which Solaro serves as PI: an RO1, a MERIT Award now continued to year 37, and a Program Project Grant. He also holds a joint grant from the Medical Research Council with colleagues at the Univ. of Manchester, England.

Solaro has been active in many societies and in service on review panels and editorial boards. He is past president of the Cardiac Muscle Society and ACDP and Secretary General of the International Society for Heart Research. Solaro is currently Chair of the NIH Skeletal Muscle and Exercise Physiology Study Section and served as past Chair of the Cardiovascular Sciences Study Section and member of the Physiology Study Section. He serves as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology* and is past Associate Editor of the *American Journal of Physiology (Heart)*, where he is now Consulting Editor. He also serves on the Editorial Board of *Circulation Research*. He has served as guest editor of special issues in *Circulation Research*, *Cardiovascular Research*, *Journal of Molecular and Cellular Cardiology*, and *The Journal of Biological Chemistry*.

Solaro has a distinguished career as a mentor to over 70 pre- and postdoctoral fellows and visiting scientists. He has been PI of an institutional training grant funded into its 25th year. He was honored as the UIC Mentor of the Year.

Because of his scientific endeavors; his dedicated service to the field of gastrointestinal and pancreatic physiology and physiology as a whole; and his distinguished service to APS, ACDP, and other scientific organizations, the ACDP was proud to present its 2011 Distinguished Service Award to R. John Solaro. ❖



ACDP President Gary Sieck presents R. John Solaro with the 2011 Distinguished Service Award.