

# ACDP

## Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology 2017 Leadership Retreat Highlights

The Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology (ACDP) held its annual Leadership Retreat at Hilton Rose Hall Resort in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on November 30 to December 3, 2017.

President Charles E. Wood (Univ. of Florida Coll. Med.) developed a program focused on issues being currently faced by physiology departments and programs.

Research talks included the 11th Annual Arthur C. Guyton Lectureship given by R. John Solaro (Univ. of Illinois, Chicago) titled "Sarcomere Signaling and Guyton's Analysis of Cardiac Output Regulation."

The 2017 ACDP Distinguished Service Award was presented to Hershel Raff (Medical College of Wisconsin/Aurora St. Luke's Med. Ctr., Aurora Res. Inst.), who gave a talk on "Basic and Clinical Physiology: A Team Approach," highlighting his involvement as a basic scientist in clinical research collaborations (see "Raff Honored at Annual ACDP Meeting" on p. 115).

The new chair research presentation was by Toni Pak (Loyola Univ. Stritch Sch. Med.) on "Estrogen Receptor  $\beta$  and the Aging Brain: Towards a Molecular Rationale for Hormone Replacement Therapy." Jennifer Zeitzer (Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology) gave an update on the Federal scene titled "Assessing Support for Science Funding in the New

Congress." The slides from her talk are available on the ACDP website ([acdponline.org/Home/Meetings/2017-Leadership-Retreat](http://acdponline.org/Home/Meetings/2017-Leadership-Retreat)).

The workshops presented covered a wide variety of topics. The first was on "Funding Physiology—Financial Models of Basic Science Departments," led by Wood. Attendees discussed various methods for generating departmental funds, including funding from deans, from undergraduate majors and master's degree programs, from online courses, and from core facilities. In addition, some departments generate revenue from technology transfer. The second workshop was on "Teaching Physiology—Medical, Other Professional, Graduate, and Undergraduate Teaching



ACDP President Charles E. Wood presents R. John Solaro (left) with the 2017 ACDP Arthur Guyton Lectureship Award



ACDP Council. Back (left to right): Walter Boron, Nick Delamere, V. Gustavo Blanco, Edward Morrison, T. Richard Nichols, Christopher Hardin, D. Buck Hales. Front (left to right): Gaylen Edwards, Marlene Wilson, Janice Urban, Charles Wood, Patricia Molina, Elsa Mangiarua, Kebreten Manaye. Not pictured: R. Clinton Webb.

Formats/Goals/Efficacy” led by T. Richard Nichols (Georgia Inst. of Technology). The group discussed last year’s efforts to develop a list of 10 key principles that undergraduate physiology departments should teach. A new book published by APS from Joel Michael and Jenny McFarland expanded on their published list of principles. The book’s content was discussed, and it was the group’s consensus that the subcommittee should continue working on the ACDP list and present it as an alternate version, since some principles included were more appropriate for a biology, not a physiology, course, and some were deemed to be missing all together. Concern was also raised by attendees that there may be an attempt to by some to move to a model of a single online entity teaching all medical school students. This was seen as cause for great concern. The remaining two workshops: “Defining Physiology: A Discussion of Discipline” and “Defining the Future: A Meeting Wrap-Up Discussion of How We Might Drive the Research and Teaching Agenda” were included in the discussion following Martin Frank’s presentation. Frank is retiring after over 30 years as APS Executive Director. He updated the group on “APS at a Time of Transition,” specifically focusing on the recent APS Strategic Plan and resulting focus groups that are reviewing APS programs to determine which should be dropped or expanded in the various areas of meetings, publications, awards, education, membership, and marketing. He updated the attendees on the search for a new executive director and the results of the branding APS did with an outside consulting group. This led to a wide-ranging discussion about physiology as a discipline, how to raise awareness of physiology among students and faculty, and what programs APS should continue to concentrate on in the future. To that end, ACDP voted unanimously to strongly encourage the APS Council to continue



ACDP President Charles E. Wood presents Martin Frank (left) with a plaque commemorating his many years of service to the discipline of physiology as Executive Director of APS



ACDP President Charles E. Wood turns over the Presidency and microphone to incoming President Janice H. Urban (photo by Tom Thrun, Classic Travel)

its efforts on behalf of undergraduates to encourage them to consider a career in physiology.

In recognition of Frank’s career and long-time service, Wood presented him with a plaque from ACDP. In addition, Irving Zucker (Univ. of Nebraska Med. Ctr.) spoke on “Martin Frank: A Career to Remember . . . Service to the Discipline of Physiology.” This led to a sharing of past experiences and memories from attendees who’d been past APS Presidents, members of APS Council, or attendees who had interacted with Frank when he was leading the NIH physiology study section.

Officer elections were held with the following results. Patricia E. Molina (Louisiana State Univ. Hlth. Sci. Ctr., New Orleans) was elected President-elect; Walter F. Boron (Case Western Reserve Univ. Sch. Med.) and Gaylen L. Edwards (University of Georgia Coll. Vet. Med.) were elected to 3-year terms as Councilors; and R. Clinton Webb (Augusta Univ.) was reelected to another 3-year term as CFAS Representative.

T. Richard Nichols (Georgia Inst. of Technology) was thanked for his service as Past President. D. Buck Hales (Southern Illinois Univ. Sch. Med.) and Kebreten F. Manaye (Howard Univ. Coll. Med.) were thanked for their service as Councilors.

President-elect Janice H. Urban (Rosalind Franklin Univ. of Med. & Sci., Chicago Med. Sch.) announced the

2018 ACDP Leadership Retreat will be held November 29 to December 2, 2018 at Fiesta Americana Coral Beach in Cancun, Mexico. As details are available, they will be added to the 2018 meeting webpage at [acdponline.org/](http://acdponline.org/). The Leadership Retreat is open to chairs of departments of physiology or related areas, graduate directors in physiology or related areas, medical/osteopathic/veterinary physiology course directors, and undergraduate program directors. The meeting will build on this year's topics and will continue to focus on leadership issues and other areas of broad interest to those audiences. ●



ACDP 2017 Leadership retreat Attendees  
(photo by Tom Thrun, Classic Travel)

## Raff Honored at Annual ACDP Meeting

The highest award given by the Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology (ACDP), the Distinguished Service Award, was awarded to Hershel Raff (Professor of Medicine, Surgery, & Physiology, Medical School, Medical College of Wisconsin; Professor, Pharmacy School, Medical College of Wisconsin; Director, Endocrine Research Laboratory, Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center, Aurora Research Institute). Charles E. Wood (Univ. of Florida Coll. Med.), President of ACDP, presented the award during the organization's 2017 Leadership Retreat at Hilton Rose Hall Resort in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on November 30 to December 3, 2017.

Raff was selected to receive the ACDP Distinguished Service Award for leadership in the discipline of physiology, educating the next generation of physiologists, outstanding research, and service to national and international organizations.

He received a BA from Union College in Schenectady, NY, where he majored in music but took many science courses as well. He received a PhD in Environmental Physiology in the laboratory of Robert Fitzgerald at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, studying endocrine adaptations to hypoxia.

He did post-doctoral training at University of California, San Francisco in the laboratory of Mary Dallman, where he continued studies of the endocrine adaptations to hypoxia. He moved to the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) and Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center/Aurora Research Institute in 1983. He rose to the rank of Professor in 1991.



President Charles E. Wood presents Hershel Raff (left) with the 2017 ACDP Distinguished Service Award

Raff's research focuses on two main areas of interest. His basic research on the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis focuses on the short- and long-term consequences of neonatal hypoxia. His laboratory has discovered that activation of the synthetic pathway for

corticosterone (the main glucocorticoid of the rodent) by neonatal hypoxia is mediated by a novel second-messenger cascade. He is also studying the role of renin in adrenal steroidogenesis using the renin knockout rat developed at MCW. His clinical research focuses on the development of diagnostic endocrine tests and, in particular, using the measurement of salivary cortisol to evaluate the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis in a variety of human stress models.

Raff's laboratory is also a clinical reference laboratory in association with ACL Labs. His laboratory measures testosterone for women and children by LCMSMS, and salivary cortisol, and ACTH by immunoassay. His laboratory is also responsible for management of hospital diagnostic testing, including inferior petrosal sinus sampling for ACTH for the differential diagnosis of Cushing's syndrome.

He has been in leadership positions in APS, where he was Chair of the Publications Committee, and in the Endocrine Society, where he served as Secretary-Treasurer and Council member.

Raff is heavily involved in medical, graduate, and undergraduate education. He teaches endocrine physiology to the first-year medical, graduate, and pharmacy students, and is course director of the integrated Endocrinology/Reproduction Course for the second-year medical students. He also teaches Applied and Rehabilitative Systems Physiology at Marquette University College of Health Science.

Raff was an inaugural inductee in the MCW Society of Teaching Scholars and received the MCW Beckman Basic Science Teaching Award four times. He is a co-author of three textbooks: *Vander's Human Physiology* (15th edition; in preparation), *Physiology Secrets*, and *Medical Physiology: A Systems Approach*.

Because of his scientific endeavors, his dedicated service to the field of physiology, and his distinguished service to APS and other societies, the ACDP was proud to present its 2017 Distinguished Service Award to Hershel Raff. ●

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