



TRIANGLE CHAPTER
SOCIETY FOR NEUROSCIENCE

THE TRIANGLE TRANSMITTER

Mark Your Calendars! 3rd Annual Spring Neuroscience Conference!

Triangle SfN is excited to host its 3rd Annual Spring Neuroscience Conference on **Thursday, April 13, 2017** at the **Embassy Suites in RTP!**

The conference features talks by several leading Triangle researchers: **Dr. Serena Dudek** (NIEHS), **Dr. Leslie Sombers** (NC State University), and **Dr. Michael Nader** (Wake Forest University).

Additionally, **Dr. David Anderson** of California Institute of Technology will be delivering a keynote address.

The Spring Conference will also feature an “ask a graduate student” panel for those considering applying to grad school, as well as two poster sessions for students (undergrad and grad) and postdocs to present their latest research. The event conference will conclude with a networking reception.

Registration is FREE (includes boxed lunch) but REQUIRED, as space is limited – see below and Page 4 for information on how to register!

Abstract submissions are welcome from all universities, pharmaceutical companies, and governmental institutions throughout the greater Triangle Region. Registration and abstract submission will close on March 10, 2017.

FEBRUARY 2017

Recap of SfN 2016
Annual Meeting 2

Neuroscience Trivia at
Bull McCabe's! 2

Meitzen Wins SfN Next
Generation Award 3

Save the Date! Spring
Conference 2017 4

TK Li Lecture Recap..... 5

Elon Grad Student
Panel 6

Science Policy
Committee Update..... 6

Membership 7

The Triangle Transmitter is
published by the Triangle Chapter
of SfN.

Production Manager:
Deirdre Sackett

Contributors:
Stephanie Proano
Rachel Haake

Spring Neuroscience Conference Registration

To register for the 3rd Annual Spring Neuroscience Conference, please visit
www.trianglesfn.org/con_reg.

Have an event you'd like to promote? Send an email to trianglesfnnews@gmail.com to have your event added to our calendar at <http://trianglesfn.org/calendar-of-event>

Snapshots from San Diego: SfN 2016 Recap

The 46th annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience was held on November 12-16, 2016 in beautiful San Diego, CA. More than 30,300 attendees from 80 countries traveled to The Golden State to present their research, network, and share ideas with neuroscientists from across the globe.

The Triangle was well-represented among the conference attendees. There were numerous poster presentations by Triangle graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, professors, and technicians throughout the conference. Triangle scientists also presented their captivating research in Special Lectures and Symposia.

Dr. Richard Mooney from Duke gave a special lecture titled “From Songs to Synapse: Vocal Communications in Sparrows, Finches, and Mice.” Dr. Scott Soderling delivered a presentation titled “Synaptic cytoskeletal disturbances that drive abnormal wiring and behavior” during the “Synaptic Actin Dysregulation: A Convergent Mechanism of Mental Disorders?” symposium. Drs. Angel Peterchev (Duke) and Flavio Frohlich (UNC)

presented during the “Advances in Non-invasive Brain Stimulation Along the Space-Time Continuum” symposium.

Dr. Peterchev discussed shaping of the transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) waveform for enhanced neuromodulation. Dr. Frohlich, who recently received a BRAIN Initiative Grant, advocated for the rational design of non-invasive brain stimulation techniques in biophysics research and psychiatric treatment.

Five Triangle scientists presented in minisymposia: Drs. Warren Grill (Duke), James Hokanson (Duke), Cagla Eroglu (Duke), John Gilmore (UNC), and Troy Ghashghaei (NC State). Four presented in nanosymposia: Drs. Kevin LaBar (Duke), John Pearson (Duke), Jamie Hanson (Duke, UNC), and graduate student Hechen Bao (UNC).

Beyond the presentation sessions, the conference also provided opportunities for networking between minority groups, career development for young scientists, and communication with the public on the intersection of science and society. Highlights included the Diversity and International Poster Sessions, the Celebration of Women in Neuroscience Luncheon, the Diverse Career Trajectories in Neuroscience, and the “Art, Music, and the Brain: How the Arts Influence Us From Youth to Maturity” Public Advocacy Forum.

The 2017 Society for Neuroscience meeting is on November 11-15 in Washington, D.C. Triangle SfN looks forward to another year of communication, collaboration, and celebration of neuroscience with our fellow neuroscientists around the world.

- Rachel Haake (UNC-CH)

Save the Date: Neuroscience Trivia!

You've heard it with your cochlea and seen it with your retina... but do you remember it with your **BRAIN**?

Prizes!! **Free Appetizers!!**

NEUROSCIENCE TRIVIA!

Five rounds of high culture, low culture, and POP culture all mixed up with some neuroscience!

When: Tuesday, March 21st 2017 @ 7PM
Where: Bull McCabe's Irish Pub (427 W Main St, Durham)
Who: You! (must be 21+ or accompanied by a parent)

Sponsored by

Round and Grand Prizes!
Free appetizers while supplies last!

Dr. John Meitzen Wins SfN Next Generation Award

Triangle SfN Chapter President-elect and NC State Keck Center neuroscientist John Meitzen was recently named the recipient of the 2016 SfN Next Generation Award. The award recognizes SfN members who have made outstanding contributions to public communication, outreach and education about neuroscience.

Meitzen is an assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences whose laboratory studies how neuromodulators change neuron function and thus, ultimately, behavior. Most of Meitzen's work focuses on the actions of steroid sex hormones and catecholamines, especially in the context of estradiol, sex differences, and the striatum.

Meitzen was nominated by the Triangle SfN Chapter for his activities related to Brain Awareness Week and the design of a senior capstone course in Neuroscience. Meitzen has been a driving force in the organization of Brain and Behavior Night at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences during Brain

Awareness Week, which has become a favorite well-attended annual tradition. The event promotes an understanding of neuroscience and provides hands-on neuroscience demonstrations and experiences for anyone ranging from toddlers to senior citizens.

Regarding the capstone course, Meitzen was able to design an inquiry-driven course that emphasizes critical evaluation using Nobel Laureate Niko Tinbergen's four questions as a metastructure. This approach was recently published in the *Journal of Undergraduate Neuroscience Education* (Meitzen J. *J Undergrad Neurosci Educ.* 2015;14(1):A46-55).

"This award is well-deserved and recognizes the great talents of John Meitzen as a scientist and educator," said Dr. Robert Anholt, W.M. Keck Center Director. "Needless to say we are proud of John."

- Robert Anholt, Director, W.M. Keck Center for Behavioral Biology, NC State



Award recipient Dr. John Meitzen and Triangle SfN Chapter friends celebrate at the Next Generation Award ceremony at Society for Neuroscience 2016!

Triangle Chapter
Society for Neuroscience

Register Now-
www.TriangleSfN.org

3rd Annual Spring Conference

Plan to Participate!

- Network with local neuroscientists
- Present a poster
- Attend "ask a grad student" panel
- **Attendance is free!!!**

Featured Speakers-



Dr. David Anderson
California Institute of Technology



Dr. Serena Dudek
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences



Dr. Leslie Sombers
North Carolina State University



Dr. Michael Nader
Wake Forest University



April 13, 2017

10:00 am - 5:30 pm

Embassy Suites

201 Harrison Oaks Blvd, Cary, NC

2nd Annual TK Li Lecture Honors Dr. Carl Hart

The TK Li Distinguished Lecture Series honors Duke Professor Emeritus in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences Ting-Kai Li for his outstanding leadership and mentorship throughout his career in addiction sciences. The first lecture in this series was in 2015 and featured Dr. George Koob (NIAAA), a renowned neuroscientist and addiction researcher.

On November 8, 2016, the second annual lecture in this series was held at Duke University and featured Dr. Carl Hart, another renowned addiction neuroscientist with a unique view on drug addiction in society. Dr. Hart is the Chair of Psychology at Columbia University, and a Dirk Ziff Professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychology and Psychiatry.

Dr. Hart is a prolific scientist, with many published scientific articles and a co-authorship of a textbook. He has written several essays on science research and drug policy, and is published in the *New York Times*, *Scientific American*, *The Nation*, *Ebony*, *The Root* and *O Globo* (a Brazilian newspaper). He has also recently authored an award-winning book addressing addiction in society, highlighting his own journey through life.

Dr. Hart's life began in the streets of Miami, where he used and sold drugs. Now, he uses his research to create, in his words, "a more humane and effective criminal justice policy."

Dr. Hart's lecture, *Science as Social Activism, Not Just Liberal Chic*, had an overarching theme of the need for scientists to be actively involved in society and public policy.

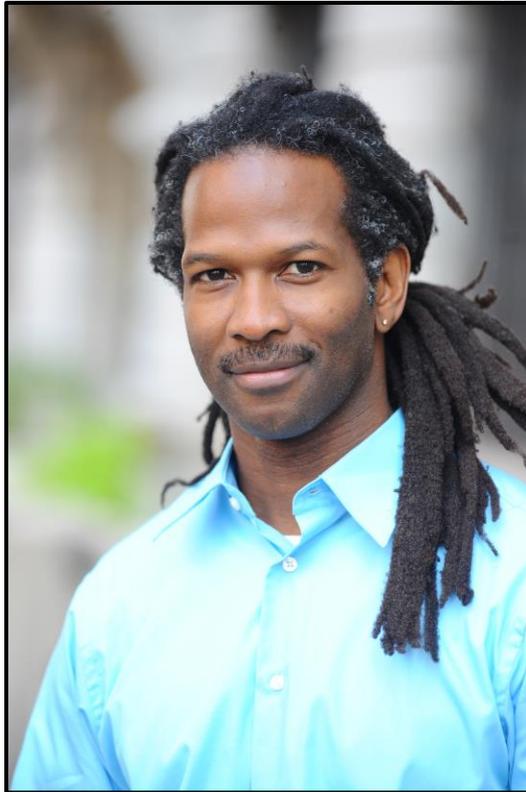
Throughout the lecture, he intermixed his research with drug laws, public policy, and his own experience with drugs. He emphasized the importance of scientists to educate the public on their research. He strongly encouraged the audience be unafraid of sharing their research with the media, and that yes, they may get the facts slightly skewed or make grandiose conclusions from your study, but that sharing research with the public is far more important than these drawbacks.

He also advocated against the demoralization of drug users. He believes that if more people, especially scientists, are willing to step out into the light and talk about their recreational use, it may reduce the stigma associated with drug users. He advocated for changes in current drug laws, which disproportionately affect blacks and minorities. Dr. Hart specifically cited the sentencing disparity of crack cocaine compared to powder cocaine (18:1), despite support that these drugs have the same abuse potential. He also stated that minorities have higher arrest rates for drug use and sales, despite the same

prevalence of drug use in both white and minority populations. This indicates an inequality in drug policy and enforcement.

The lecture was a call to arms for scientists to not idly sit by, but be social activists themselves. The audience was just as fiery in the reception of his views, as the lecture ended with a heated discussion during the question period.

- Kati Healey (UNC-CH)



Dr. Carl Hart was honored at the 2nd Annual TK Li Distinguished Lecture Series this fall.

Science Policy Committee Update

In the fall of 2016, members of the Triangle SfN Science Policy Committee met with the Triangle Region Representative for United States Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC), Austen Shearer. Kati Healey (UNC-CH), Dr. Amir Rezvani (Duke), and Dr. Ryan Bell (Duke) met with Ms. Shearer to discuss the importance of neuroscience research to the economy and health of the Triangle, as well as that of North Carolina and the United States.

We discussed in detail the neurobiology of addiction in understanding the treatment of this disease, the importance of neuroscience in discovering treatments for Alzheimer's disease, and the role of neuroscience in treating North Carolina veterans.

Importantly, we also stressed how important continued NIH funding is to effective neuroscience research. Ms. Shearer was very receptive to the information. We hope to continue to work with Senator Tillis and his staff on advancing Neuroscience research in the Triangle Region.

We also met with Congressman David Price (NC-4) this fall, discussing with him the value of biomedical research is and why NIH and NSF funding needs to be protected.

- Ryan Bell (Duke)



Triangle SfN members Kati Healey, Amir Rezvani, and Ryan Bell met with Austen Shearer, Triangle Regional Representative for Senator Thom Tillis.

Elon University Hosts Graduate Student Panel

On November 1, 2016, three NC State neuroscience graduate students, Jaime Willett, Stephanie Proano, and Andrea Vogel, visited Elon University to talk to undergraduates about graduate school. Elon lacks professional graduate programs in the arts and sciences, but many Elon graduates pursue advanced degrees in the sciences, though they have limited-to-no exposure to what that path looks like.

In an effort to provide information to Elon students about different career paths, Dr. Eric Bauer, a professor in Elon's Biology Department and council member of Triangle SfN, invited Ms. Willett, Proano, and Vogel to Elon to meet with biology, psychology, biochemistry, and neuroscience students. They talked about their paths to graduate school, how they picked their labs, and their day-to-day lives in prominent

research labs. They discussed their planned career paths following graduation, and gave brief overviews of their research projects. After their presentations, they fielded questions and enjoyed dinner out with Elon students to continue the conversation informally.

Dr. Bauer is making "Grad School 101" panels an annual fall event at Elon, and is working to facilitate similar events at other local universities. In addition, this spring, Dr. Bauer will be arranging a research-focused visit by a Triangle SfN graduate student or postdoc. **If you are a late-stage graduate student or postdoc and are interested in being this invited speaker, please contact Dr. Eric Bauer at ebauer@elon.edu.**

- Eric Bauer (Elon)

Order Your Triangle SfN T-Shirt!

Show your support for Triangle SfN with this stylish neuron T-shirt! Available in men's and women's sizes.

T-shirts cost \$18.

To order, please fill out this form:
<http://goo.gl/forms/wYO3ubCyeVou4M53>

Men's



Women's



NORTH CAROLINA TRIANGLE CHAPTER SOCIETY FOR NEUROSCIENCE MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual Dues:

Regular Membership: \$20.00/year or \$50.00/3 years

Student Membership: \$5.00/year or \$12.00/3 years

Partner Membership: \$25.00/year or \$60.00/3 years

**Membership in Triangle SfN
does not require membership in
National SfN**

TO RENEW OR MANAGE YOUR MEMBERSHIP, VISIT US ONLINE AT

www.trianglesfn.org

Keep in Touch!

General questions and comments:

TriangleSfNChapter@gmail.com

Communications committee:

TriangleSfNNews@gmail.com

Twitter: [@Triangle_SfN](https://twitter.com/Triangle_SfN)

Facebook:

facebook.com/groups/trianglesfn

LinkedIn: [Society for Neuroscience
Triangle Chapter](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/Society-for-Neuroscience-Triangle-Chapter)

Website: <http://www.trianglesfn.org>