

**Society for Neuroscience
Chapter Grant Awards Application**

1.) Name of Chapter: Society for Neuroscience Shreveport Chapter

2.) Number of Current Chapter Members

Faculty Members: 31

Staff Members: 7

Postdoctoral Trainees: 2

Graduate Students: 10

Undergraduate Students: 5

3.) Chapter Representative Contact Information:

Name: Dr. Michael Salvatore

Address: Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience, □LSU Health Sciences Center, □1501 Kings Highway □Shreveport, LA 71103-4228

Phone: 318-675-7874 Fax: 318-675-7875

E-mail: msalva@lsuhsc.edu

4.) Chapter Treasurer Contact Information

Name: Dr. Kathryn Hamilton

Address: Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy, □LSU Health Sciences Center □1501 Kings Highway □Shreveport, LA 71103-4228

Phone: 318-675-5391 Fax: 318-675-5889

E-mail: khamil@lsuhsc.edu

5.) Checks Payable to: SFN-Shreveport

6.) Mailing Address for Checks: Dr. Kathryn Hamilton, Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy, □LSU Health Sciences Center, 1501 Kings Highway □Shreveport, LA 71103-4228

Please attach responses to the following questions in 10 point font or larger:

1.) A brief summary of the proposal (no more than 150-200 words).

LSU Health Sciences Center – Shreveport (LSUHSC-S) has an active Neuroscience community that provides educational opportunities throughout the year to promote neuroscience research within the scientific community. Funding is requested to help defray costs associated with the initiation of a new public lecture and discussion series entitled *Grey Matters* and an expansion of our current Neuroscience Research Day to include a public lecture. These activities would expand our focus to outwards to the general public. For these efforts, we are fortunate to be able to partner with an acclaimed science museum, Sci-Port: Louisiana’s Science Center to enhance our education initiatives.

2.) Specific goals of the proposal and how it relates to the SfN Strategic Plan, Brain Awareness Week activities, or otherwise promotes increased chapter membership and activity (please do not exceed 750 words to 1 page). Please be sure to include an approximate date of the proposed activity or event.

The overall goals of the programs are to **inform and excite** the lay public and secondary science teachers about the brain, brain chemistry, and drug action. The proposed programs would expand the outward focus of the Neuroscience community at LSUHSC-S. We are currently engaged in Brain Awareness week activities that provide educational outreach to children and families. The new programs would expand our reach to include the general adult public and middle school and high school teachers.

Currently there are no public lay lecture or discussion presentations specifically addressing brain health in our region. Thus, these activities will reach an underserved population and fill an important gap in community education, and help train teachers in current Neuroscience theories, all goals of the SfN Strategic Plan. LSUHSC-S is in a unique position to provide the larger community with neuroscience information and resources. We are the only medical school in an approximately 250-mile radius, and our location in the Arkansas-Louisiana-Texas (Ark-La-Tex) tri-state region means that we can provide educational opportunities for a largely rural area. Additionally, we are partnering with Sci-Port: Louisiana’s Science Center to enhance our education initiatives. Sci-Port is a 90,000 square foot science center on the Shreveport riverfront. With Louisiana’s only dome IMAX Theatre, over 200 exhibits, ever-changing public programming and planetarium, Sci-Port’s mission is to entertain and educate the public about many scientific areas, including brain research, and inculcate a lifelong love of learning in its public. The center has seen over two million visitors in its ten years of operation and was recently voted one of the nation’s ten best science centers by *Parents* magazine. Partnering with Sci-Port helps fulfill the SfN's strategic goal of collaborating and partnership with other professions/associations to develop materials and to support members engaging in public education and outreach.

Grey Matters. Rather than providing formal academic lectures, we will tackle various topics by pairing a neuroscience researcher with a community member or researcher from a different field who will provide a context for brain research described. We are proposing five lectures/discussions. The presentations will be held at Sci-Port in its IMAX Theatre. The theater seats 180 and has seen numerous other successful adult speaker programs. *Grey Matters* talks will be held in April, June, August, October and December of 2009. The proposed topics are:

- 1) *The Experienced Brain*. Dr. Mike Salvatore, a researcher who studies how the brain changes with advancing age will be paired with a member from a community organization that provides enrichment and activities for seniors.

- 2) *The Communicating Brain*. Dr. Lisa Schrott, who has studied brain development and language and Dr. Lee Morgan, an English professor from a Centenary College will wrestle with how language shapes the brain and how brain development and injury affect language?
- 3) *The Stressed Out Brain*. Dr. Nicholas Goeders, a neuroscientist that studies the effects of stress will discuss how stress affects our mood, cognition, and susceptibility to addition and diseases. A mental health counselor will provide stress management techniques.
- 4) *The Hungry Brain*. Dr. Kathy Hamilton, an olfactory neuroscientist will be joined by a local chef will discuss what makes food taste and smell good. A truly sensory experience as participants will be able to discover how the brain processes olfactory and gustatory information and how that affects what and when we eat.
- 5) *The Addicted Brain*. Dr. Nicholas Goeders and Dr. Lisa Schrott, who research the abuse potential of psychomotor stimulants and opiates respectively will be joined by a counselor from an addiction treatment center to consider the how's and why's of drug abuse. What role do genetics and the environment play? Are certain drugs more addictive than others?

Neuroscience Research Day. For the past ten years, the SFN-Shreveport has hosted a Neuroscience Research Day for the regional neuroscience community. This has included a lecture by distinguished visiting scientist, as well as a poster session for faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students. For 2009, we wish to expand our Neuroscience Research Day to include secondary school teachers for the scientific portion of the programming and a lay lecture open to the public and high school students. Neuroscience graduate students will be actively involved in all aspects of this event, fulfilling one of the SfN strategic goals. Neuroscience Research Day is held approximately 2-3 weeks prior to the SfN meeting. The 2009 date will be in early October.

3.) Budget: explanation and justification. Travel may be allowed only for visits to promote chapter membership, if part of a formal program. Please note: requests for travel funds must be accompanied by a compelling justification.

The budget for these program will be \$2000 based on the following:

- 1) \$500 for light food and beverages to be served at the five *Grey Matters* presentations (\$100 each).
- 2) \$500 for a small honoraria for the non-LSUHSC-S participants in the discussions and lectures (\$100 each)
- 3) \$500 for publicity for the *Grey Matters* and *Neuroscience Research Day* activities. This will include newspaper and community websites, flyers to be passed out at appropriate venues. Sci-Port is able to reach a large audience with its marketing efforts. In addition to its quarterly news magazine (distributed to approximately 5,000 member families), Sci-Port advertises in the weekend newspaper and other local publications, e-mails a monthly newsletter, and issues regular alerts to local media.
- 4) \$500 for expenses related to the *Neuroscience Research Day* including rental fees for space, light food and beverages for the poster session, and printing of the abstract book for the teachers and students,

4.) Please list any chapter-sponsored events held during the past three years (please include event dates and titles).

Neuroscience Research Day 2008, October 15, 2008.

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Don Ingram, Professor of Nutritional Neuroscience and Aging at the Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Baton Rouge, LA

Title: Putting the Brakes on Brain Aging: The Convergence of Diet Restriction and Diet Selection □

Brain Awareness Week 2007, March 15, 2007 (with Sci-Port: Louisiana's Science Center)

Theme: Brain Development During this event, while kids made their own 'brain hats' and participated in neuron relay races, parents learned about their children's brain growth and development. Over 400 visitors participated.

Neuroscience Research Day 2006, September 26, 2006.

Keynote Speaker 1: Dr. Ronald Gaykema, Dept. of Psychology, Univ. of Virginia

Title: Behavioral Depression in Sickness: Arousal Systems as Targets in Immune Modulation of Brain Function

Keynote Speaker 2: Dr. Lisa Goehler, Dept. of Psychology, Univ. of Virginia

Title: Is the Immune System the Sixth Sense?

5.) Chapter web-page address, if applicable

NA