



Chapter Grant Awards Application

1.) **Name of Chapter:** Milwaukee Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience

2.) **Number of Current Chapter Members**

Faculty Members: 78 **Staff Members:** 10 **Postdoctoral Trainees:** 12
Graduate Students: 41 **Undergraduate Students:** 8

3.) **Chapter Representative Contact Information:**

Name: James T. Buchanan, Ph.D.

Address: Department of Biological Sciences, Marquette University,
530 N. 15th St., Milwaukee, WI 53233

Phone: 414-288-1482 **Fax:** 414-288-7357

E-mail: james.buchanan@marquette.edu

4.) **Chapter Treasurer Contact Information**

Name: James T. Buchanan

Address: as above

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

E-mail: _____

5.) **Checks Payable to:** Society for Neuroscience - Milwaukee Chapter

6.) **Mailing Address for Checks:** as above

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).
- 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.
- 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.*
- 4.) Please list any **chapter-sponsored events** held during the past three years (please include event dates and titles).
- 5.) Chapter **web-page address**, if applicable

Important note:

All Chapter awardees are required to submit a final report including detailed budget expenditures within 30 days after the funded event or activity. *Any unused funds must be returned to SfN.*

Return this form and your attachments to chapters@sfn.org.

1. Summary of our proposal

With support from the SfN, we successfully re-energized the Milwaukee Chapter holding annual meetings since 2006. Because of this enthusiasm and more neuroscientists hired at our local institutions, this year we are going to combine our Annual Meeting with a Midwest Neurobiology Meeting. The Midwest Neurobiology ("No Coast") Meeting will be a forum for new neuroscience faculty and their students and postdocs to interact with local Milwaukee area neuroscientists as well as those from regional campuses. And, this meeting will be an exciting forum for undergraduates to see first hand and participate in a meeting small enough to promote positive interactions and encourage their membership.

Representatives from the three member institutions of the Milwaukee Chapter, Marquette University, The Medical College of Wisconsin, and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, are working together to organize the meeting. The meeting will occur April 17-19 and include poster and oral presentations that will be open to all local undergraduate students, graduate students, and post-doctoral fellows, a keynote speaker, dinner, and symposium on Sunday with three invited speakers. The symposium topic will be "mRNA Translational Control by microRNAs and other Novel Molecules". We are requesting funds to offset the costs of holding this meeting.

2. Specific goals of proposal and how it relates to SfN strategic plan, BAW activities, or otherwise promote increased Chapter membership and activity:

Our proposal directly relates to the SfN Mission and Strategic plan by bringing together the neuroscientists not only of the three major research institutions located in Milwaukee, but in the Midwest. We have been successfully in re-energized the Milwaukee Chapter to provide professional development activities, information and educational resources for the local neuroscientists, regardless of the stage of their career and now want to revitalize the Midwest Neurobiology Meeting. In contrast to the yearly East and West Coast Neurobiology Meetings, the "No Coast " Meeting has not been held since 2004. Since this time, many new neuroscientists have joined the faculty at all of these institutions. The Midwest Neurobiology Meeting is a place where we can present original research, foster interactions and collaborations with other local and regional scientists and provide a good forum for our graduate students and postdoctoral students to meet each other and gain experience with poster/oral presentations. Awards will be given for the best undergraduate and graduate student posters and we will include postdocs in determining the awards for the best talks. The symposium will broaden our knowledge in the rapidly moving field of RNA transcriptional regulation. And, this meeting will be an exciting forum for undergraduates to see first hand and participate in a meeting small enough to promote positive interactions and encourage their membership.

3. Budget: Explanation and Justification.

Previous SfN awards were critical in revitalizing our Chapter as it helped to cover the costs for our meeting and Brain Awareness Events. Matching funds were donated

primarily from individual departments from the three member institutions. It is our aim to continue these local fund-raising efforts and expand upon them to fund the Midwest Neurobiology and future Brain Awareness Week activities in 2009.

The requested funds will be used to help pay for expenses associated with holding the Chapter Annual Meeting/Midwest Neurobiology at the UWM campus on April 17-19, 2009 and BAW at the CJ Zablocki VA Hospital. These expenses include, but are not limited to the Zelazo Center facility usage fee for 3 days (@ 315/day), poster board rental (\$700), keynote speaker and symposium honorariums (@\$500), airfares and accommodations for guest speakers (\$4-5,000) advertising/informational distribution expenses (\$700) and meeting refreshments (\$7500+ for 150-175 people). We anticipate that the total costs for holding the Annual Meeting/Midwest Neurobiology and BAW events will be approximately \$18,000. We are requesting a grant of \$2000 from the SfN to help with these costs and will use existing matching funds from member institutions, Midwest Neurobiology general account, support from vendors, meeting registration fees, and other creative means to cover the remaining costs.

4. List of Chapter sponsored events during the past three years

2008: Chapter Meeting, April 4-5 and Brain Awareness Week Events, March 10-14.

2007: Chapter Meeting, April 11, 2007

2006: Chapter meeting April 6, 2006 and Brain Awareness Week Event, April 4, 2006.

5. Chapter Web site

We do not yet have a chapter website but will be working with Dr. Bruce McCallum of the Medical College of Wisconsin to initiate our website this spring.