



Chapter Grant Awards Application

1.) Name of Chapter: _____

2.) Number of Current Chapter Members

Faculty Members: _____ Staff Members: _____ Postdoctoral Trainees: _____

Graduate Students: _____ Undergraduate Students: _____

3.) Chapter Representative Contact Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

4.) Chapter Treasurer Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

5.) Checks Payable to: _____

6.) Mailing Address for Checks: _____

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.

SfN Chapters Grant Proposal

Application by the Central Virginia Chapter (CVCSN)

Attachments

Summary of the Proposal:

With this proposal, the Central Virginia Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience requests funds to support its 21th Annual Symposium “**The Vulnerability of the Developing Brain**” to be held on March 13, 2009 at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). The one day symposium is scheduled to be held Thursday, March 13th 2009, at the VCU Alumni House. Our invited speakers and their themes are Dr Roger Reeves (John Hopkins, Down Syndrome); Dr William B Rizzo (University of Nebraska - Sjogren-Larsson syndrome), Dr David Hovda (UCLA – Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury) and Dr Cynthia Kuhn (Duke University - Addiction during adolescence). We are expecting the confirmation of a fifth speaker that will talk about autism. Symposium speakers will present 50 minute talks. Following the symposium, there will be a roundtable discussion and a reception for all attendees and speakers. Importantly, the invited speakers will have scheduled time to meet informally with students and postdocs.

The speakers participating in the symposium are internationally renowned scientists that are experts in their field covering a wide variety of topics related to the central theme of the symposium. Given the diversity of their presentations, and the great clinical appeal of the central theme, the symposium will provide a forum that brings the Central Virginia area’s researchers and clinicians from diverse neuroscientific backgrounds together and thus fosters the initiation of new scientific interactions and translation from the bench to the clinic. As in past years, we anticipate the audience will include basic scientists, clinicians, pharmacists, and related health professionals from the medical school and local colleges. Last year, our chapter successfully organized the symposium “Models of Synaptic Plasticity: Potential Roles in Development, Cognition and Disease” and we have an attendance of over 100 people. Due to the relevance of this year’s theme (The vulnerability of the developing brain) we anticipate to have a bigger attendance.

We request 2,000 in support, which would partially cover the costs of our symposium. **Because of the current economic situation of the country, the donations that we have received so far are much smaller than we expected. Because of that, funding this grant would be essential to the realization of our symposium, which is the most important annual event of the Central Virginia Chapter.** For further information, please visit our home page at <http://www.cvcn.vcu.edu/> and feel free to contact me at amedina@vcu.edu

Alexandre E Medina, PhD
President, VA Chapter of SFN
Assistant Professor,
Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology,
Virginia Commonwealth University

2. Specific Goal(s) of the Proposal:

The overarching goal of CVCSN's annual symposia is to increase our understanding of the nervous system through the interaction among basic research scientists, clinicians and, in particular, students and postdoctoral fellows working on diverse research projects. More specifically, this year CVCSN intends to achieve the following three goals for the 2009 symposium:

- a) To achieve a better understanding of how external insults and genetic modifications can affect brain development.
- b) To advance scientific interactions between researchers and clinicians in the area, thus fostering collaboration and translational research. Such interaction is particularly important this year since our central theme "The vulnerability of the Developing Brain" has a great clinical relevance.
- c) To provide advanced training for postdoctoral fellows and students as well as giving them an opportunity to interact with well-established neuroscientists, both within and outside of the Central Virginia neuroscience community.

With these goals in mind, it is clear that those members of the local chapter as well as the Central Virginia neuroscience community as a whole will benefit from the symposium. In addition, these goals are clearly in line with the SfN's mission as stated in the society's strategic plan, i.e. advance our understanding of the brain and provide professional development activities for neuroscientists at all stages of their careers. The speakers and their areas of research are listed below:

- 1- Dr Roger Reeves, PhD. Professor, Department of Physiology, John Hopkins School of Medicine..

The Reeves laboratory complements genetic analyses in human beings with the creation and characterization of mouse models to understand why and how gene dosage imbalance disrupts development in DS.

- 2- Dr David Hovda, PhD. Professor and Vice Chairman of Research and Academic Affairs, Director, UCLA Brain Injury Research Center.

Recovery of function after Brain Injury in human patients and animal models. Dr Hovda's will address the peculiarities of pediatric traumatic brain injury.

- 3- Dr Cynthia Kuhn, PhD. Professor of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology Professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Duke University.

Neural and endocrine changes during adolescence that increase the sensitivity to drug abuse and depression. Mechanisms that mediate sex differences in behavioral responses to addictive drugs.

- 4- Dr William Rizzo, MD, Chief, Section of Inherited Metabolic Diseases, Department of Pediatrics, University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Lipid metabolism in inherited Metabolic Diseases such as Sjögren-Larsson Syndrome. Therapies for metabolic disorders.

The topics covered during the symposium reflect areas of specific interest for the neuroscience community in the Central Virginia area. The symposium topic and speakers were selected by the CVCSN membership and reflect their interest in conditions that result from problems during brain development. While the knowledge gained through the symposium will likely advance neuroscience research within the Central Virginia region, the symposium will also serve to foster interactions between attendees and speakers, which could in turn lead to future collaboration. Similar events organized in the past years by CVCSN (*for a list of CVCSN-sponsored events see #4*) have been very successful in attracting not only current chapter members but also in increasing the visibility of neuroscience research in the Central Virginia region. There is a large pool of potential CVCSN and SfN members in the Central Virginia area (>150 potential members). We have identified potential members as those involved in Neuroscience-related research, primarily at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), the site of the symposium, as well as nearby Universities such as University of Virginia (UVA), College of William and Mary, University of Richmond and Virginia State University. Moreover, the annual symposium consistently attracts a significant number of students and postdoctoral fellows, further stimulating their interest and participation in neuroscience research.

3. Budget explanation and justification:

The symposium is a full day event with six lectures and a round table panel discussion. The day will begin with breakfast and will include two coffee breaks, lunch and a reception. We estimate that the total cost of the symposium will be \$11,000. **Here we are requesting \$2000 for two aspects:**

(a) To facilitate interaction between researchers and clinicians, with particular emphasis on involving graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. We are requesting a total of \$600 for this aspect of the symposium, which will contribute to funding the following two events.

Reception:

A primary purpose of the symposium is to foster interaction between researchers and clinicians. To complement the short discussion periods held during the day, the reception will follow the symposium and will allow for extensive discussion after all the information has been presented. This event will be catered by a local discount caterer and will include assorted appetizers and refreshments. *Funds requested for Reception = \$400*

Student/Postdoc breakfast with the symposium speakers:

Another major aim of the symposium is to provide an arena for interaction between postdoctoral fellows/graduate students and the speakers, many of whom are seasoned scientists and experts in their fields of research. While the aforementioned reception will provide an opportunity for *all* symposium attendees to interact with one another and with the speakers, we plan to set aside a specific session to ensure that students/postdoctoral fellows have sufficient access to the speakers. To achieve this, a separate breakfast will be provided for these trainees and speakers prior to the symposium, allowing for discussion in a more relaxed, informal setting. *Funds requested for Breakfast = \$200*

(b) Travel/accommodations for some non-local speakers. We are requesting funds only for those speakers traveling the furthest, thus requiring more costly airfares and multiple nights of accommodation. **We are requesting a total of \$1400 for this aspect of the symposium** to contribute to airfare and hotel accommodations.

4. List of Chapter-sponsored events during the past 3 years:

CVCSN organizes a symposium each year based on a topic selected by the chapter membership. We have typically had 80 – 120 attendees at the annual symposia, including CVCSN chapter members as well as many non-members (potential members) and feel that we are fostering greater interaction in the local neuroscience community through this annual event. In addition to the annual symposia, we have been consistently organizing one major CVCSN event during the Fall, which typically includes a Traveling Scientist Seminar followed by a poster session, which allows students and postdoctoral fellows to present their posters from the SFN meeting (or other meetings/conferences) to the Central Virginia neuroscience community. We have been holding this successful seminar/poster session event for the past five years and it has received a very positive response. In addition to increasing the visibility of the chapter, it is also a valuable opportunity to encourage graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to take a more active role in the chapter. In addition to these annual events, we also grant a \$500 travel award to a student/postdoc each year to help defray the costs of attending the annual SfN meeting.

Dec-08	Annual Fall Seminar/ "after the SfN meeting" Poster Session	Speakers: B. Allman (post doc); P. Nguyen (grad student); J. Wolstenholme (grad student)
Mar-08	20 th Annual Symposium	"Models of synaptic plasticity" Speakers: Alfredo Kirkwood , Eric Klan, Douglas Fields, Daniel Madison, Per Svenningsson
Nov-07	Annual Fall Seminar/ "after the SfN meeting" Poster Session	Speaker: Yael Amitai "Nitric-Oxide Imaging in Brain Slice: a Tale of Neurons and Astrocytes"
Mar-07	19 th Annual Symposium	"The Neurobiology of Aging"
Nov-06	Annual Fall Seminar/ "after the SfN meeting" Poster Session	Speaker: Les Satin
Sep-06	CVCSN "meet & greet" membership reception	Information session/ informal reception for CVCSN members/ potential members
Mar-06	18 th Annual Symposium (2 day event)	"Neural stem cells in CNS health and disease"
Nov-05	Annual Fall Seminar/ "after the SfN meeting" Poster Session	Speaker: Linda Phillips
Mar-05	17 th Annual Symposium	"Novel Imaging Techniques"

Table 1: Central Virginia Chapter sponsored events 2005-2008

5. **CVCSN webpage:** <http://www.cvcsn.vcu.edu/index.html>