Society for Research on Biological Rhythms

Newsletter

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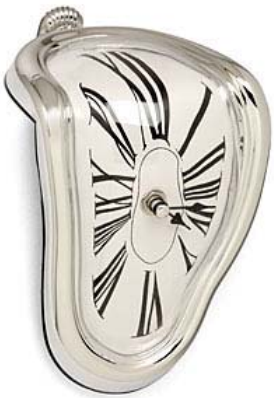

In This Issue –

From the President –

Dear SRBR Members:

It is an honor to address all of you as SRBR President! The recent SRBR meeting in Sandestin, Florida, was a smashing success. Attendance was up from 2010, and from the surveys collected at the meeting, every indicator underscored that SRBR'12 was our most successful meeting. Congratulations to Deborah Bell-Pedersen (Program Chair) and outgoing Prez Mick Hastings (and the Executive Board)! Moreover, Trainee Professional Development Day (ably piloted again by Nico Cermakian) was the best ever. As I said at the closing banquet, it will be hard to match the exemplary program and execution of SRBR'12 (kudos to Deb and her Program Committee), or the steady, consistent "hand on the helm" of Mick Hastings and his Board.

However, our new Executive Board is determined to do our best in leading SRBR for the next two years and organizing SRBR'14: President-Elect Paul Hardin, Secretary Nico Cermakian, Treasurer Paul Taghert, and Members-at-Large Fernanda Ceriani, Johanna Meijer, and David Welsh. Erik Herzog accepted the challenge of acting as Program Chair for SRBR'14 and planning has begun. As I mentioned at the closing banquet in Sandestin, we are open to the possibility of changing our site for the 2014 meeting and are considering several alternative venues, in addition to the option of remaining at Sandestin. No final decisions have been made and we are therefore open to your suggestions about possible new sites for SRBR'14.

This issue of the SRBR Newsletter is introducing new features, and we welcome input on these new features as well as ideas for other potential additions. Our plan is to have three issues of the Newsletter each year, spaced about four months apart. Our experienced Newsletter Editor, Shelley Tischkau, has introduced a Spotlight section that will feature at least one young chronobiologist in every issue. Open positions (for faculty, postdoctoral fellows, etc.) can be advertised that are also posted on the SRBR website (see below). Candidates may also provide a brief CV and description of their perfect job for inclusion in the Newsletter to attract a potential PI. The Newsletter

will also happily post announcements for meetings or other relevant news.

It is my fervent hope as President that the Society can help its members in obtaining funding for chronobiological research, which is our primary challenge as individual scientists and as a field. To further that goal, I asked Erik Herzog to provide some suggestions for writing grants from the perspective of a scientist who just rotated off an NIH Study Section. His comments appear in this issue. Related to funding issues/assistance, a new feature of the Newsletter is a "Congrats to Grant Awardees" section that tells some happy endings to the travail of applying for grants. The purpose of this section is two-fold. The first purpose is to celebrate the triumphs of our colleagues and friends who have prevailed in obtaining funding for chronobiological research. The second goal is to provide potentially useful information for each of us regarding the agencies and institutes that are funding chronobiological research, and importantly, the study sections and panels that reviewed the proposals. All of this information is freely available in the public domain, but we have collected it here in an easily accessible form. Each issue will include grants that have been awarded in the past 4-6 months, and the plan is to update the list with new grants in each Newsletter so that the information is current. This issue of the Newsletter includes grants awarded by the NIH (USA), NSF (USA), CIHR (Canada), and NSERC (Canada), but in the future we would like to include other agencies from around the world, so if you would like to volunteer in collecting this information from your country or from other agencies, please let either Shelley or myself know of your willingness to help. And that leads me to a special "Thank You!" to the people who collected the grants information in this issue: Marina Antoch, Nico Cermakian, Megan Hastings Hagenauer, and Mary Harrington.

Rhythms Rock! And so does the SRBR.

With warm regards,
Carl Johnson
President, SRBR

Chronobiology Research Spotlight

Editor's note: The research spotlight is a new feature of the newsletter that will highlight the work of young chronobiologists from around the world. The students chosen for these pieces were research award winners from the 2012 SRBR meeting. Congratulations to these students and all the award winners!

Sneha Anand, Laboratory of Patrick Nolan, Harwell, UK

Background: Sneha grew up in India. Although she came from an academic family, with her mother a principal and lecturer in Accountancy and her father an engineer, no one in her family has a background in the biological sciences. An interest in science, as well as the desire to do something different drove her into a career in the life sciences. Undergraduate experience at the Reliance Life Sciences Institute in Mumbai reinforced her desire to become a researcher. She went to the UK to study for a Masters in Biotechnology at Nottingham Trent University, before embarking on a PhD program at the Mammalian Genetics Unit.

The Research: Our lab focuses on understanding genetic mechanisms underlying mammalian circadian rhythms using the ENU mutagenesis approach in mice. ENU, a chemical mutagen, introduces spontaneous mutations throughout the genome enabling one to understand the functional role of desired genes. The lab has showcased the potential of ENU mutagenesis with the identification of the after hours (*Afh*) mutant (Godinho et al.2007; Busino et al.2007), which maps to the F-box gene, Fbxl3. Identification of this mutant has improved understanding of circadian protein interactions in mammals. *Afh*, a mutant with a rhythmic phenotype of ~27 hrs, revealed the importance and the role of

Fbxl3 in the timely degradation of Cryptochromes (Cry).

ENU is used in two complementary approaches at Harwell. The first is to identify mouse mutants by screening for abnormal phenotypes without any prior assumptions about the gene involved. The second approach is the reverse genetics approach and, as the name suggests, has a workflow from a predicted gene function to identification of functional mutations in the desired gene to determining the abnormal phenotype *in vivo*.

Another major area of lab interest is the association of circadian disorders with physiological and behavioral processes. Most organs show circadian rhythmicity controlled by the master pacemaker, the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN). Therefore, any disturbances in the circadian system can have adverse effects on the behavior of an organism. Several clock gene polymorphisms have been associated with deficits in circadian oscillatory mechanisms in addition to depressive disorders. For example Cry2 is associated with bipolar disorder and depression (Lavebratt, Sjoholm et al. 2010). In this context our lab carries out several behavioral tests in mutant mice to determine anxiety, depression, visual, sensorimotor gating and motor deficits which will ultimately be used to define the contribution of circadian genes to human disease phenotypes.

Rear L to R: Rahul Satija, Jessica K. Edwards, Hazel Shepherd, Michael J. Parsons, Patrick M. Nolan. Front L to R: Ines Heise, Stefania Militi, Gareth T. Banks, Christine Damrau, Sneha N. Anand

Victoria Smith, Laboratory of Michael Antle, University of Calgary, Canada

Background: Victoria is a native of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. She has one sister, who is a physician and her mother is the office manager for the practice, keeping it all in the family. Her father is a software programmer. Victoria's interest in Chronobiology was sparked by taking a course in Physiological Psychology with her current supervisor, Dr. Michael Antle. She was hooked after spending one summer as an undergraduate in his lab, so has continued to pursue a Master's and PhD under his guidance. Outside the lab, Victoria enjoys horses and even competes in equestrian show jumping along with her 10 year-old bay gelding, Baythoven, who thinks he is a lap dog.

The Research: My dissertation research focuses on understanding how the serotonergic system potentiates the phase shifting effects of light. Chronic shift work and jet lag are known to cause numerous detrimental effects on our health by increasing the likelihood of injury and disease. Rapidly realignment of our internal clock with the schedule demanded by our external world would ameliorate adverse effects that result from chronic or acute mismatch between the internal circadian system and the external time. The 5-HT_{1A} mixed agonist/antagonists are able to rapidly shift the onset of activity by up to 8 hours using a single appropriately timed dose followed by 15 minutes of light exposure. My research involves trying to understand exactly how these drugs accomplish this large magnitude enhancement of the normally modest phase shifting effects of light. I am examining the location of action of these drugs, including where the receptors are localized as well as the systems and pathways they use to accomplish this potentiation. I am also examining the action of these drugs on a molecular level, within the cells of the SCN. I am currently using numerous different

techniques in order to accomplish these two aspects of my research, including behavioral wheel running recordings, stereotaxic cannula implantation, *in situ* hybridization, and immunohistochemistry.

My research fits within the overall program within the Antle lab, which current focuses on 3 broad topics; 1) the role of serotonin in the circadian system, 2) SCN networking and the role of neuropeptides in phase shifting, and 3) the role of the arousal system in non-photic phase shifting. The lab uses an array of behavioral, neuroanatomical and and whole animal physiological approaches, including EEG recording, to accomplish these goals. In the last few years we have also studied the influences the circadian system has on the developing brain, as well as the potential disruptions to the circadian system involved in several different disease models (including seizures, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, perinatal fluoxetine exposure, and Ritalin exposure).

From L to R: Victoria Smith (PhD student), Tara Pomeroy (research assistant), Dr. Michael Antle (supervisor/PI), Ryan Jeffers (MSc student), Glenn Yamakawa (PhD student), Brooke Rakai (PhD student), Reid McKibbon (undergraduate student), Sanjay Achal (undergraduate student).

Looking for a Job?

Check out the SRBR website at www.srbr.org for more details about the following job openings.

Research Scientist Position at Oregon Health Sciences University

OHSU has an opening for a research scientist to build a research program in occupational health and circadian rhythms, with particular relevance to improving the safety and/or reducing the adverse health effects of shift work. Qualified applicants will need a PhD and the ability to bridge disciplines to understand the causes and help detect, prevent or mitigate adverse health effects of shift work. For more information, contact Dr. Charles Allen (allenc@ohsu.edu) or Dr. Steven Shea (sheast@ohsu.edu).

Faculty Position at the University of Tromsø, Norway

The University is seeking a Professor/Associate professor of animal physiology, affiliated with the Department of Arctic and Marine Biology, Arctic Animal Physiology research group. The Research Group conducts experimental research on physiological adaptations to life at high latitudes in fish, birds and mammals. One research avenue of particular interest is the chronobiology of arctic animals and associated downstream neural and neuroendocrine mechanisms governing rhythmicity. Candidates must hold a Norwegian or equivalent foreign PhD. For more information contact Professor Lars Folkow (lars.folkow@uit.no).

Advice for Grant Writers Working on Circadian Rhythms and Sleep

Erik Herzog, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

Carl Johnson, our esteemed President, asked if I could, based on my 6 years serving on NIH Study Sections, provide any advice to grant writers. Sure. I don't think I could make any more enemies.

I was a regular member of the Biological Rhythms and Sleep (BRS) panel from 2008-2011. When BRS was disbanded, I was assigned to the Neurodifferentiation, Plasticity, Regeneration and Rhythmicity (NDPR) Study Section until I finished my service last June. BRS read approximately 40-50 proposals every 4 months. NDPR reads about 50 RO1 and 20 R21 proposals/4 months. Whereas all grants read by BRS could be described as focused on questions about circadian rhythms and/or sleep, I estimate NDPR now reads about 10 grants in our field each round. What struck me as a reviewer was the high quality of the top, say, 40% of all grants. The challenge was to identify, and come to a collective agreement on, the top 10%…about 7 grants out of the total of 70 grants we reviewed each cycle.

A few notes about the demographics of submissions to NDPR: 1) nearly all of the grants involve work on mice and/or flies with a few on other model organisms (e.g. zebrafish and nematodes), 2) on average, fly grants appear to score as well as mouse grants, 3) about 30% of proposals each round are second submissions, and 4) grants typically focus on cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying neural plasticity.

Know the difference between Significance and Background.

Significance: Proposals should emphasize the broad importance of the problem being addressed. Will the results excite many researchers or just a few? Will the results open new research directions? Could this work lead to specific new therapies? It can be a minor to moderate weakness (i.e. a fatal flaw when it comes to funding decisions) if the proposal studies a novel gene or cellular process without relating the potential discoveries to a larger field (e.g. other organisms or cellular processes). At NDPR, relevance to human health (specific connections to specific diseases) is viewed as a strength (regardless of the model organism), but the focus is more on the potential impact on basic research.

Background: Background information can strengthen the significance by providing a historical context (e.g. We've been asking this question for 50 years, but only now can we answer it), but should conclude with what is not known…not what we already know.

Highlight Innovation.

What makes this proposal timely? Are the hypotheses creative? Are new techniques going to be used or developed? Will the tools/reagents/data from this proposal be useful to a broader community? Ideas that are incremental or not novel tend to lose points in Innovation. Are there advantages to studying this question in your model system (e.g. the mammalian SCN and the fly lateral neurons are relatively small neural networks with a highly predictable output)? Is your lab uniquely positioned to answer these questions?

How do we fare after the loss of BRS? My experience on NDPR over three rounds indicated that ~20% of submitted circadian/sleep grants were likely to be funded. Of course, that's ~2 of the 10 circadian/sleep grants per round that were reviewed by NDPR, which might sound bleak, but it does indicate circadian/sleep grants at NDPR can do better than other fields. It would be interesting to know if grants going to other study sections from our field were doing as well.

Helpful Links.

NDPR.
http://public.csr.nih.gov/StudySections/IntegratedReviewGroups/MDCNIRG/NDPR/Pages/default.aspx

NIH RO1 Criteria.
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/peer/critiques/rpg.htm#rpg_01

Congratulations!!!! Recently Funded Grants

This segment highlights recent grant awardees. The information was gathered by searching publicly available databases.

National Institutes of Health, USA

PI: William J. Belden, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Title: Examining circadian changes in genome structure; R01 GM101378-01
Agency/PO: NIGMS, Tompkins, Laurie; tompkinl@nigms.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Cellular Signaling and Regulatory Systems Study Section (CSRS)

PI: Thomas P. Burris, Scripps, FL
Title: Rev-erb ligands for treatment of anxiety disorders; R01MH093429-01A1
Agency/PO: NIMH, Winsky, Lois M.; lwinsky@mail.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Special Emphasis Panel

PI: Stephanie Crowley McWilliam, Rush University Medical Center, IL
Title: Adolescent sleep delay: circadian regulation and phase shifting with light; R01 HL105395-01A1
Agency/PO: NHLBI, Lewin, Daniel S; lewinds@mail.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Special Emphasis Panel

PI: Xiaocheng Charlie Dong, Indiana Univ-Purdue Univ at Indianapolis, IN
Title: Regulation of hepatic lipid metabolism by a novel foxo pathway; R01 DK091592-01A1
Agency/PO: NIDDK; Silva, Corinne M.; silvacm@mail.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Integrative Physiology of Obesity and Diabetes Study Section (IPOD)

PI: Ming C. Gong, University of Kentucky, KY
Title: Regulation of Blood Pressure Circadian Rhythm by Vascular Smooth Muscle BMAL1; R01 HL106843-01A1
Agency/PO: NHLBI; Laposky, Aaron D.; laposkya@mail.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Special Emphasis Panel

PI: Elizabeth B. Klerman, Brigham and Women's Hospital, MA
Title: Sleep duration required to restore performance during chronic sleep restriction; R01 HL114088-01A1
Agency/PO: NHLBI; Lewin, Daniel S.; lewinds@mail.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Neural Basis of Psychopathology, Addictions and Sleep Disorders Study Section (NPAS)

PI: Sayoko E. Moroi, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, MI
Title: Aqueous humor dynamic components that determine intraocular pressure variance; R01 EY022124-01
Agency/PO: NEI; Agarwal, Neeraj, agarwalnee@mail.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Anterior Eye Disease Study Section (AED)

PI: Kristina A. Simeone, Creighton University, NE
Title: Adenosine, hypocretin and sleep disorder comorbidities associated with epilepsy; 1R01NS072179-01A1
Agency/PO: NINDS; Whittemore, Vicky R.; whittemorevr@mail.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Acute Neural Injury and Epilepsy Study Section (ANIE)

PI: Andrew P. Thomas, Univ of Med/Dent of NJ-NJ Medical School, NJ
Title: Malaria melatonin receptor signaling as a novel drug target; R01 AI099277-01
Agency/PO: NIAID; Rogers, Martin John; jrogers@niaid.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Special Emphasis Panel

PI: Shawn X.Z. Xu, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, MI
Title: Neuronal and genetic basis of photosensory behavior in C. elegans; R01 EY022315-01
Agency/PO: NEI; Neuhold, Lisa; lneuhold@mail.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Synapses, Cytoskeleton and Trafficking Study Section (SYN)

PI: Xiaoxi Zhuang, University of Chicago, IL
Title: Genomic analysis of feeding behavior and fitness in Drosophila; R01 GM100768-01A1
Agency/PO: NIGMS; Tompkins, Laurie; tompkinl@nigms.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Biobehavioral Regulation, Learning and Ethology Study Section (BRLE)

PI: Kevin John Harvatine, Pennsylvania State University, PA
Title: Functional role of the spot 14 gene in dietary regulation of milk fat synthesis; R03 HD068661-01A1
Agency/PO: NICHD; Raiten, Daniel J.; raitend@mail.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Pediatrics Subcommittee (CHHD)

PI: Amy L. Salisbury, Women and Infants Hospital, RI
Title: Sleep and biological rhythms after fetal exposure to antidepressants; R03 MH096036-01
Agency/PO: NIMH; Zehr, Julia L.; zehrj@mail.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Child Psychopathology and Developmental Disabilities Study Section (CPDD)

PI: Lily Yan, Michigan State University, MI
Title: Neural basis for SAD: development of a diurnal rodent model; R03 MH093760-01A1
Agency/PO: NIMH; Meinecke, Douglas L.; dmeineck@mail.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Pathophysiological Basis of Mental Disorders and Addictions Study Section (PMDA)

PI: Charles Lee Bowden, University of Texas Health Sciences Center, TX
Title: Calcium study of lymphoblasts in bipolar patients to aid diagnosis and treatment; R21 MH097092-01
Agency/PO: NIMH; Meinecke, Douglas L.; dmeineck@mail.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Neural Basis of Psychopathology, Addictions and Sleep Disorders Study Section (NPAS)

PI: Nichole Carlson, University of Colorado Denver, CO
Title: Improved methods for elucidating hormonal mechanisms in mental health studies; R21 MH094994-01A1
Agency/PO: NIMH; Meinecke, Douglas L.; dmeineck@mail.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Biostatistical Methods and Research Design Study Section (BMRD)

PI: Sonia A. Cavigelli, Pennsylvania State University, PA
Title: Mechanisms behind asthma-internalizing disorder co-morbidity: novel mouse model; R21 MH092667-01A1
Agency/PO: NIMH; Zehr, Julia L.; zehrj@mail.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Biobehavioral Regulation, Learning and Ethology Study Section (BRLE)

PI: Mary E. Harrington, Smith College, MA
Title: Building foundations for a neurobiology of fatigue: validating an animal model; R21 NR012845-01A1
Agency/PO: NINR; Marden, Susan F.; mardens@mail.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Neuroendocrinology, Neuroimmunology, Rhythms and Sleep Study Section (NNRS)

PI: Rob F. Jackson, Tufts University, Boston, MA
Title: Genetic analysis of glia-to-neuron communication; R21 NS077886-01A1
Agency/PO: NINDS; Morris, Jill A., morrisja2@mail.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Neuroendocrinology, Neuroimmunology, Rhythms and Sleep Study Section (NNRS)

PI: Michael Menaker, University of Virginia Charlottesville, VA
Title: Analysis of a new circadian mutant; R21 NS079986-01
Agency/PO: NINDS; Mitler, Merrill; mitlerm@ninds.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Neuroendocrinology, Neuroimmunology, Rhythms and Sleep Study Section (NNRS)

PI: Gregory Michael Miller, Harvard University Medical School, MA
Title: Naltrexone and AIDS progression; R21 DA034420-01
Agency/PO: NIDA; Frankenheim, Jerry; jfranken@nida.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Special Emphasis Panel
PI: Karen A. Thomas, University of Washington, WA
Title: Contribution of circadian rhythm and maternal entrainment to infant regulation; R21 HD068597-01A1
Agency/PO: NICHD; Esposito, Layla E.; espositl@mail.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Biobehavioral Regulation, Learning and Ethology Study Section (BRLE)

PI: Julie A. Williams, University of Pennsylvania, PA
Title: Cellular and molecular control of sleep during the immune response in Drosophila; R21 NS078582-01
Agency/PO: NINDS; Mitler, Merrill; mitlerm@ninds.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Cellular and Molecular Biology of Glia Study Section (CMBG)

PI: Kenneth P. Wright, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
Title: Circadian misalignment and energy metabolism; R21 DK092624-01A1
Agency/PO: NIDDK; Silva, Corinne M.; silvacm@mail.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Biobehavioral Mechanisms of Emotion, Stress and Health Study Section (MESH)

PI: Martin Elliot Young, University of Alabama Birmingham, AL
Title: Influence of the cardiomyocyte circadian clock on cardiac hypertrophy; R21 HL107709-01A1
Agency/PO: NHLBI; Evans, Frank; evansf@mail.nih.gov
Review Cmte: Myocardial Ischemia and Metabolism Study Section (MIM)

National Science Foundation, USA

PI: Terry Page, Vanderbilt University, TN
Title: Classical vs. Operant Conditioning: Differences in Circadian Regulation and in Mechanism; 1145605
Agency/PO: NSF/IOS; Marise Parent
Review Cmte: Modulation

PI: Barbara-Ann Battelle, University of Florida, FL
Title: Opsin coexpression: Regulation and Function; 1146175
Agency/PO: NSF/IOS; Marise Parent
Review Cmte: Activation

PI: Shin Yamazaki, Vanderbilt University, TN
Title: Exploring the interaction between light- and food- entrainable oscillators in the mammalian circadian system; 1146908
Agency/PO: NSF/IOS; Marise Parent
Review Cmte: Modulation

PI: Margaret Ahmad, Xavier University
Title: Cryptochrome Structure and Function; 1237986
Agency/PO: NSF/MCB; David A. Rockcliffe
Review Cmte: Biomolecular Dynam, Struc, Func

CIHR, Canada

PI: Nicolas Cermakian, McGill University
Title: Circadian control of immune functions
Agency/PO: CIHR, Infection and Immunity
Review Cmte: Immunology and Transplantation

PI: Tami Martino, University of Guelph
Title: Circadian Control of Cardiac Remodeling
Agency/PO: CIHR, Circulatory and Respiratory Health
Review Cmte: Cardiovascular System B
PI: Kazue Semba, Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia
Title: Neurobehavioural impacts of chronic sleep restriction
Agency/PO: CIHR, Neurosciences Mental Health and Addiction
Review Cmte: Behavioural Sciences A

NSERC, Canada

PI: Denise D. Belsham, University of Toronto, Ontario
Title: Circadian Regulation of Neuropeptides from the Hypothalamus.
Agency/PO: NSERC, Genes Cells and Molecules

PI: Patricia P L Lakin-Thomas, York University
Title: FRQ-less oscillators in the circadian system of Neurospora
Agency/PO: NSERC, Genes Cells and Molecules

PI: Nicolas Cermakian, McGill University
Title: Molecular dissection of the mammalian circadian clock: The roles of the deubiquitinase USP2 in the central clock and in brain function
Agency/PO: NSERC, Biological Systems and Functions

PI: Vielka V L Salazar, Cape Breton University
Title: Neuroendocrine regulation of socially-driven circadian rhythms
Agency/PO: NSERC, Biological Systems and Functions

PI: Colin CGH Steel, York University
Title: Circadian clocks in regulation of the endocrine system in an insect
Agency/PO: NSERC, Biological Systems and Functions

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From the Newsletter Editor

After a bit of a hiatus, the SRBR newsletter is back with a bang (thanks to our enthusiastic new president)! We will be bringing you an issue 3 times per year, so look for it to arrive in your inbox and on the website at www.srbr.org. This is your newsletter, so send along any newsworthy items or ideas for content to me at stischkau@siumed.edu. The next edition is scheduled for release in early December. The deadline for inclusion in that issue is Nov. 15, 2012. Thanks!

Shelley Tischkau, editor