PUBLICATIONS


MEDIA MENTIONS

- Research by Erin Whitchurch was discussed in a Scientific American column: http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?id=think-youre-good-looking&SID=mail&sc=emailfriend

DEPARTMENT in NUMBERS

Debbie Snow provided statistics on grad student applications for the last two years:

**2008-2009**
- # applied: 498

**2007-2008**
- # applied: 520
- # admitted: 33
- # entered: 16

RESEARCHER PROFILE

Chengsan Sun. I joined David Hill's Taste Development Laboratory at UVa last November as a Research Scientist. I received my Ph.D. from the University of Beijing (China), where I worked on gene therapy for Parkinson's diseases. Then I joined Jaideep Kapur's Epilepsy Laboratory at UVa's Department of Neurology in 2001. I seek to understand the pathophysiologial mechanisms underlying the prolonged, life-threatening seizures associated with temporal lobe epilepsy (TLE). First I established the distribution of different GABAA receptor subunits and their relationship with GABAergic synapses in vivo and in vitro under normal conditions. Then, I focused on the mechanisms underlying the plasticity of
GABA receptors and presynaptic interneurons in epileptic conditions. I have found that in epileptic animals the a4 subunit of GABA receptor was relocated from extrasynaptic to synaptic locations and some interneuron populations in the dentate gyrus were diminished. In the near future, I hope to study the relationship of the GABA receptors and other factors with the development of the taste system. I was born in a small village of Shandong Province in China, and I love the beauty of Charlottesville.

SUGGESTED READING

A one page perspective on doing scientific research:
*The importance of stupidity in scientific research* by Martin Schwartz, a UVa Microbiology professor.

EVENTS of the WEEK

Monday, February 23, 2009

- Developmental Lunch, 12:00pm-1:15pm, GIL 225
  Kristin Shutts, Harvard University, *The development of social categories*
- Colloquium: 3:30-5pm, GIL 190
  Maya Bar-Hillel, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and The Russel Sage Foundation, *Does a rose by any other name smell as sweet? A cognitive perspective on poets and poetry*

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

- Dissertation Proposal, 12:30pm, GIL 181
  Erin Kerfoot, *The Nucleus Accumbens: Involvement in the modulation of memory for arousing events*
- Community Lunch, 12:30-1:45, GIL 225
  Reppucci Lab Practice for APLS, Barbara Oudekerk, Jessica Kostelnik, and Emily Marston,
- Social Lunch, 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL B001
  Maya Bar-Hillel, *Status Quo Bias: Even Mere Labeling Matters*

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

- Cognitive Lunch: 12:30pm-1:45pm, GIL 225
  Michael Schutz, Practice job talk
- Sensory and Systems Neuroscience Lunch: 12:30pm-2pm, GIL B001
  Rebecca Reddaway

Friday, February 27, 2009
• Clinical Lunch: 12pm-1pm, GIL 225
  Erik Pettersson, *A Brief History of Simple Structure and Its Problematic Application to Personality*