Upcoming Opportunities and Deadlines:

**SPR Call for Abstracts!**
Are you excited about your latest research results and want to present them to the audience at the upcoming 59th annual SPR meeting in Washington DC? The submission portal for abstracts for posters is **NOW OPEN!** Abstracts can be submitted until **Monday, April 1st.** For further information, please visit the **SPR website.** Think your research is top-notch? Posters by student authors can be considered for one of SPR’s student poster awards (just select that you want your poster to be considered when you submit it). You can see the list of last year’s recipients in this edition of the newsletter!

**SPR Research Fellowship Training Awards**
Would you like to visit the lab of an SPR member to learn new skills and techniques? Consider applying for an SPR Research Fellowship Training Award from the Education and Training Committee and the Committee to Promote Student Interests. These awards allow students or postdocs to obtain mentorship/training in psychophysiological assessment and analysis with experts in the field, which they could not get at their home institution. This could involve travel to a remote site or travel expenses for a remote mentor to visit the applicant's lab. Each application may include a **budget of up to $5,000 USD** (although smaller budgeted applications are encouraged and would allow for more applications to be funded). Up to $500 of these funds can be used to defray SPR conference travel costs. The deadline for applications is **May 1, 2019,** for funding to begin early September 2019. Applications are short (3-5 pages) but require that applicants, mentors and proposed training sponsors also submit biosketches. Award notices will be sent via email beginning June 1, 2019. If additional funds are available after June 1, 2019, a second application announcement will be made. Awarded students will also be recognized at the Saturday Business Luncheon.

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during the annual SPR meeting. Further information regarding eligibility criteria and the application process are available on the SPR website. See the list of 2018 recipients in this edition of the newsletter!

59TH SPR ANNUAL MEETING
Washington, DC
Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
September 25 to September 29, 2019

SPR Research Travel Award
The SPR Research Travel Award is specifically aimed to assist predoctoral student members who would not be able to attend the annual meeting without funding from the Travel Awards program. As such, we attend to resources provided by your graduate institution, laboratory of training, and a desire to include research areas that are not widely represented at SPR. We seek to make awards to trainees who will develop a strong commitment to SPR and envision themselves contributing to the Society in their future careers. Up to 20 awards are made each year (10 from the same continent as the meeting location and 10 from continents other than that of the meeting location). Award package includes recognition at the Saturday Business Lunch, waived conference and registration fees for the current meeting and for one additional meeting during the following 2 years, and funds to defray travel costs ($400 USD same continent, $800 USD different continent). Applications are due May 15, 2019 and include your current CV, a 500-word statement, and documents certifying that other funds are not available to fully cover expenses associated with attendance. Awards will be announced July 1, 2019, with confirmation of attending required by July 15, 2019. If you are selected but unable to attend, SPR will offer the award to another student. More details are available on the SPR website.

TOTAL ATTENDANCE SINCE 2009: 6,833
Congratulations to all of our 2018 Student Award Recipients!

**2018 Poster Award Recipients:**
- **Darin Brown** - University of New Mexico – *The reward positivity: A candidate biomarker for early stage Parkinson’s Disease*
- **Johannes Finke** - University of Trier – *Assessing pupil responses without light reflex activation: Implications for future research*
- **DeWayne Williams** - Ohio State University – *Ethnic Differences in Cardiac Autonomic Activity: A focus on impedance cardiography*
- **Dion Henare** - University of Auckland – *Lateralised event-related potentials reveal the effects of working memory load on selective attention*
- **Lauren Neal** - University of Alabama – *Frontal asymmetry shifts during impulse control localize to the inferior frontal gyrus*
- **Katharina Paul** - Ghent University – *Dissociable effects of reward magnitude on midfrontal theta and FRN during performance monitoring*
- **Nina Thigpen** - University of Florida – *Neural variability discriminates subtypes of social anxiety*
- **Jackie Huberman** - Queen’s University – *ERP responses to de-contextualized sexual cues*
- **Trevor Jackson** - University of New Mexico – *The reward positivity reflects spatio-temporally evolving processes*
- **Chad Williams** - University of Victoria – *Cognitive control and attention: Neurocognitive mechanisms of System 1 and System 2 thinking*

**2018 Diversity Travel Award Recipients:**
- **André Forster** – University of Würzburg, mentor Johannes Hewig
- **Alyssa Palmer** – University of Minnesota, mentor Daniel Berry
- **Xiaoqian (Sophy) Yu** – University of South Florida, mentor Emanuel Donchin

**2018 Research Fellowship Training Grant Recipients:**
- **Hause Lin** – University of Toronto, Canada
- **Daylin Góngora Leonart** – Cuban Neuroscience Center, Cuba
- **Christopher Brush** – Rutgers University, USA
- **Mona El-Hout** – University of South Florida, USA
- **Keanan Joyner** – Florida State University, USA
- **Richard Ward** – University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA
The Upcoming 59th Annual SPR Conference in Washington, D.C.

This year’s SPR Annual Meeting will be September 25 to 29 in Washington, DC, and promises many exciting speakers and events! In this section, you can find information on highlights of the 2019 meeting.

Invited Speakers:
- Mara Mather (University of Southern California) *(top)*
- Betsy Murray (National Institute of Mental Health) *(middle)*
- Tor Wager (University of Colorado at Boulder) *(bottom)*

Pre-Conference Workshops:
- Ambulatory Psychophysiology, organized by Greg Siegle
- Open Science in Psychophysiology, organized by Eric Vanman
- Time-Frequency Principle Components Analysis, organized by Ed Bernat

Big Question Symposia:
A new feature this year are the Big Question Sessions, in which speakers will address the following topics:
- What have we learned from studying affective chronometry (i.e., the time course of an affective or emotional response) using psychophysiological measures?
- (How) Can physiological measures inform us about etiology, diagnosis, and/or treatment of psychopathology (and vice versa)?
- Given that an underlying theme for this year’s Annual Meeting is multi-method integration, how can we best integrate data from multiple physiological measures (broadly construed) to answer psychological questions of interest?

Early Career Conversation Hour:
Organized by the Diversity and Women in Science Committees, this event features a reception and panel discussion addressing topics of interest for early career members. This is a great event to attend if you have questions about academia or are looking for early career advice.

Roundtable Discussions:
Organized by the Education and Training Committee, this event offers a unique opportunity to discuss important issues in a small group format. Past discussion topics have included “Rigor and Reproducibility” and “Developmental Psychophysiology.”

Special Interest meetings:
These informal meetings provide a great opportunity for SPR members to discuss common interests.

Student Social:
We hope to see you all at the Student Social, organized by the Committee to Promote Student Interests! This event is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow SPR student members, and usually includes free food and a free drink ticket for the first 100 students to arrive.

Saturday Night Social:
This event is an excellent way to meet and spend time with SPR members of all levels, and will feature a performance from the SPR Blues Band!
Things to do in Washington, D.C.

*Special thanks to Katie Hoemann for sharing her suggestions for things to do in D.C.!

D.C. has a lot of things to see and do. The world-class collection of museums, galleries, and monuments means that you can get lost in just about any subject, era, or culture you can imagine. To boot, many of the opportunities are free and/or within walking distance of each other and the conference. So, what are you going to choose? Here are a few recommendations from the locals:

Indoors:
If there is a bad museum in the city, I don’t know where it is. Any of the big names (e.g., Natural History Museum, National Gallery of Art, National Archives) are definitely worth your while. However, places like the Newseum and the National Museum of the American Indian are relative newcomers to the scene, and offer particularly interesting viewpoints on national history and culture.
If you’re looking for a quiet place to reflect on life and the universe, visit Washington National Cathedral and contemplate the piece of moon rock embedded in the Space Window (right).

Outdoors:
The oppressive summer heat will have abated by late September, making this a perfect time to enjoy the greenery D.C. has to offer. Of course, a stroll around the National Mall is always a wonderful way to spend a few hours: make sure to stop by the MLK, Jr. Memorial and sit for a moment with Honest Abe.
A jog along the Potomac can also help refresh or revitalize after a day of science-ing. Or, a bit further afield, commune with nature in Rock Creek Park (left) and make friends with the animals in the National Zoo.

Food, Drink, & Entertainment
Each D.C. neighborhood has its own distinct vibe and cultural influence. The U Street corridor boasts a collection of fantastic restaurants, along with the legendary Ben’s Chili Bowl and loads of fun bars (including a speakeasy!) If you’re up that way, see if you can get tickets to a show at the 9:30 Club and maybe bump into folks from NPR’s All Songs Considered. Adams Morgan is also fun for a night on the town. Want to shop? Head to Georgetown (right).
Want even more options? Continue trip planning (i.e. day dreaming) by checking out the to-do lists from Thrillist, Atlas Obscura, TimeOut, and Destination DC. See you there!
Spotlight Interview with James Cavanagh  
Assistant Professor at the University of New Mexico

1. Can you talk a little bit about your career trajectory? How have your experiences (e.g., as an undergraduate in Sociology; as a PhD student of Cognition and Neural Systems) shaped your career path? Who has most influenced your research or academic trajectory?

I simply took advantage of the opportunities that were present. My undergrad institution didn’t have a cognitive psychology program (it was all behaviorism) so I learned cognition via social psychology within the sociology department. I re-trained in a terminal Master’s program where EEG was available, so I learned that. In my PhD and post-doc I had a lot of cross-pollination between clinical, EEG methods, and computational mentors, so I merged those. John Allen took the big chance on me and patiently let me do what I wanted. Mike X Cohen was there as a post-doc and we formed our first paper idea within the first minute of meeting. Michael Frank was a new faculty there and after I overcame my kneejerk reaction of aversion to the computational perspective, I became enamored with it. The combination of these approaches seemed pretty novel, and was thus exciting.

2. What drew you to the field of psychophysiology, and EEG in particular?

For years, I actually wanted to do fMRI instead. But only EEG was available, so I leveraged that. One summer in in grad school I decided that I should read Buzsaki’s book and the neuro-physics of EEG book and re-evaluate if I thought e-phys was useful enough to get serious about. Those helped me commit to the field, and generated a lot of new ideas. Since then I’ve felt that e-phys accessed a deeper level of brain functioning than other imaging approaches, and is thus a uniquely important tool for understanding how the brain works. I’ve been trying, somewhat awkwardly, over the years to communicate this perspective.

3. You were selected as the recipient of the Distinguished Early Career Contributions to Psychophysiology award in 2018. What did receiving this award mean to you? How has involvement in SPR helped to further your career.

This was huge – being a reliable attendee of SPR for so many years made me always look up to the Early Career awardees and want to grow up to be one someday. Without years of networking at SPR I’m not entirely sure I’d even have a research career right now. And if I did, it would be less enjoyable.

4. You’ve described electrophysiology as a common methodological hub that can serve to blur the traditional boundaries between preclinical, computational,
imaging, and clinical fields. What sparked your interest in this sort of translational research?
Any method for answering a question runs out of insight at some point. But e-phys has some particular resilience to this issue. First, it’s already a very low-level assessment of neural processes and is present at multiple scales of brain function within and between species. Second, it can be combined with any other imaging or measurement technique. Third, it is already leveraged for clinical diagnostics in hospitals, and it could be used more. These independent and combined virtues are very apparent to me, and I feel an urgency to communicate these advantages.

5. What new area of research (your own or someone else’s) are you most excited about right now?
Two things really excite me at the moment. The first is animal-to-human translation based on e-phys signals. Some of our favorite human EEG signals seem to be well-preserved in rodents, although it is challenging to elicit them in a similar way. The second is computational advancement in modeling EEG signals. By combining these approaches we’ll develop a sophisticated grasp on the different levels of network activity and modulatory systems that cause canonical brain responses. I think in a few decades, we’ll see neural network models that can recapitulate ERPs and other known cortical dynamics.

6. What advice would you give to young researchers who are interested in learning new psychophysiological techniques?
You need to have the attitude that everything is learnable. That’s all. If there is something interesting that other people are doing, sit down and ask Google for resources on how to start learning it. Never wait for someone to train you to do anything.

7. If someone gave you an enormous pot of money to improve science, how would you use it?
I think the biggest improvements don’t need money, and they’re already happening. Open data, open code, appreciation of reliability and replicability. But since you asked, I’d like to see the NIH open up more opportunities for smaller-budget grants, particularly for early stage investigators. The current feast-or-famine model causes a big disincentive for innovative work. This should extend to training grants, particularly in computer science training for baccalaureate and pre-doc students.

8. What has been the highlight of your career thus far? Is there anything you would have done differently?
This is the hardest question so far. I think getting the job I wanted will remain the most important part of all this. I can do the work I want while devoting as much time to my family as I’d like. I don’t think it’s wise to look back and re-evaluate your scientific decisions – if you’re not failing then you’re not taking risks. But I would go back and keep better archives of my old data and code – and make it all open.
Updates from Subcommittees of the Committee to Promote Student Interests

Are your needs being met? Want to get involved? Please feel free to contact members of the committee with suggestions, questions, comments, or to bond with a fellow psychophysiotherapist (Contact information available on the SPR website).

Public Relations Subcommittee: The SPR Public Relations Subcommittee has been hard at work continuing elevating engagement with SPR members and others across social media. Most specifically, we have been focusing on continuing to update the SPR Facebook Page (like the page if you haven’t!), highlighting various work published in Psychophysiology and providing updates for the upcoming conference in Washington, D.C. Continue to look for SPR across social media as we spread the word about the great work our society is doing!

Post-doctoral/Early Career Subcommittee: The SPR Early Career Luncheon is scheduled for the Thursday lunch slot at the 2019 meeting in Washington, DC. This year's theme is: “How to brand yourself (and your research) in the world of psychophysiology." This event is a chance to network with other early career SPR members, as well as to chat with invited speakers about early career issues. The luncheon will cost $10 to attend, and the option to register will be included in this year's conference registration form. For more information, please feel free to reach out to the subcommittee chair, Dan Foti (foti@purdue.edu).

Primarily Undergraduate Institution (PUI) Subcommittee: The PUI Subcommittee has two announcements about the upcoming 2019 conference in Washington, D.C. First, we will be hosting a PUI Special Interest Event (likely a lunch for professors from PUIs and students interested in pursuing positions at PUIs) to discuss the rewards and challenges of our unique positions. More details will be forthcoming. And second, this year there is a new "Late Breaking" Poster Deadline for undergraduate poster submissions - July 1! We will be accepting somewhere between 10-20 poster from undergraduate first authors at that time. The late deadline is designed to allow for undergraduates who are finishing up
their theses or other projects in May to have time to submit to this year’s conference. All submissions will be listed in the program and will be eligible for student poster awards. The first author MUST be a recent (2019) graduate or a current undergraduate, and their advisors must be able to confirm their status. Please consider submitting your excellent undergraduate work!

**Meeting Events Subcommittee:** Washington D.C. has a lot to offer and so many fun things to do! Start planning your stay on page 5 of this newsletter and check out the other amazing opportunities at Washington D.C. Wikitravel. Watch your email for the location of our Friday night Student Social and a list of student-friendly sites and attractions. If you have any ideas about things to do in Washington D.C., and you would like to get involved in our planning, please contact Amanda Hautmann (ahaut550@gmail.com). We hope to meet you on the Mall – we look forward to seeing you in Washington D.C.

**International Students Subcommittee:** Our subcommittee is working on adding more and more content to the International Students Exchange Forum on the SPR webpages: [https://sprweb.org/page/Exchange_Forum](https://sprweb.org/page/Exchange_Forum). Are you thinking about visiting an SPR lab to learn psychophysiological methods? Are you looking for funding possibilities for (international) exchange students? Are you interested in resources SPR provides for (international) students? During the last year, we have added an FAQ section to our International Students Forum, which provides answers for these (and for many more) questions. We are continuously working on adding to the FAQ page, feel free to actively participate and send us your questions (matthias.sperl@staff.uni-marburg.de)! Does your lab also welcome (international) exchange students but is not yet on our list? Simply send us an e-mail with your lab’s information and we will create a subpage for you!

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Have an exciting opportunity for our student members or a fun student event planned for the 59th Annual SPR Conference in Washington D.C.? We’d love to highlight it in our next newsletter! Contact Grace Clements at: gracemc2@illinois.edu