March 11, 2021

NAVBO NewsBEAT

North American Vascular Biology Organization

New Mentorship Award

New NAVBO Award Named for Dr. Stephen Schwartz
As many know, the vascular biology community suffered a great loss almost a year ago, when Dr. Stephen Schwartz passed away. Dr. Schwartz, a co-founder of NAVBO, stayed very active in the society. His most impactful legacy to this community was his establishing Vasculata, our Summer Course that introduces young scientists to vascular biology.

In remembering Steve, a single word appeared repeatedly - Mentor. What better way to honor him, than presenting an award to an outstanding mentor and having their mentees benefit as well.

Nominations are due May 3 for the 2021 Award. For more information and to submit a nomination, please go to the web page.

Today's Focus Session

Join us TODAY at 1:00pmEST for our **First Focus Session on Development** moderated by Siqi Gao, University of Pennsylvania and featuring four short talks from selected Vascular Biology 2020 abstracts.

1. Hematopoietic potential of the endocardium in zebrafish embryos (Dr. Suman Gurung, University of South Florida)
2. Unc5b is a genetic target of Notch signaling and a potential effector of Notch-mediated angiogenesis (Dr. Qanber Raza, University of Illinois at Chicago)
3. Peritoneal macrophages regulate vascular integrity and erythrocyte uptake by lymphatics in the embryonic omentum (Dr. Matthew Menendez, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation)
4. Characterizing the in vivo role of RHOA signaling in regulating vascular integrity and development (Dr. Laura Pillay, NIH)

This session will NOT be recorded - so be sure to join us today at 1pmET. **Click here to register**.

Join future Focus Sessions, sponsored and organized by the NAVBO Online Program Committee, in Signals that Control Angiogenesis, Lymphangiogenesis and Vascular Remodeling; Inflammation; Disease; New Techniques; and Endothelium Heterogeneity.

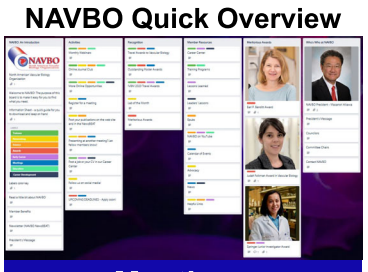
Upcoming Webinar

Join us for our webinar on April 1 at 1:00pmET featuring **Dr. Karen Hirschi,** University of Virginia. Her presentation is titled "Regulation of Endothelial Cell Specialization"
For more details and to register, click here.

Mark your calendars for these webinars. And bookmark this page on our web site

In this issue...

NAVBO Quick Overview



Meetings

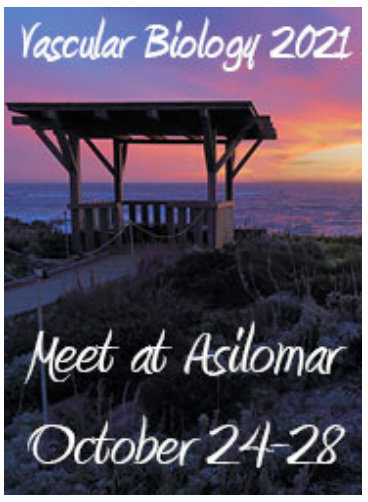
Registration and Abstract sites now open!

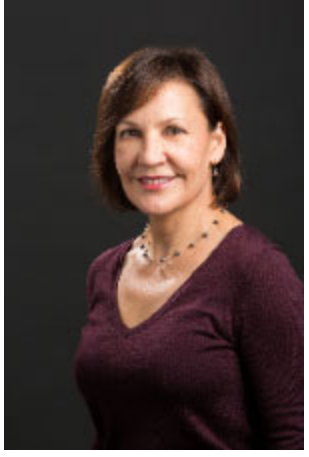
NAVBO ONLINE

Vasculata 2021

Virtual July 13-15

Now Accepting Abstracts





for more exciting 2021 webinars.

Lessons Learned

I appreciate the opportunity offered by NAVBO for me to share a reflection of my lessons learned. I am currently an Associate Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. Through my experience in the last 7 years as a faculty member, I have learned how to manage myself to be an independent scientist, a laboratory head, and a teacher. My advice to new faculty can be summarized in four themes: 1) make a practical plan toward your ultimate goal, 2) overcome frustrations, 3) build a nutritious environment for mentoring, and 4) keep learning.

Think something big, and do something small. Don't be fooled by Tom Brokaw with his quote "It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference." Considering the current funding situation, it is hard for anyone to make a buck, particularly for new faculty members. While you can keep pursuing something big to make a difference, you may need to do something small to make sure you can complete some projects, publish decent papers, and secure several grants in a timely manner. This will help you establish a track record you much need at this stage, which can serve as a foundation for your future success. I would suggest you to prioritize all of your research projects, to analyze the strengths of everyone in your group, and to leverage your available resources to draft a practical plan, by which you focus efforts to publish your first papers and get your initial grants from federal or private funding agencies that have small start-up funds for young investigators.

Always too early to give up. The most common word that could characterize the academic lives of most faculty members at their early stage, unfortunately, is "rejection". The earlier you realize this truth, the easier you can handle the frustration it causes. Rejection could frequently happen to papers and grant proposals you first submit, largely due to potentially underdeveloped nature of these submissions and the unestablished reputation of your own laboratory. If you are not well prepared, the repeated rejections will be a source of a large amount of frustration and eventually damage your confidence despite your earlier success as a trainee. I have witnessed several talented junior faculty members who suffered from unsuccessful funding issues in their first three years and finally they gave up the projects and quit their academic career. I think it is always too early to give up a project or a career. There are no secrets in academic success, but just keep improving and trying. From a retrospective point of view, I recognize that I benefited a lot from the rejection rather than acceptance in my early career, which helped me identify the flaws of my initial research concepts, experimental designs, and scientific directions. In fact, the criticizing comments from peer review contributed significantly to the improvement of my initial projects, avoiding a potential bigger failure at the later stage. When you get a rejection, just take a deep breath, give up your give-up ideas, get the constructive criticisms, and move on.

Act as a mentorly boss. A faculty member has dual CEO roles in a laboratory, as a chief executive officer and a chief education officer, and the latter really matters. The fundamental task for a new faculty member is to build a research team with a nutritious environment for mentoring trainees. An encouraging, mildly stimulative environment is essential for all trainees to obtain expertise, complete work, and develop their career, which mutually promotes the success of the laboratory. Ever since I was a junior faculty, I have set goals to train promising postdoctoral fellows toward their independence. I am particularly proud that several of my former trainees, whose work had laid solid foundation for our future research, have now become tenure-track assistant professors. This patrimony may root from my previous laboratory led by my PhD advisor Dr. Paul Fox, a visionary scientist who always encourages and promotes his trainees. The essential lesson I would like to share in this part is that the success of your laboratory heavily depends on the success of your trainees' science and career through a mentoring niche.

Stay hungry for knowledge and wisdom. Postdoc-to-faculty transition does not necessarily mean the end of training, and, from my view, rather suggests a start of a new era of self-driven education. As a new faculty member, you will need to acquire a knowledge base covering all research directions you want to explore, and more importantly, to learn wisdom for laboratory management, science development, and trainee education. To achieve this, one of most feasible approaches is through close interaction with some senior, well-established scientists who are willing to share their research philosophy with you. For example, when I started my independent laboratory, I had joint laboratory meetings with Dr. Celeste Simon and Dr. Robert Vonderheide who are pioneers in cancer biology and immunology research and provided incredible suggestions to my academic development. The key thing is to treat yourself always as a student rather than a teacher, and staying humble and hungry will keep you accumulating knowledge and wisdom.

The most fascinating part of scientific research is the amazing journey of exploration and discovery, which is full of uncertainties that can cause the unexpected and anxiety in a scientist's career. I hope that new faculty members can quickly develop practical skills to facilitate career progression and would then fully enjoy the journey.

Lab of the Month

Lab of the Month - March 2021

The Lab of Dr. Yi Fan

This month we are highlighting the lab of Dr. Yi Fan, who is an Associate Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. Find out more about Dr. Fan's lab by visiting his page in our Lab of the Month listing.

Member News

Welcome to our New Members:

Deniah Beleford, University of California, San Francisco
Ruben Marin Juez, CHU Sainte Justine Research Centre
Milena Petkova, Uppsala University
Daniela Pirri, Imperial College of London
Hans Schoofs, Uppsala University

If you have news to share with your colleagues, send it to membership@navbo.org

Recent Member Publications

If you have a recent paper that you would like to share with NAVBO NewsBEAT subscribers, send the title and link to membership@navbo.org. *Please note, only papers authored by current NAVBO members are accepted for inclusion.*

Spotlight on Trainees

National Postdoctoral Association aims to enhance the post-doc experience

The National Postdoctoral Association (NPA), founded in 2002 by a group of forward-looking postdocs, works "to improve the postdoctoral experience by supporting a culture of enhanced professional growth." The NPA facilitates professional connections at the individual, organizational, and national levels, raising awareness and identifying professional opportunities for post-docs with diverse stakeholders. The organization offers a "PDA Toolkit" to NPA members, which can serve as a guide to the establishment of local postdoc associations at individual institutions. These groups can provide a unified voice to advocate on behalf of all post-doc trainees at their institution and nationally. Moreover, local PDAs provide important community-building opportunities, bridging diverse disciplines.

Summer PRIDE Program

VB20 Guest Societies

Affiliated Journals

PRIDE Program Mentees

Programs to Increase Diversity Among Individuals Engaged in Health-Related Research (PRIDE)
The PRIDE Summer Institute Program in Cardiovascular Disease Comorbidities, Genetics and Epidemiology to Increase Diversity Among Individuals Engaged in Health-Related Research is now accepting applications. Space is limited for the 2021 mentored summer training programs so apply early!

Eligible applicants are junior-level faculty or scientists with a background that is under-represented in the biomedical or health sciences, and are United States Citizens or Permanent Residents. Research interests should be compatible with those of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) in the prevention and treatment of heart, lung, blood, and sleep (HLBS) disorders.

Our All-Expense paid Summer Institute program with effective mentored training opportunities to enhance the research skills and to promote the scientific and career development of trainees with a research interest in Cardiovascular disease Comorbidities, Genetics and Epidemiology.

Trainees will learn effective strategies for preparing, submitting and obtaining external grant funding for research, including extensive tips on best practices.

For more information on the PRIDE Program click here

Industry News

Return to pre-COVID patterns of life hinges on vaccine acceptance
Research!America blogger Jessica Scott tackles the thorny issue of COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in her February 23 post, weighing the negative impacts of speedy scientific review and cynical misinformation on public confidence in the vaccines' efficacy and safety. National polling in mid-February indicated that at least 70% of all Americans – the fraction estimated to be needed for herd immunity – intend to receive a COVID-19 vaccine eventually. Still, troublesome gaps remain. Members of Black and Hispanic communities, for example, express reluctance, leery of the medical establishment after generations of mistreatment. Communication is key: scientists must both know the answers to questions of vaccine importance and be able to effectively communicate those answers to the general public.

Call for nominations for the IAS/R3i Jean-Charles Fruchart Prize
The International Atherosclerosis Society and the R3i Foundation announce the Jean-Charles Fruchart Prize in Nuclear Receptors and Atherosclerosis Research, seeking to encourage basic, clinical and translational research in the role of nuclear receptors in cardiovascular disease prevention and treatment. This prestigious award will be presented during the upcoming XIXth International Symposium on Atherosclerosis in Kyoto, Japan, October 24-27, 2021. The sponsoring organizations invite award nominations, consisting of the candidate's CV and a letter of support, sent to the Nominating Committee (fruchartprize@athero.org) for consideration no later than Tuesday June 15, 2021.

NHLBI Publishes 2021: Advancing Heart, Lung, Blood, and Sleep Research
The NHLBI has released the 2021 edition of its annual Science Advances report, providing an overview of the institute's major programs and partnership activities, as well as highlighting recent advances in research funded by the NHLBI. The information is presented by program area and showcases how NHLBI is putting into practice the objectives identified in its 2016 Strategic Vision. The annual Science Advances brochures aim to inform individuals and organizations that contribute to the pursuit of NHLBI's mission to prevent and treat heart, lung, blood, and sleep disorders.

Call for Proposals

LIPEDEMA FOUNDATION

Open Call for Lipedema Research Proposals

Award Types

Collaborative Research Award - Designed for team research that requires involvement of multiple institutions or multi-disciplinary researchers. Applications that involve current LF grantees receive priority review. Up to $250,000 over two years.

Proof of Concept Award - Designed to support development of preliminary data for highly innovative hypotheses. Open to investigators of any career stage or background. Successful awards are eligible for streamlined award renewal. Up to $125,000 for one year

Mentored Award - Designed to support postdoctoral research experiences for candidates in non-independent mentored research training. Intended to support PhD (or equivalent research degrees) and clinicians engaged in mentored medical research. Up to $70,000 for two years

Deadlines
·Application Portal Opens: January 19, 2021
·LOI Submission: March 15, 2021; 11:59 PM EST
·Video Presentation with Lipedema Foundation staff and Full Application Invitations: April 2021
· Full Application Submission: June 26, 2021
· Award Status Update: August 31, 2021
· Earliest Project Start Date: October 1, 2021

Dates are subject to change at discretion of Lipedema Foundation. Registered applicants will be notified by email should these dates change.

Specific Areas of Interest
While the Foundation will consider all proposals, those that are oriented towards improving diagnosis of patients will be prioritized in the current cycle.

Applicants should consider the development of local surgeon-researcher teams that will facilitate access to fresh, well-characterized patient biological samples and appropriate controls.

Investigators requiring assistance with recruitment of patients or acquisition of biological samples should contact the Foundation at least 3 weeks prior to LOI submission to review feasibility of the request.

Proposals to create clinically relevant animal models should clearly justify the relationship of the proposed model to a genetic or biomechanical feature of Lipedema.

Contact
For questions regarding this RFP, please contact the Lipedema Foundation staff by email at awards@lipedema.org.

How to Apply
All applications must be submitted through the Lipedema Foundation research submission portal.

Please visit their website to find the link to the submission portal.

Call for Papers

Frontiers in Cardiovascular Medicine Special Research Topics

frontiers in Cardiovascular Medicine

Putting Engineering Back In
Vascular Tissue Engineering To
Advance Basic Science and Clinical Applications
Topic Editors: Jessica Wagenseil (Washington University in St. Louis) and W. Lee Murfee (University of Florida).

This topic is sponsored by NAVBO
Vascular tissue engineering (VTE) can be characterized as the creation of replacement vessels. Over the past 30 years, approaches have incorporated different combinations of extracellular matrix scaffolds, cells and biological active chemical cues. Challenged by the goal to recapitulate the complexity of big or small vessels, the clinical use of in vitro tissue engineered vessel replacements is still limited. With research more often focusing on reductionist materials science or cell biology characterization of vessel-like constructs, an opportunity has emerged to re-apply engineering approaches to guide the next step in VTE.

Manuscript submission deadline has been extended; for more information, click here.

Calendar of Events

April 19 - 20, 2021	Stanford Drug Discovery Symposium 2021
April 27 - 30, 2021	Experimental Biology 2021
May 31 - June 5, 2021	Lymphatic Forum 2021
October 24 - 28, 2021	Vascular Biology 2021
October 24 - 27, 2021	ISA 2021

Job Postings

Job Title	Company	Location
Postdoctoral Fellow - Boston Children's Hospital and Harvard Medical School	Boston Children's Hospital	Boston, MA
Postdoctoral Scholar	Case Western Reserve University	Cleveland, OH
Postdoctoral Fellow - Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical School	Boston Children's Hospital	Boston, MA
Postdoctoral Fellow - Epigenomic and Transcriptomic Research in Diabetes Complications	City of Hope	Los Angeles, CA

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