

P&P Annual Report - July 2014

The Fall meeting in San Francisco was larger than typical for the P&P Technical Committee. This was primarily due to the one special P&P session: “The Ear Club: Honoring Ervin R. Hafter and His Contributions to the Study of Binaural Processing and Auditory Cognition,” which was organized by Chris Stecker. The P&P committee also cosponsored a session with Animal Bioacoustics: “Neural Mechanisms of Complex Sound Discrimination.” We thank Sunil Puria for being our representative at the Technical Program Organizing Meeting (TPOM) for the San Francisco meeting. Also of special note, Barb Shinn-Cunningham was awarded the ASA Student Council Mentoring Award! The recent tradition of PIs taking students (and post-docs) out after the Tuesday-night TC meeting continued, with informal discussions and networking occurring at the Mikkeller Bar in Union Square.

The spring meeting in Providence was a particularly exciting and active meeting for P&P. The excellent ASA Short Course on “Recent Technologies for Hearing Assistance” was presented on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning by Birger Kollmeier and Volker Hohmann. During the week, P&P sponsored five special sessions: “Temporal Processing, Compression, and Cochlear Implants: Session in Honor of Sid P. Bacon” (Organized by: Neal Viemeister), “Scientific Catalyst, Collaborator, and Gadfly: Honoring the Contributions of Tino (Constantine) Trahiotis to the Understanding of Binaural Auditory Processing” (Organized by: Les Bernstein, Rich Stern, Steve Colburn), “Diagnostics of the Pathological Middle Ear by Wideband Acoustic Impedance/Reflectance Measures” (Organized by: Jont Allen), “Cambridge Contributions to Auditory Science: The Moore-Patterson Legacy” (Organized by: Andrew Oxenham, Chris Plack, Bob Carlyon, Michael Akeroyd), and “Role of the Medial Olivocochlear Efferents in Auditory Function” (Organized by: Magda Wojtczak, Enrique Lopez-Poveda). Charlie Liberman was invited to give one of the interdisciplinary “Hot Topics” talks. We are grateful to Rich Freyman, Pat Zurek, and Ganesh Swaminathan who served as our representatives at the TPOM for the Providence meeting.

A large number of P&P members were recognized in Providence for their important contributions to our field. Brian Moore was awarded the ASA Gold Medal, “for leadership in research on human hearing and its clinical applications.” Matt Goupell was awarded the ASA Lindsay Award, “for contributions to the understanding of binaural processes in acoustic and electrical hearing.” Egbert de Boer received the second annual William and Christine Hartmann Prize in Auditory Neuroscience, and delivered a fascinating Auditory Neuroscience Prize Lecture, “The role of physics in inner-ear physiology and auditory perception.” Finally, Carolina Abdala, Huangpin Dai, and Michael Epstein became Fellows of the Society. In honor of the award winners, Phonak and Advanced Bionics sponsored a fun dinner celebration on Wednesday night that was organized by Ruth Litovsky and Bill Hartmann, and featured music from award winners and a very special performance from Prof. Hartmann himself.

At the well-attended Technical Committee meeting in Providence, reports were given from the current JASA, JASA-EL, and POMA AEs. We welcome Brenda Lonsbury-Martin as a new (returning) JASA AE, and Hari Patra as the new POMA AE for P&P. The Technical Committee terms of Gin Best, Bob Carlyon, Monita Chatterjee, Torsten Dau, Eric Healy, and Peggy Nelson came to an end, while the 3-year terms of Ian Bruce, Hedwig Gockel, Jennifer Lentz, Lynne Werner, and Pavel Zahorik began. The TC meeting was used as the venue to elect new members to the P&P Technical Committee, and the following new members were elected to begin their terms following the Spring 2015 meeting in Pittsburgh: Michael Epstein, Matt Goupell, Pat Zurek, Sunil Puria, Jungmee Lee, and Ying-Yee Kong. Thanks to Eric Healy for running the election. Following the P&P TC meeting in Providence, our informal discussions and networking between PIs and students took place at Bar Louie.

We thank Bill Hartmann, our representative to the Medals and Awards Committee, Marjorie Leek, our representative to the Membership Committee, Bill Woods, our representative to ASACOS (Standards), and Anna Diedesch, our representative to Student Council. The P&P Technical Initiatives continue unchanged. The initiatives include limited travel support for invited speakers, student receptions, and homepage updating. Suggestions for uses of funds, including innovations such as workshops and satellite meetings, etc., are welcome and should be sent to the new Chair of the P&P Technical Committee, Magdalena Wojtczak (wojtc001@umn.edu).

MICHAEL G. HEINZ
Chair, 2011-2014