A Message From Division 6 President Mauricio R. Papini

I heard often from APA Division 6 (Behavioral Neuroscience & Comparative Psychology) members that the APA Convention does not have enough to justify attending. And I have agreed with this opinion in the past, but I believe the situation may be changing with the pervasive influence of neuroscience in psychology. This is the reason I borrowed the subtitle from Bob Rescorla’s (1988, Amer Psychol, 43, 151-160) influential article, a paper that helped many changed their view of Pavlovian conditioning.

Now that I am in charge of planning the 2012 program for Division 6 (together with Victoria Chamizo, Division 6 program chair), it seemed appropriate to give you an advance notice that might help change your mind about attending the next APA Convention. On pages 4-5, you'll find a very incomplete list of talks that I thought would be of interest to Division 6 members, just to give you an idea for what went on at the Washington DC convention, this past August.

Why should you pay attention to APA? There are a number of reasons, including impressive advocacy for animal research, tradition, and connection to applied fields (mostly clinical psychology issues) that often figure prominently in the justification of our own research in grant proposals and papers. I would like to emphasize yet another one that I think is of major importance: connection to our colleagues. Most of us work in Psychology Departments and I am sure some (if not most) have struggled when the time comes to hire somebody doing research with non-human animals, in discussions of budget allocation for animal research, or in talks on curriculum changes for graduate and undergraduate programs. There are many reasons for this situation, but one of them is our relative disconnect with colleagues in our own departments of psychology. Attending meetings such as those of the Society for Neuroscience or the Animal Behavior Society, to name two popular ones, would not do the job because our colleagues do not attend them. I believe a strong presence of research with non-human animals in the APA Convention will help preserve and expand the role of research with non-human animals in psychology departments.

Please do not discard the 2012 APA Convention as a potential meeting to attend next year. We are teaming with Division 3 (Experimental Psychology; President: Karen Hollis, Program Chair: Nancy Hess) to come up with a combined program. We are also asking all in attendance that independently of their talks submit posters to the convention so as to have a really strong poster presence. We also plan to disseminate information about the program of other potentially relevant divisions.

I hope to see you all at the 2012 APA Convention (August 2-5, 2012, in Orlando, Florida).
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Why you should attend the APA Convention:
Talks you missed if you did not attend last year! (cont’d from pg1)

APA Convention – 2012, Washington DC
Selected presentations of potential interest to Division 6 members

Only the first author of listed presentations is mentioned

DAY 1
B. J. Ellis, Ecological contexts of parenting and early life history strategy: An evolutionary approach.

K. S. Murnane, Neuropharmacology of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA, “ecstasy”) and its stereoisomers.

D. A. Dewsbury, Historical trends in American comparative animal psychology.

E. M. Eisenstein, Evolutionary significance of the simple learned-behaviors of habituation and sensitization for organism survival.

M. Davison, What do reinforcers really do to behavior?

G. B. Bauer, Tactile senses of the Florida manatee.


P. Soto, Contribution of A5GABAA receptors to performance of rhesus monkeys in a delayed-matching-to-sample and spatial working-memory task and to the effects of the benzodiazepine triazolam.

F. E. Abd Alazim Daw, Relationship between cerebral hemispheres and anxiety.

E. G. Bruneau, Activity in the precuneus predicts negativity toward the outgroup in Arabs and Israelis.

S. A. Morelli, Neural correlates of empathy.

J. Zaki, Social influence modulates the neural computation of reward.


F. Subiaul, Learning the rules: Evidence from human and nonhuman apes.

W. McKibbin, Human psychological adaptation to sperm competition.

DAY 2
O. Vartanian, Neuroimaging creativity: Dissociable neural systems for analogy and metaphor.

G. W. Rooker, Response force under ratio schedules and in the context of functional analysis.
B. A. Hutsell, Role of attending in the acquisition of conditional stimulus control.

M. Brickman, Using neuroimaging in the community to discover pathways to cognitive aging.

C. Snowdon, Social neuroscience of cooperative breeding.

G. M. Burghardt, Environmental enrichment, cognitive challenges, and psychological well-being: Relevant for captive reptiles too?

S. J. Schapiro, Empirical evaluations of the effects of behavioral management techniques on psychological well-being in captive nonhuman primates.

W. E. Fantegrossi, Effects of synthetic cannabinoids in mice.

B. J. Everitt, Neuropsychological mechanisms underlying drug addiction: Insights from behavioral neuroscience.

J. W. Pilley, Chaser and her toys: What a dog teaches us about cognition.

A. Bleske-Rechek, Primer on evolutionary psychology: Foundational ideas, exemplary research, and criticisms.

**DAY 3**

S. M. Pellis, Play and the brain: A developmental collaboration.

D. Ansari, Does number sense count? Evidence from brain and behavior.

M. Dennis, Age, plasticity and the immature brain: Historical and current ideas.

N. Kawai, Primate mind in human beings, human intelligence in primates: Comparative cognition studies with computer tasks.

M. H. Bornstein, Toward a behavioral neuroscience of parenting.

D. Dow-Edwards, Differential effects of prenatal cocaine and environment on cocaine reward and the dopamine transporter in male and female adolescent rats.

M. A. Nader, Effects of prenatal cocaine exposure on brain dopamine receptor function, behavior, and cocaine reinforcement in adult male and female rhesus monkeys.

E. A. Wasserman, Unhinging design: Reconsidering the role of planning and foresight in the origin of adaptive behavior.

T. E. Robinson, Touch of temptation: Individual variation in the ability to resist reward cues and implications for addictions.


Y. Delville, Hamsster and human bullies.

M. Fanselow, Neural circuits for remembering and inhibiting fear.

M. K. Johnson, Cognitive neuroscience of true and false memories.
The program for Division 6 of the APA will be held August 3-5, 2012 in Orlando, FL. In this meeting two programs will be coordinated: Division 3 (Experimental) and Division 6 (Behavioral Neuroscience & Comparative Psychology) in an attempt to avoid overlapping material. Moreover, European scientists are especially invited in this convention. We call for research paper or poster submissions from Division 6 members, associates, affiliates, and students. All submissions invited or not, are welcome.

Brief descriptions for different events of the D6 program can be found below. All submissions must be made on-line (http://apa.org/convention/proposals.aspx). Please follow these guidelines as it will not be possible to accept submissions outside of this system.

We have received 21 total hours for the 2012 Division 6 program consisting of 14 'substantive' hours and 7 'non substantive' hours. Talks (faculty or student), posters (faculty or student), symposia (faculty, invited or proposed), keynote addresses (faculty, invited or proposed) constitute substantive hours. The President's talk, Poster sessions, the Executive Committee meeting, the Division 6 business meeting, conversation hours, and social hours comprise non-substantive hours.

All submissions will be reviewed and feedback will be provided to the extent possible.

Emphasis for the 2012 program will be placed on the areas of animal cognition, brain-behavior interactions, developmental psychobiology, comparative analysis of learning, cognitive neuroscience, evolutionary psychology, invertebrate learning and behavior, learning and memory, motivation and emotion, and neuropharmacology of behavior.

The 2012 program will include the President's talk (title: “Some comparative psychology of learning”), the Hebb award talk, two invited conferences (“What is uniquely human?: An answer from the study of chimpanzee mind”, by Tetsuro Matsuzawa, and “What can a comparative approach teach us about the evolutionary significance for organism survival of the simple learned behaviors of habituation and sensitization –or of any other behaviors seen across phylogeny?” by Edward M. Eisenstein), poster sessions, Div 6 executive committee and general business meetings, and general paper sessions grouped by topic.

**Invited Symposia**

**New Methods in the Study of Aggression: From Genetics to Immersive Virtual Environments** (110 min)

*Symposium chair: Mel Slater (ICREA-University of Barcelona, Spain), email address: melslater@gmail.com (This symposium is already closed).*

*Description of Event:* Understanding the complex issues surrounding violent aggression is one of the most pressing societal needs today. A perpetrator attacks a victim possibly watched by bystanders. How did the situation become one of violence? What characterizes the motivations and behaviors of the perpetrator? Why are the victims victims? Do the bystanders intervene to try to stop, or maybe encourage the aggression? How are the actions of individuals tied up with the beliefs and goals of social groups with which they identify? It is a very great challenge to study these types of issues experimentally because of the practical and ethical difficulties involved. We cannot stage actual violent episodes for experimental studies. Instead researchers have mainly resorted to laboratory-based studies where various surrogates for violence are employed - such as generating loud noises to punish an opponent, or giving mild electric shocks. However, the ecological validity of such experiments, the generalization of the results to understanding violence, is doubtful. In this symposium Mark Levine will introduce the topic of bystander responses to violent aggression and describe a systematic behavioral analysis of real-life violent aggression captured on public space closed circuit (CCTV) cameras. Mel Slater will then describe a novel methodology that allows for laboratory-based study of bystander responses to violent aggression. Maria V. Sanchez-Vives will introduce a new methodology that has applications in rehabilitation of violent gender abusers. Finally, Carmen Sandi will talk about evidence, from animal studies, for the existence of biological roots in the transgenerational transmission of violence to intimate partner and others.
The Comparative Analysis of Learning: Jeff Bitterman’s Legacy (110 min)

Symposium Chair: Mauricio R. Papini (Texas Christian University), email address: m.papini@tcu.edu (This symposium is already closed).

Description of event: Morton Edward Bitterman, known to friends and colleagues as “Jeff,” was internationally recognized for developing the methodological and theoretical foundations of the comparative analysis of learning. Over a period of 68 years, he published more than 300 papers and served as editor of the *American Journal of Psychology*, and associate editor of *Animal Learning and Behavior* and the *Journal of Comparative Psychology*. He was honored by the American Psychological Association in 2001 with the D.O. Hebb Distinguished Scientific Contributions Award and received the Ernest R. Hilgard Award for Lifetime Career Contributions to General Psychology in 2004. In addition, he was awarded the UH Regents’ Medal for Excellence in Research in 1992 and was a Fellow of the Society of Experimental Psychologists, receiving its Howard Crosby Warren Medal in 1997. Jeff was professor emeritus at the University of Hawaii and former director of the Békésy Laboratory of Neurobiology at the Pacific Biosciences Research Center. Jeff was an APA and Division 6 member. This symposium will honor his legacy.

Incentive, Expectancy, Emotion and the Brain (110 min)

Symposium Chair: Patricia Sue Grigson (Penn State College of Medicine, Hershey, PA), email address: psg6@psu.edu (If anyone is interested in participating in this symposium, please contact the Program Chair ASAP).

Description of event: Charles F. Flaherty referred to reward comparison as commonplace. He, and others, demonstrated that all species tested compare disparate rewards over time. In most cases this involved the comparison of low vs. high concentrations of a sweet, for example, or large vs. small amounts of food pellets. More recent data have expanded upon this notion by demonstrating that rats, for example, also make comparisons across modalities and these comparisons have a global effect on perception, emotion, and behavioral choice. In this symposium, we will discuss the emotion elicited by an unexpected downshift in reward and underlying physiological and neural substrates. Via the use of selectively bred strains, we will examine the impact of genes on contrast in avoidance learning. We will examine cross-modal reward comparison by examining how a drug of abuse can come to devalue a natural reward in rats and in humans. Under such circumstances, anticipation of drug availability leads to the onset of a conditioned aversive state, devaluation of natural rewards, and to an increase in drug-craving and drug-seeking. As such, the investigators in this symposium will demonstrate that incentive contrast and emotion contribute not only to accurate detection of, and responding to, disparate levels of the same reward type, but also to the selection of behavior across different modalities over time.

Spatial Learning and Performance (110 min)

Symposium Chair: Anthony McGregor (Durham University, UK), email address: anthony.mcgregor@durham.ac.uk (If anyone is interested in participating in this symposium, please contact the Program Chair ASAP).

Description of event: A capacity for navigation should be invaluable for the majority of animals. They will often find themselves in one location and need to move to another to obtain food, seek a mate, return to their home, and so on. This journey could, of course, be haphazard and guided by nothing more than the principle of trial and error. But if the position of the goal is known then a more efficient way of traveling would be to plot, and then follow, a course to the goal. The psychological processes underlying spatial learning and performance are still a matter of fierce debate, with sometimes conflicting theories derived from behavioral and neurobiological studies. This symposium will demonstrate the strengths of comparative, behavioral, and neurobiological approaches to the study of spatial learning, and encourage discussion of how best to resolve some of the differences between them.

Applications of Associative Learning (110 min)

Symposium Chair: Ian P.L. McLaren (University of Exeter, UK), email address: I.P.L.McLaren@exeter.ac.uk (This symposium is already closed).

Description of event: The “Applications of Associative Learning” referred to in the title are to other domains of Psychology (particularly cognition). In this symposium the speakers demonstrate how modern associative theory has important implications for areas as diverse as Memory, Attention, Control, Perceptual Learning and Categorization. In each case specific examples of the role that associative processes play are given, and we make some attempt to characterize the interplay between associative processes and other rule-based processes in contributing to human mental life.
Papers
Presenters will have 15 minutes with 3 minutes reserved for questions. The program chair will group all paper submissions, with assistance from the session chair where appropriate. There could be room in the program for one or two paper sessions, 50 minutes in duration.

Posters
Poster sessions are grouped according to content and presenters should remain with their assigned poster board during the entire length of the session. Poster boards are 8’ high with a surface of 4’x6’ and are placed in rows in a large hall. Instructions are provided online for preparation of posters in the required format.

For the 2012 convention Division 6 is hoping to substantially increase the number of posters. Please collaborate even if you have an oral presentation!

Symposia
Each symposium will be allotted 110 minutes. Five invited symposia are currently being planned and no more could be added.
Call for Nominations: Division 6 Awards

Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology

Sergio Pellis

Chair, Awards Committee 2011-2012

Division 6 Awards provide the opportunity to publicly recognize colleagues whom you judge to have made substantial contributions to behavioral neuroscience or comparative psychology. Your help is needed in identifying colleagues who merit public recognition for their accomplishments. Awardees will be publicly recognized with a plaque at the Business Meeting of Division 6 at the 2012 APA Annual Convention. Please send all nominations to Sergio Pellis via email (pellis@uleth.ca) or regular mail (Department of Neuroscience, CCBN, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada T1K 3M4). In your nomination please include the name of your nominee, the award for which you are nominated them, and a brief statement of support.

The following Awards require nomination by a member of Division 6:

The D. O. Hebb Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award honors a psychologist who has made distinguished theoretical or empirical contributions to basic research in behavioral neuroscience and/or comparative psychology. The candidate does not have to be a member of Division 6, but is expected to present the D. O. Hebb Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award Lecture at the 2011 APA Convention. Recent recipients include Steven Maier, Duane Rumbaugh, Michael Fanselow, Steven Suomi, Joseph LeDoux, Michela Gallagher, and Terry Robinson.

The Brenda A. Milner Award recognizes the author of an outstanding paper in the field of behavioral neuroscience or comparative psychology. The nominee must be a member of Division 6 and within five years of having received their Ph.D. at the time of award nomination. The paper must be currently in press or have been published within the same five year window. The paper may be co-authored, but the applicant must be the senior author and the paper must represent original work of the applicant. Please include a copy of the paper if it is not yet published or readily available. Recent recipients include Jessie Peissig, Michael Beran, Kimberly Christian, Nichole Avena, and Bradley Sturz. (Nonmembers may apply for Division 6 membership at the time of their nomination).

The Clifford T. Morgan Distinguished Service to Division 6 Award recognizes members of Division 6 who have made sustained and exceptional contributions to the Division in both scholarly work and service. Recent recipients include Karen Hollis, Nancy Dess, Sangeeta Panicker, and Eric Wiertalak.

The following Awards are selected by editorial boards, and thus nominations are not necessary: The Frank A. Beach Comparative Psychology Award is given each year to recognize the best paper published in Journal of Comparative Psychology – as selected by the Editor and Consulting Editors of the journal. The D. G. Marquis Behavioral Neuroscience Award is given each year to recognize the best paper published in Behavioral Neuroscience – as selected by the Editor and Consulting Editors of the journal.
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Interdivisional Mentoring Award for APA Convention 2012

$1K travel award for advanced graduate and post-doctoral scholars working in basic-process psychological subdisciplines

Aspiring psychological scientists are invited to apply for a terrific professional development opportunity. Divisions 3 (Experimental Psychology), 6 (Behavioral Neuroscience & Comparative Psychology), 28 (Psychopharmacology), and the Committee on Animal Research and Ethics (CARE) are collaborating to offer a mentoring and networking opportunity for promising new scholars working with humans or non-human animals in the fields of behavioral neuroscience, comparative psychology, experimental psychology, and psychopharmacology.

A cohort of up to 12 awardees will be funded to attend the APA Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida (August 4-7, 2012), where they will participate in activities designed: to enable them to develop meaningful contacts with each other, senior scientists in their fields, and personnel from funding agencies; to help awardees’ navigate the increasingly diverse professional settings that they will encounter early in their research career; and to identify with APA as a professional home.

The travel award of $1,000 is provided to defray the awardee’s travel, accommodations, and registration costs. Attendance at the Convention of all program activities, including participating in workshops and making a brief research presentation, is expected as a condition of the award. Awardees also can take advantage of the APA Convention’s richness and breadth, which is unparalleled by other scientific meetings and can significantly enhance their readiness for psychological careers. This program also aims to make our research community more inclusive; toward this end, we especially invite participation of scientists from underrepresented groups.

To apply, submit a statement of your research interests, a CV, and a copy of a recent paper (published or in press) to Sangeeta Panicker, Ph.D., Director, Research Ethics Office, Science Directorate: spanicker@apa.org. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the selection process by mid-January, 2012.
CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Division 3 (Experimental Psychology)
APA Convention – August 2-5, Orlando, FL

The “Can’t Miss” Meeting of 2012

Division 3’s 2012 program will offer thematic and temporal cohesiveness, focusing on specific topics of interest to experimental psychologists while taking advantage of the diversity and converging interests represented uniquely in APA and its annual meeting.

Division 3 is working closely with Division 6 (Behavioral Neuroscience & Comparative Psychology; program chair, Victoria Chamizo) and will interface with other allied divisions such as psychopharmacology, neuropsychology, environmental/population/ conservation psychology to offer cutting edge science and valuable professional development opportunities for experimental psychologists at all career stages.

Themes being developed include:

- Episodic memory in human and nonhuman animals
- Decision making in human and nonhuman animals
- Obesity
- Evolutionary and comparative aspects of habituation and sensitization
- Incentive contrast and learning
- Spatial learning and performance
- Virtual environments

Honoring Jeff Bitterman: Teacher, scientist, and mentor

Speakers confirmed for divisional or central programming so far include (alphabetically by last name): Peter Balsam, Nicola Clayton, Jon Crystal, Pat Couvillon, George Koob, Sue Grigson, Mark Levine, Tetsuro Matsuzawa, Anthony McGregor, Bruce Overmier, Barbara Rolls, Mavi Sanchez-Vives, Mel Slater, Brian Smith, Carmen Torres, and David Washburn.

You are invited to submit proposals for presentations symposia, papers, or posters for the 2012 APA Convention. Poster sessions at APA present an excellent opportunity for people in different labs in the U. S. and abroad with shared interests to share their current projects while benefiting from the richness of perspectives represented at APA. So plan to participate, and encourage others to rendezvous with you in Orlando!


Your ideas and questions are welcome! Contact 2012 Division 3 Program Chair Nancy K. Dess, at dessnk@oxy.edu.
Encourage Your Colleagues and Students to Join Division 6!

Division 6 members are devoted to studying the biology of behavior. Their focus is on behavior and its relation to perception, learning, memory, cognition, motivation, and emotion. Behavioral neuroscientists study the brain in relation to behavior, its evolution, functions, abnormalities, and repair, as well as its interactions with the immune system, cardiovascular system, and energy regulation systems. Comparative psychologists study the psychology and behavior of humans and other animals, with special interest in similarities and differences that may shed light on evolutionary, ecological, and developmental processes.

Established in 1944, when APA initiated its divisional structure, Division 6, using the name “Physiological Psychology and Comparative Psychology,” was among the original divisions included in APA’s reorganization. The first three Division presidents were Donald G. Marquis, Donald B. Lindsley, and Clifford T. Morgan. Among the many distinguished earlier psychologists elected president of Division 6 are Frank Beach, Brenda Milner, Harry Harlow, James Olds, and Frances Graham. The Division’s participation in the annual meetings and contributions to journals has been consistently high. Current members remain dedicated to enhancing knowledge of the nervous system and its mediation of behavior across species. The forums for achieving this commitment include meetings, publications, and involvement with APA’s Science Directorate and Governing Board.

A comprehensive history of Division 6 has been written by Don Dewsbury:


Please encourage your colleagues and students to join us in Division 6! You can direct them to the membership section of our Division website: http://www.apa.org/divisions/div6/mbrinfo.html. There they can download an application, which they can send via email (or postal mail or fax) to Todd K. Shackelford, Division 6 Membership Chair.

There are many reasons why your colleagues and students might wish to join our Division. Here are 10 of them:

- Share professional knowledge
- Make new friends in the field
- Receive the latest journals and newsletters in the field
- Get published
- Enhance leadership skills
- Collaborate with colleagues—Co-publish, Co-present, Co-chair, etc.
- Advocate for psychologists’ input into social policy
- Engage in the new division social networking sites (Beginning in 2011)
- Be recognized with awards, grants, Fellows status
- Find and/or be a mentor

Thank you for your support of Division 6!
The Behavioral Neuroscientist and Comparative Psychologist is the official newsletter of APA Division 6 — Behavioral Neuroscience and Comparative Psychology — and is published 3 times a year. Mailing addresses used are those appearing on the official APA roster and a separate Division roster. Corrections and changes of address should be sent directly to the APA Directory Office, 1400 North Uhle St., Arlington, VA 22201, and to the newsletter editor (see below). As the official newsletter of Division 6, BNCP publishes official business, committee reports, news items, job announcements, information on technical issues, topics of current interest, and information about the professional activities of Division 6 members. News items and articles should be submitted to the Editor at the address below (preferably by email). Paid advertisements are not officially endorsed by Division 6. The Editor welcomes comments and suggestions for ways in which BNCP can better serve the needs of the members. The preferred method of submission is by email. Send correspondence and submissions to David J. Bucci via e-mail at david.j.bucci@dartmouth.edu. Postal mail should be sent to David J. Bucci, PhD, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH 03755. Other contact information: Phone: (603) 646-3439; FAX: (603) 646-1419.

New Division 6 Website!