

## **NAVBO Membership Business Meeting April 21, 2009 - 12:30pm – New Orleans, LA**

Dr. Majesky welcomed and thanked all attendees. He gave a brief presentation on current governance and activities; giving a special acknowledgement to Dr. Karen Hirschi and her committee for developing a strong 2009 program and coordinating with our host society, the American Association of Anatomists. He also pointed to a new ad hoc position on our Council – ATVB Liaison, Dr. Thomas Wight. This position maintains an open line of communication with the Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology Council of the American Heart Association.

Dr. Majesky also introduced the members to Lorraine Bell, Corporate Relations Manager and mentioned Danielle Pinkel, who assists in Membership Services. In addition, he specifically mentioned the new members of the NAVBO Scientific Advisory Board (Jordan Pober and Cy Wilcox) and acknowledged the entire board's assistance in pursuing new initiatives and helping with advice. He specifically thanked Dr. Brad Berk for his assistance in obtaining the grant from Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research to help fund the Judah Folkman Award in Vascular Biology. He then added that the NAVBO President-elect functions as the liaison to this group.

The members of the Meritorious Awards committee were also thanked for their participation in the important nomination and selection processes for the Earl P. Benditt and Judah Folkman Awards.

The minutes from the April 8, 2008 Business Meeting were approved.

Dr. Karen Hirschi, chair of our 2009 Program Committee presented the Junior Investigator Awards (four finalists and two awardees).

Dr. Majesky gave a short presentation about Lowell Langille, a very active member of NAVBO and the vascular biology community, who died in October 2008. He also mentioned that the vascular biology community had also lost George Palade, who although not a member, made significant contributions to our field. Dr. Palade won the Nobel Prize in 1974. He was a contemporary of Morris Karnovsky, recipient of the first Earl Benditt Award in 1999.

Dr. Majesky spoke of NAVBO's upcoming meetings. He was very happy to report that the upcoming presentation of Vasculata, in Cleveland, would include hands-on workshops (the day immediately preceding Vasculata; extra fee required). He hoped that this would provide a model for not only Vasculata but additional meetings, both live and virtual. He felt that an archive of these events could serve as an additional benefit to members. The next meeting, the Genetics and Genomics of Vascular Disease Workshop (GGVD) represents a new and emerging field and will be presented in September 2009. This will be followed by the very successful Developmental Vascular Biology (DVB) Workshop in February 2010. The NAVBO Annual Meeting will be part of the International Vascular Biology Meeting in June 2010.

He then discussed finances from 2008. He reported that the DVB had been very successful and made a net profit of \$31,000; followed by the Biology of Signaling in the Cardiovascular System Workshop, which did very well for a new meeting, making a profit of over \$3,000. The annual meeting was able to support itself in 2008 and we show a profit of a little over \$5,000. He reported that this annual meeting (2009) received no federal funding and little corporate support and that we would experience a loss.

His next topic was a new format for our annual meeting, which would be a combined meeting of two of our workshops plus our award lectures and business meeting. The NAVBO council feels this will be more attractive to our members. Two meeting programs will be developed separately but coordinated for any overlap. There will be one registration fee and attendees can go to any session they choose of either workshop. All members that he, and other members of Council, have spoken to displayed enthusiasm for this new format. He added that the first such combined meeting would be a combination of the Matrix and Signaling workshops in September 2011 and that east coast sites were being investigated. In 2012, a combination of the DVB and the GGVD would be held at the Asilomar Conference Grounds; also with a September date.

Dr. Majesky reported that the number of NAVBO members continues to grow and that we were at the 1,000 mark (including both trainee and regular members). He added that the Council will be examining better strategies to benefit and engage the members; citing our new web site as a means for interactive communication among members. He also added that there has been some discussion about engaging the

trainees in a T32 training grant consortium; using Vasculata as a launch point for this but continuing to support this group by means of providing an interactive network.

Dr. Majesky then outlined several new initiatives put in place over the last year starting with the Judah Folkman Award. He acknowledged Luisa Iruela-Arispe, the first recipient of this award and Mrs. Paula Folkman who attended the award ceremony on Sunday, April 19. He then mentioned the newest NAVBO workshop – the Genetics and Genomics of Vascular Disease, organized by Douglas Marchuk of Duke University and Miikka Vikkula of the de Duve Institute of the Université catholique de Louvain. Dr. Majesky encouraged all NAVBO members to promote this workshop. He then reminded members of the functionalities of the newly overhauled NAVBO web site. Finally, he once again mentioned bringing in Lorraine Bell to increase our outreach to the corporate sector in order to secure funding for meetings and other NAVBO programs.

The meeting concluded with Dr. Majesky reminding the membership that the next NAVBO Annual Meeting would be held in conjunction with the International Vascular Biology Meeting and that NAVBO is assisting the meeting organizers in many ways. He also mentioned that NAVBO is now fifteen years old and acknowledged the co-founders Michael Gimbrone, Jr and Stephen Schwartz, both whom remain active in the society. He thanked the retiring Council members, Michelle Bendeck and Martin Schwartz and those that retired in 2008, Joyce Bischoff and Martha Cathcart. He gave a special thank you to Drs. Mark Ginsberg, Past President and Brant Weinstein, President-elect. The Program Committee, chaired by Karen Hirschi, was thanked for developing an excellent program and Ms. Bernadette Englert was thanked and acknowledged as the “engine that runs the society.”

Dr. Majesky asked for any questions from the membership. Dr. William Muller asked for clarification regarding the possibility of future involvement with Experimental Biology (EB). Dr. Majesky stated that based on feedback from NIH on our 2009 annual meeting R13 grant application, the lack of available funding and the low attendance experienced by NAVBO at EB meetings, that NAVBO was no longer considering meeting at Experimental Biology in the future. Dr. Muller suggested that the American Society for Investigative Pathology be informed of NAVBO's decision so that vascular biology topics would be adequately covered at EB.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15pm