



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Brant M. Weinstein

It is with excitement and a great sense of responsibility that I take on the presidency of NAVBO for 2009-2010. This is indeed a time of tremendous challenges but also, I believe, a time of great opportunities.

I would like to begin my thanking our past president, Mark Majesky, for his leadership and service to NAVBO. NAVBO accomplished a great deal in the past year under Mark's able direction. In September 2008 NAVBO added a new meeting to its line-up, the Workshop on Biology of Signaling in the Cardiovascular System held in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Organized by Michael Simons (Yale) and Timothy Hla (Cornell Medical), the well-attended first meeting drew praise from participants for its broad and inclusive overview of exciting new research work on signaling pathways and their roles in the vasculature. In March 2009, NAVBO sponsored the second Workshop on Vascular Matrix Biology and Bioengineering in Whistler, British Columbia. Organized by Cecilia Giachelli (U. Washington), Michelle Bendeck (U. Toronto), Elaine C. Davis (McGill), and Themis R. Kyriakides (Yale), the meeting featured cutting edge research in areas such as vascular matrix remodeling and repair, matrix genetics and development, stem cell biology, vascular scaffolds, engineering biomaterials, tissue engineering, angiogenesis, mechanobiology, regenerative matrices and matrix calcification.

The NAVBO annual meeting was again held at the Experimental Biology 2009 (EB2009) meeting in April, 2009, in New Orleans, LA. This meeting included presentation of the 2009 Earl P. Benditt and Judah Folkman awards. The Earl P. Benditt award, named after the pioneering University of Washington pathologist, was presented to Dr. A. Jake Lusis (UCLA) for his groundbreaking work on genomics and systems biology of cardiovascular disease. In addition to its prestigious Benditt Award, NAVBO also inaugurated a new award in 2009, the Judah Folkman

Award in Vascular Biology, with generous support from the Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research. Dr. Folkman's profound influence on the field of vascular biology is difficult to overstate, and this award was established by NAVBO to honor his life and his scientific and teaching legacy. The first recipient of the Folkman award was Dr. Luisa Iruela-Arispe, an innovative researcher whose most recent work on the role of Notch signaling in the vasculature has also been highly influential. The past year also saw the return of another successful installment of our Vasculata Summer Course, organized at the Cleveland Clinic in July 2009 by Drs. Tatiana Byzova with Martha Cathcart, Paul DiCorleto and Brian Rini.

NAVBO recently added a fourth meeting to its line-up of innovative workshops, the Genetics and Genomics of Vascular Disease (GGVD) Workshop. The inaugural GGVD was held Sept 13-16, 2009, in Cape Cod, MA. Organized by Doug Marchuk (Duke) and Mikka Vikkula (de Duve Institute, UCL), the meeting brought together investigators employing genetic and genomic studies of traits related to the vasculature and more traditional vascular biologists. Very much in the cross-disciplinary spirit that characterizes most of the NAVBO workshops, this new meeting explored the intersections between disease and developmental models, and the application of modern genetics and genomics technologies to vascular biology. The program featured cutting-edge research in areas such as genome-wide association studies in human populations, mouse QTL mapping of vascular phenotypes, and pathogenesis of vascular and developmental diseases studied in human patients, mice, zebrafish, and cell culture.

What's next for NAVBO?

Richard Hynes (MIT) and I will be organizing the fourth installment of the popular Developmental Vascular Biology (DVB)

workshop this coming February 10-13, 2010. Like the previous three DVB workshops, this meeting will be held at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, California, on the scenic Monterey Peninsula. Among other things, the meeting will explore the molecular control of vascular development, cell signaling pathways in angiogenesis and lymphangiogenesis, and mechanisms of patterning blood vessel growth and migration. Researchers working on vascular development in a wide variety of different models (mice, frogs, birds, fish, flies, cell culture, etc.) will share their latest unpublished research in this fast-moving and exciting scientific discipline. An outstanding roster of invited speakers from some of the premiere research labs in developmental vascular biology and related disciplines will be presenting their work. Many speakers will also be selected from submitted abstracts. For preliminary program information, registration, and abstract submission, see:

<http://www.navbo.org/event/dvb>.

NAVBO is providing assistance for the 2010 International Vascular Biology Meeting (IVBM) being held at UCLA in Los Angeles, California on June 20-24, 2010. The organizers of this meeting, Drs. Luisa Iruela-Arispe, Klaus Ley, Mark Ginsberg, and Alan Fogelman, are hard at work putting together an outstanding program that will cover a broad range of topics of current interest to vascular biologists. NAVBO will hold its annual business meeting and award presentations at the IVBM meeting- more to come on that.

A new development for NAVBO members to be aware of is our plan to hold concurrent workshops beginning in 2011. Up to now, the four NAVBO workshops have all been held separately in alternate years. In the Fall of 2011, our Workshops on Biology of Signaling in the Cardiovascular System and Vascular Matrix Biology and Bioengineering will be held concurrently (at a site still to be determined). We are very excited about this new format. The individual workshops will each be organized and run separately, and retain the informality and interactive flavor that has made NAVBO workshops so popular with their participants. However, participants in each of these meetings will now have the opportunity to view presentations of interest to them in the other concurrently held meeting. The best of two meetings for the cost of one! A joint session of both meetings will also provide a venue for lectures of broad interest and for presentation of NAVBO awards. In keep-

ing with the alternate-year arrangement of NAVBO workshops, the 2011 workshops will be followed in 2012 by presentation of the Developmental Vascular Biology and Genetics and Genomics of Vascular Disease workshops together at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, California.

One of our new goals for the upcoming year is to begin work to develop a more comprehensive laboratory course in Vascular Biology under the auspices of NAVBO, along the lines of popular summer laboratory practical courses held at Cold Spring Harbor, Woods Hole, and other locations. These courses have been immensely useful in other scientific disciplines for helping to disseminate practical knowledge on research methods and provide a relatively painless way to introduce investigators from outside the field to the methodologies needed to begin work. A very wide range of models and methods are currently employed in vascular biology, and our hope would be to provide a comprehensive yet succinct primer for researchers from other fields interested in bringing these models and methods into their own laboratories, or for researchers interested in providing their trainees with concentrated practical laboratory introduction to vascular biology. To our knowledge there is at present no such widely available lab course for vascular biology. As a first step, we are assembling a committee of experts in different vascular models and vascular methods to help formulate the outlines of such a course, and potentially participate in its implementation. Stay tuned for more on this, and please contact Bernadette Englert if you have suggestions or are interested in participating in this initiative.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new councilors Martin Schwartz and William Muller, and our new President-elect William Sessa, and thank them for their willingness to serve in NAVBO. I would also like to thank retiring council members Michelle Bendeck and Mark Ginsberg for all that they have done for our organization. I would also like to once again express our gratitude to Mark Majesky for his hard work for NAVBO over the past year. Lastly, I would of course be remiss in not acknowledging the immense contribution made by NAVBO Executive Officer, Bernadette Englert. She is the glue that holds this organization together, and I would especially thank her for another year of tireless dedication to making the activities of NAVBO a great success.