

Greetings to the PIIN community!

Dr. Pedro Irazoqui (BME, ECE) has stepped down from PIIN's leadership team to assume the role of interim head for the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Pedro has been instrumental in guiding us since PIIN's inauguration in the Fall of 2015 and we are deeply grateful for his service to the Purdue neuroscience community. His passion and expertise have ensured that PIIN lives up to its motto of being a place *"where science meets engineering"*.

PIIN's administrative staff have been busy preparing the space within the newly renovated 3rd floor of DLR in Discovery Park for occupation in the late summer and fall. We will soon be welcoming the lab of **Dr. Aaron Bowman** who joins Purdue as the new head of the School of Health Sciences. His research on neurotoxicology and neurodegeneration uses animal models and human induced pluripotent stem cells. The expertise and proximity of Dr. Bowman to the new Neuroscience Cell Engineering Core will enhance its utility. To create an interdisciplinary working group with overlapping research interests, DLR will also house the labs of **Dr. Chris Rochet** (MCMP), **Dr. Jason Cannon** (Health Sciences) and **Dr. Yang Yang** (MCMP). Additional research space is being reserved for new faculty hires.

I have just returned from the Auditory System Gordon Research Conference at Bryant University in Rhode Island, where I was reminded of how these smaller venues offer ample time for scientific exchanges that are both broad and deep. Our own efforts in this regard take the form of our **NeuroNetworking Summer Seminar Series**. I wish to encourage you to join us for the final installments this summer from 4-5:30 pm on July 25th in the Drug Discovery Lobby Conference Room and on August 1st in Lyles-Porter Hall, Room 1160. Presentations by **Dr. Claudio Aguilar** (BIOL), **Nicole Schartz** (PSYCH), **Dr. Kari Ekenstedt** (VET) and **MeeJung Ko** (MCMP) will showcase some of the breadth in neuroscience right here at home.

Donna M. Fekete, John & Donna Krenicki Director of Integrative Neuroscience

Continued on next page

Recent News:

• We wish to officially welcome <u>Dr. Sebastien Helie</u> to PIIN's leadership team. Dr. Helie is an Associate Professor of Psychological Sciences and an Associate Professor of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences (by courtesy) at Purdue University. He serves as the Associate Director of the Purdue Life Science MRI Facility, and as Co-director of the Center for Research on Brain, Behavior, and NeuroRehabilition (CEREBBRAL). His research interests include computational cognitive neuroscience, cognitive neuroscience, categorization, automaticity, rule learning, sequence learning, skill acquisition, intuition in decision-making, and creative problem solving. He is a senior member of the International Neural Networks Society



(INNS) and was awarded the 2012 INNS Young Investigator Award. Dr. Helie serves on the editorial boards of Neural Networks, Frontiers in Human Neuroscience, Cognitive Systems Research, and The Quantitative Methods in Psychology. His research is currently funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

- Travel Grant Winners: The winners of this cycle of PIIN-sponsored travel grants represent 5 different colleges at Purdue, and thus showcase the breadth of our membership. We are particularly pleased to support those selected for oral presentations at major conferences, and those who are presenting at the Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting. Congratulations!
- Aswathy Chandran (MCMP), Chandnee Chandrasekaran (MCMP), Brandon Coventry (BME), Seth Herr (BMS), Season Johnson (PSY SCI), Henry Legett (BIO SCI), Nicole Schartz (PSY SCI), Hannah Serlin (PSY SCI), Zhiyu Yang (BIO SCI)

Announcements:

- The Michael J. Fox Foundation is accepting pre-proposals for its <u>Core Funding</u> <u>Programs</u> (Target Advancement, Therapeutic Development and Outcome Measures). Pre-proposals are due in late September, 2018.
- Indiana CTSI is accepting proposals for the 2019 <u>Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Fund</u> <u>Research Grant Program</u>.
- Call to all research Scientists: ALZgerm.org is accepting submissions for its 2021 <u>Alzheimer's Germ Quest Challenge Award</u>
- In an effort to improve graduate education in interdisciplinary neuroscience and compete for NIH institutional training grants in the future, Peri Paschou (BIOL) is organizing a new team-taught graduate course: BIOL69500, <u>Neurological and</u> <u>Neuropsychiatric Disorders Seminar</u>. Please check your email in-box for further details about this 2-credit course. It will meet Tues-Thurs 01:30 pm-02:20 pm (Lilly G458) in the Fall 2018.

Upcoming Events:

• June 6 - August 1: <u>Neuronetworking Seminar Series</u> meets on Wednesdays at 4:00-5:30pm (except July 4th). <u>REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED</u>. Please join us for the talks, followed by a light dinner and conversation with fellow PIIN members.