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The sun has set on another fabulous IASR Conference, graciously hosted in Sweden by IASR member Dr. Lotta Löfgren-Mårtenson and Malmö University. This issue of the newsletter is dedicated to reflections on the conference—to finding out more about conference award winners and to remembering the conference in photographs. We also wanted to use this space to thank all those who made the conference such a resounding success, including the conference volunteers, the local Malmö team—Rita Sanguineti, Eva Nilsson, and Helena Bogazzi—as well as Jarret Thompson and Kelly Suschinsky. These individuals’ tireless work behind the scenes was essential and clearly evident in the success of IASR Malmö 2016!

Thank you to the generous sponsors who helped make the 2016 IASR conference possible!
Amelia Stanton

I am entering my fourth year in the clinical psychology doctoral program at The University of Texas at Austin under the supervision of Dr. Cindy Meston. My dissertation will examine the effect of an intervention aimed at increasing heart rate variability on both physiological and psychological sexual arousal in women with clinically diagnosable arousal dysfunction. The funds from this award will enable me to pay participants from the community for their time and to purchase HRV biofeedback sensors, which the participants will use at home throughout the course of the study. If the intervention increases arousal in this population, this research may offer a promising addition to psychosocial treatments for low arousal.

Scott Semenyna

I am currently in the first year of my PhD, studying with Dr. Paul Vasey at the University of Lethbridge. Paul has spent the last 13 years studying third-gender males in Samoa (fa’afafine), and has recently established a field-site studying third-gender males in Oaxaca (muxes). My doctoral research will focus on the competitive dynamics that characterize interactions between feminine third-gender males (fa’afafine and muxe) and women, as they both vie for sexual interactions with masculine men in their respective cultures. Same-sex attracted males in most Western cultures rarely (directly) impact heterosexual mating interactions. It’s highly unlikely that the same can be said in cultures where third-gender males typically engage in sexual interactions with masculine men. My PhD will involve documenting the forms and features of inter-sexual mate competition in non-Western cultures, as well as what it means for us in the West.
Best Brief Communication: Laura Widman

I am currently an Assistant Professor in the Applied Social and Community Psychology program at North Carolina State University. My research is focused on understanding and improving adolescent sexual health, with an emphasis on sexual communication skill development and HIV/STD prevention. I am particularly curious about how adolescents communicate about sexual health topics with their parents, friends, and romantic partners, and how these conversations change over time. With the support of a grant from the National Institutes of Health (R00 HD075654), I am also working to applying this knowledge to develop interactive, web-based programs that enhance sexual communication skills among youth. Please note — I’m accepting new grad students in my lab if you have an interest in pursuing a PhD in this area (email for more info: lmwidman@ncsu.edu)!

Best Student Manuscript: Matt Bramble

Sex-specific effects of testosterone on the sexually dimorphic transcriptome of embryonic neural stem/progenitor cells

I am currently in the last year of my PhD, working with Eric Vilain at UCLA to better decipher how in utero gonadal hormone exposure is able to organize the mammalian brain, and shift adult sexual behaviors. Understanding the mechanisms of how gonadal hormones are able to establish sex differences within the brain, namely sexual, remains elusive. Our research has focused on a novel model using embryonic neural stem cells to better understand how early brain organization is initiated, but more importantly maintained through adulthood. We have demonstrated that these neural stem cells of the CNS that are traditionally thought to be similar in nature actually exhibit sexual dimorphisms in regards to gene expression. We have also seen dramatic sex-differences when such cells are exposed to the male-sex hormone, testosterone, and have uncovered a very interesting responsive gene set for each sex. In addition to observing strong transcriptional effects as a result of testosterone exposure, we observe dramatic epigenetic perturbations within these cells as well. Collectively, our findings have led us to a novel proposed mechanistic model of initial brain organization and hopefully will be published in the near future. Our plan is to continue to deepen the understanding of the phenomenon of hormonal organization with hopes of fully characterizing the molecular changes that occur within the early central nervous system upon being exposed to gonadal hormones.
**Runner Up for Best Brief Communication:**

**Carey Pulverman**

**Talk:** The Relationship between Affective Appraisal of Physiological Sexual Arousal and Sexual Dysfunction among Women with a History of Childhood Sexual Abuse

**Research institution and program:** The University of Texas at Austin clinical psychology program.

**Focus of research:** Women with a history of childhood sexual abuse are at an increased risk of sexual dysfunction and do not respond to existing sex therapy treatments as well as non-abused women. Carey's research examines the mechanisms underlying sexual dysfunction among women with a history of childhood sexual abuse with the aim of developing targeted treatments for this underserved population of women.

**Number of years attending IASR meetings:** This was Carey’s first IASR!

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**Best Senior Poster:** Kateřina Klapilová

**Poster:** Kamasutra in practice: The use of sexual positions by Czech and Slovak citizens and the association with female orgasms

**Research institution and program:** Senior researcher: Laboratory of Evolutionary Sexology and Psychopathology, National Institute of Mental Health, Klecany. Assistant professor in the Faculty of Humanities, Charles University, Czech republic.

**Focus of research:** In the lab I lead we study sexuality from an evolutionary perspective using various methods ranging from interviews/questionnaires to psychophysiologic measures and brain scanning. We cover a variety of topics, such as national surveys of sexual behavior, research of correlates of sexual functioning, basic research of paraphilias and sexual response, and use of virtual reality in sex research.

**Number of years attending IASR meetings:** She attended the IASR meetings in 2010, 2014, 2015, and 2016.
Memories from Malmö!

Poster Sessions
We are always looking for contributions to the student newsletter—whether they be photographic, textual, or purely conceptual. Two great ways to contribute are to propose an idea for the front-page article or to submit a student bio or exciting news about recent publications. This is a newsletter for the students, so we are always happy to hear what you would like to see featured on the front page, and a student bio can be a great way to introduce yourself to other members of the IASR community. If you would like to contribute to upcoming newsletters, please email your student representatives (Katy Renfro and Scott Semenyna) at: iasrstudentrep@gmail.com

Request for Information

Announcements

• Mark your calendars for our IASR 2017, which will take place July 23-26 in beautiful Charleston, South Carolina! More information will be forthcoming in future newsletters and via the IASR List-Serve.

• A post-conference survey about IASR 2016 will be sent out shortly. The survey is your opportunity to share your impressions about the conference in Malmö and provide input on how to improve future meetings of the IASR. All who complete the survey have the option to enter into a $50 raffle, as a thank you for your time. We hope you all will participate!