Neuroscience Graduate Program
New-student orientation schedule
Wednesday, August 21, 2013
HNB 100

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM - Breakfast – HNB 107 (Large conference room)

10 AM - 12 PM - Program Orientation – HNB 100 (Auditorium)

   I.  10:00am Welcome & Introductions (Drs. Pat Levitt) – 20 min
       A. Schedule of the day
       B. Summary of the NGP and Neuroscience at USC

   II. 10:20am Library Information (Ben Lea – Librarian) - 10 min

   III. 10:30am Overview of NGP Graduate Program (Dawn Burke) – 5 min
         A. Stipend information
         B. Exams
         C. Liaison with all grad advisors
         D. D-clearance

   IV.  10:35am Student Assistance Overview (Mallory Redel) - 15 min
        A. Coordination of student progress (forms, files, etc)
        B. Graduate documentation toward degree - exams (Liaison)
        C. Lab Rotations (contracts)
        D. Communication – posting of events, mail, etc.
        E. Direct Deposit Information (domestic vs. international students)

   V.   10:50am NGF introduction – (Chiara Mazzasette) – 10 min
        A. Overview of the Neuroscience Graduate Forum
        B. Events organized by NGF
        C. Officers and their activities

   VI.  11:00am Student Counseling Center – (Dr. Bruce Spring) – 20 min

   VII. 11:20am BREAK – 5 minutes

   VIII. 11:25am Introduction to Handbook and Curriculum / Advisement information (Drs. Judith Hirsch and Pat Levitt) – 30 min
          A. Orientation Guide (Hirsch)
          B. Curriculum and course requirements (Hirsch)
          C. Advisement Committee (Hirsch)
          D. Bi-annual evaluations of student progress (Hirsch)
          E. Grade requirements (Hirsch)
          F. Registration policies and international student issues - no double majors (Dawn)
          G. Qualifying Exams (Part A-Written and Part B-oral) (Hirsch-philosophy; Dawn – practicalities)
H. Seminars and Neurolunch - mandatory of all first year students (Levitt)
I. Plagiarism (Levitt)
J. Laboratory Visits (Levitt)
K. Retreat Information (UCLA Lake Arrowhead Conference Center 9/27-9/29) (Levitt)

IX. 11:55am Student Activities Information (Dr. Pat Levitt) – 10 min
A. Afternoon Tea
B. Journal Clubs
C. Monthly meetings of students and NGP director
D. Annual Student Symposium (Date: TBD)
E. Seminars (UPC/HSC)

12:05-2 PM – Welcome picnic for all first year NGP students, faculty and current students (HNB 107)

2 -2:05 PM – Introduction of Faculty (Dr. Judith Hirsch) HNB 100 Auditorium
2:05 -3:35 PM – Faculty short talks

2:05 to 2:13 Dr. Pat Levitt “Mechanisms of Social-Emotional Circuit Formation”
2:14 to 2:22 Dr. Dion Dickman “Probing synaptic plasticity and links to neuropsychiatric disease using fruit flies”
2:23 to 2:31 Dr. Andrew McMahon “Morphogens and neural diversity”
2:32 to 2:40 Dr. Sarah Bottjer “Experience-dependent plasticity in cortico-basal ganglia circuits”
2:40 to 2:50 Break
2:51 to 2:59 Dr. Justin Ichida “Using Stem Cells and Reprogramming to Study Neurodegenerative Disease”
3:00 to 3:08 Drs. Neil Segil, Taka Ohyama, Radha Kalluri, Justin Ichida “The USC Regenerative Medicine Initiative: Neurobiology of induced sensory neurons and hair cells”
3:09 to 3:17 Dr. Kristi Clark “Connectivity and Network Development Laboratory (CANDL)”
3:18 to 3:26 Dr. Judith Hirsch “Inhibitory circuits for visual processing in thalamus”
3:27 to 3:35 Dr. Francisco Valero-Cuevas “Neuromechanics of tendon driven systems in basic science and rehabilitation”

3:35 PM Closing remarks

3:45-5 PM – Reception (HNB 107 – large conference room)

5 PM – Meet new student liaison -current NGP student, in the lobby of HNB for the mentor/mentee dinner.

6-9 PM – Mentor/Mentee dinner with current graduate students

Location: Electric Karma