Neuroscience Graduate Program
New-student orientation schedule
Thursday, August 20, 2015
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 (Dr. 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 Graduate Student Government (Kandace London) – 5 min

IV. 10:35am Overview of NGP Graduate Program and Student Assistance Overview (Dawn Burke and Deanna Solórzano) – 15 min
   A. Navigating Your Success
   B. Lab Rotations
   C. Stipend Information and Direct Deposit
   D. Registration and D-clearance
   E. Student Progress Towards Degree

V. 10:50am NGF Introduction – (Rachel Yuan) – 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
   B. Curriculum and course requirements
   C. Advisement Committee
   D. Bi-annual evaluations of student progress
   E. Grade requirements
   F. Registration policies and international student issues - no double majors
   G. Qualifying Exams (Part A-Written and Part B-oral)
   H. Seminars and Neurobreakfast - mandatory of all first year students
   I. Plagiarism
   J. Laboratory Visits
   K. Retreat Information (American Jewish University, Brandeis-Barden Campus, 9/25 – 9/27)
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 (1/29/2016)  
E. Seminars (UPC/HSC)

12:05-2 PM – Welcome lunch 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 -3:45 PM – Faculty short talks

2:05 to 2:13  Dr. Samuel Andrew Hires “Reverse-engineering the sense of touch”  
2:14 to 2:22  Dr. Sarah Bottjer “The role of cortico-basal ganglia circuits in goal-directed learning during development”  
2:23 to 2:31  Dr. Bosco Tjan “Brain, Vision, and Computation”  
2:32 to 2:40  Dr. David McKemy “Cellular and molecular basis of pain”  
2:41 to 2:49  Dr. Terrence Town “Harnessing the Immune System to Battle Alzheimer's Disease”  
2:50 to 3:00  Break

3:01 to 3:09  Dr. Alan Watts “Diabetes, Obesity, and the Brain”  
3:10 to 3:18  Dr. Ruth Wood “Rats on 'roids: cognitive effects of anabolic steroid abuse”  
3:19 to 3:27  Dr. Kristie Clark “Combining ex vivo diffusion imaging with CLARITY in human hippocampus”  
3:28 to 3:36  Dr. Dion Dickman “Visualizing Homeostatic Synaptic Plasticity”  
3:37 to 3:45  Dr. Michael Bonaguidi “Adapting and repairing the adult brain”

3:46 – 4:00PM – Closing remarks

4:00-5 PM – Reception (HNB 107 – large conference room)

5:00PM – 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: The Angel City Brewery  
216 Alameda St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 622-1261