

SRS President's Blog

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Updates on the Strategic Plan: Enhancing Vibrancy of Scientific Offerings

Today, I have another installment of my occasional series providing updates on the progress of our Strategic Plan. Here, I review our efforts and focus on what, at our very heart, defines the SRS: promoting cutting edge science and supporting the science of our members.

Over the last 3+ years, these efforts have been led by the APSS Program Committee (SRS Chair: Ravi Allada, MD), the SLEEP editorial team (Editor-in-Chief: Ronald Szymusiak, PhD), and the Scientific Offerings Committee (Chair: Martica Hall, PhD), with support from a variety of other committees.

Annual Meeting: One clear piece of feedback from members during the strategic planning process was the need to increase the quality of science at our annual meeting, especially the basic science. We asked Ravi Allada to lead those efforts from the Program Committee and have made sure our representatives on that committee always include multiple angles from the neuroscience perspective. In addition, we worked with our AASM partner to increase the programming focused on cutting edge science, to reduce the number of talks one person can give at the meeting, and bring new voices into the meeting, including non-members who do not normally attend the meeting. This has resulted a greater variety of speakers, fewer year-on-year repeated speakers, and more never-before-seen science at the meeting. Thanks to the Rapid-Fire Symposia introduced a few years ago (thanks to then Program Committee Chair, Kenneth Wright, PhD), we also have increased emphasis on early career investigators. We have excellent feedback on the meeting content over the last two years and believe these efforts are working to revitalize the annual SLEEP meeting. Please continue to submit your latest work to the meeting - and remember the deadline for session proposals is Dec 4 and the deadline for abstracts is Dec 15.

SLEEP: As you know, SRS became sole owner of the journal *SLEEP* in 2016], and Oxford University Press (OUP) took over as the publisher in January 2017. Within the past month, *SLEEP* has also developed its own strategic plan. Ron and his team, in collaboration with OUP, are developing new ways to expand the offerings of the journal and make it the go-to journal for sleep and circadian scientists inside and outside the SRS. Examples of new features include: virtual issues highlighting articles on the same theme, calls for papers on specific topics, and an increased number of review articles. The journal is also considering new ways to interact with members and increase the sense of society ownership in the journal. Keep your eye out for more on that, later. *SLEEP* is growing and increasing in its impact. I encourage you to submit your strongest papers to *SLEEP* and help it grow even more.

Club Hypnos: The SRS has sponsored a Club Hypnos reception on the Sunday night of the annual meeting for the last two years. They have been a smashing success (thank you, Patrick Fuller, PhD, Chair of the planning committee). In addition to the networking opportunities, we conduct a data blitz highlighting past SRS Foundation award winners and some of the best abstracts from that year's meeting. Who says we cannot mix science and fun!? **2019 SRS Meeting:** The pinnacle of our new scientific offerings will be the stand-alone SRS meeting, to be held February 1-4, 2019 in Clearwater Beach, Florida. This intimate, single track meeting will have a scientific focus on recent advances in sleep-circadian interactions from the cellular to the human systems level. Planning is well underway for an exciting and truly cutting-edge program. There will be lots of opportunity for trainees to contribute and, of course, plenty of fun and networking opportunities, as well. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the 2019 Advances In Sleep and Circadian Science meeting.