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Journal of Neurophysiology (a multidisciplinary neuroscience journal)

February 2015 Newsletter

Journal of Neurophysiology

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Journal of Neurophysiology (a multidisciplinary neuroscience journal) will now provide a [monthly newsletter](#) to highlight its initiatives and features. If your colleagues are interested in subscribing, please [email us](#).

Neuroscience Peer Review Consortium Highlighted in BiomedCentral Article

The [Neuroscience Peer Review Consortium](#) (NPRC) is an alliance of [neuroscience journals](#) that have agreed to accept manuscript reviews from other members of the NPRC.

BiomedCentral recently published [this article](#), highlighting the participation of the *Journal of Neurophysiology* in the consortium.

If your manuscript was positively reviewed by another Neuroscience Peer Review Consortium journal, but was rejected because of priority, you might consider transferring it to the *Journal of Neurophysiology* via the NPRC.

[This webpage](#) provides detailed instructions on how to transfer a manuscript to the *Journal of Neurophysiology*.

Progress Report on the Journal's Initiatives

The Journal introduced a new group of [editors](#) and a number of [new initiatives](#) on July 1, 2014. We are happy to report that these initiatives are already having a positive effect for our authors and readers:

- We have reached our goal of a 21-day average time for editorial decisions on research articles. **We are striving to reduce processing times for manuscripts even further.**
- [Rapid Reports](#) are consistently receiving editorial decisions within 14 days.
- We have updated the platform used to archive articles with advanced features including [eLife Lens](#) and [SocialCite](#).
- Accepted articles are being highlighted through a variety of mechanisms, including:
 - [Facebook](#)
 - [Twitter](#)
 - [Our website](#)
 - [Monthly newsletters](#)
 - [APSselect](#)

- We have a heightened commitment to personal attention to authors, who can communicate directly with the [Editor-in-Chief](#), [Editor's Assistant](#), [Peer Review Coordinator](#), or [Journal Production Supervisor](#).

Special Call for Manuscripts

Neurophysiology of Tactile Perception: A Tribute to Steven Hsiao

Steven Hsiao was the Scientific Director of the Johns Hopkins University Zanvyl Krieger Mind/Brain Institute until his untimely death on June 16, 2014. The focus of Steve's career was to understand the neural basis of tactile perception.

Steve was a strong supporter of *Journal of Neurophysiology*, and the Journal is honoring him with a special Call for Manuscripts. This Call is for manuscripts related to somatosensory neurophysiology, including the encoding of tactile signals by sensory receptors, the processing of tactile signals by the central nervous system, and neural mechanisms for perceiving tactile signals.

Submissions for this special Call are due no later than [June 1, 2015](#).

Manuscripts submitted for Calls can include any [article type](#) regularly published by *Journal of Neurophysiology*, including:

- Research Reports
- [NeuroForum](#)
- [Rapid Reports](#)
- Reviews
- Innovative Methodology

Note that *Journal of Neurophysiology* does not accept uncommissioned reviews; please consult with the [editor-in-chief](#) before composing and submitting a review article.

Call for Manuscripts

Neuronal Diversity: Categorizing Types of Neurons

Neurons have a variety of anatomical, electrophysiological, and biochemical properties. However, stratifying these properties into neuronal classifications has been difficult, despite the fact that such classification schemes are needed for elucidation of the functions of neural circuits as well as for regenerative medicine. This Call is for manuscripts that provide insights into categorizing neuronal types.

Journal of Neurophysiology is a multidisciplinary journal, and manuscripts highlighting any technique to categorize neurons (physiological, anatomical, molecular, etc.) are welcome.

Submissions for this Call are due no later than [July 1, 2015](#).

Call for Manuscripts

Control of Autonomic Function: Insights from Neurophysiological Studies in Conscious Animals (Including Humans)

Historically, most studies of neural pathways that regulate autonomic function were conducted in decerebrate or anesthetized animals, but recent neurophysiological experiments in conscious animals, including humans, have provided new and novel insights into the regulation of homeostasis.

This Call is to highlight findings from neurophysiological studies in conscious subjects (*both humans and animals*) that provide insights into autonomic function.

Submissions for this Call are due no later than [July 1, 2015](#).

Rapid Reports: Our Newest Manuscript Type

Journal of Neurophysiology introduced [Rapid Reports](#) on July 1, 2014. Rapid Reports are short papers presenting important new findings that could potentially have a major impact on the field.

Key features of Rapid Reports:

- Manuscripts must contain less than 4000 words and no more than 4 figures or tables.
- Editorial decisions are provided within two weeks of submission.
- Rapid Report submissions deemed to have high potential impact by the reviewers and editor, and which require only modest revisions, will remain eligible for publication as Rapid Reports. Revisions must be returned within 2 weeks of the initial editorial decision, and a final editorial decision will be forthcoming in less than 5 days after the revision is returned.
- Accepted Rapid Reports will be highlighted on the [Journal Website](#), and authors have the option of generating a PodCast that is linked to their manuscript.
- Note that Rapid Reports submissions that have scientific merit, but which require extensive revisions or lack exceptional scientific impact, will be reclassified as regular research manuscripts and handled accordingly through the remainder of peer review.

Further information about Rapid Reports is available [here](#). This is an exceptional manuscript type to highlight your best work!

Journal of Neurophysiology Sponsors Events at Experimental Biology 2015!

Journal of Neurophysiology has teamed with the [American Physiological Society's Central Nervous System Section](#) to sponsor and promote events during the [2015 Experimental Biology Meeting](#) at the [Boston Convention Center](#).

Even if you have not attended Experimental Biology before, consider attending these exciting sessions, especially if you live in the Boston area.

Erlanger Distinguished Lecturer: Karl Deisseroth

[Deisseroth](#) played a pivotal role in developing two of the most important techniques in modern neuroscience: [optogenetics](#) and [CLARITY](#). Learn how to incorporate these techniques into your research from the scientist who developed them.

The Erlanger Lecture is scheduled on Monday, March 30 from 3:15-4:15 PM in Room 205C of the Boston Convention Center.

Journal of Neurophysiology Symposium

Following Deisseroth's lecture, *Journal of Neurophysiology* will sponsor a minisymposium on *Modern Methods to Understand Brain Connections and Neural Function*. Two lectures will be featured:

- Vincent Pieribone (Yale University and John Pierce Laboratory): **Genetically encoded optical voltage indicators**
- Bryan Roth (University of North Carolina): **DREADD 2.0: an enhanced chemogenetic toolkit**

Central Nervous System Reception

Following the *Journal of Neurophysiology* symposium, a Central Nervous System Reception will be held in the [Westin Boston Waterfront Hotel](#) adjacent to the Convention Center. Stop by and enjoy drinks, food, and conversation with Karl Deisseroth and the symposium speakers.

The Erlanger Lecture and accompanying symposium will provide a kick-off for a new [Call for Manuscripts](#) on **Methods to Understand Brain Connections and Neural Function**.

Join us in Boston for these exciting events, and [other programming of interest to neuroscientists](#). See the [Experimental Biology website](#) for more information.

Awards for Neuroscientists

Neuroscientists who are members of the [American Physiological Society](#) qualify for a number of [awards](#). The newest award offered to American Physiological Society members is the [Beverly Petterson Bishop Award for Excellence in Neuroscience](#). This \$20,000 annual research award recognizes an early-stage investigator with exceptional promise in neuroscience research.

The availability of awards is just one reason why neuroscientists should join the [American Physiological Society](#). Other [member benefits](#) include:

- Online access to all [American Physiological Society journals](#) including *Journal of Neurophysiology*.
- Free color figures in manuscripts when the member is first or last author.
- Discounted fees for attending the Experimental Biology meeting and other conferences.

Why not make [membership](#) in the [American Physiological Society](#) one of your New Years' Resolutions!

Send us your Feedback

- We are eager to receive constructive feedback on how to improve the journal.
- We are receptive for new topics for [Calls for Manuscripts](#).
- Send your ideas and suggestions to the [Editor-in-Chief](#).