

Portland Section Meeting Notice

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September 2026

Neural and Immune Responses to Corneal Nerve Injury

a talk by

Dr. Sue Aicher

Professor of Chemical Physiology & Biochemistry
at Oregon Health & Science University

Thursday September 10, 2026, 6-9pm

**Leikam Brewing
5812 E Burnside St
Portland, OR 97215**

Schedule: 6 pm social — 6:30 pm dinner — 7:30 pm program

We are pleased to present our Scholarship Awards during the dinner hour.
Student Awardees are listed on next page.

Dinner Reservations: This meeting features a social hour with presentation of awards, catered dinner from a local Portland eatery and a lecture from Dr. Aicher.
This event is all ages welcome and encouraged.



Reserve your dinner for \$25/person
\$15 for students, high school teachers, unemployed members
\$5 added for tickets purchased at the event

contact **Rob Jensen** robert.p.jensen@gmail.com with any questions

Speaker Abstract and bio next page →

Looking Ahead

Join us, for our next meeting at Leikam Brewing on Thursday, Oct 15th
Save the date, we're hosting this year's Pauling Symposium on Saturday, November 7th

Rob Jensen, Chair
Natasja Swartz, Chair-Elect
Irving Rettig, Past Chair

Dave Reingold, Secretary
Jordan Devereaux, Treasurer
Andrew Baggett, Councilor 1

Jim Tung, Councilor 2
Hannah Boxberger, Alt. Councilor 1
Larry Furan, Alt. Councilor 2

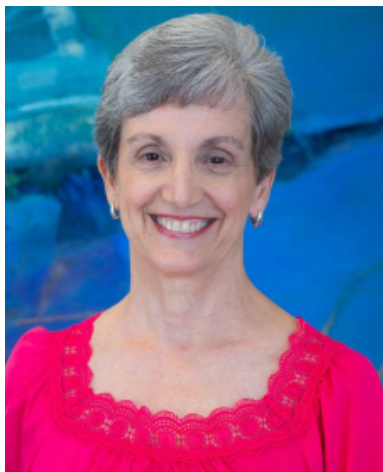
Hannah Boxberger, Webmaster
Martha Dibblee, Email, Newsletter

Neural and Immune Responses to Corneal Nerve Injury

Abstract

The cornea, the transparent region at the front of the eye, contains the highest density of pain-sensing nerves (nociceptors) in the body. These nociceptors are vital for maintaining homeostasis at the ocular surface and when injured can evoke intense pain. Dr. Aicher will describe corneal nerves, their neurochemistry, and how the body responds when they are injured. Preclinical studies use a rodent model of photorefractive keratectomy (PRK) to examine neural plasticity, ocular pain and homeostasis. Studies in human patients use mass spectrometry to examine changes in tear proteins after refractive surgery (PRK or LASIK).

Speaker Bio



Dr. Sue Aicher is a Professor at Oregon Health & Science University in the Department of Chemical Physiology & Biochemistry. She received her B.S. in Psychology from New Mexico Institute of Technology and her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. She conducted postdoctoral research at Cornell University Medical College (CUMC) and then joined the faculty at CUMC in the Department of Neurology and Neuroscience prior to moving to OHSU in 2000. Dr. Aicher is a neuroscientist whose work has focused on the neuroanatomy and function of primary afferent reflexes, in both autonomic and pain circuits, as well as the neural basis of addiction. Her recent work has focused on corneal nerves and eye pain.

Scholarship Winners

The Portland Section of the ACS has given out more than 130 [scholarships](#) to undergraduates in our section since 1968. Congratulations to this year's winners below!

recipients of the

Anderson, VanSanten and Zeh Scholarship

Katie Goodell, Willamette University
Alan Guerrero, Portland State University
Gabe Morrow, University of Portland

recipients of the

Dunne-Currie Scholarship

Merren Troll, Willamette University
Milah Khan, Pacific University

Save the Date for this year's

Linus Pauling Medal Symposium

on Saturday, November 7th

at Hoffman Hall, Portland State University

stay tuned for more details in our October newsletter