Bidirectional effects of sarin exposure on tonic inhibitory activity in the rat basolateral amygdala

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RESULTS

Sarin reduced the amplitude and frequency of GABA_a receptor-mediated spontaneous inhibitory post synaptic currents (sIPSCs) in a concentration-dependent manner.

The effect of sarin on sIPSCs was reversed by washing with an external solution, and a second exposure to sarin caused a similar reversible reduction in sIPSC amplitude and frequency. At high doses of sarin, the amplitude and frequency were greatly enhanced. The effect was blocked by alpha-conotoxin-A68I, a nicotinic receptor antagonist specific for the alpha3beta4 subtype combination.

Sarin had no effect on the amplitude or time kinetics of GABA-mediated, action potential-independent, action potential-dependent or orthodromic synaptic currents.
The USU recently named two of its outstanding civilians as the Junior and Senior Employees of the Quarter.

James Bruce, a financial technician with the USU Financial and Manpower Management office was named the Junior Employee of the Quarter. Mary McAuliffe, a student affairs specialist with the USU Office of Student Affairs was named the Senior Employee of the Quarter.

These awards were based on the recipients’ outstanding support and excellent service of the USU mission.

Bruce, who has been in the finance department for two years, works diligently and expertly as the University’s finance defense travel administrator. This is a critical position in the Defense Travel System management and processing structure.

The Junior Employee of the Quarter is the certifier for all staff, faculty and graduate student travel vouchers. During the last quarter, Bruce reviewed more than 700 DTS vouchers ending the quarter with a 100 percent accuracy rate.

He also helped to ensure payment times were dramatically reduced.

“(Our office) regularly receives feedback from travelers and travel administrators commending Mr. Bruce for his patience, friendly demeanor and professionalism.”

McAuliffe, who has 14 years experience, provided her highly valuable expertise in helping the University’s fourth-year students prepare for graduation. She also helped the graduates transition to their selected residency programs.

The Senior Employee of the Quarter was directly responsible for the preparation of more than 150 medical student performance evaluations. McAuliffe managed all electronic residency application service requirements and coordinated the receipt and transmittal of more than 450 letters of recommendation.

She also helped with presentation and preparation of more than 50 awards given at the annual graduation awards ceremony.

“Beyond the many student programs for which she is responsible, Ms. McAuliffe, has proven herself an extremely competent and mature office administrator,” said Dr. Richard MacDonald, the USU Associate Dean of Student Affairs.

“In a recent national survey of senior medical students, 91 percent of USU graduates reported being satisfied with the quality of their medical education. Ms. McAuliffe’s dedication and service to the students have contributed much to the high regard our students have for their medical school experience.”
Faculty Senate praises University Staff in ceremony

(Left) Neil E. Grunberg, Ph.D. and President of USU Faculty Senate and Assembly, spoke during the appreciation assembly to honor the contributions of staff members, Nov. 4. (Above) Learning Resource Center members stand to be recognized in a nearly-full Sanford Auditorium. Grunberg was one of many faculty who praised and recognized the efforts of individuals and offices during the past year.

Fall Faculty fling

USU President Dr. Charles L. Rice, left center, and GSN Assistant Professor and retired Air Force Lt. Col. Adrienne Hartgerink, left, speak with several faculty members during the USU Fall Faculty Reception. The reception was held Oct. 22 in the Hall of Flags following the USU New Faculty Orientation program. The event was an opportunity for faculty to meet, and network or discuss mutual interests with the campus’ newest colleagues.
USU crew earns unique German badge

by MC1 Chad Hallford

Carrying a nearly 25-pound rucksack, marching at a pace not slower than 16:06 per mile over a distance of 12-18 miles, a crew from USU continued on.

Finding strength through the pain, 13 of USU’s finest military representatives competed for and completed the requirements for the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency (GAFBMP) just outside of Reston, Va., earlier this fall.

“It was a great personal challenge to complete the requirements, and a privilege and opportunity to represent the University in a multi-national forum,” said Army 2nd Lt. John Saur, “The camaraderie and esprit de corps felt by all who completed the march was exciting.”

The group of USU military staff, students and faculty obtained this unique decoration, which is awarded to all German soldiers. Other Allied service members may be awarded and wear the badge regardless of rank upon completion of the awards requirements.

In the United States military the GAFBMP is one of the few approved foreign awards. “Because of the comprehensive difficulty and prestige of the award, the German Badge is one of the most sought-after foreign awards,” said Army Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Wilson.

Authorization and manner of wear is based on U.S. Uniform Regulations. To earn the award one must complete the following five requirements:

- be recommended by the Commanding Officer — recognizing the Soldier’s physical and moral standards
- obtain First Aid-Combat Life Saver (CLS) level 1 or equivalent
- pass the German sports test — all events required
- achieve qualifying score on 25 meter Marksmanship
- hike a road march — which must be performed in military uniform and boots carrying a rucksack weighing no less than 10 kilograms over a varying distance depending on age and gender.

The awarded grade (gold, silver or bronze) is determined by the results of the Marksmanship score and the ruck march time and distance.

Support the CFC and fundraising efforts
Next activity: Chili Cookoff Nov. 17
USU faculty earns Bert award in aerospace physiology

by Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine

A USU assistant professor with the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics recently earned the Paul Bert Award for outstanding research contributions in the field of aerospace physiology. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Anthony Artino, Jr., Ph.D., received the 2009 award, which was named in honor of the French physiologist Paul Bert – known as the “Father of Pressure Physiology.”

The award, established in 1969, covers the research contributions in aerospace physiology over the five years previous to the award year.

According to the Aerospace Physiology Society, Artino’s multi-disciplinary research had a very direct and positive impact toward the success of the aerospace physiology community at-large. His research yielded 17 peer reviewed journal articles and 27 scientific paper presentations in the past four years.

Despite the praise, Artino insists he is only doing what he enjoys. “I was honored to receive the Bert award from the Aerospace Physiology Society,” said Artino. “I truly enjoy working with this group of professionals who are so focused on conducting operationally relevant research and training.”

USU GSN associate dean selected as AAN 2009 Fellow

by the American Academy of Nursing and USU Newsletter Staff

The American Academy of Nursing announced that one USU nursing leader was inducted as Fellow during the Academy’s 36th Annual Meeting and Conference in Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 7.

Army Col. Bruce Schoneboom, Ph.D., RN, CRNA, the associate dean of academic affairs at the USU Graduate School of Nursing, was selected for the prestigious honor along with 97 other nursing leaders at this year’s event.

“This is one of the highest honors in our profession,” said GSN Dean Ada Sue Hinshaw, Ph.D. “He was commended for both his military and academic career. We are very proud of him.”

The Academy is made up of more than 1500 nursing leaders in education, management, practice and research. Leadership positions held by Academy Fellows include university presidents, chancellors, and deans; state and federal political appointees; hospital chief executives and vice presidents for nursing; researchers and entrepreneurs; and practicing nurses.

“The academy is comprised of many of the nation’s top nursing executives, policymakers, scholars, researchers and practitioners,” said Academy President, Pam Mitchell, Ph.D., RN. “Being selected as an academy Fellow is an important recognition of one’s contributions to nursing and health care.”
Air Force officials updated guidance Oct. 28 for use of the physical training uniform (PTU), which will immediately impact all Airmen at USU.


According to a message released from the Air Force and signed by Lt. Gen. Richard Y. Newton III, deputy chief of staff for Manpower and Personnel, effective immediately, individual items making up the PTU and improved PTU are considered uniform items.

Air Force officials said this means strict attention must be given to every item of the PTU, just as with items on the Airman Battle Uniform or service dress uniform. However, individual items of the PTU may still be worn with conservative civilian attire during personal PT or when off-duty.

Wear of the PTU is mandatory during physical fitness assessments and while participating in organized PT events, as designated by the commander. Unit commanders will determine the PTU configuration.

If PTU/IPTU items are worn during personal PT, the following is required:

- The PTU running pants waistband will rest at or within 2 inches of the natural waistline. Both pant legs will extend below the ankles and will be zipped to within 1 inch of the bottom.
- Both the PTU shorts and running shorts will rest at or within 2 inches of the natural waistline.
- The short sleeve PTU shirt will be tucked into shorts or running pants at all times. Do not remove or cut sleeves.
- The long sleeve PTU shirt will be tucked into the PTU shorts or running pants at all times. Do not push up, remove or cut sleeves.
- The optional IPTU sweatshirt will extend no lower than 6 inches below the natural waistline. Do not push up, remove or cut sleeves.
- Undergarments must be appropriate and worn with all uniform combinations.
- Short or full-length spandex may be worn under both the PTU and IPTU, but colors must only consist of black or dark blue.
- Headgear may be authorized by commanders, but may only consist of either a solid black or dark blue baseball cap with the Air Force symbol or “U.S. Air Force” logos. Headgear is to be worn outdoors only.
- Bandanas are not authorized unless due to a medical waiver condition.
- Cold weather accessories may be worn outdoors only.
- The knit watch cap will be plain solid black, dark blue or sage green without any logos.
- Gloves will be plain solid black or dark blue without any logos.
- Scarves and earmuffs will be solid black or dark blue, and may wrap around either the top or rear of the head.
- Green or black fleece is not authorized with the PTU/IPTU.
- The IPTU running suit top or bottom may not be mixed with the current PTU running suit top or bottom.
- The lining of the PTU/IPTU shorts may be removed, but no other uniform alterations are authorized.
- Headphones are authorized inside fitness centers or designated running areas, unless prohibited by the commander.
- Personal grooming and appearance standards apply during physical fitness activities with one exception: Long female hair will be secured but may have loose ends.
- Proper military customs and courtesies to honor the flag during reveille and retreat will apply. Saluting due to rank is not required when wearing the PTU.

The few exceptions to this policy are at the discretion of commanders for accessions, professional military education or academic training when unit distinction is required, such as identifying instructors from students. Temporary adjustments may also be authorized when safety is a concern or in a deployed location.

Any questions regarding this policy at USU should be addressed to Senior Master Sgt. Sandra Scott at 295-1468.
USU Briefs

The Votes are in!

The votes have been cast and a winner has been chosen for the new name of the USU newsletter.

Following the recent University-wide survey and Online voting, the field of more than 120 entries came down to one.

Watch for the new USU newsletter beginning with the Jan. 11, 2010 issue.

Thanks for your participation and for your continued support and readership.

-The USU newsletter staff

USU Holiday Party
The USU is hosting its Holiday Party from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the campus cafeteria, Dec. 11.

The event is open to all USU faculty, staff, students and their families.

The cost is $5 per person. Children under seven are free. Tickets are on sale until Dec. 4.

A student spouses’ club member will be on hand every Monday and Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the cafeteria to sell tickets.

Ticket purchase includes a lunch buffet served until 3 p.m., beverages, games and a chance to win assorted prizes.

Joint Holiday Ball tickets:
Tickets are now available for the 2009 Joint Holiday Ball sponsored by the Joint Task Force National Capital Region Medical and tenant commands.

Tickets are $10 each for E-4s, GS-4s and below; $20 each for E-5 to E-6, GS-5 to GS-6 and YA-02/O-1 to O-2; and $40 each for E-7s, GS-7s, YA/YC-03s, O-3 and above.

The event will be held at the Show Place Arena from 6 p.m. to midnight Dec. 12. The social hour begins at 6 p.m.

Dress for the occasion is formal for civilians and formal or military dress for military.

For more information, contact Army Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Woods at 295-9562.

Volunteers needed:
The Joint Holiday Ball Committee needs volunteers to work the concession stand at the Washington Redskins versus the Denver Broncos game in Landover, Md., Nov. 15.

For more information, contact Army Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Woods at 295-9562.

Military Awards Nominations:
The next military awards panel will convene November 24.

Nomination packages will be due through the chain of command no later than November 17.

Any award with higher precedence than the Defense Meritorious Service Medal must be submitted 150 days prior to presentation.

Contact HM2 Sylvia McBee at 295-9654 or sylvia.mcbee@usuhs.mil with questions.

Town Hall Meeting:
When: Friday, November 13, 2009
Time:12:30 p.m.
Where: Sanford Auditorium

“Regarding the Fort Hood Tragedy”

All USU staff, faculty, and students are welcome to attend.

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Caption contest
The winning caption: “No flash photography, or the snake will attack everyone” submitted by Michael Davis, NES Graduate Student.

Congrats to the runner-up, Jay Thakar.

...and thanks to all who submitted.