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Brian Lewandowski Named by Monell Center as Inaugural Gary K. Beauchamp Director's Fellow

Fellowship supports promising postdoctoral fellow's independent research

PHILADELPHIA (August 22, 2016) – Brian Lewandowski, PhD, has been named the Monell Center's inaugural Gary K. Beauchamp Director's Fellow. The senior postdoctoral position, inspired by Harvard's Society of Fellows, is named in honor of Monell's emeritus director and president.

As the Gary K. Beauchamp Director's Fellow, Lewandowski will receive full salary support, research support, and dedicated research space for three years to launch his own research program.

"This new position is reserved for our most promising postdoctoral fellows," said Monell Center Director Robert Margolskee, MD, PhD. "The Director's Fellow must demonstrate the potential to be an exceptional future faculty member at Monell or another academic institution. Brian exemplifies the criteria for this position, and I am pleased to appoint him as the first recipient."

Lewandowski joined Monell as a Postdoctoral Fellow in 2011 after receiving his doctoral degree in Neuroscience from the University of Pennsylvania. His early work at Monell was supported by the Center's Ruth L. Kirschstein Institutional National Research Service Award training grant (T32) from the National Institutes of Health, and in 2014 Lewandowski was awarded an NRSA individual postdoctoral fellowship grant (F32) from NIH to study the molecular and cellular mechanisms of salt taste.

Lewandowski's work has been published in the Journal of Neuroscience and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. In addition, he was recently awarded the Young Investigator Award at the 17th International Symposium on Olfaction and Taste, where he presented data describing previously unknown peptidergic signaling pathways in taste cells.

"Brian's success highlights his already significant contributions to the science of the chemical senses, more remarkable still given his lack of chemosensory experience before joining Monell," said Alexander Bachmanov, DVM, PhD, Lewandowski's mentor. "His diverse skill set allows him to tackle scientific questions at multiple levels –



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extending from genes to cells to systems to behavior – which provides him a strong foundation for a career as an independent researcher.”

To be eligible for the Director’s Fellowship, candidates must have at least three years of experience as a postdoctoral fellow and be listed as the primary author on at least three peer-reviewed publications. After nomination by a Monell faculty member, candidates are reviewed by the Center’s postdoctoral training committee, and recommended Director’s Fellows are appointed by Dr. Margolskee.

The Gary K. Beauchamp Director’s Fellowship was enabled by the generosity of Monell Board Member and longtime benefactor Louise Slade, PhD.

“I am humbled by this honor and incredibly grateful” said Lewandowski. “Monell is an extraordinary institution, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with the greatest minds in sensory research. Thank you to Dr. Bachmanov, Dr. Margolskee, Dr. Beauchamp, and especially Dr. Slade for this opportunity.”

“Monell has been committed to educating the next generation of scientists since its founding almost 50 years ago,” said Margolskee. “Dr. Slade’s generous gift establishes a pathway to help transition our most promising postdoctoral scholars to independent positions in academia, government, and industry.”

The Monell Chemical Senses Center is an independent nonprofit basic research institute based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. For over 48 years, Monell has advanced scientific understanding of the mechanisms and functions of taste and smell to benefit human health and well-being. Using an interdisciplinary approach, scientists collaborate in the programmatic areas of sensation and perception; neuroscience and molecular biology; environmental and occupational health; nutrition and appetite; health and well-being; development, aging and regeneration; and chemical ecology and communication. For more information about Monell, visit www.monell.org.

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