

**Dr. Cheryl Frye, Department of Psychology**

**Sponsor: National Science Foundation (NSF)**

**Award: \$14,000**

**Date: 2/1/09 – 1/31/10**

**Conference – Grant to Support the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Steroids and the Nervous System held in Torino, Italy Feb 14-18,2009**

The National Science Foundation recently provided us with funds in order to support increased American undergraduate, graduate, and post-doctoral student presence and participation at the 5th International Meeting on Steroids and the Nervous System. This conference is held in Torino, Italy from February 13-18th, and very broadly focuses on the relationship between steroid hormones and the nervous system. Some of the more specific topics that will be highlighted this year include hormonal influences on: cannabinoid-regulated biology, pain, steroid receptors, vitamin D, GABA receptors, and glucocorticoids. In addition, certain aspects of the conference will be focused directly towards young researchers and promoting their professional development, this includes a young researchers symposium, poster presentation sessions, meet the professor lunches, a workshop on international opportunities in research, and culminating in one young investigator receiving the Luciano Martini Prize, and a subsequent review publication in Neuroendocrinology. As such, this is not only an important educational venue for research trainees, but also for making necessary professional contacts, and gaining presentation experience. The funds awarded by NSF, will help to defray the costs of hosting these young researcher conference proceedings, as well as, support five U.S.-based award recipients with \$2,000 to go towards airfare/travel, registration, and per diem food costs. Given the intimate nature of this conference along with the specificity of the topic (steroids), young trainees will be introduced to the leading researchers in their field who will not only be presenting on their cutting edge research methods and scientific findings, but will serve, in the future, as their grant/manuscript reviewers and/or mentors.