

UCI Assessment Grant Program—Spring 2012 Proposal Abstracts

- **Andrea Nicholas & Raju Metherate, Neurobiology and Behavior**

The Undergraduate Neurobiology and Behavior Major at UCI brings together a select group of students interested in mastering concepts related to nervous system function (Neurobiology and Behavior Department). Over their junior and senior years, these students are exposed to an enriched environment within the Biological Sciences Division that allows them insight into the ways neurobiologists use cellular, molecular, systems and behavioral analyses to improve our understanding of the nervous system. These students are promised an in-depth education in neurobiology as well as enhanced development of analytical and reasoning skills. Thus far, the program appears to be a very successful and rewarding experience for both students and faculty. That having been said, the Neurobiology and Behavior Department has yet to employ a meaningful way to assess this program and provide measurable evidence of student success that can be compared and analyzed across years. To that end, we feel it is beneficial to create a standard for our major that incorporates direct assessment of learning goals. In order to achieve this, we will work together with the Neurobiology and Behavior faculty to create a list of learning goals for academic undergraduate neurobiology programs that is unique to UCI, but potentially adaptable to a national standard.