

John F. Perkins, Jr. Memorial Awardee Reports on Research Experiences Andras Garami

The John F. Perkins, Jr. Memorial Award for International Physiologists promotes cultural exchange and scientific collaborations by providing supplementary aid to families of foreign scientists working for a minimum of three months in the US. Andras Garami was the recipient of the spring 2012 Perkins Award. Garami spent three months working in the lab of APS member Andrej A. Romanovsky, at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, AZ. Romanovsky is also a past Perkins Award recipient. Below is Garami's report on how he and his wife used the award.

"I am very grateful to the Perkins Award Committee for granting me the John F. Perkins, Jr. Memorial Award for International Physiologists. This award made it possible for me to bring my wife, Eszter, to the United States with me and to enrich our cultural experiences. My host, Dr. Romanovsky, was very kind and hospitable. He lent us a car for the duration of our stay and took us to several local attractions, such as the Musical Instrument Museum, the Desert Botanical Garden, and the Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West. We hiked the San Francisco Peaks in northern Arizona together, where he taught us about the region's

diverse mountain flora. We also hunted mushrooms there. Thanks to the award, Eszter and I were able to spend a week in Yellowstone National Park, which is one of the greatest and most beautiful parks in the United States.

"The scientific part of my visit was also very productive. As indicated in the application, our primary goal was to process data from our earlier experiments on the roles of prostaglandin D2 in the regulation of body temperature. We met this goal. Furthermore, I was able to run additional—critical—experiments, which allowed us to strengthen the conclusions of our study. I also performed the necessary statistical analyses and prepared final figures for publication. By the end of my stay, I had drafted a manuscript about the complex effects of prostaglandin D2 on thermoregulation.

"Dr. Romanovsky, who was both my host and a former recipient of the Perkins Award, asked me to indicate in my report that he is grateful to the American Physiological Society for awarding me this prestigious fellowship. He felt very satisfied that my wife,



Eszter, Andras and Dr. Romanovsky under the unique logo of Frank Lloyd Wright Taliesin West, Scottsdale, AZ.

Eszter, and I were able to travel during our visit, and that we had the opportunity to experience the culture and natural beauty of America. He believes that the Perkins Award is unique in that it places high priority on a scientist's family life and cultural experiences; most other fellowships and awards either ignore these aspects of life or treat them as obstacles on the way to scientific achievements. Dr. Romanovsky appreciates this humane side of the Perkins Award." ❖



Andras and his wife Eszter at the entrance of Yellowstone National Park.