On April 21 and 22, 2003, Dr. Brian Popko visited the Mayo Graduate School as a guest of the Molecular Neuroscience Program, and delivered a seminar entitled, “Exploring the Effects of the Immune Cytokine Interferon-gamma on the CNS.” The seminar was held in the Molecular Neuroscience Conference Room at the Mayo Clinic Rochester and was also viewed by teleconference at the Mayo Clinic facilities in Jacksonville, FL. About 40 people attended the seminar with an audience composed of a mixture of graduate and medical students, research postdocs and clinical residents, and research and clinical faculty. The topic of Dr. Popko’s lecture was of wide interest to both research and clinical audiences and although members of the Molecular Neuroscience Program and the Department of Neurology accounted for a large proportion of the audience, the departments of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Immunology, and Pharmacology were also represented.

During his visit, Dr. Popko was able to meet personally with a variety of students, postdocs, research faculty and clinicians. He went to dinner with Neuroscience faculty on Monday evening, April 21, and a luncheon reception with the graduate students followed his seminar on April 22. Of particular value were the meetings that Dr. Popko had with the Multiple Sclerosis and Spinal Cord Injury research groups (Rodrigiez, Windebank, Jabbari). The itinerary for Dr. Popko’s visit is attached. Overall, Dr. Popko’s presentation was enthusiastically received, and his presentation and meeting with the staff stimulated much discussion. His visit was a great success and a benefit to our program.

We wish to thank the Grass Foundation for providing the support necessary to attract a speaker of Dr. Popko’s caliber.

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