

CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE in the
NEUROSCIENCES



S E M I N A R S E R I E S

**Regulation of Appetite and
Brown Adipose Tissue
Activation by Centrally-
Acting Bone Morphogenetic
Proteins (BMPs)**

Kristy Townsend, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor,
Neurobiology
University of Maine
Orono, Maine

Thursday, May 14th 2015

12:00-1:00 p.m.

Alfond 304
UNE, Biddeford Campus

Lunch will be provided

Hosted by: Deena Small, Ph.D.

Sponsored by: College of Osteopathic Medicine



Dr. Kristy Townsend is currently Assistant Professor of Neurobiology at the University of Maine, where her lab is investigating the regulation of energy balance by the brain and peripheral nervous system. Ongoing projects include determining the mechanisms by which the bone morphogenetic proteins (BMPs) regulate appetite in the brain, and also how the BMPs act centrally to promote peripheral sympathetic nerve activity in brown adipose tissue, thereby increasing energy

expenditure. Both of these approaches are novel potential pathways for the treatment of metabolic diseases, such as obesity and diabetes. Additionally, the Townsend lab is focused on the regulation of neural plasticity, in both the brain and peripheral tissues. Previously, Dr. Townsend was a junior faculty member at Harvard Medical School and Joslin Diabetes Center, where she is currently adjunct faculty. She received a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Boston University.