Meet Your Neighbors: Drs. Susana Martinez-Conde and Stephen Macknik

Ages: 37 and 38
Town/Neighborhood: Anthem
What we like most about living here: It's a very safe and convenient place to live and to raise a family.
Changes we'd like to see in this area: We'd like to see more restaurants and also a major movie theater.
What we're excited about & why: We're excited that our article in Scientific American (August 2007) was used for the cover story. For a scientist, it's like being a rock star and being featured on the cover of the Rolling Stone magazine.
Favorite community cause & why: Our favorite community cause is the direct support by individuals of biomedical research. It's the best and most direct way that individuals can drive research in a specific area of interest.
When & why we moved here: We moved to Anthem in June 2004. It was the nicest and most affordable master plan community within 40 minutes commute of Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center where we work.
Where we lived before & why we left: We lived in London, England, where we were on the faculty of The Institute of Ophthalmology, at University College London.
Our family: We have a 9-month-old infant boy, Iago Louis Macknik-Conde.
What we do: We are neurobiologists at Barrow Neurological Institute. We study the neural underpinnings of visual perception and awareness in the brain.
What we like most about what we do: With each new experiment, we have the opportunity to discover the neural basis of consciousness and awareness: what we feel is the most important scientific question in the world.
Previous occupations & why we left: Before becoming laboratory directors, we were postdoctoral fellows at Harvard Medical School, and before that we were graduate students (Susana: medicine and surgery at the University of Santiago de Compostela in Spain; Steve: neurobiology at Harvard University).
If we had picked different occupations, they might have been: Susana: fiction or popular science writer; Steve: video game designer.
Our interests and hobbies: Reading, movies, travel, taekwondo, dining out.
The best and worst time of our lives: We are currently hitting a peak in our careers, and along with our happy little boy, we'd have to say that this is the happiest time of our lives. The worst time of our life was the time we spent in England before moving here.
Our best/worst habits: Best and worst: We work too much.
The traits we admire in others: Good writing.
People who inspired us (and how): Our greatest influence was our mentor at Harvard Medical School: Prof. David Hubel, who won the Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology in 1981.
My guiding philosophy: Why theorize when you can do the experiment and discover the answer for sure?
My advice to today's youth: Concentrate on each goal and achieve it. You can always change your mind and do something else once your goal is achieved.

Attached Image (viewed 4 times):
801adv martinez-conde pic.jpg

Last edited on Sat Jul 28th, 2007 12:34 pm by nsnews