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Contents

- 1** Editorial
- 2** Annual Meeting: Preliminary program and call for abstracts
- 3** Elections: call for nominations
- 4** The SSN website
- 4** News from the FENS

Editorial

This second issue of the Newsletter replaces the traditional “Announcement and call for abstracts” of the Annual meeting of the SSN. You will find all this information on pages 2 and 3 and on the attached forms “A” and “B”. Please note the deadlines for poster submission (**November 15**) and for registration (**December 15**). As previously, the meeting is free (thanks to sponsoring) and open to all interested persons in Neuroscience.

For the first time, the Annual Meeting will be held jointly with our colleagues of the Swiss Society of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy (SSPP). We are looking forward to a fruitful interaction between our two Societies, which will hopefully extend well beyond the duration of the meeting in Fribourg!

A second major focus of this Newsletter is **News from the FENS**, following the highly successful 3rd Forum of European Neuroscience in Paris last July. A particular honor for our Society is the Election of Pierre Magistretti as President of the FENS. In addition, a very positive sign is the active collaboration that is being established with the Society for Neuroscience, concerning on-line access to the European Journal of Neuroscience and reduced registration fees to the Neuroscience Meeting.

As mentioned in the inaugural issue of this Newsletter, a major goal on our road is improved communication among the members of the SSN. This newsletter should be one of the tools to this end, by providing the opportunity to advertise meetings, workshops, and any other reunion that you wish to make known to all our members. This information can also be posted onto the Website, for increased visibility. Please make use of these possibilities, by sending us your messages per e-mail at ssn@pharma.unizh.ch.

For the committee,

Jean-Marc Fritschy

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Annual Meeting: Announcement and call for abstracts

The 2003 Annual meeting of the SSN will take place in Fribourg on January 18, 2003. The organizing committee, under the heading of Eric Rouiller, has arranged a very attractive program (see below). A highlight will be the double award ceremony for the **Theodor-Ott** and **Robert Bing** Prizes, under the auspices of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences. These prestigious prizes honor the achievements of four distinguished members of the SSN.

The SSN will also give several awards. In particular, a prize will be given to the authors

of the best clinical study (see page 3), and, for the first time, we will award the best publication of a student member of the SSN. The clinical study to be awarded will be chosen from the abstracts submitted to the meeting. For the best publication award, the deadline for submission is September 30. Please do not miss it!

The business meeting of the SSN will be particularly important, because elections are coming up to replace part of the council and to choose a new president-elect. Please see details on page 3.

Joint Meeting: Swiss Society for Neuroscience (SSN) and Swiss Society of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy (SSPP)

Saturday, January 18, 2003

Ecole d'Ingénieurs, Bd. de Péroilles 80, 1700 Fribourg

Preliminary Program:

09:30-10:00	Registration, Poster Set-up, Coffee and Croissants
10:00-10:10	Welcome Address Jean-Marc Fritschy, President of the SSN Tedy Hubschmid, President of the SSPP
10:10-11:00	Decade of the Brain Lecture Prof. T. Bonhoeffer, Max-Planck-Institut für Neurobiologie, München-Martinsried, Germany „Spines to remember: Neurotrophins and anatomical changes associated with synaptic plasticity”
11:00-12:00	Datablitz (3 minutes presentations by 10 poster presenters selected)
12:00-15:00	Posters and Lunch Business meeting of the SSN (13:30-14:15)
15:00-15:25	Interesting Clinical Study Presentations
15:25-15:30	Volker Henn Award for 3 best posters / Best publication Award / Clinical Study Award
15:30-17:00	Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS) Ceremony of distribution of the Theodore-Ott and Robert- Bing Prizes Conferences given by the recipients of the Theodore-Ott Prize: Prof. D. Müller (Geneva): “Birth of a synapse” Prof. H. Möhler (Zürich): “Behaviour and neuronal inhibition” Conferences given by the recipients of the Robert-Bing Prize: Prof. A. Merlo (Basel): “Glioma – the long and winding road to new therapeutic targets” Dr. Ch. Lüscher (Geneva): “Cellular and molecular mechanisms of opioid dependence”
17:00	Aperitif offered by the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences End of the meeting

Registration and Abstract Submission

1. Submission of abstracts

Colleagues willing to present a poster must fill in the Form B (in addition to Form A), following the guidelines for abstract preparation and submission. Forms and guidelines are attached to this Newsletter and are available on the website of the SSN (www.swissneuroscience.ch).

Each poster must be sponsored by one member of the SSN. Each member of the SSN can sponsor only one abstract. However, the name of the sponsor can appear on more than one abstract as co-author with another member or candidate member. Non-members must have Form B signed by a member (sponsor) or apply for membership to become candidate member of the SSN.

The deadline for abstract submission is November 15, 2002

Please complete and fax Form B to Eric Rouiller (see address below); Submit also the abstract by e-mail as attached document to: Murielle.Zulauf@unifr.ch

The local organizing committee will acknowledge receipt of your abstract by e-mail.

Elections: call for nominations

Elections will take place at the Annual meeting in 2003 to replace four members of the SSN Council who have served a four-year or longer term (Joseph Ghika, Ann Kato, Eric Rouiller, Irene Tobler) and to elect a new President-Elect.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank our colleagues for their commitment to the SSN. We are indebted particularly to Ann Kato, a long-time member who served as President (1998-2000), and accepted to second me following the departure of our former president, Jean-Marc Burgunder. Our warm thanks also go to Eric Rouiller, who has been

2. Registration of participants

Each colleague of the SSN or SSPP attending the meeting is asked to register in advance (even those who do not present a poster), using Form A.

Please complete Form A and fax it to:

Eric Rouiller, Division of Physiology, Dept. of Medicine, University of Fribourg, Ch. du Musée 5, 1700 Fribourg, Fax **026 300 97 34**

or send it as attachment by e-mail to:
Eric.Rouiller@unifr.ch

Deadline for registration: December 15, 2002

3. Best Clinical Presentation Award

This award was first introduced at the 2001 annual meeting in Bern and we wish to make it a tradition, to foster clinical studies in Neuroscience in Switzerland. Three candidates selected from the submitted abstracts will give a short presentation of their results. The best overall work will be awarded with a price of Fr. 1000.-. Guidelines for this award will be posted on the website of the SSN.

Secretary of the SSN for many years and has organized two Annual Meetings.

According to the by-laws of the SSN, all regular and student-members are entitled to nominate up to four candidates for the Council and one candidate for the post of President-Elect. The deadline for nomination is three months prior to the election, i.e. **October 18, 2003**. Please submit your nominations (including a short CV) by e-mail to ssn@pharma.unizh.ch.

The election committee will compile a list of candidates who will be presented in the next issue of the Newsletter.

The SSN website

The new website was launched in June 2002 and has received a largely positive echo. Some difficulties, notably for MacIntosh users, were solved only by offering an alternative, “Java-free” environment. However, the major improvements brought about with the new site will benefit all members of the SSN.

In particular, the possibility to communicate any change of address or correction of address should be used more often to help us maintaining the membership directory. Future developments will integrate additional possibilities for interactive communication and posting of information of the Web.

The main problem during this early phase has been the over-zealousness of the “anti-spam” filter of the e-mail server in Zurich, which has systematically blocked all incoming messages to ssn@pharma.unizh.ch from the SSN website. This concerns in particular applications for new members. If you know anyone who has applied on-line for membership in July and August and has not received a confirmation from our treasurer, please ask them to re-apply. We very much apologize for this problem, which has been fixed after a long search for its cause.

News from the FENS

The **3rd Forum of European Neuroscience** in Paris (July 13-17th) has been a large success, with close to 6'000 participants, an excellent program, and a remarkable organization. The next Forum will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, July 10-14th, 2004. For 2006, the Austrian and German Neuroscience Societies have presented a bid for holding the meeting in Vienna, which is currently under consideration. There are no other candidates.

The FENS is now organizing the Program committee for the 2004 Meeting in Lisbon. Each affiliated society is requested to nominate two candidates for this important committee. The nominations should include a brief CV, a description of research interest/expertise, and the candidates should in principle agree to serve on this committee if elected. This procedure is opened to all regular and student members of the SSN. Please mail us your propositions at ssn@pharma.unizh.ch.

The General Council of the FENS has elected new officers, with Pierre Magistretti (Lausanne) as President, Monica Di Luca (Milano) as Secretary-General, Roger Nitsch (Berlin) as treasurer, and Tamas Freund (Budapest) as President-Elect. They have taken office at the end of the FENS Forum, for a period of four year.

Barry Everitt, Editor-in-Chief of the **European Journal of Neuroscience (EJN)**, the official publication of the FENS, has presented a report to the General Council. Since the introduction of the Electronic office (on-line submission and reviewing of manuscripts) in late 2001, the number of submissions has increased dramatically. The average time for a primary decision is around 30 days, and papers are published within 4-6 weeks after acceptance. The impact factor is raising (unlike most journals in Neuroscience) and is just below 4. Importantly, an agreement has been reached with the Society for Neuroscience, to give free on-line access to EJN to all member of this large society. This move should markedly increase the visibility (and impact) of EJN papers in the USA.

Helmut Kettenmann, outgoing treasurer, presented a financial report showing that the finances of the FENS are secure, mostly thanks to the contribution of EJN. The FENS could give 106 travel fellowships to young scientists to attend the meeting in Paris (in addition to all the fellowships given by national societies, such as ours).

Finally, the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) offers to members of National Societies affiliated to FENS, such as ours, the possibility to register to the Neuroscience Meeting at the same reduced cost as SfN members.