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Vice-president

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Paolo Paganetti

Eric M. Rouiller

Markus Rüegg

Nicole Schaeren-Wiemers

Peter Sonderegger

Irene Tobler

Contents

- 1** Editorial
- 2** The Annual Meeting
- 3** Elections: presentation of candidates
- 4** The IBRO Fellowship for Young Investigators

Editorial

The main purpose of this Newsletter is to present the candidates for the elections of Committee members that will take place during the Annual Meeting in Fribourg (18th January 2003). You will find their names and short CV on page 3.

By the same opportunity, we are pleased to announce several good news for our society. First of all, we are heading towards a promising annual Meeting. The number of abstracts submitted for poster presentations is 161 and over 250 persons have registered to date. The meeting will honor the work of both senior and junior colleagues, with no less than five awards being presented, in part in cooperation with the Swiss Academy for Medical Sciences (see details on page 2).

Secondly, we have received this year a substantial financial commitment from three sponsors of the industry, Roche, Novartis, and Zeiss. This will allow us to increase the number of travel fellowships for PhD students to attend an international scientific meeting. The details will be discussed by the Committee and will be announced at the annual meeting.

Owing to the financial support of the Swiss National Science Foundation, we will also be able to renew the *IBRO Fellowship for Young Investigators*. This fellowship supports an experienced postdoctoral candidate from abroad during one year in a host laboratory in Switzerland. See page 4 for further information.

Thirdly, we have received numerous new applications for membership. This trend (49 new members since July) is encouraging and we are grateful for all efforts to recruit additional members to the SSN. We hope that the new Website is contributing to facilitate the communication within the Society. It is for us a great help to maintain an up-to-date list of members.

In the name of the SSN committee, I wish you all the best for the holidays and the New Year.

For the committee,

Jean-Marc Fritschy

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The 2003 Annual Meeting

Elections

Elections will be held during the business meeting of the SSN (at 13 h 30). All regular and student members of the SSN are invited to participate. A new President-elect (who will start his term as president in 2005) will be chosen. The nominating committee has performed a thorough evaluation of potential candidates and has made the choice to present a single candidate, Prof. Eric Rouiller, from Fribourg. Eric is a former Secretary of the SSN and long-time Committee member. It was important to select a candidate who can ensure continuity at the head the SSN and is well known throughout Switzerland.

Three members of the SSN Council who have served a four-year term will be replaced (Ann Kato, Joseph Ghika, Irene Tobler). The nominating committee has prepared a list of candidates from all universities with departing members, giving a large choice for the election procedure.

See page 3 for a short presentation of all candidates.

Membership fees

The financial situation of the SSN is satisfactory, especially in view of the generosity of our sponsors (see Editorial). The Committee nevertheless feels that the SSN could increase further its support to young students, as well as to public initiatives such as the International Week of the Brain, if it had more means at its disposal. The Committee therefore proposes to raise the membership fees to Fr. 50.- per year for regular and supporting members and to Frs. 20.- per year for student members. The difference represents roughly Fr. 5000.- per year, or 10 fellowships for doctoral students to attend a meeting. The decision will be taken by vote during the business meeting.

Awards

With the hope of establishing a tradition, the SSN will give three awards during its Annual meeting. In addition to the classical “*Volker-Henn*” *Best Poster Award*, which honors the three best posters with a price of Fr. 500.- each, we are introducing the *Best Clinical Presentation Award*, to be given to the author of a clinical study following a presentation by three pre-selected top candidates. Finally, for the first time, we will proudly deliver the Award for the “*Best Publication of the Year*”, which distinguishes the work of a student-member. Six applications have been received and were reviewed by a panel of five members of the Committee. At this stage, it can only be said that the selection was difficult, due to the very high quality of all applications.

These awards will be given at the end of the poster session, just before the ceremony of the *Theodore-Ott Price* and *Robert-Bing Price*, organized by the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (SAMS). The festivities will be concluded by an aperitif offered by the SAMS.

Meeting announcement

Brain in Motion

EPFL, Lausanne, February 19 - 22, 2003



This meeting celebrates the opening of the Brain Mind Institute at the EPFL.

See <http://www2.epfl.ch/sv/page12922.html> for further information and registration.

Candidates for the election of the SSN Committee

1. President-Elect

Eric Rouiller

Professor; Dept. of Physiology, University of Fribourg; basic scientist.

Research interests: Modular organization of the auditory and motor cortex and functional properties of single cortical neurons; functional restitution after damage of the CNS (rehabilitation); physiological and anatomical tracing of pathways in the CNS.

2. Committee members

Jean-Luc Dreyer

Associate Professor; Division of Biochemistry, University of Fribourg.

Research Interests: Dopaminergic modulatory system, motivation, addiction, development of nervous system.

Karl Frei

Research Lab-Head; Clinic for Neurosurgery, University Hospital Zurich.

Research Interests: Glioma, bacterial meningitis, experimental allergic encephalomyelitis, blood-brain barrier, epilepsy.

Daniel Jeanmonod

Leitender Arzt; Clinic for Neurosurgery, University Hospital, Zurich.

Research Interests: Functional neurosurgery; physiopathology of sensorimotor and limbic positive symptoms; chemoarchitecture of the human thalamus and basal ganglia.

Peter Koenig

Privat-Dozent; Institute for Neuroinformatics, University of Zurich and ETH Zurich.

Research Interests: Experimental and theoretical studies of sensory processing and sensory motor integration in the mammalian cortex under natural conditions. Role of top-down signals, their relation to the fast dynamics, learning and plasticity in the neuronal network.

Isabelle Mansuy

Assistant Professor; Institute of Cell Biology, ETH Zurich.

Research Interests: brain plasticity, learning and memory using genetically modified mice.

Henry Markram

Professor, Head of the Brain Mind Institute; School of Life Sciences, EPFL.

Research Interests: I am interested in understanding the Neocortical Microcircuitry. We study

the microcircuit at multiple levels: genetic, cellular anatomical and physiological, synaptic anatomical, physiological and plasticity, and emergence of activity patterns in the microcircuit. We are also interested in microcircuit deficit in neurological diseases. Finally, we aim to reconstruct the microcircuit for detailed computer simulations.

Christoph Michel

Maitre d'enseignement et de recherche, Director of the Functional Brain Mapping Laboratory; Dept. of Clinical Neuroscience, University Hospital of Geneva.

Research Interests: Functional brain imaging, EEG / Evoked potentials, cognitive brain functions, epilepsy, brain network dynamics, Mind-machine interface.

Francois Vingerhoets

Médecin Adjoint; Service de Neurologie, CHUV, Lausanne.

Research Interests: Parkinsonism, movement disorders, neurodegenerative diseases, neuroimaging, gait and posture, neurosurgical treatment.

Egbert Welker

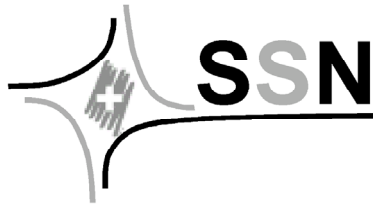
Professor; Co-Director; Institute of Cell Biology and Morphology, University of Lausanne.

Research Interests: To elucidate the mechanisms by which sensory experiences are incorporated into neocortical circuitry. This interest is driven by my curiosity to know how the positive, as well as the negative, experiences in live contribute to the shaping of our personality. The whisker-to-barrel pathway of the mouse has proven, in this context, to be a fruitful sensory system to elucidate key elements in adult neuronal plasticity.

People

The Scholar's Prize 2002 of the City of Basel has been awarded to Prof. Dr. Anna Wirz-Justice, formed member of the SSN committee, for her internationally recognized research on sleep-wake rhythms and the relationship between light and seasonal depression. Thanks to her Basel has become a leading world Center for chronobiology.

The prize is awarded annually in turn by the six faculties to researchers with outstanding scientific achievements who are closely associated with the University of Basel.



IBRO-Fellowship for Young Investigators

As the successor of IBRO-Swiss, the Swiss Society for Neuroscience invites applications for a fellowship that is administered by the Swiss National Science Foundation. The fellowship shall support a young foreign experienced postdoctoral student (age limit 35 years) who wants to spend one year in a Swiss scientific Institution in the field of experimental or clinical Neuroscience. The amount of the fellowship is SFr. 46'000.-. It is in principle tax-free, but health insurance is the responsibility of the candidate.

The application should include:

- Curriculum vitae
- Publication list
- Description of the scientific project (1-2 pages)
- Letter of support by the host institution
- Two letters of recommendation

Deadline for application: January 31st, 2003 (postmark)

Start of Fellowship: June 1st, 2003 (or later)

Address for applications:

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