

Swiss Society for Neuroscience

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www.swissneuroscience.ch

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Editorial

Starting Volume 3 of the Newsletter means that a tradition has been established. The SSN has grown considerably over the last few months, and now counts over 620 members. This is a very positive trend, showing that more and more scientists and clinicians recognize the need for our society and the advantages of being a member. In response to this growth, the Council is launching several new initiatives, which are officially announced in this Newsletter:

First, we are starting a membership campaign, with a flyer to be distributed among large circles of potentially interested scientists and clinicians. The flyer will be ready in a few weeks and will be made available to all members of the SSN for distribution.

Secondly, in collaboration with Novartis, we are organizing a “PhD-student day” on June 11. The aims of this gathering are to offer an opportunity to learn more about a career in the pharmaceutical industry, and to establish contacts with colleagues from other labs and universities.

Thirdly, we are announcing two symposia on animal experimentation, which will be accredited as “continuous education” by the Cantonal Veterinary authorities. These symposia will take place in Fribourg (Sept. 17) and in Zurich (Sept. 24) and are open to all interested persons. The attendance fee is reduced for SSN members.

With these initiatives, we aim to serve the needs of the Neuroscience community at large and we hope that these meetings will be well attended.

For the Committee of the SSN,

Jean-Marc Fritschy

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Success of the Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting, held jointly with the Swiss Society for Behavioural Neurology last January in Lausanne, attracted a record number of participants and poster presentations. The local organizers have to be praised for the quality of the program, especially the choice of plenary lectures, and for the perfect organization of the meeting.

The venue of the Annual Meeting at the University Hospital is symbolic of our efforts to set bridges between clinical and basic research. It nevertheless remains evident that only a small number of clinicians attended the meeting, even though it was accredited by the Swiss Neurological Society and the Swiss Society of Neuroradiology. The Council has therefore decided to work on this problem and will suggest solutions for the future.

At the business meeting (general assembly of the SSN), two important decisions were taken: First, the proposal was accepted to simplify the application procedure for new members. Starting from this year, applicants for membership (regular or supporting members) do not need to find sponsors for their application. They simply need to name two persons who can be consulted as references, if necessary. The acceptance of new members will be notified in writing within a few weeks. Please note that this rule does not apply for student-members, whose application has to be endorsed by their supervisor (Bylaws Article III, Section 3). Second, a majority of voters approved the suggestion to increase the number of travel fellowships for the FENS meeting in Lisbon from 10 (as suggested by the Council) to 15. The applications have been processed and the winners will be notified very soon.

SSN Awards

Among the highlights of the Meeting was the awards ceremony for the Best Clinical Presentation and for the 2003 Best Publication.

The recognition and promotion of the work by student-members and junior scientists is one of the major goals of the SSN.

The *2003 Best Publication Award*, selected among 19 applications, was won by **Anna Ferri** (Division of Pharmacology, University of Geneva) for her article published in *Current Biology* (Vol. 13, pp. 669-673).

The Award for the *Best Clinical Presentation* was given to **Jair Stern** and co-authors (Dept. of Neurosurgery, University Hospital Zurich).

The *Volker-Henn Best Poster Award* was won by **Graham Knott** (Institute of Cell Biology and Morphology, University of Lausanne), **Dimitris Bourikas** (Institute of Zoology, University of Zurich), and **Manuel Mercier** (Laboratory of Functional Imaging, University Hospital, Geneva).

Finally, the *SSN-IBRO Fellowship for Young Investigators*, which is sponsored by the Swiss National Science Foundation, has attracted great interest. We had to make a selection from several excellent applicants. The winner for 2004 is **Mariaelena Repici** (University of Torino), who will pursue her research project at the Institute of Cell Biology and Morphology, University of Lausanne.

Travel Fellowships for the SFN Meeting

The proposal of the Council to offer 10 travel fellowships (Frs. 1'000.- each) to attend the Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience (San Diego, October 23-27) was approved by the general assembly.

The rules remain unchanged: The fellowship is reserved for student-members and junior postdocs (within three years of graduation; regular members of the SSN). The application includes the abstract (with the applicant being first author), a CV, and a letter of support from the supervisor, and has to be sent to the President of the SSN. A committee of Council members will select the 10 best applications and the winners will receive a check directly from the treasurer. **Deadline: May 31, 2004.**

Upgrade of the SSN Website

The growth of the SSN and the organization of novel activities (see below), as well as the need for an efficient channel of communication with the members and the public, represent a real challenge for the maintenance of the website. To allow for on-line registration and diffusion of information, the Council has decided to upgrade the website of the SSN in collaboration with a professional web designer. Work is underway and the novel website should be operational in a few months, in time for on-line registration to the symposia on animal experimentation. The URL (www.swissneuroscience.ch) is unchanged. The novel Website will also simplify the admission procedure of new members and the maintenance of the membership database, as well as the broad diffusion of information (such as the Newsletter).

Membership Campaign

The recent growth of the SSN follows the diffusion of a simple leaflet at the Annual Meeting. It is very encouraging but a majority of active neuroscientists and clinicians in Switzerland are not aware of the existence of the SSN and of the benefits of membership.

The Council has therefore decided to launch a membership campaign aiming at increasing significantly the number of regular, supporting, and student members. The initiatives proposed include the recognition of the Annual Meeting as part of the education of PhD-students enrolled in local graduate programs in neuroscience, the accreditation of the Annual Meeting by clinical societies, and the organization of symposia for continuous education in the fields of animal experimentation and ethics.

In addition, we are preparing a leaflet to be distributed to large circles (meetings, workshops, new colleagues, etc.) to present the goals of the SSN and to encourage new members to support (and benefit from) our activities.

Symposia on Animal Experimentation

The SSN recognizes the need to contribute to the continuous education of animal experimentation, which is now part of the law on animal welfare. This year, we are organizing two symposia, to be officially accredited by the cantonal veterinary offices, and open to all scientists needing to learn more on these topics.

The announcements are appended to this Newsletter to make sure that everybody reserves these dates. Registration will start on June 1st and will be possible on the new website of the SSN.

The registration fee, which covers the expenses of the symposia, is kept very low for SSN members, but the symposia are open to everyone on a first come-first serve basis.

Depending on the attendance and success of these symposia, similar events will be organized in the future. It will be important to receive your feedback about the choice of topics to be covered, as well as your suggestions of speakers for future symposia.

The first PhD-Student Day

Another new initiative decided by the Council last year is the organization of a PhD-student day, which will take place at Novartis, in Basel, on June 11, 2004.

This day is specifically reserved to all student-members of the SSN. Its aim is to provide a forum for social interactions among students from different backgrounds and universities, as well as to provide information about working conditions and training opportunities working within the pharmaceutical industry.

Applications will be received by e-mail (see separate announcement) on a first come-first serve basis. Please inform your colleagues about this opportunity. The only cost for them would be to join the SSN prior to registration!

First Announcement:

2005 Annual Meeting of the SSN

Joint meeting of the USGEB-SSN-SSBP

February 17 – 19, 2005

ETH - Hönggerberg, Zurich

For the first time, the Union of Swiss Societies of Experimental Biology (USGEB), the Swiss Society for Neuroscience (SSN), and the Swiss Society of Biological Psychiatry (SSBP) will hold their annual meeting together.

Over three days, plenary lectures, scientific symposia, workshops, poster sessions, and award ceremonies will be organized to bring together biologists of various backgrounds, neuroscientists, and clinicians.

The meeting will be open to all and is expected to be free of charge.

Do not miss this unique event!
Reserve the date already now in your calendar

“PhD-Student” Day

Organization: Swiss Society of Neuroscience

«Neuroscience research in industry» June 11, 2004

Venue: Novartis AG Basel
(details will be distributed after registration)

Program:

09.30 - 10.00 *Arrival & Coffee*
10.00 - 10.05 *Opening & Agenda*
10.05 - 11.00 *Short talks: the hosts present their CV and give an overview on their current activities)*
11.00 - 14.30 *Discussion & Lunch****
14.30 - 16.00 *Social: sponsored visit to the “Pharmazie-Museum”*

Hosts: Neuroscientists of different backgrounds:
Dr. Miriam Bibel, Dr. Samuel Hintermann, Dr. Ivan-Toma Vranesic,
Dr. Christoph Wiessner, and Dr. Paolo Paganetti

Language: English

Travel: on personal basis, not organized or paid by Novartis or by the SSN

Participants: The symposium is reserved to student-members of the SSN

Registration: per E-mail at paolo.paganetti@pharma.novatis.com; the number of participants is limited (max. 40); registration will be on a first come-first serve basis

****The participants will have the opportunity to ask directly questions such as: “Why did you choose to work in industry?”, “How do you feel about working in the pharmaceutical industry?”, “What are the differences between an academic and industrial environment?”, etc. A visit of the easy-to-understand-circuit on the life of a drug from discovery to market will also be offered.*

Continuous education in animal experimentation

Organization: Prof. E.M. Rouiller, Swiss Society of Neuroscience

«Invasive and non-invasive in vivo analyses in animals»

September 17, 2004

Program of the symposium:

10h00	<i>“Stereotaxic surgery”</i> Prof. Jean-Pierre Hornung , Institute of Cell Biology and Morphology, University of Lausanne
11h00	Coffee
11h30	<i>“Micro-telemetry and remote data logging”</i> Prof. Hans-Peter Lipp , Institute of Anatomy, University of Zurich
12h30	Lunch
14h00	<i>“Behavioral and electrophysiological evaluation in monkeys”</i> Dr. Thierry Wannier , Institute of Physiol., University of Fribourg
15h00	Coffee
15h30	<i>“Imaging in small animals”</i> Dr. Téa Kekelidze , University Children's Hospital, University of Zurich
16h30	End of the symposium

Location:	University of Fribourg Campus of Pérolles, Ch. du Musée 5, CH-1700 Fribourg
Language:	English
Registration:	per E-mail at Eric.Rouiller@unifr.ch or at www.swissneuroscience.ch (starting on June 1, 2004)
Registration fee:	50 Frs for SSN members; 120 Frs for non-members (limited number of participants, first come-first served basis)

An official certificate of attendance, equivalent to one day of advanced training in animal experimentation, will be distributed (approved by the cantonal veterinary office).

Continuous education in animal experimentation

Organization: Prof. I. Mansuy, Swiss Society of Neuroscience

Symposium on «Basics in Experimental Animal Behavior»

September 24, 2004

Program of the symposium:

10h00	<i>“From genotype to phenotype”</i> Prof. David P. Wolfer , Institute of Anatomy, University of Zurich
11h00	Coffee
11h30	<i>“Environmental manipulations in animals”</i> Dr. Chris Pryce , Behavioral Neurobiology Laboratory, ETH Schwerzenbach
12h30	Lunch
13h30	<i>“Assessment of emotional behavior in rodents”</i> Dr. Florence Crestani , Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Zurich
14h30	Coffee
15h00	<i>“Ethical aspects of animal experimentation exemplified in sleep and rhythm research”</i> Prof. Irene Tobler , Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Zurich
16h00	End of the symposium

Location: University of Zurich-Irchel;
Winterthurerstrasse 190, 8057 Zurich

Language: English

Registration: www.swissneuroscience.ch (starting on June 1, 2004)

Registration fee: 50 Frs for SSN members; 120 Frs for non-members
(limited number of participants, first come-first served basis)

An official certificate of attendance, equivalent to one day of advanced training in animal experimentation, will be distributed (approved by the cantonal veterinary office).