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Editorial

The year 2004 has been one of the most successful so far for the SSN, the highlight being the selection of our society to organize the 2008 FENS meeting to our Society. The meeting will take place in Geneva on July 12-16, 2008. This event represents a great challenge for the SSN but also a unique opportunity to promote Neuroscience research in our country.

The activities organized this year by the SSN, notably the PhD student day at Novartis and the two symposia on animal experimentation in Fribourg and Zurich, were well received and should be pursued in the future. The symposia were also financially profitable, which should not be underestimated at a time when acquiring sponsors is becoming more difficult. Nevertheless, we could count on the active support this year from Novartis and Serono, whom we would like to thank for their generosity.

We were able to award an unprecedented number of travel fellowships this year (in total almost Fr. 23'000.-) to attend the FENS meeting in Lisbon and the Society for Neuroscience Meeting in San Diego. Further developments have been the launch of the new SSN website in June, which offers a comprehensive platform for interactive data exchange, as well as the publication of a flyer to advertise the SSN at various venues to attract new members.

As a result of all these efforts, the membership has grown steadily and we celebrated the acceptance of our 700th member on November 24, 2004.

In 2005, the SSN will have a new President, Secretary, and Treasurer, as well as a partly renewed Council following the up-coming elections. I wish the new team all the best and as much satisfaction as we have had this year.

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2008 FENS meeting in Geneva



The Forum of European Neuroscience (i.e., FENS meeting) is held every second year in a different country and is to be organized by the local Neuroscience Society. The selection is made four years in advance by the FENS Council (which comprises one delegate from each member society and the Executive Council of the FENS). The SSN Council decided to present a bid to host the 2008 meeting in Geneva, which has extensive experience in the organization of large meetings, making it an excellent choice for a congress with over 5'000 expected participants. Furthermore, the Palexpo Conference Center is close to the airport, the city center, and the Crown Plaza Hotel, which is ideal as the headquarters for coordinating the logistics of the meeting. Finally, Geneva is easy to reach by low cost flights from many European countries. Our bid was also supported by the local political authorities and by the Secretary of state for Science, Charles Kleiber.

The FENS Council met in Budapest on November 26-27. Among the three bids presented, our proposal received a majority of votes (followed by Prague for the Czech Society and Milano for the Italian Society). Arrangements have been made with Palexpo to hold the meeting from **Saturday July 12 to Wednesday July 16, 2008**, with the possibility of having satellite meetings on Friday July 11. Please reserve these dates already now and make them known to all your colleagues!

The next steps will be to select the local organizing committee (headed by Prof. Ann Kato) and to start the planning of the meeting. This unique opportunity to promote Neuroscience in Switzerland and across Europe, combined with the facilities of Geneva Palexpo should lead to a large and highly successful meeting, covering all major

areas of Neuroscience and bringing together basic researchers, industry professionals, and clinicians.

Other news from the FENS

Another important decision taken by the FENS Council during its meeting in Budapest was the election of the program committee for the up-coming 2006 FENS meeting in Vienna (Austria). Dr. Edvard I. Moser, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, was elected Chairman of the program committee, along with 9 candidates (G. Collingridge, **D. Muller**, S.J. Sara, P. Strata, K.P. Hoffmann, M. Kossut, **H.R. Lüscher**, M. Stewart, A. Wrobel). It is a great achievement of the part of the SSN to have two delegates in this important committee and we would like to express our thanks to both of them for their time and dedication. The program committee will also include delegates selected directly by the chairman and by the local organizers in order to have a good balance of the different fields of Neuroscience. One of its first tasks will be the selection of the Symposia. All FENS members can make suggestions for Symposia, following the rules indicated on the FENS website (www.fens.org). The deadline for submission is February 28, 2005.

The 2005 Annual Meeting

The organization of the 2005 Annual Meeting of the SSN is well underway. The detailed program (and all the practical information concerning the meeting venue) are available on www.usgeb-ssn-ssbp.ethz.ch. Over 430 on-line registrations were received before the deadline of abstract submission. Late registration is possible on-site.

Each day will be devoted to distinct themes, with the plenary lectures, symposia, datablitz, and poster sessions being inter-related as best as possible. Numerous awards will be

presented by the participating societies, in addition to the Robert-Bing Award, given biennially by the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences (Saturday, February 19, 15 h 30). Plenty of time has been set aside for social interactions. The meeting should fulfill its goal to bring together scientists from various disciplines and foster synergies and interactions.

For the SSN, a major day will be Saturday February 19, with the business meeting (see below), the joint clinical symposium with the SSBP, and the annual awards given by our Society (Best Publication Award and Best Poster Awards).

Up-coming elections

The Council of the SSN will be partially renewed in 2005. Eric Rouiller, president-elect, will take charge at the beginning of the year, and a new president-elect will be chosen during the business meeting (Saturday, February 19, 12h30 – 13h30). In addition, Dominique Muller and Claudio Bassetti will step down from their function as Secretary and Treasurer. They will be replaced by Nicole Schaeren-Wiemers and Markus Rüegg, respectively. Furthermore, two Council members (Hans-Rudolph Lüscher and Peter Sonderegger) are finishing their four-year term and will be succeeded by newly elected representatives. While there have been no direct nominations, the Council has found 15 candidates to fill the four vacant positions that can be voted for by the membership. In geographical order, they are:

Geneva: J. Kiss and C. Lüscher
Lausanne: A. Zurn and L. Pellerin
Fribourg: U. Albrecht
Bern: J. Streit and H.R. Widmer
Basel: A. Lüthi
Zurich: D. Hermann, H. Jung, H.G. Wieser, K. Vogt, C. Pryce, L. Sommer, and A. Papassotiropoulos.

The election will therefore be quite open, as each candidate has less than 30% chance of being elected. Your vote will be important.

Additional items on the agenda of the business meeting will be communicated later.



SSBP Young Investigator Award

In the spirit of the joint meeting, the SSBP has offered to extend the traditional Young Investigator Award to the entire field of clinical neuroscience in addition to psychiatry and to have, exceptionally, two awardees in 2005, one for each field. The age limit is 40 and the award is based on a recent publication. The rules for application have been distributed to all SSN and SSBP members and are available on-line on the SSN website. The award is sponsored by Solvay and will be presented during the clinical symposium "Psychiatry meets Clinical Neuroscience" on Saturday February 19. Both awardees will give a short presentation of their work. **The deadline for application is December 19, 2004.**

SSN-IBRO Fellowship

The SSN-IBRO fellowship for Young Investigators is co-sponsored by the two Societies and is funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. The fellowship amounts to Frs. 40'000.- and is given to a foreign investigator to perform a one-year basic or clinical Neuroscience research project in a Swiss academic institution. The call for applications is open (see the SSN or the IBRO websites for details). **The deadline is December 31, 2004.**

Applicants need a letter of support from their host laboratory.