



Swiss Society for Neuroscience (SSN)

Newsletter Vol. 5 (4) December 2006

www.swissneuroscience.ch

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Contents

- 1 Editorial
 - 2 Joint meeting 2007 in Bern
 - 3 Elections to the SSN council
 - 4 SSN-IBRO Fellowship 2007
 - 5 SSN travel Fellowships 2007
-

Editorial

This is my last SSN newsletter, as my mandate of President of the SSN is reaching its term at the end of 2006. During the ten years spent in the council of the SSN (four years as regular member, two years as Secretary, two years as President-Elect and finally two years as President), I had the opportunity to share friendship in a highly collaborative fashion with several colleague neuroscientists who were all engaged in the promotion of Neuroscience in Switzerland, which remains the main mission of the SSN. During all these years, the number of SSN members significantly grew, several activities took place and awards were given to a number of young neuroscientists for their excellent scientific work.

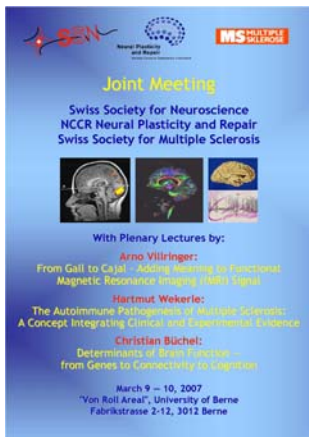
It is tradition that the transition to the new SSN council takes place, every two years, in January on the occasion of our annual meeting. In 2007, the SSN annual meeting is replaced by a joint meeting together with the NCCR-Neuro (UniZh and ETH Zh) and the SSMS, and will take place in Bern at the beginning of March 2007. As a consequence, the transition will take a bit longer as it was the wish of the President-Elect, Stephanie Clarke, to become officially President of the SSN on the occasion of this Joint Meeting. During the next two months, responsibilities will be progressively transferred to Stephanie. I take this occasion to acknowledge the great contribution during the last two years of the SSN council officers (Stephanie Clarke as President-Elect; Markus Ruegg as Treasurer and Nicole Schaeren-Wiemers as Secretary), making my mandate of President of the SSN an easy and enjoyable task. To ensure a smooth transition, in addition to the Presidency of Stephanie Clarke, two members of the SSN council kindly accepted to pursue their mandate as officers, namely Egbert Welker as Treasurer and Christoph Michel as Secretary. As you can see, the responsibilities of the SSN are concentrated in the Lemanic area in 2007 and 2008, representing certainly an ideal situation for our responsibility to organize the FENS Forum 2008 in Geneva. Thanks are also due to all other members of the SSN council, especially those leaving the council at the end of their mandate: Isabelle Mansuy, Markus Ruegg, Paolo Paganetti and Alain Barth.

Eric M. Rouiller
President SSN

Joint meeting 2007 in Bern

As mentioned several times earlier, the annual SSN meeting is replaced in 2007 by a joint meeting organized in collaboration with the National Centre of Competence in Research “Neural Plasticity and Repair” (NCCR-Neuro, with a leading house at UniZh and ETH Zh) and the Swiss Society of Multiple Sclerosis (SSMS). The local organizing committee did an excellent job, offering a quite attractive scientific program on the two days of the meeting (March 9 and 10th, 2007, von Roll areal in Bern).

There is still plenty of time to submit abstracts (on-line from the web site of the SSN) as the deadline will be postponed from January 15th to January 22nd, 2007. The three partners (SSN, NCCR-Neuro and SSMS) look forward seeing you soon in Bern.



Elections to the SSN council

During the joint meeting in Bern, on Saturday March 10th, 2007, the SSN Council invites all of you to the annual general assembly of SSN members. As mentioned in the editorial, and according to the SSN Bylaws, the members leaving the SSN council (A. Barth, I. Mansuy, P. Paganetti, E.M. Rouiller and M. Ruegg) will be replaced by four new members elected by the general assembly of the SSN. The fifth member to be replaced will be co-opted in a second step by the SSN council, thus giving the opportunity to ensure an adequate balance (geographical, thematic, etc) within the council.

During the last months, the SSN council acted as a nominating committee, prompting colleagues to be candidates for the elections to the SSN council. The following colleagues accepted:

- Pierre Lavenex (Uni Fribourg)
- René Müri (Uni Bern)
- Micah Murray (Uni Lausanne)

- Andreas Papassotiropoulos (Uni Zürich)
- Carmen Sandi (EPFL Lausanne)
- Walter Senn (Uni Bern)
- Esther Stöckli (Uni Zürich)
- Kaspar Vogt (Uni Basel)

The CV of these 8 candidates will be posted soon on the web site of the SSN so that each member can become familiar with the candidates in competition for the four seats to be filled within the SSN council.

During the same general assembly, an additional election will take place, namely the President-Elect 2007-2008 (who will automatically become President of the SSN in 2009 and 2010). The SSN council is pleased to announce that our colleague Nicole Schaeren-Wiemers (presently Secretary of the SSN) is candidate.

SSN-IBRO Fellowship 2007

The SSN council is pleased to announce that the Swiss National Science Foundation once more accepted to finance, for 2007, the SSN-IBRO fellowship, aimed at providing a one year salary for a foreign post-doctoral fellow to conduct a research project in a Swiss laboratory (basic research or clinical research). Detailed information (guidelines) is available since several months on the SSN web site. The deadline for submitting an application is January 15th 2007 to the new President of the SSN, Professor Stephanie Clarke (see address on the SSN web site).

SSN travel Fellowships 2007

On the occasion of its coming meeting on January 9th, 2007, the SSN council will decide how many travel fellowships will be offered in 2007 and which meetings abroad will be considered. The decisions will be communicated to the SSN members on the web site of the SSN by January 15th, 2007. The SSN council encourages the Ph.D. students and young post-docs to apply for these SSN travel fellowships, aimed at helping them financially to present their work in major international neuroscience meetings.

**The council of the SSN
wishes you a pleasant and
scientifically productive new
year 2007**