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## SSN - NEWSLETTER Vol. 6(1) October 2007

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### Editorial

Dear SSN Members,

Our major event in 2008 will be the 6th Forum of European Neuroscience (FENS), which will take place 12-18 July in Geneva. The SSN council and the LOC are proud to have been selected and are committed to make this meeting a successful and memorable event for European neuroscience.

You will soon receive the Second announcement of the meeting from the FENS-office. In this announcement you will discover the high level of the scientific program. In the meantime the LOC and the SSN council would like to make you aware that there are several possible ways by which you can contribute to the success of the Meeting:

1. Make sure that you and all your friends and colleagues have marked this date (July 12-18) in your agenda and that you are all coming to Geneva. The SSN has more than 800 members and the FENS 2008 meeting will be a good occasion to impress the international neuroscience community by the scope of Swiss neuroscience.
2. Plan to submit abstracts. Abstract submission will be open starting at 1<sup>st</sup> December 2007 at the official website of the meeting ( <http://forum.fens.org/2008> ) .
3. Whenever you give a presentation during the next months, please add a slide at the end of your talk to advertise the FENS 2008 meeting. A selection of power point slides can be downloaded from the SSN website <http://www.swissneuroscience.ch/> (FENS\_2008\_ad\_slide.ppt).

4. Print, post and distribute the flyer that you can find on the SSN website <http://www.swissneuroscience.ch/>
5. Let everybody know that FENS, IBRO, and their affiliated societies provide hundreds of competitive travel grants, and encourage them to apply. Details will be given in the “Second announcement”
6. If you are in contact with companies, institutions or organizations, tell them to come to the meeting as exhibitors and encourage them to sponsor the meeting in whatever form. You can also send the address of the contact person to Ann Kato, LOC president ([Ann.Kato@medecine.unige.ch](mailto:Ann.Kato@medecine.unige.ch)).

For more detailed news about FENS 2008 see Prof. A. Kato’s letter below.

The forthcoming months offer the possibility to apply for two awards. First, the Best Publication Award of the SSN is open for 2007 applications. This is a unique opportunity for young colleagues to have their work publicly recognized and we encourage them strongly to apply. Second, the Swiss Brain Liga introduces a new research prize in Neuroscience, for work which has been carried out in a Swiss institution; for more information see below.

The SSN Travel Fellowships give the opportunity to young scientists to attend international meetings. We have offered the awardees the opportunity to give a feedback of their participation and we are publishing in this issue a first contribution.

Prof. Stephanie Clarke  
President SSN



Dear Colleagues,

The Federation of European Neurosciences Societies (FENS) comprises 33 national and supranational Societies in Europe. To foster research and education in Neuroscience and strengthen the links between its societies, the FENS organizes every second year a Forum of European Neuroscience. The Swiss Society for Neuroscience is honored and privileged to host the sixth FENS Forum, which will take place in Geneva from July 12th to 16th 2008. This congress is the largest European event in the field of Neurosciences and will attract between 5000 and 6000 scientists, clinicians, and decision makers mainly from Europe, but also from North America, Asia and the Pacific region. Previous FENS meetings have been held in Berlin, Brighton, Paris, Lisbon and Vienna and have had a strong resonance in the respective countries (<http://forum.fens.org/2008>).

Neuroscience is the flagship of biomedical research in Switzerland. The organization of the FENS Forum is a unique opportunity for the Swiss Society for Neuroscience to promote and further expand this very active area of research. We expect direct benefits from the Forum for neuroscience research at all major Swiss universities. The format of this 5-day meeting consists of 9 plenary lectures given by the world’s outstanding neuroscientists, 56 symposia highlighting recent progress in all areas of Neuroscience, numerous special events,

and 3000-4000 poster presentations, giving senior and young scientists the opportunity to present and discuss their work with their peers. The FENS Forum has become the opportunity for presenting prestigious awards funded by private Foundations and commercial companies. These awards bring outstanding contributions of young scientists to the attention of the public and serve to promote their future careers in research. Seven satellite meetings and six technical workshops highlighting specific areas of research that are particularly strong in Switzerland will take place shortly before the main congress. Finally, over a hundred different international companies will be exhibiting throughout the meeting.

As the Head of the Local Organizing committee, I am writing to welcome all of our Swiss neuroscientists to attend the FENS Forum 2008. We hope that you will also encourage your foreign colleagues to participate at this international event. We are looking forward to seeing you at Palexpo-Geneva from July 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Ann Kato  
President of the Local Organizing  
Committee for FENS 2008

### **Best Publication award 2007**

Submit applications to this more and more prestigious award, aiming at distinguishing an outstanding publication of a young neuroscientist member of the SSN (Ph.D. Student, young post-doc) published between July 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and December 31<sup>st</sup> 2007. This award amounts to CHF 4'000 will be presented on the occasion of the FENS 2008 meeting in Geneva. Guidelines for application are available on the website of the SSN. Deadline for submission is January 31<sup>st</sup> 2008.

## **New Research Prize in Neuroscience**



Schweizerische Hirnliga  
Ligue suisse pour le cerveau  
Lega svizzera per il cervello

### **Invitation for entries Research prize of the Swiss Brain League**

Every two years, the Swiss Brain League awards a prize of CHF 20,000 to a Swiss research group in recognition of its outstanding scientific contribution in the field of neurological research. Both clinical and basic research projects are eligible. The prize is always awarded collectively to the group that worked on the winning initiative.

To be considered for the prize, entries must have been published or accepted for publication by an internationally recognized journal within the last two years and should principally have been written and conceived at a Swiss medical and/or scientific institution.

In addition to a scientific publication, all entries (submitted as five copies) should include a declaration stating the intended use of the prize money, a short CV with a publication list attached and a declaration of consent signed by the authors. Entries should be submitted to the Swiss Brain League, Postgasse 19, P.O. Box, 3000 Berne 8 no later than 31 October 2007 (to consult the detailed rules of entry, please send an e-mail to [info@hirnliga.ch](mailto:info@hirnliga.ch) or visit the [www.hirnliga.ch](http://www.hirnliga.ch) website).

Prof. C. W. Hess  
President of the Swiss Brain League

### **SSN Travel Fellowships 2007**

In 2007 the SSN has awarded 18 Travel fellowships to doctoral students and young postdocs: 1 to the OHBM meeting in Chicago, 2 to the European Glia Cells

meeting in London and 15 to the SFN meeting in San Diego.

We have offered the awardees the opportunity to give a feedback of their participation and below is a first contribution.

### **OHMB 13th Annual Meeting, June 10-14, 2007, Chicago, Illinois**

Thanks to the travel award that the SSN awarded to me, I could attend the thirteenth annual meeting of the Organization for Human Brain Mapping that was held in Chicago, Illinois, in great contrast with the location of last year: medieval Florence. The congress took place at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers, in the heart of town, only a couple of minutes on foot from Chicago's Magnificent Mile on Michigan Avenue. I arrived on Saturday night, and early on Sunday morning my educational course on Structural Brain Mapping (formerly called DTI / Neuroanatomy) started. The program for this course (several other ones were proposed) promised to connect classical to cutting-edge neuroanatomy methods, and aimed an interdisciplinary audience. A tantalizing mix of neuroanatomy and grey and white matter mapping followed. One of the conclusions I drew was that, by all means, segmentation of different brain regions remains a tough cookie, almost hundred years after Brodmann. Christian Beaulieu's (University of Alberta, Canada) introductory course on diffusion tractography (DT) was crystal clear and fascinating; a functional application demonstrating reduced anisotropy in specific white matter connections in children with reading problems was most illustrative. Then after the courses, on Sunday evening, the Talairach Lecture of this year was held by legendary Daniel Kahnemann, who presented a

psychological perspective on rationality. In his point of view, errors in judgment occur when automatic responses are erroneous and not corrected by more controlled and effortful cognitive processes. After a lovely reception at the Riverside Promenade, many of us went to bed early in order to get rid of our jetlags and be fresh in the morning. It is virtually impossible to resume the contents of the following 4-day meeting in just a couple of lines, so I will have to condense drastically. Like last year a well balanced offer of methodological and applied neuroimaging presentations created a "never a dull moment" atmosphere, and choices between different talks were often difficult. Some highlights for me were the lectures on the role of oscillatory activity in attention networks (Maurizio Corbetta), the fact that phonological awareness and reading facilities correlate with radial diffusivity in the corpus callosum (Brian Wandell), and a series of talks on methodological problems and possible solutions of combined EEG-fMRI recordings (Chair: Markus Ullsperger). Last but not least around three thousand posters (including mine) were exposed throughout the conference. A final conclusion to be drawn from this scientific bombardment may be the overall emerging opinion that multimodal neuroimaging approaches, combining EEG, fMRI, DT etc. will allow a more complete investigation of human cognitive neuronal architecture.

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