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## SSN - NEWSLETTER Vol. 7(2) July 2008

### Contents

- Editorial
- Jump-The-FENS
- SSN Annual Meeting 2009
- New Editors-in-Chief for EJNI
- Théodore-Ott-Prize Laureates
- Call for Symposia at FENS 2010
- Best Publication Award 2008
- IFP Grants



### Editorial

Dear SSN members,

The 6th Forum of European Neuroscience (FENS), which took place 12-16 July 2008 in Geneva, was perceived by many as an outstanding meeting. Many thanks to the Programme Committee for the excellent programme and to Ann Kato and her team for a great organisation! The attendance was exceptional, 5300 scientists and 300 exhibitors.

Many colleagues commented with enthusiasm on the social aspects of the meeting, including the memorable opening night concert, Jump-The-FENS and the SSN Social. The meeting raised a great interest and was very well covered by Swiss and international media.

Next year our Annual Meeting will take place on 14<sup>th</sup> March in Fribourg: please reserve the date. In 2010 the 7<sup>th</sup> Forum of European Neuroscience will take place 3-7 July in Amsterdam. The FENS has issued the Call for Symposia, for which the deadline will be in March 2009.

Congratulations to Jean-Marc Fritschy, who has been nominated, jointly with Martin Sarter, Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Neuroscience! Jean-Marc gives us in this issue an overview about new developments in the journal.

The SSN awards every year the Best Publication Award, a prize to a student-member working towards a predoctoral or a doctoral degree for a best publication. Read about the 2008 Call in this issue.

Stephanie Clarke  
President SSN



## Many thanks to Ann Kato and the Task Force!

The success of FENS 2008 relied on the tireless investment of Ann Kato, chair of the LOC, and the lemanic task force, Christoph Michel, Dominique Muller, Egbert Welker, Jozsef Kiss and Beatrice Roth.



Ann Kato at the opening ceremony of FENS 2008

## Jump-the-FENS

A great success at FENS 2008 were the three nights organized by Arnaud Bisetti, Pierre Mégevand, Lorenzo Poggia, Charles Quairiaux and Dragana Viceic. At Palexpo the booth of the Lemanic Doctoral School was a very much prized meeting point.





## **SSN Annual Meeting 2009 – reserve the date!**

Next year's annual meeting will take place on Saturday March 14 2009 in Fribourg. Pierre Lavenex, member of the SSN Council, is chairing the Local Organizing Committee. Reserve the date now and read more about the programme in the next issue of the Newsletter.

## **New Editors-in-Chief for the European Journal of Neuroscience**

Jean-Marc Fritschy has been nominated, jointly with Martin Sarter, Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Neuroscience. Their nomination marks new developments for the journal, which are presented below by Jean-Marc Fritschy.

Jean-Marc Fritschy writes: Under the Editorship of Barry Everitt and Chris Henderson, EJM has evolved into a major, international neuroscience journal, publishing over 700 research reports per year. EJM is published on behalf of FENS. The School program and other important FENS activities are supported by, and in fact depend on, the revenues generated by EJM.

Barry and Chris stepped down a few weeks ago, and we (Jean-Marc Fritschy and Martin Sarter) accepted serving as Co-Editors-in-Chief. We have formed a

new group of editors, developed a new structure and layout for EJM and have been working on several initiatives designed to enhance the visibility and impact of EJM.

We are strongly committed to improve the scientific quality of the articles that are published by EJM. We have introduced several measures to increase the quality of the articles published in EJM. These measures include a rigorous decision scheme for manuscripts reviewed by EJM, close communication with the Associate Editors to ensure consistent decisions and quality control, and a revision of the 'Guidelines for Authors' (to be found on the EJM website).

Furthermore, we will highlight the best articles in EJM as "Featured Articles"; these articles will be accompanied by a commentary written by one of the Editors. Fourth, EJM will feature "Technical Spotlights". These relatively short articles (see Author Instructions for details) will address the use of new and classical techniques and procedures and discuss controversial research approaches and strategies. To enhance the accessibility and readability of the journal, EJM will be subdivided into five major sections.

We noted that the proportion of submissions to EJM from European countries does not fully reflect the enormous growth of neuroscience in Europe and the increase in membership of FENS. For example, Swiss Neuroscientists form the 1000 member-strong SSN but publish only about 22 papers per year in EJM! This amounts to one publication in EJM by an individual Swiss neuroscientist once every 50 years. Furthermore, the rejection rate of articles submitted to EJM by Swiss scientists is close to 50%, suggesting that Swiss neuroscientists not only are reluctant to submit to EJM but they seem to send only their second or third best work to their "official" journal!

While EJM will continue to enhance its status as an international neuroscience journal, we have felt that it is crucial that we bring EJM closer to the FENS members. Ultimately, FENS members should consider EJM as “their” flagship neuroscience journal. We have begun taking several steps toward this goal. For example, in addition to an outstanding, international group of Associate Editors who oversee the review process of individual manuscripts, we have formed a group of Contributing Editors. We typically think of Contributing Editors as “raising stars” who commit to reviewing manuscripts and making other contributions to EJM and, generally, to serving as ambassadors for EJM in their communities. We have asked the FENS National Societies for nominations for the European contingent of Contributing Editors and were quite surprised about the enormous enthusiasm expressed by the National Societies and the nominees. Clearly, many scientists share our views that EJM needs to grow and become THE journal of FENS, and they are motivated to contribute toward these goals. As a result of this enthusiastic response, the board of Contributing Editors has grown to over 60 members. Authors submitting to EJM can therefore count on a timely and competent review of their work. Other measures designed to enhance the perception of EJM by FENS members include the organization of an EJM symposium at FENS meetings.

Look out for the first “new” issue of EJM, to be published soon. Embrace EJM as the official journal of FENS, the journal that enables many important FENS activities. Therefore, consider the journal as an outlet for your best work. As scientists search for articles by authors and themes, and not by journals, your best work will be cited as frequently as it deserves to be, it may be selected as a “Featured Paper” and thus gain substantial visibility, and it will assist EJM in rapidly enhancing its impact.

We are looking forward to receiving your submissions. Do not hesitate to contact

us if you have any ideas and suggestions how to improve EJM.

## **Théodore Ott Prize 2007**

The Théodore Ott Prize of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences, the most prestigious neuroscience prize in Switzerland, was attributed for 2007 jointly to Professor Theodor Landis and to Professor Reinhard Stocker. The ceremony took place during the FENS 2008 meeting in Geneva.



Theodor Landis is Head of Neurology at the University Hospital in Geneva. His research field is behavioural neurology of which is one of the leading figures. Many of his publications became “classics”. By attributing the prize to Theodor Landis, the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences honoured the width, the originality and creativity of his scientific contribution and his major contribution to the promotion of young clinical scientists.



Reinhard Stocker is Professor of Biology at the University of Fribourg. His research career is devoted to olfaction of *Drosophila*, where he contributed seminal studies ranging from structural to molecular biology. By attributing the prize to Reinhard Stocker, the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences honoured the basic neuroscientist whose contributions opened new understanding of olfaction in higher organisms.

## Call for Symposia at FENS 2010



→ Call for Symposia

**7<sup>th</sup>**  
**FENS**  
FORUM OF  
EUROPEAN  
NEUROSCIENCE

July 3–7, 2010  
Amsterdam | The Netherlands

Organized by the Federation of European Neuroscientists Societies (FENS)  
Hosted by the Dutch Neurosciences

A must in Europe for  
neuroscientists all over the world

The Forum Programme Committee will establish the scientific programme of the FENS Forum 2010 on the basis of the proposals from European scientists from all areas of neuroscience research

Instructions and application forms for symposia can be obtained from  
<http://forum.fens.org/2010>  
or by e-mail  
[fensforum@bordeaux.inserm.fr](mailto:fensforum@bordeaux.inserm.fr)

For local meeting affairs contact local organizers by e-mail  
[forum2010@eurocongress.com](mailto:forum2010@eurocongress.com)

## Best Publication Award 2008

The SSN awards every year a prize to a student-member working towards a pre-doctoral or a doctoral degree for a best publication.

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 December 1 2007 and November 30 2008. This award amounts to CHF 4'000 will be presented on the occasion of the SSN Annual Meeting on March 14 2009 in Fribourg. Guidelines for application are available on the website of the SSN. Deadline for submission is December 5 2008.

## IFP Grants



The  
**International Foundation for Research  
In Paraplegia (IRP) Geneva / Zurich**

invites applications for

## RESEARCH GRANTS

in the field of

**Basic and Clinical Research on  
CNS Regeneration / Neuroprotection  
and Functional Restoration**

with special emphasis on the spinal cord. Funds for one or two years will be allocated on the basis of scientific quality and relevance to paraplegia for research proposals studying mechanisms of injury and repair, as well as long term recovery.

**Applications by start up groups are welcome.**

Applications will be reviewed by an international panel of basic and clinical neuroscientists.

Deadline for applications: **October 17, 2008**

Please use our online form to submit your application.

Internet address: [www.irp.ch/grants](http://www.irp.ch/grants)  
For more information please contact E-mail:  
[info@irp.ch](mailto:info@irp.ch)