



Swiss Society for Neuroscience

www.swissneuroscience.ch

Committee members:

S. Clarke
President

N. Schaeren-Wiemers
Vice-president

Ch. Michel
Secretary

E. Welker
Treasurer

J. Kiss
P. Lavenex
C. Lüscher
A. Lüthi
J. Mosbacher
R. Müri
C. Sandi
E. Seifritz
E. Stöckli
A. Zurn

SSN - NEWSLETTER Vol. 7(3) November 2008

Contents

- Editorial
- Annual Meeting 14th March 2009 in Fribourg
- Best Publication Award 2008
- FENS initiative: National Scientific Highlights of the Year
- SSN-IBRO Fellowship for Young Investigators 2009
- SSN Travel Fellowships 2009

Editorial

Dear SSN members,

Our forthcoming, 2009 Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday 14 March in Fribourg. The Local Organising Committee, chaired by Pierre Lavenex offers an excellent programme and a convivial occasion to meet fellow scientists. Please note that the registration is now open and the registration deadline is 31 January 2009.

As already recalled in the July Newsletter, 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 as well as the FENS initiative National Scientific Highlights of the Year in this issue.

The Swiss National Science Foundation agreed to continue to finance the SSN-IBRO Fellowships for Young Investigators and increased, at our request, the allocated sum to CHF 55'000.- . Detailed information (guidelines) is below and on the SSN web site.

The SSN Travel Fellowships will cover in 2009 attendance at the Society for Neuroscience meeting. Taking into account the great variety of topics represented in our society, the SSN council decided to offer in addition also fellowships to other scientific meetings during the whole of 2009, chosen by the applicants. For conditions and deadlines, see below and the website.

Stephanie Clarke
President SSN

SSN Annual Meeting: Saturday 14th March 2009 in Fribourg

Dear Colleagues,

The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Swiss Society for Neuroscience will take place on Saturday March 14th 2009 at the University of Fribourg. Following the outstanding 6th FENS Forum of European Neuroscience meeting held in Geneva in 2008, our society will return to a regular, but certainly not ordinary, meeting in 2009. The local organizing committee is pleased to present an exciting scientific program that should reinforce the links between disciplines and highlights the importance of fundamental neuroscience research in solving today's health problems.

Our next year's annual meeting will feature a new format, including two plenary lectures by world-renowned experts, a data blitz session for graduate and postdoctoral students' presentations, the traditional poster session and three parallel specialized symposiums that will cover the breadth of neuroscience research conducted in Switzerland.

The morning plenary lecture will be given by Professor Roger Lemon, Director of the Institute of Neurology at University College in London. Dr. Lemon will discuss his work with experimental primates and humans on the control of skilled hand movements by the brain, and how this fundamental knowledge can be applied to facilitate treatment and recovery following stroke or spinal injury in humans.

Following the students' data blitz session, ample time and space have been reserved for the poster presentations. Abstract submission has been simplified and presentations are now grouped in three main categories in order to further enhance interaction among participants. When submitting your abstract, you will

only have to choose between: (1) cellular and molecular neuroscience, (2) systems neuroscience, and (3) clinical neuroscience. Registration is now open; deadline for abstract submission is Saturday January 31st 2009.

In addition, next year's meeting will include three specialized symposiums with topics covering fundamental neuroscience, clinical neuroscience and computational neuroscience. These symposiums have been organized to present various fields of neuroscience conducted in Switzerland to the broad Swiss neuroscience community. Ample time has been reserved to allow for questions and discussion. Presentations should provide food for thought to both specialists and others interested in learning what is happening outside their own immediate field of research.

The afternoon plenary lecture will be given by Professor Andrea Volterra, Director of the Department of Cell Biology and Morphology at the University of Lausanne. Dr. Volterra, a pioneer in the study of astrocytes, will discuss his work on the role of astrocytes in synaptic transmission, and how fundamental knowledge of the structure and function of these, too often neglected, cells can contribute to our understanding and possible treatment of several brain disorders.

Following the success of last year's meeting in Geneva, we hope to see a large number of you, the now more than 1100 SSN members active in all fields of neuroscience research. The meeting will take place in the newest building of the University of Fribourg, at Péroilles 2, just 5 minutes by bus from the railway station. With its central location in Switzerland, Fribourg is only 1 hour and 30 minutes by train from both Zurich and Basel and only 1 hour and 15 minutes from Geneva. And if you have to get up early, you will be able to fully wake up with a free coffee

offered by one of our sponsors, Villars Maître Chocolatier.

Next year's meeting of the Swiss Society for Neuroscience should be a « must » for all of us. We are looking forward to seeing in Fribourg.

On behalf of the Local Organizing Committee and the SSN Council,

Pierre Lavenex

The programme is enclosed at the end of the Newsletter.

Best Publication Award 2008

As already announced in the July Newsletter, we draw your attention to this award. The SSN gives every year a prize to a student-member working towards a predoctoral 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.

FENS initiative: National Scientific Highlights of the Year

FENS started in 2007 a new initiative, which allows each national society to propose a Scientific Highlight of the Year, which will be then posted on the FENS website. The SSN council wishes to honour young scientist in this way and to

link the Swiss National Scientific Highlight to the Best Publication Award (see above for application).

SSN-IBRO Fellowship 2009

The SSN council is pleased to announce that the Swiss National Science Foundation once more accepted to finance, for 2009, the SSN IBRO fellowship, which provides a one year salary for a foreign post-doctoral fellow to conduct a research project in a Swiss laboratory (basic or clinical research). The amount of the grant has been increased and is now CHF 55'000.-. Detailed information (guidelines) is available on the SSN website. The deadline for submitting an application is January 15th 2009, to be sent to the new President of the SSN, Nicole Schaeren-Wiemers (see address on the SSN website).

SSN Travel Fellowships 2009

For 2009 the SSN offers travel fellowships to attend international scientific meetings:

- 10 fellowships for Society for Neuroscience, 17-21 October 2009, Chicago (application deadline 31 January 2009)
- 5 fellowships for international meetings between January and June 2009 (no fixed deadline)
- 5 fellowships for an international meetings (no fixed deadline)

The fellowships are CHF 700.- for meetings in Europe and CHF 1500.- for meetings outside Europe.

Please submit your application via e-mail, in a single pdf file, to the new President, Nicole Schaeren-Wiemers (see address on the SSN website).



Swiss Society for Neuroscience

Annual Meeting, University of Fribourg, March 14th 2009

PROGRAM

8:45 Registration, Poster set-up, Coffee

9:15 Welcome address

Stephanie Clarke, President of the Swiss Society for Neuroscience
Fritz Müller, Vice-Rector for Research, University of Fribourg

9:30 Plenary Lecture I: Auditorium Joseph Deiss

Chair: Eric Rouiller, University of Fribourg

Prof. Roger Lemon

Sobell Chair of Neurophysiology
Institute of Neurology
University College London

"A delicate explorer of space": cortical control of the primate hand

10:30 Data blitz, Auditorium Joseph Deiss

Chair: Christoph Michel, Andreas Lüthi

Selection of 10 students for a 3-minute (one-slide) presentation

11:30 Lunch and Posters

Pérolles II and "Ecole d'ingénieurs"

14:15 Business meeting, Auditorium Joseph Deiss

Chair: Stephanie Clarke, Nicole Schaeren-Wiemers, outgoing and incoming Presidents of the Swiss Society for Neuroscience

14:45 Parallel symposiums

Symposium I: Room G140

Chair: Andreas Thum, University of Fribourg

Fundamental neuroscience: Neural basis of behavior

- Andreas Lüthi, FMI Basel

Dissecting emotional memory circuits in mouse amygdala

- Rainer Friedrich, FMI Basel

Processing of odor representation in the olfactory system of zebrafish

- Roland Strauss, University of Mainz

Neural basis of locomotor behavior in *Drosophila*



Swiss Society for Neuroscience

Annual Meeting, University of Fribourg, March 14th 2009

P R O G R A M (continued)

Symposium II: Room G120

Chair: Thomas Dierks, University of Bern

Clinical neuroscience

- Werner Strik, University of Bern
Neurobiology of psychotic symptoms
- Erich Seifritz, University of Bern
Translational research in psychiatric neuroscience
- Christian Hess, University of Bern
Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation in clinical neuroscience

Symposium III: Room E140

Chair: Walter Senn, University of Bern

Computational neuroscience: Making sense of complexity

- Richard Hahnloser, ETHZ
Why experimental neuroscientists need computational colleagues
- Claudia Clopath, EPFL
Modeling synaptic plasticity across different time scales: the influence of voltage, spike timing, and protein synthesis
- Stefano Fusi, ETHZ/Columbia
Complex, mixed neuronal selectivity is important in context dependent tasks

16:00 Awards

16:30 Plenary lecture II: Auditorium Joseph Deiss

Chair: Pierre Lavenex, University of Fribourg

Prof. Andrea Volterra

Director Dept of Cell Biology and Morphology

Faculty of Biology and Medicine

University of Lausanne

Astrocytes as active synaptic partners: in sickness and in health

17:30 Closing remarks, followed by Farewell apéritif

Nicole Schaeren-Wiemers, incoming President of the Swiss Society for Neuroscience