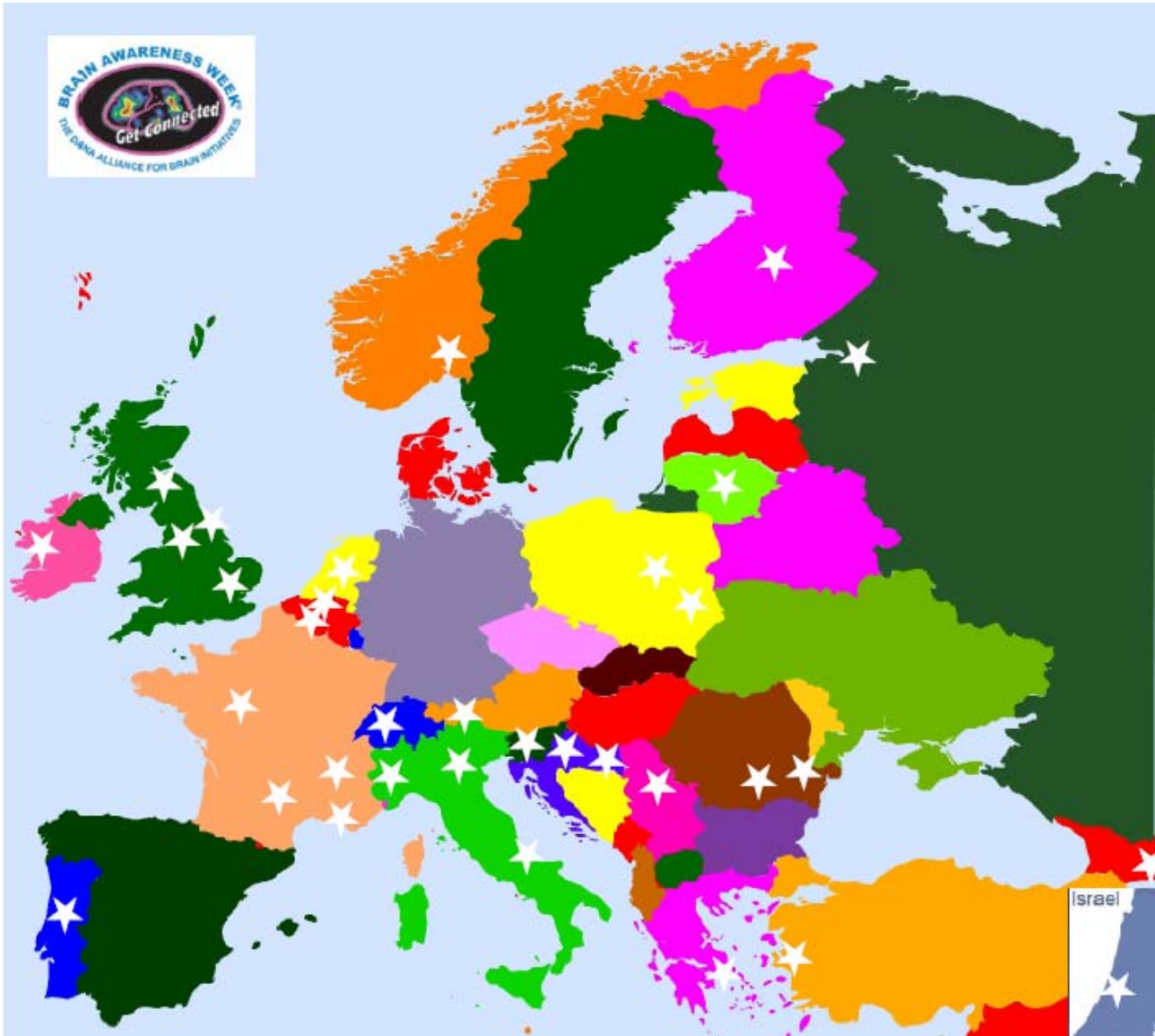


FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN NEUROSCIENCE SOCIETIES



Report on the Use of the Grant for Brain Awareness Week Events in Europe

The directors of the Dana Foundation approved a grant in the amount of US\$35.000 (equivalent to 26.000 Euros) to FENS. This money enabled FENS to fund small grants to European Brain Awareness Week partner organizations for public programming during the campaign. FENS distributed these grants in a competitive procedure. A call for applications was launched and the best projects were funded.

Advertising

A call for applications was sent by email to all members in all FENS member societies in the beginning of December 2008. The deadline for application was January 8, 2009. Furthermore, the BAW grants were announced in the News section on the FENS website. A reminder email was sent by mid December 2008. The applicants had to submit their proposal on a standardized application form.

Selection procedure

The selection was done by a committee composed of members of Dana, Edab, and FENS:

Barbara Gill (Dana)

Pierre Magistretti (Edab)

Beatrice Roth (Edab)

Alois Saria (FENS)

Fotini Stylianopoulou (FENS)

72 applications from 24 different European countries were submitted. Approx. 29 projects could have been funded from the Dana grant. Since there were so many excellent proposals FENS decided to add 3.111 Euro. Therefore, finally 34 projects in 22 different European countries could be supported, (see attached list).

The following BAW events (listed in alphabetical order by country) were selected for funding. A report sent in by the organizer of each project is in the appendix:

1. Georg Dechant (Innsbruck, Austria) **SNI Brain Awareness Week and Neuroscience Day 2009**
2. Koen Tahon (Wilrijk, Belgium) **Plastic neurons**
3. Roland Pochet (Brussels, Belgium) **From stem cells to neurons: a forum held at the European Parliament in Brussels**
4. Marija Heffer-Lauc (Osijek, Croatia) **Think unthinkable**
5. Ivica Kostovic (Zagreb, Croatia) **Brain & Evolution**
6. Heikki Tanila (Kuopio, Finland) **Interactive neuroscience posters**
7. Carlos Cardoso (Marseille, France) **Brain and hormones: who's the boss?**
8. Isabelle Le Brun (Grenoble, France) **The Brain explains itself**
9. François Chollet (Toulouse, France) **Brain Awareness Week in Toulouse**
10. Yves Tillet (Nouzilly, France) **Brain Awareness Week**
11. Merab Tsagareli (Tbilisi area, Georgia) **Nervous System Functioning in Health and Diseases**
12. Spiros Efthimiopoulos (Athens, Greece) **Dependence: A brain disease - From the neuron to the brain and to behaviour - Journey to the Brain**
13. Karen Doyle (Galway, Ireland) **The Beauty of Neuroscience**
14. Illana Gozes (Tel Aviv, Israel) **Brain Awareness Week in Israel**
15. A. Maria Mariggìò (Chieti area, Italy) **The brain: Our Wondering Box - University of G. d'Annunzio brings Neuroscience into the Schools**

16. Guiseppe Zappala (Torino, Italy) **Neurosciences & Art**
17. Mario Bonato (Padova, Italy) **The future of Cognitive Neuroscience: young researchers discuss about mind and brain**
18. D. Corrie Jankeviciene (5 cities, Lithuania) **"Your Amazing Brain!**
19. Joel Glover (Oslo, Norway) **Lecture Series on Brain Development and Function**
20. Emilia Zabielska (Lublin, Poland) **The Days of the Brain: 4 ways of neurosciences'**
21. Jolanta Zagrodzka (Warsaw, Poland) **Brain Awareness Week 2009**
22. Rosa Resende (Coimbra area, Portugal) **Exercising our senses. Fitting our brain**
23. Cristian Gurzu (Braila, Romania) **Brightness Brains**
24. Leon Zagrean (Bucharest, Romania) **Brainstorming on improving sleep efficiency**
25. Marina Chernisheva (St. Petersburg, Russia) **Neurobiology for the Society**
26. Milka Culic (Belgrade, Serbia) **Brain Awareness Week 2009 in Serbia**
27. Maja Bresjana (Ljubljana, Slovenia) **Brain Awareness Week (BAW) in Slovenia 2009**
28. Pascal Wurtz (Bern, Switzerland) **Brainweek Bern 2009**
29. Hilleke Hulshoff Pol (Several cities, The Netherlands) **Neuroscientists at school**
30. Gonul Peker (Izmir, Turkey) **Brain Bee, Brain and Behavior Science and Health, Brain and Behavior in Artistic Cinema**
31. Jane Haley (Edinburgh, UK) **How we see the brain and what the brain sees**
32. Stuart Allan (Manchester area, UK) **Brain Bus II**
33. Natasha Sigala (Cambridge, UK) **Introduction to the brain for preschool children**
34. Kirsty Halliday (York, UK) **Me, Myself and MRI**

European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 1

Georg Dechant (Innsbruck, Austria)

SNI Brain Awareness Week and Neuroscience Day 2009

Organisation:

Georg Dechant, Univ-Prof, Dr
SNI Executive Chair
Institute for Neuroscience
Innsbruck Medical University
MZA, Anichstrasse 35
6020 Innsbruck
Austria

Phone: +43 512 50427389
Email: georg.dechant@i-med.ac.at

Dates and Duration: March 16 - 19, 2009

School Program: 9.15 am – 1.15pm
Evening Lecture Series: 6.15 pm – 7.30 pm

Collaboration with the “Wagner’sche Universitätsbuchhandlung”: Monday to Thursday, including a press conference on Monday, 10.00 am, and a discussion between experts from Innsbruck Medical University and the public from 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm

The BAW commenced with a press conference held at the Wagner’sche Buchhandlung. Members of the SNI were available for discussions with customers. The book store prepared an exposition of popular scientific literature on the brain and a window display.

A special school program for high school classes was offered. Teachers pre-selected the topics for lectures and the lab-visit. Each class attended two lectures and visited a lab. Lectures were about drug abuse, neuronal wiring, brain surgery and fear and anxiety, to name just a few. The classes visited the labs of the Neurology Dept. (e. g. the sleep lab) and the Neurosurgery Dept., the labs of the Inst. for Neuroscience, the Inst. of Pharmacology, the Div. of Neurobiochemistry and the Div. of Neuroanatomy. 21 high schools from the Tyrol and South Tyrol/Italy (i. e. a total of 1.600 students) attended this event.

We also organized a series of evening lectures that were numerously attended by the general public. Talks were presented by specialists from Innsbruck Medical University on “Remembering Numbers” (M. Delazer), “The Biology of Human Behavior” (A. Saria) and “Chronobiology” (B. Högl). The invited guest speaker, Michael Bach from the Univ. of Freiburg, gave a talk on “Optical Illusions.”

European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 2

Koen Tahon (Wilrijk, Belgium)

Plastic neurons

Organisation:

Koen Tahon
University of Antwerp
Universiteitsplein 1
2610 Antwerp - Wilrijk
Belgium

Phone: +32 32 652488
Email: koen@tnb.ua.ac.be

Dates and Duration: March 16 - 20, 2009

Workshops on Monday (4 sessions of 1 hour), Wednesday (1 session) and Friday (7 sessions) during the BAW

With this BAW event we were able to reach 235 students in different schools. Since our goal was to reach 100 students it was a success.

In total, 12 workshops were given to students of 14 - 16 years old (2nd and 3rd grade in secondary school).

Before starting to play with modeling clay and electronic neurons, a short introduction to some brain basics was given. A small model brain, the stuffed neurons of Giant Microbes© and the body puzzles of Beleduc© came as useful attributes there.

Then the fun part started. The classroom was divided into 4 groups, 2 of which were allowed to construct neurons with modeling clay; the other 2 had to construct simple circuits with sensors, neurons and actuators (My First Neuron®). At the end of the session, students explained to each other what they had constructed and what they had learned. With this initiative we hope to have encouraged their general interest in science or biology and we might have motivated a few students of becoming a neuroscientist.

European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 3

Roland Pochet (Brussels, Belgium)

From stem cells to neurons: a forum held at the European Parliament in Brussels

Organisation:

Roland Pochet, Prof
Université Libre de Bruxelles
Histology
Neuroanatomy and Neuropathology_CP 620
808 route de Lennik
1070 Bruxelles
Belgium

Phone: +322 556374
Email: rpochet@ulb.ac.be

Dates and Duration: March 18, 2009

It is thanks to the date's coincidence of BAW and European Parliament session in Brussels and the kind welcome by Philippe Busquin, member of the European Parliament that such a special day at the EP could happen. One of the challenge being to organize the entrance of students in accordance with Security rules.

Concept:

The event was organized with STOA (Science and Technology Options Assessment) (see poster) and divided in two parts (see poster)

During the morning 130 young students (14 - 18 years old) from 10 secondary schools from 5 cities (Beauraing, Brussels, Charleroi, Dinant and Namur) visited the E. P. and had a 40 min presentation by Mr. François Brunagel of Europe has it stands and what it achieved in 65 years of peace in Europe. At 11.00 a conference "From stem cells to neural circuits: Mechanisms and perspectives for brain diseases" was given by Pierre Vanderhaeghen (Université Libre de Bruxelles) followed by questions/responses by students and members of the Parliament. The afternoon was dedicated to a debate "From Stem cells to neuroethics" at which a panel of experts in neuroethics participated including Pr. Goran Hermeren, President of the European Ethics Group and Dr. Michael Rogers, specialist in neuroethics. A teleconference was also established between Oxford and EP with Pr. Julian Savulescu during the debate. This debate was particularly timely because of the Stem Cells Executive Order signed March 9 by President Obama.

Conclusion:

The morning participants were enthusiastic and I received many mails of acknowledgment amongst them one clearly stated that after the conference several vocations for brain research raised.

A whole page in the well known journal "Le Soir" was dedicated to Brain research (see attached)

Another conclusion can be found in the mail I received from STOA secretary, see below:

Thread-Topic: Acknowledgement Thread-Index: From: "KARAPIPERIS Theodoros" <theodoros.karapiperis@europarl.europa.eu> To: "Roland Pochet" rpochet@ulb.ac.be

Dear Roland,

I am writing to express, also on behalf of Mr. Busquin, STOA's sincerest thanks for the very successful event you helped us organise at the European Parliament. Both the lecture by Prof. Vanderhaeghen and the afternoon debate with the most eminent collection of bioethics experts were a unique experience in the European Parliament, setting a new standard for similar events in the future. The presence of all the young people in the lecture added a very positive and forward-looking element to the event and underlined the close links that the Parliament pursues with civil society. All this would have not been possible without your commitment and hard work.

I do hope that this first experience will not stand alone, but will be the first step in a lasting cooperation between STOA and the medical and bioethics community. In fact STOA, in cooperation with several French public research organisations, is organising a lunch-debate in Strasbourg tomorrow, with the participation of Ms. Barr_-Sinoussi, Nobel Prize laureate for medicine in 2008, on the occasion the forthcoming vote on the proposal for a Directive on the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes.

Kind regards, Theo



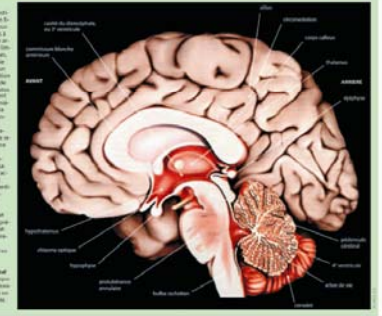
Neurologie / La recherche spécifique progresse vite, mais reste sous-financée
Le cerveau, au cœur de l'homme

LES RESSORTS cérébraux sont dévoilés par l'imagerie. Mais champs d'investigation et espoirs sont plus grands encore.

Chaque année, plus de 100 millions de personnes souffrent de troubles neurologiques... Les progrès de l'imagerie médicale ont permis de mieux comprendre le fonctionnement du cerveau...

La recherche de l'épilepsie, des maladies neurodégénératives et des troubles du développement... Les avancées de la génétique ont permis de mieux comprendre les bases moléculaires de ces maladies...

Du cortex rétilait avec des cellules souches... Les cellules souches peuvent être utilisées pour traiter certaines maladies neurologiques...



Brotchi : « Les neurosciences vont préserver la qualité de la vie »

Le professeur Brotchi, directeur de l'Institut de Neurosciences de l'Université de Liège, a déclaré lors d'un colloque...

« Les neurosciences vont préserver la qualité de la vie », a déclaré le professeur Brotchi... Les avancées de la recherche en neurosciences ont permis de mieux comprendre le fonctionnement du cerveau...

Les neurosciences ont permis de mieux comprendre le fonctionnement du cerveau... Les avancées de la recherche en neurosciences ont permis de mieux comprendre le fonctionnement du cerveau...



Brain Awareness Week at the European Parliament. Organized by STOA in cooperation with the European Data Alliance for the Brain (EDAB) and the Belgian Brain Council... Wednesday, 18 March 2009, European Parliament, Brussels. CONFERENCE: From stem cells to neural circuits: Mechanisms and perspectives for brain diseases. Speaker: Pierre VANDERHAEGHEN, Université Libre de Bruxelles, ULB. Debating Philippe BURGUN, STOA, Commission.

European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 4

Marija Heffer-Lauc (Osijek, Croatia)

Think unthinkable

Organisation:

Marija Heffer-Lauc
Associated Professor
School of Medicine
University of J. J. Strossmayer, Osijek
Department of Medical Biology
Department of Human Anatomy and Neuroscience
Huttlerova 4
31 000 Osijek
Croatia

Phone: +385 31 512845
Email: mheffer@mefos.hr

Dates and Duration: March 9 - 27, 2009

We started one week before BAW with painting competition for pupils of High school for textile, design and applied art. Competition finished on Friday, 13th March and exhibition was held during BAW and week after. Also, the last lecture was arranged for Friday 27th March.

A week before BAW we held a workshop "The mirror of the soul" in painting human faces expressing emotions organized in collaboration with Osijek Acting Academy. Independent jury graded more than one hundred drawings which were exhibited during BAW. Students of Section for Neuroscience prepared four workshops: "Reading emotions", "The music box", "Put on your dancing shoes" and "The sign slang". Each workshop was intended to test and indicate special skills – perfect pitch, sense of rhythm, ability to recognize emotions or read symbols. Kids were instructed how different skills are performed and how they evolved as human trades. Workshops were held at seven elementary schools and 2 high schools in Osijek. Public was invited to participate in workshops, attend lectures and visit exhibition at the Aula of University J. J. Strossmayer. Events of BAW were announced on local radio and television stations, as well on internet (in Croatian: http://www.osijek031.com/osijek.php?topic_id=18686).

European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 5

Ivica Kostovic (Zagreb, Croatia)

Brain & Evolution

Organisation:

Ivica Kostović
Croatian Institute for Brain Research
School of Medicine
University in Zagreb
Croatian Society for Neuroscience
Šalata 12
10000 Zagreb
Croatia

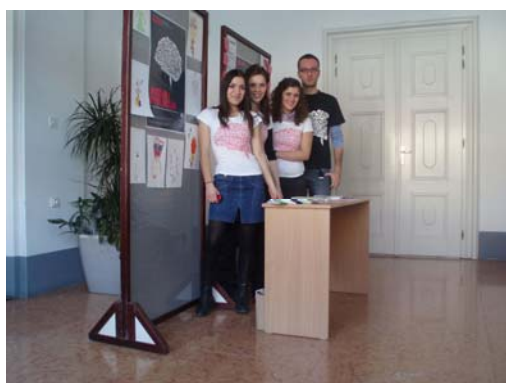
Phone: +385 1 4596902

Email: ikostov@hiim.hr

Dates and Duration: March 16 - 20, 2009

The BAW 2009 in Croatia focused on the brain and evolution. One of the most interesting topics for wide audience is what makes us human and how this is related to structure and function of our brains. In the year of Darwin, it is essential to point out what brain systems may be unique for humans and to explain what is the neurobiological basis of human-specific neurological and mental disorders (such as language impairments, schizophrenia, autism). At the Croatian Institute for Brain Research in Zagreb we presented to the wide audience how the human frontal lobe functions in decision-making, emotional regulation and social interactions (including moral attitudes), cognition and language. Furthermore, we presented current views on human-specific brain structures and functional systems, which enable human-specific forms of communication and its breakdown in various disorders. The special emphasize was given to first 3 years of postnatal life, when human children acquire theory of mind and ability for symbolic communication – what occurred during evolution of human life-history strategy to enable changes in pattern of brain development which served as the neurobiological basis for development of human-specific abilities?

We addressed the general public and had more than 50(!) TV and media appearances discussing the “brain” topics. More than 1.000 visitors attended public lectures about specific disorders (schizophrenia, autism, depression) and language. Throughout entire Brain Awareness Week we organized lectures and workshops for approximately 500 preschool children, school children, undergraduate students and their educators and teachers. Large number of experts, young researchers, students and volunteers contributed to BAW in Croatia this year, organized in 5 university centers (Osijek, Rijeka, Split, Zadar, Zagreb).



European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 6

Heikki Tanila (Kuopio, Finland)

Interactive neuroscience posters

Organisation:

Heikki Tanica, Prof
Kuopio University Neuroscience Center
Department of Neurobiology
A. I. Virtanen Institute
University of Kuopio
P.O.Box 1627/ Neulaniementie 2
70211 Kuopio
Finland

Phone: +358 40 3552084
Email: Heikki.Tanila@uku.fi

Dates and Duration: March 9 – 14, 2009

The leading idea of the project was to bring information about the brain and brain research to a venue where people generally interested to gain new information would search for it, the public library. We took advantage of the central location of main public library in Kuopio in the city center and its lobby that is specifically designed for continuously changing exhibitions. We set up an exhibition consisting of 30 colorful self-explanatory posters covering various brain-related topics starting from brain anatomy, basics of neuronal communication and mental functions such as visual perception, motor control, language, sleep and memory. Other topics included brain development, most common brain disorders, and modern research approaches to understand brain function. All this information was written in layman Finnish. The posters were prepared by students of the Finnish Graduate School of Neuroscience as part of their training to make science known to public. The posters are stored at the University of Helsinki and were borrowed specifically for this exhibition. We prepared also additional posters illustrating neuroscience research going on in Kuopio.

The poster exhibition was supplemented by patrolling PhD students from the local graduate school available to answer questions from the visitor. In addition, the PhD students demonstrated the use of microscope with the help of real brain samples with special staining and 3D brain anatomy with a computer simulation.

Due to active advertising the exhibition was steadily visited through the day, most visitors during daytime being naturally retired people. But also groups of high-school students found their way to the exhibition. The exhibition gained also a good media coverage, including both newspapers (attached an excerpt of Savon Sanomat on March 11, 2009), and regional radio channel of the Finnish Broadcasting Company.



European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 7

Carlos Cardoso (Marseille, France)

Brain and hormones: who's the boss?

Organisation:

Carlos Cardoso, PhD
INMED, INSERM U901
Parc scientifique de Luminy
163 Route de Luminy
13009 Marseille
France

Phone: +33 4 91828130
Email: cardoso@inmed.univ-mrs.fr

Dates and Duration: March 10 – 21, 2009

Our programme included a variety of activities throughout the south-east region of France, mainly in Marseille and in Nice, but also Gardanne and Gap. This year, our outreach activities focused on the strong interactions between hormones and the central nervous system. Our 15 free public lectures and debates were a huge success, each attracting hundreds of people, even on a national day of strike. This is certainly the result of our excellent press coverage (see below). In addition, we presented 2 animated neuroscience cafés, a 10-days exhibition, 3 workshops, 3 short movies and 4 laboratory visits or poster presentations on current brain research. Finally, graduate students and neuroscience lab personnel also visited two dozen classrooms where they presented interactive PowerPoint presentations on hormones and the brain, as well as on working in research. Overall, our 2009 edition of the Brain Awareness week achieved unprecedented success, reaching over 3.500 people.

MARSEILLE 7

L'INTERVIEW / Le Pr Baulieu se consacre au vieillissement du cerveau

"La pilule de la mémoire c'est pour demain"



Chercheur mondialement reconnu, le professeur Pierre-Emile Baulieu sera ce soir à 17h30 à l'Alcazar pour animer une conférence dans le cadre de la semaine du cerveau. L'occasion de faire un point sur ses nouvelles recherches.

Vous avez découvert la DHEA et inventé la pilule abortive. Y aura-t-il une 3^e découverte majeure du Pr Baulieu ?

Je me consacre désormais à la recherche sur le vieillissement du cerveau, qui est l'une des questions les plus sérieuses de notre époque. L'homme gagne trois mois de vie chaque année. On sait que la moitié des enfants nés en l'an 2000 seront centenaires, mais on sait aussi que 45 % auront une démence sénile, dont la maladie d'Alzheimer n'est qu'une des manifestations.

Avez-vous des pistes pour enrayer ce vieillissement du cerveau ?

Oui, en particulier sur la perte de mémoire, qui nous affecte tous avec l'âge. Ce phénomène existe aussi chez les animaux. Les rats jeunes apprennent plus facilement à trouver la sortie d'un labyrinthe que les rats âgés. Or, nous avons découvert une hormone cible, de la famille des neurostéroïdes, produite par l'hippocampe dans le cerveau, qui joue un rôle essentiel dans la fabrication de la mémoire. On a injecté ce produit à des vieux rats: ils sont redevenus performants dans le labyrinthe!

Vous êtes donc sur le point d'inventer une pilule de la mémoire ?

Techniquement, je pense que cela peut être réalisé d'ici 3 ou 4 ans. Mais malheureusement, ces recherches n'intéressent pas vraiment l'industrie pharmaceutique, car il s'agit de substances naturelles, qui n'ont pas de brevets commerciaux exclusifs. C'est beaucoup moins lucratif qu'un médicament de synthèse...

Vous travaillez aussi en liaison avec l'armée américaine...

Nous tentons de mettre au point un produit, toujours dans la famille des neurostéroïdes, qui puisse rétablir le fonctionnement des neurones traumatisés. Ce projet est soutenu financièrement par l'armée américaine, très intéressée pour ses soldats victimes de traumatismes, après les guerres du Golfe et d'Irak. Des études chez l'homme vont commencer dans quelques semaines, notamment à Toulon, en liaison avec l'Institut médico-naval du Service de santé des armées. Mais mon idée, c'est d'appliquer ce traitement sur le long terme, pour lutter contre le vieillissement du cerveau.

Et la maladie d'Alzheimer ?

C'est mon 3^e axe de recherche. À l'occasion de ces précédents travaux, on a découvert qu'une protéine, baptisée Tau, était en cause dans certaines démences. Une demande de financement est en cours dans le cadre du plan Alzheimer. Mais je ne peux pas personnellement y prétendre: en France, après 65 ans, un chercheur a dépassé la limite d'âge pour recevoir des crédits publics...
Recueilli par Sophie Manelli

Sciences. La semaine internationale du cerveau se déroule du 16 au 22 mars.

Les hormones éclairent le cerveau

■ A la BMVR-Alcazar et accessoirement au bar des Danaïdes, du 16 au 22 mars, la communauté scientifique marseillaise, organise la « Semaine internationale du cerveau », sur le thème « cerveau et hormones ».

« Nous avons choisi cette thématique cette année, parce que Marseille dispose d'importants laboratoires qui travaillent dans ce domaine. Il s'agit d'un thème transversal qui touche à l'endocrinologie, aux neurosciences et à des aspects cognitifs », explique le Dr Olivier Bosler, directeur de recherche au CNRS, responsable du département de neuroendocrinologie-neuroimmunologie du Centre en neurobiologie et neurophysiologie de Marseille.

Les hormones sont des substances, la plupart du temps des protéines, secrétées dans la circulation sanguine, diffusées de manière très large dans tout l'organisme. A la différence des neuromédiateurs et neurotransmetteurs qui permettent la diffusion de messages très rapides dans le cerveau, les hormones participent à des phénomènes physiologiques plus lents.

Le lundi 16 mars à 19h, le Café

Sciences au bar des Danaïdes, « cerveau, hormones, stress et dépression », notamment avec le Pr François Clarac. Le lendemain, la BMVR-Alcazar entre en lice, avec une conférence consacrée aux « Hormones système nerveux et vieillissement », avec la présence du Pr Etienne-Emile Baulieu, professeur honoraire au Collège de France.

Mercredi 18 mars à 17h30, dans le thème « Le cerveau au cœur de notre alimentation », il sera question de la progression de l'obésité. Le « Cerveau et hormones dans la croissance et le développement » sera abordé jeudi 19 mars, à la même heure et au même endroit, avec la participation du Pr André Calas, de l'université Victor-Segalen de Bordeaux.

Le cycle s'achèvera avec « Cerveau et motivation sexuelle: l'apport des nouvelles techniques d'imagerie cérébrale », par le Dr Harold Mouras de la faculté de médecine d'Amiens.

Le domaine des hormones est particulièrement vaste. Insuline, cortisol en font partie et l'on peut partir du sommet du crâne au bas ventre.

A.M.

European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 8

Isabelle Le Brun (Grenoble, France)

The Brain explains itself

Organisation:

Isabelle Le Brun
Assistant Professor
University Joseph Fourier-Grenoble 1
Site Santé
BP 170
38042 Grenoble
cedex 9
France

Grenoble Institut of Neurosciences
Centre de Recherche Inserm U836
Université Joseph Fourier
Site Santé
BP 170
38042 Grenoble
cedex 9
France

Phone: +33 4 56520530
Email: isabelle.lebrun@ujf-grenoble.fr

Phone: +33 4 56520500

Dates and Duration: March 9 – 27, 2009

This year, a new executive committee has been set up with representatives from different laboratories and Institutions of Grenoble. This committee, managed by Isabelle Le Brun has proposed an original program with transversal objectives: inform about research, explain the brain and interact with citizens. To achieve these objectives, six events have been organized:

- 1) A conference untitled "Awake dream: sleep disorders" followed by a debate.
- 2) Presentation of a movie "brain explorators" followed by a debate on epilepsy.
- 3) A conference on the relationship between art and brain by a professor of art.
- 4) A "scientific coffee" on mental diseases in partnership with the association « café sciences citoyen »
- 5) An itinerant exhibition of neuroscientific photographs realized by GIN researchers.
- 6) Workshops with children organized with the association « Les Petits Débrouillards » in order to experiment memory and the five senses.

This week was a great success: 100 to 200 peoples have participated to each event. Two radio interviews and one TV programme were realized during the Brain Awareness Week.

Poster: 1. poster to announce the brain awareness week in grenoble



European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 9

François Chollet (Toulouse, France)

Brain Awareness Week in Toulouse

Organisation:

François Chollet, Prof
Institut des Sciences du Cerveau de Toulouse, IFR96
CHU Purpan
Pavillon Riser
Place du Dr Baylac
31059 Toulouse
France

Arlette Maret
Institut des Sciences du Cerveau de Toulouse, IFR96
CHU Purpan
Pavillon Riser
Place du Dr Baylac
31059 Toulouse
France

Phone: +33 05 61779613
Email: francois.chollet@inserm.fr

Phone: +33 05 61779501
Email: arlette.maret@inserm.fr

Dates and Duration: March 9 – 22,

Previous Brain Awareness Week in Toulouse in 2006, 2007 and 2008 received a substantial interest from the public and the audience amplified each year with a real need for up-to-date specialist information on this topic. This year the main goal of our project was yet to make basic and applied brain research understandable and accessible to the general public in Toulouse..... and this year, BAW project was great and successful: we have amplified the participation of all IFR96 teams, we have organized numerous events in various locations and of diverse natures and we have received a larger public than the previous years. In fact, the best report of this event in Toulouse was our program where each action has been completed by comments.



European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 10

Yves Tillet (Nouzilly, France)

Brain Awareness Week

Organisation:

Yves Tillet, Dr
Contrôle Central de l'Ovulation
INRA-PRC
UMR6175
37380_Nouzilly
France

Phone: 33 2 47 42 79 66
Email: yves.tillet@tours.inra.fr

Dates and Duration: March 9 – 22, 2009

The Brain Awareness Week in Tours included eight distinct projects:

1 – Exhibition in the City Hall of Tours, 9 – 22 march 2009

An exhibition of photos about brain imaging entitled "**Le cerveau dans tous ses éclats**" (The shining brain?) was exposed during two weeks (9 - 22 march). This exhibition has been prepared by the FRC (Fédération pour la Recherche sur le Cerveau). It shows 36 photos from INSERM picture collection. They represent different aspects of brain imaging, from microscopic to macroscopic levels. These photos were selected for their artistic and informative qualities. The exhibition was open to general public each afternoon (14.00 – 18.00), and guided visits were organized on Wednesday (11 and 18) and on Saturday (14 and 21). These visits give the opportunity to present different aspects of brain imaging and the importance of these methods for brain research and diagnosis of brain pathologies.

The estimated number of visitors is about 400 persons (general public).

2 – Young Investigator Awards, room Léopold Sédar Senghor, 1 rue de la Préfecture, Tours, Monday 16 march 2009 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm (general public)

During this event, Professor Thérèse Planiol, the founder President of the "Fondation Thérèse et René Planiol pour l'Etude du Cerveau" (a private foundation), awarded the Young Investigator Awards to 2 young scientists: Dr Cécile Monjauze for her work about epilepsy effect on children language expression and Dr Magali Rochat for her work about social interactions in autism. Dr Cécile Monjauze is from INSERM U930 in Tours and Dr Magali Rochat is from the Neuroscience Department, Parme University (It). Both winners gave a short conference about their work. (general public, about 55 persons).

3- Science's Café (Meeting in a bookshop' café) in the bookshop "La Boîte à Livres" in Tours – Tuesday 17 march, 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm –for general public.

During this meeting, Prof Jean-Didier Vincent (member of the Académie des Sciences) presented his last book "Voyage extraordinaire au centre du cerveau" ("*Wonderful journey in the centre of brain*" edit Odile Jacob) and discussed with the public about different aspect of brain function. How does the memory work? Why is it sometime a pleasure to drink and eat? Why can we become addict? ...

Prof Jean-Didier Vincent is a pioneer in the field of brain research, and particularly concerning brain hormones interactions.

About 65 persons attend the meeting.

In addition, the bookshop "La Boîte à Livres" organized an exhibition of books related to brain (novel, essay, school books...) during all the brain awareness week (16 - 22 march).



Brain in 3D puzzle –
School "Le Pommier Vert" Marray
(37 France)
(Photo E. Chaillou)

4- Conference "Salle des Fêtes" of the City Hall of Tours

Thursday 19 march 2009, 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm

- **Cerveau, hormone et comportement maternel**" (*Brain, hormones and maternal behaviour*) by Dr. Pascal Poindron (INRA- Physiologie de la Reproduction et des Comportements, Nouzilly 37380 France)

This conference was related to brain-hormone interactions, and illustrated with maternal behaviours. P. Poindron is a specialist of maternal behaviour; he presented different examples in domestic mammals, primates and humans, and underlined the importance of this research for human being and animals. The conference was followed by an interesting discussion with the public.

About 120 persons attend this conference (general public).

5 - Conferences in schools, for pupils only.

Elodie Chaillou (UMR Physiologie de la Reproduction et des Comportements, INRA-CNRS-Univ Tours, HN, Nouzilly) visited the following schools and organized the following activities:



5-1- Thursday 19 march 2009, Ecole Primaire du Pommier Vert, CE1-CE2 (Primary school), 37370 Marray France - (25 pupils)

"Comment connaître le Cerveau" (*Knowledge of the brain*). Discussion from questions as: "How to see the brain? How to see inside the head? How to see the brain working?" This discussion was accompanied by observations of brain models, 3D brain puzzles, histological brain slides and the children were invited to "build" a brain using modelling clay and to draw how they imagine their brain.

5-2- Friday 20 march 2009, Ecole Primaire du Pommier Vert, CM1-CM2 (Primary school), 37370 Marray France- (25 pupils)

"Les animaux peuvent-ils ressentir des émotions? Les Sherlock Brain mènent l'enquête" (*Animals are they able to feel emotions? The Sherlock brains investigate*). To answer this question, the scientific approach was compared with a police investigation. What we want to know, our hypothesis and the proofs that we can collect. This discussion was accompanied by observations of brain sections, histological brain slides and 3D brain puzzles.

Julien's drawing (7 years old) –
School "Le Pommier Vert" Marray
(37, France)
(Photo E. Chaillou)

6 - Radio and TV broadcastings

6-1 radio: **Chronique Santé: "Hormone et Cerveaux"** (*Health : Brain under hormone influences*): Six short chronics (3 minutes long) about brain and hormone interactions were presented on a local radio (Radio Saint-Martin – French national network Radio Chrétienne de France) from the week n° 7 to week n°12, one chronic each Monday at 12.10. Each chronic concerned different aspect of neuroendocrine interactions in the brain, the first one introduced the concept and the program of the Brain Awareness Week. As a specialist of neuroendocrinology of reproduction, I have prepared and presented these chronics. These chronics were complementary to the conferences, and altogether, they highlighted the activity of several international leader laboratories of Tours involved in the study of brain-hormone interactions.

6-2 TV: **"Tous autour d'un plateau"** (*All around a table*) on TV-Tours a local TV. Together with a journalist, three persons participated to a general discussion: Prof Jean-Didier Vincent, Catherine Barthélémy (INSERM U930) and my self. We discussed about the Brain Awareness Week in Tours, brain function and pathology, neurosciences research in Touraine and about Prof Jean-Didier Vincent's book (*Voyage extraordinaire au centre du cerveau*). This live broadcasting was 20 minutes long, on Tuesday 17 march 2009

All these conferences and exhibition were announced via newspapers, radio and TV.

European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 11

Merab Tsagareli (Tbilisi area, Georgia)

Nervous System Functioning in Health and Diseases

Organisation:

Merab G. Tsagareli
Beritashvili Institute of Physiology
Gotua Street 14
0160 Tbilisi
Georgia

Phone: +995 32 371149
Email: Tsagareli@biphysiol.ge

Dates and Duration: March 16 – 20, 2009

Project I: "BAW for Students"

16 March, 9.00 – 11.00, Venue: Javakhishvili State University of Tbilisi

Lectures for the second year medical students about "DANA, EDAB and BAW missions for the public and society".
Demonstration DVD: "The DANA Sourcebook of Brain Science". I distributed among students BAW recourses, booklets – "your brain at work", "staining sharp" series, and DANA's Progress Report 2009.

Project II: "BAW in Georgian Regions"

18 March, 12.00 – 15.00, Venue: Public School in the village Vegini

In the village Vegini in Kakheti, in the Eastern region of Georgia, for the first time in Georgia, we have held the BAW event in a province for teenagers. I provide pupils and their teachers a biography of Ivane Beritashvili and his main scientific legacy. Beritashvili was born in this village in 1884. He was one of the most creative scientists of the 20th century, who contributed greatly to the progress of neuroscience. He was the founder of the national school of physiology and neuroscience in Georgia.

In my second lecture I have talked about the brain and nervous system working, the disorders of the brain, memory and sleep problems, drugs of abuse.

At the end of this event I hand out pupils BAW recourses, booklets – "your brain at work", "staining sharp" series, "It's Mindboggling", "Q&A on Brain Research", stickers and pens. I also gave out the school director several nice illustrated encyclopedias and dictionaries on human organism, nervous system, and human anatomy; SfN'CDs with *Brain Facts* and *Nerve*; Two hard copies of *Brain Facts*.

Indeed it was very successful event in this rural school.

Project III: "BAW in Georgian Schools"

20 March, 13.00 – 16.00, Venue: 1st public school of Tbilisi

Talking to secondary school teenagers about brain and nervous system anatomy and physiology and neuron functions, I presented pictures from CD *Brain Facts*.

I dispensed among students BAW recourses, booklets – "Your Brain at Work", "Staining Sharp" series, It's Mindboggling", "Q&A on Brain Research", stickers.

European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 12

Spiros Efthimiopoulos (Athens, Greece)

Dependence: A brain disease - From the neuron to the brain and to behaviour - Journey to the Brain

Organisation:

Spiros Efthimiopoulos
Assistant Prof of Physiology
University of Athens
Animal & Human Physiology
Panepistimiopolis
GR 157 84, Ilisia, Athens
Greece

Phone: +30 210 7274890
Email: effhis@biol.uoa.gr

Dates and Duration: February 18 – April 7, 2009

A. Dependence: A brain disease -March 7, 2009

This event took place at the Papacharalambeio Hall of the city of Nafpaktos on Saturday, March 7, 2009, at 06:30 pm. It is co-organized by the Hellenic Society for Neurosciences, the Municipalities of the cities Antirrion and Nafpaktos, the High School of Antirrion and the Third High School of the city of Nafpaktos.

Event program

Oral Presentations

1. Title of the talk: "Addiction to Drugs: a Brain disease"

Speaker: Papadopoulou-Daifoti Zeta, Professor, Laboratory of Experimental Pharmacology, Medical School of the University of Athens, Athens

2. Title of the talk: "The psychopathology of the addiction to drugs"

Speaker: Ioannis Liapas, Professor, Division of Social Medicine-Psychiatry and Neurology/Psychiatric Clinic, Medical School of the University of Athens

3. Title of the talk: "Therapeutic approaches to drug addiction"

Speaker: Evangelos Kafetzopoulos, Psychiatrist, B Unit of long term therapy, OKANA, Athens

Discussion with the students of the High School of Antirrion and of the Third High School of the city of Nafpaktos and the general public. The students will have worked on the projects on addiction to drugs and will be prepared to ask questions to the speakers.

B. We, our brains: From the neuron to the brain and to behavior- March 9, 2009

This event took place at the Eugenides Foundation on Monday, March 9, 2009 at 06:30 pm. It is co-organized by the Hellenic Society for Neurosciences and the Eugenides Foundation.

Event program

Oral Presentations

1. Title of the talk: «The brain is born: the foundations»

Speaker: Antonis Gavallas, Research Assistant Professor, Developmental Biology Division, Center of Basic Research, Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens.

2. Title of the talk: «The brain changes: how experience affects the adult brain»

Speaker: Christina Dalla, Lecturer, Department of Pharmacology, Medical School, University of Athens.

3. Title of the talk: «The brain in action: interpreting the world»

Speaker: Irimi Skaliora, Research Assistant Professor, Developmental Biology Division, Center of Basic Research, Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens.

Elias Kouvelas, Professor Emeritus of Human Physiology at the University of Patras, will present the speakers and will act as the discussion moderator. See all presentations and the discussion at:

http://multimedia.biol.uoa.gr/idryma_evgenidou_9_3_09.htm

The speakers gave also an interview on public television. A summary of their presentations was also published at the newspaper "Vima Science". In addition, the program of the activity was published in several Greek newspapers.

C. Journey to the Brain-March 29, 2009

The main event took place at the Cultural and Conference Center of the University of Patras on March 29, 2009. Additional activities will take place in the cities of Nafpaktos and Antirion.

(Coordinator: M. Margariti)

C1. @rtbrain: The brain's centers- February 18, 2009

Dr. M. Margariti, Assistant Professor of the Department of Biology, University of Patras, visited the High School of Vraxnaika where she gave a lecture to the pupils of the 3rd grade regarding structure and function of the brain. The post-graduate students, A. Vasilopoulou and Z. Linardaki, performed a demonstration of mice's behaviour, using the passive avoidance test, the thigmotaxis and Elevated plus maze test apparatus. Advertising material regarding the School Conference entitled "Journey to the Brain" of March 29th, 2009 was allocated to the pupils. The pupils will join the School Conference presenting aspects of brain function under the title: @rtbrain: The brain's centers.

C2. Visit of Neuroscience lab-March 3, 2009

The pupils of the Antirio High-School, accompanied by the Director of the School, Mrs Harakida E., visited the Laboratory of Human and Animal Physiology of the Department of Biology at the University of Patras. Dr. M. Margariti gave a lecture entitled: "Brain: the most known unknown". In addition, the pupils, with the assistance of the post-graduate students A. Vasilopoulou and Linardaki Z., toured the laboratory spaces. Moreover, selected microscopy samples of CNS as well as behavioural recording test were presented to the pupils. At the end of the visit a light welcome reception for the students occurred at the library of the laboratory.

C3. Mr Brain shall we play? March 5, 2009

At the 17th primary school of Patras a theatrical play took place in three phases by the association of educators-animators of Patras "Through the theatre" by Lakis Kouretzis, with the guidance of Afroditi Parzakoni as the main animator. The play was presented to the pupils of the two final grades of the primary school having as main theme «Mr Brain shall we play? ». The play was videorecorded in order to be presented at the central event on 29th of March.

C4. Journey to the Brain- March 29, 2009 (main activity) (Conference and Cultural center of the University of Patras)

1. 17th Elementary School of Patras and the group of educators-inspirers "Through the Theater". Presentation of the theatrical play that was played on March 5, 2009.
2. Construction at the Conference and Cultural Center of the University of Patras of the group of educators-inspirers "Through the Theater" with subject: The Brain and its Functions".
3. "Nicotine flirting with the brain", a theatrical performance by the High-School of Antirio. The set (scene state) included the construction of hand-made acetylcholine-houses, suburb of red blood cells, lung vacuoles and auto-lighting neuron. The students also prepared and handed out a leaflet on "How to quit smoking" (Supervisors: E Charakida, I. Platanioti, E. Chronopoulos & N. Papaeuthimiou).
4. High School of Vrahneika. "**@rtbrain: the centers of the Brain**" An artistic exhibition (hand-made posters, paintings, T-shirts) by the High-School of Vraxneikon. A report was also presented on the means via which the students retrieved the most valuable information from the net, so as to learn how to evaluate the collected data and to communicate electronically with scientists. The current effort was accomplished in collaboration with Dr Jeff Lichtman at the Department of Molecular Biology of the University of Harvard (research group of brain bow mice), which resulted into the development of a school website - <http://gym-vrachn.ach.sch.gr>, and the publication of a mini-article-type in Wikipedia (Supervisors: S. Vagena & Ch. Christakoudis).
5. 3rd High School of Nafpaktos. Substance-dependence and the brain (Oral and Poster presentations) (Supervisors: K. Karakostas, D. Bekos & P. Theodoropoulou).
6. Experimental High School of the University of Patras. "Music & the brain". The music group of the school played rock songs that had the word brain or songs referring to brain functions. The pupils had also Oral and Poster presentations and songs about "Music and the Brain". (Supervisors: A. Plakouda, Ch. Tzelati, P. Chantziantoniou, C. Chantziwannides, V. Sxoinias, Y. Chardaloupa, G. Pitta & A. Argyriou). The whole event attended by the local authorities, the Rector of the University of Patras, Mr. S. Koumpias, the Vice-Rector of Strategic Research Planning and Development Mr. V. Anastasopoulos, Education representatives of the First- and Second-Grade, professors, teachers and parents. Present was also the president of the Hellenic Society of Neuroscience, Dr. S. Efthimiopoulos. Responsible for the co-ordination of the whole event was Mrs. M. Margariti, Assistant Professor of the Department of Biology, at the University of Patras and member of the Hellenic Society of Neuroscience, who stated that: "the end of the current exhibition does not mark the end of the journey. This is such a temporary "brake", as our journey to this microscopic, but still magnificent world, our commonest unknown...the brain...has just began". The end of the event was marked by a small Gala dinner, distribution of publication material (hats, balloons, blocks etc), certifications of attendance, and a symbolic release of a huge balloon with a picture of a brain. The event was supported by the students' parents, their Schools, the related Mayer, the Hobby Place of Patras, Patras Catering and Loux A.E. Sponsors of the exhibitions were the University of Patras & the pharmaceutical company, Pfizer.

D. Presentation of the first English Edition of the book: "Atlas of cytoarchitecture of human cerebral cortex", Authors: Constantin Von Economo (1876-1931) και George N Koskinas (1885-1975)-March 16, 2009

The president of Bodosaki Foundation, Mr Dimitrios Vlastos The Secretary of the Ministry of National Education and the Rector of the University of Macedonia Professor Elias Kouskouvelis invited scientists and lay people in the presentation of the first English Edition of the book: "Atlas of cytoarchitecture of human cerebral cortex", Authors: Constantin Von Economo (1876-1931) και George N Koskinas (1885-1975), Karger AG, Basel 2008, Scientific Editorship Professor Lazaros Triarchou. The presentation took place on March 16th, 2009, at the National Research Foundation

Speakers

Marieta Giannakou, ex Minister of Education, Neurologist-Psychiatrist
Gabriela Economo & Elena Economo
Dr. Thomas Karger, Director of Karger AG
Lazaros Triaechou, Professor of Neuroscience
Marinos Dalakas, Professor of Neurology

F. Theatrical play "Neurodysey"-March 17, 2009

The theater play "NeurOdysey" will be played at the Art theater "Karolos Koun" 14 Frynichou street, Plaka on the 17th of March 2009 at 6 pm. The theater play "NeurOdysey" is directed by Mania Papadimitriou and is co-production with the group "PASPARTOU". Odyssey is the most famous journey of the man to his birth land after an adventurous itinerary to the world. In our day, science with its modern pathways of molecular biology and neuroscience makes a journey of investigation in centers of decision making and human consciousness in the brain. The goal of this play is the parallelism of these journeys

F. Early life experiences influence adult brain function and behaviour-March 17, 2009

This activity was organized by Associate Professor Maria Panayotacopoulou. It included a lecture by Professor Fotini Stylianopoulou at the Deree College of Athens entitled: "Early life experiences influence adult brain function and behaviour" Professor of Psychology Lena Pateraki co-ordinated the discussion.

G. Eidolons and certainties in the world of brains-April 6, 2009

George Papadopoulos, Professor of Neuroanatomy of the Veterinary School of the University of Thessaloniki, gave a lecture in the department of architecture at the University of Thessaly (City of Volos) entitled: "Eidolons and certainties in the world of brains"

H. Drugs: Use-Abuse and Depedence-April 7, 2009

Lectures were given at the amphitheater of the National Foundation of Research on the subject "Drugs: Use-Abuse and Depedence" by: Zeta Papadopoulou-Daifoti, Professor of Pharmacology in the Medical School of the University of Athens and Katerina Tyligada, Associate Professor of Pharmacology in the Medical School of the University of Athens. The President of the National Foundation of Research Professor Kyriakidis introduced the speakers and acted as the discussion moderator.



"Dependence: A Brain Disease"-Nafpaktos March 7, 2009
The Mayor of the city Antirriou welcomes the speakers and addresses the audience



@rtbrain: The brain's centers- February 18, 2009.
The post-graduate students, A. Vasilopoulou and Z. Linardaki, perform a demonstration of mice's behaviour, using the passive avoidance test, the thigmotaxis and Elevated plus maze test apparatus.



"Visit of Neuroscience lab"-March 3, 2009.
The pupils of the Antirio High-School look at selected microscopy samples of CNS



"Nicotine flirting with the brain"- March 29, 2009. A theatrical performance by the High-School of Antirio



"@rtbrain: the centers of the Brain"-March 29, 2009. An artistic exhibition (hand-made posters, paintings, T-shirts) by the High-School of Vraxneikon.



"Journey to the Brain"-March 29, 2009. The audience

European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 13

Karen Doyle (Galway, Ireland)

The Beauty of Neuroscience

Organisation:

Dr. Karen Doyle
Department of Physiology
National University of Ireland, Galway
University Road
Galway
Ireland

Phone: +353 91 493665
Email: karen.doyle@nuigalway.ie

Dates and Duration: March 19 – 20, 2009

Objective: Promotion of the public understanding of neuroscience in a busy shopping centre, Galway City, Ireland during Brain Awareness week 2009 by members of the Neuroscience Cluster (Galway Neuroscience Group), National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland.

20 neuroscientists from NUI, Galway ran an outreach event for Brain Awareness Week in the Eyre Square Shopping Centre, Galway from 10 am – 7 pm on 19th and 20th March, 2009 to promote public understanding of neuroscience. We displayed posters of images of the brain, had interactive brain tests, coloring books for small children, models of the brain and microscope slides for the general public to see.

The event was a great success. Many people stopped to have a look at the display, and a chat about the brain and brain disorders. In particular, groups of school children came to see the display and found the images and interactive material very interesting. We enjoyed significant media coverage, including local newspapers and interviews broadcast on TV3 news, a national TV station (please see additional information attached).

We are very grateful to the Dana Foundation and FENS for the €1.000 grant to support this outreach initiative. The funds were used to print the posters, images, interactive material and flyers to advertise the event as outlined in our proposal. The posters and images are a lasting resource, which we will re-use in the future during Brain Awareness Week, and at other outreach events.

NUI Galway Celebrates Brain Awareness Week with Exhibition in Eyre Square

Date tbc: A special interactive exhibition is being organized by NUI Galway scientists from 19 - 20 March as part of Brain Awareness Week. The exhibition, which will be situated on the ground floor of the Eyre Square Shopping Centre, aims to raise public awareness of the importance of brain health, and neuroscience research in Ireland.

The exhibition will feature a 3D brain model, and visitors will be able to use a computer based test to determine which side of their brain is dominant – the left or right hemisphere. Informative drawings for children to color will be provided, along with puzzles to test visitors of all ages. Also available will be literature on various brain illnesses, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease, and video footage of a neuroscience researcher talking about stroke research.

An art exhibition will showcase colorful and dramatic neuroscience research images, giving close-up pictures of some of the brain's billions of nerves cells and trillions of synaptic connections.

The event is being organized by NUI Galway's Neuroscience Research Cluster, led by Dr Karen Doyle: "We hope this exhibition will be fun and interesting for all who attend, young and old. We'll have tips and advice on simple things that everyone can do to look after their brain, from eating right and exercising to wearing a helmet when cycling. Awareness of our brains' needs can help us live long and healthy lives, free from brain injuries and disorders".

In Ireland, disorders of the brain affect some one million people and Health Service Executive data shows that it spends some €216 million annually on drugs, medicines and appliances.

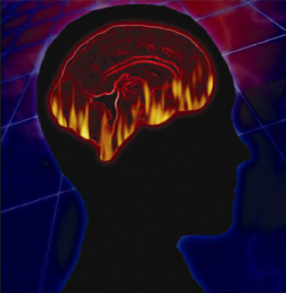
Disorders that are traditionally regarded as psychiatric account for approximately two thirds of the total costs, while neurological and neurosurgical disorders account for the final third. The expansion of the aged population and the inevitable rise in numbers of those suffering from age-related brain disorders like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease has placed increased pressure on researchers to identify new therapies.

Dr Doyle adds: "Science is making huge progress in understanding how the amazing human brain works. It is sobering to think that there are around 6.000 people suffering from Parkinson's Disease in Ireland and as many as 35.000 who have been diagnosed with senile dementia. Disorders such as anxiety and migraine, due to their high prevalence, are also very costly to society. The need for further research and development in disorders of the brain is obvious and in the long-run it might well pay for itself by easing the burden on healthcare systems".

For further information contact Karen Doyle, Department of Physiology and Neuroscience Cluster, NUI Galway, 00 353 91 493665 Mobile 0866037411




Brain Awareness Week
March 16 - 22 2009



'The Beauty of Neuroscience'

An exhibition of captivating neuroscience images will be on display in the Eyre Square Shopping Centre on March 19 & 20. Drop by to learn more about the power of the brain. Activities for the young and old will be on hand.

GALWAY NEUROSCIENCE
Clinical Sciences, Galway
National University of Ireland, Galway



European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 14

Illana Gozes (Tel Aviv, Israel)

Brain Awareness Week in Israel

Organisation:

Illana Gozes, PhD, Prof
President The Israel Society for Neuroscience
Tel Aviv University
Human Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry
Einstein Street
69978 Tel Aviv
Israel

Phone: +972 3 6407240
Email: igozes@post.tau.ac.il

Dates and Duration: March 15 -31, 2009

A total of >40 public lectures in multiple "events" took place during the "Brain Awareness Days" through the period of 15 to 23 of March (including one lecture on the 31st of March). Members of the Israel Society For Neuroscience (ISFN), ranging from advanced PhD students to full Professors, volunteered their time and gave public lectures. The lectures discussed Neuroscience research and its relevance to the understanding of how the nervous system functions, how brain cells talk to each other, the understanding of neurological pathologies (e.g. neurodegenerative diseases and neurotrauma), and the development of medications and strategies to cure and/or alleviate neural pathologies. The lectures were followed by discussions, in the form of questions/answers, for as long as the audience was interested. There was high participation of men and women, scientists and audience in all the events.

The highlight of the activity was the Presidential Symposium Event entitled: The Mysteries of the Human Brain, which took place at the largest university in Israel, Tel Aviv University. The speaker panel included 6 lectures by past and present presidents of the ISFN and was supported by the Adams Super Center for Brain Studies at Tel Aviv University (for additional advertisement and organization). The lecture hall was full (exceeding its capacity) with general adult public audience from all over the country. There was a crowd of >250 participants and there were multiple requests for many more events like that. It was a great success and plans for next year include a larger lecture hall to allow 600-1.000 people at a time.

The largest target audience was high school students and the "general adult public", but some of the activities included also young children as well as assisted living housing. Most meetings were held in small towns and villages, few in the major cities. The number of participants in each meeting varied, from 25 to 200 (except for the Presidential Symposium which exceeded all expectations).

The "Brain Awareness Days" were publicized in prominent newspapers ads to make the "general public" aware of the various activities and invite people to these meetings (see the attached advertisement in one newspaper as one example). The public was referred to our Website (<http://www.isfn.org.il/>) where further detailed information was provided. Certain locations prepared posters to attract audience and provide further public knowledge (see attached one example).



The DANA sponsorship from the FENS office allowed for robust advertisement which attracted the general public to our lectures.



Lecture placing was assisted by Bashaar, an organization of academics that are focusing on bringing knowledge to the community. Feedback from the multiple lecture/event locations was excellent with requests for additional lectures/events and great enthusiasm about brain research. The Israeli TV channels (and audio broadcasting services) covered the events by interviewing the President (and past Presidents of the Society to the local channels and also focusing on brain imaging (which is planned to be aired shortly).

European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 15

Maria A. Marigiò (Chieti area, Italy)

The brain: Our Wondering Box - University of G. d'Annunzio brings Neuroscience into the Schools

Organisation:

Maria A. Marigiò, Prof
Physiology and Pathology of the Nervous System Unit
Dept. Basic and Applied Medical Sciences
University of Chieti- Pescara
Via dei Vestini 29
66013 Chieti
Italy

Simone Guarnieri, Dr
Email: guarnie@unich.it

Giampiero Neri, Dr
Email: neri@unich.it

Phone: +39 0871 3554048
Email: mariggio@unich.it

Dates and Duration: March 18 – 23, 2009

The Physiology and Pathology of the Nervous System Unit of the Dept. of Basic and Applied Medical Sciences organized some activities and meetings in the schools and at the University of Chieti-Pescara in order to promote the BAW. We started about two months before BAW by contacting school Directors and sending them information on what is BAW. Then, we chose a school containing different classrooms (from 4 to 10 years old children) and met teachers in order to organize how to perform activities into kindergarten and elementary school to explain how the brain is made up and works using different approaches.

In the kindergarten we played with children with tridimensional models, tables and cartoons describing the nervous system main functions. In the elementary school, we presented the functional organization of the nervous system using slides and captured scholars' attention with tridimensional models and microscopes to observe cellular samples. Then, we introduced the children in the world of perception explaining touch, hearing, sight, taste and smell using practical examples. The most enthusiastic experience was to discuss with the students, trying to answer to their questions and curiosities about: how does our nervous system work? How do we learn? What are the bases of human behaviour? and more else.

The activities included also a series of lectures regarding the patho-physiology of the vestibular apparatus, that were held at the "G d'Annunzio" University and directed towards university students, teachers, specialist medical doctors and interested people.

We wish to thank the Dana Foundation for booklets and financial support that allowed us also to emphasise our events producing posters, gadgets, bookmarks and sticky labels.



European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 16

Guiseppe Zappala (Torino, Italy)

Neurosciences & Art

Organisation:

Pino Zappalà
Associazione CentroScienza Onlus
Via Mantova, 19
10153 Torino
Italy

Phone: +39 011 8394913
Email: pz@centroscienza.it

Dates and Duration: March 16 – 20, 2009

ARTE, LETTERATURA E NEUROSCIENZE

Why do we see what we see? Which is the smell of art? What can be understood by the way we draw? How come genius associates with suffering sometimes?

Neuroscientists respond to the challenge of explaining the most mysterious, complex and fascinating object that science has ever got through.

Switch on your Brain – Art, Neuroscience and Literature explored with 4 conferences of Ferdinando Rossi, Aldo Fasolo, Anna Berti and Filippo Bogetto, some mysterious aspects of our brain and its tackle with art and literature.

The venture has been realised with the contribution of the Regione Piemonte which provided the Circolo dei Lettori venue in the 18th century historical Palazzo Graneri della Rocca and the audio and video service necessary to the event, and the support of the Compagnia di San Paolo, a large private foundation that contributes to all the scientific outreach programmes of CentroScienza Onlus. A particular thank must be obviously expressed to Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives and to FENS Office. Contents have been identified and developed in collaboration with the Neuroscience Institute of Turin (NIT).

The lectures took place during the week, with the following calendar:

- Monday, 16th March, 6.00 pm
WHY WE SEE WHAT WE DO
Ferdinando Rossi - Full Professor of Neuroscience,
University of Turin, Neuroscience Institute of Turin (NIT).

- Tuesday, 17th March, 6.00 pm
THE SMELL OF ART
Aldo Fasolo - Full Professor at the Dept. of Animal and
Human Anatomy of the University of Turin.
Member of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei and of
the Accademia delle Scienze di Torino.

- Thursday, 19th March, 6.00 pm
ART, BRAIN AND GRAPHIC ALTERATIONS
Anna Berti - Department of Psychology, Group of
research in Neuropsychology University of Turin,
Neuroscience Institute of Turin (NIT).

- Friday, 20th March, 6.00 pm
WITH BOOKS AT THE HUMAN MIND LIMITS
Filippo Bogetto - Neuroscience Department, University of Turin,
Neuroscience Institute of Turin (NIT).



La iniziativa di CentroScienza Onlus
è una iniziativa della



Il Circolo dei Lettori è una iniziativa
del Circolo dei Lettori



con il contributo della
REGIONE
PIEMONTE

In collaborazione con



EXPERIMENTA

La settimana del cervello è una iniziativa
della Dana Foundation
<http://brainweek.dana.org>



The following materials have been produced for the promotional campaign:

Leaflet (colour)

Website: www.centroscienza.it/settimana_cervello/

½ vertical page on the newspaper "La Repubblica"

½ horizontal page on the newspaper "La Repubblica"

¼ horizontal page on the newspaper "La Repubblica" for each lecture.

THE AUDIENCE

The participation of the public has been meaningful. Beyond the numeric data, although significant, four sold out on four lectures with more than 500 participants, it should be noted that the range has been particularly interesting: many young undergraduates, PhD students, post-doc, and many curious of any age. The presentations have been developed paying attention to each detail, in order to suggest cues to link neuroscience to everyday perceptive experiences, to arts, to literature (a grateful tribute to the Host Institution Circolo dei Lettori) and to cinema, besides investigating some disorders referable to backgrounds easily identifiable by general public too, beyond the common concept of normality.



SETTIMANA DEL CERVELLO 2009 ARTE, LETTERATURA E NEUROSCIENZE

TORINO, CIRCOLO DEI LETTORI
VIA BOGINO 9

Lunedì 16 marzo 2009, ore 18

PERCHÉ VEDIAMO QUELLO CHE VEDIAMO

FERDINANDO ROSSI

Dipartimento di Neuroscienze dell'Università di Torino, Istituto di Neuroscienze di Torino (NIT)

La percezione visiva non è fedele al mondo reale, ma una rappresentazione artificiale di caratteristiche comportamentali importanti, al fine di decodificare informazioni sensoriali rapidamente e in modo adattivo. Un viaggio alla scoperta dei meccanismi di percezione e rappresentazione del mondo visivo, attraverso un processo probabilistico, creato dall'evoluzione biologica e plasmato dalla cultura.

Martedì 17 Marzo 2009, ore 18

L'ODORE DELL'ARTE

ALDO FASOLO

Dipartimento di Anatomia Animale e dell'Uomo-Università di Torino, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Accademia delle Scienze di Torino

Profumi e odori possono essere arte, come le fragranze di Andy Warhol. L'olfatto è il senso delle emozioni: per la sua penetrazione diretta alle regioni nervose che controllano le funzioni emotive e motivazionali, per la sua stabilità nella memoria, come associazione alla passione o alla ripugnanza e alle esperienze di vita, per la sua difficile traduzione verbale, che lo rende indichibile.

Giovedì 19 marzo 2009, ore 18

ARTE, CERVELLO E ALTERAZIONI GRAFICHE

ANNA BEATI

Dipartimento di Psicologia, Gruppo di ricerca in Neuropsicologia-Università di Torino, Istituto di Neuroscienze di Torino (NIT)

Riprodurre o rappresentare in un disegno la realtà presuppone capacità di combinare e organizzare dettagli percepiti precisamente, comprenderne le loro relazioni e ottenerne una sintesi. Un danno cerebrale, genera spesso alterazioni nella capacità di produzione grafica sia negli artisti sia nelle persone non abituate alla produzione grafica/pittorica.

Giovedì 19 marzo 2009, ore 18

CON I LIBRI AI LIMITI DELLA MENTE

FILIPPO BOGETTO

Dipartimento di Neuroscienze-Università di Torino, Istituto di Neuroscienze di Torino (NIT)

Che c'è stato di normale nella vita di John Nash e nella sua "Beautiful Mind" degna di un Nobel per l'economia? Come racconta Sylvia Nasar, Nash ha fatto una carriera prestigiosa malgrado parte importante della sua vita si sia dipanata nei labirinti della malattia mentale e dell'emarginazione. Altri hanno avuto destini assai diversi, come hanno raccontato Arthur Schizler in "Fuga nelle tenebre" e Patrick McGrath in "Follia" o "Spider". La differenza la fa spesso la famiglia e la società insieme alla terapia.

La rassegna si svolge nell'ambito di un progetto internazionale promosso dalla Dence Alliance for Brain Initiatives
www.dence.org/brainweek
www.centroscienza.it/settimana_cervello/

INFO: Associazione Centroscienza Onlus, Via Mantova 19 - 10153 Torino
tel. 011 8394913 - Fax 011 8127736
www.centroscienza.it - info@centroscienza.it



European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 17

Mario Bonato (Padova, Italy)

The future of Cognitive Neuroscience: young researchers discuss about mind and brain

Organisation:

Mario Bonato, Dr
Dipartimento di Psicologia Generale
Via Venezia 8
35131 Padova
Italy

Phone: +39 328 4341010
Email: mario.bonato@unipd.it

Dates and Duration: March 16 – 20, 2009;
Seminars-talks from 18.00 to 19.30

The events have been held in the form of four seminars that took place in the late afternoon. The choice of the location in the "Collegio Morgagni" (a Hall of Residence), that is outside standard academic spaces, allowed citizens to access and participate more easily. We estimate an average participation of 80 people for each seminar that is a total of 320 participants to the BAW-Padova 2009 Events.

The speakers were young post-docs. Talks were structured in a way that allowed people from the audience to participate in the presentations. They were told to interrupt the speakers whenever the unknown terms were adopted. At the end of each talk there has been a debate consisting in answering to questions from the audience. Posters and leaflets were made and diffused.

We plan to create a dedicated webpage for advertizing the brain awareness week and allow people to download the materials.

PROGRAMMA

LUNEDÌ 16 MARZO
18.00 Introduzione
Prof. Carlo A. Umiltà, Direttore della Scuola Galileiana
18.15 Quando meta dello spazio "scompare" o "spinge" e "scompare" e "spinge"
Dott. Mario Bonato
18.45 Quando l'udito e la vista si fondono
Dott.ssa Maria Grazia Di Bono
MARTEDÌ 17 MARZO
18.00 Il cervello che cresce: basi neurali dello sviluppo cognitivo
Dott. Giovanni Mento
18.30 Se il cervello è l'organo della volontà, come possiamo suonarlo?
Dott. Denis Basso
GIOVEDÌ 19 MARZO
18.00 Come percepiamo il tempo? Gli orologi del nostro cervello
Dott.ssa Vincenza Tarantino
18.30 Simulare il cervello per capire la mente
Dott. Marco Casarotti
VENERDÌ 20 MARZO
18.00 Dalla localizzazione funzionale alla lettura della mente: la lettura magnetica del cervello
Dott.ssa Maria Grazia Di Bono
18.30 Fotografare il cervello con la luce infrarossa
Dott. Simone Cutini
19.00 Conclusioni
Prof. Marco Zorzi, Direttore del Centro Interdipartimentale di Scienze Cognitive

Il futuro delle Neuroscienze Cognitive
Giovani Ricercatori Discussono di
Mente e Cervello

INGRESSO LIBERO

16, 17, 19, e 20 Marzo 2009 ore 18.00
AULA MAGNA, COLLEGIO MORGAGNI
Via S. Massimo 33 - Padova
www.unipd.it

Il Futuro delle Neuroscienze Cognitive: Giovani Ricercatori Discussono di
Mente e Cervello

LUNEDÌ 16 MARZO
INTRODUZIONE: Prof. Carlo A. Umiltà direttore della scuola Galileiana
Quando meta dello spazio "scompare" o "spinge" e "scompare" e "spinge"
Mario Bonato
Quando l'udito e la vista si fondono
Maria Grazia Di Bono

MARTEDÌ 17 MARZO
Il cervello che cresce: basi neurali dello sviluppo cognitivo
Giovanni Mento
Se il cervello è l'organo della volontà, come possiamo suonarlo?
Denis Basso

GIOVEDÌ 19 MARZO
Come percepiamo il tempo? Gli orologi nel nostro cervello
Vincenza Tarantino
Simulare il cervello per capire la mente
Marco Casarotti

VENERDÌ 20 MARZO
Dalle immagini del cervello alla lettura della mente
Maria Grazia Di Bono
Fotografare il cervello con la luce infrarossa
Simone Cutini

CONCLUSIONI: Prof. Marco Zorzi, Centro Interdipartimentale Scienze Cognitive
AULA MAGNA, COLLEGIO MORGAGNI ore 18:00
Via S. Massimo 33 - Padova
INGRESSO LIBERO
Info: mario.bonato@unipd.it

DIPARTIMENTO DI PSICOLOGIA GENERALE
Vittorio Benussi

CENTRO INTERDIPARTIMENTALE DI SCIENZE COGNITIVE
CESC

SCUOLA GALILEIANA di Studi Superiori

European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 18

Corrie D. Jankeviciene (Vilnius, Lithuania)

Your Amazing Brain!

Organisation:

Corrie D. Jankeviciene
Lithuanian Public Health Organization
"Nauja Pradzia" (Non-profit NGO)
Jazdauskiskiu km
LT 90440 Plunges raj.
Lithuania

Phone: +37 0 67644003
Email : naujapradzia@takas.lt

Dates and Duration: March 16 – 22, 2009

Action Group for establishing Lithuanian Brain Council has initiated international Brain awareness week events in Vilnius (Lithuania). NGO Mental Health Initiative and Lithuanian Neuroscience Association cooperated in organizing following activities in several schools in Vilnius:

- Lessons for primary grade schoolchildren about the workings of the brain;
- Interactive session „Brain, fear and anxiety” for the secondary school students;
- Lecture for the gymnasium level students in neurobiology of the brain;
- Produced one lesson materials about the structure of the brain and factors important for mental health to be used by primary school teachers;
- Brain drawing competition for the primary schoolchildren.

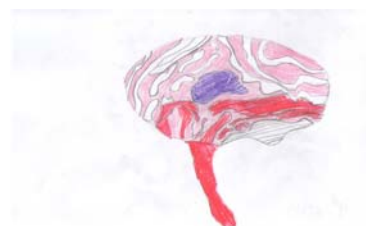
Press release emphasized the need for better brain research funding, including brain diseases and brain health, since Lithuania is among countries with the lowest per capita funding for the brain research. Relative number of researchers in neurosciences is also very low compared with many other European countries. International events like Brain awareness week help raise understanding of brain among general public. Long term increased visibility of brain issues might help recruit more young people to neuroscience, brain and mental health fields.

Activities this year were small in scale and involved only several hundred students and their teachers. Interactions with schools, students and teachers provided valuable experience that will be used to evaluate activities of the Brain week 2009 and improve and broaden the scope of the future events.

Even small scale events had produced considerable media interest. Information about events appeared in internet news portal, several interview inquiries were received to be confirmed at a later date. There was a very positive response from both students and teachers who participated. Teachers positively responded to materials that aid classroom work and were positive about planning additional training to improve their teaching about the brain skills.

Media coverage after events:

1. <http://www.zebra.lt/lt/moterims/savijauta/Pamineta-Smegenu-pazinimo-savaite-2009-03-23.html>
2. <http://kauno.diena.lt/naujienos/grozis-ir-sveikata/ka-zinai-apie-savo-smegenis-208389>
3. <http://klaipeda.diena.lt/naujienos/grozis-ir-sveikata/ka-zinai-apie-savo-smegenis-208389>
4. <http://www.alfa.lt/print/10265152/>



Drawings from the activity „Draw the brain” for primary schoolchildren

European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 19

Joel Glover (Oslo, Norway)

Lecture Series on Brain Development and Function

Organisation:

Joel C. Glover, Prof, PhD
Chairman, Department of Physiology
Institute of Basic Medical Sciences
University of Oslo
PB 1103 Blindern
Sognvannsveien 9
0317 Oslo
Norway

Terje Sagvolden, Prof
Department of Physiology
Institute of Basic Medical Sciences
University of Oslo
PB 1103 Blindern
Sognvannsveien 9
0317 Oslo
Norway

Phone: +47 22851230

Email: joel.glover@medisin.uio.no

Phone: +47-22851286

Email: terje.sagvolden@medisin.uio.no

Dates and Duration: March 16 – 19, 2009

The project involved a series of free public lectures designed to improve public awareness of brain research and its impact on society. The lectures were sponsored by the Institute of Basic Medical Sciences at the University of Oslo, and featured key neuroscientists from the University of Oslo and nearby institutions. The lectures were held on successive evenings in a lecture hall located in the downtown part of the University of Oslo, providing easy access to the public. The lecture topics were:

- What is the brain composed of, how is it put together, and how does it work? Professor Jon Storm-Mathisen
- The brain as a dynamic organ. Professor Ivar Walaas
- Explorations in the brain's neural network. Assistant Professor Trygve Leergård
- Can data analysis and informatics help us understand how the brain works? Professor Jan Bjålie
- Training and brain health. Senior Researcher Linda Bergersen
- Must we change our view of the world to understand the relationship between the brain and consciousness? Professor Johan Storm
- How does the brain code information? Professor Arild Njå
- ADHD in preschool children. Project leader Heidi Aase.

The lectures were well attended and enthusiastically received.

Support from FENS and the Dana Foundation was used for advertizing, including the printing of large format posters and placards, as well as for video recording of the lectures.

The Institute of Basic Medical Sciences is very thankful for this generous support, without which the event would have been much more difficult to put on.



"Hjernens uke 2009"

Hjernens uke, Brain Awareness Week, er et årlig, verdensomspennende arrangement som har som hensikt å øke den allmenne forståelsen av frembrutt gjort i hjerneforskning. Som landets største forskningsinstitusjon innen biomedisinsk grunnforskning, ønsker Institutt for medisinske basalfag ved Universitetet i Oslo å bringe kunnskap og forskningsnyheter fra hjerneforskning ut til folk flest.

Program

Mandag 16. mars
Professor Jon Storm-Mathisen (Institutt for medisinske basalfag, UIO):
Hva består hjernen av, hvordan er den satt sammen, og hvordan virker den?
Professor Sven Ivar Walaas (Institutt for medisinske basalfag, UIO):
Hjernen som et dynamisk organ.

Tirsdag 17. mars
Førsteamanuensis Trygve B. Leergård (Institutt for medisinske basalfag, UIO): Oppdagelsesreisen i
hjernens nevronettverk.
Professor Jan G. Bjålie (Institutt for medisinske basalfag, UIO):
Kan databehandling og informasjonshjelp oss til å forstå hvorledes hjernen fungerer?

Onsdag 18. mars
Seniorforsker Linda Hildegard Bergersen (Institutt for medisinske basalfag, UIO): Trening og
hjernehelse.
Professor Johan F. Storm (Institutt for medisinske basalfag, UIO):
Må vi endre vårt syn på verden for å forstå forholdet mellom hjernen og vår bevissthet?

Torsdag 19. mars
Professor Arild Njå (Institutt for medisinske basalfag, UIO):
Hvordan leder hjernen informasjon?
Prosjektleder Heidi Aase (Nasjonelt folkehelseinstitutt):
ADHD i førskolealder.

Foredragene er åpne for alle interesserte. Gratis entré.

Alle dager fra kl 18 til 20 i Auditorium 4 i Karl
Johans gt. 47, Domus Academica (Ubygningen,
bygningen på østenden av Universitetstorgsen),
Universitetet i Sentrum. (se flagg på kartet)

http://www.uio.no/om_uio/akt/zoom/02.html

European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 20

Emilia Zabielska (Lublin, Poland)

The Days of the Brain: 4 ways of neurosciences'

Organisation:

Emilia Zabielska
Member of Student's Neurosciences Association
Institute of Psychology of John Paul II
Catholic University of Lublin
Student's Neurosciences Association
al. Raławickie 14
20-950 Lublin
Poland

Phone: +48 508 546 511
Email: zabielska.emilia@op.pl

Dates and Duration: March 18 – 21, 2009

The Days of the Brain were held on 18th – 21st of March in the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. There were four thematic blocks 1. Self, agency and others: from mirror neurons to social neuroscience, 2. Methods in minds: from clinical to personal, 3. Brain plasticity: from neuron to brain integration, 4. Prostheses and interfaces: from neuroergonomics to neurocommunication

18th - 19th of March **Promotion of Brain Awareness Week Idea**

The Days of the Brain started with a course of workshops "How to measure mind?" – It was a presentation of contemporary methods of measuring physiological reactions, electroencefalography and eye tracking in Psychoneurophysiological Laboratory of Catholic University of Lublin. Students could also take part in Brainquiz, "Make your own brain!" workshops and sing the Brain Song.

By participating in workshops not only could students have a unique chance to broaden their knowledge and get interesting experience, but also to get to know new people with similar interests from all walks of life.

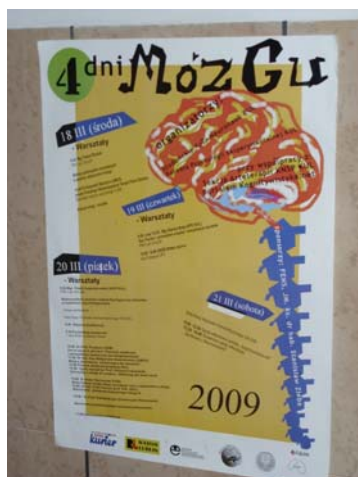
20th of March **The Brain's Day**

The most prominent polish scientists gave lectures on topics of four thematic blocks of the Brain's Day. Participants had an opportunity to take part in discussions. The main guest of the event was Professor Richard Frackowiak from Centre Hospitalier Universitaire du Vaud in Switzerland.

The lectures' aim is to make young people, teenagers and students interested and enthusiastic about presented topics and to present these areas of scientific interest to the wider audience.

21st of March **Meeting Neuroscience**

Meeting Neuroscience was a conference for students, where they could present and discuss their research and research projects in neuro- and cognitive sciences.



European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 21

Jolanta Zagrodzka (Warsaw, Poland)

Brain Awareness Week 2009

Organisation:

Jolanta Zagrodzka, Prof
Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology
Pasteura 3
02-093 Warsaw
Poland

Phone: +48 22 5892246
Email: j.zagrodzka@nencki.gov.pl

Paweł Boguszewski, Dr
Phone: +48 22 5892451
Email: p.boguszewski@nencki.gov.pl

Ksenia Meyza, Mgr
Phone: +48 22 5892451
Email: k.meyza@nencki.gov.pl

Andrzej Wróbel, Prof
Phone: +48 22 5892440
Email: a.wrobel@nencki.gov.pl

Dates and Duration: March 16 – 21, 2009

Five open lectures took place in the conference hall of the editorial office of POLITYKA, the most renowned Polish weekly magazine. The lectures drew a lot of attention (the conference hall for 350 seats was full every day, people even sat on the floor). The audience consisted mainly of young people- students of universities and high schools however many seniors also attended. After each lecture vivid discussion lasted at least 20 min. Prof. R. Ohme talked about how the brain activity discovers the mystery of commercials. Prof. J. Czarkowska described why it is worth to exercise your brain. Prof. Cz. Czabała and Prof. M. Wojnar tried to convince the public that the psychotherapy changes not only psyche but also the brain. Prof. A. Grabowska talked about the plasticity of the brain in her lecture "Use it or loose it" and finally Prof. T. Werka described the role in our everyday life and the brain mechanisms of fear and anxiety.

The last day of our meetings opened with the nice ceremony of the award of laureates of the open literary competition devoted to the brain and mind. Jury of the competition awarded 7 persons in 4 categories (secondary/high school and poem/prose). On Saturday, in the Warsaw High School of Social Psychology, scientific workshop was organized on the pathology of insomnia (Prof. W. Szelenberger) and neuropsychiatric disorders in neurological clinics (dr W. Swiderski).

The event had pretty big media coverage – in Polish public and commercial radio (7 programmes), Polityka and daily newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza.



European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 22

Rosa Resende (Coimbra area, Portugal)

Exercising our senses. Fitting our brain

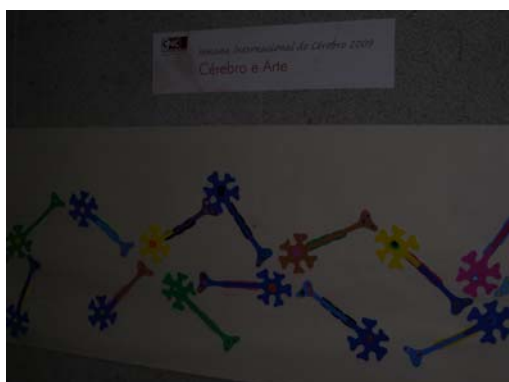
Organisation:

Rosa Resende, PhD
Institute of Biochemistry
Faculty of Medicine
Centre for Neuroscience and Cell Biology
Rua Larga, University of Coimbra
3004-504 Coimbra
Portugal

Phone: +35 1239820190
Email: rositaresende@gmail.com

Dates and Duration: March 16 – 20, 2009

During the Brain Awareness Week (BAW) the Center for Neuroscience and Cell Biology (CNC) organized visits to schools in the Center Region of Portugal. The main goal of the activities was to get the children in contact with neuroscientists and to perform experiments designed to illustrate the way the brain uses our senses and how these might be related with the human artistic experiences. Neuroscientists visited schools and guided students from level A (ages 6 - 8), level B (ages 9 - 11), level C (ages 12 – 14) and level D (ages 15 – 18) in different experiments, according to their ages. Activities included presentations (brain structure and functions, types of cells and how they communicate, the five senses and their importance to our perception of the world, ways to keep a healthy brain, notions of visual memory, auditory memory, working memory, short-term memory, and long-term memory), manipulation of 3D brain models, and interactive experiments ("The brain box – Use your touch", "Where does that noise come from?", "Smell it. Guess it!", "What you see is what you get. Is it really?" and "Pick your colour"). The total audience was 828 students from 11 schools.



European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 23

Cristian Gurzu (Braila, Romania)

Brightness Brains

Organisation:

Cristian Gurzu, PhD
National College Nicolae Balcescu
Street Alexandru I. Cuza 162
Braila
Romania

Phone: +40 23 9615333
Email: cristiangu2001@yahoo.com

Dates and Duration: March 16 – 22, 2009

On the 16th march the students was organized the poster exhibition “Brain research success stories” with translated posters from SfN web site: Adolescent brain, Depression, Dyslexia, Dystonia, Insomnia, Muscular Dystrophy, Alcoholism, Nicotine addiction, Autism, Pain, Down syndrome.

On 17th March was organized the Brain Bee competition for students from the high schools. The competition was attended by students from National College Nicolae Balcescu and other high schools in town. During the competition, the students answered questions from the Brain Facts publication, edited by Society for Neuroscience.

On 18th march was organized the *Neuroset* competition for young students from 7th grade. They answered questions about anatomy and physiology of the nervous system and sense organs.

On 19th march was organized the drawing exhibition by the young students.

On 20th March, was organized the symposium “Frontiers in neuroscience”. First of all, there were presented the aims of The Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives and the roles of researches in neuroscience. During the symposium, the students were attended at web site HHMI lecture about “Mapping Memory in the Brain” by Professor Eric R. Kandel, M.D.



After symposium there were given diplomas, *Neuroset* magazines, Mind bogglers booklet, and prizes for the winners at the “Brain Bee” competition and “*Neuroset*” competition (neuroscience books, trophies, T-shirts).

The winner of the second competition Brain Bee in Romania is Smaranda Roşioru, student in 12th grade from National College “Gh. M. Murgoci”, Braila.

The winner of the first competition *Neuroset* is Miruna Danaila, student in 7th grade from National College “Nicolae Balcescu”, Braila.

All the students had received certificates of attendance.

The event was publicized in the local press.

The directors of National College Nicolae Balcescu were assured the logistic for this event. Also, some local sponsors have an important contribution to organize this event.

The Brain Awareness Week had a great success in our community. We are grateful for Directors of the Dana Foundation’s and FENS.



European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 24

Leon Zagrean (Bucharest, Romania)

Brainstorming on improving sleep efficiency

Organisation:

Leon Zagrean, MD, PhD
National Neurosciences Society of Romania
Center of Excellence in Neuroscience
Physiology Department
"Carol Davila"
University of Medicine and Pharmacy
8 Eroilor Sanitari Blvd
050474 Bucharest
Romania

Phone: +40 21 3120880
Email: leon.zagrean@gmail.com

Dates and Duration: March 18 – 20, 2009

March 18th, 11.00 – 15.00 - Neuroscience Lab Open Day
March 19th, 17.00 – 20.00 - Workshop on Power Napping
March 20th, 15.00 – 17.00 - Brainstorming Session on Improving Sleep Efficiency

The National Neuroscience Society of Romania organized BAW events with international participation sponsored by the DANA Foundation. The events were centered on how to improve sleep efficiency and took place at Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy in collaboration with the Scientific Organization of the Medical Students. There were about 200 participants, mostly students from health sciences (medicine, biology, psychology and sociology) and professionals. The events started with a Neuroscience Lab Open Day on March 18, when students were guided in the laboratories of the Center of Excellence in Neuroscience. The Workshop on Power Napping, organized with the participation of our invitee, Dr. Mihai Moldovan (University of Copenhagen) on March 19, included discussions on EEG, sleep, power-napping and on how to design a sleep study.

The brainstorming session on March 20 included 9 student presentations on improving sleep efficiency, from which the best one was awarded.



European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 25

Marina Chernisheva (St. Petersburg, Russia)

Neurobiology for the Society

Organisation:

Marina Chernisheva
Sankt-Petersburg State University
Faculty of Biology and Soil Science
Universitetskay umb.
199034 St. Petersburg
Russia

Phone: +78 12 3289741

Email: mp_chern@mail.ru

Dates and Duration: March 22, 2009

I. Public Forum "Brain and its function in health and pathology"

Venue and city: St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg State University

Audience – age group and number: More than 100 children (age 14 - 16) and 7 teachers

Style and format of the event: 3 lectures for children and teachers

- Prof. E. I. Krasnoshchekova: " Brain Structure in embryogenesis"
- Prof. I. I. Kryvoi: "Brain and endogenous pharmacologic substances"
- Prof. M. P. Chernisheva: "Cognitive functions and hormones of brain"

Results of traditional city competition for children, who work about brain

Some themes of schoolchildren's reports:

- Asymmetries of hand's activities in girls and boys (EW)
- Pictures with aggressive signs in children 5 - 6 years (EW)
- Peculiarities of results of tapping-test in girls and boys 12 - 14 years (EW)
- Asymmetries of motor activities in rats with restriction of vibrissae in neonatal period and old animals (EW)
- Mechanisms of memory ®
- Mechanisms of intuitive knowledge ®

Reports of winners in the categories:

- Reviews ®
- Experimental Works (EW)
- Discussion

The children heard the presentations of winners of its works with attention and had questions for the authors. The discussion was very interesting.

II. Lectures in schools

Venue and city: Intellectual school centre and Academic high school in St. Petersburg

Audience – age group and number: More than 120 children (age 12 - 16) and 30 teachers

Style and format of the event: 2 lectures for children and teachers

- Prof. D. K. Obuhov: "Brain stem cells" (Intellectual school centre)
- Prof. D. K. Obuhov: "Addictive drugs: deceived brain" (Academic high school)

III. Academy of second education for teachers

Venue and city: St. Petersburg, ul. Zvenigorodskay 5

Audience – age group and number: More than 40 teachers of schools, high schools and students

Style and format of the event: 1 lecture for teachers

- Prof. D. K. Obuhov: "Synaptic processes in mechanisms of memory"

IV. State Medicine Academy I. I. Mechnikov

Venue and city: St. Petersburg, Pyskarevsky pr. 117

Audience – age group and number: More than 60 students and high school teachers

Style and format of the event: 1 lecture for students and teachers

- Prof. D. K. Obuhov: “Stem cells and brain damages”

V. Excursion to the Institute of Physiology I. P. Pavlov of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Venue and city: Nab. Makarova 6, St. Petersburg,

Audience – age group and number: More than 40 children (age 12 - 16)

Style and format of the event: 1 lecture for children; visiting the experimental laboratories

- Prof. A. D. Nozdrachev, member of Russian Academy of Sci.: “History of the Institute of Physiology”

- Dr I. Bystron: “Excursion to the experimental laboratories”

Resume:

The BAW contributed to enlightenment of school and high school teachers and to support of interest in neurobiology in children. The child sensed a taste for scientific creation, may be for the first time! What is more significant?



Winner with presentation



Winners



Flying dog from EW

European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 26

Milka Culic (Belgrade, Serbia)

Brain Awareness Week 2009 in Serbia

Organisation:

Milka Culic
Institute for Biological Research
"S. Stanković"
University of Belgrade
Bulevar despota Stefana 142
Belgrade
Serbia

Phone: +381 11 2078465
Email: milkacul@ibiss.bg.ac.yu

Dates and Duration: March 18 – 19, 2009

We are happy that during this year, as many times before, we gave certain contributions to the Brain Awareness Week in Belgrade. Interesting lectures at the Institute for Biological Research "S. Stanković", University of Belgrade, Bulevar despota Stefana 142, Belgrade, were organized during the EDAB Brain Awareness Week 2009 in Serbia.

The program (posted on the Institute's site: www.ibiss.bg.ac.yu/sr) was as the following:

Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2009; 13.00 – 14.30

13.00-13.10 Welcome and Introduction to BAW 2009
M. Čulić

13.10-13.50 Lecture: Mathematical methods for the study of brain signals
G. Keković

13.50-14.30 Lecture: Functional and structural plasticity in cerebral cortex
D. Lalosević, I. Čapo



Date: Thursday, March 19, 2009; 13.00 – 14.30

13.00-13.45 Lecture: Magnetobiology – Magnetic fields and brain
D. Todorović

13.45-14.30 Lecture: Experimental approaches in investigation of magnetic field's effect on the central nervous system
B. Janać

The lecturers did not forget to mention the important names in History of Science: this time these great names were - J. Fourier, I. Pavlov and E. Golgi. However, the BCI (brain computer interface) was the most interesting topics which attracted the attention of the participants. The pupils from two Belgrade primary schools – "Ljuba Nenadovic" and "Dragojlo Dudic" as well as from three Belgrade high schools – III Belgrade, V Belgrade and VII Belgrade high school with their teacher of physics and biology were most numerous in the audience, but the academics from Medical School of Kosovska Mitrovica, Belgrade and Novi Sad were also present. We guess that there were about 50 to 60 participants. Wonderful neuroscientific interest and fun was induced not only by the lectures but also by the distributed materials for EDAB Week (Mind boggling and other booklets received from London), indeed.

However, the organization of the BAW 2009 in Serbia was unexpectedly more difficult than ever before, particularly from financial point of view. Although we were informed on January 29 that our application for BAW grant was not rejected completely and that we were awarded the small grant of 500 € (or equable campaign material), we obtained on March 17 with a lot of difficulties the package from London (after I have paid the customs control taxes as the package was completely unspecified). The package was of the same content like it was the one which we have received last year when we were not formally awarded, and when we did not have such expectations.

The most disappointing thing, at least for me, no Serbian BAW efforts could be recognized on the EDAB site. Could I/you urge your administrator to post any of the Serbian Programs/reports/photos on EDAB website? I did not forget that few years ago (before 2007) the Belgrade's BAW happenings were not omitted from your EDAB website.



European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 27

Maja Bresjanac (5 cities, Slovenia)

Brain Awareness Week (BAW) in Slovenia 2009

Organisation:

Nina Mohorko
SiNAPSA
Institute of Pathophysiology
Zaloška cesta 4
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Mara Bresjanac, Prof, Dr
Institute of Pathophysiology, Faculty of Medicine
U. of Ljubljana
Zaloška 4
1000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Phone: +386 1 5437035
Email: nina.mohorko@lnpr.mf.uni-lj.si

Phone + 386 1 543 7033
Email: maja.bresjanac@sinapsa.org

Dates and Duration: March 16 – 22, 2009

Ljubljana: 16. – 20.03. 2009; daily from 13.00 – 23.00

Maribor: 16.03.2009; from 16.00 – 22.00

Koper: 17.03.2009; from 16.00 – 17.30 – trans-frontier event in Italian language (for Italian minority in Slovenia) in cooperation with B.R.A.I.N. from Trieste, Italy

Koper: 18.03.2009; from 17.00 – 22.00

Postojna: 17.03.2009; from 19.00 – 20.00

Begunje na Gorenjskem: 18.03.2009; from 10.30 – 12.00

Let's work out our brain! (Razgibajmo možgane, homepage www.sinapsa.org/tm): year-round

Other members of BAW 2009 organising team in alphabetic order:

- Jurij Bon [jurij.bon@pb-begunje.si]
- Maja Bresjanac [maja.bresjanac@mf.uni-lj.si]
- Simon Brezovar [simon.brezovar@gmail.com]
- Luka Dimic [lukadimic@gmail.com]
- Mateja Drolec Novak [mateja.drolec-novak@mf.uni-lj.si]
- Maja Milavec [maja.milavec@gmail.com]
- Grega Repovš [grega.repovs@guest.arnes.si]
- Toma Strle [toma.strle@guest.arnes.si]
- Martina Starc [martina.starc@gmail.com]
- Vita Štukovnik [vita.stukovnik@kclj.si]
- Vid Vodusek [vvvodusek@yahoo.com]
- Franja Žišt [franja.zist@gmail.com]

Razgibajmo možgane!



Several activities all around the country comprised Brain and Music, BAW 2009 in Slovenia.

The majority of events took place in Ljubljana, where Monday was dedicated to associations of neurologic and psychiatric patients, Tuesday to children and from Wednesday to Friday, there were lectures, mostly on brain and music. There were two projections of artistic films per day in Slovene cinematheque in Ljubljana (dubbed Brain-o-theque for the BAW 2009), followed by a short expert lecture explaining the neuroscientific aspect of the film.

We expanded BAW to other University towns of Slovenia. In Maribor and Koper, we held lectures, followed by a projection of a film.

This year in Koper, capital of the Slovene Coast which is a Slovene-Italian bilingual territory, a lecture in Italian language in cooperation with B.R.A.I.N from Trieste was introduced.



As has become a tradition in the past few years, there was a lecture on brain in Postojna, and a mini-symposium in the psychiatric hospital of Begunje na Gorenjskem. We work on enriching our web-site Let's work out our brain! (www.sinapsa.org/TM) year round.



European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No.28

Pascal Wurtz (Bern, Switzerland)

Brainweek Bern 2009

Organisation:

Pascal Wurtz
Departments of Clinical Research and Neurology
University of Bern
Inselspital
3010 Bern
Switzerland

Phone: +41 31 63201 89
Email: pascal.wurtz@dkf.unibe.ch

Dates and Duration: March 16 – 21, 2009

The brain awareness week 2009 Bern coincided with the 175th anniversary of the University of Bern. Inspired by earlier events and reports from other cities and countries the organizers representing the "Clinical Neurosciences Bern" have decided to supplement the traditionally scientific program of the BAW Bern with cultural/artistic contributions. The multiplicity of disciplines from natural sciences to philosophy or arts draws many pictures of the brain and its functions. We have taken advantage of this variety of approaches in order to inspire a broader public to look into brain-related topics. During that week from March the 16th to the 21st this was achieved by a combination of scientific talks including Q&A sessions (mo, tu, th, fr), a dedicated movie screening (we), a professional theatre performance (sa) and a drawing contest (exhibition during the BAW). As was the custom in earlier years and thanks to the generous support by our sponsors all events were free of charge for everyone. The program attracted a total of ~1.500 people over the week and was published in local media (newspapers and cultural magazines).

The activities in detail:

Scientific talks:

On four evenings topics like brain implants, happiness, language or nature vs. nurture were presented by experts in the respective fields. Following the talks' room was given for discussion and one-on-one interviews.

Movie:

Screening of the prizewinning movie "Le scaphandre et le papillon" (France, 2007, by Julian Schnabel) telling the true story of a man, who suffered a stroke that paralyzed his entire body (locked-in syndrome), except his left eye. The movie was rent and shown exclusively for the BAW in collaboration with a Cinema equipped with historic equipment. Prior to the movie a short scientific introduction to the cause and course of the locked-in syndrome was given.

Theater performance:

Cervelle & Gloria (by Pergoletti, Wunsch & Germano) is a modern piece of theater telling the story of a brain which is tired of the protagonists indecisiveness. But who has the final say, the person or its brain? A fantastic and poetic comedy addressing topics like freewill and the relationship between body, mind and brain. The piece was performed in the auditorium of a local school following a scientific introduction.

Drawing Contest:

For the drawing contest we provided a drawing template consisting of an empty head which could be downloaded via internet. We received close to 100 drawings from little and big children of all ages. From the many replies we received, winners will be drawn to win prizes donated by a painters shop. All images are exposed online.

The complete program as well as images of all activities is available online at <http://www.brainweekbern.ch>.

Organisation and funding

Event funding:

The lecture rooms and CHF 2.000 were offered by the University of Bern. Additional funding particularly for the theatre was provided by the Burgergemeinde Bern (CHF 6.000). Other sponsors were the Berner Bündnis gegen Depression (CHF 1.000), the Synapsos Foundation (CHF 1.000) and FENS (€1.000). Printed material was offered by the European Dana-Alliance with support of the Swiss Society for Neuroscience and the Swiss Brain League.

Participating organizations and supporters:

- University of Bern
- Inselspital Bern
- Clinical Neurosciences Bern
- European Dana Alliance for the Brain
- Swiss Society for Neuroscience
- Swiss Brain League
- Burgergemeinde Bern
- FENS
- Berner Bündnis gegen Depression
- Synapsis Foundation
- Lachenmeier Farben
- Freies Gymnasium Bern



European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 29

Hilleke Hulshoff Pol (Several cities, The Netherlands)

"Neuroscientists at school"

Organisation:

Hilleke Hulshoff Pol, PhD
Professor of Neuroscience
Dutch Neurofederation
Neuroscience Division
Heidelberglaan 100
3584CX Utrecht
The Netherlands

Phone: +31 88 7556019 / 9019
Email: h.e.hulshoff@umcutrecht.nl

Dates and Duration: March 7 – 22, 2009

In and around the week of 16 - 22 March, 2009 an extensive program on different aspects of brain research was provided for those interested to learn more of this fascinating organ. The major event during the BAW in the Netherlands was that neuroscientists gave presentations on their work at schools all over the country in classes for children between 15/19 years of age.

On March 7th lectures on the unforgettable brain were held.

On March 16 through 22 there was a BAW presentation on TV showing BAW neuroscientists at school.

On March 16 through 22 neuroscientists gave presentations of their work at school. This was the major event in the Netherlands during the BAW.

On March 16th the winner of the art award of the stop brain tumors organization was announced.

On March 17th a lecture on joining with limitations was given.

On March 20th a lecture of Donders law was given.

On March 20th a one day event on living brains was given.



Details are provided at the website of the Brain Awareness week at <http://school.brainawarenessweek.nl/>.

The Neuroscientists at school event

The Neuroscientists at school event was the major event in the Netherlands during the BAW in the Netherlands. During the months of January and February schools with children between 14 and 19 years of age were sent a letter of invitation through the secretary of the Dutch Neurofederation to participate in the BAW. We received reactions of 107 schools who would like to participate. Meanwhile, neuroscientists were invited through email that they could participate in the BAW by giving a lecture. Participation was done through the BAW website. The secretariat of the Dutch Neurofederation linked schools to neuroscientists, who then went of and gave their lectures at the schools. Most schools could be matched with a neuroscientist. Some schools could not be matched, largely for logistic reasons. These schools will be matched first in next years BAW.

We received very positive reactions of the students and teachers of the schools as well as of the neuroscientists. Several students who were working on projects of the brain mailed researchers after the lecture to obtain more information on particular subjects.

Neuroscientists found their work well received. The students asked many questions. Both neuroscientists and students and their teachers provided an atmosphere in which questions and discussion were possible and frequent.

Considering the positive reaction in this and last years BAW of students, their teachers and the neuroscientists we intend to continue the program in coming years.

The finances for the Neuroscientists at school event covered by the BAW grant paid for the letters send to the schools in the Netherlands, for the secretarial support to match neuroscientists to school, and for some of the travel expenses for

those scientists who had to travel long ways to ensure that we reached schools of all over the Netherlands and not just those in close proximity of Universities.

On behalf of the Dutch BAW Organization 2009 and the Board of the Dutch Neurofederation I would like to thank the European DANA Alliance for the Brain for their contribution to the Brain Awareness Week 2009 in the Netherlands.



European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 30

Gonul Peker (Izmir, Turkey)

Brain Bee, Brain and Behavior Science and Health, Brain and Behavior in Artistic Cinema

Organisation:

Gonul O Peker, Prof
Ege University Faculty of Medicine
Physiology
Bornova
35100, Izmir
Turkey

Phone: +90 232 3882868
Email: gonul.peker@ege.edu.tr

Dates and Duration: April 2 – May 22, 2009

No report available

European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 31

Jane Haley (Edinburgh, UK)

How we see the brain and what the brain sees

Organisation:

Jane Haley
Edinburgh Neuroscience
University of Edinburgh
1 George Square
Edinburgh EH8 9JZ
Scotland
UK

Phone: +44 131 6503522

Email: edinburgh.neuroscience@ed.ac.uk

Dates and Duration: March 16 – 19, 2009

2 hour workshops for local primary schools plus a 2 week long 'what is in my head' drawing competition across Edinburgh.

Almost 180 pupils from three Primary Schools in Edinburgh visited the University of Edinburgh for a series of three workshops examining how we view the brain. They found out that the brain is made of neurones and other cells and how the development of imaging technology means we can now see a brain at work! They participated in talks where they found out about how brain imaging researchers are investigating how we respond to emotions; they looked at real human brains and made brain pictures out of plasticine. Having found out how neuroscientists 'see' the brain, they then started finding out how the brain sees the world using optical illusions and talks. In addition they participated in a 'what is in my head' drawing competition where they had the opportunity to decide what was in *their* head and draw it. For the first time this year we have made this competition available to the whole of Edinburgh! The children had a wonderful time but also so did their teachers and the University staff as well!

European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 32

Stuart Allan (Manchester area, UK)

Brain Bus II

Organisation:

Stuart Allan, Dr
Faculty of Life Sciences
The University of Manchester
AV Hill Building
Manchester M13 9PT
UK

Phone: +44 161 2755255

Email: stuart.allan@manchester.ac.uk

Dates and Duration: March 16 – 17, 2009

This was the second year that the “Brain Bus” had toured the Greater Manchester area during Brain Awareness Week. On board the mini-bus were a series of activities relating to the brain and senses and an intrepid band of young neuroscientists to demonstrate these.

Over two days the ‘Brain Bus’ visited several public libraries and also Manchester Piccadilly Railway station to engage with school children and members of the public.

Co-organisers Stuart Allan and Ellen Poliakoff also appeared on the Breakfast Show for the local Manchester television programme Channel M to talk about Brain Awareness Week and the “Brain Bus” project.

At all venues participants were encouraged to leave feedback on our “Brain Feedback Board”. Comments were very positive and reflected the success of the whole event, and included things such as “Very educating for old and young people and I thought it was GREAT!” and “Cool, fantastic fun”.

All being well 2010 will see the “Brain Bus” touring once more.



European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 33

Natasha Sigala (Cambridge, UK)

Introduction to the brain for preschool children

Organisation:

Natasha Sigala, Dr
Medical Research Council
Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit
15 Chaucer Road
CB2 7EF, Cambridge
UK

Phone: +01223 273688

Email: natasha.sigala@mrc-cbu.cam.ac.uk

Dates and Duration: March 16 – 20, 2009

Our aim was to inform the children (n=30, ages 2,5 to 5) about the brain and its functions in an age-appropriate, fun and interactive way. We made the children aware of the brain's importance, and why we should protect it e.g. why we need to wear helmets and seatbelts, why we need to eat properly and get enough sleep. We used a range of activities from visual illusions, games, colouring, playing with brain models and making brains with play dough. All activities were coordinated by Tristan Bekinschtein and Natasha Sigala from the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, with the support of the JCN staff.

Short Introduction

We introduced the subject to the children by emphasising how important the brain is to be able to learn and remember all sorts of things, to be able to see and hear and run around. We then showed how sometimes the brain can play tricks on us with visual illusions and a sound localisation game.

Visual illusions

We showed some classic visual illusions, like the faces and vase, the rabbit/duck head, to show the two alternative interpretations. We also showed some powerful motion illusions (e.g. the "rotating snakes"), on a projector and on paper print outs, and invited the children to test if something was really moving on the paper.

Brain models

The children played and interacted with a variety of 3D brain models.

Healthy eating

We had a tactile food recognition game, where one child was trying to guess what type of food we had placed in a box, and then we all discussed if that food was healthy and good for the brain or not.

Colouring and play dough

Each child coloured in a couple of different brain pictures and took them home. They also tried to make their own version of a brain with play dough.

Sound localisation game

Volunteers held one end of a tube to each ear, and tried to identify which side (left or right) of the tube had been tapped. This was very difficult if the tapping happened near the middle of the tube.

Jelly brains, eggs and safety

The children had the chance to touch brain-shaped jelly, which motivated our discussion about safety. We shook a jelly brain in a biscuit tin and watched it lose its shape. We also dropped an egg on the floor and watched it break, but when we put it in a styrofoam cup (helmet) it survived the drop. We talked about how important it is to wear our safety belt in the car, and a helmet when on the bike,



roller skates etc. We also saw pictures of Bob the builder and Fireman Sam and discussed why they wear helmets too.

We ended our visit by summarising how important it is to keep safe, eat healthy and have a good night's sleep for the brain.

The event was announced in the nursery's monthly newsletter. We also had an announcement on the door of the Nursery, the Nursery head had explained to the parents about the visit and asked for permission to have the children photographed. We also publicized the event on the MRC CBU news website.

How was your event funded?

a) Dana Foundation Grant b) the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit c) Joint Colleges Nursery

We used pages from the Neuroscience colouring book (neuroscience for kids) for the colouring activity (<http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/colorbook.html>).

We also used online visual illusions (e.g. <http://www.michaelbach.de/ot/>)



The event was organised by Tristan Bekinschtein and Natasha Sigala in collaboration with the Head of JCN, Carol Dearn. On the day, eight members of nursery staff were with the children, supporting them in the activities, and the on site chef helped us organise the food recognition game. Tristan Bekinschtein is a Marie Curie Fellow, and Natasha Sigala is a Royal Society Research Fellow, both based at the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit.

We felt that the children enjoyed the event, and we were impressed that they all paid attention and behaved extremely well for the two hour period we were with them.

We had many keen volunteers to try the games we had planned. They all learnt that our brain is inside our head, and we need to take good care of it by eating healthy food and protecting it when necessary. They were very impressed with the egg demonstration, and all have been keen to wear their helmets and eat healthy foods since the event. Several parents told us that the visit made a big impression on the children that they talked a lot about it, were keen to wear their helmets before riding a bike, or said that "lollipops are bad for your brain". The children are now convinced that the brain is inside our head and not in the tummy, as some of them pointed out when we started the event.

The CBU has a long standing history of inviting the general public to participate in science events and fairs but it is the first time that brain related activities are organized for such a young public. Also several scientists found out about BAW initiatives and outreach activities when they saw that we were organizing this event. Kids were positively impressed by the event and remember most of the concepts several days later. Several parents gave positive feedback to the nursery staff about the event. We are now planning to repeat this event in other venues since it was fun to do for us and raised consciousness on health and safety in the children.

Suggestions or lessons learned that may help others plan future events:

Keep activities short and simple when working with small children to make them effective. Perform; use visually salient gadgets and engaging games to generate a long lasting effect in the memory of the kids. Ask first what they think this is for, what is the brain, where is it, what we can do with our brains; the more interactive the activities, the more involved and interested the children will be.

"Quotable comments" which capture successful aspects of our event:

"They were very impressed by the egg breaking and how it can be protected; I think they are very aware about helmets now" (Nursery Staff).

"I want my daddy to be a scientist too".

"I cannot see but I want to eat it" (One four-year-old while touching food in the black box).

"Lollipops are bad for your brain". (A four-year-old, one week after our BAW visit).



European Brain Awareness Week 2009 Events

Project No. 34

Kirsty Halliday (York, UK)

Me, Myself and MRI

Organisation:

Kirsty Halliday
Geodesic Arts
84 Sutherland Street
York YO23 1HQ
UK

Phone: +44 7736 646920
Email: kirsty@red-sand.co.uk

Dates and Duration: March 18 – 19, 2009

The funding we received from the Dana Foundation enabled us to publicise and deliver two tours of the Me, Myself and MRI exhibition, where members of the public were able to meet the artistic and scientific team behind the project. Dr Damian Murphy of Geodesic Arts delivered the tours alongside Dr Sam Johnson, Science Manager at York Neuroimaging Centre, and they delivered talks that covered the following areas: contemporary neuroimaging techniques (focusing on MRI) – how they work and their varied applications; MRI brain scan images – how they are extracted from the raw data and what they illustrate; creative digital technology (audio, video, photography and interactivity) and how it's been used in the exhibition to highlight and complement the MRI scan images. The additional publicity generated in the run-up to the tours has also led to enquiries from two potential future venues for the exhibition that would enable us to extend the current tour and reach a wider, national audience.

