



# The International Brain Bee

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[www.thebrainbee.org](http://www.thebrainbee.org)

## News Release

**Embargo 19 April 2021 10:00 AM EDT**

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## **International Brain Bee Welcomes Alzheimer's Association as New Governing Partner**

The Alzheimer's Association has formed a partnership with the International Brain Bee (IBB), joining the IBB's five founding partners - the American Psychological Association (APA), the Dana Foundation, the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS), the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) and the Society for Neuroscience (SfN).

[Maria C. Carrillo](#), Ph.D., Chief Science Officer at the [Alzheimer's Association](#), has been appointed to the IBB Board of Directors, comprised of representatives from the founding partners and the IBB Founder, Dr. Norbert Myslinski.

"The addition of the Alzheimer's Association as our new governing partner represents an important milestone for the IBB and an opportunity to expand its global reach," said Jaime Diaz-Granados, IBB Board Chair. "All five founding partners recently renewed their own commitment to the important mission of the IBB. The support and active participation of these leading scientific organizations are essential to the IBB's continued success and growth. We welcome our esteemed colleagues at the Alzheimer's Association and look forward to working closely with our newest board member Dr. Carrillo."

The IBB aims to motivate students to learn about the brain and inspire them to pursue careers in neuroscience or medicine so they can help treat and find cures for brain disorders, including Alzheimer's. As a member of the Board of Directors, Dr. Carrillo will be responsible for establishing the strategy and direction of the IBB, setting policies and general control/oversight.

"The Alzheimer's Association is deeply committed to engaging youth in our cause, sharing our passion for neuroscience, and introducing more people to dementia research," said Dr. Carrillo. "The passionate and visionary young people of IBB, along with IBB's leadership, will create the future breakthroughs that change the lives of people living with, and at risk for, Alzheimer's disease and all other brain disorders."

"It is vital that we form collaborations and partnerships with global communities of all ages, but especially the youth, to create a world without Alzheimer's disease," Dr. Carrillo added.



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In addition to participating in the IBB's governance, the Alzheimer's Association will contribute to various planning efforts.

- Heather M. Snyder, Ph.D., Alzheimer's Association Vice President of Medical & Scientific Relations, will join the IBB's Partnerships and Fundraising Advisory Committee. Together with the other IBB Governing Partners, the Alzheimer's Association will help the IBB expand its global reach, actively recruit new countries into the Brain Bee community while building a more effective IBB infrastructure.
- Claire Sexton, D.Phil., Alzheimer's Association Director of Scientific Programs & Outreach, will join the IBB's Academic and Competition Advisory Committee. The Committee oversees the annual World Championships, creating a consistent and exciting Brain Bee experience for all participants.

The IBB is currently planning a unique virtual program for the 2021 World Championship later this year while preparing for the next in-person event, to be hosted by the FENS Forum of Neuroscience in Paris, France, in July 2022. More information is available at <https://thebrainbee.org>

## History & Background

The Brain Bee – a neuroscience competition for teenagers – was founded by Dr. Norbert Myslinski in the United States in 1998 and is currently hosted in almost 50 countries around the world. The culmination of this program is the World Championship held every year in conjunction with a major scientific conference. For 20 years, the IBB operated and grew solely based on extraordinary volunteer commitments of time and resources. In early 2018, the IBB was established as a non-profit educational organization, with support from five leading global brain research and education organizations.

The main responsibilities of the IBB are the organization of the annual World Championship and coordination with the National Brain Bees.

- The 2018 competition took place just a few months after incorporation and was held in conjunction with the 11<sup>th</sup> FENS Forum.
- The 2019 IBB World Championship was hosted by the 10<sup>th</sup> IBRO World Congress in Daegu, South Korea, and drew a record number of 28 participating countries.
- The 2020 World Championship was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The five founding partners supported and guided the IBB's evolution from a grass roots initiative into a globally-connected organization. Brain Bees around the world are still organized almost entirely by volunteers, but their efforts are now formally linked by the IBB. All five organizations recently renewed their commitment for another three years.

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## **About the [Alzheimer's Association](#)**

The Alzheimer's Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia®. For more information, visit [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) or call the 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900.

## **About the [American Psychological Association \(APA\)](#)**

The American Psychological Association (APA) is the largest scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States. APA's membership includes over 122,000 researchers, educators, clinicians, consultants and students. Through its divisions in 54 subfields of psychology and affiliations with 60 state, territorial and Canadian provincial associations, APA works to advance the creation, communication and application of psychological knowledge to benefit society and improve people's lives.

## **About the [Dana Foundation](#)**

The Dana Foundation is a private philanthropic organization dedicated to advancing understanding about the brain in health and disease through research grants and public outreach.

## **About the [Federation of European Neuroscience Societies \(FENS\)](#)**

FENS is the voice of European neuroscience. With 44 national and single-discipline neuroscience member societies across 33 countries, FENS represents 20,000 European neuroscientists with a mission to advance European neuroscience education and research.

## **About the [International Brain Research Organization \(IBRO\)](#)**

The International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) is the global association of more than 90 international, national, and regional scientific organizations that aims to promote and support neuroscience around the world.

## **About the [Society for Neuroscience \(SfN\)](#)**

The Society for Neuroscience (SfN) is an organization of nearly 37,000 basic scientists and clinicians who study the brain and nervous system.

## **About the [Brain Bee Founder](#)**

Dr. Norbert Myslinski is a member of the University of Maryland's Department of Neural Pain Sciences in Baltimore. He has devoted his professional life to teach about the human brain around the world. He founded the Brain Bee 1998 and fostered its growth into a successful global initiative. In 2016, Dr. Myslinski was awarded the SfN Science Educator Award supported by the Dana Foundation.