

January 2023 MNS Newsletter



MNS

Mediterranean
Neuroscience Society

Greetings to MNS scientists all over the world!

We want to thank you for your support during this extraordinary year and wish you a Happy New year. May 2023 bring seeds of hope and offer inspiration, motivation, and opportunities to early career researchers and the scientific community at large.

We also hope 2023 brings you all that you desire for your personal lives. See you in Carthage, Tunisia for MNS2023!

Yours,

Giuseppe Di Giovanni, MNS President
On behalf of the MNS Council



The Mediterranean Neuroscience Society (MNS)

was created in 2009 and works towards three main objectives:

- First, strengthen exchanges between Mediterranean neuroscientists.
- Second, promote education in the neurosciences and increase public awareness of progress made;
- Third, sustain scientific, training, and networking events, such as, in particular, the biennial Mediterranean Neuroscience Conference.

Research on brain function in health and disease is among the priorities for today's societies, and several indicators put the Mediterranean research area among strategic issues for the European Union (EU).

To reach these objectives, the MNS's policy is to work in close cooperation with existing national and international Neuroscience Societies. In particular, we are a proud member of the International Brain Research Organization – IBRO and act in synergy with the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies – FENS.

The mission of the Society: Research on brain function in health and disease is among the priorities for today's societies, and several indicators put the Mediterranean research area among strategic issues for the EU. Many South-North collaborations and networks have emerged in recent years through bilateral and multi-lateral actions,

supported by the EU or by regional actions, whether for setting up teaching curricula (Tempus programs) or building human potential (FP7 programs).

The MNS was created to support and help strengthen existing and new projects that bring together neuroscientists from all shores of the Mediterranean:

- by offering travel stipends and prizes to young scientists, especially from the southern areas of the Mediterranean
- by actively organizing events dedicated to north-south networking and scientific exchange, as well as advanced student training
- by enhancing the visibility of north-south collaborations and projects, spotlighting them in “bottom-up” contributed symposia during the MNS conference or in satellite events
- by providing an efficient interface and access to larger societies such as IBRO and FENS.
- The last Mediterranean Conference of Neuroscience was organized in 2022 in Dubrovnik, (Croatia), 2019 in Marrakech (Morocco), preceded by editions in 2017 in St. Julian (Malta), in Pula-Sardinia (Italy) in 2015, Istanbul (Turkey) in 2012, Alexandria (Egypt) in 2009. MNS plans to further open future Mediterranean Conferences to showcase the richness and creativity of Mediterranean research in all types of neuroscience, as well as of strategies to improve cross-Mediterranean cooperation.

2023 MNS Membership renewals are open!

Dear colleague,

The Mediterranean Neuroscience Society needs your help to continue and expand its actions!

Your Society membership runs from 1st January to 31st December each year, so now is the time to start thinking about renewing your membership for 2023. We hope that you are safe and well and have not been seriously affected by the impacts of the pandemic. We recognize there will be some challenging times ahead, so we have kept our 2023 membership subscriptions at the 2022 rates. We would love for you to continue your membership journey with the Mediterranean Neuroscience Society and stay with us until next year.

If you are still not a member and you want to help us strengthen Mediterranean neuroscience cooperation, please join the MNS! Help us organize events, propose your projects, remain informed about our initiatives, and support us. Get actively engaged or sponsor us by becoming a member!

After you sign-up on <https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/> (see below for detailed instructions), you will be able to apply for a 2023 membership and enjoy

MNS BENEFITS:

1. Receive regular updates from MNS (Society e-newsletter & email announcements)
2. Discounted MNS congress/meeting

registration fees

3. Free access to lectures and courses supported by MNS
4. Opportunities to apply for MNS support & Awards
5. Listing/access to the members' directory
6. Right to vote in MNS elections and MNS General Assembly
7. Be nominated/ right to nominate candidates for MNS Council, and serve on MNS Committees
8. Career training and to be a part of a vibrant online community

Annual membership fees are:

- Regular Member: 40 €
- Student Member: 15 €
- Sponsor Member: ≥ 100 €

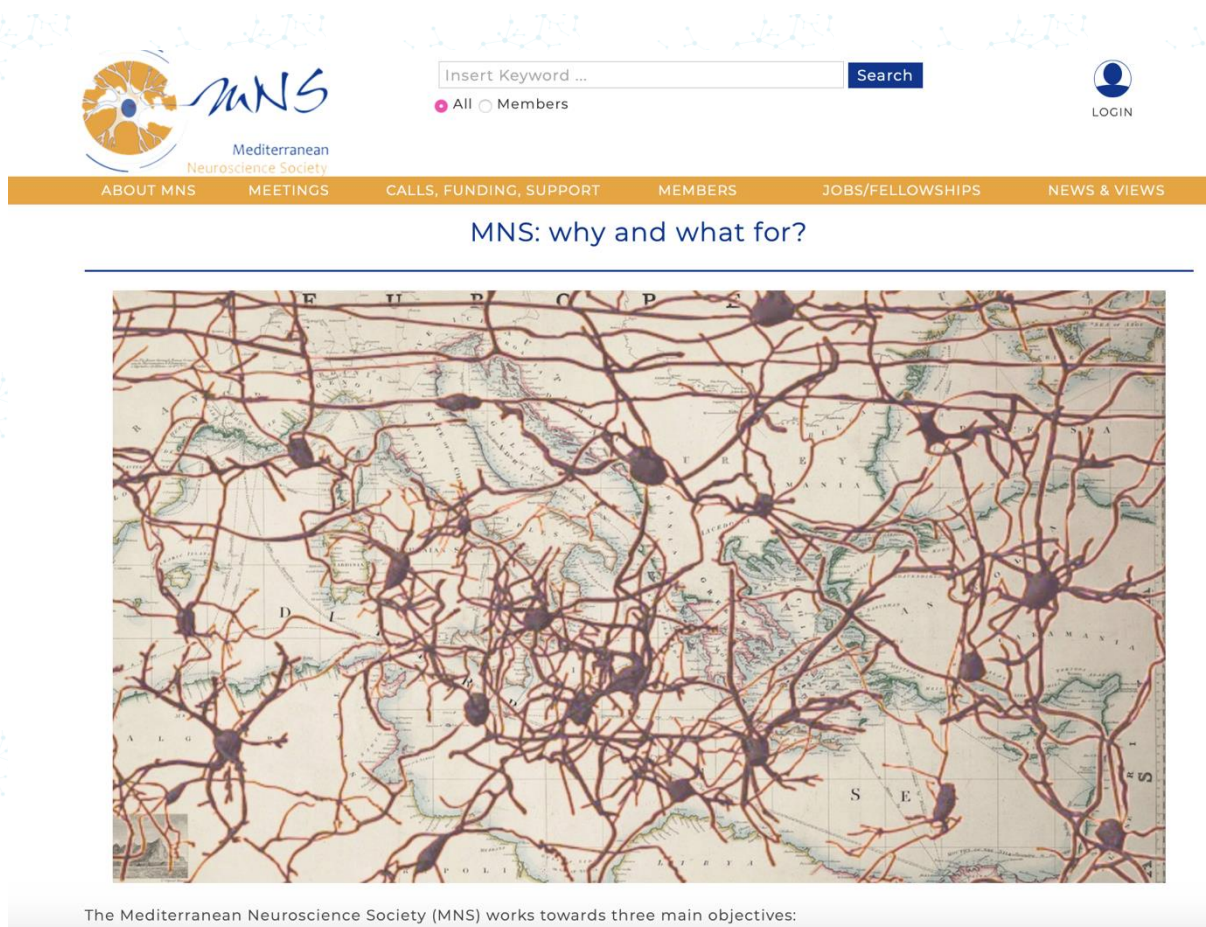
STEPS TO JOIN MNS TODAY

1. Click <https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/member-register.php>, sign-up, and create a new profile, if you are joining the MNS for the first time.
2. Click <https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/member-login.php> on
3. Click on PAYMENT ANNUAL FEES and select the method of payment (Bank Transfer or Credit Card)
4. Welcome to the MNS community and enjoy the benefits

MNS website

Our website is constantly updated. Visit us at www.medneuroscisociety.org. Please, sign in as a member to create a profile at <https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/member-register.php> and register to MNS2023 to be able to submit your abstract for poster/oral presentation for MNS2023!

The newly approved Bylaws and Rulebook can be found here: <https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/mns-council-and-bylaws.html>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Mediterranean Neuroscience Society (MNS). At the top left is the MNS logo, which consists of a stylized orange and blue brain icon next to the letters 'MNS' and the text 'Mediterranean Neuroscience Society'. To the right of the logo is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Insert Keyword ...' and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar are radio buttons for 'All' (selected) and 'Members'. Further right is a 'LOGIN' button with a user icon. Below these elements is a horizontal navigation bar with the following menu items: 'ABOUT MNS', 'MEETINGS', 'CALLS, FUNDING, SUPPORT', 'MEMBERS', 'JOBS/FELLOWSHIPS', and 'NEWS & VIEWS'. Below the navigation bar is a section titled 'MNS: why and what for?' which contains a large image of a map of the Mediterranean region overlaid with a complex network of red lines and dark brown nodes, resembling a neural network or a map of connections. Below the image is a caption: 'The Mediterranean Neuroscience Society (MNS) works towards three main objectives:'.

MNS Council Vacancies

Eight vacancies are open for election to



the MNS's Council, of which 7 Council members and 1 Vice-President.

The collection of expressions of interest will close in September 2023. Elections will run online from the 16th of September to the 30th of September 2023 and the results will be announced at the General Assembly Meeting during MNS2023 in Tunisia.

The Council is the MNS's governing body

(https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/mns-council-and-bylaws.php?type_file=pdf&name_file=MNS-Bylaws-2017.pdf).

The Council has 15 members (<https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/mns-council-bylaws>)

Council meets two-three times each year (both live or virtually) and members serve a two-year term, which may be renewed for a further term of three years. The generic responsibilities of charity trustees are significant and are set out here. We seek individuals (academic) of standing, with expertise in the field of Neuroscience, and a commitment to the purpose of the MNS to 'promote Neuroscience in the Mediterranean benefit' which goes beyond a commitment to represent their own discipline.

Any Fellow who is considering standing and would find the further discussion helpful, please get in touch with Prof. Giuseppe Di Giovanni at:

president@medneuroscisociety.org

To be able to submit your candidacy you need to be registered to the website as a Member.

Call for Young MNS Committee (YMNSC)



MNS highly supports young researchers and promotes their career development at any stage.

The Young MNS Committee (YMNSC) aims to bridge the gap between young members' needs and the MNS Council.

The YMNSC promotes participation in the scientific community of young neuroscientists in the Mediterranean area, emphasizing those working in low-income countries. It channels its own initiatives, organizes activities useful for students' training and transition towards independence, and addresses the interests, needs, problems, and concerns of young neuroscientists in the Mediterranean area.

The YMNSC channels information relative to Education in Neuroscience and MNS activities through our social media and newsletter.

YMNSC general mission is to strengthen the MNS young community and to enable young neuroscientists to discuss their views on the future of Neuroscience in the different Regions of the Mediterranean area.

The YMNS President will participate in the decision-making processes of the MNS Council by participating in their meetings, with a unique role of advising the MNS Council on issues of early career scientists and developing programs and activities that meet their needs.

Committee on Animals in Research in the Mediterranean Area (CARMA)

Members of CARMA are 6 (six) members of the Board of Directors of MNS with the President as the Chairmen.

CARMA advises MNS on the responsible use of animals in neuroscience research, supports the development of relevant resources on animals in research and promotes public education in matters related to the use of animals in neuroscience in the Mediterranean area.

"Animals are commonly used for scientific purposes in North Africa and the Middle East. However, this field is often inadequately regulated, with many countries lacking national legislation, policies, or guidelines for the care and use of animals used for research, testing, or education. This results in an essentially uncontrolled

system where scientific quality and animal well-being cannot robustly be guaranteed, which may hinder the scientific community's acceptance (i.e., publication) of results and limit public confidence. An overarching system is needed to oversee the efficient promotion of scientific and ethical standards and the dissemination of information on laboratory animal science in North Africa and the Middle East, while each country should remain able to maintain a system of oversight that reflects its own cultures, traditions, religions, laws, and regulations."

The mission of CARMA falls within the following areas:

- Organizing the first Survey in the Med. Area
- Monitoring and advice
- Education and outreach
- Training and support

Next Meeting: MNS2023 Carthage, Tunis 14th- 18th of October 2023

Welcome letter

Dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure and honor to invite you to the 9th Mediterranean Neuroscience Society (MNS) Conference which will take place in beautiful Carthage in Tunisia, a UN ESCO World Heritage Site and certainly one of the most beautiful places in the Mediterranean, from 14th to 18th October 2023. We look forward to welcoming researchers, scientists, clinicians, students, educators, local and regional authorities, as well as civil society organisations in the neurosciences field and those interested in any aspect of research on brain function.

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed vast inequities between populations and scientific research and technological development have become more necessary than ever for a better future and better equality. Also, a place to connect scientists from all around the world and let them share their research discoveries and experiences with the scientific community, particularly from developing countries or minorities now more than ever is needed. In this context, we hope that scientific interest in developing countries can be expanded particularly in neuroscience and the impact of MNS conferences is certainly in favor of the idea.

The 9th MNS Conference aims to promote knowledge and foster closer

these mutual ties between Mediterranean neuroscientists and neuroscientists at large and with your participation MNS will succeed.

As with previous MNS conferences, communications at the meeting will include high-quality Keynote and Symposia speakers and we would very sincerely thank President Giuseppe Di Giovanni and all the members of the MNS council for their work and commitment, especially to those most involved in the organization of the Conference. We also thank IBRO and FENS for their invaluable support. Their great teamwork will surely make this meeting one of the best.

Finally, we hope you enjoy the chance to learn and network at MNS2023 as you will also have the opportunity to visit Carthage with its history stretching back nearly three millennia, the capital Tunis and the elegant village of Sidi Bou Said where the blue and white houses are the best of traditional Tunisian architecture.

Sincerely,

Olfa MASMOUDI and Taoufik GHRAIRI
MNS2023 Conference Chairs



Olfa MASMOUDI and Taoufik GHRAIRI
MNS2023 Conference Chairs

Giuseppe DI GIOVANNI
MNS President



Giuseppe Di Giovanni, MNS President
on behalf of the MNS Council and



MNS
Mediterranean
Neuroscience Society

CALL FOR SYMPOSIA

November 14th – 31st December 2022

MNS 2023 CARTHAGE

9th International Conference of the
Mediterranean Neuroscience Society

14-18 October 2023 - Tunisia

Hotel "Carthage Thalasso Resort" Gammarth, Tunis

CONTACT INFORMATION:

MEDITERRANEAN NEUROSCIENCE SOCIETY - MNS

email: info@medneuroscisociety.org



First register at <https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/member-login.php> and create your MNS member profile.
Chose PAY ANNUAL MEMBER FEE in your personal panel <https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/member-panel.php>

QUINTA TRAVEL TUNEZ

The MNS2023 Secretariat is



MONTASSAR BEN ABDERRAHMEN
Sales manager

[QUINTA TRAVEL AND EVENT : Hammamet –Tunez](#)

Hiba building - N° 1 - , Rte yasmine hammamet , 8050 Hammamet

Tel : (+216) 72.226.945

Email: commercial@quinta-travel.com -

Mobile & whatsapp : (+216) 55 222 110

Website: www.quinta-travel.com / www.quinta-event.com



A bus service from Tunis–Carthage International Airport to Carthage Thalasso Hotel will be available on demand.

Call for symposium proposals – MNS 2023

The 9th Mediterranean Neuroscience conference that will be held in Carthage (Tunisia, 14-18 October 2023) is now accepting submissions for proposed symposia. A typical symposium gathers 4-5 speakers, each addressing the general topic from a different perspective. The total allocated time is 2 hours per proposed symposium (linked symposia could be proposed, but their joint acceptance is not guaranteed, given our aim to increase thematic diversity). Symposia dealing with all areas of neuroscience research are warmly invited, including, biomedical, clinical, genetics, imaging, computational history and teaching neuroscience. Proposals gathering speakers from both shores of the Mediterranean sea shores will receive priority.

The requirement to submit a proposal is active MNS membership for the current year (2023)

First register at <https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/member-register.php> and create your MNS member profile. Choose PAY ANNUAL MEMBER FEE in your personal panel.

The MNS strives to strengthen exchanges between Mediterranean neuroscientists, promote education in the neurosciences and increase public awareness of progress made. The participation of scientists from the South countries, whether as organizers of symposia or as speakers, is, therefore, highly encouraged. The

gender ratio, and the geographical distribution in order to promote a diversity of the attending members, within each proposal will also be taken into account to reach a decision.

Online submission for symposium proposals opened on November 21st, 2022, and ends 31st of January 2023

- Title of the symposium
- Name(s), affiliation(s) and email(s) of the organizer(s)
- General abstract of the symposium describing the aims of the symposium (no more than 500 words)
- Name, address, email, academic position or career stage, and gender of each speaker (no abstracts are requested at this stage)

The MNS and its partners will provide a limited number of stipends for qualified early-career candidates (guidelines to be released soon). However, the symposium proponents are invited to seek funding for travel, accommodation, and conference registration of the invited participants (MNS only offers logistic support at the meeting venue).

Call for oral and poster presentations – MNS 2023

The 9th Mediterranean Neuroscience conference that will be held in Carthage (Tunisia, October 14-18, 2023) will soon accept submissions for oral and poster presentations.

Info will be posted at: <https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/member-register.php>

Venue MNS 2023 HOTEL "Carthage Thalasso Resort" Gammarth, Tunis



Carthage Thalasso Resort is a hotel on the seafront situated in Gammarth in a quiet and relaxing area overlooking the beautiful Mediterranean Sea.

The hotel is also suitable for business and leisure travellers. The historic city of Carthage is 7 km, Sidi Bou Said is 8 km and Tunis-centre is 20 km away.

Tunis international airport is 25 minute drive away. The rooms are spacious and comfortable.

<https://www.carthagethalassoresort.com/en/>



Important dates and deadlines for the 9th Mediterranean Neuroscience conference

November 14th – January 31st, 2023: **Symposia Proposal Submission**

February 15th – March 15th, 2023: **Oral/Poster Abstract Submission**

April 1st, 2023: **Travel Grant application opens**

September 1st, 2023: **Deadline for Early Registration**

October 14th – 18th, 2023: **MNS 2023 & Onsite Registration**

October 17th, 2023: **Travel Grants - MNS Best Poster Prizes Ceremony**



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DETAILS

- Before submitting your abstract, please review carefully the Abstract format instructions.
- Abstracts must be submitted by 15th March 2023, for

consideration by the Scientific Committee.

- To be able to submit an abstract, the corresponding author must be registered and have paid to attend the conference.

Terms and Conditions

By submitting an abstract, authors confirm that they understand and accept the following rules for participation in MNS Meeting 2023:

- All author(s) approve submitting this work for presentation
- The author(s) transfer(s) all copyright ownership of the named abstract to MNS Meeting 2023
- At least one author must be available to present the paper if selected for the program. The authors will immediately notify the MNS Meeting Secretariat if they are unable to present the paper or if the presenting author has changed. The organizers reserve the right to remove a presentation from the program if conditions require it.

MNS Travel Grants 2023

MNS will provide some travel grants to attend MNS 2023, thanks to the organizations and sponsors.

Eligibility (please read carefully before

applying):

MNS will provide travel grants for students, post-docs, and early-stage researchers that do not hold a permanent academic position to support their active participation in the MNS 2023 conference in Carthage, Tunisia. Priority will be given to candidates living in the South-Mediterranean area and those that have never been sponsored by MNS before. Applicants should have a presentation at the meeting and provide the following documents to the President of MNS, Prof Giuseppe Di Giovanni at:

president@medneuroscisociety.org

Required documents include:

- 1) CV
- 2) Abstract to be submitted at: president@medneuroscisociety.org
- 3) Support letter from the supervisor or department head indicating the status and need for travel support
- 4) Proof of Ph.D./student status
- 5) Membership to MNS and proof of payment performed at: <https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/member-register.php>

MNS2023 Key-Note Speakers

DANIELE PIOMELLI -
University of California, Irvine,
USA - Presidential Lecture

Daniele Piomelli studied pharmacology and neuroscience with James H. Schwartz and Eric Kandel at Columbia University (1983-1988), and with Paul Greengard at Rockefeller University (1988-1990). In 2000, two of his mentors (Kandel and Greengard) were awarded the Nobel Prize for their contributions to physiology and medicine. After working at the INSERM in Paris (France) and at the Neurosciences Institute in San Diego, with Nobel Laureate Gerald Edelman, Daniele joined the University of California, Irvine, where he is now Louise Turner Arnold Chair in Neurosciences and Distinguished Professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology, Pharmacology and Biological Chemistry. Daniele is an author of >400 peer-reviewed articles in journals such as Nature, Science, Nature Medicine, PNAS, and Nature Neuroscience, three full-length books, and 34 patents. He founded the department of drug discovery and development (D3) at the Italian Institute of Technology in Genoa (Italy), which he directed from 2007 to 2016, and three biopharmaceutical



start-ups based on discoveries made in his lab. He is the director of the UCI's Center for the Study of Cannabis and Editor-in-Chief of Cannabis and Cannabinoid Research, the first peer-reviewed journal entirely dedicated to the study of cannabis, its derivatives, and their endogenous counterparts in the human body.

Title: The long-term impact of cannabis use in adolescence: it's time to take a fresh look.

AMADI IHUNWO - University of
Witwatersrand, Johannesburg,
South Africa

Professor Amadi Ogonda Ihunwo is a Professor of Anatomy and a Neuroscientist at the School of Anatomical Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), Johannesburg, South Africa. Professor Ihunwo holds a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree from Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda (2004) with research conducted at the Paul Flechsig Institute of Brain Research, University of Leipzig, Germany. He joined Wits University in



May 2005 and is currently the Head of the School. His research area is Comparative Adult Neurogenesis and Gliogenesis; looking at the generation of new cells in the adult brain in mammalian and avian species and the factors that affect the process at different life stages. He has supervised and graduated several Ph.D.s and MScs and some others who are ongoing. He is a South African National Research Foundation (NRF) rated Scientist and has over 80 Publications in accredited peer-reviewed journals. He is the

Immediate past Secretary-General of the Society of Neuroscientists of Africa (SONA) and current Chair of the SONA Governing Council. He was re-elected as a Councillor, representing Africa on the Council of the International Society for Neurochemistry (2021 - 2025). He is the Founder of the Foundation known as Brain Awareness Initiative (BWI).

Title: Adult neurogenesis and gliogenesis in the Japanese quail brain

RAJITA SINHA - Yale University, School of Medicine, USA

Rajita Sinha, Ph.D. is the Foundations Fund Endowed Professor in Psychiatry, and Professor in Neuroscience and in Child Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine. She is a licensed Clinical Psychologist and Clinical Neuroscientist, Chief of the Psychology Section in Psychiatry and Deputy Chair of Psychiatry for Psychology at the Yale University School of Medicine. She is the founding director of the Yale Interdisciplinary Stress Center, which focuses on understanding the neural and psychobiological mechanisms underlying stress, trauma, and alcohol and substance use behaviors as well as related conditions such as chronic pain, comfort food intake, and obesity. She has developed novel drug craving, stress, pain, and food reward provocation paradigms to understand



mechanisms that drive these states and related pathologies. Her lab has also developed and tested novel pharmacological and behavioral interventions to address alcohol and substance use behavior change in the context of stress and trauma to decrease addiction relapse risk. She has received a number of awards for her work, including the recent Research Society on Alcoholism's Distinguished Researcher Award in 2020, and also the James Tharp Award from the American Society of Addiction Medicine. Her research has been supported by a series of NIH-funded research projects continuously for over 28 years. She has published over 340 scientific peer-reviewed publications with an H-Index of 102 on Google Scholar and has been cited over 37,000 times. She currently serves on the National Scientific Advisory Council of NIDA and is on the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) Expert Scientific Panel for the NIH Common Fund's Science of Behavior Change program. She has also previously

served as a member of the NIH/NIAAA Scientific Advisory Council. She has presented at numerous national and international conferences, and her work is widely cited. She has been featured as an expert on stress and trauma and its effects on memory, cognition, emotion, and health behaviors for numerous news outlets, including the Dr. Oz Show, NBC Nightly News, CNN Health, Wall Street Journal, and USA Today and featured in the HBO Documentary entitled "One Nation Under Stress" hosted by Dr. Sanjay Gupta. She

RIAGH GOUIDER - Head of the Department of Neurology, Razi Hospital, Faculty of Medicine of Tunis

Riadh Gouider is Head of Department of Neurology at Razi Hospital, Faculty of Medicine of Tunis and President of the Tunisian Society of Neurology. He received his medical degree in 1993, a



Diploma of Neurology in 1994 and a Master in human genetics in 1999 from the Faculty of Medicine of Tunis. He also received a Diploma of Clinical

conducts workshops, lectures, and retreats on stress management, self-care for the stressed professional and for senior executives and other community groups, and ways to reduce stress to enrich and enhance work, family, and personal growth and development.

Title: Stress, Drugs, and Relapse: How can neuroscience help us in improving addiction treatment?

Neurophysiology in 1993 from the Faculty of Medicine of Paris VI Salpetriere. Prof. Gouider is a foreign correspondent member of the French Academy of Medicine, since 2023 and trustee of the World Federation of Neurology (WFN) since 2014. He is member in the Sclerosis Lateral Amyotrophic research project and related syndromes in tropical zone (TROPALS) since 2012 and Expert member in the International Small Fibers Neuropathies Network and member of the CMT- International Database since 2015. He authored and co-authored more than 200 original papers or book chapters. His main fields of interest are Neurogenetics, Multiple sclerosis, Dementia, Inherited Peripheral Neuropathies and Epilepsy.

Title: TBC

TRACEY J SHORS - Department of Psychology and Center for Collaborative Neuroscience at Rutgers University, USA

Tracey J. Shors, Ph.D. is a Distinguished Professor in Behavioral and Systems Neuroscience in the Department of Psychology and a member of the Center for Collaborative Neuroscience at Rutgers University. With 150 scientific publications in journals including Nature, Science, PNAS, and Nature Neuroscience, her work has been featured in Scientific American, The New York Times, The Washington Post, and on NPR and CNN. Her research efforts were recently recognized with W. Horsley Gantt Medal from the Pavlovian Society for the "noble pursuit of truth." Macmillan has



published her new book: Everyday Trauma.

Title: Everyday trauma – and how not to ruminate on it so much

Other events

Fens Regional Meeting 2023

MNS will participate at the Fens Regional Meeting 2023 in Portugal with two members of the Scientific Programme Committee (President Giuseppe di Giovanni and President-elect Christina Dalla) and one accepted symposium proposal entitled: "Sex differences in stress responses: mechanisms of resilience and vulnerability to the development of mental disorders" with Prof. Patricia Campolongo as chair and speaker and Dr. Fatiha Chigr as speaker!

The FRM2023 will take place on 3-5 May 2023 in Albufeira, Algarve, Portugal. Attendees shall participate in keynote speaker presentations, 24 scientific symposia, 4 special symposia, diverse satellite events, and much more.

On behalf of the Scientific and Organizing Committee of the FRM2023, we would like to invite you to Algarve to celebrate Neuroscience in a welcoming and stimulating environment (and hopefully sunny

weather), where you can be inspired by an outstanding scientific programme and be able to share your most recent data.

Swiss Neuroscience meeting 2023

MNS will participate at Swiss Neuroscience meeting 2023 with an event co-organised with ALBA network <https://www.swissneuroscience.ch/ssn/activities/annual-meeting/>

MNS is member of the ALBA network and has signed the Declaration on Equity and Inclusion

More info at:

<https://www.alba.network>

ALBA NETWORK

ALBA Team Working Groups Membership Partners [Get Involved](#) [f](#) [in](#) [t](#) [v](#)

MISSION DECLARATION ACTIVITIES AWARDS EVENTS RESOURCES

ALBA NETWORK

TOWARDS DIVERSITY AND EQUITY IN BRAIN SCIENCES

Promote your diversity and inclusion event

Are you organizing an event on equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in STEM? Check our new Events page and inform us about it by using the submission form. We will promote it.

[More ->](#)

Declaration

The **ALBA Declaration on Equity and Inclusion** is a resource for concrete, positive, evidence-based actions that individuals and organizations at any level can take to promote equity and inclusivity.

594 individuals & 218 organisations have already endorsed it.

[Sign it ->](#)

PAST EVENTS

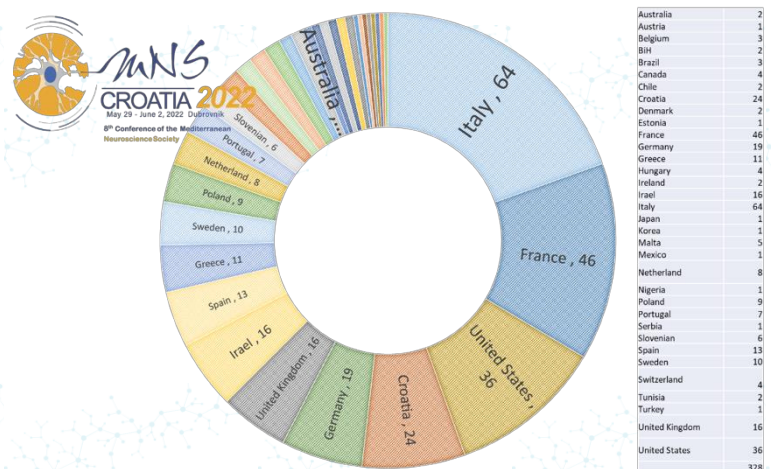
8th MNS Conference



The 8th Edition of the Meeting of the Mediterranean Neuroscience Society (MNS) took place in Dubrovnik, Croatia, from May 29 to 2 June 2022, with Prof. Goran Šimić as the President of the conference. The event was a great success, after the troublesome two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. It gathered 328 participants from 35 different countries, including Canada, the USA, and Australia, and offered a rich scientific program with 7 keynote lectures, 62 selected contributed symposia, and 53 posters.

As it may be found in the scientific program and book of abstracts (as a special issue of Xjenja journal), during the meeting we had the pleasure of welcoming an exceptional lineup of keynote lectures: Tracy Bale (IBRO president, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD, USA), Jean-Antoine Girault (FENS president, Sorbonne University, Paris, France), George

Paxinos (University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia), Laszlo Zaborszky (Rutgers University, Newark, NJ, USA), Fiorenzo Conti (University of Ancona, Italy), Ivana Delalle (Brown University, Providence, RI, USA), Ira Milošević (University of Oxford, UK).





Sunday, May 29th 2022, Dubrovnik Place Hotel, Dubrovnik, Croatia

17:00-18:00 Welcome to MNS Meeting (Mare 1 room)
Goran Simic (MNS2022 President), Tracy Bale (IBRO President), Jean-Antoine Girault (FENS President), Bayram Yilmaz (Secretary-General FEPS) and Giuseppe Di Giovanni (MNS President)

18:00-18:50 Plenary Lecture #1 (Mare 1 room)
Tracy Bale (IBRO President), "Extracellular vesicles as systemic stress signals important to the brain"
Chair: Liana Fattore

19:00-20:00 ALBA Network: Science and Networking Session (Mare 1 room)
Christina Dalla "Sex and gender aspects of neuropsychiatric research"
Moderator: Željka Krsnik

20:00-22:00 ALBA Network Reception

An additional special ALBA networking session was preceded by the lecture featuring Christina Dalla (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Athens, Greece). The topics of the lectures witnessed the interdisciplinary nature of the meeting by encompassing cholinergic and catecholaminergic neurotransmission, synaptic function, neuroplasticity, neuroglia, extracellular vesicles, tunneling nanotubes, endocannabinoids, thalamocortical

interactions, innovative therapies in translational medicine, neuropeptide modulation, signaling and gene regulation in neurological and psychiatric disorders, and many more. There was an exciting program, as shown by the conference proceedings.

ALBA Network @ MNS 2022

29 May 2022 at 7.00 pm
in Dubrovnik, Croatia

Lecture on *"Sex and gender aspects of neuropsychiatric research"*
by Prof Christina Dalla

Moderated by Prof Tracy Bale,
Prof Zeljka Krsnik & Dr Jordan Marrocco

Followed by an ALBA Network
Cocktail Reception



ALBA NETWORK
Towards diversity and equity in brain sciences



Prof Christina Dalla National Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece ALBA Volunteer
Prof Tracy Bale University of Maryland USA ALBA Board of Directors
Prof Zeljka Krsnik University of Zagreb, CIBR Croatia ALBA Board of Directors
Dr Jordan Marrocco Touro University, NY USA ALBA Ambassador



TRAVEL

GRANT

AWARDEES

1. Samuel Alberquilla Martínez M
Spain
2. Charalampos Brakatselos M
Greece
3. Ozge Selin Cevik F Turkey
4. Evelini Placido F Brasil
5. Jasmine Jade Butler F Australia
6. Jean Claude Scicluna M Malta
7. Anna Terem (Nudler) F Israel
8. Rodrigo Andrés Mira Guzmán, M
Chile
9. Tatiana Pinto Morais F Portugal
10. Anemari Horvat F, Slovenia
11. Adriano Lama M, Italy
12. Giulia Federica Mancini F,
Netherland
13. Anna Brancato, Italy
14. Liubov S. Kalinichenko, Germany
15. Virginia Delli F France

POSTER AWARDS

IJMS

Marta Ramos (SE)
Melodie Devere (FR)

CNS N&T

Lior BAR (IL)
Timothy McCulloch (USA)

Springer/Nature - The Receptors series

Jania Kopic (CZ)
Rafał Ryguła (PL)
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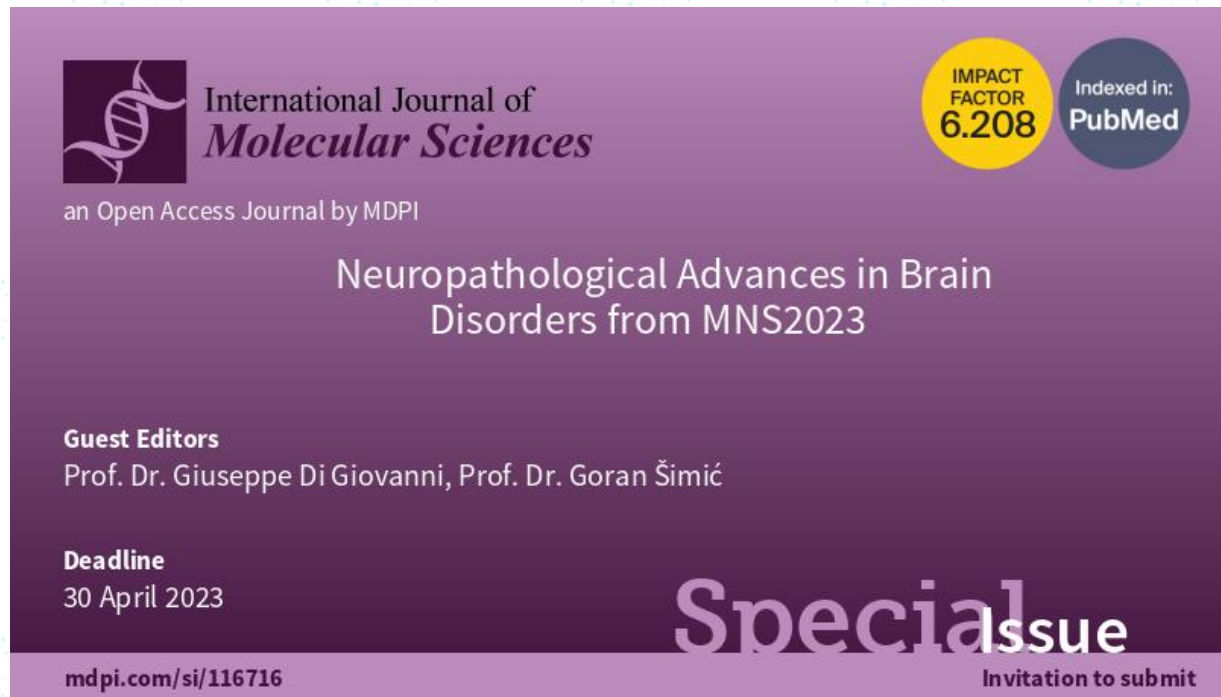
Elsevier Journal Neuroscience Methods


Sara Exposito (ES)
Martina Rincic (HR)
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Special Issues of the 8th International Conference of the Mediterranean Neuroscience Society are OPEN:

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Neuropathological Advances in Brain
Disorders from MNS2023

Guest Editors
Prof. Dr. Giuseppe Di Giovanni, Prof. Dr. Goran Šimić

Deadline
30 April 2023

Special Issue

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Frontiers Journals,

Plant-Derived Versus Endogenous Cannabinoids to Treat the Brain: The Root of All Evil or a Panacea?

<https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/38943/plant-derived-versus-endogenous-cannabinoids-to-treat-the-brain-the-root-of-all-evil-or-a-panacea>

Astrocytic Synaptic Plasticity in Epilepsy: From Synapses to Circuits

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Conference supported by MNS

Addiction 2022 meeting

The *Addiction 2022: Enlightening the addicted brain: cells, circuits, and therapies* meeting was organized by Marco Diana (University of Sassari), Myriam Melis (University of Cagliari) and Liana Fattore (Institute of Neuroscience, CNR), Italy. The meeting has been held, in person, at the Hotel Timi Ama in Villasimius (CA), Italy, from the 25th to the 28th of September and has seen a large and enthusiastic participation of 'addiction experts' coming 'literally' from five continents. Both Academia and Industry have been represented underscoring the importance and links between basic/clinical researchers with practical applications in drug discovery and technological applications. Meeting websites: <https://www.addiction2021.it/>

The backbone of the program has been the list of the 23 symposia held, in which major themes spanning from molecular biology, pharmacology, electrophysiology etc. were intermingled with clinical observations in the various subfields of addictive drugs (i.e. opiates, psychostimulants, cannabinoids, alcohol, etc). The program is still available at the meeting websites: <https://www.addiction2021.it/>.

Participation was wide in the daily poster sessions conveniently located in the coffee break area which facilitated interaction between junior and senior researchers.

Notably, during the final award ceremony, the following awards were given: 9 recipients of the Young Investigators Training Program Award funded by ACRI, 10

recipients of SIF (Italian Society of Pharmacology) to cover registration fees, 19 recipients of the ISN travel award, and 1 recipient of a travel grant offered by the Mediterranean Neuroscience Society (MNS). Moreover, other young researchers were awarded with "Best Oral presentation Award" by the MNS (2 awards) and ANTEC (2 awards) and with "Best Poster presentation" by the BJP (British Journal of Pharmacology, 2 awards).



Congratulations to our President Giuseppe Di Giovanni elected Secretary-General of IBRO

Our warmest congratulations to [Professor Giuseppe Di Giovanni](#), who has been elected Secretary-General of the World Neuroscience Organization IBRO.

IBRO (International Brain Research Organization) is the global association of neuroscience societies established in 1961 that aims to promote and support neuroscience around the world through training, education, research, outreach and engagement activities, and the publication of our two journals, Neuroscience and IBRO Neuroscience Reports.

Prof. Di Giovanni will serve as Secretary General elect in 2023 and start his term as Secretary General in 2024. Prof Di Giovanni, together with President Tracey Bale (USA) and the Treasurer Jerome Sanes (USA), will provide leadership with the potential to make a powerful impact on global neuroscience by overseeing, promoting and guiding the IBRO organization as a whole. He will work with over 90 international, national and regional scientific member organizations, five Regional Committees, Young IBRO, Secretariat staff, and other groups and like-minded partners to ensure that the needs of neuroscientists everywhere are met, global priorities are identified and gaps in knowledge, investment, and resources in brain research are bridged.



"I am delighted and humbled to have been elected to the role of Secretary-General of the World Neuroscience IBRO organization", said Professor Di Giovanni. "It means a great deal that neuroscientists across the world have put their faith in me and I want nothing more than to deliver for them all."

[Giuseppe Di Giovanni](#) is a Professor of the [Department of Physiology & Biochemistry](#) at the [Faculty of Medicine & Surgery](#) of the University of Malta, an Honorary Professor at Cardiff University. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal Neuroscience Methods by Elsevier and the President of the Mediterranean Neuroscience Society. He has recently been elected a member of the Academia Europaea for the section of Physiology and Neuroscience. Professor Di Giovanni is recognized for his work and expertise in biological psychiatry, such as breakthroughs in neurotransmitter (i.e., serotonin, dopamine, GABA, and cannabinoids) alterations in different CNS disorders.

MEET MNS Honorary Members

Honorary Members: Persons who have made a distinguished contribution at the international level to Society may be elected by Council with their formal announcement by the President during the Society's General Meeting at the biennial meeting.

Responsibility: Honorary members may attend Council meetings, but will not be allowed to vote; may be part of the scientific/organizer committee of the Biannual MNS Conference and continue to contribute to the progress of the Society Benefit: Honorary members shall be exempt from the payment of the annual Membership fee.

GIACOMO RIZZOLATTI

Giacomo Rizzolatti is an international authority in the fields of cognitive and system neurosciences. Giacomo Rizzolatti's initial work was on vision. He studied the lateral geniculate body, the superior colliculus and the corpus callosum in the cat. Giacomo Rizzolatti is more famous for his work on monkey premotor functional properties. He discovered the peripersonal space (area F4) and he, successively studied F6 neuron properties in a naturalistic setting and discovered that F6 is a higher-order motor area involved in the decision of when to start a motor action. Other Rizzolatti's studies on area F5 showed that most F5 neurons code specific goal-directed motor acts, rather than the single movements that form them. Using the motor act as the classification criterion, he subdivided F5 neurons into several classes and he proposed that F5 contains a "vocabulary" of motor acts. The presence of a vocabulary of neurons encoding goal-directed motor acts has two important consequences. Firstly, it facilitates the selection of effectors necessary for movement execution. Secondly, it enables the association between the visual properties of 3D objects and the appropriate hand movements for interacting with them. The presence of F5 neurons responding to 3D visual stimuli was discovered by GIACOMO RIZZOLATTI in his early ethological works on the premotor cortex. These neurons were named canonical neurons. Subsequently, using a formal behavioral paradigm allowing the separation of neural activity related to object observation, action preparation, and action execution, he showed that about a quarter of tested F5 neurons responded to the presentation of three-dimensional objects. The major discovery made by Giacomo Rizzolatti is, most likely, that of the mirror



mechanism, i.e. a neural mechanism that transforms the sensory representation of an observed behavior into its motor counterpart. The discovery of the mirror mechanism is considered a breakthrough in the system and cognitive neurosciences. Soon after the discovery of the mirror neurons in the monkey, Giacomo Rizzolatti showed that a mechanism transforming visual representations into motor representations is also present in humans.

Giacomo Rizzolatti has changed radically our view on the functions of the motor system. The motor system not only generates actions, but also represents an action "model" on which others' actions are matched and, consequently, recognized ("understanding from the inside"). Furthermore, recent data showed that the mirror mechanism is also located in emotional centers (e.g. the insula, the amygdala, and the cingulate gyrus) and allows an individual, when observing another individual expressing emotion, to experience it.

Giacomo Rizzolatti has coordinated and participated in several European initiatives joining groups from multiple Mediterranean countries, including Italy, France, Spain, Greece, Israel, and Malta. Giacomo's work has inspired lines of research that are now established in all European countries and even beyond. Giacomo has been nominated member of some of the most relevant academies in Mediterranean countries, like the Accademia dei Lincei (Italy) and the Academie des Sciences (France), as well as being awarded the Prince of Asturias award for scientific merits. He has contributed to the development of different teaching and research programs in Malta, where he is an Honorary Professor. For all these reasons, in addition to supporting MNS as a keynote speaker at different MNS meetings in 2012, and 2017, and for inspiring generations of Mediterranean scientists, MNS wants to award Giacomo Rizzolatti an Honorary Membership for the impact that his research has had - and will have - on the Mediterranean and worldwide neuroscience.

MARINA BENTIVOGLIO

Marina Bentivoglio, M.D. is a Professor of Histology at the University of Verona, Italy. Marina graduated in Medicine from the Catholic University of Rome, Italy. She was graduated also with a residency in Neurology. Her work focused on experimental approaches to the study of the neural connectome, the neural regulation of sleep and wakefulness, the neurobiology of disease, and neurodegenerative disease. She worked with many universities including, the Karolinska Institute, the University of Rotterdam and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and many others.



Marina served as Secretary General of the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO; 2007-2009). She was the President of the Italian Society of Neuroscience from 2008 to 2009 and was involved in different Committees, including the Federation of the European Neuroscience Societies (FENS). Marina was a member of the Council of the Rita Levi-Montalcini Foundation for the education of African women, and several scientific academies, including the European Academy.

She served as an expert for the French Agence Nationale de Recherche (ANR), the European Commission, and many international organizations. Marina Bentivoglio was directly engaged in the training of young neuroscientists in Africa and the Mediterranean area. This was one of the commitments she deeply believed in. Indeed, since 2001 she has participated as a teacher organizer or co-organizer in about 60 International Neuroscience Schools (mostly funded by IBRO) in many different countries, and in particular in the African continent and the Mediterranean area. She ran the Mediterranean KEMALI school, with 6 editions since 2009. Kemali schools gathered students and young neuroscientists from the north and south of the Mediterranean basin to learn a specific aspect of neuroscience and to reinforce networking and collaboration. Marina was involved in the "Teaching tools workshop" organized in African countries usually during SONA conferences. Marina Bentivoglio was one of the founders of the "Writing Papers Workshop" with an edition every 1 or 2 years in an African country. The last one was in Lagos, Nigeria, on 20-24 March 2019.

DRISS BOUSSAOU

Driss Boussaoud is a senior scientist (Directeur de Recherche) at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS, France). He works at the Institute of Systems Neurosciences (Aix-Marseille University), and he is currently the Co-Director of the Institute.

Born in a small village in the Middle Atlas of Morocco, D. Boussaoud received his B.S in Biology & Geology from the University Mohammed Vth of Rabat in 1980 and moved to France where he received his Ph.D. in Neurosciences from University Claude Bernard (Lyon) in 1983.

He then was appointed an Assistant Professor position at the University of Meknes (Morocco) for 2 years, before joining the NIH (National Institutes of Health, Bethesda MD, USA) as a post-doctoral fellow (3 years) and a research assistant (2 years). He first worked with the late Dr. Leslie Ungerleider on the anatomical connections of the dorsal visual stream (Boussaoud et al., 1990; 1991), and then with Dr. Steven Wise on the neuronal mechanisms of attention versus intention in the monkey frontal cortex (Boussaoud and Wise, 1992), both at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). In 1992, D. Boussaoud got a CNRS research position at the Lab of the late Prof. Marc Jeannerod (Lyon, France), where he started to develop his research program on the emergence of function in the frontal cortex, using neurophysiology, brain imaging and neuropsychology both in health and disease. He was one of the founding members of the Institute of Cognitive Sciences (ISC).

D. Boussaoud moved to Marseille in 2004, where he created the Mediterranean Institute for Cognitive Neurosciences, of which he was the Director for 8 years. He also served as a member of the National Advisory Board of the CNRS (2004-2009). Since 2008, he has been actively involved in the development of cooperation and exchanges among Mediterranean neuroscientists. In particular, he was the PI and coordinator of the France-Morocco Neuroscience Consortium (GDRI, 2008-2015), and the European consortium NEUROMED, funded within the FP7 (International Cooperation, 2009-2013). The latter gathered 26 partners, including Universities and Research institutions from seven Mediterranean countries. These initiatives aim was to build research capacities and collaborations, and thus funding was allocated mostly to exchanges PhD students and young researchers between the partners. Overall, hundreds of exchanges have been supported, leading to more than 50 publications, and a number of Ph.D. theses. Together with other initiatives, GDRI and NEUROMED played a key role in the creation of the MNS, in 2009, with the idea of sustaining exchanges and collaborations between Mediterranean neuroscientists for



education and research. D. Boussaoud was one of the founders of the MNS and the first President from 2009 to 2012.

D. Boussaoud's scientific interests revolved around the integrative functions of the brain. Throughout his career, he has been seeking to understand neuronal mechanisms of perception-action, attention (Boussaoud and Wise, 1992), gaze (Boussaoud, 1995), and more recently neuronal dynamics during learning (Monfardini et al., 2013). Although his main contributions were in neurophysiology, he has also contributed to advancing knowledge of brain connectivity (Boussaoud et al., 1990, 1991; Tanné-Garieppy et al., 1995, 2002). In the last years, he became interested in the neuronal mechanisms of learning, whether through trial-and-error (e.g. Brovelli et al., 2008, 2012), or through social interactions (Aly-Mahmoud et al., 2017). Finally, he and his collaborators discovered a population of neurons in the monkey frontal cortex, which they termed "social neurons" (Demolliens et al., 2017). They suggest that these neurons might represent the mechanisms of a well-known phenomenon in social psychology, i.e. social facilitation. Finally, D. Boussaoud has trained a number of young scientists, from the graduate level to the post-doctoral level, and has been teaching integrative neurosciences in France and in different southern Mediterranean countries namely Morocco, Algeria, and Egypt.

LIANA FATTORE

Liana Fattore is a Senior Researcher at the Institute of Neuroscience (IN) in Cagliari, National Research Council-Italy (CNR). She holds a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the University of Cagliari and was Visiting Research Fellow at the Department of Experimental Psychology at the University of Cambridge, UK (2000-2001). Her research activity focused since the beginning on addictive disorders, primarily on cannabinoids and their interactions with the opioid system. More recently, she is studying sex-dependent differences in addiction, the neurobiology of novel psychoactive substances (NPS), the effect of early life experience of social enrichment/deprivation in adulthood, and the short- and long-term effects of the use of hormonal contraceptives in adolescence on brain, behavior and emotional states. Author of more than 100 peer-reviewed articles, 11 book chapters, and a monograph, she has been awarded several Travel Grants (SIF 2000; ICRS 2006; BPS 2007) and awards (ECNP Poster award in 2004; ISN-ESN Young Investigator Award in 2005; 2018 Best Review Article, Drug Metabolism Review). President of the MNS from 2017 to 2019, she serves as an expert



reviewer for 17 scientific International Journals and is Editor of the British Journal of Pharmacology (BJP), Specialty Chief Editor for Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience (Section: Motivation and Reward), and Associate Editor for Frontiers in Psychiatry (Section: Addictive Disorders). Member of the Evaluation Committee Panel, Research Executive Agency of the European Commission (Horizon 2020), Dr. Fattore serves as Expert Evaluator of Research Project Proposals for "La Caixa" Banking Foundation (Spain/Portugal), the National Council of Science and Technology (Mexico), and the National Science Center (NCN, Poland). Dr. Fattore is among the World's Top 2% most cited scientists since 2019 as released by Stanford University ("Updated science-wide author databases of standardized citation indicators", Mendeley Data, doi: 10.17632/btchxktzyw, V1-V5)

MARIE MOFTAH

Born in Suez, Egypt, Marie's life started with a war that caused her travel all over the world. She went to Alexandria University to be nominated as a lecturer of zoology since 1987. She got her PhD from New York Medical College, Valhalla, NY in 2001 in Developmental Biology and the effect of growth factors on limb pattern formation in chicken embryos. The implications of her research were evident in human embryos with craniosynostosis syndromes. Her American lab obtained the biggest research grant known at that time. She then underwent her post-doc in the INSERM of Bordeaux, France from 2003 to 2005 working on locomotion recuperation after complete spinal cord transection and the effect of growth factors on nervous tissue healing. She is teaching at several universities, mainly Alexandria Egypt, NY medical college in the US, and Bordeaux France. In 2013, her research interests switched to Computational Neuroscience in Toronto, Canada, where she obtained a BSc in Education from the Laurentian University, Sudbury, and three qualifications in counselling from Queen's University, Kingston. She is now mainly interested in learning, decision-making, and dynamic communications during cortical development. She tends to explore the importance of dynamic synapses in development and their influence on schoolchildren's brain development and learning processes.

Marie was one of the founders of the Mediterranean Neuroscience Society when she organized the third Mediterranean conference in Alexandria, Egypt in 2009 and used the Bibliotheca Alexandrina as a venue. She served as the first vice president from 2009 to 2012 then the first woman president from the southern shores of the Mediterranean from 2012 to 2015.

Marie participated in several southern-northern collaborations between Neuroscience labs through the numerous Egyptian- and European commission-funding projects she participated in conceiving, applying for or implementing. Imhotep (2005-2006), TEMPUS MEDA JEP CD (2004-2007), AUF E-learning FOAD (2008-2015), Imhotep (2009-2010), FP7 – REGPOT Neuromed (2009-2012), TEMPUS IV – Joint Projects / Structural Measures – ISIS (2010-2013), FP7 – Women in Science: Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation (2011-2014), FP7 – PEOPLE – IRSES – NEUREN (2013-



2016), FP7 – EUROMED Master (2013-2015) and ERASMUS+ Strategic Partnerships for higher education – Neuronline (2015-2018). She created the first Neuroscience lab in Alexandria, Egypt and improved the basic infrastructure of the university together with creating the first B.Sc. and Master's degree in Neuroscience. She implemented the first French language Neurobiology Master completely online to take Egypt to the next era of distance learning in 2008. She conceived the bilingual semi-virtual Euro-

Mediterranean Master's degree in collaboration with 14 universities from the Mediterranean region together with her then vice-president Marc Landry. Meanwhile, she published more than 30 peer-reviewed articles and 3 book chapters and obtained numerous research and travel grants and scientific awards. She is a reviewer for five scientific International Journals and a chief editor of two of them. She got her tenure position as a professor of Neuroscience in 2019.

MARC LANDRY

Marc Landry is a former student of the «Ecole Normale Supérieure de Saint-Cloud». He obtained the «grégation» of Biology-Geology and got appointed teacher of Life Sciences between 1988 and 1995. Meanwhile, he completed his Ph.D. in Neuroscience in the lab of Prof. André Calas at Paris 6 University, studying the distribution of the neuropeptide Galanin in the rat hypothalamo-posthypophyseal tract and its role in neurohormones expression. Then, he performed a post-doctoral at the Karolinska Institutet (Stockholm, Sweden) in the lab of Prof. Tomas Hökfelt where he pursued the study of neuropeptides in the hypothalamus and extended his investigations to sensory systems implicated in pain transmission.

Marc Landry got a tenured position as a lecturer in 1997 at Bordeaux 2 University. He is now a Professor of Cell Biology and Neuroscience at the University of Bordeaux (France). Marc Landry performs his research at the Institute of Neurodegenerative Diseases (IMN, CNRS UMR 5293). Together with Dr. Eric Boué-Grabot, they lead the team "Purinergic-mediated neuroinflammation and brain disorders".

His main research focus is on pain. He initially aimed to study how the excitation/inhibition balance modulates the way spinal neurons, or microcircuits, integrate and respond to chronic nociceptive information. We investigated the role of neuropeptides and L-type calcium channel-specific subtypes on spinal neuron intrinsic properties and we demonstrated how partner proteins tune GPCR activation, impair GABA-B inhibition and amplify spinal nociceptive transmission in chronic pain conditions.

Recently, the interest of Marc Landry's research group extended to pain processing in brain centers that underlie the affective component of pain and the development of comorbidities. He hypothesizes that mental disorders interfere with brain pain processing, not only affecting cortical pain perception but also regulating sensory integration in the spinal cord through the modulation of descending pathways. Our main



objectives are (1) to dissect the descending circuitries between the cortex and spinal cord that control the sensory-discriminative component, and the affective consequences, of chronic pain, and (2) to identify key regulators of comorbid pathologies. He focused on two neurological disorders comorbid to pain, anxiety and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). He focuses on neuropeptidergic modulation of brain circuits controlling both pain and anxiety. We demonstrated that the relaxin family peptides (human relaxin 2 and relaxin 3) produce analgesic effects in rat and mouse models of inflammatory persistent pain by modulating interneurons of brain areas also involved in anxiety and cognitive functions and engaging descending control to the spinal cord.

He developed and validated a pharmacological mouse model of ADHD obtained by postnatal (P5) intraventricular injection of 6-OHDA that impairs dopaminergic systems. We demonstrated this model recapitulates major and minor symptoms of human disease and shows good construct, face, and predictive validity. He further demonstrated that the dysfunction of the anterior cingulate cortex (ACC)-posterior insula (PI) circuit in ADHD conditions results in pain hypersensitivity mediated by the impairment of descending pathways.

Emeritus MNS Members

Persons who have been Regular Members of the Society have retired from full-time employment, and have made an exceptional contribution to the objects of the Society, may be elected by Council with their formal announcement by the President during the Society's General Meeting at the biennial meeting

Kjell Fuxe

Kjell Fuxe has been a pioneer in the brain and neuroendocrine communication and integration. He provided evidence for the existence of central monoamine neurons, volume transmission and its different forms, and receptor-receptor interactions in heteroreceptor complexes in the central nervous system. He applied this knowledge to develop novel strategies for the treatment of schizophrenia, depression, Parkinson's disease, and cocaine addiction. He introduced, for example, several DA receptor agonists for the treatment of Parkinson's disease and became a pioneer also in molecular neuropsychopharmacology. Integration of synaptic and volume transmission signals can take place in synaptic and extrasynaptic heteroreceptor complexes, becoming a



new major mechanism for the neuromodulation of synapses. The reorganization of the homo- and heteroreceptor complexes in the postsynaptic membrane with novel adapter proteins may form the molecular basis of learning and memory.

https://www.sfn.org/-/media/SfN/Documents/About/History-of-Neuroscience/Volume-10/HON-V10_Kjell_Fuxe.pdf

Paul Pévet

P. Pévet studied biology at the University of Poitiers. In September 1969, he started a research project on the endocrinology of the pineal gland at the Laboratory for Comparative Endocrinology (University of Poitiers, France). In March 1972, he obtained a "Doctorat de IIIe Cycle" at the University of Poitiers. In October 1972, he moved to the Netherlands Central Institute for Brain Research, Amsterdam, and started a collaborative work (again in pineal endocrinology) with Prof. Dr. Ariëns-Kappers, director of the Institute. In March 1976, he obtained a Ph.D. degree at the University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands). He is a member of more than 14 scientific associations and societies. Among these scientific societies, he is a founding member of 1) The "European Pineal Study Group". From 1977 to 1990 he was the secretary-treasurer. In 1990, he has been elected president (new name: "European Pineal Society) and re-elected for the period of 1993-1996. Since March 1996, he is a permanent advisor for the Society Council (new name European Biological Rhythms Society).2) The "Melatonin Club". In 1995 he has been elected the first secretary-treasurer of this group and 1999 to 2003 he has been re-elected treasurer 3) In 1992, he has been elected member of the scientific council of the "Société francophone de Chronobiologie" (1992-1996) and of the "Société de Neuroendocrinologie expérimentale" (1992-1995) (reelected in 1999). From 2002 to 2008, he has been elected president of the "Société francophone de Chronobiologie".



Maria-Paz Viveros

Full Professor of Animal Physiology (Ret). Teaching and Research during 33 years in the School of Biological Sciences of the Complutense University of Madrid. Currently Emeritus Member of the Spanish Society of Physiological Sciences, the Spanish Society of Neuroscience, the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP), and the European Brain and Behaviour Society (EBBS). Awarded by MNS with an HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.



for being a person of distinction in science who has contributed to the advancement of Neuroscience in the Mediterranean Region. We have focused on the investigation of psychoneuroendocrine factors accounting for an increased vulnerability for neuropsychiatric disorders, including drug addiction, with a special interest in critical developmental periods and a wide experience in animal models and behavioural pharmacology, particularly regarding the impact of drugs of abuse. The endocannabinoid system has become pivotal in our research as its homeostatic balance seems to be crucial for stress responsiveness, emotional processing, and cognitive function, thus playing a key role in mental health. Throughout my scientific trajectory, sex differences have been of major interest and we have been a pioneer research group in the investigation of sexual dimorphisms. During the last few years, we have been involved in the study of neuropsychiatric disorders by means of an animal model of early life stress, i.e. maternal deprivation, evaluating developmental sex-dependent trajectories along the lifespan (infancy, adolescence, and adulthood) and its possible interactions with environmental insults such as drugs of abuse (cannabinoids, cocaine, ecstasy, etc.) or psychophysiological stress. I have published more than 120 scientific articles, reviews, and book chapters, acted as the principal investigator of several research projects, and supervised numerous postgraduates' works, including several Doctoral Theses. I have presented as an invited speaker to numerous talks and seminars in many Scientific Meetings and Workshops, including ECNP and SfN among others. Reviewer for numerous outstanding journals and member of several editorial boards.

