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**Editorial**

Dear SSN members,

Our new website is now active since almost half a year and we hope you have got accustomed to it. While maybe not perfect in all its details yet, our aim is to provide you with information concerning upcoming deadlines, scientific meetings, job offers as well as useful announcements concerning fellowships. To keep our website up-to-date we rely on information provided by you. Therefore, if you have announcements such as scientific meetings, scientific events, open positions, awards ect., which you would like to advertise, please send this information to us. Maybe you have become already familiar with your personal account – if not, please verify your data and update them when there is a change. If you have problems to access your account, please contact us.

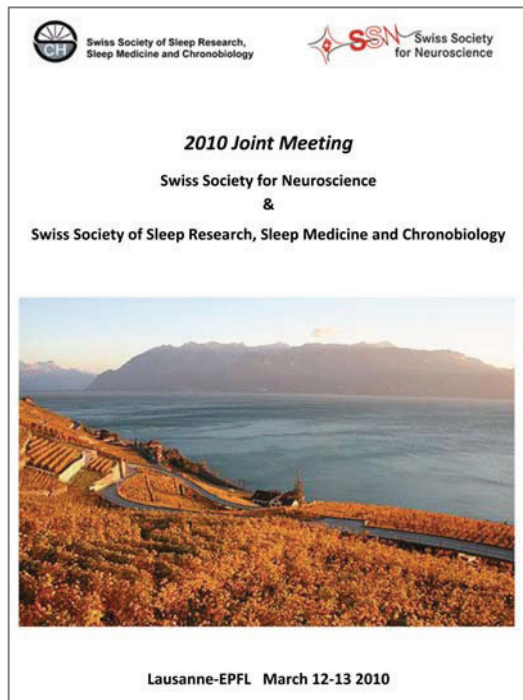
This year's Annual Meeting is going to take place at the EPFL in Lausanne on March 13. The Joint Meeting with the Swiss Society of Sleep Research, Sleep Medicine and Chronobiology (SSSSC) will start on Friday afternoon with Workshops organized by the SSSSC, whereas our traditional one-day meeting will be on Saturday. I am convinced that this meeting is going to be exciting for neuroscientist of all disciplines and will allow interactions between young and established, as well as fundamental and clinical scientists. Many thanks go to the local organizers Carmen Sandi, Micah Murray, Egbert Welker, Raphael Heinzer and Christian Cajochen who put together a great program. If you have not yet done, please register on our website, since this is necessary for our planning.

*Nicole Schaeren-Wiemers*

President SSN

## SSN Annual Meeting in 2010

The SSN annual meeting in 2010 will take place in **Lausanne at the EPFL** on **March 12/13<sup>th</sup>**. It will be a **Joint Meeting** with the **Swiss Society of Sleep Research, Sleep Medicine and Chronobiology (SSSSC)**.



The local organizing committee, **Carmen Sandi, Micah Murray, Egbert Welker, and Raphael Heinzer and Christian Cajochen** from the SSSSC, is pleased to present an exciting scientific program that will support interactions between fundamental, systems, cognitive, and clinical disciplines. A detail program is available on the website:

[http://www.swissneuroscience.ch/activities/Annual\\_meetings/SSN\\_Meeting\\_2010](http://www.swissneuroscience.ch/activities/Annual_meetings/SSN_Meeting_2010)

The meeting will start Friday, March 12th at noon with workshops organized by the SSSSC. Saturday morning will feature a plenary lecture by Prof. **Chiara Cirelli** (University of Madison, Wisconsin, USA). This will be followed by a **Datablitz** session aimed at giving younger scientists a forum to present their work to a public audience in a short format. 213 abstracts have been submitted from which a selection of 6 will be chosen for the presentation. After the Datablitz

presentation, Inauguration of the two **Schellenberg Prize** laureates, **Olivier Raineteau and Grégoire Courtine** will take place, followed by the **SSN Best Publication Award** ceremony. During Lunch the **213 Posters** are presented.

For this years' **General Assembly of the SSN** it is important that as many SSN members as possible could attend since important issues have to be discuss and decided on. The Agenda for the Assembly will be sent to every member before the meeting by email.

In the afternoon, several parallel **Symposia** on the following topics are taken place:

- Fundamental Neuroscience: *Synaptic activity and dendritic integration*
- System Neuroscience: *Imaging the Brain in Action*
- Cognitive Neuroscience: *Learning and Plasticity across the Lifespan*
- Clinical Neuroscience: *Vigilance and Sleepiness: from Bench to Bedside*

This year the Inauguration of the **Bing Prize** Laureates, **Matthew E. Larkum and Thomas Nyffeler** by the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences, and the distribution of the **3 Volker-Henn Best Poster Awards** will close the meeting.

## Best Publication Award 2010

The SSN gives every year a prize for the best publication of a young SSN member, published in a peer-reviewed international journal. We received **17 applications** for this prestigious award, aiming at distinguishing an outstanding publication of a young neuroscientist member of the SSN (Ph.D. Student or 1st year of a post-doc) published between December 1, 2008 and November 30, 2009. This is not only a record in the history of this award, but also reflects the high standard of scientific activity in Switzerland. This award amounts to CHF 4'000.- and will be presented on the occasion of the SSN Annual Meeting on March 13 2010 in Lausanne.

## Honorary Member 2010

**Prof. Alexander A. Borbély**, born in 1939, studied Medicine at the Universities of Geneva and Zurich. After the doctorate he spent two years in the Research Laboratory of Electronics in MIT to learn biology signal analysis and



electrophysiology. He then returned to the Institute of Pharmacology of the University of Zurich to pursue his academic carrier. He became full professor of Pharmacology in 1992 and served as vice-rector of the University of Zurich in 2002 - 2006. Prof. Borbély received a Honorary Doctor degree from the Medical University Szeged (Hungary) and from the University of Warsaw (Poland). He has been distinguished with several national and international prizes, including the Georg Friedrich Götz Preis of the University of Zurich, the Anna-Monika prize of depression research, the Pisa Sleep Award, as well as the Distinguished Scientist Award of the World Federation of Sleep Research Societies. His research focus ranged from psychopharmacology and sleeping regulation in animals and humans to innovative bio-mathematical models of sleep homeostasis. In recognition of his outstanding scientific career and influential contribution to the neuroscience community in Switzerland, the SSN has elected Alex Borbély as Honorary Member.

The Award will be presented at the **General Assembly of the SSN**, which will take place during the **Annual Meeting of the SSN** at the EPFL in Lausanne on **March 13, 2010**.

## SSN Travel Fellowships 2010

For 2010 the SSN offers travel fellowships to attend international scientific meetings.

A majority of fellowships will be provided for the:

- **FENS Forum**, 3-7 July 2010 in Amsterdam. **Deadline for applications is February 28!**
- **Society for Neuroscience Meeting**, 13-17 November 2010 in San Diego. **Deadline for applications is May 31.**

Additional fellowships will be provided:

- for international meetings between January and June 2010 (application deadline 3 months before the meeting)
- for an international meetings between July and December 2010 (application deadline 3 months before the meeting)

The fellowships are **CHF 700.-** for meetings in Europe and **CHF 1500.-** for meetings outside Europe. Detailed information (guidelines) is available on the SSN website.

## Brain Awareness Week 2010

Brain Awareness Week (BAW) is the **global campaign** to increase public awareness about the progress and benefits of brain research. Every March BAW unites the efforts of universities, hospitals, patient groups, government agencies, schools, service organizations, and professional associations worldwide in a week-long celebration of brain research. Founded and coordinated by the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives and European Dana Alliance for the Brain, BAW is celebrating its **15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign** in 2010.

In **Switzerland** the BAW is taken place since 13 years and plays an important role in the public awareness for brain research.

This year the BAW will take place from **March 15 to 21** in **Aarau, Basel,**



**Berne, Fribourg, Geneva, Lausanne and Zürich.** Information about the program is provided on the website:

[http://www.swissneuroscience.ch/activities/Brain\\_Awareness\\_Week](http://www.swissneuroscience.ch/activities/Brain_Awareness_Week)

### **Brain Bus Project**

The Brain Bus is a **touring exhibition** on the Brain and its function. Between April and November 2010 it will travel through Switzerland stopping at different locations.

The Brain Bus is equipped with multimedia and computer presentations, movies, experiments, and questionnaires which allows a better understanding of the complexity of the brain. Details on the touring plan as well as the program and topics are provided on the website:

<http://www.brainbus.ch/projekt/>

The Brain Bus Project has been conceived by the Swiss Neuroscience Centers and is supported by:

- Association Decade of the Brain Switzerland
- Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
- Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
- Inselspital Bern
- Kantonsspital Aarau

- Life Science Communication
- Universität Basel
- Universität Bern
- Universität Fribourg
- Universität Zürich
- Université de Genève
- Université de Lausanne

The SSN is supporting this project and is part of the aegis.

### **Annual Fees 2009**

A couple of weeks ago you all have received the invoice for paying your annual fees. Only those members paying their annual fees can request travel fellowships, reduced fees for the FENS meeting, reduced fees for the animal experimentation course, application for the best publication award, job request or job offers on the website ect.....

Many have already paid their fees for which we are very grateful, since this is the only financial income we have and can use for awards and travel fellowships for you. Very little is used for administrative issues, since all SSN council members provide their work for free. Therefore, those that have not yet paid the 2009-fee should do so immediately. Thank you!

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