

Introduction

Welcome to Neuroscience 2009, the 39th annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience (SfN). Neuroscience 2009 promises to offer great science, great value, and a great time! Over the next few days, you will have access to frontline science and dynamic networking opportunities. Whether this is your first meeting or your 39th, you will find a wealth of sessions and resources for neuroscientists at all career levels.

Navigate Your Meeting with Easy-to-Use Tools

The online Neuroscience Meeting Planner (NMP) helps you shape your itinerary and contains the latest meeting information and updated session and abstract details. The NMP is available on-site in the NMP Viewing Room and at stations throughout the poster floor. My EXPO contains a virtual directory of vendors, products, and services, and can be searched by exhibitor name, booth number, product, or service. My EXPO is accessible during the meeting on the SfN Web site at www.sfn.org/am2009 and at stations located throughout the Exhibit Hall.

Engage in a Growing Scientific Program

The new public symposium, “In Celebration of Darwin: Evolution of Brain and Behavior” (see page 12), celebrates the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin’s birth and opens the doors for public participation and education. Neuroscience 2009 also debuts a new session category: nanosymposia. Improved from slide sessions held in the past, this collaborative effort allows for more coherent sessions around unified themes and engages younger scientists in the neuroscience community.

Maximize Professional Development Opportunities

The Meet-the-Expert Series (see page 19), expanded for 2009, includes eight experts who feature their research techniques and personal accomplishments in a behind-the-scenes discussion. The “Writing for an Audience of Millions: Wikipedia and Neuroscience” (see page 22) offers the latest strategies for sharing neuroscience with the public and online community.

Activate Your Advocacy Voice

Facing global economic challenges, policymakers are focused on initiatives that can strengthen economic growth. Participate in the “Public Advocacy Forum” (see page 23) to learn how to speak up for strong science funding and become an advocate for your lab and the neuroscience community.

Enjoy Chicago!

SfN has made getting around Chicago a breeze with dedicated and coordinated transportation (see pages 63-64). The Neuroscience 2009 host city offers an array of attractions, cuisine choices, museums, and more.

Have a great meeting and mark your calendars for Neuroscience 2010 in San Diego, November 13–17.

