



Chapter Grant Awards Application

1.) Name of Chapter: San Francisco Bay Area Society for Neuroscience Chapter

2.) Number of Current Chapter Members

Faculty Members: _____ Staff Members: _____ Postdoctoral Trainees: _____

Graduate Students: _____ Undergraduate Students: _____

Please see attached pages.

3.) Chapter Representative Contact Information:

Name: Michael Silver

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4.) Chapter Treasurer Contact Information

Name: Adam Gazzaley

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5.) Checks Payable to: Adam Gazzaley

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Please attach responses to the following questions in 10 point font or larger:

- 1.) A **brief summary** of the proposal (no more than 150-200 words).
- 2.) **Specific goals** of the proposal and how it relates to the SfN Strategic Plan, Brain Awareness Week activities, or otherwise promotes increased chapter membership and activity (please do not exceed 750 words to 1 page). Please be sure to include an approximate date of the proposed activity or event.
- 3.) **Budget:** explanation and justification. Travel may be allowed only for visits to promote chapter membership, if part of a formal program. *Please note: requests for travel funds must be accompanied by a compelling justification.*
- 4.) Please list any **chapter-sponsored events** held during the past three years (please include event dates and titles).
- 5.) Chapter **web-page address**, if applicable

Important note:

All Chapter awardees are required to submit a final report including detailed budget expenditures within 30 days after the funded event or activity. *Any unused funds must be returned to SfN.*

Number of Current Chapter Members

We charge no membership fee and extend membership to all undergraduate and graduate students, postdocs, MDs, and PhDs with ties to neuroscience in the area, as well as to those working in local companies associated with neuroscience. Our mailing list numbers over 1000 people, representing the following educational institutions: University of California, Berkeley; University of California, San Francisco; San Francisco State University; Cal State East Bay, College of Marin, Stanford University, and Touro University. A number of corporations and local research institutes are also represented. All communications to the SF Bay Area SFN Chapter are distributed to the entire 1000+ person email list.

1) A brief summary of the proposal (no more than 150-200 words)

The San Francisco Bay Area SFN Chapter proposes to sponsor Mind and Brain Night, an outreach event to teach children about the brain and to educate the San Francisco Bay Area community about the importance of neuroscience research. The event will be held at a Bay Area public school and will be open to the public. There will be a variety of activities to engage children and adults of all ages, including Arts and Crafts, Games and Activities, and exhibits on exciting topics in neuroscience. An example of an Arts and Crafts activity is making neurons with axons, myelin, dendrites, etc. from pipe cleaners. An example from of an Activity is a group exercise in which students will “act out” transmission of action potentials along a line of participants. Topics for exhibits will include: The Neuron, Real Brains, The Senses, Emotions, Sleep and Dreams, The Developing Brain, and Diseases and Disorders.

2) Specific goals of the proposal and how it relates to the SfN Strategic Plan, Brain Awareness Week activities, or otherwise promotes increased chapter membership and activity.

With the help of over 35 graduate student volunteers from 5 departments, Mind and Brain Night 2008 introduced hundreds of people in the Bay Area community to the world of neuroscience. This year, we intend to sponsor the second annual Mind and Brain Night on May 27, 2009. This year’s event will build on last year’s event by advertising more widely and by adding more activities to enhance the information presented at each exhibit. Additionally, we will encourage volunteers to create more durable exhibits to allow for an expansion of our outreach efforts: more events per year throughout the Bay Area, particularly in underserved schools. Mind and Brain Night 2009 and our continuing outreach efforts throughout the year meet SfN’s guidelines for increasing awareness of the brain through educating the public.

Education. We aim to present informative and engaging material at a level accessible to all ages. For example, last year, graduate students working on “The Neuron” exhibit were able to show and explain cells to very young children, but they also presented more detailed explanations of action potentials and synaptic transmission to older children and adults.

Advocacy. Each exhibit stresses the benefits of continued neuroscience research. Last year, the Diseases and Disorders exhibit emphasized new research findings that have led to better treatment and prevention of psychiatric and neurological disease. Volunteers at the Developing Brain exhibit explained how understanding child brain development can help inform curriculum design and lead to interventions for children who are struggling in school. At the Sleep and

Dreams exhibit, visitors learned about how research at UC Berkeley has shown the importance of sleep for emotion regulation and learning.

Creative Arts. The arts and crafts table was the most accessible to all ages. Even two- and three-year olds were able to draw their brains and spinal cords. Kids and adults expressed their artistic talent by decorating brain shaped cookies and creating neurons out of pipe cleaners.

Promotion and support. This year, by inviting the media to this event, we hope to build an even stronger reputation for neuroscience research in our community. Additionally, media coverage could facilitate financial support for neuroscience research in the Bay Area and beyond.

3.) Budget: explanation and justification

An SFN Chapter Grant would be used to pay for the costs of sponsoring Mind and Brain Night. Last year, the event was held at a Berkeley public elementary school. It was extremely successful, with over 200 participants and 35 volunteers. Because the event last year was so successful, the school district expects over 400 attendees for the second annual Mind and Brain Night this May. Some pictures of the event can be found in this public gallery:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/allymackey/MindAndBrainNight?authkey=YPyL9r9jhjY>

The event this year is expected to cost \$1000 for exhibits (\$50/booth x 8 booths), arts and crafts materials (\$150), refreshments (\$350 after donations from local businesses), and other supplies (\$100 for fliers, programs and decorations). One goal this year is to create more permanent, durable exhibits that can be used for several outreach events a year for many years.

4.) Please list any chapter-sponsored events held during the past three years (please include event dates and titles)

January 16, 2009 Bay Area Neuroscience Gathering (BANG)

Keynote speakers:

Richard Ivry (Univ. of Calif., Berkeley)

David Julius (Univ. of Calif., San Francisco)

May 28, 2008 Mind and Brain Night

<http://picasaweb.google.com/allymackey/MindAndBrainNight?authkey=YPyL9r9jhjY>

2008 SFN Graduate Student and Postdoc Travel Award Nominations

Graduate Student: Ahalya Viswanathan (Univ. of Calif., Berkeley)

Postdoctoral Fellow: Noopur Amin (Univ. of Calif., Berkeley)

Ms. Amin was selected by SFN to receive a Travel Award

January 11, 2008 Bay Area Neuroscience Gathering

Keynote speakers:

G. Ron Mangun (Univ. of Calif., Davis)

Ralph Freeman (Univ. of Calif., Berkeley)

Yuh Nung Jan (Univ. of Calif., San Francisco)

2007 SFN Graduate Student and Postdoc Travel Award Nominations

Graduate Student: Christina Karns (Univ. of Calif., Berkeley)

Postdoctoral Fellow: Tim Verstynen (Univ. of Calif., San Francisco)

Both were selected by SFN to receive Travel Awards

January 19, 2007 Bay Area Neuroscience Gathering

Keynote speakers:

Mark D'Esposito (Univ. of Calif., Berkeley)

Steve Lisberger (Univ. of Calif., San Francisco)

Steve Finkbeiner (Univ. of Calif., San Francisco)

2006 SFN Graduate Student and Postdoc Travel Awards Nominations

Graduate Student: Kay Tye (Ernest Gallo Clinic and Research Center)

Postdoctoral Fellow: Rebecca Spencer (Univ. of Calif., Berkeley)

Both were selected by SFN to receive Travel Awards

5.) Chapter web-page address, if applicable

<http://cirl.berkeley.edu/sfn>