

Neuroscience Research in **EDUCATION** SUMMIT



June 22 - 24, 2009

The Society for Neuroscience

The Society for Neuroscience (SfN) is a nonprofit membership organization of nearly 39,000 scientists and clinicians in 82 countries who study the brain and nervous system. Since inception in 1969, the Society has grown from 500 members to become the world's largest organization of scientists and physicians devoted to advancing the understanding of the brain and nervous system. The Society's primary goal is to promote the exchange of information among researchers. To meet this goal, SfN publishes the scholarly journal, *The Journal of Neuroscience*, and holds an annual meeting each fall attracting thousands of attendees from around the globe. SfN is also devoted to promoting public information and education about the nature of scientific discovery and results of the latest advances in brain research, as well as their implications for public policy, societal benefit, and scientific progress.

SfN's Neuroscience Research in Education Summit

Background: While many important findings about the way the brain works have emerged in recent decades, rigorous applications of these scientific findings to the practice of education have been slow to emerge. There is evidence within the fields of neuroscience and cognitive science of a growing body of research aimed at the neural basis for learning, mental functioning, memory, and more. At the same time, the education community is turning eagerly to researchers for information that will not only guide the use of best practices in educational settings, but frame questions for the future and identify research areas relevant to educational pedagogy.

SfN's mission includes "encouraging translational research" and SfN recognizes the opportunity for its members to play a leading role in contributing neuroscience research that informs educational practice. SfN is in a unique position to bring together leading neuroscientists to broaden the dialogue between the research community and educators.

Summit Details: The summit will convene 40-45 leaders from the education and science communities to strategically explore how neuroscience knowledge can better inform pre-K-12 educational systems and practices.

Participants will be charged with considering the following three key questions:

1. How can neuroscience research inform education strategies?
2. What do teachers want and need to know about how students think and learn, and how can teachers' questions drive neuroscience research?
3. How can we engage more neuroscientists in research relevant to pre-K-12 education?

Background information to stimulate thought on these questions will be sent to all participants prior to the summit. Introductory remarks will set the stage for focused discussions around each question. The closing session will be aimed at identifying (1) general conclusions from discussions, (2) challenges and opportunities in the evolving area of neuro-education, and (3) a vision for next steps in advancing the overall goals identified during the summit. Results of the summit meeting will be used to prepare a white paper for dissemination to the broader neuroscience and education communities as well as to other stakeholders and policymakers in the fall of 2009.

Monday, June 22, 2009 – Evening Reception

Tuesday, June 23 – Full-day

Wednesday, June 24 – Half-day

University of California at Irvine

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SfN Steering Committee for Neuroscience Research in Education Summit

Tom Carew, PhD SfN President

*Donald Bren Professor and Chair, Neurobiology and Behavior • Center for Neurobiology of Learning and Memory
University of California, Irvine*

Dr. Carew's research interests center on the cellular and molecular mechanisms of memory. In his laboratory, the fundamental goal of the experiments is to achieve an understanding of the mechanisms by which the nervous system acquires, stores, and retrieves information. Dr. Carew has been involved in leadership roles at SfN since 1983. During his term as SfN president (2008-2009), Dr. Carew is dedicated to furthering a longstanding personal commitment to promote advances in K-12 education. Towards that end, he has established a special presidential initiative, a summit on neuroscience research in education.



Mary Brabeck, PhD

Dean, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development • New York University

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Mind • Chair, SfN Public Education and Communication Committee*