

SfN Chapters Grant Proposal: 2009  
Application Form

1. Name of Chapter: **Montreal Chapter/Chapitre Montréalais**
  
- 2: Number of Current Chapter Members  
Number of current Chapter members (400 members on the mailing list; 245 are identified as Dr. and include Faculty, Research Staff and Post-doctoral Fellows; 115 are identified as students; 40 as other).
  
- 3: Chapter representative contact information (Name/address/phone/fax/e-mail)  
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<http://www.sfn-montreal.ca/introduction.htm>
  
- 4 : Chapter Treasurer contact information (Name/address/phone/fax/e-mail)  
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Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery  
McGill University Health Centre  
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Montreal General Hospital L7-212  
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## Supplementary Information

### 1: Brief Summary

- This is a request for funding for the Montreal Chapter primarily to improve the public impact of Brain Awareness Week in 2009. This event has grown enormously over the last five to six years and we now annually contact in the order of 8000 students in Montreal schools. These students include those attending both primary and secondary schools in both French and English. Volunteers from all 4 Montreal Universities contribute to these presentations. Last year, we initiated a Brain Bee competition and this year we are adding a “Café scientifique) with public lectures and experts in various fields answering questions from the public. We also intend to distribute a DVD made last year to additional schools that are outside our capability to visit in person.

### 2. Specific goals

The Montreal Neuroscience community is large with 400 chapter members. The grand majority are active members of the Society for Neuroscience. A unique characteristic of Montreal is the presence of two French and two English Universities. There are more than 10 research Centers active in the field of Neuroscience on the different campuses as well as in the Montreal hospitals. During the last years, there has been very large support from the entire neuroscience community to make Brain Awareness Week a startling success. Every year, there have been an increasing number of schools visited by our graduate students with an increasing number of students in primary and secondary schools impacted upon. Public conferences have also been organized.

The major goal of our request for funding, summarized in the preceding paragraphs is designed to increase the impact of Brain Awareness Week. Organising public events (Brain Bee and Café Scientifique + other public lectures) provides the opportunity for the general public to learn about the importance of neuroscience activities. Similarly, the DVD produced by the BAW committee last year will raise the profile of Neuroscience activities in schools and communities that are impossible to reach by more traditional methods.

### 3: Budget: Explanation and Justification

Total request: \$2000 US

Our expenditure on BAW activities over the 3 years that I have been President of the Chapter has always been in the order of \$6000 -\$10,000 /year. This

includes publicity for the event, (including posters and, in some years, newspaper advertisements) supplies for the demonstrations (e.g. calf's brains!), T-shirts for the student volunteers with the BAW logo on them, Website costs (we have a well-organised section devoted to BAW) and transport costs for the volunteers. There are also numerous other, more minor costs. There was also the cost of producing the DVD (spread over last year and this year) and the costs of copying and distributing the disk. I consider the efforts made by our BAW committee as quite extraordinary and, as you know, this was recognised by SfN who awarded our student committee the Next Generation Award in 2008. The Chapter grant is very important in continuing these activities. However, as is quite clear, the Chapter grant can only partially cover the extensive public outreach activities made by our committee and the Montreal Chapter organises an extensive fundraising activity from the research groups in the Montreal area to help subsidise these activities. The money raised from SfN and from our own efforts is also used for other communication efforts, such as announcements of neuroscience conferences and employment opportunities. Equally the money that we raise complements funds for events such as the Grass Traveling Lecturer.

4: List of Chapters-sponsored events during the past three years:

- Brain Awareness Week has been held in Montreal each year. Please see the report for 2008 submitted last year and our website at <http://www.sfn-montreal.ca/BAW/index.htm>
- The members meet regularly at conferences and colloquia held in the different universities.
- The last Grass lecture was held in 2007 and was very well attended. Our next Grass Lecture will be presented in February of this year, 2009.
- Nominations have been made each year for Travel Awards, both to the annual SfN meeting and to international meetings (e.g. IBRO).
- Elections were held last April for the executive for 2006. They will be held shortly to elect a new executive for 2009

5: Chapter Web site, if applicable: <http://www.sfn-montreal.ca/introduction.htm>

A report was last submitted in April 2008.

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