

CREATING VENUES

for Great

Science



Neuroscience thrives on opportunities for scientists to collaborate across specialties and around the world; meet and learn from leaders in the field; and explore emerging tools and techniques. In FY2009, the world's two largest global venues for emerging neuroscience — the SfN annual meeting and *The Journal of Neuroscience* — provided both annual and year-round opportunities to encourage innovation, while they also worked to anticipate and adapt to new directions in the field.

Neuroscience 2008: Continued Excellence

The SfN annual meeting has evolved over the past 40 years to become the premier neuroscience venue for scientists from around the world. Neuroscience 2008, held November 15–19 in Washington, DC, was no exception, drawing more than 31,600 attendees to the nation's capital. One-quarter of the attendees came from outside the United States, and more than 15,500 abstracts were presented during the five-day meeting. Combined with 10 featured lectures, 13 special lectures, 21 symposia, and 25 minisymposia, the meeting featured a robust scientific program.

The Presidential Special Lectures highlighted the importance of neural circuits research in a range of disciplines. Allison J. Doupe of the University of California presented her work on the neural mechanisms of birdsong, one of the few existing animal models for speech learning. Carol A. Barnes of the

University of Arizona discussed the impact of aging on memory and hippocampal networks in primates, leading to a better understanding of the neural basis of cognition. Insights into the sleep circuits of *Drosophila* and their impact on human sleep was the topic of Leslie C. Griffith of Brandeis University's lecture, and Catherine G. Dulac of Harvard University presented her work on the neuronal circuits involved in sex and smell.

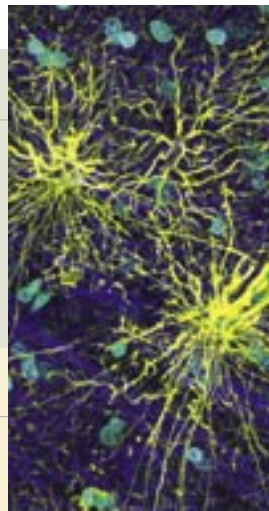
Of particular interest to the media was choreographer Mark Morris, Neuroscience 2008's "Dialogues Between Neuroscience and Society" speaker. Dancers and choreographers like Morris demonstrate the brain's control and understanding of movement and rhythm. In addition to his lecture, Mark Morris Dance Group members held a dance class for Washington area residents with Parkinson's disease during the meeting. Modeled after classes

Then

1ST MEETING: 1971
LOCATION: Washington, DC
ATTENDEES: 1,396
EXHIBITORS: 0

Now

38TH MEETING: 2008
LOCATION: Washington, DC
ATTENDEES: 31,652
EXHIBITORS: 575



held weekly at the company's studio in Brooklyn, NY, the on-site class allowed participants with a range of physical challenges to experience the joy of movement and dance.

In the History of Neuroscience Lecture, Brenda Milner from McGill University presented her seminal work studying patients with amnesia that began in the 1950s — including work on the research participant known as “H.M.,” which provided early evidence of the brain's multiple memory systems.

Enhancing Professional Skills

The annual meeting offered rich prospects for professional development and networking. Three Short Courses exposed attendees to important scientific tools: technologies for using light to remotely control the activity of neurons; advances in antibody-based staining techniques; and the development of signal processing tools to quantify neuronal dynamics. The 2008 Neurobiology of Disease Workshop focused on the long-lasting effects of traumatic brain injury, in both its severe and mild forms. The two-day Professional Skills Workshop focused on career development and

grant writing — including in-person meetings with National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation program officers.

Raising Public Awareness

In the wake of the November U.S. presidential election, speakers at the Public Advocacy Forum titled “The Elections: And the Winner Is ... Science?” were cautiously optimistic about the prospects for science funding, especially important in light of the recent extended period of flat funding in the United States. Speakers included former National Institutes of Health Director and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center President Harold Varmus, former U.S. Representative and Research!America Chair John Porter, and Wendell Primus, senior policy advisor to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

Nearly 300 participants attended “Brain Awareness: The Next Generation,” the annual reception and poster session to celebrate Brain Awareness Campaign efforts and accomplishments around the globe. The event, a collaboration between SfN and the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives, included remarks by then SfN President-Elect Tom Carew who challenged the assembled group to expand and enhance education outreach and partnerships.

When the annual meeting is held in Washington, a series of embassy events honor the important contributions of neuroscientists across the world. At embassies and other venues around the city, 12 countries sponsored social events during the meeting, hosting hundreds of visiting neuroscientists.

Sharing the Science Story

Media interest in the science content was strong, with coverage on a range of topics, from infant brain development, to the benefits of napping, to traumatic brain injury, to the neurobiology of itch. Newspapers, wire services, scientific publications, and broadcast outlets were all well represented on site, with a noticeable increase in reporters blogging about the science content in “real time.” Press conference video was available to reporters on the SfN Web site for the first time this year, providing access to scientific content for reporters not able to attend, thus helping to widen coverage of the meeting.

Showcasing the Field

SfN maintains a reputation for hosting one of the best exhibit floors, not only among scientific meetings, but also in the tradeshow industry at-large. The annual meeting again drew a diverse group of exhibitors that included education, technology, manufacturing, and publishing interests, as well as government research institutes and agencies,

nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions.

The SfN annual meeting continues to be a vibrant forum for the exchange of ideas, the sharing of scientific content, and the professional development of neuroscientists from around the globe.

LEARN MORE:
www.sfn.org/am2009

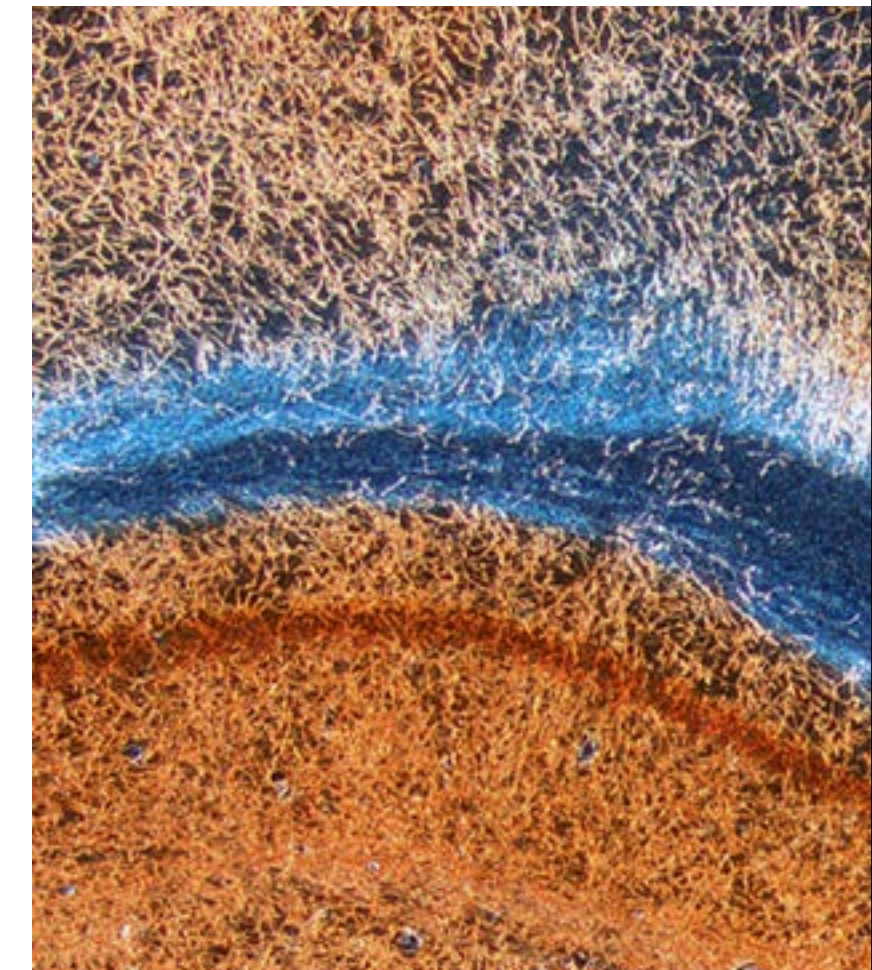
The Journal of Neuroscience: Reporting on Emerging Science

In FY2009, *The Journal of Neuroscience* business model remained sound, including revenues from subscriptions; multi-site and global licenses; and author submission, publication, and reprint fees. *The Journal* continued a series of initiatives to prepare for future scientific and publishing opportunities.

Editor-in-chief John Maunsell, professor of neurobiology at Harvard Medical School and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Investigator, spearheaded a number of enhanced features. Recognizing that the open exchange of ideas is important for the advancement of the field, Maunsell implemented a new policy on Internet prepublication. *The Journal* will now consider manuscripts that have been prepublished on the Internet, whether in repositories or elsewhere. Prepublishing manuscripts can provide investigators with input from colleagues around the world and facilitate the spread of ideas. Although this policy is not a common practice among neuroscience journals, it is common in other fields such as physics, chemistry, and quantitative biology. SfN leads the way in adopting a prepublishing policy for scholarly society journals.

Technology Enhances Offerings

The Neuroscience Peer Review Consortium, which began its one-year trial period on January 1, 2008, continues to grow. Its “cascading review” system expedites manuscript evaluation that can be initiated at the author's request. The process has proven to save reviewer time and effort for a small but



growing number of manuscripts. SfN will continue participation in the project for another two years. Thirty-four journals have joined the Consortium, with five more in the process.

The online manuscript submission and tracking system, eJournal Press, has been modified over the past year, and significant improvements have been made to better align the system with *The Journal's* work flow. It is now up to speed and serves staff, editors, reviewers, and authors well. *The Journal* continues to offer its readers a range of online features such as CITE-TRACK, eLetters, and collected papers, as well as links to cited articles through CrossRef.

Numbers Demonstrate Growth

Manuscript submissions remained stable in FY2009. *The Journal* projects nearly 6,000 submissions for calendar year 2009, about the same as in 2008.

Acceptance rates have risen slightly. The acceptance rate thus far for 2009 is 21 percent for Brief Communications and 28 percent for Regular Manuscripts. Time to first decision is approximately 33 days for both Brief Communications and Regular Manuscripts. *The Journal* maintains a rapid acceptance-to-publication time frame of under

28 calendar days, one of the fastest rates among peer-reviewed journals.

Institutional subscription units in 2009 remained stable compared to calendar year 2008's total of 1,074. Units are expected to remain at that level for 2009. Multi-site units, such as a university subscribing at three different campuses, increased by 20 percent in 2009, offsetting a small decrease in single-site subscribers.

Building on a Strong Foundation

Open Choice continues to offer authors a valuable option. By paying a fee, authors can have their articles freely available on *The Journal's* site upon publication. Since inception in January 2008, 46 articles have been published under *Open Choice*. SfN joins a growing number of publishers offering an open choice option for authors.

In FY2009, all 30 videos from *The History of Neuroscience in Autobiography* series were made available online. The series captures the lives and discoveries of eminent senior neuroscientists.

LEARN MORE:

www.sfn.org/journal
www.sfn.org/history

The Journal will now consider manuscripts that have been prepublished on the Internet, whether in repositories or elsewhere. Prepublishing manuscripts can provide investigators with input from colleagues around the world and facilitate the spread of ideas.

FIGURE 1 Manuscript Submissions and Editorial Pages Published by Calendar Year

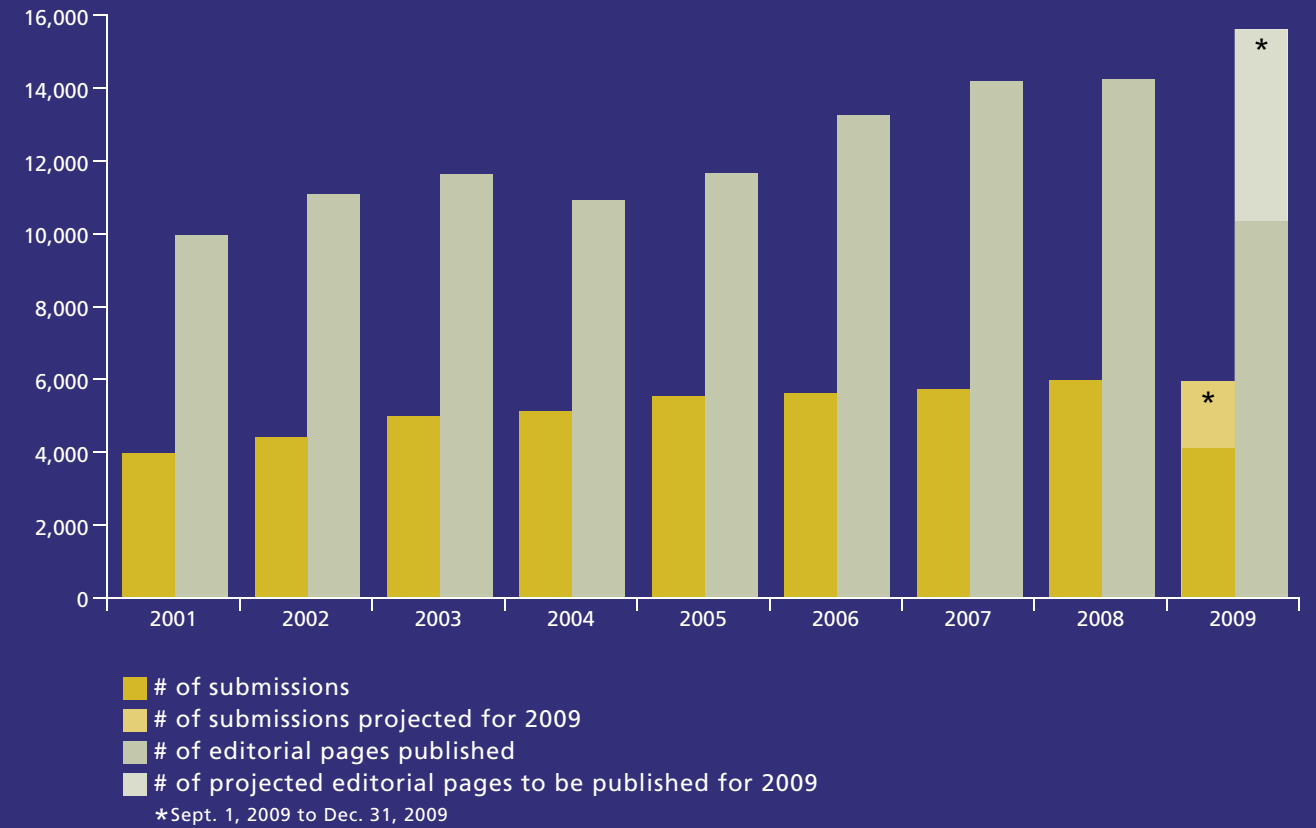


FIGURE 2 Manuscript Submissions by Section Type (CY2008)

