NEUROSCIENCE QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2005

"Our building will reflect the personal values that we as neuroscientists feel are important. It also will serve as a visible symbol in our nation's capital of the excitement of neuroscience."

—SfN President Carol Barnes

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SfN Space in Headquarters Is Model of Environmentally Sensitive Design

An idea that was first considered by Society for Neuroscience leaders more than a quarter-century ago is about to become a reality. In early 2006, the Society's central office will move into a new headquarters building in Washington, DC.

SfN's new headquarters, in progress, in downtown Washington.

The new building represents three advantages for the Society. First, it provides the SfN central office staff with a contemporary and comfortable environment in which to work. Second, it gives SfN its own place to conduct committee meetings, showcase neuroscience research, and host educational programs for the public and policymakers. Third, the building provides an additional revenue stream that will give us added financial security and protect our programs in this era of budget deficits and flat-line funding for biomedical research.

SfN will occupy the top three floors of the new 11-story building at 1121 14th Street, NW, near Thomas Circle, about five blocks from our current location at Dupont Circle. We will rent out the remaining eight floors to other organizations typical of those that do business in the Washington, DC, area. When fully occupied, rental income from the building will generate a surplus over the cost of owning and maintaining it.

The 84,000-square-foot building is located near the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and 14th Street, NW (see map, page 2), about six blocks from the Washington Convention Center, where SfN will hold its 2005 annual meeting. I invite all SfN members and meeting attendees to take a stroll and visit the site. By November, the building should be entering its final stages of construction. The SfN staff is scheduled to move into the building in February 2006.

Since SfN's Council decided last summer to go forward with the purchase, all recommendations and actions related to the new building have been reviewed and developed by three SfN subcommittees made up of members or former members of the SfN Council. They were charged with managing building and lobby design and utilization issues, researching financing and leasing issues, and overseeing SfN space design.

Every effort has been made to create a space that is appealing as well as conducive to a productive work environment. The lobby entrance will have a French limestone floor, and Jerusalem stone walls; SfN offices will contain the maximum amount possible of natural light. This building will finally give the Society a place where we can conduct Society business and hold events to educate the public and policymakers in Washington, DC, about the brain and neuroscience research. The new headquarters also will provide space for the Society to expand some of its programs and staff in the future.

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Message from the President

Carol Barnes,
SfN President

One of Council's key concerns for the SfN space was its environmental impact. To design SfN's office space, the Society's Real Estate Committee chose Envision Design, a 20-person firm in Washington, DC, that specializes in sustainable architecture — so-called "green design" — which incorporates principles and materials that seek to provide environmentally sensitive, healthy, and productive workplaces. The firm has designed attractive, award-winning headquarters space for World Wildlife Fund and Greenpeace, among others. Examples of its work may be viewed at www.envisionsite.com (see Q & A, page 3).

The SfN staff has never had a planned work environment. The present offices, for example, are sprinkled over three unconnected floors, with inconsistent size, layout, and efficiency; limited meeting space; and poor ventilation. So in planning the new space, the SfN Council and subcommittees focused on several key issues as being very important. One was to provide bright, healthy, user-friendly offices and common areas for the staff. The design includes glass walls for both the perimeter and inner offices, which allow daylight to cross corridors from the window offices and into the interior spaces, giving them natural light. Distributed throughout SfN's three adjacent floors are four "huddle rooms" for small group meetings. The 10th floor will contain a state-of-the-art conference room, large enough for all SfN functions with the exception of Program Committee meetings.

John Zeisel, our neuroscience and architecture consultant affiliated with the Academy of Neuroscience for Architecture (ANFA) in San Diego, has reviewed the plans and made several important suggestions about placement of the staff lunchroom and the staircase to facilitate movement and a sense of orientation for the staff. The Society is working with Dr. Zeisel, ANFA, and the American Institute of Architects to conduct a study comparing staff comfort and productivity in the existing building and in the new space, to try and quantify the impact and efficacy of the new design.

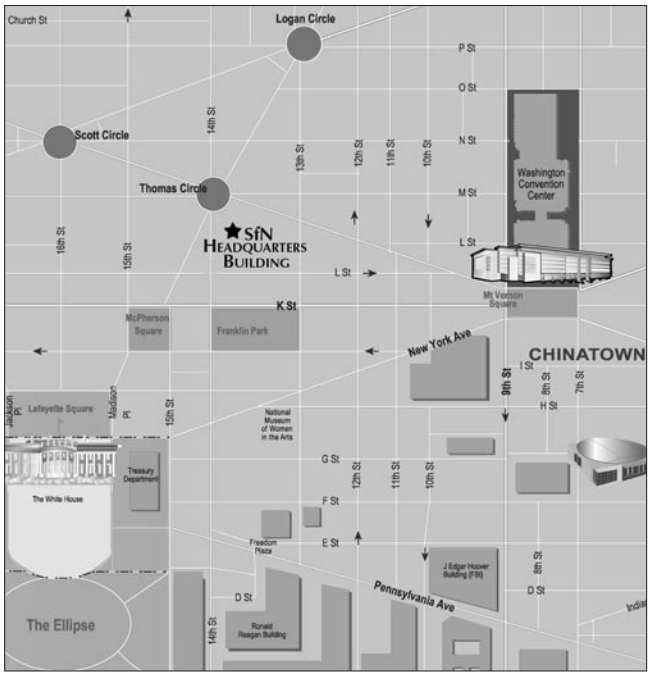
In addition, we are working with our design firm to develop a piece of art that speaks about neuroscience, which will be placed in the large internal stairway connecting the three floors. The art probably will be a three-dimensional carving in wood that will accurately capture the scientific content of the image.

The new revenue stream created by owning the building — in one of the nation's strongest and most stable commercial real estate markets — is likely to create many benefits for our members. It puts the Society in a stronger position to manage our existing programs and initiate new ones. And, it will also allow us to control the long-term cost to members for membership dues, annual meeting fees, and *The Journal of Neuroscience*. What's more, the additional resources will permit us to consider new projects that members wish to initiate.

By having a new revenue source that is independent of membership fees or annual meeting attendance, the Society's financial picture will be more balanced, predictable, and stable. This is good news for SfN members who want to make sure that the annual meeting and *The Journal* can be maintained from year to year, no matter what else may be going on with the economy, or the Society's short-term financial picture.

Prudent financial planning decisions made over many years by the SfN Council put us in a very favorable position when we began the search for a mortgage for the new building. The financing package will include the use of low rate tax-exempt bonds issued by the District of Columbia and repaid by SfN, along with a standard commercial mortgage. This hybrid mechanism is commonly used by nonprofit organizations when purchasing a building in Washington, DC, to reduce their borrowing costs.

The rates on the tax-exempt bonds issued by Washington, DC, are about 1.5 percentage points below commercial mortgage financing. The tax-exempt financing can be used for the portion of the building occupied by SfN, estimated at about $11 million. Financing will also include a $21 million commercial mortgage at very favorable market rates. Because SfN locked in rates early in the process, resulting in a blended rate of about 5.2 percent, we have been able to save more than $200,000 annually compared with the original projections for the debt service over 30 years.



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The new SfN building will enhance SfN's financial and programmatic stability in the years ahead and help ensure the Society's ability to organize a great annual meeting and to produce a high-quality journal for the foreseeable future.

As the chair of the Society's Real Estate Committee for the past two years, I am pleased that our building will reflect the personal values that we as neuroscientists feel are important. It also will serve as a visible symbol in our nation's capital of the excitement of neuroscience — something about which all SfN members should be proud. After all, it was made possible by the high quality of your work, which has kept neuroscience at the forefront of scientific research. Your energy and creativity has driven the development of our growing field and has also contributed to ensuring the Society's future financial health.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your dedication to the field and to SfN — which has made this possibility a reality. Again, I invite you to visit the new building's construction site, to share Council's feeling of accomplishment in this milestone, and to come back in the years ahead to view, use, and enjoy the finished product. ■

Architect Discusses Use of Green Design in SfN Space in New Headquarters Building

Ken Wilson

Ken Wilson is a principal of Envision Design in Washington, DC, the firm hired by the Society to design the space for its new headquarters building. He was recently named "Designer of the Year" by Contract Magazine, *a leading building trade industry publication.*

***NQ:* What is green design?**

Wilson: Green design involves taking a sustainable approach to office design, working toward what is known as the "triple bottom line" — a balance of equity, economy, and environmental responsibility. In addition to seeking materials and strategies that minimize impact on the natural environment, our firm gives strong consideration to indoor environmental quality (equity) and to materials that represent the best overall value (economy).

Indoor environmental quality, or "IEQ," considers the healthiness of the design such as the quality of air delivered to the space, the availability of natural light, and the selection of construction materials that do not off-gas harmful chemicals or volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that deplete ozone in our atmosphere.

***NQ:* Are there different levels of green design?**

Wilson: Yes. SfN is hoping to achieve a gold rating from the U.S. Green Building Council, which sponsors Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), a voluntary national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. LEED provides a complete framework for assessing building performance and meeting sustainability goals, and emphasizes state-of-the art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality. The official LEED program for commercial interiors began in November of 2004 after a one-year pilot.

***NQ:* What features of green design are incorporated into the SfN offices?**

Wilson: Because the building is new, the heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning system meets new standards for increased ventilation and controllability. The building has windows on three sides that will bring abundant natural light into the space. Large glass sidelights are incorporated into the corridor wall of perimeter offices, maximizing natural light penetration into corridors, other interior offices, and workstations.

The design for the SfN headquarters also incorporates many eco-friendly building products, including materials with recycled content, rapidly renewable materials, and locally manufactured materials. Using materials with recycled content reduces the environmental impact resulting from the extraction and processing of virgin materials. Rapidly renewable materials reduce the use and depletion of finite raw materials and long-cycle renewable materials. Rapidly renewable materials and products are made from plants that are harvested within a 10-year or shorter life cycle.

Locally manufactured materials not only support the regional economy but also reduce the environmental impacts of transportation. The term "embodied energy" is used to describe the total amount of energy required to bring a product to market. In our area, a product manufactured in

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California has a higher embodied energy than the same product manufactured locally due to the additional energy consumed in transporting the product across the country.

***NQ:* What about other features of the space, such as carpet and wall paints?**

Wilson: The carpet selected for the space meets the Carpet and Rug Institute's Green Label Plus requirements for low VOCs and will be installed with low VOC adhesives. The carpet is made from over 50 percent recycled and bio-based materials and has a lifetime warranty against edge ravel. It is also designed with an inherent stain resistance that eliminates the need for harsh cleaning chemicals. Durable materials are always a good environmental choice. In the future, the nylon carpet fibers can be recycled into many other useful products. The carpet has been designated as an Environmentally Preferable Product by an independent third-party certifier. Although the vast majority of carpet manufactured in the United States is made in Georgia, this carpet is manufactured in Virginia, which lowers the embodied energy of the product.

Wall paints are rated for zero VOCs, and sealants are rated for very low VOCs. All cabinetry materials have no added urea formaldehyde that can off-gas for years (common in particle board adhesives). Additionally, all new workspace furniture will be Green Guard certified for low emitting materials — a very rigorous standard. When we consider that the average American spends 90 percent of his or her time indoors, it is important that the work environment be as healthy as possible.

The drywall specified for the project is not made of mined gypsum but rather from synthetic gypsum made of benign post-industrial waste. The metal studs used to frame the interior partitions will be made from steel containing 30 percent recycled content. Steel is the world's most recycled material, with most structural steel used today made from more than 90 percent recycled steel. The ceiling tile selected is made of 82 percent recycled content.

***NQ:* What about the cabinetry and wood paneling?**

Wilson: The custom cabinetry throughout the space will be made from wheatboard, a rapidly renewable material made from agricultural waste. Wheatboard is lighter in weight (reducing embodied energy) than typical particle board made from wood yet is stronger and has a higher pullout strength for screw attachments. Wood paneling in the reception area and main conference room will be made with oak veneer sourced from sustainable forests certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The conference room credenzas and all office doors are also FSC certified.

***NQ:* What measures in the new space incorporate energy-saving strategies?**

Wilson: The design of the space incorporates many energy-saving strategies. The lighting design will incorporate energy-efficient, color-corrected fluorescent light fixtures that are linked to sensors that will dim the lights in perimeter offices when natural light is abundant. Occupancy sensors are placed in support areas such as copy rooms and storage areas to ensure that lights are turned off when these spaces are not in use. Supplemental cooling systems were selected for their effectiveness and energy efficiency, and all new appliances will be Energy Star rated.

***NQ:* What appealed to you about the prospect of working with an organization such as the Society for Neuroscience?**

Wilson: As an architect, I've always felt strongly about integrating sound environmental practices into my work. After a few sessions speaking with SfN leaders, I realized that they, too, were concerned about having a world-class building that incorporated sustainability in design and provided a healthy environment for their staff. I was impressed by SfN's vision, dynamism, and leading-edge reputation, and my team and I were excited about working with an organization outside of the environmental field that shared our strong commitment to sustainability and respect for the environment. Our values clearly are on the same page. It was a match that I believed would work, and it has. ■

Forum Addresses the Use of Simple, Positive Message to Teachers About Animals in Research

At a recent forum on "reaching K-12 science teachers with the research message," representatives from the scientific community and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) discussed the need for a network of individuals and associations to highlight the positive benefits of the use of animals in research. Although several resources that demonstrate the importance of animals in research are available for use by K-12 teachers, forum participants agreed that the anti-animal research message has generated public support through its simplified message.

Sponsored jointly by the Society for Neuroscience (SfN), the States United for Biomedical Research (SUBR), and NIH, the May 16, 2005, forum addressed the nature of the threat to the appropriate use of animals in research, pro-research materials readily available to K-12 teachers, and how to refine the message the research community sends teachers about the use of animals in research.

> *"The issue of animals in research is becoming more complex and thus harder to communicate. The terminology necessary to understand the issues requires basic scientific and legal literacy."*
>
> *— Deborah Runkle, AAAS*

The forum followed a preliminary meeting on animals in research hosted by SfN at the March 2005 National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) national convention in Dallas. Forum participants included representatives from SfN, the American Physiological Society, the National Center for Research Resources, the American Society for Cell Biology, the Wisconsin Association for Biomedical Research and Education, the Society of Toxicology, the NIH Office of Science Education, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Texas Society for Biomedical Research, Texas A&M University, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the NIH Office of Scientific Affairs, and SUBR.

"The threat to the use of animals in research is growing," said AAAS's Deborah Runkle. "One of our greatest challenges currently is coming from the legal arena, with animal rights groups initiating efforts in courts and other legal forums to give animals the status of 'personhood' and allow citizens to sue on behalf of a laboratory animal. To meet these challenges, we have to find a way to communicate the importance of animal research to the public in a compelling manner."

There is a need for a clearer connection between the use of animals in scientific research and translational medicine, or "bench to bedside" applications, participants agreed. Less clear is how to convey this message.

"The issue of animals in research is becoming more complex and thus harder to communicate," said Runkle. "The terminology necessary to understand the issues requires basic scientific and legal literacy."

Among the components that should be included in a pro-science message is the point that using animals in research is critical to maintaining good health, core scientific programs, and the economic health of the United States, forum participants said. The message should also state that animal use is carefully regulated to minimize the number of animals used and to ensure the humane treatment of animals and the proper consideration of ethical issues.

Ideal teaching materials to counter the pro-animal rights message are modules or resources that pose real-life situations or open-ended questions for students and that help teachers work through both the scientific and ethical components of the animals-in-research message. Participants also agreed that cross-disciplinary materials that target both science and non-science teachers might be most effective in reaching a broad audience of teachers.

Participants in the forum identified five ways to further their collaboration over the next months. First, they agreed to meet again within the next six months and to expand the invited groups to include teacher associations, science educators, librarians, other professional societies, and science museum personnel. Second, they will develop a common slogan or phrase that captures the essence of the animal research message in a few words, which all could use as a common message in communications, educational efforts, and lobbying.

They also agreed to enhance the groups' presence at science teacher conventions, such as those for the NSTA and the National Association of Biology Teachers. Efforts to group scientific research exhibits in an easily identifiable "research zone" will ensure that like-minded groups are located together on the exhibit floor. Finally, participants agreed to conduct an inventory of already existing educational resource materials for K-12 students and teachers and to support a threaded online forum to continue discussing how to best reach teachers with a research message and plan further collaborative activities. ■

NIH Issues Four New Funding Initiatives for Neuroscience Blueprint to Advance Research

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently announced four new initiatives as part of its blueprint for neuroscience research: a global inventory of neuroscience tools, a neurobiology of disease training initiative, an NIH neuroscience microarray consortium, and a pediatric magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) study of normal brain development. The initiatives seek to meet the blueprint's goal of sharing resources and expertise across institutes to help advance neuroscience research. They are the first in a series of funding opportunities and shared resources expected to be announced for NIH institutes participating in the blueprint.

The NIH introduced the neuroscience blueprint in October 2004 at SfN's annual meeting in San Diego. Participating institutes include the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, the National Center for Research Resources, the National Eye Institute, the National Institute on Aging (NIA), the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the National Institute for Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and the National Institute of Nursing Research.

The global inventory of neuroscience tools will assess the availability of neuroscience resources to neuroscientists as well as to the general public. The inventory will include material in the public domain, Web-accessible items, reports of national and international research activities, resources, tools, and databases. From this inventory, a neuroscience information framework will be developed that will give neuroscientists ready access to the vast array of resources available. This information framework will also introduce non-neuroscientists to the field and serve as an educational tool for students.

"The structure of the inventory will be such that users will be able to locate, access, analyze, and integrate the resources to determine which are most relevant for their purposes," said Thomas Insel, director of NIMH, who presented an overview of neuroscience blueprint activities at the recent SfN Council meeting.

The initiative to expand courses in the neurobiology of disease is expected to greatly broaden students' exposure to the wide variety of diseases and disorders that afflict the nervous system. Currently, only a fraction of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows studying basic neuroscience receive broad training in the neurobiology of disease, either because the courses are not a required part of their curriculum or because they focus on a limited number of diseases.

The development of new courses or the significant expansion of courses already in place for graduate students studying basic neuroscience will emphasize links and common themes across diseases and disorders. The basic science underpinnings and pathology of the diseases and disorders will also be addressed.

The courses will include an integrated basic and clinical perspective on the neurobiology of disease, the translation of basic science discoveries into clinical trials, and the ethical issues of clinical research. Patient presentations or interviews will be used where feasible, and faculty will include representatives from both basic science and clinical disciplines. Institutions eligible for NIH funding to develop and offer the courses include nonprofit organizations, universities, colleges, hospitals, and laboratories.

The NIH neuroscience microarray consortium will provide microarray facilities and services to investigators supported by any of the blueprint institutes for neuroscience projects. The consortium will allow investigators to use high-quality gene expression profiling and single nucleotide polymorphism genotyping in their research.

"Expansion of this valuable resource to the broader neuroscience community will allow a greater number of investigators to use these state-of-the-art gene profiling facilities and technologies," said NIA Director Richard Hodes. "This will allow them to pursue directions of research that they might not otherwise have the opportunity to pursue."

All of the major array platforms are available, and researchers pay a modest fee to the consortium site for services. For more information, please see http://arrayconsortium.tgen.org.

The pediatric MRI study of normal brain development will provide MRI data on brain development and will include diffusion tensor imaging data, which permits determination of the properties of white matter tracts. The study will provide an accessible, standard reference database for investigating normal and pathological brain development in children.

For more information about the neuroscience blueprint, please e-mail blueprint@mail.nih.gov. ■

NQ welcomes reader responses to articles that appear in the newsletter. To provide a forum for comment, NQ is introducing a Letters to the Editor feature. If you would like to respond to an article or idea appearing in NQ, please send an e-mail to nqletters@sfn.org. The editors of NQ reserve the right to select letters for publication and will edit them for style, length, and content.

— The Editors

Neuroscience 2005 Features New Lecture Series, Meet the Experts Workshops, Other Events

The 35th annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) will feature cutting-edge neuroscience research in Washington, DC, from Saturday, November 12, to Wednesday, November 16. A record 16,704 abstracts were submitted, and 30,000 people are expected to attend the meeting at Washington's new convention center.

New at Neuroscience 2005 are the lecture series "Dialogues between Neuroscience and Society" and a "Meet the Experts" workshop series.

The "Dialogues between Neuroscience and Society" lecture series will feature leaders from fields outside of neuroscience whose work relates to subjects of interest to neuroscientists. The 2005 lecturer is the Dalai Lama, spiritual leader of the Tibetan people, who will speak on the neuroscience of meditation. The November 12 lecture will be followed by a question-and-answer period.

During three "Meet the Experts" workshops, scientists will offer participants a behind-the-scenes look at innovative techniques they have helped develop. The workshops, to be held Saturday, November 12, are designed to facilitate communication between student scientists and young investigators well-versed in specific research methods.

The year 2005 also marks the 25th anniversary of the Neurobiology of Disease Workshop, to be held Friday, November 11. This year's topic will be "The Developmental Neurobiology of Autism Spectrum Disorders: Clinical Phenotypes, Neurobiologic Abnormalities, and Animal Models."

SYMPOSIA, MINISYMPOSIA, LECTURES OFFER WIDE ARRAY OF TOPICS

The Program Committee selected 14 special lectures, 28 symposia, and 27 minisymposia in areas ranging from studies of single molecules to human behavior. The meeting program demonstrates how molecular and genetic tools are leading to new insights into the mechanisms underlying complex neurological and neuropsychiatric disorders. Eleven featured lectures will cover subjects ranging from sensory discrimination to the ethics of cognitive enhancement.

This year's Public Lecture will focus on healthy human brain aging, and the Presidential Symposium will explore how research in basic systems neuroscience has helped us understand brain functioning. Healthy brain aging, neuroprosthetics, early learning, deep brain stimulation, and autism are the topics of this year's videos, which demonstrate the devastating impact of neurological diseases on patients and families and prospects for advances in treatments.

Also featured are the Albert and Ellen Grass Lecture, with Solomon Snyder speaking on neurotransmitters as "messengers of life and death;" the History of Neuroscience Lecture, with Edward Jones presenting "Adventures in Neuroanatomy;" the Distinguished International Scientist Lecture, with Trevor Robbins exploring cognitive deficits and the problems with producing treatments; and the David Kopf Memorial Lecture on Neuroethics, with Thomas Murray addressing the ethics of cognitive enhancement.

Masakazu Konishi and Eric Knudsen will give the Peter Gruber Lecture on sound localization and neural plasticity in the auditory system. Konishi and Knudsen are winners of the Peter Gruber Foundation Neuroscience Prize, which recognizes distinguished work in the field of the brain, nervous system, and spinal cord.

For the first time this year, the Society for Neuroscience and the Peter Gruber Foundation will present the International Research Award in Neuroscience to recognize a young neuroscientist who has demonstrated international collaboration based on the best science. Young neuroscientists of all nationalities who study or work at an institution located in a country other than the country in which they are a citizen or permanent resident are eligible to apply for the $25,000 award. For more information about next year's award, please visit http://web.sfn.org/content/Publications/NeuroscienceNexus/index.htm.

Other prizes and awards to be presented include the Donald B. Lindsley Prize in Behavioral Neuroscience, the Jacob P. Waletzky Memorial Award for Innovative Research in Drug Addiction and Alcoholism, the Pfizer Lectureship for a Distinguished Foreign Scientist, and the Ralph W. Gerard Prize in Neuroscience.

Offering attendees the opportunity to earn Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits is a priority at the Society's annual meeting. This year, physicians will be offered the opportunity to earn 42 Category 1 credits by attending poster sessions, symposia, minisymposia, and lectures. Attendees wishing to earn CME credits at the annual meeting must register for CME before or during the annual meeting.

In addition to lectures and symposia, a variety of workshops and activities will also be offered. Many workshops are geared toward the professional development of meeting attendees, including those on writing, editing, and publishing in science and on building neuroscientist-teacher partnerships. This year's meeting will also mark the launching of a new, year-round online job bank to help match neuroscientists with employers. SfN is partnering with Job Target to provide an on-site neuroscience job fair in the convention center (see story, page 8).

At least 28 socials and more than 80 satellite events will also be held at Neuroscience 2005.

NAVIGATION AIDS AT NEUROSCIENCE 2005

Neuroscience 2005 will continue to provide a wide variety of resources to allow attendees to easily navigate the convention center and meeting sessions. Clear and easy-to-read signs and thematically arranged events will impart a "meeting within a meeting" feel, while the Society's large, multipurpose exhibit booth will allow members to renew membership, learn more about *The Journal of Neuroscience*, and gather information on chapter initiatives, all in one convenient location. ■

Year-Round Online Job Bank Debuts

Neuroscience 2005 will host the first job fair featuring SfN's new year-round, online job bank that will help match neuroscientists with employment opportunities at pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, as well as academic institutions.

In 2004, SfN progressed toward its strategic objective of expanding career development and job placement assistance services. An annual meeting job fair and Web-based job fair were specific goals set at the time. A Professional Development Working Group, comprising SfN members and central office staff and chaired by SfN Councilors Joanne Berger-Sweeney and Marie-Francoise Chesselet, was organized to move forward with these ideas.

Now, through a strategic partnership with Job Target, SfN will be able to provide annual meeting attendees with a self-managed neuroscience job fair that provides access to the online job bank at computer workstations set up in the convention center. Employers will be able to schedule on-site interviews with job seekers, which will take place in discreet interview booths. SfN staff will be on hand to facilitate the process. SfN will build on existing professional development workshops, such as "nonacademic careers in neuroscience" and will seek to add new workshops. In the future it is possible that SfN may support year-round professional development workshops. In addition to lowering costs for participants and providing additional value-added services for members, a resource such as the SfN online job bank will function as a vital tool for neuroscientists to use in building partnerships and sharing knowledge with colleagues in the field.

The technology behind SfN's Web-based career center, which will be open 24 hours a day, will allow the society to offer bundled services and tiered pricing that will appeal to more potential employers and will allow preferential access to the latest job listings for Society members. The new Web-based job center will launch this summer on SfN's home page. ■

SfN Offers Local Advocacy Training

SfN chapters and student members in three states recently hosted or made plans to host SfN legislative advisers Cavarocchi-Ruscio-Dennis Associates (CRD) as part of a new local advocacy training initiative endorsed by the SfN Council and the Government and Public Affairs Committee.

The initiative aims to educate the Society's members about advocating at the grass-roots level, and provides members with easy "how-tos" for meeting with their elected officials. The Society's Oregon chapter hosted a training session this spring, and fall programs are scheduled for Kent State University in Ohio and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

"One of the most important things chapters can do is to raise public awareness of the need for research if we are to improve the treatment of neurological disorders," said Oregon Chapter President Paul Cordo.

The Portland training session was held April 23-24, 2005, in conjunction with the chapter's annual meeting at Oregon Health and Science University. CRD's Nicholas Cavarocchi spoke to a group of 114 local chapter neuroscientists interested in learning how to communicate with their legislators on a variety of issues.

SfN's updated *Guide to Public Advocacy* was distributed to attendees. The *Guide* outlines the most effective methods for communicating with elected officials. It provides tools, information, and tips for how to be a strong public advocate for biomedical research funding and for the responsible use of animals in research. The *Guide* can be found on the SfN Web site at http://www.sfn.org/content/Publications/GuidetoPublicAdvocacy/index.html

The Oregon chapter also has an active science advocacy committee with a four-point mission to —

- inform legislators and other policymakers about new scientific knowledge and recent developments in neuroscience research and their implications for public policy, societal benefit, and continued scientific progress.
- educate Oregon neuroscientists about the value, relevance, and techniques involved in communicating with elected officials.
- collaborate with other Oregon organizations, universities, colleges, institutes, and companies to provide a unified and effective voice for promoting neuroscience.
- demonstrate the benefit of neuroscience research to the public through science outreach activities, communication strategies, and other educational opportunities to engage and mobilize their support.

The recent advocacy training had an immediate effect on interest in the chapter's advocacy committee, Cordo said. "I saw a number of key scientists after the session who signed up to join the science advocacy committee," he said. The committee has put on two training events, developed a PowerPoint presentation for chapter members, organized two sessions at the annual meeting, and helped put on a Brain Awareness neuroscience town hall for two years.

If your local chapter or university is interested in hosting an advocacy training event, please contact Allison Kupferman, SfN Government and Public Affairs director, at allison@sfn.org. ■

SfN Reaches Out to Teachers at National Science Teachers Assn. 2005 National Convention

To increase communication with science educators and raise awareness about the latest developments in neuroscience research, the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) featured an exhibit booth at the recent National Science Teachers Association's (NSTA) national convention in Dallas.

The SfN booth was strategically positioned in the aisle of exhibits called the "research zone," which included booths from the National Institutes of Health and other scientific societies, in order to provide teachers with one-stop shopping for scientific research and resources.

"The SfN exhibit booth was always alive with neuroscientists interacting with teachers, engaging in dialogue and sharing resources," said Bill Cameron, chair of SfN's Committee on Neuroscience Literacy (CNL) and associate professor in the department of behavioral neuroscience at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland.

Among the resources disseminated to teachers were *Brain Facts*, *Brain Research Success Stories*, Brain Awareness Week materials, and information about the use of animals in research.

At the booth, teachers accessed the SfN Web site and were introduced to the new CD-ROM "Neuroscience Education Resources for the Classroom." Teachers who already rely heavily on SfN as a teaching resource eagerly shared their experiences with others. Teachers were also encouraged to search SfN's Neuroscientist-Teacher Partner database for local neuroscientists who volunteer to assist teachers in their neuroscience education efforts. The database of neuroscientists can be found at www.sfn.org/ntp.

The NSTA's national convention, held March 31 to April 3, 2005, drew about 15,000 K-12 science teachers, university faculty, and science education leaders. Members of SfN's CNL and Committee on Animals in Research were present at the Society's exhibit booth. ■

South African Meeting of Neuroscientists Addresses Metals and the Brain; Symposium Highlights Work of Young African Scientists

More than 500 neuroscientists and others attended the seventh biannual conference of the Society of Neuroscientists of Africa (SONA) and the regional meetings of the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) and the Collegium Internationale Neuropsychopharmacologicum (CINP) in Cape Town, South Africa, April 18-22, 2005. In addition, the meeting hosted the Third International Conference on Metals and the Brain, titled "From Neurochemistry to Neurodegeneration." The joint conference, under the overarching theme of psychiatry and neuroscience in Africa, was organized by SONA, CINP, the African Regional Committee of IBRO, and Metals and the Brain.

SfN President Carol Barnes gave a plenary lecture titled "Getting Lost: Hippocampal Contributions to Age-Related Memory Dysfunction." Another plenary lecture by Sir Gabriel Horn addressed neural mechanisms of recognition memory and social attachment. Symposia topics ranged from the neurobiology of addiction to clinical neuroscience in Africa.

"We were privileged to have more than 550 registered participants representing six continents, and no less than 10 African countries alone," said SONA President Willie Daniels. "The more than 30 cross-discipline symposia were well received by delegates, and one of the hallmarks of the meeting was therefore the high degree of integration between clinical and basic research."

In particular, he highlighted the symposium dedicated to presentations by young African neuroscientists who have attended African neuroscience schools organized by IBRO. Sponsored by the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN), the symposium "provided an ideal opportunity to assess the overall status of neuroscience research as practiced in Africa," he said. "It was very pleasing to note that despite harsh conditions and limited resources, many good ideas are being investigated." ■

Members Express Opinions About Dalai Lama 'Dialogues' Talk at Neuroscience 2005 in DC

In recent weeks the Society has received expressions of both concern and support from members of the neuroscience community about the Dalai Lama's upcoming talk at Neuroscience 2005 in Washington, DC, on "The Neuroscience of Meditation." The lecture is the first in a series titled "Dialogues between Neuroscience and Society," with speakers chosen by the SfN president after consultation with the SfN Council. The architect Frank Gehry is scheduled to give the 2006 "Dialogues" lecture.

Some SfN members have expressed concern that the Society is mixing religion, politics, and science by inviting the Dalai Lama to give a lecture at the 2005 annual meeting. "There will be a strong symbolic effect," said Lu-Yang Wang, associate professor in the department of physiology at the University of Toronto. "His presence and talk at the SfN meeting per se suggest an endorsement by SfN of a prominent religious leader whose legitimacy relies on reincarnation, a doctrine in conflict with the foundation of neuroscience. It will blur the distinctions between science, religion and politics, generate bad press, and cause divisions among SfN members. This lecture has already generated tremendous resentment from people who believe that the selection of Dalai Lama sets a bad precedent for SfN, with significant implications. It would serve the interests of SfN as well as the public to cancel the talk."

But some other members see it differently. "Even if we don't believe in religion, most of us believe in religious freedom," said Howard Fields of the University of California at San Francisco. "I have read the writings of the Dalai Lama, and they do not postulate a deity, saints, a soul, or an afterlife. The Dalai Lama has said that if the facts prove Buddhist tenets are wrong, the tenets will have to be changed. Scientists should be open-minded and open to all inputs."

According to the Neuroscience 2005 *Preliminary Program*, the Dalai Lama is expected to discuss the scientific study of meditation, a practice of mental discipline that Western neuroscience has shown to change neural states in circuits that may be important for compassionate behavior and attentional and emotional regulation. The Dalai Lama will also discuss the importance of this neuroscience research in promoting brain health and mental well-being and its implications for fostering compassionate behavior in human beings.

"The Dalai Lama is visiting with the Society for Neuroscience to speak about science, not politics or religion," said Adam Engle, chairman and co-founder of the Mind and Life Institute, the organization sponsoring the dialogues between Western scientists and the Dalai Lama. "The Mind and Life Institute, which he co-founded, will have just completed its three-day public dialogue in Washington, on 'The Science and Clinical Applications of Mediation.' His interest in science in general and neuroscience in particular is well established, as is the track record of the Mind and Life Institute in building interest in this area of science."

SfN President Carol Barnes said, "As with all annual meeting speakers, the views of the Dalai Lama do not represent the views of the Society for Neuroscience, its officers, or councilors."

"The Dalai Lama has had a long interest in science and has maintained an ongoing dialogue with leading neuroscientists for more than 15 years, which is the reason he was invited to speak at the meeting," Barnes emphasized. "It has been agreed that the talk will not be about religion or politics." She added, "We are hopeful that the majority of our members will see the speakers in the "Dialogues" series as increasing the diversity of perspective offered to annual meeting attendees. Of course, we understand that not every member will agree with every decision, and we respect their right to disagree." ■

NIH Strengthens Policy on Sharing of Model Organisms in Research Under Grant Awards

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently strengthened its policy on sharing of model organisms in research by setting new conditions for grant awards. Applicants who expect to produce new, genetically modified model organisms generated with NIH funding are now expected to submit a sharing plan or explain why sharing will not be possible.

"The establishment of the requested sharing plan reaffirms the long-standing principle that science benefits from the timely distribution of biomedical resources," said Norka D. Ruiz Bravo, NIH deputy director for extramural research. "Sharing maximizes the use of public funds and saves investigator time otherwise needed to reproduce previously developed model organisms. Of course, sharing should provide appropriate credit to the creator of a shared resource. The sharing of these and other resources is widely regarded as good practice within the scientific community."

The Society for Neuroscience is one of many supporters of this policy, outlined in NIH *Guidelines: Responsible Conduct Regarding Scientific Communication* (1998), under section 1.8: "Unique and propagatable research materials used in studies being reported must be made available to qualified scientists for bona fide research purposes."

The NIH's scientific review group evaluates the sharing plans for new and renewal grant applications at the beginning of every competitive funding cycle. Sharing plans may vary, depending on the organism and intellectual property issues involved; however, all sharing plans are expected to specify

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how new strains will be made available to the scientific community and how intellectual property issues and technology transfer will be managed. Sharing of resources will later be documented in annual progress reports. The means for sharing strains range from depositing the resource in a stock center or repository to the investigator using his or her own funding.

Model organisms, including nonhuman mammals (e.g., mouse, rat) and nonmammalian models (e.g., budding yeast, social amoebae, roundworm, frog, zebra fish, fruit fly), are considered genetically modified if mutations have been induced by chemicals, irradiation, transposons (or "jumping genes"), or injection with foreign DNA. Also included are organisms in which spontaneously occurring mutations have taken place. Such mutant model organisms are considered to be "research resources." Materials and data necessary for production of model organisms, such as vectors, nonhuman embryonic stem cells, established cell lines, protocols for genetic and phenotypic screens, mutagenesis protocols, and genetic and phenotypic data for mutant strains are also considered research resources.

Principles and Guidelines for Recipients of NIH Research Grants and Contracts on Obtaining and Disseminating Biomedical Research Resources (final notice, December 1999) maintains that "progress in science depends upon prompt access to the unique research resources that arise from biomedical research laboratories throughout government, academia, and industry." To that end, NIH provides support for model organism sharing by encouraging use of existing repositories, encouraging applicants to request funds in their applications for expenses incurred as a result of model organism sharing, providing administrative supplements for unanticipated expenses regarding sharing, and fostering an external community of sharing with journals and professional societies.

For more information, please visit http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/model_organism/model_organisms_faqs.htm ■

Society for Neuroscience 2005 Election Results

The voting membership recently elected David Van Essen incoming president-elect and Christine Gall incoming treasurer-elect of the Society for Neuroscience. Van Essen and Gall will assume their official positions at Neuroscience 2005.

"I am honored by the opportunity to serve our membership in support of the Society's mission," said Van Essen, professor of neurobiology and head of the anatomy and neurobiology department at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. "We are in a period of fabulous opportunity, fueled by neuroscience discoveries that are fascinating to behold and profoundly important for physical and mental health. At the same time, we face a variety of challenges, including constraints on funding for neuroscience research and a rapidly evolving environment for scientific communication. I look forward to working with the Society's members in responding to these challenges."

A member since 1973, Van Essen served as chairman of the Committee on Committees in its inaugural year and has served on Council and as secretary. Following a two-year stint on the editorial board of *The Journal of Neuroscience* in the mid-1980s, he was editor-in-chief from 1994 to 1998. The focus of his research is the organization of the primate visual cortex.

Gall, professor of anatomy and neurobiology and of neurobiology and behavior at the University of California at Irvine, completed a four-year term as councilor in 2004, served as Council Bylaws Subcommittee chair in 2003, and has been a member of the nominating and program committees. Her research specialty is plasticity and growth in the adult brain, specifically neurotrophin expression and integrin regulation and function. ■

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