Organization For Computational Neurosciences

Scenes from CNS*2019

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https://www.linkedin.com/company/organization-for-computational-neurosciences/

Reflections from your former Vice-President/Secretary

Sharon M. Crook, Arizona State University, USA

My formal service to the OCNS began with a role on the Board of Directors in 2003. After one term there, I served on the Program Committee. Following a brief break, I was back on the Board of Directors for a term, and then for the last four years, I have served as your Vice-President and Secretary. One of the reasons for my commitment to the organization is that it matters – *your* annual meeting is dynamic, and the OCNS leadership strives to shape the meeting and other activities to serve our community well, including student and postdoc members. And, I love that as members, we all have a say in *how* the OCNS shapes the future of our field. Quite honestly, I have gained more than I have given. As a young graduate student, ten years before I began giving my time and whatever leadership I could provide to the OCNS, presenting my work at the CNS meeting launched my career by giving me the confidence and the networking opportunities that I needed. Over the years, the meeting has given graduate students and postdocs working in my group these same opportunities.

I urge you to consider how you might give back to our community in ways that you find rewarding. One very simple way that you can help is by maintaining your membership from year to year, whether or not you plan to attend the CNS meeting. These fees are very low compared to other organizations, but they provide strong impact by supporting the training of computational neuroscientists early in their careers.

Thank you all for your support over the years, and I look forward to continuing to see everyone at the future CNS meetings! Best wishes for a happy and productive new year.

Remarks from your new Vice-President

Martin Zapotocky, Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic

It is exciting, but also challenging, to become vice-president and secretary of OCNS – especially knowing how exceedingly well these functions were carried out by Sharon Crook in the previous 4 years. I wish to express great appreciation to Sharon for her important work, as well as my personal thanks for her efficient help ensuring a smooth transition in the various tasks.

This year in Melbourne, our Annual Meeting will venture outside of North America or Europe for the second time in the 29-year history of the CNS conference. We look forward to very strong participation from the large Australian computational neuroscience community, and hope as well for a strong showing from other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. No doubt this year's meeting will bring new participants and fresh ideas to our community. A major strength of OCNS has been its openness, and I am confident that the newcomers will feel so welcome that they will simply have to return also to future CNS meetings.

The OCNS Board of Directors is currently engaged in targeted efforts to help bring in new scientific areas to the meeting program, and to best position the CNS Meeting relative to other relevant conferences. To maximize the attractiveness of our meeting, we will also evaluate adjustments to the meeting format, taking account the experience with the "mixed day" of main meeting and workshops as implemented in Barcelona and Melbourne.

I look forward to working with OCNS President Volker Steuber and the OCNS Board, and to interacting with the whole OCNS community in my new capacity.

Newly elected Directors of the OCNS Board

James Bower
Southern Oregon University
Ashland, U.S.A.

Rodica Curtu
University of Iowa
Iowa City, U.S.A.

Jorge Mejias
University of Amsterdam
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Malin Sandstroem
International Neuroinformatics
Coordinating Facility (Incf)
Stockholm, Sweden
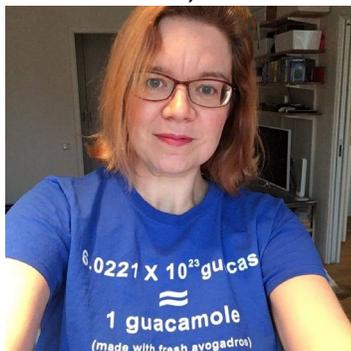
Laure Buhry
University of Lorraine,
LORIA - INRIA-Nancy Grand Est
Research Center, France

Fleur Zeldenrust
Radboud University
Nijmegen, Netherlands

The Board decided to appoint 6 new members to fill all the Board duties.

For a complete list of the current Officers and Directors, and information about how they serve you and all of the OCNS community, go to **http://www.cnsorg.org/board-of-directors**.

CNS*2019 Student and Postdoc Poster Competition

Sharmila Venugopal, University of California, USA

We are truly excited about the increasing participation from young and upcoming computational neuroscientists from all over the globe. OCNS recognized **18** talented student and postdoctoral members of our community during the three-day-long poster sessions. Our winners this year include **13** postdoctoral and **5** student researchers from over **400** poster presentations! Our sincere appreciation to OCNS members who took the time to participate and vote for Best Poster presentations. Your input and encouragement will go a long way in shaping the future careers of these bright young minds. Our Best Poster Award winners are listed below. Congratulations to these winners on a job well done!

Postdoctoral Winners

Tuomo Mäki-Marttunen, Simula Research Laboratory
Roy Ben-Shalom, University of California, San-Francisco
Fernando Santos, Universidade Federal de Pernambuco
Azamat Yeldesbay, University of Cologne
Helmut Schmidt, Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences
Michael Reimann, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
Hyun Jae Jang, Korea University
Ippa Seppälä, Tampere University
Natali Barros Zulaica, Blue Brain Project (BBP), Brain Mind Institute, EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland
Espen Hagen, University of Oslo
Jun Igarashi, Riken Computational Engineering Applications Unit
Alexander Peyser, Jülich Research Centre
Matthieu Gilson, Universitat Pompeu Fabra

Student Winners

Marte J. Sætra, University of Oslo
Alessandra Stella, Jülich Research Centre
Manu Kalia, University of Twente, Applied Mathematics
Parul Verma, Purdue University
Julia Goncharenko, University of Hertfordshire

Thanks to Ankur Sinha, Webmaster and Thomas Nowotny, Program Committee Chair for their help in organizing the poster competition.

Login at *cnsorg.org* to pay your OCNS dues. Please consider renewing with a multiple year membership.

Member Type	One year	Two years	Three years
Student	10 USD	15 USD	20 USD
Post-doc	20 USD	30 USD	40 USD
Faculty and other	50 USD	75 USD	100 USD

Travel Award Report

Taro Toyoizumi, RIKEN Brain Science Institute, Japan

Travel Award Coordinator
On behalf of the Board of Directors

One of the benefits of being an OCNS member is the right to apply for a Travel Award for the annual meeting. The goal is to facilitate CNS meeting attendance for PhD students, postdocs, and occasionally young faculty, especially from developing countries. We encourage you to use this mechanism to attend the CNS meeting if your personal or lab circumstances make it financially difficult.

To provide a perspective on your chances, here are some data from the application process for CNS 2019. OCNS received 89 Travel Award applications to attend the main meeting with 49 from students and the remainder mostly from postdocs. 57 of these applicants were male and 30 were female. Selection for funding is based on abstract scores, which are determined by the peer review process for the meeting and range from 2 to 6 out of 6. The threshold for funding usually falls around 3-4 but varies from year to year. This year most applications with a score of 4.1 and above were funded. As a consequence, 53 applicants received funding (18 female and 33 male), where 32 were students. In addition, OCNS received 20 (7 female and 13 male) nominations for Workshop Travel Awards from workshop organizers and 18 were funded (7 female and 11 male). Four of these awards went to students.
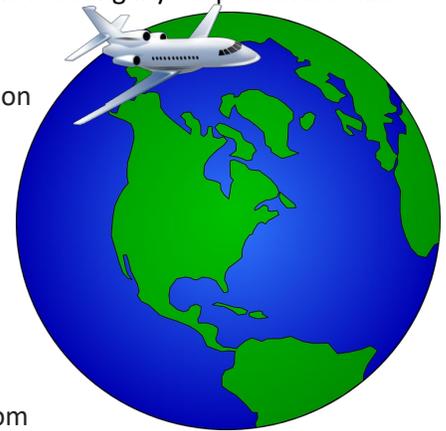
CNS*2018 Travel Award amounts were determined by estimated travel costs. Applicants from areas close to Barcelona (within 500 km from the venue) were awarded $200, awards from within 5000 km and farther from Barcelona were $400, and applicants from elsewhere were awarded $800.

CNS*2019 Student and Postdoc Career Development Workshop

Anca Doloc-Mihu, Georgia Gwinnett College, USA,
Sharmila Venugopal, University of California, USA
Ankur Sinha, University of Hertfordshire, UK

Our half-day workshop provided CNS young researchers, students, and postdocs the opportunity to learn about various successful career paths and strategies. The workshop included three sessions:

Panel Session: Participants heard from a panel of established computational neuroscientists about several careers transitions from young to a more established researcher, e.g, from postdoc to junior faculty or researcher, from student to postdoc. Our panelists were:

- **Frances S. Chance**: Principal Member of the Technical Staff, Sandia National Laboratories, USA.
- **Cengiz Gunay**: Assistant Professor, Information Technology, School of Science and Technology, Georgia Gwinnett College, USA.
- **Malin Sandström**: Community Engagement Officer, INCF Secretariat, Karolinska Institute, Sweden.
- **Rodica Curtu**: Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, University of Iowa, USA.
- **Fernando da Silva Borges**: Post-doctoral fellow, Center for Mathematics Computation and Cognition, Federal University of ABC, São Paulo, Brazil.
- **Alla Borisyuk**: Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, University of Utah, USA.

The panelists discussed their current roles, their duties, their career paths, and the skills necessary to navigate them.

Case Studies Discussion Session: Participants and organizers had a very lively and interesting dialog session in which everyone shared their views and insights regarding the various possibilities when in the process of a career change.

Useful Resource Dissemination Session: The organizers focused on providing their suggestions, advice, tips, tricks, dos, and don'ts on developing professional skills with the goal of preparing the attendees for their professional journeys. Topics related to navigating the career path were addressed and links for useful information were given out for: preparing CVs, job search, and interview tips.

The workshop concluded with lunch, during which participants, panelists, and organizers kept the discussions going and networked. The organizers would like to take this opportunity to thank both the panelists for volunteering their time to share their career tricks and the participants for bringing such interesting discussions.

Hope to see you in Melbourne!
The Organizers

Young Researcher CNS Meeting Experience:
A Heart-warming Scientific Conference Recipe

Cecilia Romaro, University of São Paulo, Brazil

CNS 2019, as all previous CNS meetings, was a combination of leading knowledge experts, thoughtfully prepared lectures and presentations, topped with incredible meals in a wonderful place. How could my experience there be anything but great?

This was not my first CNS, so the bonus part was to meet colleagues from previous editions and talk about our research, life, and career plans during lecture breaks, poster sessions, and the CNS party, which took place on the amazing Llevant beach.

Besides being a great opportunity to meet with excellent professors, this vast computational neuroscience conference enables unimaginable experiences. For example, I ran more than 4km (almost 3 miles) through Barcelona's historic monuments with one of the top experts in my research area! This senior professor invited me to go "walking" from CNS Main Meeting to the CNS Banquet Dinner, given that he was recovering from a shark attack (literally). I, a naive triathlon athlete, accepted the invitation and ended up having trouble keeping up with his "walk" pace up - but I did. We ran though Catalunya Plaza, Barcelona Cathedral, Barcelona Zoo and railway, keeping an average pace of around 6'25'' minutes per km.

The way back from the Banquet was a smooth (real) walk with a student group through historic points and beautifully built Cathedrals under very pleasant weather. I was relieved we walked! I definitely wasn't able to run after a Spanish meal, definitely one of the best of the world.

The next day, during one of the hot, humid, sticky, busy poster sessions, after appreciating work from 5 continents, I stopped in the middle of the hall for one moment to observe another presentation, but rather started paying attention to people. It is quite amazing to see people from all over the world sharing ideas and working together on one science background subject. I've got stuck in this idea for few seconds…

The funny part of my insight is to observe that they were using their brain to study the brain. It is somewhat overwhelming. As if the Schrödinger's cat experiment was led by another cat... imagine that!

With love,
Cecília

CNS 2020
Melbourne

29th Annual Computational Neuroscience Meeting
July 18-22, 2020

Local Organizers:

Anthony N. Burkitt (Chair), The University of Melbourne, Australia
Mark Cook, St Vincent'S Hospital, The University of Melbourne, Australia
Alex Fornito, Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health, Monash University, Australia
David Grayden (Treasurer), The University of Melbourne, Australia
Luan Ismahil, The University of Melbourne, Australia
Tatiana Kameneva, The University of Melbourne, Australia
Levin Kuhlmann, Monash University, Australia
Hamish Meffin, The University of Melbourne, Australia

Invited Keynote Speakers:

Matt Botvinick, Director of Neuroscience Research, DeepMind, London, UK
Zhaoping Li, Head of Sensory and Sensorimotor Systems, Max-Planck-Institut for Biological Cybernetics, Germany
Geoff Goodhill, Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland, Australia
Daniel Polani, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, UK

2020 Program Committee:

Chair: Thomas Nowotny, University of Sussex, UK
Deputy Chair: Julie Haas, Lehigh University, USA
Sacha van Albada, Research Center Jülich, Germany
Maxim Bazhenov, University of California San Diego, USA
Ingo Bojak, University of Reading, UK
Jean-Marc Fellous, University of Arizona, USA
Tomoki Fukai, RIKEN, Japan
Dieter Jaeger, Emory University, USA
Tatiana Kameneva, University of Melbourne, Australia
Christoph Metzner, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany
Claudio Mirasso, Universitat de les Illes Balears, Spain
Steven A Prescott, University of Toronto, Canada
Annalisa Scimemi, SUNY Albany, USA
Paul Tiesinga, Radboud University, Netherlands
Kechen Zhang, John Hopkins University, USA

We have an exciting meeting planned for this year. CNS*2020 will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC), which is located beside Melbourne's Yarra River, and is close to the city centre.

Proposals for tutorials from the international community of computational neuroscientists are welcome from all levels of faculty, as well as advanced postdoctoral fellows. This is a great opportunity to introduce novel methodology through a tutorial. We look forward to your submissions.

CALL FOR **WORKSHOPS**
https://www.cnsorg.org/cns-2020-call-for-workshops
Peter Jedlicka, Workshops Chair, CNS*2020

CALL FOR **TUTORIALS**
https://www.cnsorg.org/cns-2020-call-for-tutorials
Anca Doloc-Mihu, Tutorials Chair, CNS*2020

2020 CNS Calendar

Organization For
Computational Neurosciences
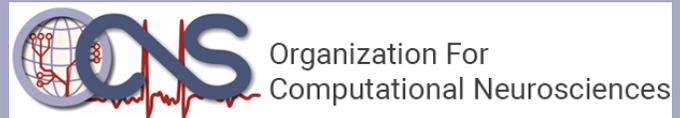
Wed, Jan 8	Registration opens
Thu, Jan 9	Abstract submission opens
Thu, Feb 27	Last safe date for Member applications before abstract submission closes
Wed, Mar 4	Abstract submission closes (11:00 pm Pacific Time USA) Travel Award applications due
Fri, Apr 10	Notification of abstract acceptance
Fri, May 1	Notification of oral/poster selection
Wed, May 6	Early registration closes for non-members (11:00 pm Pacific Time USA)
Thu, May 7	Travel Award notification
Fri, May 8	Last safe date for Member applications before early registration closes for members
Fri, May 15	Early registration closes for members (11:00 pm Pacific Time USA)
Sat, Jul 18	Tutorials (morning & afternoon) Keynote Talk and Reception (evening)
Sun, Jul 19	Main meeting: oral and poster sessions
Mon, Jul 20	Main meeting: oral and poster sessions
Tue, Jul 21	Mixed day: Keynote, workshop session and poster session
Wed, Jul 22	Workshops

2020 Satellite Workshop Announcement

Alex Fornito, Monash University, Australia

Andrew Phillips, Monash University, Australia

Turner Winter School for Computational Neuroscience
The Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health at Monash University will host a Winter School for Computational Neuroscience on July 2020. The Winter School will be a satellite to the CNS 2020 meeting in Melbourne, Australia, running for three days in the week before the conference begins. The school will be open to trainee applicants from all countries, with limited spaces, and will be taught by leading experts in the field. The school will combine workshop sessions with interactive problem-solving sessions, focusing on methods in dynamical systems and their cutting-edge applications. Further details, including application information, will be posted online in early 2020 at turnercompneuro.wordpress.com

Social Media at OCNS

Renaud Jolivet, University of Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Friends of OCNS,

OCNS is now present on three social media platforms:
Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/CNSorg/), Twitter (@CNSorg), and LinkedIn (https://www.linkedin.com/company/organization-for-computational-neurosciences), through which OCNS now reaches in total more than 5600 members of our community and beyond.

In 2020, Renaud Jolivet takes over OCNS communication through these channels together with Vice-President Martin Zapotocky and President Volker Steuber. We seize this opportunity to thank Joanna Jedrzejewska-Szmek, who is rotating out of this role, for her amazing job keeping you informed on these platforms! Under her stewardship, our following has grown very significantly, in particular on Facebook, where we now count more than 4000 followers. We encourage of course all of our members to join us on these three platforms to increase our reach and impact.

Going forward, we will continue to try growing our following, raise awareness about, and lobby for Computational Neurosciences. Most importantly, we will keep bringing to you the most relevant news about our community, and in particular all details pertaining to our annual meeting. We are also happy to help disseminate other information relevant to our community, job adverts, conference announcements, or other such news of special interest to you! Do not hesitate to contact us if you need help disseminating such announcements.

General Announcements

New fee structure due to the meeting reorganization. Be sure to update your membership before registering.

	Student Member	Student	Postdoc Member	Postdoc	Faculty Member	Faculty
Main meeting only	$160 (late: $200)	$245 (late: $305)	$200 (late: $255)	$325 (late: $425)	$290 (late: $375)	$475 (late: $620)
Main meeting + tutorials + workshops	$280 (late: $350)	$425 (late: $525)	$345 (late: $445)	$565 (late: $735)	$500 (late: $650)	$825 (late: $1030)
Main meeting + tutorials	$200 (late: $250)	$305 (late: $375)	$250 (late: $320)	$405 (late: $525)	$360 (late: $465)	$590 (late: $770)
Main meeting + workshops	$240 (late: $300)	$365 (late: $455)	$295 (late: $380)	$485 (late: $630)	$425 (late: $555)	$705 (late: $925)
Tutorials only	$60 (late: $75)	$90 (late: $110)	$75 (late: $95)	$130 (late: $170)	$110 (late: $140)	$220 (late: $280)
Workshops only	$110 (late: $140)	$165 (late: $210)	$135 (late: $175)	$220 (late: $285)	$195 (late: $255)	$325 (late: $420)

Do you have a favorite software tool or online resource?
Users and developers are welcome to contribute short articles of broad interest to OCNS members.
Contact us at newsletter@cnsorg.org
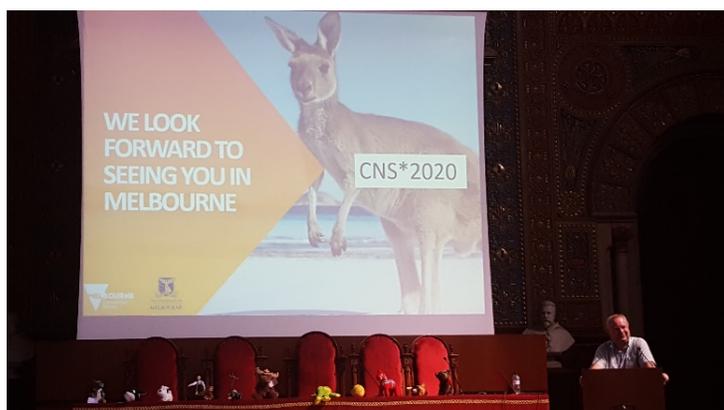
On behalf of the OCNS, the Newsletter contributors wish you much success with your research and training, and we look forward to seeing you in Melbourne at CNS*2020.