



Organization For
Computational Neurosciences

Member Newsletter | Oct 2022 | Volume 6 No.2

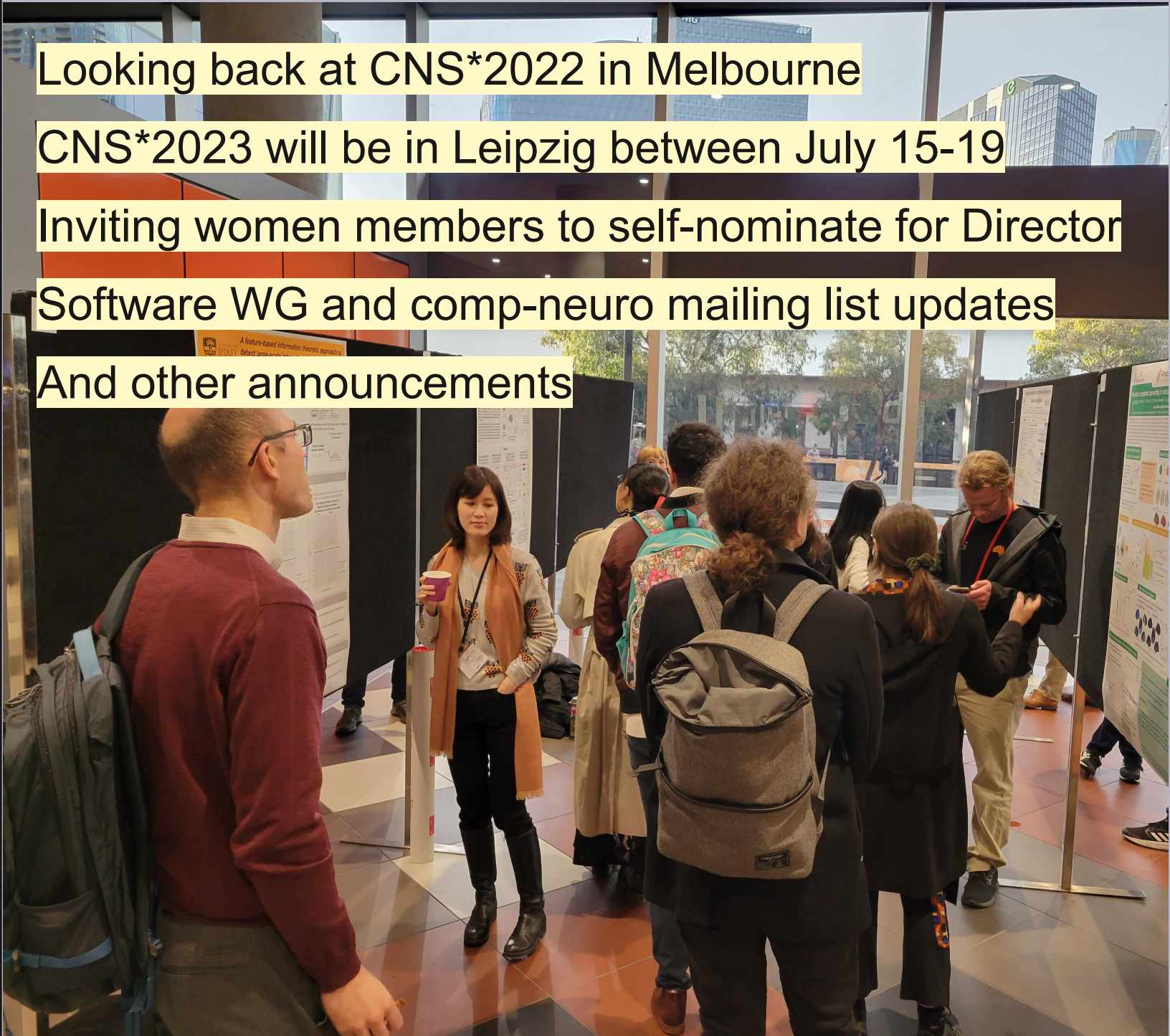
Looking back at CNS*2022 in Melbourne

CNS*2023 will be in Leipzig between July 15-19

Inviting women members to self-nominate for Director

Software WG and comp-neuro mailing list updates

And other announcements



@CNSorg



CNSorg



cns_ocns



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

Contact us if you have comments or information to include in the newsletter newsletter@cnsorg.org

Copyright 2022 © Organization for Computational Neurosciences

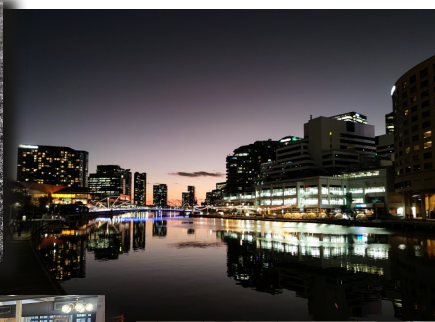
OCNS, Inc is a US non-profit, 501(c)(3) serving organization supporting the Computational Neuroscience community internationally.

We seek sponsorship from corporate and philanthropic organizations for support of student travel and registration to the annual meeting, student awards, and hosting of topical workshops. For more information about how you can contribute, please email sponsorship@cnsorg.org

CNS arrived to Oceania in 2022



The CNS*2022 meeting was held in the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC), Melbourne, Australia, on 16th -20th July 2022, with approx. 200 attendees. Local organizing committee was chaired by Anthony N. Burkitt from the University of Melbourne, Australia. The program consisted of Tutorials (all day Saturday 16th July), Main Meeting (evening Saturday 16th July - midday Tuesday 15th July), and Workshops (midday Tuesday 15th July - Wednesday 16th July). There were 8 tutorials (one of these was a showcase talk), and 6 workshops. The main meeting consisted of 4 keynote talks (1 hour each by Michael Breakspear, Tara Hamilton, Joseph Lizier, and Kristin Sellers - all available on our [Youtube Channel](#)), 4 Featured Oral presentations (30 mins each), and 18 regular Oral presentations (20 mins each). Two Poster Sessions, each with 60 posters, were held on the Sunday and Monday afternoons (3 hours each session). The annual OCNS Members Meeting was held late on the Tuesday afternoon. Social events included a Welcome Drinks, held in the MCEC Foyer following the 1st Keynote talk on the Saturday evening, the Conference Dinner, held at a nearby restaurant, Aerial, on the Sunday Evening, and the CNS Party, held at the Cellar Bar “Fall from Grace” on the Monday evening.



OCNS Newsletter

Editors: Laure Buhry
Cengiz Günay

Contributors:

Shailesh Appukuttan
Thomas Knoesche
Leonid Rubchinsky
Malin Sandström
Ankur Sinha
Volker Steuber
Fleur Zeldenrust

Image credits:

Shailesh Appukuttan
Anca Doloc-Mihu
Cengiz Günay
Wei Qin

The Program Committee had 146 submissions, out of which, 65 chose “oral preferred”. The committee unanimously rejected one poster due the topic of the submission. Several papers were later retracted by authors not able to travel to Melbourne. Four submissions were selected for featured orals and 18 for contributed orals based on reviewers’ comments, diversity of contributions, and session topics.



Changes to the OCNS Board of Directors

In the post-CNS* 2022 board meeting, self-nominations were sought and candidates were voted by the board to find replacements for positions whose terms are expiring. Here are all the changes to the board starting in 2023.

New executive committee members:



President
Thomas Nowotny
University of Sussex



Vice-President
Leonid Rubchinsky
Indiana University



Treasurer
Gennady Cymbalyuk
Georgia State University

Outgoing executive committee members and directors (thank you for your contributions!!!):



President
(Becomes **Past-President**)
Volker Steuber
University of Hertfordshire



Past-President
(Leaving board)
Astrid Prinz
Emory University



Sponsorship Chair
(Leaving board)
James Bower
Southern Oregon
University



Newsletter Chair
(Leaving board)
Laure Buhry
University of Lorraine



Tutorials Chair
(Leaving board)
Anca Doloc-Mihu
Georgia Gwinnett College



Membership Chair
(Leaving board)
Rodica Curtu
University Of Iowa



Workshops Chair
(Leaving board)
Jorge Mejias
University of Amsterdam



Education and Training Chair
(Leaving board)
Fleur Zeldenrust
Radboud University

A retrospective from our outgoing OCNS president

Volker Steuber, Professor, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, United Kingdom



2022 is my last year as OCNS president and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the operation of OCNS and to four successful CNS meetings during my two terms at the helm of OCNS. My time as president was an interesting one and it went off to a turbulent start –

right after my election as president at CNS*2018 in Seattle a random intruder entered the CNS meeting, tried to set fire to an American flag, attacked me and destroyed my laptop. Having acquired a new laptop I then started my tenure as president on 1 January 2019 and focused on what appeared to be the main challenge at the time – finding good meeting venues for CNS*2020 and the following years.

One of our aims as a world-wide membership-based organisation is to involve computational neuroscientists around the world, and especially in regions that are currently underrepresented, in research and scholarly exchange in general, and in computational neuroscience in particular. To secure our financial stability we currently hold the CNS meeting every other year in Europe, where the meeting always attracts the highest number of attendees, but recently we have started targeting new locations such as Jeju, South Korea (in 2016). Guided by a similar outreach philosophy, we were very pleased to accept bids from Melbourne, Australia and Natal, Brazil for CNS*2020 and CNS*2022, and equally happy for CNS*2021 to be held in Leipzig, Germany. At least that was our plan in January 2020 – little did we know then that our plans would have to be changed drastically due to the COVID pandemic. Once it became clear that the pandemic would make it impossible to run a physical meeting, we reached out to OCNS members who were not on the board of directors for help to form a web organising committee (WOC), which was tasked to organise CNS*2020 online. It was great to see that several excellent volunteers stepped up and helped to organise CNS*2020 online, and later also CNS*2021 online. I am very grateful to the WOCs for CNS*2020 and

CNS*2021, and also to the OCNS directors who took on the role of WOC chairs (Anca Doloc-Mihu and Jorge Mejias) or helped with the website and other technical issues (Ankur Sinha, Shailesh Appukkuttan, and Cengiz Gunay).

In 2022, we were finally able to hold a physical meeting again. CNS*2022 took place in Melbourne, Australia - two years later than originally planned. The meeting was extremely well organised and I would like to thank Anthony Burkitt and the other local organisers for their outstanding effort. Partly due to the lasting effects of the COVID pandemic, CNS*2022 contained a few hybrid components, for example online tutorials, some online speakers at workshops and keynote talks that were made available on YouTube. Hybrid meeting components will remain with us, in particular, when CNS will be held in novel locations that involve longer-distance travel. In addition to integrating online components into physical CNS meetings, we also aim to provide a continuous online presence throughout the year; this currently involves the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) on software (chaired by Ankur Sinha and Shailesh Appukkuttan) and for students and postdocs (chaired by Fleur Zeldenrust and Malin Sandström). Another new initiative is the formation of a committee that deals with diversity, equity and inclusivity issues, chaired by Malin Sandström. OCNS has always strived to be as inclusive and diverse as possible, with many women holding and having held leading positions on the board (Christiane Linster, Astrid Prinz, Sharon Crook, Ranu Jung, Victoria Booth, Frances Skinner, to name a few), but we feel that recent developments such as the disappointing lack of any female applicants for director positions in 2021 warrants that we pay particular attention to these issues.

2023 will see a few changes at the helm of OCNS. I would like to congratulate our new president, Thomas Nowotny, and also Leonid Rubchinsky and Gennady Cymbalyuk who will take over as vice president and treasurer from 1 January 2023. All three of them have a long-standing involvement in OCNS, with Thomas and Leonid previously having held the positions of vice president and treasurer, and I am certain that the future of OCNS is in the best possible hands.

Remarks from OCNS treasurer

Leonid Rubchinsky, Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis and Indiana University School of Medicine



Dear colleagues,

It was an honor for me to serve the Organization for Computational Neurosciences and CNS community as OCNS Treasurer for the past 4 years.

I was elected to be Treasurer in 2018 during the Board meeting at CNS*2018 in Seattle. My second (and last) term is coming to an end this December and it's a good time to look back at the past four years and to offer a perspective for the years to come.

OCNS was in a strong position financially when I picked up the Treasurer's responsibilities from Prof. Steuber. I was looking forward to continuing growth and financial stability of OCNS and CNS meetings. We were able to lower the registration fees for CNS*2019 in Barcelona and were looking forward to having the first CNS meeting in the Southern hemisphere in 2020. Little did I know back then that covid pandemic was about to turn the world upside down and to substantially alter our lives. We had to move the CNS meeting online in 2020, then again in 2021, and handle the associated financial (and many other) ramifications. But OCNS gradually emerged from covid in a stable financial state.

One of the reasons for this is that OCNS has very effective operations. Almost everything is run by the Board members or other volunteers. The Organization has not a single

employee. Thus, the expenses not directly related to the annual CNS meetings and other OCNS programmatic activities are minimal. Annual CNS meetings are also primarily run due to the volunteering efforts of the local organizers. Thus, thanks to the great effort of Prof. Burkitt and many of his colleagues and their students, CNS*2022 took place in Melbourne in the July of 2022 - thirty years after the first CNS meeting in San Francisco in 1992.

It was a great pleasure to collaborate with like-minded people who are genuinely interested in computational neuroscience: OCNS Board members, organizers of the annual CNS meetings, and all the members of CNS community. It's due to their combined efforts OCNS stays in a good financial health, with sufficient reserves and in a position for future development.

Finally, I would like to thank two past Treasurers, Prof. Steuber (current OCNS president) and Prof. Booth for their help and support and to extend warm welcome to the newly elected Treasurer Prof. Cymbalyuk, whose term is starting in January 2023.

While I am stepping down from the Treasurer's role, I will continue to serve on the OCNS Board as a newly elected OCNS Vice-President, an honor and an opportunity that I truly appreciate. I am looking forward to further supporting the OCNS and CNS community and to seeing many of you next July in Leipzig at CNS*2023.



Hear from women in OCNS about diversity and inclusion

OCNS and INCF initiatives

Malin Sandström, International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility (INCF), Stockholm, Sweden



The INCF/OCNS Software Working Group organized a successful and interesting session on Diversity & Inclusion in Neuroinformatics at the INCF Assembly in September. Speakers from the ALBA network (Srikanth Ramaswamy), the Organization for Human Brain Mapping (Athina Tzovara & Amanpreet Badhwar), the Human Brain Project (Karin Grasenick), Women in Neuroscience (Paola Mengotti) and BiasWatchNeuro (Yael Niv) presented their experiences from driving engagement in and advocacy for increased diversity and inclusion in neuroscience.

During the 2022 board meeting, the OCNS directors agreed that similar events should be arranged also at OCNS meetings, that increased diversity continues to be a goal for the organization, and that OCNS should reinforce its engagement in diversity, equity and inclusion by appointing a director to be the primary responsible. The board appointed Training & Education Chair Malin Sandström to this role due to the synergy between these areas - training & education is a necessary component for diversity and inclusion.

Quotes from current OCNS directors



Fleur Zeldenrust, Assistant Professor at the Department of Neurophysiology, Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour, Radboud University, Nijmegen, the Netherlands

"I found working at the OCNS board very rewarding. It is great to work together to contribute to the computational neuroscience community, so that the yearly meetings and other activities are inspiring for all computational neuroscientists: early or late career and from a diversity of backgrounds. I found the team very welcoming and open."



Rodica Curtu, Professor, Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Mathematics, University of Iowa

"It has been an honor to serve as one of the OCNS Board Directors for the past 3 years. I really enjoyed the collaborative work environment at OCNS. Approving new memberships has been rewarding as I got to learn more about the background and research interests of many computational neuroscientists across the world.

The OCNS team, which I could easily call "family", has been wonderful: professional and goal oriented while also very friendly and welcoming. Looking forward to learning more about the exciting projects that OCNS plans for years to come!"

Malin Sandström, International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility (INCF), Stockholm, Sweden (photo on top of page)

"It is hard to put into words how much the OCNS has meant to me, professionally and personally. I attended several CNS conferences as a PhD student in computational neuroscience. The field was small and underrecognized where I lived and studied, and conferences were all physical - meeting people from further away virtually was not possible yet. Being able to travel to attend the CNS meeting was fantastic - I could meet my peers in person, and I got to show my work and get feedback from others who understood the work. And I always felt welcome and included at the meetings; it was obvious that this community really valued its students. Being on the board is a great opportunity to give back, but it is also interesting and very collaborative work."



Eirini Mavritsaki, School of Social Sciences, Birmingham City University

"I was delighted when I received the email of being elected as member of the board and since I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the team. The vibe and enthusiasm are amazing and incomparable to previous experiences."



Laure Buhry, IDMC (Institute of Digital science, Management, and Cognition), University of Lorraine

"Handling the newsletter was very stimulating and a good opportunity to keep track of what is going on in the OCNS community. The board is very welcoming, very in tune with the computational neuroscience community, and open to discussion. I am called by other duties but would be happy to contribute again in the coming years."

OCNS needs you! Please self-nominate for Board of Directors vacancies. We would like to have nominations especially from women.

OCNS is now accepting self-nominations for candidacy for the election of new members to the OCNS Board of Directors.

New Directors will serve a three-year term from January 2023 through December 2025 and will initially fill the following roles:

- Travel awards
- Registration
- Webmaster
- Social media
- Sponsorship

New Directors will act as deputy chair in their roles by shadowing the current Chairs for a year, and then take over when the current Chairs finish their terms at the end of 2023 (except for the sponsorship chair role).

Candidates are required to have been a member of OCNS for a minimum of 12 months, or have attended an on-site CNS conference in the past. More information about the election procedure and about the duties of Directors can be found on our website:

<https://www.cnsorg.org/election-procedures>

The deadline for application is now extended to November 11, 2022.

Apply now!

Last year, the OCNS did not receive any nominations to its Board of Directors from women, and this year, 5 women Directors are reaching the end of their 3-year term.

We strongly encourage members to consider candidacy for these elections. OCNS is committed to have a wide diversity among its Directors - across research areas, gender, abilities, career experiences, geographic locations, and personal backgrounds, and this is possible only if a broad range of members apply.

The OCNS strives to be a diverse group and encourages a balanced and inclusive representation of women in leadership positions within the organisation.

To renew your membership, login at [cnsorg.org](https://www.cnsorg.org) to pay your OCNS dues. Please note that renewing with a multiple year membership will reduce your cost.

Member Type	One year	Two years	Three years
Student	10 USD	15 USD	20 USD
Post-doc/not-for-profit employee	20 USD	30 USD	40 USD
Faculty/for-profit employee	50 USD	75 USD	100 USD

Student: Anybody studying toward an undergraduate or graduate degree.

Postdoc/not-for-profit employee: Anybody who is employed as a postdoctoral scholar or postdoctoral fellow, and anybody who is employed in a university lab or non-industry research institute as a technician or research assistant not seeking a degree.

Faculty/for-profit employee: Anybody who is employed as faculty, laboratory head, independent researcher, or in an equivalent position, and anybody who is employed in industry or for-profit institutions.

Retired persons should apply for or remain in their pre-retirement category.

OCNS saves the Comp-neuro mailing list (but note the address change)

Shailesh Appukutan, Postdoctoral Researcher, Centre National de La Recherche Scientifique, Gif-Sur-Yvette, France; OCNS Website/Infrastructure Manager



Organization For
Computational Neurosciences

comp-neuro mailing list
comp-neuro@lists.cnsorg.org



Comp-neuro@neuroinf.org has been one of the oldest running and most popular mailing lists in the field of computational neuroscience. In recent months, due to infrastructure and technical issues, users might have found that the mailing list had not been fully functional. This prevented users from signing up to the list and also from accessing the past mail archives, in addition to some issues with the broadcasting of postings.

Good news... the mailing list is now back!

The mailing list has now moved to a cloud-based home and runs a more recent version of the software. Users will now have access to a more friendlier web interface. We expect this will provide a stable solution with a better service. It is now managed by OCNS, and the mailing list is therefore now under the www.cnsorg.org domain.

The past archives and subscriber list have been imported, so all existing members would continue to be subscribed. Reinoud Maex and Shailesh Appukuttan would serve as the admin-cum-moderators for the mailing list.

Email to post announcements on the mailing list

comp-neuro@lists.cnsorg.org

Email to contact admin/moderators

comp-neuro-owner@lists.cnsorg.org

Webpage of mailing list (to subscribe / unsubscribe / view archives):

<https://www.cnsorg.org/comp-neuro-mailing-list>

BrainBee taskforce is looking for volunteers

The BrainBee taskforce Computational Neuroscience en AI develops open materials (creative commons license) for high school students and anyone else interested about Computational Neuroscience and AI. We collaborate with NeuroTechEU, the IBB, OCNS and SmartNets (EU). Do you like writing about such topics for a broad audience? We are looking for volunteers! Interested? Please send an email to Fleur Zeldenrust at f.zeldenrust@neurophysiology.nl.

NEDERLANDSE



HERSENOLYMPIADE

Updates from the OCNS Software Working Group

Ankur Sinha, Research Fellow, Silver Lab, University College London

Shailesh Appukutan, Postdoctoral Researcher, Centre National de La Recherche Scientifique, Gif-Sur-Yvette, France; OCNS Website/Infrastructure Manager



The INCF/OCNS Software Working Group focuses on supporting community-developed open source neuroscience tools - from their development and maintenance to education and outreach. The aim is to ensure that the tools that our community depends on continue to be maintained by actively engaged community members, and to bring end users into close collaboration with tool developers.

The Software WG has been active since its inception a couple of years ago. One of our primary objectives has been to ensure engagement with the community around the year, and offer a platform for discussing development of scientific software. With this in mind, the WG has been organizing 'developer sessions' where tool owners discuss their development pipelines—to disseminate various development practices, and help potential contributors get started. We also organize 'software highlight' sessions, where tool developers demonstrate their tools to end-users. Recordings of all software working group sessions are uploaded on the [INCF Training Space](#). Of particular import was the session by the [Force11 Software Citation Implementation Working Group](#) on the importance of citing research software, and the best practices associated with it ([recordings here](#)).

We also organize free online software tutorials as a satellite event to the CNS meetings. This was conducted at a much

larger scale during CNS*2022 as compared to its previous iteration. We conducted [16 tutorial sessions](#) across 5 days before the main conference in Melbourne. These covered a variety of computational topics to ensure training access to members of the community that were unable to travel to the on-site event. We hope to continue organizing these every year to serve the research community.

As a first step towards taking action to encourage participation of under-represented groups in neuroscience (and STEM in general), we organized a session on '[Diversity and inclusion in Neuroinformatics](#)' at the INCF Neuroinformatics Assembly 2022. We are most grateful to representatives from the different communities/organizations that made time to discuss the current state, the challenges, and the various ideas/initiatives to promote diversity, equity, and inclusivity (DEI) in the community: Women in Neuroscience, BiasWatchNeuro, the OHBM DIC, the ALBA network, and the HBP.

The working group continues to meet every month. The [monthly meetings](#) are open to all to attend, and are held in two sessions (at 0800 and 1700UTC) for the benefit of our global membership. Please join us, and visit our website, subscribe to our mailing list, or drop by in any of our communication channels:

<https://ocns.github.io/SoftwareWG/>



Come to Leipzig for CNS* 2023!

Thomas Knoesche, Group Leader, Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany

We cordially invite you to come to Leipzig in July 15-19, 2023, to attend the 32nd Annual Meeting of the OCNS. We - this is the local organizers team from the Max Planck Institutes for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences and for Mathematics in the Sciences, and the Universities of Leipzig and Chemnitz.

Leipzig is a compact medium-sized city with about 600.000 people in the heart of Germany and Europe, convenient to reach and with (almost) everything in walking distance from the conference venue.

Not everybody might know Leipzig yet, but it is definitely worth knowing, because it combines a number of highlights that are rarely found all together in a single place.



First, Leipzig is a city of culture and arts, especially renowned for its musical heritage and presence: not only famous composers left their traces here, but also today's Gewandhaus orchestra and Thomaner choir are world famous.

Second, Leipzig is a city of science with the renowned university and numerous research institutions from the Max Planck, Fraunhofer, Leibnitz, and Helmholtz Societies. Heisenberg and Ostwald worked here, and the Neanderthal genome was extracted from ancient fossils by at the MPI for Evolutionary Anthropology by the group of Svante Pääbo, who received the Nobel prize for this in 2022. Both computational and experimental neuroscience are well established.

Third, Leipzig is a beautiful city with amazing architecture. Many residential areas are made up by beautiful building from the turn of the 19th to the 20th century. Architecture from virtual all epochs can be found. An impressive example is the congress venue itself, the Kongreßhalle am Zoo, a historic building from around 1900, yet housing a modern convention center with all amenities, located right next to the lovely zoo of Leipzig and within walking distance of the city center.



Fourth, Leipzig is a green city: a broad green band of rivers, floodplain forest, parks and lakes is running right through the city, inviting for exploration by boat, bicycle, and on foot. This green lung of Leipzig is quite unique in Europe as it covers about one third of the city area.



Last but not least, Leipzig is a city of fun and excitement. The city is among the best places in Germany to experience different styles of eating, bar and pub culture, all sorts of entertainment, live music, galleries and art projects.

So, please come to Leipzig - it is worth it! We are waiting for you!

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 July for CNS* 2023 at Leipzig!