

News from the NENS Office

New NENS Committee elected at FENS Governing Council Meeting on 17 November in Edinburgh.

The newly elected Committee members are Pavle Andjus (Serbia), Jean-Pierre Hornung (Switzerland), Mariken de Krom (Netherlands) and Jolanta Zawilska (Poland). New and old chair of the Committee is Denise Manahan-Vaughan (Germany).

The Committee works towards the full implementation of the NENS mission of creating an active network among European neuroscience schools. This transnational cooperation aims at facilitating the set up of quality standards in neuroscience research and education as well as at encouraging the exchange of students and teaching staff across Europe.

The new committee, which will serve until November 2009, will hold its first meeting in mid-January. Upcoming tasks will include the organisation of

the NENS Symposium during the FENS Forum 2008 in Geneva. The Committee also intends to come up with further measures to enhance the mobility of current and future European scientists and to improve the visibility of students' research achievements in the neuroscience community.

Thank you for all your ideas, your hard work and the huge amounts of energy brought to the NENS cause.

On behalf of the NENS chair and all NENS members we would like to thank the former committee members Deolinda Lima, Miklós Réthelyi, Tomi Taira and Alessandro Treves for their dedicated commitment to our mission.

NENS Stipends 2008: Call for applications open now.

Are you a Master or PhD student registered within a NENS school? Would you like to gain practical experience at a NENS lab in a different country?

Then apply for a NENS stipend! Stipends will cover travel and accommodation costs of up to 1000 Euros. Deadline for applications is 1 March 2008.

For application details please visit <http://fens.mdc-berlin.de/nens/about.html> or contact nens-office@rub.de.

Do you have NENS news to report?

Or would you like your NENS country to be featured in the Newsletter? Then let the NENS Office know. Contributions are welcome.

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“Across Europe”- NENS Member Countries: Portugal

Portugal upholds a great tradition in neuroscience research epitomised by Egas Moniz's 1949 winning of the Nobel Prize and Corino de Andrade's seminal achievements.

It was only in 1994, however, when some neuroscience research groups got together on a national level to form the Portuguese Society for Neuroscience (SPN).

Although only of medium size the SPN today is a highly active society, having been involved in the organisation of the 4th FENS Forum in Lisbon 2004 and the FENS/PENS Summer Schools in Ofir. Among others, SPN's

activities focus on the building of a strong Portuguese neuroscience community and the return of young expatriate scientists to Portugal.

What's more, neuroscience education at PhD level has existed for a long time in Portugal- albeit not in a programme-oriented format.

In Portugal the first structured programme was set up at the University of Lisbon in 1999 when a Master in Neuroscience was introduced. This training opportunity has recently been remodelled into a combined PhD and Master degree.

The University of Coimbra followed suit in 2002 with the set up of a PhD course in Experimental Biology and Biomedicine which strongly focuses on the neurosciences. In addition, the University of Porto is about to launch its

very first cutting-edge doctoral programme in neuroscience.

The postgraduate neuroscience curricula in those three Portuguese NENS member programmes are characterised by their broad thematic and disciplinary outlook ranging from molecular biology to computational and cognitive neuroscience.

This particular approach allows doctoral students to pursue their specialist research interests. The NENS schools also collaborate within a strong national network and uphold close links to renowned neuroscience departments all around the world.

Further information

www.spn.org.pt
www.cnc.cj.uc.pt
www.med.up.pt
www.ul.pt

Facts and Figures

Area: 92,072 km²
Population: 10,400,000
Capital: Lisbon
EU-member: 1 Jan 1986
NENS schools: 3