
MEDITERRANEAN NEUROSCIENCE SOCIETY

MNS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026

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Message from the President



To all Neuroscientists around the globe,

As we look back on the remarkable achievements of MNS, we are filled with gratitude for your unwavering support. We had a memorable meeting in Chania in 2025 which gathered about 500 scientists from around the globe and we are continuing since then to build ties between neuroscientists by supporting the participation of early career researchers to different international neuroscience meetings and contributing to the organization of different events in the Mediterranean area to promote cross-Mediterranean cooperation. We have also organized several webinars to give access to high quality neuroscience research to all. Together, we've overcome challenges, celebrated successes, and continued to push the boundaries of scientific discovery.

We look now forward to other opportunities for early career researchers and for the scientific community of MNS in general in the coming months, and we can't wait to see you in Tangier, Morocco, 5-9 June 2027, where we will once again come together to share knowledge, foster collaboration, and create lasting memories. You will find in this newsletter calls for opportunities to get financial support to attend MNS 2027 in Tangier.

Warmest regards,

Youssef Anouar

MNS President, on behalf of the MNS Council

About the Mediterranean Neuroscience Society

Established in 2009, the Mediterranean Neuroscience Society (MNS) is dedicated to advancing three core objectives:

- Strengthen collaboration and exchanges among neuroscientists throughout the Mediterranean region.
- Promote education in neuroscience and raise public awareness of the latest scientific advancements.
- Support scientific training and networking events, most notably the biennial Mediterranean Neuroscience Conference.

Research on brain function, both in health and disease, is a priority for modern societies. The Mediterranean region is increasingly recognized as a key research area, with significant strategic importance for the European Union (EU).

To achieve its mission, the MNS actively collaborates with national and international neuroscience organizations. We are proud members of the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) and work in synergy with the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS). MNS has also become an affiliated member of SONA—The Society of Neuroscientists of Africa and is a member of the ALBA network, having signed the Declaration on Equity and Inclusion. Recently, MNS signed a memorandum with Research Networks (RESNET), adopting Brain Organoid and Systems Neuroscience Journal (BOSN) as one of its partner journals to support the MNS's broader mission, research, and educational objectives.

The MNS is deeply committed to supporting young researchers and advancing their careers at every stage. To better align the needs of our younger members with the goals of the MNS Council, we have established the Young MNS Committee (YMNSC). The YMNSC's primary mission is to encourage and empower young neuroscientists across the Mediterranean region to actively engage with the broader scientific community and contribute meaningfully to its growth. More information: <https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/y-m-n-s-c>

The Society's mission reflects the growing importance of South-North collaborations and networks, which have flourished in recent years through various bilateral and multilateral initiatives, supported by the EU and regional programs.

The MNS was established to support and strengthen collaborative projects that unite neuroscientists from all shores of the Mediterranean. MNS achieves this by:

- Offering travel stipends and awards to young scientists, with a focus on those from the southern Mediterranean.
- Actively organizing events that promote North-South networking, scientific exchange, and advanced student training.
- Enhancing the visibility of North-South collaborations by highlighting these efforts in "bottom-up" symposia during the MNS Conference and in satellite events.
- Providing an efficient interface and access to larger organizations such as IBRO, FENS, ALBA network and SONA.

MNS Conference History

The Mediterranean Neuroscience Conference has been held in:

- 2009 — Alexandria, Egypt
- 2012 — Istanbul, Turkey
- 2015 — Pula-Sardinia, Italy
- 2017 — St. Julian, Malta
- 2019 — Marrakech, Morocco
- 2022 — Dubrovnik, Croatia
- 2023 — Carthage, Tunisia
- 2025 — Chania, Crete, Greece
- 2027 — Tangier, Morocco (upcoming)

Membership Renewal 2026

Dear colleague,

The Mediterranean Neuroscience Society needs your support to continue and expand its mission! Membership is valid from January 1st to December 31st each year, so don't forget to renew your membership for 2026. We'd love you to continue this journey with us and stay part of the MNS community into the coming year.

If you're not yet a member and want to contribute to strengthening Mediterranean neuroscience cooperation, we encourage you to join the MNS! By becoming a member, you can help us organize events, propose new projects, stay informed about our initiatives, and support our ongoing efforts. Whether you want to get actively involved or sponsor us, your membership makes a difference!

Sign up today at <https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/> (detailed instructions below) to apply for 2026 membership and enjoy exclusive benefits.

MNS Member Benefits

- Receive regular updates from MNS (Society e-newsletter & email announcements)
- Discounted MNS congress/meeting registration fees
- Free access to lectures and courses supported by MNS
- Opportunities to apply for MNS support & Awards
- Listing/access to the members' directory
- Right to vote in MNS elections and MNS General Assembly
- Be nominated / right to nominate candidates for MNS Council, and serve on MNS Committees
- Career training, and the opportunity to be part of a vibrant online community

Annual Membership Fees

Membership Category	Annual Fee
Regular Member	41 €
Student Member	16 €
Student Member (low-middle income countries)	0 €
Sponsor Member	≥ 100 €

How to Join

1. Click <https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/member-register.php>, sign up and create a new profile, if you are joining the MNS for the first time.
2. Click on <https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/member-login.php>
3. Click on PAYMENT ANNUAL FEES and select the method of payment (Credit Card - preferred- or bank transfer – contact the treasurer)
4. Welcome to the MNS community and enjoy the benefits

MNS website

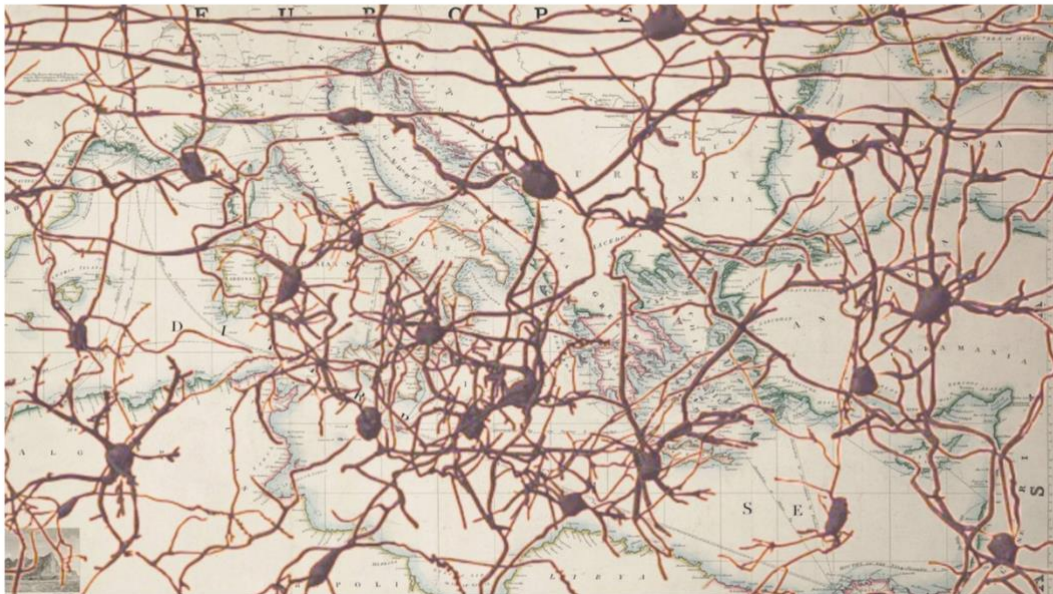
Our website is regularly updated with the latest news and resources. Be sure to visit us at www.medneuroscisociety.org for all the latest information.

To get the most out of your membership, please sign in and create your profile at <https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/member-register.php>.

You can also review the newly approved Bylaws and Rulebook by visiting: www.medneuroscisociety.org/mns-council-and-bylaws.html.



MNS: why and what for?



The Mediterranean Neuroscience Society (MNS) works towards three main objectives:

MNS Council & Governance

Seven Councillors will be elected to the MNS's Council in 2027, of which 6 Council members and 1 Vice-President.

Expression of interest should be submitted next year. Elections will run online and the results will be announced at the General Assembly Meeting during MNS2027 in Morocco.



The Council is the MNS's governing body (https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/mns-council-and-bylaws.php?type_file=pdf&name_file=MNS-Bylaws-2017.pdf).

The Council has 15 members (<https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/mns-council-bylaws>)

Council meets at least three times each year either in person or virtually. Members serve a two-year term, which may be renewed for a further term of three years. The generic responsibilities of charity trustees are significant and are set out here. We seek individuals (academic) of standing, with expertise in a field of Neuroscience, and a commitment to the purpose of the MNS to 'promote Neuroscience in the Mediterranean benefit' which goes beyond a commitment to represent their own discipline.

Any Fellow who is considering standing and would find further discussion helpful, please get in touch with Dr. Youssef Anouar at president@medneuroscisociety.org

To be able to submit your candidacy you need to be registered to the website as a member.

Young MNS Committee (YMNSC)



MNS highly supports young researchers and promotes their career development at any stage.

The Young MNS Committee (YMNSC) aims to bridge the gap between young members' needs and the MNS Council.

The YMNSC promotes participation in the scientific community of young

neuroscientists in the Mediterranean area, with a particular emphasis on those working in low-income countries. It channels its own initiatives, organizes activities useful for students' training and transition towards independence, and addresses the interests, needs, problems and concerns of young neuroscientists in the Mediterranean area.

The YMNSC channels information related to Education in Neuroscience and MNS activities through our social media and newsletter.

The main mission of YMNSC is to strengthen the MNS young community and to enable young neuroscientists to discuss their views on the future of Neuroscience in the different Regions of the Mediterranean area.

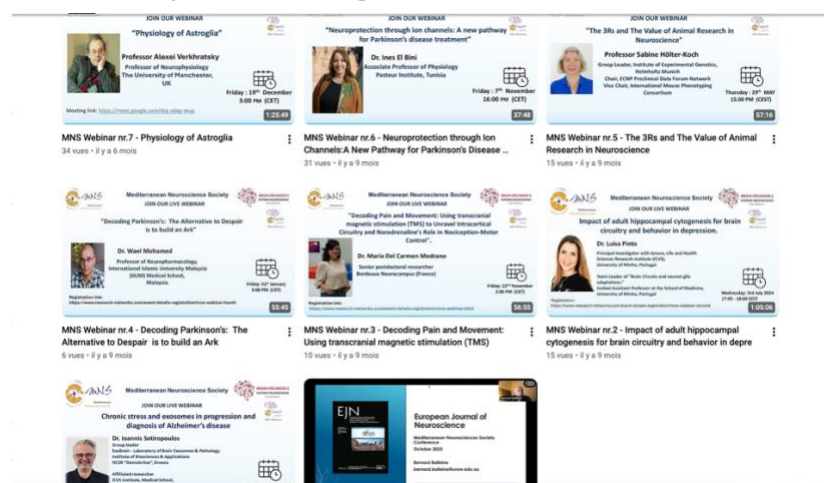
The YMNS President will participate in the decision-making processes of the MNS Council by participating in their meetings, with a unique role of advising the MNS Council on issues of early career scientists and developing programs and activities that meet their needs

MNS Webinars

The Mediterranean Neuroscience Society's online webinar series was launched in 2024, an activity also sponsored by the Brain Organoids and Systems Neuroscience journal.

Videos of our webinars can be viewed on our youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@MediterraneanNeuroscienceSociety>



Stay tuned for more inspiring talks from leading experts in the field!

MNS2025 Conference — Chania, Crete, Greece

7–11 June 2025 • Minoa Palace Resort

The 10th Mediterranean Neuroscience Society (MNS) Conference was held from 7–11 June 2025 in Chania, Crete, and marked one of the most successful editions of the meeting. Hosted at the Minoa Palace Resort, the conference provided an ideal setting for scientific exchange, professional development, and multicultural interaction.

The event brought together 480 participants from an exceptionally broad international community, reflecting the truly global reach of the MNS. Among them, 60 participants were from Greece, showcasing strong engagement from the local neuroscience ecosystem. The conference featured a substantial early-career presence, including 45 post-doctoral researchers, 58 PhD students, and 22 Greek PhD students or post-docs, highlighting its commitment to supporting young scientists. Many early-career attendees, particularly from under-resourced Mediterranean regions, participated thanks to MNS partners supporting travel grants such as IBRO, which significantly enhanced the inclusivity of the meeting.

Participants represented a rich diversity of national backgrounds, with scientists attending from Greece, France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Turkey, Cyprus, Egypt, Tunisia, the United Kingdom, Morocco, the United States of America, Japan, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Ireland, Israel, Serbia, Belgium, the United Arab Emirates, Poland, Croatia, Australia, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada, the Republic of Korea, Germany, Denmark, Malta, Brazil, India, Chile, and Slovenia. This impressive geographic spread underscored the growing international recognition of the MNS as a platform for Mediterranean and global neuroscience.

The scientific program was multidisciplinary and comprehensive, featuring keynote lectures, symposia, workshops, poster sessions, and dedicated early-career activities, including the IBRO/MNS Early Career Session and hands-on training workshops. These sessions fostered high-quality scientific exchange, skill development, and networking across career stages and national boundaries.

The Scientific and Organizing Committees worked tirelessly to create an engaging program that includes keynote speakers, opinion leaders, and experts from around the globe. It was the place to promote research, education, advocacy, policy-making, and public awareness on all aspects of brain science.



MNS2025: Science, Culture & Community

Opening Night Under the Cretan Sky



A Taste of Cretan Culture



Special thanks for the chairs of this event

Conference Chairs



Prof. Christina Dalla
National and Kapodistrian University of
Athens, Greece
co-Chair



Dr. Ali Jahanshahi
MUMC+, The Netherlands
co-Chair

Travel Grant Awardees



IBRO Grants

#	Name	Country	Gender
1	Hiba Midouane	Morocco	Female
2	Amel Abidi	Tunisia	Female
3	Tatiana Morais	Portugal	Female
4	Ehsan Ahmadipour	Iran	Male
5	Samah Shahen-Zoabi	Israel	Female
6	Magdalena Białon	Poland	Female

MNS Grants

#	Name	Country	Gender
1	Ibtihel Chatti	Tunisia	Female
2	Iben Daoudi Hanane	Morocco	Female

Elsevier Grants

#	Name	Country	Gender
1	Amel Boulouda	France	Female
2	Vittoria Torre	Italy	Female
3	Yasmine Limam	Tunisia	Female
4	Maria A. Tsiarli	Cyprus	Female

Awards

Oral Awards

Recipient	Category	Presentation Title
Dr. Giulia Federica Mancini (Italy)	Neuroscience Research	<i>The impact of early-life stress on vulnerability and resilience to psychiatric disorders later in life</i>
Mr. Haijun He (Greece)	Brain and Environment	<i>Lactate mitigates the phenotype of Alzheimer's disease through the AMPK-RAB3A signalling pathway to promote mitophagy and synaptic function</i>

Praise Oral Prize

- Ms. Eirini Maria Tzermou (Greece) — Dynamic metabolic profiling of microglia in an acute murine viral model of G2019S LRRK2 Parkinson's disease

Poster Awards

Recipient	Category	Poster Title
Ms. Elba Molpeceres (France)	Brain Organoids	<i>PP212: Involvement of the direct subthalamic nucleus – M1 cortex pathway in parkinsonian motor and nociceptive impairments</i>
Mr. Marwen Ben Fdilen (Tunisia)	Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience	<i>PP221: Anti-tumoral effect of Octadecaneuropeptide combined with 5-Fluorouracil on glioblastoma cell line U87–MG</i>
Mr. Oliver Nagy (Hungary)	Neuroscience Methods	<i>PP228: Investigating a newly-discovered extrathalamic excitatory pathway of posterior thalamic nucleus</i>

Recipient	Category	Poster Title
Dr. Ameya Kasture (Austria)	Neurobiology of Disease	<i>PP313: Exocyst Assembly is Essential for the Proper Membrane Targeting of the Dopamine Transporter in Drosophila melanogaster</i>

Praise Poster Prizes

- Ms. Yasmine Limam (Tunisia) — PP314: Neurotoxic impact of Glyphosate and its metabolites: A novel analytical and cellular approach
- Ms. Eleana Solakidou (Greece) — PP130: Sex Differences and Intrasexual Variability in Oxycodone-Induced Alterations of Brain Stimulation Reward and Neurochemistry in Sprague-Dawley Rats



Special Issues

The 10th edition of the meeting in Greece was and still is an opportunity to publish scientific articles in several special issues that are managed by some participants. The Scientific Journals involved Journal of Neuroscience Methods, Frontiers in Behavioral Neurosciences, Frontiers in Pharmacology, and Brain Organoid and Systems Neuroscience Journal.

Some special issues are still running.

We had the pleasure to host the following keynote speakers!



Giovanni Marsicano
DVM, PhD | NeuroCentre Magendie,
Bordeaux, France



Margaret M. McCarthy
Distinguished University Professor | University
of Maryland School of Medicine, USA



Panayiota Poirazi

Research Director, IMBB-FORTH, Crete,
Greece | Secretary General of FENS



Shubha Tole

Tata Institute, Mumbai, India | President-elect
of IBRO

New MNS council members

The 10th Mediterranean Neuroscience Society (MNS) Conference was the occasion to introduce the new members of the council. Please see the website: <https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/mns-council-bylaws>

MNS Support to Other Scientific Events

SONA 2025, Marrakech, Morocco

MNS was honored to participate with a symposium in the SONA meeting 2025, which took place in Marrakech, Morocco, April 17-20. Prof Mohamed Bennis and Prof Nouria Lakhdar-Ghazal co-chaired the local organizing committee of this meeting. MNS supported one symposium proposed by its members.

International Conference on Environmental Pollutants and Neurological Health, Castellon, Spain

The meeting was organized by Prof Francisco Olucha Bordonau and colleagues (<https://www.fue.uji.es/psycomed?vista=previa>) and was held in Castellon, Spain, October 29-31.

MNS awarded 3 fellowships of €500 each to young scientists: Mariem Sallemi, University Tunis El Manar, Tunisia

- Ihsane Ait Mansour, Cadi Ayyad University of Marrakech, Morocco
- Marwen Ben Fdilen, University Tunis El Manar, Tunisia

FENS Forum 2026, Barcelona, Spain

MNS proudly supported participation in the FENS Forum 2026 in Barcelona (July 6–10, 2026) by awarding 4 fellowships of €1,000 each to young scientists:

- Fatima Ezzahra Kacimi, Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Morocco
- Christina Paschou, Laboratory of Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology-Stem Cells, Hellenic Pasteur Institute, Athens, Greece
- Ana Rita Agra de Almeida, CNC - CiBB, University of Coimbra, Portugal
- Amel Abidi, University Tunis El Manar, Tunisia

Brain Awareness 2026, Egypt

Building Bridges in Neuroscience During Brain Awareness Week 2026



As part of Brain Awareness Week 2026, the event "Brain Awareness@MUST: Connecting Minds for Change" was held on 6-7 April at Misr University for Science and Technology (MUST), Egypt. The event was organized by Dr. Nermeen Zakaria, a council member of the MNS.

The event brought together students, researchers, and early-career scientists from Universities and research institutions across Egypt. It provided a platform for learning, networking, and exchanging ideas through a series of lectures addressing current advances and emerging directions in neuroscience.

The scientific program covered a wide range of relevant topics, including the role of mental health and healthy nutrition in supporting cognitive function, the applications of CRISPR and gene-editing technologies in neurodegenerative disorders, brain-targeted drug delivery systems, and the use of animal models in neuroscience research. Other sessions explored recent developments in understanding neurodegenerative diseases and highlighted current approaches to their management. Participants were also introduced to educational opportunities and research grants offered by IBRO for African students and early-career researchers.

A student competition was held alongside the scientific sessions, where participants presented innovative visual designs and projects, to raise community awareness about mental health in a simple and an accurate way.

Another highlight of the event was the launch of the Egyptian Neuroscientists Network (ENN), a new initiative established to strengthen communication, collaboration, and professional networking among neuroscience students and young researchers in Egypt. As a co-founder and member of ENN, Dr. Zakaria emphasized the importance of fostering a supportive scientific community that promotes collaboration, and knowledge exchange, in alignment with the mission and vision of MNS.

Upcoming Events Supported by MNS

Event	Organizer / Location
Eurogenesis Conference	Dr. Nora Abrous, Bordeaux, France — 16–18 June 2027
BMAT 2026 Congress	Profs. Olfa Masmoudi & Taoufik Ghrairi, Sousse, Tunisia — 6–8 Nov 2026
Achucarro International Glia School	Dr Maria Kukley, Plentzia, Spain— 16–18 Sept 2026
NeuroComm Mediterranean	Dr Tatiana Morais, Braga, Portuga, October 2026
The 2026 ALS-Arrasat ELA Research Symposium	Drs Ana Quadros and Jone Lopez, Arrasate, Spain— 28–30 Oct 2026

MNS2027 — Tangier, Morocco

★ **SAVE THE DATES** ★
5–9 June 2027 • Tangier, Morocco



The MNS is proud to announce that the next meeting of the society will take place at **Hilton Houara Resort and Spa, Tangier, Morocco**. The council is currently organizing the event and registration will open soon. It will be another occasion to strengthen the Mediterranean neuroscientific community for a meeting that holds a lot of promise.

Call for Opportunity: Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience / MNS Bursary for MNS2027



The Mediterranean Neuroscience Society (MNS) is pleased to announce a special bursary opportunity for established researchers to support participation in MNS2027, to be held in Tangier, Morocco, in **June 2027**.

This initiative is designed to reward scientific excellence, strengthen our community, and promote high-quality neuroscience research through active engagement with one of MNS's official partner journals, Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience.

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Established (affirmed) researchers
 - H-index greater than 10
 - Willing to serve as Guest Editor of a Research Topic in Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience
 - Be willing to serve as Guest Editor of a Research Topic (RT) in Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience, an official partner journal of Mediterranean Neuroscience Society (MNS)
- 👉 <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/behavioral-neuroscience>

Benefits

Successful applicants will receive:

- Complete waiver of Open Access Publication Charges (OPC)
 - 100% APC fee waived for one article for the Research Topic.

- Financial Support for MNS2027
 - Upon successful completion of the Research Topic
 - Up to CHF 2,362.50* to cover:
- Conference registration
- Accommodation
- Travel (flights)
- (*Applicable to a Research Topic with at least 10 accepted contributions)

Key Objectives

- Promote high-quality, collaborative neuroscience research
- Encourage editorial leadership within the MNS community
- Provide tangible benefits linked to scientific contribution
- Support active participation in MNS2027

Why Participate?

- This opportunity represents a concrete and innovative way to:
- Share the benefits of MNS membership
- Gain editorial visibility and leadership
- Publish impactful research with no publication costs
- Receive financial support to attend MNS2027

We sincerely hope this initiative will be useful and well received by our community, reinforcing MNS's commitment to excellence, inclusivity, and meaningful scientific exchange across the Mediterranean and beyond.

For further details on how to apply or propose a Research Topic, please contact the MNS Secretariat info@medneuroscisociety.org.