

January 2025 MNS Newsletter



MNS

Mediterranean
Neuroscience Society

Greetings to scientists across the globe!

As we look back on the remarkable journey that 2024 has taken us on, we are filled with gratitude for your unwavering support. This year has been extraordinary, and together, we've overcome challenges, celebrated successes, and continued to push the boundaries of scientific discovery.

With 2025 on the horizon, we are excited for the seeds of hope it brings. We look forward to a year filled with new inspiration, motivation, and opportunities for early career researchers and the scientific community. We hope this year will also bring you personal joy, fulfilment, and all that you wish for.

We can't wait to see you in Crete, Greece, where we will once again come together to share knowledge, foster collaboration, and create lasting memories.

Warmest regards,

Christina Dalla, MNS President
On behalf of the MNS Council



The Mediterranean Neuroscience Society (MNS)

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

- **First**, to strengthen collaboration and exchanges among neuroscientists throughout the Mediterranean region.
- **Second**, to promote education in neuroscience and raise public awareness of the latest scientific advancements.
- **Third**, to 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 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 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.

The last Mediterranean Conference of Neuroscience was held in 2023 in Carthage (Tunisia), following previous editions in 2022 in Dubrovnik (Croatia), Marrakech (Morocco) in 2019, St. Julian (Malta) in 2017, Pula-Sardinia (Italy) in 2015, Istanbul (Turkey) in 2012, and Alexandria (Egypt) in 2009. Looking ahead, MNS aims to further expand future Mediterranean Conferences to showcase the diversity and innovation of Mediterranean neuroscience research, while fostering strategies to enhance cross-Mediterranean cooperation.

2025 MNS Membership renewals!

Dear colleague,

The Mediterranean Neuroscience Society (MNS) 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 2025. We'd love for 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 2025 membership and enjoy exclusive benefits.

MNS benefits

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

Annual membership fees

- Regular Member: 41 €
- Student Member: 16 €
- Student Member low-middle income countries: 0 €

Steps to join MNS today

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 (Bank Transfer or Credit Card)
4. Welcome to the MNS community and enjoy the benefits

MNS website

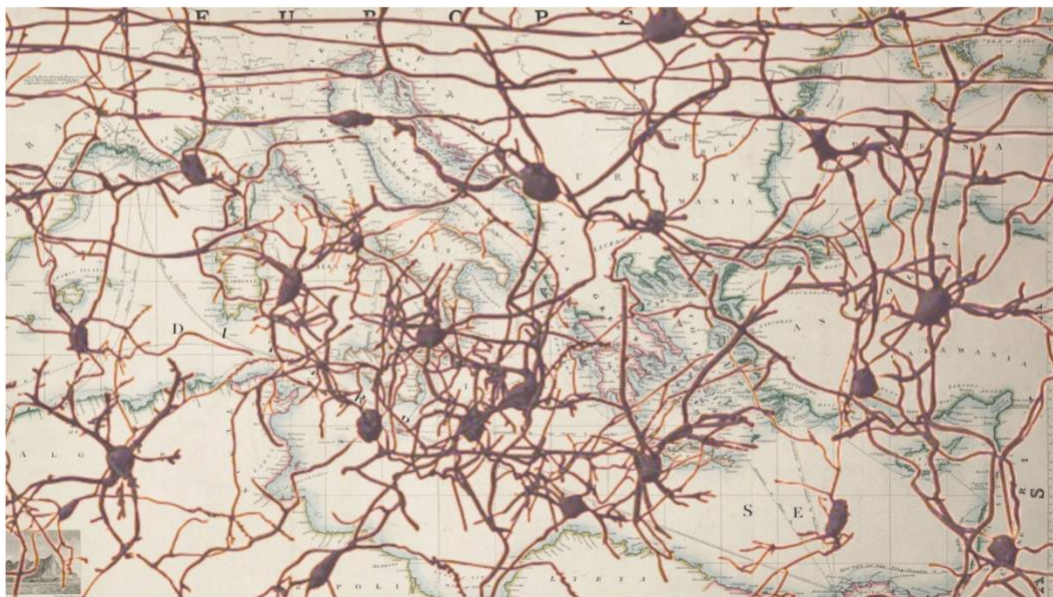
Our website is regularly updated with the latest news and resources. Be sure to visit us at www.medneuroscisociety.org for all the latest information.

To get the most out of your membership, please sign in and create your profile at <https://www.medneuroscisociety.org/member-register.php>. Once you're a member, you can submit your abstract for a poster or oral presentation for MNS2025 in Crete (Greece)!

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:

Launching of MNS webinars

We are excited to announce the launch of the **Mediterranean Neuroscience Society's online webinar series** in 2024 and 2025, also sponsored by the *Brain Organoids and Systems Neuroscience* journal! Our inaugural session featured **Dr. Ioannis Sotiropoulos** from NCSR Demokritos, Greece, followed by a presentation from **Dr. Luisa Pinto** of the University of Minho, Portugal, **Dr. María Del Carmen Medrano** of the Bordeaux Neurocampus, France, and **Prof. Dr. Wael Mohamed** of the International Islamic University of Malaysia.

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



Mediterranean Neuroscience Society

Mediterranean Neuroscience Society



BRAIN ORGANOID & SYSTEMS NEUROSCIENCE JOURNAL

JOIN OUR LIVE WEBINAR



MNS Webinars

Chronic stress and exosomes in progression and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease



Dr. Ioannis Sotiropoulos
Group leader
ExoBrain - Laboratory of Brain Exosomes & Pathology
Institute of Biosciences & Applications
NCSR "Demokritos", Greece

Affiliated researcher
ICVS Institute, Medical School,
University of Minho, Portugal



Monday: 27th May 2024
17:00 - 18:00 EEST

Registration:
<https://www.research-networks.com/event-details-registration/mns-webinar-one>



Mediterranean Neuroscience Society

Mediterranean Neuroscience Society



BRAIN ORGANOID & SYSTEMS NEUROSCIENCE JOURNAL

JOIN OUR LIVE WEBINAR



MNS Webinars

Impact of adult hippocampal cytotgenesis for brain circuitry and behavior in depression.



Dr. Luísa Pinto
Principal Investigator with tenure, Life and Health Sciences Research Institute (ICVS),
University of Minho, Portugal.

Team Leader of "Brain Circuits and neuron-glia adaptations."
Invited Assistant Professor at the School of Medicine,
University of Minho, Portugal



Wednesday: 3rd July 2024
17:00 - 18:00 EEST

Registration:
<https://www.research-networks.com/event-details-registration/mns-webinar-second>



Mediterranean Neuroscience Society
JOIN OUR LIVE WEBINAR



**BRAIN ORGANOID &
SYSTEMS NEUROSCIENCE
JOURNAL**

**"Decoding Pain and Movement: Using transcranial
magnetic stimulation (TMS) to Unravel Intracortical
Circuitry and Noradrenaline's Role in Nociception-Motor
Control".**



Dr. María Del Carmen Medrano

Senior postdoctoral researcher
Bordeaux Neurocampus (France)



**Friday: 22nd November
2:00 PM (CET)**

Registration link:

<https://www.research-networks.com/event-details-registration/mns-webinar-third>



Mediterranean Neuroscience Society
JOIN OUR LIVE WEBINAR



**BRAIN ORGANOID &
SYSTEMS NEUROSCIENCE
JOURNAL**

**"Decoding Parkinson's: The Alternative to Despair
is to build an Ark"**



Dr. Wael Mohamed

Professor of Neuropharmacology,
International Islamic University Malaysia
(IIUM) Medical School,
Malaysia



**Friday: 31st January
3:00 PM (CET)**

Registration link:

<https://www.research-networks.com/event-details-registration/mns-webinar-fourth>

Next Meeting: MNS2025 Crete, Greece, 7th-11th of June 2025

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is our great pleasure and honor to welcome you to the [10th Mediterranean Neuroscience Society Conference](#), to be held in Platanias/Chania on the island of Crete, Greece, from June 7th to June 11th, 2025. Chania, the second-largest city on Crete, offers a stunning Mediterranean landscape coupled with a rich blend of modern, traditional, and ancient cultural heritage. The vibrant surroundings, filled with colors, scents, flavors, and music, make it an ideal location for our gathering. The conference will take place at the beautiful Minoa Palace Resort in Platanias, just 10 km from Chania city center, by the serene Mediterranean seaside. We invite you to join us for another unforgettable Mediterranean Neuroscience Conference, a unique gathering that brings together neuroscience experts, professionals, and students not only from Mediterranean countries but from around the world. We anticipate welcoming over 400 participants to this event, which we are committed to making friendly, diverse, and inclusive, with ample opportunities for social interactions, training, and networking. Our goal is to provide a unique platform for exchanging knowledge, ideas, and advancements across all areas of basic, translational, preclinical, and clinical neuroscience.

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

The MNS is excited to offer travel stipends and prizes to young scientists, particularly from the southern Mediterranean regions, and to foster North-South networking and scientific exchange!

Stay tuned for updates, and we eagerly look forward to welcoming you to Crete in 2025!

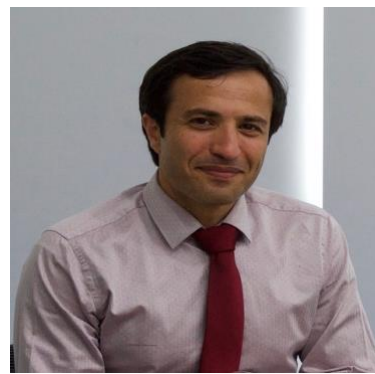
Prof. Christina Dalla and Dr. Ali Jahanshahi

Chairs of the 10th Mediterranean Neuroscience Society Conference



Prof. Christina Dalla

University of Athens, Greece



Dr. Ali Jahanshahi

MUMC+, The Netherlands

Call for oral and poster presentations – MNS 2025

Oral/Poster Abstracts Submission for the 10th Mediterranean Neuroscience conference that will be held in Crete (Greece, June 7-11, 2025) are now open!

Info are posted at: <https://mns2025.org/call-for-abstracts-new/>

Important dates and deadlines for the 10th Mediterranean Neuroscience conference

12 December 2024 – 15 March 2025: **Oral/Poster Abstract Submission**

11 February 2025: **Online Registration Opens**

28 April 2025: **Deadline for Early Registration**

30 May 2025: **Deadline for Late Registration**

7-11 June 2025: **MNS 2023 & Onsite Registration**

11 June 2025: **MNS Awards and Prizes Ceremony**

Abstract submission details

- Before submitting your abstract, please review carefully the [Abstract format instructions](#).
- To submit your abstract, you must first be a paid member of MNS via the MNS website. Only accepted abstracts of registered and MNS paid members and presenters will be included in the final scientific programme.
- Abstracts must be submitted by **15th March 2025**, for consideration by the Scientific Committee.
- Authors will be notified of provisional acceptance of abstracts by **April 1st, 2025**, and will also be notified if the abstract has been selected for an oral or poster presentation.
- In order for an abstract to be finally accepted, you need to be registered for the MNS2025 meeting.
- To be able to submit an abstract, the corresponding author must be registered and have paid to attend the conference.

Terms and Conditions

By submitting an abstract, authors confirm that they understand and accept the following rules for participation in MNS Meeting 2025:

- All author(s) approve submitting this work for presentation
- The author(s) transfer(s) all copyright ownership of the named abstract to MNS Meeting 2025
- At least one author must be available to present the paper if selected for the program. The authors will immediately notify the MNS Meeting Secretariat if they are unable to present the paper or if the presenting author has changed. The organizers reserve the right to remove a presentation from the program if conditions require it.

MNS TRAVEL GRANTS 2025

The Mediterranean Neuroscience Society is delighted to announce that the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) as well as Elsevier are providing a number of dedicated travel grants to support student participation in the MNS Conference 2025, which will take place in Chania, Crete, Greece in June 7-11, 2025.

These travel awards reflect IBRO's ongoing commitment to fostering the development of early-career neuroscientists by prioritizing support for young researchers. The awards aim to ensure balanced representation and empower students from diverse backgrounds to contribute to and benefit from this enriching scientific event. The grant is to be used for travel and local expenses while attending the proposed conference or meeting. Priority will be given to applicants from less developed and less well-funded countries in combination with efforts to ensure both gender and regional diversity. Applicants should explain the impact attending the specified meeting or conference will have on their career.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants should be MNS members that have paid their dues for 2025.
- Applicants should be PhD neuroscience students or early postdoctoral fellows (maximum 5 years from the start of the postdoc).
- A minimum of one reference is required and needs to be included it as part of their application.
- Applicants must have submitted an abstract to the MNS 2025 conference and needs to be included it as part of their application.
- You are responsible for your own registration at the whole meeting (not 2-day attendance) and proper submission of your scientific abstract

Award Details

Each travel grant is \$800 USD and can be used to partially or fully cover the registration fee, travel and/or accommodation for attending the conference.

Nine awardees will be selected based on the quality of their submitted abstracts, as well as the alignment of their profile with the award's diversity and inclusion goals.

Application Procedure

1. Prepare the following documents:
 - A brief motivation letter (max 800 words) detailing your research interests, need for financial support, and how attending the conference aligns with your academic and career goals. Please, include CV information and a Diversity statement based on the ALBA criteria explained here: <https://www.alba.network/mission>
 - A reference letter provided by a supervisor or another senior member
 - A copy of your submitted abstract for the MNS 2025 conference.
 - Proof of student status (e.g., a letter from your institution or a valid student ID).
2. Submit your application, as a single PDF file with your name as filename, via email at travelawards@mns2025.org by the application deadline March 15th, 2025.

Notification of Results

Grant awards will be sent once you have attended the whole conference for which you received a Travel Grant, and your attendance has been confirmed following submission of your certificate of attendance. Please, try to attend the closing ceremony at the end of the MNS 2025 Conference, where travel grant certificates will be awarded.



MNS2025 Keynote Speakers

GIOVANNI MARSICANO

DVM, PhD NeuroCentre Magendie Bordeaux, France

Dr. Giovanni Marsicano is a tenured researcher at Inserm. He leads the group “Endocannabinoids and Neuroadaptation” at the NeuroCentre Magendie, an INSERM and University of Bordeaux Research Center devoted to neuroscience. Dr. Marsicano is a Veterinary Medicine Doctor as formation. After his diploma, he worked on research related to Embryonic Stem Cells from farm animals and to xenotransplantation models in Italy for 4 years. He then moved to the Max-Planck Institute of Psychiatry in Munich for a PhD student position with Beat Lutz, where he initiated the work on the role of type-1 cannabinoid receptors (CB1) and of the endocannabinoid system (ECS) in brain physiology, which has been his main research interest since. The subject of his PhD thesis was the generation of conditional mutants for CB1 and anatomical and functional studies on the mechanisms of action of the ECS. After PhD graduation in 2001, he made two post-doctoral periods in Germany and moved to Bordeaux in 2006 (recruited as Inserm senior scientist in 2007) to lead his independent research group. He is member of the SfN, the French Society of Neuroscience, the International Cannabinoid Research Society (ICRS), and he has been recently elected at EMBO and at FRM (Fondation de la Recherche Medicale). He received, among others, the IACM Young Investigator Award (2007), the Bettencourt-Schuller Price (2008), the Grand Prix Robert Debré (2015), and the prestigious Grand Prix Lamonica for Neurobiology (2021).



MARGARET M. MCCARTHY

Distinguished University Professor Director UM-MIND James and Carolyn Frankel Deans Professor Department of Pharmacology University of Maryland School of Medicine Baltimore MD, USA

Margaret (Peg) McCarthy received a PhD from the Institute of Animal Behavior at Rutgers University, Newark NJ, completed postdoctoral training at Rockefeller University in New York NY and was a National Research Council Fellow at NIH-NIAAA before joining the faculty of the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 1993 in Baltimore Maryland, USA. She was a Professor in the Department of Physiology before becoming the Chair of the Department of Pharmacology in 2011. McCarthy has a long-standing interest in the cellular mechanisms establishing sex differences in the brain. She uses a combined behavioral and mechanistic approach in the laboratory rat to understand both normal brain development and how these processes might go selectively awry in males versus females. She has published over 200 peer-reviewed manuscripts and has been cited close to 10,000



times. In addition to being Chair of the Department of Pharmacology, Margaret is the inaugural Director of the University of Maryland – Medicine Institute for Neuroscience Discovery (UM-MIND). She is a Reviewing Editor for Journal of Neuroscience and a fellow with AAAS and ACNP, former President of the Organization for the Study of Sex Differences and current President of the Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology.

PANAYIOTA POIRAZI

Research Director, Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IMBB), Foundation for Research and Technology, Hellas (FORTH), Crete, Greece and Secretary General of FENS



Panayiota Poirazi is a Research Director and head of the Dendrites Lab (www.dendrites.gr) at the Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IMBB) of the Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas (FORTH). She has a Bachelor in Mathematics from the University of Cyprus, and a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. She is interested in understanding how dendrites contribute to biological and artificial intelligence uses computational approaches, often in conjunction with experiments, to answer this question. Her work has significantly advanced our understanding of how single neurons compute, by revealing the power of dendrites in solving difficult problems. She received numerous awards for her academic achievements, including an Einstein Foundation fellowship, the Alexander von Humboldt Wilhelm Bessel Research Award, an ERC Starting Grant and an EMBO YIP award, among others. She is a member of EMBO, was the first Chair of the FENS-Kavli Network of excellence and is the Secretary General of FENS (Federation for European Neuroscience Societies).

SHUBHA TOLE

Professor, Tata Institute in Mumbai, India, President-elect IBRO



Shubha Tole obtained her BSc in Life Sciences and Biochemistry from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai (1987). Her MSc and PhD are from Caltech, USA. She worked at the University of Chicago as a post-doctoral fellow, and joined the Tata Institute in Mumbai, India as a faculty member in 1999.

Tole is a recipient of the Infosys Science Foundation Award for Life sciences (2014); the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award (2010); the Research Award for Innovation in Neurosciences (RAIN) from the Society for Neuroscience (2008); the National Woman Bioscientist award from the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India (2008); the Swarnajayanti Fellowship

awarded by the Department of Science in Technology, Govt. of India (2005); and the Wellcome Trust Senior International Fellowship (1999). She is a fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, the Indian Academy of Science, and the National Academy of Science. Internationally, she is an Associate member of EMBO and the current President of the International Society for Developmental Neuroscience (ISDN). Tole served as Chair of the Women in Science panel and as a member of the panel on Scientific Values of the Indian Academy of Sciences from 2019-2022, and on the Board of Directors of the ALBA Network 2021-2024. Tole is the newly elected President-elect of the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) <https://ibro.org/ibro-elections-2024>. After a 1-year term as President-elect in 2025, she will serve as President for 3 years. She will be the first IBRO President from a developing country. Tole believes that communicating science is as important as pursuing it and actively engages in public outreach via workshops in schools and colleges, and writes blogs aimed at helping students and postdocs plan their careers. In 2022 she was recognized for her mentorship by being awarded the Bernice Grafstein Award for Outstanding Accomplishments in Mentoring by the Society for Neuroscience, USA. The STole lab welcomes free and open discussion. We value collegiality, professionalism, passion, and work-life balance. Lab meetings include not only science but also science communication, discussions of experimental techniques and sometimes, dance, theater, language, and music; research papers as well as interesting articles/books/tweets/blogs on any topic of interest. Humor is to be found aplenty in our daily lives and memorialized in our “lab quotes.”

MNS2025 Special Event

GEORGE PAXINOS

NHMRC Research Leadership Fellow, Neuroscience Research Australia

George Paxinos will present his recent Book during a Special Event in the MNS 2025. The book named “RIVER DIVIDED” is a novel in the environmental genre that poses the question: What would someone with the genetic endowment of Christ do if he were born today — join Wall Street or street protests? For the formation of charters, neuroscience principles are used, such as those related to the mind, soul, free will and consciousness. Environmental issues are at the center of the novel, including the question of whether the brain is the right “size” for survival. For a free download of the audio book or the e-book of a RIVER DIVIDED visit:



<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/1dv41uw7obo7ev9uqzw5d/A-River-DividedAudioFinal.mp3?rlkey=v2a5e7835136s93sutyzkq1ly&dl=0>

<https://neura.edu.au/resources/content/ARiverDivided.pdf>

Other events and Schools

SONA 2025

The MNS is excited to participate in the [SONA Meeting 2025](#) with a symposium, taking place from April 17-20 in Marrakech, Morocco. The meeting will focus on the theme, "Brain and Environment: The Challenge of the Future", addressing critical issues at the intersection of neuroscience and environmental factors.

MNS will award two young MNS members to cover the travel expenses to attend and give an oral or poster presentation at the SONA (Society of Neuroscientists of Africa) conference in Marrakech, Morocco, from April 17th to 20th 2025.



SONA 2025
April 17-20, Marrakech – Morocco

« BRAIN AND ENVIRONMENT: The challenge of the future »

Opening Lecture by Professor Rosa Cossart, Marseille, France

PL1 Professor Tracy Bale, USA

PL3 Professor Elisabeth Ngo Bum, Cameroon

PL5 Professor Amina Abubakar, Kenya

Special Lecture by Professor Wail Benjelloun, Rabat, Morocco, Education in Africa

PL2 Professor Khalid El Allali, Morocco

PL6 Professor William Wisden, London, UK

PL7 Professor Toshihide Yamashita, Osaka, Japan

PL4 Professor Juan Lerma, Alicante, Spain

James Kimani Lecture: will be defined later

In Partnership With:

- Association of Neuroscientists of Africa (ANA)
- Association of Vulgarization and Promotion of Neuroscience (AVPN)

Organizer: The Moroccan Association for Neuroscience
Professor Mohammed Bennis, President of SONA
SONA.Conference.2025@gmail.com
Cell Phone: +212670099315

5th Symposium on Nutrition for the Ageing Brain – Satellite to MNS 2025

We are pleased to announce the upcoming [5th Symposium on Nutrition for the Ageing Brain](#), which will be held on 6-7 June at Chania, Crete, Greece. This symposium will provide a platform for networking, knowledge-sharing, and the latest scientific developments, and we encourage you to submit your abstract to showcase your work.

The 5th edition of the symposium will focus on six key areas:

1. Nutrition for Mental Health in Old Age: Addressing Depression & Anxiety
2. The Intersection of Sex, Nutrition, and Socioeconomic Inequalities: Implications for Health in Old Age
3. Nutritional Interventions for Frailty, Sarcopenia, and Cognitive Function
4. Nutrition, Diet, and Immune Function
5. Nutrition, Dental Health, Oral Microbiome, and Cognition: Exploring the Connections
6. Biomarkers of Cognitive Ageing and Nutrition: Current Advances and Future Directions

Researchers, clinicians, and healthcare professionals are invited to submit abstracts that

contribute to the exploration of these topics. Abstract submission is now open, and the deadline is March 1st, 2025. The abstracts will be considered for oral or poster presentation. Early Career Scientists will be encouraged to deliver a pitch presentation of their abstract.

To submit your abstract or register for the symposium, please visit: 5th Symposium on Nutrition for the Ageing Brain – ILSI Europe

We look forward to seeing you there and engaging in meaningful discussions about advancing nutrition and health for the ageing brain!



School of "Neuroimmunology and Neurochemistry: Dialogue between neurotransmitters, immune cells and neurons during neuroinflammation"

This school organized by Prof. Willias Masocha and Prof. Roberto Furlan, will last 5 days and will cover topics related to neuroimmunology, neurochemistry and neuroinflammation.

- Day 1 The basics - neuroscience
- Day 2 Neurochemistry & Neuropharmacology & Introduction to brain & Immune system
- Day 3 Neuroimmunology, Neurochemical changes and Neuroinflammation in Neurological Diseases
- Day 4 Neurochemical changes and Neuroinflammation in Neurological Diseases & Psychiatric Disorders
- Day 5 Grantsmanship in neuroimmunology and neurochemistry

These topics aim to fill a gap found amongst a significant number of young neuroscientists within Africa. The aim is to provide information and guidance that help students embark or IMPROVE on research in the areas of neuroimmunology and neurochemistry. There will be didactic lectures, professional skills, ethics sessions and discussions about research and publication in the areas of neuroimmunology, neurochemistry and neuroinflammation. There will also be a grant writing exercise (on a project that combines neurochemistry, neuroimmunology and neuroinflammation) and competition that will be carried from the first day of the school culminating in student groups presenting their proposals on the last of the school. This exercise aims to help student think and evaluate, under guidance of senior scientists, what scientific, practical, personnel, financial and other considerations go into the process of grant writing and research.

Application period:

24 December 2024 – 15 February 2025

Who can apply to this school?

Early career neuroscientists working at the intersection of neuroimmunology, neuropharmacology and neurochemistry or related fields will be prioritized, MSc Students, PhD Students, Postdoctoral Fellows, Neurology residents, and Early-career researchers.

Additional eligibility criteria:

Only students from Africa region are eligible to apply for this school.

Non-Moroccan Applicants must have a passport valid for 6 months at the time of application.

What costs are covered for participants?

Hotel Accommodation, Meals, Local transportation, Transportation to the site of the conference

How to apply?

Please, send your application to Prof. Willias Masocha at the following emails willias.masocha@ku.edu.kw and copy to williasmasocha@gmail.com

Your application should include your Name, surname, date of birth, in a completed CV plus an abstract of your research, a letter of motivation and a letter from the supervisor.



SOCIETY OF NEUROSCIENTISTS OF AFRICA

PAST EVENTS

9th MNS Conference



The [9th Mediterranean Neuroscience Society \(MNS\) Conference 2023](#), held from October 14th to 18th in Carthage, Tunisia, under the presidency of Prof. Olfa Masmoudi, was an extraordinary event that went beyond the boundaries of a typical scientific gathering.

With over 250 attendees and 176 speakers, the MNS 2023 conference brought together a diverse array of experts and enthusiasts from around the world. The event was a true treasure trove of knowledge, offering a rich variety of activities that captivated and inspired participants.

The conference featured an impressive 43 symposia, encompassing 188 thought-provoking presentations. Among the highlights was a special session on the fascinating intersection of

neuroscience and law, which included 3 insightful presentations on topics such as the legal and ethical implications of neuroscience discoveries, the role of neuroscience in criminal law, and the need for legal frameworks in areas like neuromarketing.

Additional workshops added further depth to the program, including a session on publishing organized by EJN Wiley/FENS, and another on experimental design and reporting led by NC3Rs. The event also featured 5 inspiring keynote lectures from renowned neuroscientists and showcased 49 posters, offering an in-depth exploration of cutting-edge research across the field of neuroscience.



MNS 2023 Oral and poster awards were attributed to:

Wiley CNS Neuroscience and Therapeutics

Tasnim Chagrani, Tunisia

Malqui Hafsa, Morocco

Al-Mashhadani Sada, Tunisia

Sarah Bou Sader Nehme, France

Springer/Nature - The Receptors series

Sabrina Bilel, Italy

Pavlina Pavlidi, Greece

Arnau Ramos Prats, Austria

Elsevier Journal Neuroscience Methods

Galip Yigit Unlu, Turkey

Benedetta Di Cesarer, USA

Ourania Semelidou, France

Congratulations to all!

5th Eurogenesis meeting 2024

The MNS proudly supported the **Eurogenesis Meeting** in Bordeaux (June 12-15, 2024) by awarding two €600 fellowships to young scientists.



EUROGENESIS

5th Eurogenesis meeting **Bordeaux, France // June 12-14th 2024**

Adult Neurogenesis in Physiology and Disease

Invited speakers
Fred Gage, René Hen,
Hayder Amin, Ruth Beckervordersandforth, Catherine Belzung,
Joseph Bischofberger, Hwai-Jong Cheng, Paul Frankland,
Carlos Fitzsimons, Tatsuhiro Hisatsune, Jenny Hsieh,
Marlen Knobloch, Maria Llorens-Martin, Victor Luna,
Mirjana Maletic-Savatic, Stephen McHugh, Yvonne Nolan,
Luisa Pinto, Evgenia Salta, Amar Sahay Jason Snyder,
Sandrine Thuret, Hongjun Song, Verdon Taylor

Organizers
Nora Abrous
Sebastian Jessberger
Gerd Kempermann
Chichung Lie
Paul Lucassen
Alejandro Schinder
Nicolas Toni

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Catania International Summer School of Neuroscience 2024

MNS proudly supported the **XXI CISSN 2024 – Catania International Summer School of Neuroscience** (July 15-19, 2024), organized by **Prof. Filippo Drago**, Chairman of the PhD Program in Neuroscience at the University of Catania, and under the scientific direction of our MNS Past-President, **Prof. Giuseppe Di Giovanni**. The event focused on the theme, *"Memory Deficit and Dementia: Advancements in Physiology and Treatment Hope."* The primary goal of CISSN 2024 was to unite junior European researchers and expert investigators working on various aspects of memory deficit and dementia, providing a platform for exchanging ideas and exploring new directions in this crucial clinical field. As part of its commitment to supporting young scientists, MNS awarded two fellowships of €600 each to young members of the Society.



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