



# Mediterranean Neuroscience Society - MNS

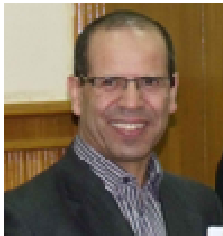
## Content

• Message from the President of the MNS	1
• The MNS is born	2
• N€uromed	2
• GDRI NeurO	2
• Teaching	3
• Master in Neurobiology	3
• ISIS	3
• Recent and upcoming events	4
• Contact info	5
• Membership form	6

MNS Newsletter - Issue 1  
March 2011



## Message from the President of the MNS



**Driss Boussaoud,**  
*President MNS*

On behalf of the Executive Office and the Council of the MNS, I would like to welcome you to this first issue of the MNS Newsletter, wishing you a happy new year 2011.

The MNS has just celebrated its first year. It is thus an extremely young society, which we hope will grow into an efficient organization meant to play a regional as well as

an international role in the development of Neuroscience. The MNS was born as a natural development of interactions among mediterranean neuroscientists. Thanks to the initiative of Dr. Yehezkel Ben Ari (Marseille), the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting took place in 1997 in Montpellier (France) under the banner of "Mediterranean Neuroscience Conference". The experience was repeated 9 years later, thanks to Prof. Mohamed Bennis (Marrakech). This edition of the conference gathered more than 200 participants, who took this opportunity to decide on the date/place on the next meeting. Dr. Marie Moftah (Alexandria) volunteered to organize the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting in Egypt. This 3<sup>rd</sup> highly successful meeting took place in the prestigious Bibliotheca Alexandrina (December 2009), and attracted more than 250 participants from all around the world. It is here that a general assembly decided to create the MNS, after important and open debates. In particular, the participants exchanged their views on whether to create a Society, a Federation of societies, or something else! The vast majority voted in favor of creating a Society, hence the

birth of the MNS, whose bylaws were discussed, and 1<sup>st</sup> Council members elected.

I am honored to be the 1<sup>st</sup> President of the MNS, but I have to admit that I am impressed by the challenge this task presents. With the Council members, we realize that it will take time to setup operational bodies and reach a level of maturity that will enable us to propose (and carry out) attractive and useful activities to the community. Our first task is to prepare the next meeting, to be held in Istanbul (Turkey), from June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012. But we have also started a cycle of annual MNS Neuroscience School, the 1<sup>st</sup> edition taking place in Samsun (Turkey) next July.

Ultimately, we hope to develop supporting grants for students and young reserchers to attend other societies' meetings, and organize local events towards schools, professionals and large public.

The scientific challenge of advancing the frontiers of knowledge on brain function and dysfunction in disease is a worldwide enterprise. It requires a close exchange of knowledge and know-how through scientific meetings, higher education, and advocating for political and public support for research. The MNS will contribute to this endeavor, joining existing national and international organizations. But beyond science, in this particular moment in time where the mediterranean region undergoes historical changes, it is our duty as scientists to contribute to building a better world.



Dr. Yehezkel Ben Ari, organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Mediterranean Neuroscience Conference in Montpellier (1997)



Pr. Mohamed Bennis, oragnized the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference in Marrakech (2006)



Dr. Marie Moftah, oragnized the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference in Alexandria (2009)

## The Mediterranean Neurosciences Society is born in Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Egypt)



### ➤ Why create a MNS?

Research on brain function in health and disease is among the priorities for today's societies, and several indicators put the Mediterranean research area among strategic issues for the European Union (EU). Many South / North collaborations and networks have emerged in recent years through bilateral and multilateral

actions, supported by the EU or by international and

national actions, whether for setting up teaching curricula (Tempus programs), or by building human potential (FP7 programs). The MNS is created to support and help strengthen all initiatives that bring together Mediterranean neuroscientists.

### ➤ Objectives of the MNS

- Strengthen exchanges between Mediterranean neuroscientists
  - Promote education in the neurosciences and increase public awareness of progress made
  - Sustain the Mediterranean Neuroscience Conference
- To reach these objectives, the MNS's policy is to work in close cooperation with existing national and international Neuroscience Societies.

## NEUROMED – A FP7 project for building research capacities in the south countries



Neuroscience is rapidly becoming one of the world's largest and most important scientific endeavors.

Yet it is not yet a world endeavor. Know-how and resources are concentrated in relatively few countries. Laboratories in the EU's Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) struggle to keep up. Yet brain dysfunction is a critical problem not only for EU but also for the MPC. The MPC countries face a heavy economic and social burden due to the impact of child malnutrition on cognitive development, the increasing incidence of neurodegenerative diseases (Alzheimer's and Parkinson's), as well as mental and addictive disorders (schizophrenia, depression). In short basic and translational research on brain function and dysfunction will be an MPC priority for many decades to come. The goal of NEUROMED is to facilitate the process, building a new kind of partnership between established Neuroscience labs in France, Italy and Spain and emerging centers in the Mediterranean Partner Countries (Turkey, Egypt, Algeria and Morocco), NEUROMED will help these centers to build capacity, to attract new staff, and to strengthen their research infrastructure, preparing them for full and effective participation in EU research programmes. The project is

funded by the Capacity's Programme - part of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) - the European Union's seven year Research and Development Program.



For more information, you are invited to visit the project's website at [www.neuromedproject.eu](http://www.neuromedproject.eu).



## GDRI NeurO, a France-Morocco Neuroscience Consortium



The GDRI NeurO is an international French-Moroccan research network on Neurosciences which was created between CNRS (France) and CNRST (Morocco) on January

2008 and which initially gathered 12 partners from both sides. Recently, The GDRI accepted new members including INSERM teams. This makes the GDRI a wider scientific network of Aviesan.

The aims of the GDRI NeurO are to train young scientists through conferences, seminars, courses and stays in the GDRI laboratories, to support existing and new scientific collaborations, to transfer scientific knowledge to medical and educational applications and finally, to organize Neuroscience research in the Mediterranean area.

The main scientific axes of GDRI are:

- Plasticity, development and learning
- Neurological and psychiatric diseases
- Computational Neurosciences and interface with applied mathematics, physics and data processing
- Neuroendocrinology and biological rhythms

P. Pévet (Strasbourg)

\*Contact: Driss BOUSSAoud, Coordinator  
([driss.boussaoud@incm.cnrs-mrs.fr](mailto:driss.boussaoud@incm.cnrs-mrs.fr))



## Teaching

Master in Neurobiology through open and remote teaching offered by the University of Alexandria in collaboration with the University of Bordeaux Segalen



In a partnership with the Agence Universitaire de la francophonie and the University of Bordeaux 2, the University of Alexandria offers a two-year Neurobiology French Master degree dedicated to teaching of Neurosciences: Neurobiology, Neurophysiology and Integrative and cognitive Neurosciences. This degree is open to students of Egypt and abroad, and aims to ensure

the education of top level neuroscientists and to promote the francophonie in Alexandria University.



Contact: Teaching coordinator, Marie MOFTAH  
([zoologyalex@gmail.com](mailto:zoologyalex@gmail.com));  
Administrative coordinator: Hala WISSA  
([coordination.neurobio@gmail.com](mailto:coordination.neurobio@gmail.com))

Master is accessible for registered students at (<http://auf-foad.org/moodleNEUROBIO/>)

ISIS Tempus  
Implementing a Scientific International master for Biotechnology and Neuroscience in South Mediterranean area (I.S.I.S.)

The main objective of the project is to create a new Master program specialized in Neuroscience and Biotechnology adapted to international standards. This two-year Master will raise, by on-site and distance teaching, well-trained scientists, covering all aspects of collaborative scientific projects in bioscience, from techniques to management.

The ultimate ambition of this project is to offer young scientists the competences and practical training necessary to be hired in academic labs or R&D department of the private sector, and therefore to

contribute actively to innovation and economy of knowledge in the South Mediterranean area.

Beside this student-oriented objective, the present project will also develop the abilities of the southern partner institutions to develop poles of technical and scientific excellence that will become the reference for the South Mediterranean area. It will highly support current efforts to reach international standards in basic and applied research and will compensate for the limited financial resources by





networking complementary scientific and technical expertise.

As a result, the project will offer a unique joint Master curriculum across Morocco, Egypt and Lebanon, providing at once theoretical knowledge on modern biomedical concepts, technological background, and practical training.

Contact: Coordinator of the project, Marc LANDRY ([marc.landry@u-bordeaux2.fr](mailto:marc.landry@u-bordeaux2.fr))

Project Manager, Emmanuel FROUTE ([tempus-isis@u-bordeaux2.fr](mailto:tempus-isis@u-bordeaux2.fr))

## Recent and upcoming events



➤ The 1st Neuromed School was entitled Neuroplasticity and Neurorepair and was held in the Faculty of Science, Alexandria University between December 13 and 17, 2010. It was organized by Dr Marie Moftah ([zoologyalex@gmail.com](mailto:zoologyalex@gmail.com)), the Egyptian responsible in Neuromed. Its main objective was student training, which is one of the main Neuromed objectives. Sharing knowledge contributes to basic research as well as to translational, clinical and technological developments leading to better understanding and diagnosis of brain diseases and Neuroplasticity.

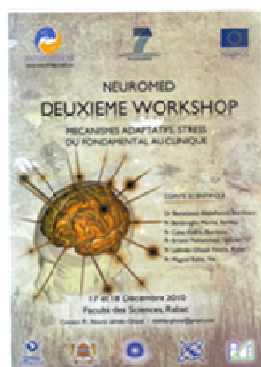
This school is the first in a series of Neuromed funded schools. Its focus is to bring together neuroscientists interested in building up a Mediterranean network of

Neuroscience, therefore gathering our collective experiences. At the end of the school participants were able to: Undergo basic research dealing with Neuroplasticity, Recognize the basic mechanisms involved in Neurorepair, Acquire new laboratory practical abilities and Know-how, Understand the conventions of a scientific paper and the expectations of editors and reviewers, Structure their argument in a way which meets these expectations, Write individual sentences that are easy to read and to understand.

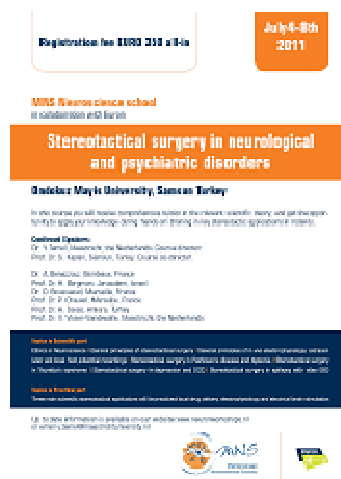
It approached the influence of musical and linguistic expertise on different aspects of language and sound processing, the molecular mechanisms involved in functional neuronal circuits, neuronal differentiation and axonal outgrowth and neural pathways tracing using stereotaxis. During this school, we linked between medicine and basic science in the fields of neurodegenerative diseases, image analysis, neurogenesis, and neuropathic pain.

There were 15 professors teaching in this school from different neuromed partner institutions (Egypt, Morocco, France, Italy and Turkey) and two members of the EAB (External Advisory Board). 24 students applied for the school and 21 were accepted from Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey. For the first time, medical students participated in the events organized by the Faculty of Science in Egypt.

➤ The second Neuromed local workshop on «Mécanismes adaptatifs, stress du fondamental au Clinique» was held in the Faculty of Sciences, Rabat, Morocco, on 17-18 December, 2010.



This workshop was organized by Pr Nouria Lakhdar-Ghazal ([nlakhdarghazal@gmail.com](mailto:nlakhdarghazal@gmail.com)) of the University Mohammed V-Agdal, Rabat. This workshop was also supported by IBRO, CNRST, Mairie de Rabat, Facultés des Sciences de Rabat et Tétouan, Académie des Sciences et Techniques and Association de Vulgarisation et Promotion des Neurosciences. There were 35 speakers from Morocco, Algeria, France and Spain, and many master and PhD students benefited from the conferences presented during this local workshop.



**Newsletter editorial board:** Dr Youssef Anouar and Council members (contact: [youssef.anouar@univ-rouen.fr](mailto:youssef.anouar@univ-rouen.fr));  
Laurence Matéo (Secretarial assistance)

#### Council members

Hedayat Abdel Ghaffar (Egypt)  
Nora Abrous (France)  
Abdelhamid Benazzouz (France)  
Hagai Bergman (Israel)  
Thomas Boraud (France)  
Driss Boussaoud (France)  
Fatiha Chigr (Morocco)  
Gustavo Deco (Spain)  
Marc Landry (France)  
Olivier Manzoni (France)  
Marie Mofteh (Egypt)  
Mohamed Najimi (Morocco)  
Paul Pévet (France)  
Yasin Temel (The Netherlands)

#### Executive bureau

Driss Boussaoud (President)  
Marie Mofteh (Vice-President)  
Nora Abrous (General Secretary)  
Paul Pévet (General vice-Secretary)  
Abdelhamid Benazzouz (Treasurer)  
Yasin Temel (Vice-Treasurer)

MNS  
INCM-CNRS  
31 Chemin Joseph Aiguier  
13402 Marseille Cedex 20  
France  
<http://www.mnsociety.com>

**Contact information:** Mediterranean Neuroscience Society – MNS

Dr Nora Abrous, Secrétaire Générale de la MNS - INSERM U862, 146 Rue Léo-Saignat, 33077, Bordeaux Cedex, France. E-mail: [nora.abrous@inserm.fr](mailto:nora.abrous@inserm.fr)  
<http://www.mnsociety.com>



## Membership form

<http://www.mnsociety.com>

Title: ☐Pr ☐Dr ☐Mr ☐Ms

First name:

Last name:

Affiliation (University, Institution):

Laboratory:

Address:

Phone number:

Fax number:

E-mail:

Section to which you wish to be affiliated (maximum 2 choices):

- ☐ Molecular and Cellular Neurosciences
- ☐ Neuroendocrinology
- ☐ Integrated and Clinical Neurosciences
- ☐ Cognitive, Computational and Theoretical Neuroscience

Annual fees:

- Regular Member ☐ 40 €
- Student Member\* ☐ 15 €
- Sponsor Member ☐ ≥ 100 € ..... €

(\*Provide a copy of your student ID)

Payment by check to “Société Méditerranéenne de Neurosciences - MNS” is accepted only from members residing in France

Bank transfer is to address to “Société Méditerranéenne de Neurosciences - MNS”

BPSO Pessac Centre – 00071, Code bank: 10907, Account Number: 42021769809, Clé RIB: 33

IBAN: FR76 1090 7000 7142 0217 6980 933

Address SWIFT (BIC): CCBPFRPPBDX

Date & Signature

*Membership form to send to:*

*Dr Nora Abrous, Secretariat of the MNS*

*INSERM U862, 146 rue Léo-Saignat*

*33077, Bordeaux Cedex, France*

*E-mail : [nora.abrous@inserm.fr](mailto:nora.abrous@inserm.fr)*