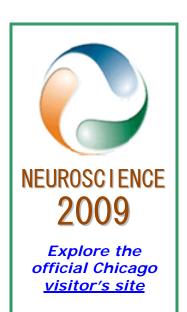
The Neurotransmitter

Newsletter of the Western North Carolina Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience



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Special Issue: Get Ready for SfN 2009!

by Stephanie Willard, Editor & Neuroscience Graduate Student

Are you attending the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting in Chicago, IL, later this week? Have you had time to peruse the final program or research restaurants and museums in Chicago yet? Well look no further! The Staff of The Neurotransmitter would like to help you get the most out of your trip with this special issue of the newsletter devoted entirely to the upcoming meeting.

Browse the pages of this issue and you'll find brief summaries of lectures and events scheduled for Neuroscience 2009 that are of particular interest to The Neurotransmitter Staff, including a number of workshops focused on professional development. You'll also find information about several sessions and workshops that our local WNCSfN chapter members helped organize and plan to participate in. Beyond the scientific program, we've taken the time to explore Chicago's culinary delights and cultural offerings, outlining unique dining options and extraordinary must-see museums.

We hope you find these articles useful before and during your time at SfN 2009, and look forward to hearing from you about your fantastic experiences both at the conference and around Chicago!

Kudos to Us!

by Brian McCool, Ph.D., WNCSfN President

You won't see many weeks like the one our chapter did during the middle of September! Within the span of a few days, the WNCSfN was notified by the Society for Neuroscience of two incredible honors.

This past July, Christos Constantinidis and Jody Dedo, with the help of several Executive Committee members past and present, worked diligently to put together an application for the national Chapter Grant Program. Chapter grants were specifically designed to support novel educational and outreach opportunities that embrace the overall mission of the Society Neuroscience. Our chapter's application requested \$1500 to help offset the costs of our annual Fall Neuroscience Research Day. The money would specifically be used to enhance outreach focused on local undergraduate and high school students and to subsidize a keynote speaker/poster judge for the event. Jody was notified on Wednesday September 16th that SfN approved and would fund our application. Thank you Society for Neuroscience and especially the national Membership and

Chapters Committee!

Just a few days later, on Friday September 18th, Dwayne Godwin and I received another email from the SFN Membership and Chapters Committee, this time informing the executive committee that WNCSfN had been chosen as the first recipient of the Chapter of the Year Award. This recognizes award outstanding chapters for their efforts accomplishments across a broad range of activities that are in line with the mission and strategic initiatives of SfN. As the Chapter of the Year Award winner for 2009, the Western North Carolina Chapter will receive a grant of \$1,000 to support chapter goals and programs. The award will be presented during the Chapters Workshop on Sunday October 18th at Neuroscience 2009.

Both of these amazing awards will provide timely support to our outreach and educational activities going forward. They both reflect the dedication of our neuroscience faculty, students, and staff.

Pretty good week...!



The 39th Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience will be held later this week in Chicago, IL, October 17-21, 2009. The <u>Final Program</u> for Neuroscience 2009 is now available online to help you plan your meeting. Don't have time to check it out before you leave? On the next few pages, you can catch brief summaries of a few featured lectures, symposia, workshops, and events that are of interest to *The Neurotransmitter* staff. Many of these activities are organized and will be moderated by our very own WNCSfN membership. Chances are if these events interest your colleagues, they might interest you as well!

Featured Lectures

Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD, Director, National Institutes of Health
 The Future of NIH: Advancing Biomedical Research to Benefit Humankind Monday, Oct. 19, 1–2 p.m., McCormick Place: Hall B1

Francis Collins, MD, PhD, the new director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will give a special presentation at SfN. In this critical time facing the NIH and the biomedical research community, Dr. Collins received his new appointment following 15 years as director of the National Human Genome Research Institute and is widely credited with completion of the Human Genome Project "under time and under budget." As the new director of the world's largest biomedical research organization, Dr. Collins will discuss his vision for NIH and America's role in the global scientific community, with particular emphasis on the recent Recovery Act and engagement in scientific and public policy arenas to promote basic, translational, and clinical research. Conference attendees: Do not miss this unique look into our future in these economically challenging times. (*lecture synopsis by Jonathan Morgan*)

Eric R. Kandel, MD, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Columbia University

On the Perpetuation of Long-Term Memory

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 5:15-6:25 p.m., McCormick Place: Hall B1

Nobel Laureate and former SfN president Eric Kandel literally wrote the book on neuroscience. After leaving Nazi occupied Vienna in 1939, Dr. Kandel immigrated to the United States and graduated from Harvard University with a degree in modern European history and literature. He became interested in psychoanalysis after reading Freud while researching his honors thesis, which led him to enter medical school in 1952. There, Dr. Kandel became interested in the biology of the mind; thus beginning his illustrious research career. He should perhaps be best known for his work in dissecting the molecular mechanisms of memory storage in the sea slug *Aplysia californica*, but for many novice neuroscientists Dr. Kandel may be better known as co-author of the definitive neuroscience text *Principals of Neural Science*. At Neuroscience 2009, Dr. Kandel will give a Presidential Special Lecture discussing his work on long-term memory storage in *Aplysia*, *Drosophila*, and mice. Don't miss this opportunity to hear one of the great modern scientists speak about his research. (*lecture synopsis contributed by Scott Dobrin*)

 See the Final Program for more information on additional <u>Featured Lectures</u> and <u>Special Lectures</u>.



Be sure to utilize the Neuroscience Meeting Planner to plan your meeting. This resource allows you to search posters, presentations, and sessions by author name, keyword, date, etc, and then save and print your itinerary.



The <u>Final Program</u> for Neuroscience 2009 is now available online. Check out the following useful features that will help you plan your trip (many of these are detailed on the pages of this newsletter):

- Featured Lectures
- Special Lectures
- Symposia
- Minisymposia
- Workshops, Meetings & Events
- SfN-Sponsored Socials
- Satellite Events and Non-SfN
 Socials
- <u>List of Sessions by Theme &</u>
 Day
- Awards in Neuroscience
- Travel Information
- Hotel Map and List
- Shuttle Schedule and Route
- <u>Professional Development</u>
 Resources
- <u>Attendee Resources</u>
- Exhibitor List



SfN 2009: The Society for Neuroblogging?

by Bethany Brookshire, Physiology & Pharmacology Graduate Student

This year at Neuroscience 2009, for the first time, SfN has stepped into the 21st century and invited its members to apply to blog the events of the meeting (http://www.sfn.org/am2009/index .aspx?pagename=blogging tweet ing). Application deadlines were September 24th, and soon a list of bloggers covering the meeting will be assembled. You can go to any of those blogs for posts and Twitter updates on the latest things happening in Chicago, as well as personal insights on attending the meeting. Check out the neurobloggers, and hear about stuff that you would never have time to see on your own! And if you see someone with an official "SfN Social Media" ribbon come by, you might get a write-up vourself.



Find your next job using SfN's NeuroJobs. Job seekers can post a resume, view job postings, and receive personalized job posting alerts on employment opportunities ranging from postdoctoral positions, faculty positions, and industry or alternative neuroscience careers.

Visit the NeuroJobs Career Center at SfN 2009!

Saturday Oct. 17: 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday Oct. 18–Tuesday Oct. 20: 7:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Wednesday Oct. 21: 7:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Location:

McCormick Place, South Hall A

Minisymposium

Nonspatial Function of the Parietal Cortex in Monkeys and Humans
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 1:30-4:00 p.m., McCormick Place: Room S406B

The parietal lobe is traditionally associated with spatial attention and sensorimotor integration, however growing evidence implicates it in nonspatial cognition in humans and nonhuman primates. This minisymposia will highlight recent studies pointing to parietal contributions to memory, attentional dynamics, conflict resolution, object perception, decision making, categorization, and learning, exploring the interface between spatial and nonspatial cognition and possible homologies between the monkey and human. During this minisymposium, the WNCSfN's own Secretary/ Treasurer Christos Constantinidis, Ph.D., will give a presentation entitled "Neurophysiology of working memory and the role of the primate posterior parietal cortex." This presentation is scheduled to take place 2:15 - 2:35 p.m.

See the Final Program for more information on additional <u>Symposia</u> and <u>Minisymposia</u>.

Workshops, Meetings, and Events

Meet the Expert Series

Saturday, Oct. 17, 8:00–9:15 a.m. (Session 1) Sunday, Oct. 18, 9:00–12:00 p.m. (Session 2) Hyatt Regency Chicago: Skyway 260, 261, 269 and 272

Myth: The Society for Neuroscience Annual Meeting is such a big conference it is impossible to casually meet with leading faculty members in a small, unintimidating setting without prearranging a meeting. **Reality**: Free workshops exist where you can engage faculty in discussion during small personal lectures designed specifically for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. Each meet-the-experts session lasts 75 minutes and includes a basic lecture focusing on the faculty member's techniques and greatest accomplishments, followed by approximately 30 minutes of discussion. The meeting rooms are small, so space is limited, but the small size allows for personal discussion that is rare at this particular conference. Also, free breakfast is provided.

Four separate meet-the-expert events will occur during Session One on Saturday October 17 beginning at 8:00 AM, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago: Skyway 260, 261, 269 and 272. You should arrive at least 10 minutes early depending on the popularity of your preferred speaker. Last year the big names (eg. Karl Deisseroth) filled their respective conference rooms within minutes of opening. This year **Dan Margoliash**, **Ph.D.** (University of Chicago) will present his work on the development of birdsong with an emphasis on the importance of sleep in the development of song learning and maintenance. **Michela Marinelli**, **Ph.D.** (Rosalind Franklin University) will discuss the strengths and limitations associated with various animal models of drug addiction. **Elly Nedivi**, **Ph.D.** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) will explain how she uses *in vivo* multi-photon microscopy to measure cortical plasticity occurring during visual experience. **Clay Reid**, **M.D**, **Ph.D.** (Harvard University) will describe how to study the functional properties of thousands of neurons simultaneously using two-photon calcium imaging. Click here for information on Session 2. (*workshop synopsis contributed by Erik Oleson*)

Why Academia?

Saturday, Oct. 17, 8:00-10:45 a.m., McCormick Place: Room S106

Funding Opportunities and the Grant Review Process at NIH Saturday, Oct. 17, 8:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Hyatt Regency Chicago: Grand DF

Workshops, Meetings, and Events, cont.

 Meeting the President's Challenge: Promote Science Education Annual Brain Awareness Campaign Event

Saturday, Oct. 17, 3:00-4:30 p.m., McCormick Place: Room S504

Are you meeting the president's challenge? Scientists do more than "read magazines" all day and Tom Carew, the president of SfN, wants you to share that with the world. How? Participate in Brain Awareness! Both internationally and in our own local WFU chapter, Brain Awareness has been growing by leaps and bounds. Originally focusing the campaign around a single week, groups have begun year-round events promoting scientific research and educating the community about the brain. To reflect our own emphasis on continuous outreach, for the first time ever the entire **WFU BAC steering committee** is authoring this year's Brain Awareness poster. President Carew has emphasized the need for public outreach from all SfN members. Even if you have never participated in a Brain Awareness event, come to the poster session and learn about the exciting ways groups reach their community. This great networking event also offers excellent free food. See you there! (session synopsis contributed by Scott Dobrin)

 Time Management Workshop: Combining Family and Neuroscience Organizer/Moderator: Mary Lou Voytko, Ph.D., Wake Forest University
 Sunday, Oct. 18, 9:00–12:00 p.m., McCormick Place: Room S106

The issue of combining family and career responsibilities is on the forefront of many scientists' minds. The aim of this workshop is to provide a forum for a conversation on managing a family and a career for men and women in neuroscience. To achieve this aim, a group of neuroscientists at various stages of their careers and in various work situations (including junior and senior positions, academics and alternative careers) will present the options that they have utilized or are provided in their institutions to successfully navigate the line between scientist and parent/spouse. The format of this workshop will be a brief presentation by a platform of six speakers on the topic of combining family and career responsibilities, followed by a discussion with the audience regarding their questions and sharing of their experiences, and concluding with a discussion of what the Society for Neuroscience and Universities can do to help make the balance easier for neuroscientists. (workshop synopsis contributed by Mary Lou Voytko, Ph.D.)

- How to Manage a Research Laboratory
 Sunday, Oct. 18, 2:00–5:00 p.m., McCormick Place: Room S106
- NSF Funding Opportunities for Research and Education in Neuroscience Sunday, Oct. 18, 4:00–5:30 p.m., McCormick Place: Room N226
- Animals in Research Workshop
 "Widening the Tent: Building Support, Creating New Allies for Animal Research"
 Monday, Oct. 19, 9:00–11:00 a.m., McCormick Place: Room S402A
- Writing for an Audience of Millions: Wikipedia and Neuroscience Monday, Oct. 19, 2:00–5:00 p.m., McCormick Place: Room N231
- Careers for Neuroscientists

Organizer: David R. Riddle, Ph.D., Wake Forest University

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2:00-5:00 p.m., McCormick Place: Room S106

This year's SfN meeting includes significantly expanded career development sessions for graduate students and postdocs, many of which are detailed on the pages of this newsletter. One such workshop is a session on the variety of "Careers for Neuroscientists," with a diverse panel of neuroscientists in the academic (Wake Forest's David Riddle), government (Wake Forest graduate Anna Taylor), and private sectors with insight on careers in academic research, administration, science policy, IT development, and grants administration.



Be sure to visit the Wake Forest University Brain Awareness Council as we present a poster during the Annual Brain Awareness Campaign Event (information to the left)!

Attention Students!

Visit the Student
Hospitality Suite
(McCormick Place
Room S104A)
sponsored by the
new SfN Committee
on Neuroscience
Departments and
Programs (CNDP),
and the CNDP
booth in the
exhibit area.

On-site Child Care

.

McCormick Place Room N427

For children ages months to 12 years. Child care services are provided by KiddieCorp, national firm perienced in on-site conference child care. Details, pricing and reservation information he found www.kiddiecorp.com/neu rokids.htm.

Getting Around Chicago

Shuttle Service

A complimentary shuttle service is provided by SfN between McCormick Place and SfN-contracted hotels. <u>Click here</u> for hotel pick-up locations and shuttle routes.

Date	Times	Service
Fri., Oct. 16	6:30 a.m 7 p.m.	Roosevelt Station Only 20 minutes
Sat., Oct. 17	8:30 - 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m 7:15 p.m. 7:15 - 9:30 p.m.	20 minutes 10 minutes 20 minutes
Sun., Oct. 18	6:30 - 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m 4 p.m. 4 - 8 p.m. 8 - 9:30 p.m.	10 minutes 20 minutes 10 minutes 20 minutes
Mon., Oct. 19	7 - 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m 4 p.m. 4 - 8 p.m. 8 - 9:30 p.m.	10 minutes 20 minutes 10 minutes 20 minutes
Tues., Oct. 20	7 - 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m 4 p.m. 4 - 8 p.m. 8 - 9:30 p.m.	10 minutes 20 minutes 10 minutes 20 minutes
Wed., Oct. 21	7 - 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m 3:30 p.m. 3:30 - 6 p.m.	10 minutes 20 minutes 10 minutes

Free Metra Pass!

The Metra is Chicago's commuter train system that runs from downtown and has a stop inside the convention center. Metra stations are within walking distance to over half of the meeting hotels. All attendees can obtain free passes for unlimited rides between McCormick Place and the Millennium Station or the Van Buren Street Station. The Metra schedule for morning and afternoon service to and from McCormick Place is below:

- Weekday schedule
- Saturday schedule
- Sunday schedule

The "L"

Chicago's light rail system, the <u>CTA</u>, provides service throughout Chicago and to O'Hare and Midway airports. The Roosevelt Road station is closest to the convention center, and SfN will provide a complimentary shuttle from this station to McCormick Place.

Workshops, Meetings, and Events, cont.

- How to Fund Your NIH Training Proposal
 Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2:00-5:00 p.m., McCormick Place: Room S106
- Public Advocacy Forum
 "Science and the Economy: Making the Case for Investing in

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 3:00-5:00 p.m., McCormick Place: Room S401

- Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Fellow Reception
 Tuesday, Oct. 20, 9:00 p.m.-midnight, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Grand Ballroom
 CDEF
- See the Final Program for more information on additional <u>Workshops</u>, <u>Meetings and Events</u>.

See the Sites in the "Windy City"

by Erin Caulder, Neurobiology & Anatomy Graduate Student

The miles upon miles of posters have become tedious, your elbows have been rubbed raw on the "great ones", and you've re-established contact with your collaborators, colleagues and vendors. Now what is there to do? A lot! There is a huge city outside of that convention center and for those willing to take a break from gathering knowledge, there are ample opportunities for exploring the city itself. Whether it's high-end shopping, museum wandering, or architectural appreciation you are in search of, Chicago has it.

Shopping: Perhaps one of the greatest shopping districts in the country is the <u>Magnificent Mile</u>, which runs along North Michigan Avenue. Here you can browse such iconic stores as **Bloomingdales**, **Saks 5th Avenue**, **Nordstrom**, **FAO Schwartz**, **Coach**, or **Gucci**. These eight blocks of shopping nirvana are not for the faint of heart; let's just say your dollars spent here will not be reimbursed.

Museums: As large cosmopolitan cities often do, Chicago boasts a slew of different museums and public art exhibitions. Near the Mag Mile, one can find the <u>Museum of Contemporary Art</u>. If you aren't going to be at my poster, perhaps you should be there to take advantage of the free admission on Tuesdays. The world-famous <u>Art Institute of Chicago</u> is sure to impress as well. If art isn't your thing, consider the <u>Shedd Aquarium</u> or the <u>Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum</u>.

Outdoor Fun/Architectural Awesomeness: Even though it may be a little chilly, plan on some outside time at Millennium Park. There is an abundance of contemporary outdoor sculpture, and often there are outdoor performances of jazz or classical music. The nearby Buckingham Fountain is breathtaking at night. This is no hyperbole; it is an amazing site, a real must-see. If it is architecture you are looking for, you will not need to look far. Just open your eyes and you'll find Chicago abounds in rich architectural gems, far too many to list in this article. Click here for a comprehensive listing of Chicago's finest examples of structural stunners, with a very nice skyline photograph labeling the largest skyscrapers.

In short, make sure you experience Chicago outside of the convention. Enjoy these sites, and dress warmly, pack light, wear comfortable shoes and don't forget your camera!

Chicago Dining: Eat Like a Local

by Jonathan Morgan, Neuroscience Graduate Student

With all due apologies to McCormick & Schmick's, PF Changs, and Ruth's Chris, to find the true taste of Chicagoland's culinary soul one must forgo the usual chains, do a little bit of research, be willing to venture outside of SfN's free Metra riding radius, and accept the inevitable bout of "the itis." Though it only comprises a small part of time spent at the Neuroscience Conference, a well-planned meal itinerary is a great way to ensure you experience some of the city's unique gastro-cultural offerings. To be fair, Chicago has options to satisfy any taste. In fact, SfN's website has a link to a regional breakdown of numerous ethnic food choices. But when I land in Chicago, I want my first taste to be a true Second City specialty. Before I go home, I want the last meal to leave me with the spirit of the "stormy, husky, brawling, City of the Big Shoulders¹." And I want every meal in between to make Bill Swerski and all the Superfans proud.

The great triumvirate of Chicago's food originals starts with perhaps the guintessential dish of the "Windy City," at least as evidenced in your nearest grocer's freezer, the Chicago-Style deep dish pizza. The story goes that deep-dish pizza was created in 1943 by Chef Rudy Malnati in the kitchen of Ike Sewell's Pizzeria Uno¹. The dough is stretched in a 3" deep baking pan coated with seasoned oil, with the height of the crust acting as a bowl to contain the "inside-out" arrangement—first cheese is placed on the crust, followed by varying toppings, and covered in chunky tomato sauce. And though it's been franchised for nearly 30 years, the original Pizzeria Uno (29 E. Ohio St. near Magnificent Mile) is still regarded as a must-try, not only for the pizza but also for the bar and mid-20th century ambiance. Other Chicago-style pizzerias of particular note include Gino's East (2 downtown locations: 633 N. Wells St. & 162 E. Superior St.) and Giordano's (730 N. Rush St.), inventor of the "stuffed" pizza. And the best part is that all these restaurants are located within a half mile of one another so you can try them all.

Second in the food pantheon of local legends is the Chicago hot dog. The traditional Chicago dog is a natural casing, all beef weiner either cooked in hot water or steamed and served on a poppyseed bun. But what truly sets this hot dog apart from all others is the way it's dressed: yellow mustard, green relish, chopped onion, sliced tomato, pickled sport peppers, a dill pickle spear, sliced cucumber, and a dash of celery salt. It's definitely a two-hander. The story goes that this style was born out of the practicality of the 1920s, as the owner of a vegetable cart turned hot dog stand began selling his "Depression Sandwiches" dressed with the nearest available toppings¹. Try Portillo's at the original downtown location (100 W. Ontario St.), a two story building

full of 30's and 40's memorabilia, or Jim"s (1250 S Union Ave) about 2 miles northwest of the convention center and adjacent to the University of Illinois-Chicago campus. Or if you are an adventurous sort, with a taste for low-class kitsch, try the Weiner Circle in Lincoln Park (2622 N Clark St) for the vulgarity immortalized in an episode of This American Life. Hot Doug's: The Sausage Superstore and Encased Meat Emporium (3324 North California Ave.) takes you a step beyond the traditional Chicago-style and offers a vast variety of homemade sausages, including a weekly special sausage made of game meats like wild boar. Be forewarned, Hot Doug's will be closed for an unfortunate and disappointingly-timed vacation until Wednesday, October 21.

And what can firmly be described as the "Lepidus" of the great Chicago food triumvirate is the Italian Beef sandwich. Simply put this sandwich consists of a crusty Chicago-style french roll holding layers of thinly-sliced, generously-seasoned roast beef, covered with a uniquely spiced *au jus*, and topped with sweet peppers or hot giardiniera relish. Per request it can be ordered "wet," with the bun dipped in *au jus* prior to serving. The Italian beef can be found all over downtown from street carts and small Italian restaurants throughout the city. A purported originator of the sandwich, Al's No. 1 Italian Beef opened at its first location in 1938 located approximately 3 miles northwest of McCormick Place on 1079 West Taylor St, with other locations throughout the city.

With the ever-growing efficiency of our transportation networks and a continuing laissez-faire attitude toward carbon control, we can expect regional cuisine to increasingly creep toward, at best, a formality and at worst, an anachronism. Where there were once geographic and economic limits that forced an emphasis on local sustainable production, there is now a Fresh Market, just about 3 ½ miles away from the Whole Foods. And the true value in regional food—the glimpse it provides into a city's past and ongoing evolution—slowly wanes. In Chicago we can sample nearly 200 years of collective tastes and creativity, the melding of culture and tradition from around the world and across all class lines, the legacy of food that sustained the hearts and minds of Chicagoans, from those workers who built the early sky-scrapers to modern-day legends of Chicago like Mike Ditka or Bill Murray.



¹ Chicago by: Carl Sandburg

² http://www.pizanoschicago.com/history.html

http://web.archive.org/web/20021001023605/www.chicagorestaurant.com/show_article.php?aID=13



For Dr. Carrie John's professional obituary, please see http://www.sfn.org/index.aspx?pag ename=memberObituaries_johnC.



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Interested in becoming a contributing staff member of The Neurotransmitter? Please contact Stephanie Willard at: stwillar@wfubmc.edu

Don't miss the next issue of *The Neurotransmitter!*

- Highlights of SfN 2009!
- WNCSfN Annual Fall Neuroscience Research Day

