

ERA-NET NEURON

NEWSLETTER 45



Belgium | Canada | Croatia | Estonia | Finland | France | Germany | Greece | Hungary | Israel | Italy | Ireland | Latvia | Norway | Poland | Portugal | Romania | Slovakia | Spain | Switzerland | Taiwan | Turkey | United Kingdom

Announcements from NEURON

FENS2024 NEURON EVENTS

ERA-Net NEURON Plenary Lecture

'Bridging Mind and Body through Neuroimmunology'

Prof. Asya Rolls

June 28th, 17:30 CEST

Networking Event

'Challenges of multidisciplinary for training, career and funding in Neuroscience'

June 25th, 19:00 CEST

ERA-NET NEURON Excellent Paper in Neuroscience Lecture

Dr. Ana Dorrego-Rivas

June 29th, 11:30 CEST

Networking Event

'Enhancing Global Partnerships in Brain Research'

June 27th, 18:45 CEST

[Click for details on the FENS2024 programme](#)

COMING UP

OPEN CONSULTATION on the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

For the Partnership for Brain Health

Expected July/August 2024

Stay posted:  



More information can be found on our website

<http://www.neuron-eranet.eu/index.php>

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From the desk of the coordinator | June 2024



Dear NEURON community,

As we approach the summer holidays, we welcome you to the latest edition of our newsletter!

I am honored to introduce myself as the new coordinator of ERA-Net NEURON.

Following in the footsteps of Marlies Dorlöchter, who led ERA-Net NEURON with exemplary dedication for over 20 years, I am both humbled and excited to take on this challenging role. Marlies leaves behind a legacy of fostering excellence in neuroscience, specifically in neurological and mental health research, and I am committed to continuing her mission. I am delighted to reach out to you for the first time in this capacity and look forward to achieving new milestones together.

We are pleased to report that the evaluation process for the ERA-Net NEURON Cofund2 Joint Transnational Call 2024 (JTC2024) on the topic 'Bidirectional Brain-Body Interactions' is progressing smoothly. Launched on January 8th, the call attracted numerous preproposals by the March 8th deadline, and we look forward to advancing this important area of research.

On May 14-17th, we were delighted to hold a 4-day long meeting, including the NEURON Network Steering Committee meeting, the Foresight symposium on the topic of Chronic Pain and the JTC2021 co-funded call Midterm Symposium. The Foresight symposium included seven renowned speakers from various fields of research into chronic pain who presented overviews about the state-of-the-art in the respective research areas. Members of the NEURON Scientific Advisory Board and patient representatives were involved in the panel discussion. More on the Foresight symposium and the lectures in our upcoming newsletter.

During the Midterm symposium we witnessed the significant progress made by the projects co-funded by the European Commission under the JTC2021 call on 'Neurodevelopmental Disorders.' The coordinators of the 18 funded projects shared their major achievements, challenges, and future plans. The symposium also featured vibrant poster sessions, providing early career researchers (ECRs) a platform to present their work. More details about the Midterm Symposium can be found on [page 4](#).

The symposium also included an award ceremony for the winners of the best video competition for the young researchers of the JTC2020 and JTC2021 calls. During the ceremony the 3 winning videos ([AID](#) and [IMPULSES](#) from the JTC2020 call and [MULTI-FACT](#) from the JTC2021) were shown to the audience and the young researchers representing the teams gave a short talk about their research and how participation in such a multinational research consortium contributed to their career as ECRs. All the videos can be found on ERA Net NEURON's [YouTube](#) channel.



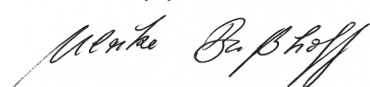
ERA-Net NEURON remains deeply embedded in the neuroscience and brain research ecosystem. A testament to this commitment is the 'Open Science' workshops organized for NEURON-funded researchers in the past 5 years. Recently, from February 21st to 22nd, 2024, the '[NEURON-QUEST Workshop on OPEN SCIENCE](#)' for researchers and clinicians funded through the [JTC2023](#) biomedical call on 'Resilience and vulnerability in mental health' and the call on 'Ethical, legal, and social aspects of neuroscience' ([ELSA2023](#)) convened in Berlin. The workshop was hosted by the Berlin Institute of Health (BIH) [QUEST](#) Center (more on [page 6](#)).

Coming up on June 25-29th is the FENS2024 meeting in Vienna, Austria. NEURON will be involved in several sessions during the meeting, including the ERA Net NEURON plenary lecture, the EPNA award ceremony and lecture and a networking event. Moreover, another networking event that should be noted is the one looking at the future partnership for BrainHealth. More on the NEURON-related FENS2024 events in the announcements section and on [page 7](#).

Furthermore, we are thrilled to showcase two success stories from NEURON-funded projects: AUTISYN and DiSCoVeR. The [AUTISYN](#) project explores the role of the ADNP gene in autism spectrum disorders, defining a novel subtype known as Helsmoortel-Van der Aa syndrome. This multinational collaboration not only advances scientific understanding but also emphasizes patient engagement through initiatives like the patient community day, fostering meaningful dialogue and insights between researchers and affected families. Meanwhile, [DiSCoVeR](#) pioneers a home-based treatment combining cognitive control videogames with non-invasive brain stimulation for depression, promising wider accessibility and effectiveness. These stories exemplify how multinational collaboration drives transformative advancements in neuroscience and mental health research. By sharing these successes, we not only celebrate scientific breakthroughs but also demonstrate the tangible benefits of our funding initiatives in improving patient care and fostering global scientific collaboration. Explore more about [AUTISYN](#) and [DiSCoVeR](#) success stories on our website.

With this, we wish you a wonderful summer and invite you to keep up with our [website](#), follow us on [twitter](#) and join our [LinkedIn](#) group in order to join our community and not to miss further information about our various calls, activities and events.

Sincerely yours,



ERA-Net NEURON's JTC2021 Midterm Symposium on 'Neurodevelopmental Disorders'

16-17th May, 2024 | Berlin, Germany

Over a hundred participants attended the [midterm symposium for the JTC2021](#) co-funded call on 'Neurodevelopmental Disorders', held in May in Berlin, Germany. The participants included ~59 principal investigators and ~30 early career researchers (ECRs) from the funded consortia, as well as representatives from the funding organizations and scientific experts, Dr Kristiina Tamimmies from the Karolinska Institutet and Dr Maria Cecilia Angulo from the Institute of Psychiatry and Neuroscience of Paris, who chaired the meeting and reviewed the progress of the projects.

Funding research on neurodevelopmental disorders is crucial, as these conditions often manifest early and have a life-long impact on patients and families cognitively, emotionally and socially. Investing in neuroscientific research in this area allows deepening our understanding of the underlying mechanisms, leading to the development of innovative diagnostic tools and therapeutic interventions. Advancing our knowledge and treatment options for neurodevelopmental disorders promotes healthier, more fulfilling lives for affected individuals and their families, thereby enhancing public health and well-being across Europe and worldwide.

Eighteen transnational interdisciplinary research consortia are co-funded by the European Commission and national and regional funding agencies from Europe and beyond, under the umbrella of the ERA Net NEURON Cofund2 first call - JTC2021 - on 'Neurodevelopmental Disorders'. These consortia include 80 research groups from 16 countries with an overall requested funding of 19.2M€. The JTC2021 midterm symposium featured presentations showcasing the consortia's progress, outcomes, and challenges



World cafe session



JTC2021 Midterm symposium at the Berlin Museum of Medical History

in the framework of 5 thematic sessions: 1) Sensory systems in neurodevelopmental disorders, 2) Cortical development in neurodevelopmental disorders, 3) Diagnosis and prognosis in neurodevelopmental disorders, 4) Autism spectrum disorder, and 5) Genetic and molecular targets in neurodevelopmental disorders. The symposium also included a lively world café session in which the researchers had the opportunity to discuss various topics, such as patient involvement in research, AI (Artificial Intelligence) in neuroscience, responsible research and ECR training opportunities. The session stimulated discussions and encouraged networking amongst the participants.

In line with NEURON's enduring commitment to supporting and investing in ECRs and with the long-lasting tradition of promoting the ECRs involved in the funded projects in the framework of the midterm symposia, ECRs were invited to attend and present a poster highlighting their contributions to the research projects. A vote for [best poster](#) was conducted and the award was presented to three winners: Nora Ditzer from the [MEPIcephaly](#) consortium, Henrique Santos from the [SHANKAstro](#) consortium and Abel Petik from the [UnscrAMBLy](#) consortium.

Finally, the midterm symposium provided the stage for the ceremony of the ECR best video competition awards for the JTC2020 and JTC2021 calls. The winning videos were shown to the audience and the awardees, Mikhail Kulyabin on behalf of the [AID](#) consortium, Anastasia Papavasileiou on behalf of the [IMPULSES](#) consortium and Gerard Marti-Juan on behalf of the [MULTI-FACT](#) consortium, briefly presented their research and spoke about the contribution that participation in such multinational collaborative projects have on their career.

Overall, the symposium fostered perspectives and discussions that enriched all attendees.



Chairs of the Midterm symposium,
Kristina Tamimmies and Maria Cecilia Angulo



Poster prize ceremony

'Open Science' Workshop

21st-22nd February 2024 | Berlin, Germany

On February 21st-22nd, 2024, NEURON hosted the 'Open Science' workshop tailored for funded projects from the JTC2023 biomedical call on 'Resilience and vulnerability in mental health' and the call on 'Ethical, legal, and social aspects of neuroscience' ([ELSA2023](#)).

The workshop was hosted by the Center for Responsible Research ([QUEST](#)) in Berlin. The coordinators or representatives of 13 biomedical and three ELSA projects discussed matters of experimental design, public and patient involvement (PPI) in research, the European Research Infrastructure [INFRAFRONTIER](#), the European Mouse Mutant Archive ([EMMA](#)), and the [German Mouse Clinic](#). Not least, the 'hands-on' workshop included a tutorial session on generation of a Data Management Plan. As Professor Muriel Koehl, coordinator of the consortium ResiPres (Neurological basis of resilience/vulnerability to prenatal stress in mice) pointed out: "The workshop was really well organized and of high quality, and I enjoyed my time in Berlin." Besides support for the newly selected projects in starting their projects, all participants appreciated the opportunity for networking.

The 'Open Science' workshops, now in their 5th year, are a cornerstone of ERA Net NEURON's strategy for implementing Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). This year, we welcomed representatives from the funded ELSA projects, marking a pivotal moment in fostering an even deeper interdisciplinary collaboration. These workshops continue to drive forward our commitment to advancing open, inclusive, reproducible and innovative research practices in neuroscience and mental health.



Upcoming ERA-Net NEURON Events at FENS Forum 2024

25-29th June, 2024 | Vienna, Austria

23-24.6.2024	ENCODS conference, RRI-workshop
27.6.2024	FENS FORUM Networking event
28.6.2024	FENS FORUM The ERA-NET NEURON Lecture
29.6.2024	FENS FORUM ERA-NET Neuron/Excellent Paper in Neuroscience Award

Support for ENCODS conference

In the framework of ENCODS – European Neuroscience Conference by Doctoral Students, NEURON provides both sponsorship and a workshop on RRI in neuroscience, which will be given by a NEURON representative, including an introduction about RRI, building awareness of the various aspects of RRI, responsible research and sustainable innovations. The NEURON Guidelines will be used as a basis for the curriculum.

Joint networking event

The Joint networking event on 'Challenges of multidisciplinary for training, career and funding in Neuroscience', including EBRAINS, ERA-NET NEURON and CHET (FENS higher education and training committee), will be chaired by Patricia Gaspar, FENS-CHET Chair, and will include brief presentations from the various partner organizations. ERA-Net NEURON will have an assigned space, including flyers and additional material and a NEURON representative will be on-site to exchange with the attendees.

Plenary lecture

The ERA-Net NEURON plenary lecture in the FENS Forum is intended to support and promote the presentation of cutting-edge research in neuroscience, as well as increase the visibility of ERA-Net NEURON. The plenary lecture in the FENS 2024 will be given by Asya Rolls, a professor of neuroimmunology from the Technion, specialising in investigating the physiological mechanisms underlying the impact of mental and emotional processes on immunity and health. The lecture will be on the topic: 'Bridging Mind and Body through Neuroimmunology'.



Excellent Paper in Neuroscience Award 2023

The ERA-NET NEURON strives to support young excellent neuroscientists in early stages of their career through a devoted set of activities. One of these activities is the annual Excellent Paper in Neuroscience Award (EPNA). The awardee of the EPNA receives a monetary prize, as well as an opportunity to present their research in a conference. The call and the award ceremony are aimed to increase the attractiveness of neuroscience research within the early-career researchers and raise the awareness of the talented awardees and their excellent scientific results to a larger audience.

The winner of this year's EPNA2023 is Ana Dorrego-Rivas for her publication 'The core PCP protein Prickle2 regulates axon number and AIS maturation by binding to AnkG and modulating microtubule bundling' (Science Advances, 2022). The award ceremony and the lecture by Dr. Dorrego-Rivas will be given this year in the framework of FENS 2024 on June 29th.