



Advocacy Grants Programme

Call for Proposals
2012

FENS-SfN Advocacy Grants Programme

Introduction

The Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) and the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) are pleased to co-sponsor the FENS-SfN Advocacy Grants Programme.

Namely, following the Advocacy Workshop in Brussels in June 16-17, 2011, FENS and SfN have jointly agreed to contribute 25 000€ each to a fund of 50 000€ per year for 2012 and 2013. The fund will provide awards to FENS National Societies in order to strengthen their capacity for advocacy efforts. It is expected that this Advocacy Grants Programme will serve as seed money for launching useful initiatives in the respective countries of national neurosciences society members of FENS.

The present call for proposals concerns projects for 2012, with deadline on October 17, 2011, and decision in late November 2011. Applications will be reviewed in November 2011 by a grant committee comprising both FENS and SfN participants. Funding for the awards will be distributed and administered by FENS.

I. Grant Terms and Conditions

Amount

These awards will be given out for a one-year advocacy project. Depending on the scale of the project, applicants may request, to support their project, a grant of either 2500€ or 5000€

Eligibility

- Applicants must be a national neuroscience society member of FENS. Mono-disciplinary member societies are not eligible to apply to this programme. Only one application is allowed per society.
- There must be at least one SfN member on the grant administration team
- Brain Awareness Week events or simple translation of documents into a national language are excluded.

Required Materials

- Completed application form (attached)

Selection Criteria

The following questions are considered by the grant reviewers when evaluating applications:

- **Significance:** Does this application address a clear goal fitting into one of the four advocacy themes outlined in section II of this document? Does it address an advocacy need specific to the national climate?
- **Approach:** Is the project design adequately developed? If successful, could the same design be adapted and used by other national societies? Is there a method for self-evaluation and a plan for dissemination of results?
- **Innovation:** Does the project employ a novel concept and approach in regards to the current advocacy efforts made by the national society? Does the project challenge the national society to expand or better organize its advocacy activities?
- **Capacity:** Are leaders and members of the society capable of carrying out this project?

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- **Environment:** Does the environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed activities take advantage of the unique features of the environment and/or employ useful collaborative arrangements?

Conditions of the Grant

- National Societies must spend the grant on the activities outlined in its application. Accountability will be required. A final year-end report with financials must be submitted to FENS. Any unused funds must be returned to FENS no later than 30 days after the end of the given grant year.
- FENS and SfN leadership may visit national societies during events for which funds are provided, particularly for new initiatives, to monitor success.
- The awardees and the purposes of the grant may be announced on the FENS or SfN websites, or through other venues such as member publications.
FENS and SfN highly encourage the solicitation of matching funds.

Deadline for submission: October 17, 2011

Evaluation of proposals: November 2011

Awards attribution: notified in late November, with effect as from January 1st, 2012.

II. Advocacy Grant Themes

Legislative Strategy – Direct engagement of government officials with the purpose of enacting policies favourable to the research community. Focus is on establishing contact, communicating compelling data points, developing materials, and identifying all of the key decision makers in positions to influence government policy with regard to research policy and funding. It may also include developing specific messages customized to individual legislators or government officials.

Member Engagement – Organizing members and other volunteers to engage in activities to support neuroscience research. This may include training individuals about the mechanics of government, training in message delivery, arranging for neuroscientists to meet with government officials to promote research funding, or organizing events designed to highlight the importance of research funding for key policy-makers. It may also involve setting up an internal communications structure to inform members of the latest legislative developments and, where appropriate, asking people to take action to influence legislators or other government officials.

Strategic Partnerships – working with other organizations which may represent researchers, clinicians or patient advocates to engage in efforts in support of research funding. Ideas for action may include developing joint strategies and common messaging around requests for increased investment in research, focusing on particular legislators or government agencies. Ideas for action may include circulating “sign-on” letters, organizing rallies or “advocacy days,” or working with established organizations to include research funding as a part of their agenda and/or events.

Resource Creation and Adaptation – Identifying key data that will be of interest to non-scientists in a position to influence government policy. Adapting existing materials or developing new materials (depending on funding structure) that use key data to support the case for research funding. This may include adaptation of materials already being utilized by partner organizations.