

FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN NEUROSCIENCE SOCIETIES

10th FENS Forum of Neuroscience

2-6 July 2016 – Copenhagen, Denmark

<http://forum2016.fens.org/>

PRESS RELEASE

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OUTREACH CHAMPIONS AWARDED AT THE FENS FORUM 2016

Talking to the public about brain research is both important and stimulating. To celebrate neuroscientists' commitment to outreach, prizes are awarded at the FENS Forum 2016, Europe's pre-eminent neuroscience meeting, today (4 July) in Copenhagen.

The Dana Foundation and the European Dana Alliance for the Brain (EDAB), in collaboration with the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS), will present two awards for special contributions to the promotion of brain awareness, through continued public outreach efforts for a period of three or more years.

The winner of the 2016 Dana/EDAB Neuroscience Outreach Champion award is Professor Paul Bolam, emeritus Senior Scientist at the MRC Brain Networks Dynamics Unit at the University of Oxford. Professor Bolam has given 75 talks since 2009, often on the theme of the ageing brain and Parkinson's disease, including the need for animals in medical research. His open and clear approach has enabled him to truly engage with school children and adults of all ages through a series of activities ranging from lab experience for teenagers, to Café Scientifique, to discussions with people affected by Parkinson's disease.

Professor Bolam is a world-leading authority on the neurobiology of the basal ganglia in health and disease, structures in the brain that are responsible for voluntary motor control, procedural learning, eye movement, and cognitive, emotional functions. He is also the editor in chief of the European Journal of Neuroscience (EJN).

Every year, hundreds of organisations participate in Brain Awareness Week, a global programme of events to highlight the promise and excitement of brain research. **The EDAB-FENS Brain Awareness Week Excellence Award** this year goes to the **The Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in Israel. Established in 2010**, the Center has a comprehensive and innovative research agenda that includes dialogue with the public. To this end, they initiated *Art and the Brain week*, a series of lectures and cultural events including dance, art exhibitions and films that reveal the brains creative processes. Since 2011, *Art and the Brain* has reached more than 10,000 children and adults in Jerusalem and beyond, and thousands more through newspapers, radio and television.

The neuroscience outreach awards selection committee members commended the high quality and originality of the nominations for the two prizes.

Professor Monica di Luca, FENS president, presented the awards: "Paul Bolam is not only a first class neuroscientist, but also passionate advocate for helping people understand the ageing brain. This is a topic that is of great concern to us all, particularly those who are affected by age-related diseases, such as Parkinson's, and their families," she said.

Commenting on the Brain Awareness Week award, she continued, "The Edmond and Lily Center for Brain Sciences and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have embraced public engagement as an integral part of their research agenda. People of all ages are intrigued by the creative

brain, and here the scientists have found imaginative ways to combine neuroscience research with the arts.”

The Outreach Champion and the winning organisation of the Brain Awareness Week Excellence Award will each receive a prize of €2,000. Professor Bolam and Dr Rafi Aviram, Executive Director, and Alona Shani-Narkiss, Events and Publications Coordinator of the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences received their award today during the Neuroscience Outreach Award Ceremony, held at the FENS Forum.

FENS and EDAB would like to congratulate the awardees.

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Contact

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The 10th FENS Forum of Neuroscience, the largest basic neuroscience meeting in Europe, organised by FENS and hosted by the Danish Society for Neuroscience will attract an estimated 6000 international delegates. FENS mission is to advance research and education in neuroscience within and outside Europe, to facilitate interaction and coordination between its members. FENS represents 43 national and single discipline neuroscience societies with about 24,000 member scientists from 33 European countries. <http://www.fens.org/>

- The Neuroscience Outreach Awards were presented at FENS Forum 2016 on 4 July <http://www.fens.org/News-Activities/Awards/Neuroscience-Outreach-Awards-Program/>
- Professor Paul Bolam, University of Oxford <http://www.mrcbndu.ox.ac.uk/people/prof-paul-bolam-fmedsci>
- The Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem <http://elsc.huji.ac.il/>
- The European Dana Alliance for the Brain – EDAB <http://www.dana.org/About/EDAB/>
- The Federation for European Neuroscience Societies - FENS <http://www.fens.org/>
- Brain Awareness Week <http://www.fens.org/Outreach/FENS-Brain-Awareness-Week/>
<http://www.dana.org/baw/>