

FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN NEUROSCIENCE SOCIETIES



DANA/FENS funded Brain Awareness Projects - Final Report 2011



In 2010, the directors of the Dana Foundation again approved a grant to FENS. This money together with an additional allowance from the Federation enabled the funding of small grants to several European Brain Awareness Week partner organizations for public presentation during the campaign.

Advertising

A call for applications was sent by email to all members in all FENS member societies at the beginning of December 2010. The deadline for application was January 14, 2011. Furthermore, the BAW grants were announced in the news section on the FENS website. A reminder email was sent by mid December 2010. The applicants had to submit their proposal on a standardized application form.

Selection procedure

The selection was done by a committee composed of members of Dana, Edab, and FENS:

Barbara Gill (Dana)

Kathleen Roina (Dana)

Pierre Magistretti (Edab)

Colin Blakemore (Edab)

Sigismund Huck (FENS)

Marian Joels (FENS)

FENS distributed these grants in a competitive procedure. A call for applications was launched and the best projects were selected. 90 applications from 28 different European countries were submitted, 27 projects in 19 different European countries were supported. The following BAW events (listed in alphabetical order by last name) were selected for funding:

1. Battaglia-Mayer, Alexandra (**Rome, Italy**) THE BRAIN FOR LITTLE KIDS II: The Brain in Action
2. Bilewska, Karolina (**Lublin, Poland**) The Days of the Brain VI: Brain - the manipulator in string puppet-show
3. Blank, Dorotea (**Gothenburg, Sweden**) The creative Brain
4. Cicek, Metehan (**Ankara, Turkey**) 1st Brain Awareness Week in Ankara University
5. Dierrsen, Mara (**Barcelona, Spain**) BCNSpain IX Edition
6. Dino, Alessia (**Torino, Italy**) BRAIN, MIND AND SOCIETY
7. Gasparyan, Arsen (**Yerevan, Armenia**) „Explore your brain“
8. Girão da Cruz, Maria Teresa (**Coimbra, Portugal**) The beauty and the brain
9. Grieder, Matthias (**Bern, Switzerland**) Brain Week 2011 in Bern
10. Gurzu, Cristian (**Braila, Romania**) The young bright minds
11. Heffer, Marija (**Osijek, Croatia**) Knowledge Seeking Genes
12. Jankeviciene, Corrie (**Plunges raj, Lithuania**) The child's brain: environment, training and social influences on mental health
13. Jovanovic, Ksenija (**Toledo, Spain**) Spinal Cord in Health and Illness
14. Kol, Ravid (**Jerusalem, Israel**) Brain and Film
15. Kostovic, Ivica (**Zagreb, Croatia**) THE LEARNING BRAIN (Education and neuroscience)
16. Krugers, Harm (**Amsterdam, The Netherlands**) Brain Awareness for Kids
17. Milton, Amy-Louise (**Cambridge, UK**) Psy-Fi (Psychology Films) Memory Film Festival 2011
18. Ormel, Lasse (**Oslo, Norway**) High school students explore the brain
19. Peker, Gonul (**Izmir, Turkey**) BAW in Izmir
20. Pochet, Roland (**Brussels, Belgium**) Neuroscience at the European Parliament in Brussels
21. Prötsch, Markus (**Salzburg, Austria**) BAW in Salzburg
22. Pyza, Elzbieta (**Krakow, Poland**) The 2011 Brain Awareness Week in Krakow
23. Salesse, Roland (**Gif-sur-Yvette, France**) Theater play : "Incense and tar"
24. Schoenen, Jean (**Liege, Belgium**) "Semaine du Cerveau 2011"
25. Sengpiel, Frank (**Cardiff, UK**) Workshop: Learn about Life
26. Starc, Martina (**Ljubljana, Slovenia**) BAW 2011: Train your Brain
27. Toth, Eva (**Hevesvezekény, Hungary**) PLEASURE – ADDICTION – BRAIN FUNCTION

1. THE BRAIN FOR LITTLE KIDS II: The Brain in Action / Italy, Rome

Dates and Duration: March 15-20, 2011

Contact:

Alexandra Battaglia-Mayer

Professor of Physiology

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SAPIENZA- University of Rome, Italy

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The event was part of a wider project addressed to children of an Elementary Public School, located in the historic centre of Rome (ISTITUTO VIA GIULIA 25 -ROMA, ITALY). The project consisted of lectures and games (for a total of 10 hours activity) held by myself, Professor of Physiology, with the collaboration of one PhD student in Neurophysiology of University of Rome that voluntarily collaborated to the initiative. The general idea of this project is to illustrate each year, for 5 consecutive years (duration of Primary School), the basic concepts of Neurosciences.

We have addressed the following questions:

- Micro- and macro-analysis of the brain. Students were introduced to optic microscopy through a practical demonstration and to brain imaging techniques, including CAT, and MRI.
- The bases of motor behaviour: bones, muscles, joints. Posture and movement and the effect of gravity on motor behaviour.
- The neural structures underlying motor behaviour from cortex to cerebellum and the consequences of their lesion.

The lessons of which the course consisted benefitted from the use of power point presentations and of practical demonstrations. Both captured the attention and interest of the audience consisting of children who enthusiastically participated to the course, as can also be inferred from the parents' feed-back which was very positive.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the DANA Foundation and FENS for supporting this initiative. As last year, this was a very exciting experience in teaching Neuroscience. I hope we will be able to continue in 2012.



2. The Days of the Brain VI / Poland, Lublin

Dates and Duration: 17-19 March, 2011

Contact:

The Neuro and Cognitive Sciences Section of the Scientific Association of Psychology Students
The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin

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Poland

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This year for the sixth time we succeeded in organizing *The days of the Brain* during the BAW 2011. The main subjects discussed at the conference were: *How does the brain make up its mind, How does the brain represent the identity and location of visual objects and, fMRI reveals consistent cerebral lateralization of language and praxis in left-handers*. One of the most captive lectures presented by Dr. Borkowska concerned an exceptional case of a patient with ADHD. Apart from the lectures, we also proposed a variety of workshops to the audience to familiarize people with the current methods of measuring brain functions: neurofeedback, eye-tracking, ERP and FRP. The workshops conducted by Dr. Galewski concerned the functioning of the brain of stammering people. Our colleagues from the section of Art Therapy of Psychology Student's Association organized a very interesting workshop at which the participants were taught how to improve the efficacy of the brain using imagination and some simple manual exercises. The media was also interested in our project, so Lublin dwellers could hear about the event in the local radio and listen to some interviews with the guests.



3. The Creative Brain / Sweden, Gothenburg

Dates and Duration: March 14, 2011

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Programansvarig

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At the Universeum science discovery center in Göteborg a “brain event” took place where circus activities will serve as platform for brain training, an encounter between modern brain research and the art of circus. Tilde Björfors, director and art director of *Circus Cirkör*, is invited as speaker in conjunction with Universeum's exhibition “TILT – train you brain and get smarter”. Tilde presented how creativity affects the brain together with Michael Nilsson, professor and specialist in neurology and rehabilitation medicine.

The objective for this event was to inform the public audience how important creativity is for the brain and its plasticity, and also talk about modern regenerative neuroscience. In more detail, the talk between Tilde Björfors and Michael Nilsson was for adolescents and older, and will take place in a lecture hall. For the younger there will be circus activities in the house with artists from *Cirkus Cirkös*, where the children also can try for themselves.

4. 1st Brain Awareness Week at Ankara University / Turkey, Ankara

Dates and Duration: March 15-16, 2011

Contact:

Prof. Dr. Metehan CICEK

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Ankara University Brain Research Center (AU-BRC) celebrated the 1ST Brain Awareness Week with the grant of the DANA Foundation. During the two day activities conferences and panels were materialized. Scientists from different backgrounds presented talks to different audience groups.

On 15th of March the first conference was on “Brain, Language, and Gender” presented in the university conference hall with the participation of faculty and mostly university students. The second activity was a public conference on “Brain Health and Biases” in which middle-aged and older people had a chance to ask about psychiatric problems. Lastly, the “Love: with Heart or with Brain?” conference was presented to the first and second year high school students. Students’ questions and their contribution made the conference a real celebration.

On 16th March, AU-BRC Symposium brought young researches and scientist from Turkey and USA together. The valuable contribution of DANA to our BAW activities was acknowledged in the posters, fliers, slides of the presentation and in the media press.



5. BCNSpain IX Edition / Spain, Barcelona

Dates and Duration: March 14-20, 2011

Contact:

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The BCN Brain awareness week programme has included a variety of activities directed to the general public and schools. The general objective has been to increase public awareness about the progress and benefits of brain research with special focus on schools to learn more about tools/techniques researchers' use, question they try to solve, limits/problems people have. To motivate students to study science and learn new concepts or new application linked to the theoretical biology studied in classes was another objective. At the public talks approx. 500 people attended. These talks for teachers and parents focused on eating disorders, ludopathies and , drugs in adolescence. Around 400 visitors participated in the Brain Fair at which interactive experiments took place during the day. Further, 59 Schools were involved in the activities. The students went on guided visits, talks and workshops in the lab. The publicity of the events included press releases, radio castings, mailing, website and, direct contacts with schools.



6. BRAIN, MIND AND SOCIETY / Italy, Torino

Dates and Duration: March 14-21, 2011

Contact:

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The Programme was made of 4 lectures and the presentation of the book "Brain photography". The topics selected covered different aspects of the emerging field of Social Neuroscience, including evolution of the social brain, ontogenesis of mirror mechanisms, decision mechanisms in neuroeconomics, and the impact of neurodegeneration on social interactions. The events took place at the Circolo dei Lettori, that already hosted similar and very successful events.

The conferences focused on theoretical aspects and experimental findings in order to show people the achievements and the unresolved issues of scientific research. As expected, the format of the events (2 speakers for each lecture and a wide space for questions from the audience) stimulated discussion: each conference lasted about 2 hours, and almost half of this time was reserved for the question-time.

This years' BAW confirms the interest of the general public in Neuroscience. Also, the presence of students was outstanding as about 250 people attended each event, in spite of the National Holiday. Therefore, the organizers linked the "Sala Grande" (200 seats) with another room ("Sala Musica" 70 seats) through a live connection.



7. Explore your Brain / Armenia, Yerevan

Dates and Duration: March 14-20, 2011

Contact:

Young Biologists Association NGO

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Armenia

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Email: info@yba.am

www.yba.am

According to the project, the competition's website has been created (www.baw.yba.am) and the online questionnaire with 9 questions and 17 links to neuroscience websites were posted. 100 posters were printed and posted in the metro, as well as in different universities, schools etc. More than 70 participants from different universities, schools and institutions in Armenia sent their application during the week. 31 applications were selected by a Jury for an award (the results of selection and points were posted on website).

Further, on 24 March, together with Student Council of Biological Faculty of Yerevan State University, the seminar on neuroscience (2 talks on Alzheimer and Parkinson diseases) was organized. During the seminar the results was summarized and participants received their awards (including 1 TV, 1 DVD player, 1 color printer, 5 USB flashes, 23 t-shirts). In the all materials, press releases, advertisements and on the website the contribution of FENS and Dana Foundation was mentioned.



8. The beauty and the brain / Portugal, Coimbra

Dates and Duration: March 13-19, 2011

Contact:

Maria Teresa Girão da Cruz, Ph.D.
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In Portugal the BAW 2011 focused on the theme “Painting the Brain”. Several events took place for the general public: 1) “Landscapes of the human brain” – a series of conferences about aesthetics and neurosciences that took place at the Science Museum. 2) The public presentation of the recovered 16th century book on human anatomy “*De humani corporis fabrica libre*” by Andreas Vesalius, together with a conference and music concert; these events took place at the University of Coimbra Joanina Library.

Our programme included a variety of activities for school-age children: 1) Neuroscientists go to Schools; during this event neuroscientists visited schools and gave lectures on brain related subjects to middle and high school students; elementary school students had the opportunity to perform several hands-on activities, games, and brain teasers. 2) Open Laboratories; during this event students visited CNC’s laboratories and listened to talks about neuroscience research. The students made either a poster to illustrate the Brain Awareness Week or an illustrated brochure on brain health; the works will be exhibited at the “Exploratório” Science Center in Coimbra. The total audience was 1441 students from 16 schools. 62 CNC researchers took part in the activities.



March 14, 2011
João de Deus Elementary School (Coimbra, Portugal)
1st - 4th grades
“Neuroscientists go to Schools”

9. Brain Week 2011 in Bern / Switzerland, Bern

Dates and Duration: March 14-18, 2011

Contact:

Brainweek Bern

C/o Matthias Grieder

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«Narcolepsy and other causes of tiredness», «the struggle against forgetting», «From DNA to diagnosis and treatment», and «consciousness and unconsciousness» – these were this year's topics of the Brain Awareness Week Bern. On three evenings, experts presented new scientific findings to a broad audience. Interactive discussions showed the relevance of neuroscience for everybody's life and well-being.

The movie «Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind» was also shown at a movie theatre. In coincidence of the Brain Week with the Bern's night of the museums, an exhibition about subjective views of psychiatric patients at the psychiatric museum Bern was showed. Furthermore, to encourage creativity, a drawing competition was arranged with the topic «brainwash».



Abendforen und Film

14. bis 18. März 2011

Universität Bern, Hauptgebäude

Eintritt frei

www.brainweekbern.ch

In general, the Brain Week 2011 Bern attracted a lot of attention not only by a respectable number of visitors, but also by the Swiss media (interview with one of the referees in three newspapers and two radio stations).

10. The young bright minds / Romania, Braila

Dates and Duration: March 14-20, 2011

Contact:

Cristian Gurzu

National College Nicolae Bălcescu

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Brăila

Romania

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On the first day the poster exhibition “*Brain briefings*” with translated posters from the SfN web site, about : *Genes and Language* , *Decision-Making*, *Mapping Brain Circuits*, *Birdsong*, *Brain-Controlled Prosthetics*, *About Face: How the Brain Recognizes and Processes Faces*, *Brain Atlases* was organized. Posters were placed on a panel dedicated to the BAW event. Further, several activities such as the role of steroid hormones in brain development and visio-spatial ability in adolescence, a symposium called “*Phonological versus visual memory*”, a DVD programme showing (Staying sharp, from Dana Alliance for the Brain Initiative) and the Romanian Brain Bee have taken place.

The live question and answer competition about neuroscience for 9th to 12th grade students was targeted at high school students who were quizzed about the brain and how it relates to intelligence, memory, emotions, sensations, movements, stress, aging, sleep, and brain disorders such as drug addiction, Alzheimer’s and stroke. The Brain Awareness Week was a great success for the local community and the events were published in the local press and website www.neuroset.uv.ro.



11. Knowledge Seeking Genes / Croatia, Osijek

Dates and Duration: March 14-20, 2011

Contact:

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More than 80 members of the student organizations for neuroscience (SENZOS) in collaboration with students of other institutions from University J. J. Strossmayer Osijek organized 27 workshops, 23 lectures, 2 exhibitions, a scientific café and a concert during the BAW. The workshops were visited by students from 8 till 18 years old. Students of art made a sculpture of the brain, high school students drew caricatures of their professors while elementary school children drew their role-models. The best drawings and teachers were awarded with T-shirts. Middle and high school students participated in the survey about values appreciated about their favorite teachers. We talked about education, role-models, mirror neurons, memory and genetics of the brain. Information about BAW events was broadcasted on all radio and TV-stations in our region and also displayed on the official website (<http://www.mefos.hr/cms/mefos/hr/znanost/snzos.html>) and on Facebook (SENZOS).



Caricature of Prof. Fisić



Participants wearing official t-shirts

12. The child's brain: environment, training and social influences on mental health / Lithuania, Plunges raj

Dates and Duration: March 14-19, 2011

Contact:

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We had a total of 6 workshops each attended by 20 representatives with a total of 150 participants. Educational departments of each district promoted the event to the schools in their jurisdiction. Total organizations represented were 41 middle and high schools, 6 childcare centers, 11 town council social departments, 1 orphanage, 5 teacher's education centers and health department representatives from two different locations. Representatives included organization directors, psychologists, social workers and teachers. Each participant was given materials and information to share with their respective organizations. We believe the information learned at this workshop will be a strong motivation to increase interest among educational and child-care institutions in brain research and its application to child training and health promotion. The response was very positive and we are now in the process of trying to arrange follow up educational lectures at several schools.

This event encouraged cooperations and communication among various organizations and highlighted the need for educational institutions and others involved in child care to develop an understanding of brain research and to promote practical applications to the parents and children involved.

On behalf of "Nauja pradzia" and all the workshop participants we want to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to DANA foundation and FENS for the grant money that made these events possible.



13. Spinal Cord in Health and Illness / Spain, Toledo

Dates and Duration: March 14-17, 2011

Contact:

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This was the first time BAW activity was organized in the National Hospital for Paraplegics (HNP) with the goal of engaging and educating the community on the function and importance of healthy spinal cord and the contributions of neuroscience research in addressing functional deficits and treatments for the injured spinal cord. Thus, we organized movie projections and open forum discussions between the public and HNP scientists, visits to local elementary/high schools and the university as well as an interactive tour to the HNP laboratories where students spoke with scientists about the research, equipment and methodology. The event culminated in 2 talks by invited scientists about the brain and spinal cord, scientific advances and future directions for better understanding their function and repair. We reached over 400 people from different age groups and received multiple requests for more such events in the future. We had excellent press coverage, interviews in local radio/TV stations.



Local TV station interview with HNP scientists



Students and scientists after students visit to HNP labs

14. Brain and Film / Israel, Jerusalem

Dates and Duration: March 12-17, 2011

Contact:

The Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences
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The Hebrew University, ELSC and the Jerusalem Cinematheque presented “Cinema and Brain Week”, Lectures and Movies - Imagination and reality in brain science. Further, the Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem held special events during Brain Awareness Week 2011 in the Jerusalem Cinematheque. During the week of events which was titled “Cinema and Brain Week”, ELSC’s researchers presented their research and vision in lectures which were followed by feature movies related to the talks.

Every day, one hour before the lectures, ELSC’s PhD students, presented their recent findings in brain research to the audience with multimedia presentations. In addition, at the entrance to the Cinematheque was a large tent that housed an artistic display of neurons and the inner workings of the brain, through videos and multimedia.

On the opening day, Prof. Idan Segev and Israeli film director Avi Nesher, shared their thoughts about the relation between the film industry and brain research. The talk was followed by the film *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (Michel Gondry, 2004). With no free seats and a full waiting list on the first day and on all following days. During the next days, Prof. Naftali Tisby talked about his vision of how in the future our memories will be stored in a digital media, followed by the movie *The Fountain* (Darren Aronofsky, 2006). Prof. Haim Sompolinsky presented his thoughts about physics, brain and free will, followed by the movie *The Game* (David Fincher, 1997). Prof. Hermona Soreq presented her recent finding in stress and anxiety research, followed by the movie *The Fisher King* (Terry Gilliam, 1991). Prof. Eilon Va’adia talked about a brain machine interface, current and future technology description. The sci-fi movie *Surrogates* (Jonathan Mostow, 2009) was followed by Prof. Va’adia lecture. The last lecture about Parkinson’s disease and treatment was held by Prof. Hagai Bergmann followed by the feature movie *Through a Glass Darkly* (Ingmar Bergman, 1961). A Summary of all brain awareness week 2011 (photos, videos, program, media etc.) is available on line at ELSC’s web site at: <http://elsc.huji.ac.il/content/brain-awareness-week-2011-cinema-brain>

15. THE LEARNING BRAIN (Education and neuroscience) / Croatia, Zagreb

Dates and Duration: March 14-20, 2011

Contact:

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BAW2011 in Croatia focused on the topic of education and neuroscience. Within this main topic, we wanted to present to the public not only the biological basis of mechanisms of memory and learning, but also that learning and education are specific processes and experiences which modulate human brain, influence its plasticity and contribute to general cognitive skills. We organized workshops for kids (*How our brain is changing while we learn*) and for professionals in education fields (teachers, school psychologists). The results of the questionnaire “*What preschool kids taught us about brain?*” were also presented: almost 600 preschool kids participated in this project, giving their original and funny views on brain and neuroscience. Public lectures and round tables were held referring to following topics: neuro-economy and recent advances in neuroscience. Speakers included local scientists, doctors, and professionals working at universities, hospitals and medical institutions. Traditionally, we organized Open days and laboratory tours of the Croatian Institute for Brain research. The event was extremely well presented in media, through daily, weekly and monthly journals, radio and television reports.



Photos: Workshop and Open day laboratory tour at Croatian Institute for Brain Research.

16. Brain Awareness for kids / The Netherlands, Amsterdam

Dates and Duration: March 17, 2011

Contact:

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For this day, children from 13-15 years were invited together with their teacher to participate. During the day, the students could follow two lectures - developed for their age - from internationally recognized Dutch scientists. In addition, the students were allowed to explore the Science Center NEMO and in particular the exhibition: Reis door de Geest (Travel through the Mind).

The Dutch Neurofederation was very happy to be able to support this successful day via the funding from DANA.

Programme BRAINS:

Blok 1: 10:15 - 11:15

Prof. Dr. Guus Smit, Universiteit Amsterdam - *Zegt de ene grijze cel tegen de andere...*

Prof. Dr. Maarten Frens, Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam - *Kleine hersenen, grote daden*

Blok 2: 11:30 - 12:30

Dr. Sarah Durston, kinderpsychiatrie UMC Utrecht - *Hyperactieve hersenen*

Prof. Dr. Eus van Someren - Universiteit Amsterdam - *Slapen hersenen wel?*

Blok 3: 13:00 - 14:00

Dr. Ignace Hooge, Psychologie Universiteit Utrecht - *Ik zie wat jij niet ziet*

Dr. Jiska Peper, Universiteit Leiden - *Hersenen in vuur en vlam*

Blok 4: 14:15 - 15:15

Dr. Elly Hol, Universiteit Amsterdam - *Hersencellen in een potje*

Prof. Dr. Marian Joels, Universiteit Utrecht - *Hoge drukpan*

Chairman: Prof. dr. Jan van Ree

17. Memory Film Festival / United Kingdom, Cambridge

Dates and Duration: March 15, 21, 26, 28, and April 4

Contact

Amy Milton

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Downing Site

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Each screening opened with an introduction by a scientific speaker, who talked on the neuroscience and psychology issues raised by each film. The film was then shown, before the audience was invited to join the speaker and the organizer for an informal Q+A session over complementary refreshments. The festival opened at an independent cinema in Cambridge, UK, and continued in a college theatre for subsequent weeks.

The film festival was attended by 255 people over the course of the five films, and feedback on the events was extremely positive. All of the attendees questioned said that they enjoyed the events and would like to learn more about neuroscience, and importantly many of the attendees questioned (42%) had not participated in scientific outreach events before. 85% of those giving feedback thought that a similar set of events should run again in 2012, with many suggesting topics and films (e.g. neuropathologies, mental illness).

I am grateful to FENS and DANA for their support.



18. High school students explore the brain / Norway, Oslo

Dates and Duration: March 16, 2011

Contact

Lasse Ormel and Cecilie Morland
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To learn about the macro anatomy of the brain, each student dissected a pig brain. The frontal cortex, hippocampus, striatum, brain stem and cerebellum were dissected and their functions discussed. We used fixed human brain tissue to illustrate the localization and function of some brain regions, focusing on their role in brain diseases, like Parkinson's. We also focused on differences and similarities between human and animal brains, and why scientists use animal models in neuroscience. Groups of 4 students dissected one piglet. We showed where the nerves exit from the spinal cord, enter the organs, thereby demonstrating how the brain controls body function. The students also looked at internal organs and discussed their functions. Each student prepared microscopical sections of a rat brain using a standard tissue staining technique, before examining the section in the light microscope under supervision.



19. BAW in Izmir / Turkey, Izmir

Dates and Duration:

Contact:

Gonul Peker

20. Neuroscience at the European Parliament in Brussels / Belgium, Brussels

Dates and duration: March 15, 2011

Contact:

Roland Pochet
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Neuroanatomy and Neuropathology
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Belgium

The day was divided in 5 parts as described below.

- 1) 9:30 to 11:00: the 90 students, aged 14-16, from 4 different schools and from 4 Belgian cities (Leuven, Brussels, Charleroi, Gosselies) visited the European Parliament conducted by the head of the Protocole
- 2) 10:30 to 11:00: a press conference was headed by Paul Rübig, MEP and STOA chair
- 3) 11:00 to 12:30: keynote conference: 'Education – a lifelong challenge for the brain' by Professor Colin Blakemore, EDAB vice-chair (see poster). Attendance 150 people (students, MEPs, stakeholders). The conference was video recorded and translated in 3 languages (see <http://www.belgianbraincouncil.be/en/announces/news.html>)
- 4) 13:00 to 14:30: Lunch at the Parliamentary restaurant in honour of the speakers and with MEPS (sponsored by BBC)
- 5) 15:00 to 17:00: Debate "Ethical dilemmas in brain research: From stem cells to animals and human beings" with a panel of experts



21. BAW in Salzburg / Austria, Salzburg

Dates and Duration: March 14-19, 2011

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15 classes (app. 350 pupils and their teachers) took part in 7 different workshops on the following topics:

- Registration of electrical processes in the nervous system - effects of blockers and toxins
- Anatomy of the vertebrate brain
- Production of cultured nerve cells
- "Fraud in the brain" or "How to hide the blind spot"
- "Brain splits": cerebral multitasking
- Pain in everyday life
- Perception, feelings, emotions: How does my brain work?

The workshops were carried out in cooperation with neuroscientist of the University of Salzburg and Paracelsus Private Medical University Salzburg.

Further, as a part of this series on March 18, 2011 a press reception for the Brain Awareness Week with the participation of Governor Gabi Burgstaller and scientists from Salzburg was organized. Also, the „Brain Day“ and the workshop "Do you have nerves?" concerned with selected experiments on perception and optical illusion targeted at children from 6 to 12 years took place. In the afternoon, Prof. Thomas Weiger presented the brain show in front of about 80 interested visitors and the limits of multitasking.



Finding the blind spot



"Does this hurt?" –
Pain in everyday life



Explaining the parts of the brain

22. The 2011 Brain Awareness Week in Krakow / Poland, Krakow

Dates and Duration: March 14-20, 2011

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We organized a press conference on March 10, 2011 at the Institute of Zoology, Jagiellonian University. The conference was attended by 4 radio broadcast stations, the Polish Press Agency, and other media. There were also 7 public lectures organized in form of Power Point presentations and followed by discussions at the Auditorium Maximum of the Jagiellonian University everyday from March 14 - 20, 2011. Each lecture was attended by 300-600 people. The lectures were on brain development, cognitive development, deep brain stimulation, protection of the brain against pathogens, control of behavior, decision making, empathy and aggression. The lectures were given in Polish and some of them were also published in the popular science journal "Wszechświat". This journal and materials which we have received from DANA were distributed before and after each lecture. We have also organized a competition in basic neuroscience for high school students.



23. Theatre play: "Incense and tar" / France, Gif-sur-Yvette

Dates and Duration: March 14-20, 2011

Contact:

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My laboratory is working on the neurophysiology of smell. Although odours are transient, evanescent messages, they can nevertheless induce behaviours such as eating, mutual interaction and sexual attraction. Thus, we aimed at making the public aware of this research field through a theatre play involving the diffusion of odours connected with the action. As this is rather unusual,



we wanted to evaluate its reception of the spectators by asking their opinion to a panel of a dozen spectators recruited at the end of the show. Afterwards, the results will be used to elaborate a standard questionnaire which will be used for the evaluation of other "olfactory theatre" plays. This evaluation work is part of a research project financed by the French Agence Nationale de la Recherche on the topic of "creation in arts" [project name "Kodo" (from the Japanese ceremony of "incense listening")]. A theatre company, led by Violaine de Carne, has created a play named "Incense and tar" (see http://base.scenesdemeninges.fr/produit.php?ref=140-1&id_rubrique=120&PHPSESSID=7f6d484fdb473e2f957d898416acfbe0) in which a young woman is expecting, in a hospital, her

husband's recovery from a brain damage. This allows her to recall remembrances from the past (among them, smelly ones), as well as to depict what happens in the brain upon damage and recovery, and how odours can help. Yet this is a genuine theatre play, with emotions, laughter and tears, which has met success in previous performances, including the "off" festival in Avignon 2010. Two presentations were performed one in the afternoon, with approximately 150 spectators: three classes (8th and 10th) from neighbouring schools and individual public. A second presentation was shown in the evening, with about 90 persons attending. Besides an excellent reception by the audience and animated debates (about 1 hour in the afternoon and 1h 30 at night), the main outcomes were an article in a local newspaper, an interview in the French international radio (Radio France International) on Wednesday, 16th march (<http://www.rfi.fr/emission/20110316-1-le-cerveau-il-nez> and we have further recruited twelve spectators to be interviewed for their opinion about "olfactory theatre".

We are grateful to the DANA Foundation, together with IFR NeuroSud-Paris, INRA, CNRS, Année de la Chimie, Société des Neurosciences, for its help in organizing this event.

24. Semaine du Cerveaux 2011 / Belgium, Liege

Dates and Duration:

Contact:

Prof Dr Jean Schoenen

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On March 17th evening the **“Brain Café”** (18h30-21h) was attended by 300 persons. There were 3 introductory presentations focused on normal and abnormal consciousness, one on the anatomical structures implied in consciousness, one on the physiological circuitry and one on pathological states of consciousness and their diagnosis. Thereafter the attendants split into small discussion groups of 10-12 people who were offered a drink and questioned several neurologists and neuroscientists about some specific topics like stem cell therapy, coma, addiction, multiple sclerosis, parkinson's disease or headaches. The “café du cerveau” was held in the main aula and building of Liège University.

On March 18th afternoon the **“Guided visit of the Brain”** was attended by 250 3rd and 4th year high school students accompanied by their biology teachers. A fixed human brain was dissected live with video projection on a large screen. This was followed by presentations on the brain's physiology, the action of addictive drugs on the brain, and on the medical and ethical aspects of the use of stem cells in neurological disorders. There was a vivid exchange between the students and the presenters. This activity was held in an auditorium of the University of Liège and animated by neurologists and psychiatrists of Liège University.

On March 19th (9h00-14h00) there was an **“open door” event at the GIGA-Neurosciences centre** of Liège University. 150 participants registered for this. They were welcomed with coffee and croissants, had a brief introduction on the general anatomo-functional organization of the brain where after they rotated in small groups between “hands-on” seminars on the following topics: how to see the brain and neurons? (macroscopic and microscopic anatomy); how to see it in 3 dimensions? (confocal microscopy); how to see and hear neurons function? (cellular electrophysiology); how to study the brain's proteins? (proteomics); how do hormones influence behavior? (demonstration of hormone-related behavior in quail); what are stem cells and what can they do for the brain?. The seminars were animated by researchers of the GIGA-Neurosciences centre.

25. Workshop: Learn about Life / United Kingdom, Cardiff

Dates and Duration: March 16, 2011 and March 19-20, 2011

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The project was run for pupils from Roath Park Primary School in the School of Biosciences on 16th March and at the science discovery centre Techniquet on 19th/20th March. Techniquet was visited by >1000 people that weekend.

The children started off with colouring neurons and different parts of the brain on diagrams. They then carried out a range of activities.

- a) Children had to match photos of brains with photos of animals.
- b) Model brains were used to explain brain structure and function.
- c) Children used pipe cleaners and scoobies to build neurons and to learn about how they transmit messages.
- d) Children did 'brain surgery' on a grape set in jelly; they had to try to remove the 'tumour' without damaging the 'brain'.
- e) Thinking caps: children wrote various brain functions on each other's swimming caps.
- f) Optical illusions: children learned how easily the brain can be tricked.
- g) Stroop test: a timed competition used to explain how the brain processes conflicting information.



26. BAW 2011: Train your Brain / Slovenia, Ljubljana

Dates and Duration: March 14-19, 2011

Contact:

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BAW 2011 comprised several activities across Slovenia. Most of them took place in Ljubljana, but there were lectures and workshops in 3 other towns as well. In Ljubljana, Monday was dedicated to the press conference, video and lectures on this year's theme "Train your brain". The programme for children (and young at heart) entailed both educational and creative workshops on Tuesday and Saturday. Wednesday was our "Top 5" event where we presented neuroscientific research findings that had the greatest impact in the previous year. Thursday was dedicated to brain training and rehabilitation in clinical practice. On Friday we organized a round table with 3 experts from different backgrounds discussing brain doping. Each day was also accompanied by movie projections and talks explaining the movie from a neuroscientific point of view (8 altogether).



Accompanying events:

Brains without borders, Ljubljana, 14. 3. – lectures of Croatian neuroscientists

Little school of neuroscience, Ljubljana, 14. 3. – 18. 3. – lectures on basic neuroscience topics

Zarja Institute conference, Ljubljana, 18. 3. – conference



27. PLEASURE - ADDICTION - BRAIN FUNCTION / Hungary, Hevesvezekény

Dates and Duration: March 18, 2011

Contact:

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The program had 6 parts:

1) 16:00-18:00

Art gallery of paintings/aquarelles/drawings made by pupils of 5 local elementary schools. Topic: "Secrets of our brain". A professional jury evaluated and ranked the artistically best pieces. Reportage by the local radio station named Galaxis.

2) 18:00-18:15

Greeting of the audience and a brief presentation what BAW/DANA means. Handing over prizes to winners of the art competition.

3) 18:15-18:45

Introductory talk outlining the major anatomical routes of pleasure centres of the brain compared with centres of addiction.

Title of talk: The neuronal pathway of pleasure and addiction

4) 18:45-19:45

Keynote presentation discussing drugs of abuse, historical overview, social aspects and possible therapy solution.

Title of talk: Conscious or unconscious modification of mind

5) 19:45-20:30

Practical demo by first aid workers: demonstration on what to do in case of overdose of alcohol and party drugs.

6) 20:30-22:00

Rock concert by the band.