



**ALBA NETWORK**  
Towards diversity and  
equity in brain sciences



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**ALBA-ELSEVIER AWARD LECTURE ON BRAIN SCIENCES 2022**

**FENS Forum 2022**

María Elena Avale, Assistant Professor at the University of Buenos Aires and group leader at the Institute for Research in Genetic Engineering and Molecular Biology (INGEBI) – National Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina (CONICET) has been honoured with the ALBA-Elsevier Award Lecture on Brain Sciences 2022 in recognition of her major discoveries in neuroscience, particularly investigating the functional consequences and therapeutic perspectives of post-transcriptional regulation of the microtubule associated protein tau in tauopathies. Launched in 2021, this ALBA Award highlights the research work of a scientist working in countries historically underrepresented in neuroscience publications and conferences and is sponsored by Elsevier. The winner will give a 20-minute lecture at the FENS Forum 2022 in Paris on Wednesday, 13 July 2022 at 11:30-12:15.

Prof. Elisabeth Binder (Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry, Germany), member of the ALBA Board of Directors and Chair of the ALBA Awards Selection Committee said, “The idea behind this award is not to just recognise scientific excellence, but to recognize outstanding science from a regional diversity angle. The award wants to ensure that neuroscientists from underrepresented groups have a seat at the proverbial table so that their exciting contributions are seen by as many as possible. As a young researcher with great potential, Dr. María Elena Avale would benefit enormously from this award.” “As a global leader in research information & analytics and scientific publishing, Elsevier strives to make an impact in key areas to enhance diversity and inclusion in research across gender, race & ethnicity, and geographical dimensions and ensure that research is conducted and reported in the most equitable and inclusive manner possible.”, added Donna de Weerd-Wilson, Executive Publisher, Neuroscience at Elsevier.

With the impactful research into the role of tau protein on motor and cognitive function, Dr. Avale has led her team to make significant discoveries that have contributed to understanding the molecular bases of neurodegeneration and developing novel therapeutic strategies. "It was a great challenge to set up my own laboratory in the midst of the economic crisis in my country, but thanks to the valuable help of highly motivated students who joined my group, we built an extraordinary research team, now consolidated as the Laboratory of Experimental Therapeutics for Neurodegenerative Processes at INGENI-CONICET. This award is an excellent opportunity to visibilize that. Despite the unfavourable circumstances for research in Argentina, we can also



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make relevant contributions to neuroscience from here. Regardless of where a scientist works, passion is priceless.", reaffirmed Dr. Avale.

The ALBA-Elsevier Award Lecture on Brain Sciences, awarded for the first time in 2021, will be celebrated every alternate year at the FENS Forums of Neuroscience.

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The [ALBA Network](#) aims to promote equity and diversity in the brain sciences. The goal of ALBA is to establish a global network in order to share best practices and provide better visibility, networking and mentoring opportunities to scientists from underrepresented groups in brain research.

As a global leader in publishing, information and analytics, [Elsevier](#) helps researchers and healthcare professionals advance science and improve health outcomes for the benefit of society. Digital solutions such as ScienceDirect and Scopus support strategic research management, R&D performance, clinical decision support, and health education. Researchers and healthcare professionals rely on our 2,500+ digitized journals, including *The Lancet* and *Cell*.

The [Federation of European Neuroscience Societies](#) is the main organisation for neuroscience in Europe. FENS mission is to advance research and education in neuroscience within and outside Europe, to facilitate interaction and coordination between its members. It currently represents 44 European national and single discipline neuroscience societies, with 22,000 member scientists from 33 European countries.

The [FENS Forum of Neuroscience](#) is the largest international neuroscience meeting in Europe, covering all fields from basic to translational neuroscience. In 2022, the FENS Forum will be organized in collaboration with the French Society of Neuroscience and will take place on 9-13 July 2022 in Paris, France.