The Society for Neuroscience in France is an active member of the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS), the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) and the European Brain Council (EBC)
What is the Society for Neuroscience in France?

A non-profit association of French and foreign neuroscientists from both public and private institutions, working in all fields of Neuroscience from basic to applied and clinical research. Founded in 1988, the Society now gathers more than 2500 members.

What is the Society’s mission?

- promote all aspects of neuroscience research at a national and international level.
- foster interactions between scientists of different scientific background and geographic origin.
- promote education and training of young scientists in all fields of neuroscience.
- inform and educate the public and policy makers about the brain and the nervous system and major advances in the field, and about their societal implications and outcome.

What does the Society publish?

- an electronic membership directory updated each year,
- a newsletter, La Lettre des Neurosciences, released twice a year, containing both information on the life of the Society and more general articles on hot scientific topics, history of neuroscience, professional issues...
- a website, featuring administrative and scientific news, as well as information on meetings, job opportunities, recently published PhD theses in neuroscience, and online access to the European Journal of Neuroscience (EJN).

What does the Society organise?

- a biennial meeting, the Colloque de la Société des Neurosciences, which includes plenary lectures, symposia on specific themes, and multiple poster sessions. Each meeting attracts around 1200 participants, including many scientists early in their career.
- the Alfred Fessard Colloquium. This event is a tribute to Alfred Fessard, a famous neurophysiologist who introduced France to modern neuroscience. This one-day meeting includes the Alfred Fessard lecture, given by outstanding scientists.
- theme-oriented meetings (Colloques thématiques) focused on hot topics in neuroscience.
• the Brain Awareness Week (*Semaine du Cerveau*), in collaboration with the Dana Alliance and the *Fédération pour la Recherche sur le Cerveau* (FRC). This yearly event presents to a wide audience major challenges and recent advances in our understanding of the brain and neuropsychiatric diseases.

**WHAT ARE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SOCIETY AT AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL?**

The Society significantly contributes to international partnership by being member of international societies such as the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) and the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO), and by taking joint initiatives with other neuroscience societies, both in Europe, North Africa and South America.

**HOW DOES THE SOCIETY SUPPORT ITS MEMBERS?**

Being member of the Society allows you to

• register at reduced fee at the FENS Forums
• apply for a travel grant to participate to the FENS Forums (student members),
• apply for a PhD thesis award or travel award (student members),
• receive support for your scientific club,
• have free access to the European Journal of Neuroscience (EJN).

**SCIENTIFIC DOMAINS**

Members are listed under 7 main scientific domains:

1. Development, synaptic plasticity
2. Signalisation, cellular communications
3. Neurological and psychiatric diseases, experimental therapeutics
4. Integrative neurosciences, sensory physiology
5. Neuroendocrinology, neuroimmunology
6. Behaviour, emotions, cognition, neuroethology
7. Theoretical and computational neurosciences

These groups not only represent the main research fields in neuroscience research in France, but they are also meant to foster interactions between researchers.
GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing council of the Society for Neuroscience in France consists of an Executive Committee and of representatives of the 7 defined scientific domains, and they are all elected.

In addition, coordinators are also appointed for specific aspects: biotechs/industries, young researchers, journal of the Society (La Lettre des Neurosciences), relationships with foreign French-speaking scientists and the Brain Awareness Week event.

The members of the Governing Council work in close partnership with other associations, in particular with the Fédération pour la Recherche sur le Cerveau (FRC), representing the associations of patients and the Société Française de Neurologie (French Neurological Society), and with the ITMO neurological Society (coordinating institutions involved in neuroscience in France).

SCIENTIFIC CLUBS

The following scientific clubs are affiliated to the Society:

Club Aromagri: Patrice Congar
patrice.congar@jouy.inra.fr
http://www2.dijon.inra.fr/aromagri

Club attention et performances: Farid El Massioui
farid.el-massioui@univ-paris8.fr

Club des cellules gliales: Anne Baron-Van Evercooren
anne.baron@upmc.fr
http://clubcellulesgliales.free.fr

Club du cortex préfrontal: Pascale Gisquet-Verrier
pascale.gisquet@u-psud.fr

Club développement des réseaux neuronaux:
Valérie Castellani
valerie.castellani@univ-lyon1.fr
http://club.neurosciences.asso.fr/DRN/
Club épilepsieS: Benoît Martin
benoit.martin@univ-rennes1.fr

Club exocytose - endocytose: Florence Niedergang
florence.niedergang@inserm.fr

Club Français de Neuro-Immunologie: Sylvain Fisson
sylvain.fisson@crc.jussieu.fr

Club des ganglions de la base: Marc Savasta
marc.savasta@ujf-grenoble.fr
http://www.cgb.u-bordeaux2.fr/

Club Histoire des Neurosciences: Jean-Gaël Barbara
jean-gael.barbara@snv.jussieu.fr
http://www.bium.univ-paris5.fr/chn/

Club locomotion et motricité rythmique:
Laurence Mouchnino
laurence.mouchnino@univmed.fr

Club du motoneurone: Jean-Marie Cabelguen
Jean-Marie.Cabelguen@inserm.fr

Club de neurobiologie des invertébrés: Serge Birman
serge.birman@espci.fr

Club de Neuroprotection: Michel Dib
dib.michel@wanadoo.fr
www.club-neuroprotection.org

Club de psychophysiologie et neurosciences cognitives:
Nicole Bruneau
nicole.bruneau@univ-tours.fr

Club somato-sensoriel: Daniel Shulz
shulz@unic.cnrs-gif.fr

Club Stress: Francis Chaouloff
francis.chaouloff@inserm.fr

Club système nerveux végétatif: Jean-Denis Troade
j-d.troadec@univ-cezanne.fr
Scientific Activities

- Biennial meeting

The Society for Neuroscience in France organises every two years a scientific meeting, the Colloque de la Société des Neurosciences. The meeting gathers around 1200 neuroscientists from all fields and numerous countries. Official languages are English and French.

The most recent results about fundamental brain mechanisms and new therapies for neuropsychiatric diseases are presented and discussed at the meeting.

In 2011, the Colloque de la Société will take place in Marseille, South of France, with the partnership of the Swiss Society for Neuroscience.

- Alfred Fessard Conference

This conference is given by a leading French scientist in recognition of prominent scientific achievement. The conference is a tribute to Alfred Fessard (1900-1982), the father of modern neuroscience in France.

Past conferences:

2011 Joël Bockaert - Synaptic metabotropic receptors: delicate tools for communication and adaptation.

2010 Bernard Bioulac - Planification de l’action.

2009 Christine Petit - Linking deafness genes to auditory physiology.

2008 Yehezkel Ben-Ari - Gènes et environnement.
2007 Stanislas Dehaene - Putting neurons in culture: explorations of the neuronal architecture for reading.
2006 Philippe Ascher - Récepteurs, canaux et synapses.
2005 Michel Le Moal - Neuroadaptation et vulnérabilité.
2003 Marc Jeannerod - Neurosciences cognitives de l’action.
2002 Jean-Marie Besson - The pharmacology of pain: basic research is flourishing but clinical implications are still limited.
2001 Nicole Le Douarin - Morphogenèse de l’ébauche neurale des vertébrés amniotes et interactions cellulaires entre ses différentes composantes.
2000 Claude Kordon - De la neurosécrétion au comportement: les métamorphoses de la neuroendocrinologie.
1999 Robert Naquet - Épilepsies réflexes.
1991 Yves Laporte - Qu’est-ce que la proprioception musculaire?
INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Since 2007, the meetings of the Society are organised in collaboration with other European neuroscience societies (Spain 2007, Italy 2009, Switzerland 2011).

The Society organizes a special event (French wine and cheese) at the annual meeting of the American Society for Neuroscience, to present French Institutes and laboratories to young scientists working abroad, in order to attract them in France.

A large number of the Society’s members participate in the FENS Forums. In addition, the Society provides travel fellowships to help young scientists to attend international meetings.

The Society is a member of the European Brain Council. This partnership includes the French Neurological Society, the Biological Psychiatry and Neuropharmacology Research Association, and the Fédération pour la Recherche sur le Cerveau. The objective of this partnership is to advocate for neuroscience funding from the European Commission and Parliament.

Significant efforts have been made by the Society, in partnership with IBRO, to develop scientific exchanges with South America, Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. Thus, several travel awards are allocated every year to help foreign young scientists to visit French laboratories, to attend the biennial meeting of the Society as well as the IBRO meeting.

The Society also participates in the organization of a Franco-Argentinean symposium with the Societad Argentina de Investigacion en Neurosciences. It has also recently started a long-term partnership with the Brazilian Society for Neuroscience and Behavior in order to organize recurrent International Alfred Fessard conferences.
Each year in March, the Society, in collaboration with the Dana Alliance and the Fédération pour la Recherche sur le Cerveau (FRC), organise the Brain Awareness Week, a European campaign which aims at presenting to the general public the importance of brain research. Public forums, interactive exhibitions, school visits by senior scientists are organised in about twenty cities of France.

The Society has joined forces with the French Neurological Society and the FRC, which comprise the most important associations of patients suffering from major cerebral diseases. This collaborative initiative helps to promote research on neurological and psychiatric diseases that affect about one third of the French population.

Each year, the FRC and the Neurodon campaigns support a large number of research programmes in neuroscience.

www.semaineducerveau.fr
SUPPORT TO YOUNG SCIENTISTS

The Society provides support to young scientists. Travel awards and reduced fees help them to participate in the biennial meetings of the Society and in FENS (Federation of European Neuroscience Societies) Forums.

Each year, the Society awards the best PhD theses of the year. PhD awards are given alternatively during the biennial meeting (odd years) and the Alfred Fessard Colloquium (even years).

Since 1999, young members can also apply for a travel award to help them coming back to French laboratories after post-doctoral training abroad.

Also, the Society’s website has been improved by displaying information on various national and international activities in neuroscience.

This includes:

- information and contact about specific education and training programs,
- job offers from private and public laboratories,
- links toward websites of foundations and institutions which financially support neuroscience research,
- announcements of scientific events and meetings.