



International Society for Neuroethology

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The Prez Says

Catharine Rankin
President of the ISN



Hi Everyone!

Happy New Year! I hope 2018 is unrolling smoothly for you. This is an exciting year for ISN as we will be having **ICN 2018 in Brisbane July 15-20 (YEAH!)**. The Local Organizing Committee is doing a fantastic job getting the physical aspects of the meeting ready for us, and the Program Committee has set up an amazing series of talks and symposia. Please join us down under for a great meeting.

There are some very interesting satellite meetings scheduled before the Congress. If you are interested in zebrafish neuroethology, electric fish, biosonar or

herpetology, there are 1-2 day symposia just before the congress. In addition, the Australian Society for the Study of Animal Behavior Annual Meeting will run July 12-14 just prior to the ICN, and for travelers who want to see more of the region, there is a satellite meeting on Patterning Neural Activity in the Nervous System in New Zealand that will run from July 12-14. Check out the wonderful website for ICN to get the latest details (<http://www.icn2018.com/>). While you have your calendars out, you might want to look ahead to 2019, as the **Neuroethology Gordon Research Conference** has been scheduled for July 28-August 2, 2019, in West Dover, Vermont (USA).

The world has changed a lot over the past decade or so, and social media plays a bigger and bigger role in all aspects of our lives. What decisions have you made about social media and your career? Do you have a Facebook page? Do you have a Twitter or Instagram account? Are you on Linked in or ResearchGate? Do you respond when someone asks you to join one of these networks, or do you just ignore it? Do you check your media accounts monthly, weekly, daily, maybe even several times a day? Do you keep your personal postings separate from your science-related postings? So many decisions that need to be made in this modern world. I personally have chosen not to join Linked In, ResearchGate and those groups, as I already get hundreds of e-mails every day, and I do not see an advantage for me to receive any more! I have a personal Facebook page that I do not put scientific stuff on (I post very little personal stuff there, either). I do regularly check the ISN Facebook page, and I enjoy reading the things posted there: lots of good resources, including papers, videos, and conference info. The ISN page now has 986 members and is going for 1000 before ICN Brisbane, so check it out and join us! (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/neuroethology/>).

I do have a Twitter account (@WormsLearn) that I mostly use to post stuff about papers we publish, wins my students have achieved or cool conferences or talks I attend. I have also have found that Twitter has been a great way to keep up with the literature in my field (thank you @fruitWormPapers), to stay up to date with what is happening with grant competitions, and to band together with scientists across Canada to be united in a message to our government about the importance of basic science (stay tuned to see if we were effective when the 2018 Canadian budget is announced soon). Overall, I have some good feelings about Twitter as a way to bring about positive social change. However, I also have some bad feelings about Twitter, as it can be filled with complaints, darkness and negativity.

Sometimes I have to take a Twitter/Facebook break while I get myself grounded again. I think the decisions about how to present oneself on social media are important ones for everyone, and especially for scientists as we consider the fluid boundaries between personal and professional. A colleague and I were discussing this, and we both agreed to institute a 10-minute rule before dashing off an emotional tweet. Once send is pushed, it is out there forever!! Use of social media might be an interesting topic for an ICN workshop for trainees and for faculty to discuss pros and cons of “letting it all hang out” on social media. At the very least, questions about social media should fuel many interesting discussions among conference attendees.

I can't wait to see you in Australia in July. Until then, do great science, support other neuroethologists' papers and grants and focus on all the great science that is happening these days!

Catharine Rankin
President, ISN



**EXPANDED HEILIGENBERG STUDENT
TRAVEL AWARD OPPORTUNITIES FOR
ICN 2018**

Additional Heiligenberg Student Travel Awards will be available in 2018 to support participation in the Brisbane Congress.

ISN student members wishing to attend the 2018 Brisbane Congress now have a better chance than ever of receiving Heiligenberg Student Travel Award (HSTA) funding from the ISN: this year the ISN plans to award 15 HSTAs. These awards honor the memory of the distinguished neuroethologist, Walter Heiligenberg. The awards are intended to cover expenses such as travel to and from the congress site, the congress registration fee, and/or housing costs up to a total of US\$750. Funds are provided in the form of reimbursements for expenses verified with receipts.

Both the student and the student's mentor must be ISN members by the deadline of application (to be decided by the selection committee). Applicants must be registered graduate students at a university and must plan on presenting their work at the conference. Priorities will be given to applicants who have demonstrated academic excellence and research potential as evidenced by the abstract of the work to be presented and the recommendation letters. Applicants with demonstrated financial need also will be considered for these awards.

Preference will be given to applicants who have not previously received this award.

The next deadline for applications is April 30, 2018. Results will be announced in time to use the funds for the 2018 Congress in Brisbane, which will be the focus of the 2018 awards, but applicants should take care to observe the regular registration and abstract submission deadlines. To apply, fill out the application form below and have letters of recommendation from two ISN members submitted to tleatherman@allenpress.com.



BRISBANE CONGRESS TRAVEL AWARDS FOR YOUNG INVESTIGATORS

Are you worried that you won't be able to afford to travel to Australia this summer? The ICN2018 Local Organizing and Program Committees are working hard to support the attendance of young investigators at this exciting congress.

All young investigators (graduate students and postdocs less than three years post-degree) are automatically eligible for travel awards the moment they register for the congress, submit their abstracts, and indicate in the tick-box provided that they would like to be considered. Just be honest about your academic age, as these awards are for current grad students and those 3 years beyond. Up to 50 awards of Au\$1000 will be made based on the quality, interest, and relevance to neuroethology of the abstract submitted. That's it—no other application is required! Awards will be announced in April and distributed at or immediately after the Brisbane Congress. Congress Travel Awards may be combined with other awards, such as the Heiligenberg Student Travel Awards and the Developing Neuroethology Awards. Note that the first abstract deadline is approaching quickly (February 15). Contact Justin Marshall (justin.marshall@uq.edu.au) if you need more details. Or, simply tick the box!



LOOKING AHEAD – DO YOU WANT TO SERVE THE ISN BY TAKING ON A LEADERSHIP ROLE?

The terms of ISN officers extend from Congress to Congress. As we prepare to welcome President-Elect Eric Warrant as the new leader of the ISN, it's also time to prepare for new officers in other key roles.

What does the Secretary of the ISN do? And what are the responsibilities of the ISN Treasurer? The current ISN Secretary (Susan Fahrback) and Treasurer (Karen Mesce) have served in these roles since 2012 and 2010, respectively. Both have enjoyed their service, but the time is approaching for both when other duties call. We thought that a brief description of our duties might inspire others to serve.

ISN Secretary: This is an elected position. The ISN Secretary, along with the President, President-Elect, Past-President, and Treasurer, is a member of the Executive Committee that guides the day-to-day operations of the ISN. The Secretary has several specific duties: to take minutes at Executive Committee and Council meetings; to compile and publish the ISN Newsletter; to answer correspondence from members; to prepare certificates of membership; to maintain the archival records of the ISN; and to communicate the needs of the ISN to our management company, Allen Press. Special projects, such as updating the ISN website, are also undertaken by the ISN Secretary. A simple summary of the Secretary's role in the ISN is "to assist the President and the membership in any way possible, except for financial matters." Any regular member of the ISN is eligible to stand in the ISN election for the position of Secretary.

ISN Treasurer: This is an appointed position. To conform with the laws that govern the ISN as a legal entity incorporated in the U.S. State of California, the Treasurer must be a U.S. citizen with basic accounting skills and the ability to manage the ISN investment portfolio. The Treasurer is responsible for keeping the financial records of the ISN, filing U.S. tax forms, and ensuring that the bills are paid. The annual financial report prepared by the Treasurer guides the activities of the ISN. Like the Secretary, the Treasurer works closely with Allen Press to maintain the day-to-day operations of the ISN. Because of the special responsibilities associated with this position, the current Treasurer is willing to work with the next Treasurer to make the transition as smooth as possible.

What is the incentive to serve the ISN in these positions? For Susan, it was the opportunity to meet so many neuroethologists from so many different areas of our

discipline, the chance to use her editorial skills to serve others, and the opportunity to have a close-up view of the extraordinary Presidents of the ISN. For Karen, it was the opportunity to ensure the future of the ISN by using her financial acumen to place the Society on a sound financial footing paired with the satisfaction of supporting scientists at all stages of their careers, from the youngest young investigator to our honored ISN Fellows. If you see yourself in either of these positions, please feel free to contact us (fahrbach@wfu.edu, mesce001@umn.edu) for more information.

The Treasurer is appointed by the Executive Committee, and, if mutually agreeable, serves a term of indefinite duration. The Secretary is elected for a two-year term and may stand for re-election without term limits.



“ASK GABBY” IS BACK!

Your favorite neuroethology advice columnist Gabriella Wolff (gwolffneuro@gmail.com) once again tackles your toughest professional questions.

Dear Gabby,

I want to learn new methods that I can use in my research, but my institution doesn't offer any postgraduate neuroethology courses. Where can I get more experience or learn new techniques?

Signed,

“Seeking Instruction”

Dear Scholarly Neuroethologist,

What are you doing this summer?

In the late summer of my third year in grad school, I attended the **Summer School in Evolutionary Developmental Biology** at the Konrad Lorenz Institute in Venice, Italy (<http://www.istitutoveneto.org/EDB2017>). The locale was picturesque, and, of course, I still dream about the hand-rolled pasta. Over the course of this workshop, I learned more about current evo-devo research and tools for building phylogenies than I could possibly have gathered on my own or from my graduate program in neuroscience.

Summer courses and workshops are great for picking up new techniques and learning about current research in your field. These immersive courses can range from a few

weeks to a couple months and are offered around the world. Depending on what you are looking for, you can attend a course that is seminar-based or hands-on and research-intensive. For example, you can get training in electrophysiology or cutting-edge microscopy techniques from some of the top neuroethologists whose names you previously only knew from the literature.

Almost certainly more important than the techniques you will learn at a summer course are the relationships you form with both current leaders in the field and your future colleagues. Often participants are grouped into research teams and work towards completing short-term projects. This can be an amazing bonding experience and will teach you to work with different people. Long after the course is over, the people you met and worked with that summer will be part of your network and you'll surely see them at ISN congresses and neuroethology GRCs in the future.

For neuroethologists, one of the most well-known summer courses is **Neural Systems & Behavior** (NS&B) offered by the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole, Massachusetts (<http://www.mbl.edu/nsb/>). Curious about this program, I decided to interview a recent participant, Tanvi Deora. Tanvi is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Washington.



Tanvi Deora

Gabby: Tanvi, what was your general motivation for taking the course?

Tanvi: NS&B is a unique course that allows students to get hands-on experience on a whole range of electrophysiology techniques using a variety of animal model systems - from leeches, crustaceans, fish, hydra, flies, to mouse and rat (and I am sure I missed a few in there). Moreover, within the span of two months, we meet faculty and students working in a variety of areas related to neurobiology. This combination of the hands-on science with the opportunity for networking was my primary motivation.

Gabby: Can you give a brief description of what you did at Woods Hole?

Tanvi: Oh, we did a whole bunch of things! The entire course is divided into 4 separate two-week modules... We started with intra- and extracellular recordings in leech, and I went on to do *in vivo* recording from electric fish brain and electric organ, imaged simultaneous *in vivo* hydra behavior and neural activity, and patched cells in the rat somatosensory cortex. Although each one of us had focused projects for each module (which was a blast!), the exciting part was the discussions with all the visiting faculty and TAs. During the entire course, we discussed various aspects of neuroscience—we started from the very basic electrical model of a neuron all the way to complex behavior and everything in between. A few of the topics that have stuck with me are neural oscillations, the neural basis of sensory habituation, the role of noise and coherence in information encoding, somatosensory cortex and its putative role in idea of self. I could go on...

Gabby: What was your favorite experience or specific thing that you learned?

Tanvi: You mean apart from swimming in the ocean water and cycling along the coast!? I don't think I can pick just one. I enjoyed all of it. I loved the lectures, the hands-on experiments, discussions all through the day (and night), interaction with the guest speakers (from areas not directly covered in the course), getting to know and forming lifelong friends and colleagues, coming up with pranks against our course directors—André and Hans... everything! All of it combined is a unique experience.

Postgraduate students from around the world also attend the two-week summer course on Sensory Ecology offered every other year (including 2018) by Lund University in Sweden. (<https://www.biology.lu.se/education/phd-studies/phd-courses/sensory-ecology>). Chloé Lahondère and Clément Vinauger, newly-minted faculty at Virginia Tech, gave the Lund course rave reviews.

Chloé: It was a fantastic opportunity to attend lectures given by leaders in various fields of Sensory Ecology (e.g. vision, thermo, acoustic), get a chance to share data from our Ph.D.s (we presented posters there), build our network, and get to know people working in different but fascinating fields. We are still in contact with many of the participants and hope to meet again one day! We also got the chance to tour different labs (including the biggest wind-tunnel we have ever seen so far (i.e. birds and bats are flying in there! And people can walk inside to clean it!) and meet local researchers as well as spend some time in a field station near Lund. The two-week schedule is packed, but every night, the participants meet (everybody was hosted in the same building)! We learned a lot there and made fantastic connections with people. And Lund is a very pretty town!



Chloé Lahondère and Clément Vinauger in Lund

Clément: It really is a great opportunity for graduate students and I am definitely planning on sending my own students there. As Chloé says, we are still in contact with almost all the people we met there. It's a great experience.

Early career neuroethologists should also check out:

Neuroethology - Friday Harbor Laboratories, WA: <https://fhl.uw.edu/courses/course-descriptions/course/neuroethology/> This course is not offered every year, but other relevant courses may also be offered so check out the full catalog.

Drosophila Neurobiology: Genes, Circuits & Behavior, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, NY: <http://meetings.cshl.edu/courses.aspx?course=C-DROS&year=18>

CAJAL Neuroscience Training Courses – Champalimad, Portugal and Bordeaux, France: <http://www.fens.org/Training/CAJAL-programme/CAJAL-courses-2018/>

Graduate students and postdocs can also participate in Gordon Research Seminars preceding Gordon Research Conferences on Neuroethology: Behavior, Evolution and Neurobiology. These seminars give early career researchers a spotlight to present their research to a supportive audience of their peers as well as receive research and career development advice from senior faculty. More information for the 2019 seminar can be found at: <https://www.grc.org/neuroethology-behavior-evolution-and-neurobiology-grs-conference/2019/>

Registration deadlines for courses usually come up in early to late spring. Start planning your scholarly summer now!

*Sincerely,
"Gabby"*

(Gabiella Wolff, ISN Early Career Representative)