

PENS, the collaboration between IBRO and FENS

Stipends available!

For further information
please visit the PENS Website
www.fens.org/pens

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PENS – PARTIALLY SUPPORTED SCHOOL

Training in Sleep Research and Sleep Medicine with special topics on "Sleep and Memory"

Bertinoro, Italy
May 8–13, 2009

Organisers:
European Sleep Research Society (ESRS), R. Amici, T. Porkka-Heiskanen

The goal of the program is to provide young trainees from different European countries with both a theoretical and practical education in general aspects of sleep research/medicine and with the opportunity to gain experience from reciprocal interaction with top-level senior researchers.

Topics include:
What is Sleep?; Sleep regulation; The memory function of sleep; Physiological regulation in sleep; Sleep mechanisms: hypothalamus-basal forebrain; Sleep mechanisms: brain stem; Sleep genetics; Sleep and the immune system; The neurobiology of REM sleep behavior disorder; Functions of sleep and consequences of sleep loss; Sleep and breathing: a pathophysiological assessment; Motor disturbances in sleep: a genetic approach; Human circadian timing system; Slow wave oscillations and synaptic plasticity; Sleep and neurogenesis; Sleep and fMRI; Sleep and cognitive functions; Sleep spindles and memory; Imaging memory; Sleep in patients with memory deficits.

Complementary skills, including "Career development" and "How to communicate with media in an interview" will be also addressed. Furthermore, special sessions devoted to "working in groups" will be held.

Faculty includes:
P. Achermann, R. Andretic, R. Amici, C. Bassetti, J. Born, L. Ferini Strambi, G. Ficca, J. Horne, P. Magistretti, P. Meerlo, P. Peigneux, D. Pevernagie, T. Pollmächer, T. Porkka-Heiskanen, S. Sara, D.J. Skene, I. Tobler, J. Winkelmann

Contact:
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Application deadline:
February 22, 2009

PENS – BLACKWELL SUMMER SCHOOL 2009

Stress, Drug Addiction and Eating Disorders

Dubrovnik, Croatia
June 21–28, 2009

Scientific Organisers:
R. Maldonado, M.-A. Serra

Local Organisers:
I. Kostović, A. Sarja

Eating disorders and drug addiction are health problems that showed an alarming growth in Europe over the last ten years. It appears that they could share common psychobiological mechanisms. In particular, both are strongly influenced by stressful situations. The aims of the school are both to provide to PhD/postdoc students a state of the art of the psychobiological basis of reward-related disorders and to promote an active debate confronting opposing views. The ultimate goal is to get students to forge a solid and objective opinion to guide future efficient researches in the field. Lectures and active discussions with highly renowned scientists will allow reaching these goals.

Topics include:
Neurobiology of stress; Theoretical constructs of reward-related disorders; Animal models of eating disorders; Animal models of drug use/addiction; Neurobiology of eating behaviour/eating disorders; Neurobiology of drug use/drug addiction; Endocannabinoids and eating disorders; Endocannabinoids and drug addiction.

Faculty includes:
J. Antel, H.R. Berthoud, R. Ciccocioppo, D. Cota, H. Crombag, E.R. De Kloet, V. De Simir, V. Deroche-Gamonet, M. Dierssen, A. Heyne, R. Maldonado, P.V. Piazza, R. Przewlocki, T.E. Robinson, M. Schindler, R. Sinha, R. Spanagel, A. Swiergiel, F. Tronche

Contact:
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Application deadline:
March 15, 2009

PENS – PARTIALLY SUPPORTED SCHOOL

Metabolic Aspects of Chronic Brain Diseases

Günzburg, Germany
July 9–15, 2009

Organisers:
P. Weydt, A. Petersen, A.C. Rego, M. Bresjanac

The interface of neuroscience and metabolism is an exciting new frontier in brain disease research. The school is designed to attract PhD students and postdocs in neurosciences, medicine, metabolism and related fields that wish to explore the new opportunities. The program will include clinical and basic science-oriented workshops on chronic brain disorders and neuronal control of metabolism, mitochondrial function, neuroinflammation, protein aggregation, technical tools to study metabolism, therapeutic interventions, scientific communication and creativity. Students will have the opportunity to present posters on their own scientific work as well as develop a project under sham grant-writing contest conditions. The emphasis is on team-work and close interaction with the international faculty. Up to 30 students will be accepted based on PENS student selection guidelines. The tuition fee will cover costs for meals and accommodation. A limited number of tuition fee waivers are available for students who need financial help for attending the course. Co-sponsored by the International Graduate School in Molecular Medicine, Ulm.

Topics include:
Chronic brain diseases, including ALS; Huntington disease; Parkinson disease; Prion disease and schizophrenia; Brain imaging; Sleep disorders and regulation; Neuronal control of energy metabolism; Neuroinflammation; Autophagy; Endocannabinoid system; Mitochondria.

Faculty includes:
M. Bresjanac, L. Dolenc, L. Dupuis, C. Hoschl, D. Kirik, B. Landwehrmeyer, A. Ludolph, R. Luthi-Carter, M. Maccarrone, D. Nicholls, C. Nolte, T. Outeiro, R. Pacifici, E. Regulier, C. Ross, C. Sabin, L. Stefanis, S. Tabrizi, G. Yeo

Contact:
P. Weydt
patrick.weydt@uni-ulm.de

Application deadline:
May 1, 2009

PENS TRAINING CENTER 2009

Advanced Course in Computational Neuroscience (A PENS/Bernstein Training Center)

Freiburg, Germany
August 3–28, 2009

Organisers:
N. Brunel, P. Latham, Y. Prut, J. Rinzel

The Advanced Course in Computational Neuroscience is for advanced graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. The course has two complementary parts. Mornings are devoted to lectures given by distinguished international faculty on topics across the breadth of experimental and computational neuroscience. During the rest of the day, students are given practical training in the art and practice of neural modelling, by pursuing a project of their choosing under the close supervision of expert tutors.

The first week of the course introduces students to essential neurobiological concepts and to the most important techniques in modelling single cells, synapses and circuits. Students learn how to solve their research problems using software packages such as MATLAB, NEST, NEURON, XPP, etc. During the following three weeks the lectures cover networks and specific neural systems and functions. The course ends with project presentations by the students.

A maximum of 30 students will be accepted. The current fee for the course will be EUR 500; this will cover tuition, lodging, breakfast and dinner. There will be a limited number of course fee scholarships and travel stipends available.

Applications, including a description of the target project must be submitted electronically (see below). The selection will be based on the following criteria: the scientific quality of the candidate (CV) and of the project, the recommendation letters, and evidence that the course will afford substantial benefit to the candidate.

Topics include:
Topics range from modelling single cells and subcellular processes through the simulation of simple circuits, large neuronal networks and system level models of the brain.

Faculty includes:
A. Aertsen, J. Beck, Y. Dan, N. Daw, E. De Schutter, A. Destexhe, Z. Li, Y. Niv, J. Pillow, Y. Prut, M. Richardson, Y. Roudi, G. Svirkis, A. Thomson, M. Tresch, M. Van Rossum, C. van Vreeswijk, C. Wilson, F. Wolf

Contact:
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Application deadline:
April 2, 2009

PENS – PARTIALLY SUPPORTED SCHOOL

Neurodevelopmental Programming and Phenotypic Plasticity

Island of Rhodes, Greece
September 6–13, 2009

Organisers:
E.R. de Kloet (Chair/Director), D.L. Champagne, E. Kitraki, O.C. Meijer, R.H. de Rijk

The goal of the school is to train advanced PhD students and post-doctoral fellows in concepts of neurodevelopmental programming of the stress regulating systems during health and disease over the lifespan. The participants will be guided through the stress system from various levels of biological organisation ranging from genes, neurons and circuits to physiological regulation and behaviour. We aim to bridge research on development with research on ageing, and to integrate these two disciplines via a common link, the neuroendocrine stress system. To this end we use a translational approach from an evolutionary perspective to novel therapeutic strategies to treat stress- and age-related brain disorders.

Topics include:
Developmental models; Epigenetics; gene regulation; Gene variants; Nuclear receptors; Stress hormones; Growth factors; Brain; Neuroplasticity; Behaviour; PTSD; Depression; Aging; Lifespan.

Faculty includes:
F. Cirulli, D. DeQuervain, M. Joëls, K. Kovacs, S.L. Lightman, M. Meaney, M. Oitzl, T. Olsson, G. Richter-Levin, T. Steimer, K. Räikkönen, J. Seckl, E. Slagboom, M. Stewart, F. Stylianopoulou, R.G.J. Westendorp

Contact:
W. Rodger
w.rodger@lacr.leidenuniv.nl

Application deadline:
May 1, 2009

PENS TRAINING CENTER 2009

Synaptic Mechanisms and Synaptopathies

Bordeaux, France
September 13–31, 2009

Coordination:
C. Mulle, A. Hémar, M. Garret

Local organisers:
N. Abrous, T. Amédée, J. Baufreton, S. Bertrand, E. Boué-Grabot, F. Chauloff, P. Chavis, F. Coussen, A. Frick, F. Georges, L. Groc, C. Herry, M. Landry, X. Leinekugel, G. Marsicano, V. Naegerl, S. Oliet, D. Perrais, C. Poujol, N. Sans

Number of students accepted:
22 (= 11 groups of 2) advanced PhD students and young postdocs.

The course comprises:
Lectures on theoretical and methodological aspects (2 lectures each morning). Hands-on experiments within the frame of 3-weeks projects (afternoons in the labs, in different workstations of the Bordeaux Neuroscience Institute).

Topics include:
Cellular and molecular biology of synaptic proteins; Anatomy. Cellular electrophysiology; Live imaging techniques; Integrative approaches; Animal models of synaptic dysfunction.

Faculty includes:
M. Di Luca, V. Maricq, T. Freund, G. Knott, N. Sans, M. Schwarz, M. Häusser, C. McBain, I. Bureau, L. Groc, A. Silver, R. Cossart, J. Chelly, H. Monyer, L. Rondi-Reig, C. Davies, F. Bertaso

Contact:
C. Mulle
mulle@u-bordeaux2.fr

Application deadline:
May 11, 2009

PENS HERTIE WINTER SCHOOL 2009/10

Multiple Facets of GABA in Brain Development

Obergurgl, Austria
January 10–17, 2010

Scientific Organisers:
Y. Ben Ari

Local Organisers:
A. Sarja

Details to be announced

FENS SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

IN NEUROSCIENCE