

NENS - Network of European Neuroscience Schools

NENS Newsletter

June
2009

News from the NENS Office

NENS Stipends 2009: Current call for applications has been concluded.

The stipends amount up to 1000 Euro each and are awarded to MA and PhD students for training stays in a NENS-registered programme. Thank you for sending in so many excellent applications. The awardees will be selected in the next few weeks by the NENS committee. Notifications will follow in the near future. Watch this space for the announcement of the awardees and of the next round of stipends.

The digital lecture database is available on the NENS website

In a first step NENS has established an online platform that will hold information on the respective curricula of all NENS programmes. All coordinators of the NENS schools are invited to provide an overview of their course syllabi. It's an easy way to upload your syllabi for the website. You simply have to fill in a template, submit it and after revision by the NENS office

it will be published. Now you are a Contributing Member, which allows you to download documents. The document server is based on the idea of sharing information between NENS schools. It aims at helping all NENS members to improve the quality of their programmes by exchange of experiences and ideas with fellow programmes across Europe. Detailed information is summarized here:

http://fens.org/media/nens/NENS_DocumentServer_Howtouse.pdf

The access to the web facility will be regulated via password and will be exclusively available to NENS member schools. The success of the document server strongly depends on the contribution of all NENS schools. With a well-established database we will have the great opportunity to gather detailed information about the curricula and teaching approaches of all NENS programmes.

The NENS Office is still in the process of updating the online programme directory.

Therefore, we ask all those of you who have not updated their NENS profiles for 1 year or longer to check whether contact details are still correct and to adopt the new keyword list. If your password is missing, then please contact the NENS Office for support.

Do you have NENS news to report?

Or would you like your NENS country to be featured in the Newsletter? Then let the NENS Office know. Contributions are welcome.

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“Across Europe”- NENS Member Countries: France

Neuroscience in France has a long history, with outstanding developments in fundamental as well as clinical research. Already in the 19th century French scientists played an important role in Neuroscience research.

One of them was Paul Pierre Broca (1824-1880), who is best known for his research on Broca's area, a region of the frontal lobe that has been named after him. Some other names are: Jules Baillarger (1809-1890), who discovered that the cerebral cortex was divided into six layers of alternate white and grey laminae. François Magendie (1783-1855), a physiologist, considered as a pioneer in ex-

perimental physiology and known for the so-called Bell-Magendie law, or Jean-Martin Charcot (1825-1893), a neurologist and professor of anatomical pathology, who is known as „the founder of modern neurology“ and who strongly influenced the development in Neurology.

Nowadays research and teaching in the neurosciences is well-established in France, with centres of research and education throughout the country, including in and around Paris, Bordeaux, Strasbourg, Marseilles, and Montpellier.

Research structure and funding is provided by the universities in these and other cities, as well as by the CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique) and INSERM (Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale), the main biomedical research agencies.

The French Société des Neurosciences, established in 1988, is headquartered in Bordeaux, and has more than 2500 French and foreign members. The Société organises a biennial convention, which has been held at the end of May in Bordeaux. The website of the Société (<http://www.neurosciences.asso.fr/>) is a resource to find positions for thesis students and post-docs, as well as technicians and researchers, among the available information about the Neurosciences community in France.

Neurosciences education is in the form of a two-year Masters degree, followed for some students by a three-to-four year PhD. Graduate studies are funded through fellowships, primarily from the national government through Doctoral Schools at the different universities. In addition, some financing is provided by private foundations.

Facts and Figures

Area: 674.843 km²
Population: 65,073,482
Capital: Paris
EU-member: 1951
NENS schools: 6