

# NENS - Network of European Neuroscience Schools

## NENS Newsletter

October  
2008

### News from the NENS Office

#### ***NENS Stipends 2008: Last call for applications in 2008!***

Are you a Master or early PhD student registered within a NENS school? Would you like to gain practical experience at a NENS lab in a different country?

Then apply for a NENS stipend! Stipends will cover travel and accommodation costs of up to 1000 Euros. Deadline for applications is 15 October 2008.

For application details please visit <http://fens.org/nens/about.html> or contact [nens-office@rub.de](mailto:nens-office@rub.de).

#### ***A number of NENS stipends have already been awarded since the introduction of the European exchange programme in 2007.***

One of the awardees, Yu Han-Chen, an early PhD student from RWTH Aachen University in Germany, spent a month at the Institute of Psychiatry

at King's College London with the support of a NENS stipend.

The purpose of Yu Han-Chen's training stay was to analyse data for her current project studying the emotional processing in individuals with autism spectrum disorder using magnetoencephalography (MEG).

Discussing the outcomes of her analyses with her supervisors within the Section of Brain Maturation at IoP it was concluded that in order to bring the project forward it would be ideal to establish a cross-national cooperation project combining MEG and fMRI methods.

As a result IoP, RWTH Aachen University, and Research Center Jülich have initiated talks in order to identify funding opportunities for the launch of a multi-centred research project on this basis of Yu Han-Chen's activities.

As this case exemplifies it is as much the fellow who benefits from the NENS exchange programme due to cutting-edge training received as the home as well as the host university with the opportunity for initiating new collaboration projects across Europe.

#### ***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.

#### ***NENS Office***

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### "Across Europe"- NENS Member Countries: Israel

#### ***Israeli Neuroscience traces its roots to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, in the 1960's, where Prof. Jonathan Magnes trained his graduate students.***

These graduate students went on to establish independent research groups in the same university and in other academic institutions in Israel. Their graduate students, in turn, went on to further develop Israeli Neuroscience, diversifying new skills and establishing graduate programs in all research universities in Israel: Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Ben Gurion University in Beer Sheva, Haifa University in Haifa, Hebrew University in

Jerusalem, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, Tel Aviv University in Tel Aviv and Weizmann Institute in Rehovot.

Neuroscience programs in all these institutions cover all aspects of Neuroscience, with local emphasis reflecting specific strengths of the circumstances in which they developed. For example, the program in Jerusalem emphasizes computational neuroscience, thanks to fruitful collaborations of neuroscientists, mathematicians and physicists; the program in Weizmann is strong in photic and magnetic resonance imaging, thanks to collaborations with chemists.

The program at the Technion is strong in biological networks and electrophysiological functional imaging, thanks to collaborations of neuroscientists and engineers; while the program at Haifa University developed within the

department of Psychology and emphasizes behavioral aspects of Neuroscience.

All programs offer stipends for outstanding candidates. In some programs outstanding master's students can continue directly towards their PhD even before completion of the requirements for their MSc, provided they pass a qualification and candidacy exam which covers the outline of their PhD research. Some programs hold yearly retreats for graduate students and staff where projects of the program and general topics are discussed. All Neuroscience programs meet at the annual meeting of the Israeli Society for Neuroscience, traditionally held in the beginning of December in Eilat on the Red Sea.

#### ***Further information***

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#### ***Facts and Figures***

Area: 20,770 km<sup>2</sup>  
Population: 7,282,000  
Capital: Jerusalem  
EU-member:  
NENS schools: 3