

Report for ISN on the 11th International Conference on Brain Energy Metabolism held at Bymose Hegn, Helsingør, Denmark, May 11-14, 2014.

The Meeting had approximately 100 participants from 13 different countries in Europe, North and South America, Asia and Australia. The scientific program consisted of 9 sessions in Symposium format with 3-4 speakers giving 25 min presentations followed by 5 min discussions. These were of high quality and created a lot of questions. In addition there was a 2 h and 15 min poster session with poster presenters present and posters could be viewed throughout the meeting. We had arranged that participants could suggest topics for Group Discussions scheduled for 1 h and 30 min following dinner during the second day of the Meeting. Based on these proposals four Discussion Forums were established each of which had a Chair person to lead the Discussions. This turned out to be very successful and it led to initiation of collaborative studies. Among the poster presentations (45) a small committee selected 9 posters to be presented in an oral session with 10 min for presentation and 5 min for discussion. These presentations were of very high quality and one of these was selected to receive a small prize for best presentation.

The Meeting had Professor Maiken Nedergaard, Univ. of Rochester as the Keynote Speaker and she gave a brilliant lecture on her recent work on the brain glymphatic system as well as some interesting new findings concerning the relative distribution of hexokinase in neurons and astrocytes, results that show a significant metabolism of glucose in neurons. The Symposia covered aspects on membrane transport related to energy metabolism, oligodendrocyte metabolism and function, the role of glucose, lactate and glycogen as energy substrates in health and pathology, and the role of the redox state in relation to signaling.

Sixty percent of the support from ISN was earmarked for travel support to Ph. D. students, post-docs and young Faculty and 10 fellowships of 900 USD were given to this category of participants the names of whom are listed below.

A photo showing the poster presenters who had been selected for oral presentations is appended. We have likewise attached an electronic version of the Meeting Program which upon registration at the Meeting was given to the participants in a printed version.

The venue for the Meeting had been chosen based on its intimacy with no other groups present during our Meeting, a feature facilitating discussions each day at the end of the official program. The venue was located approximately 30 miles from Copenhagen center and bus transportation at the start and end of the Meeting had been arranged for those interested. A large fraction of the attendees had taken advantage of this offer and almost all stayed for the length of the Meeting. Judged from comments made during and after the Meeting by individuals as well as from the evaluation forms that were filled out at the end of the Meeting, we conclude that the Meeting was highly successful and we are grateful for the generous support received from the ISN.

Arne Schousboe

