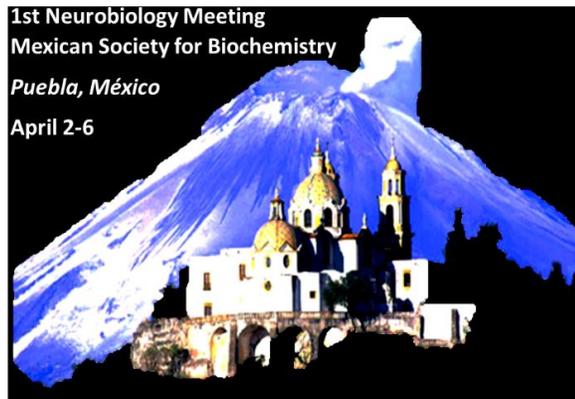


ISN SYMPOSIUM ON DAMAGE AND NEUROREPAIR
1st Neurobiology Meeting, Mexican Society for Biochemistry,
Puebla, México, April 2-6



Organizers: Dr. Julio Morán, Instituto de Fisiología Celular, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and Dr. Jose Rodriguez, Institut de Neurociències, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

The ISN Symposium on Damage and Neurorepair was one of the symposia of the “First Neurobiology Meeting of the Sociedad Mexicana de Bioquímica”. This meeting was planned to constitute a permanent academic forum to promote the study of the Neuroscience and to create suitable academic environment for the exchange of information and discussion of topics in this area of research. This first meeting attracted about 270 students (60%) and young and senior scientists (40%) from different institutions of Mexico and other foreign countries interested in updating, sharing and disseminating their studies and the most relevant aspects of Neurochemistry. About 36% of the total students were undergraduate students and the rest were graduate students. Some of the foreign attendants came from the University of California, San Francisco, the University of Kansas, the University College London, the Goethe Universität, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, the Institut de Neurociències, Barcelona, the Institut D’ Investigacions Biomèdiques, Barcelona, the University of Jerusalem, Israel, the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina, the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, España and Universidad Autònoma de Barcelona, among others.



The meeting covered several areas of interest in Neuroscience, including brain metabolism, molecular and cellular mechanisms of neurodegenerative diseases, brain plasticity (from genes to circuits), the role of glial cells

in brain function, the molecular mechanisms of drug addiction, stem cells and neural replacement, development aspects of nervous system, etc.



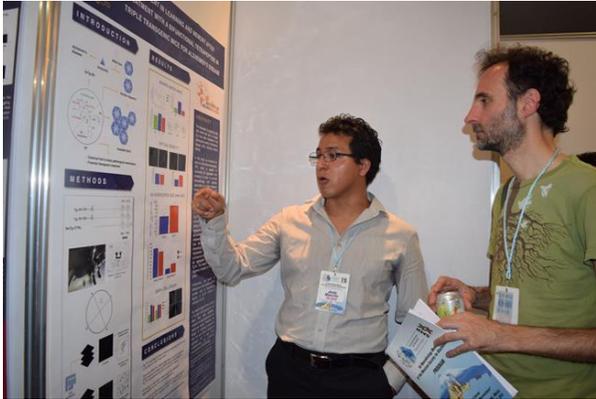
Speakers of the ISN Symposium: Dr Velasco (upper left), Dr. Nudo (upper right), Dr. Quintana (lower left) and Dr. Marzo (lower right).

The aim of the ISN Symposium on Damage and Neurorepair was to discuss the neurological bases of damage and the basic mechanisms of repair in the Nervous System, stressing the importance of neurochemistry as a powerful tool in research to generate potential clinical therapies. The symposium brought together four scientists who presented recent studies and novel perspectives in damage of the nervous system and possible therapies of recovering. Dr. Albert Quintana from the Universidad de Barcelona explained the relevance of mitochondrial dysfunctions that lead to fatal pathologies characterized by muscular and central nervous system affection. His results identified several potential therapeutic interventions, paving the way for future treatments for mitochondrial diseases.



Organizers of the ISN Symposium . Dr. Julio Morán (left) and Dr. José Rodríguez (right).

Dr. Ivan Velasco from the National University of Mexico showed that GDNF promotes proliferation and neuronal differentiation from pluripotent cells, also enhancing maturation and conferring neuroprotection. He also showed some results supporting the use of hydrogels as a vehicle for Semaphorin administration to axons of neuronal grafts in vivo. Dr. Aude Marzo from the University College London, demonstrated a novel role for Wnt signalling in regulating synapse integrity. Her results also revealed a remarkable regenerative capacity of synapses in the adult hippocampus and highlighted the therapeutic potential of Wnt pathway modulation for treating neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s Disease. Finally, Randolph Nudo from the University of Kansas, USA, showed interesting evidences of how shaping plasticity may enhance neuronal recovery after brain injury. All presentations stimulated an interesting debate between the speakers and the audience.



Financial Report

The ISN Budget (\$6,000 USD) was used to support the transportation and accommodation of the speakers of the ISN Symposium (see the table below).

Name	Transportation	Accommodation	Total
Aude Marzo	1,375 USD	969 USD	2,344 USD
Albert Quintana	784 USD	846 USD	1,630 USD
Randolph Nudo	1,090 USD	477 USD	1,567 USD
Ivan Velasco	-	600 USD	600 USD
TOTAL	3,249 USD	2,892 USD	6,141 USD

In behalf of the organizing committee, we would like to express our gratitude to the ISN for the funding received. The ISN support made possible the organization of the Symposium and markedly contributed to the success of this First Neurobiology Meeting.