

Scientific Report on the ISN Symposium
“Brain Development and Evolution”
Satellite of the VI International Congress of the
Latin American Society for Developmental Biology (VI LASDB)
29th April
Radisson Victoria Plaza, Montevideo - Uruguay

Organizers:

María E. Castelló, Instituto de Investigaciones Biológicas Clemente Estable,
Montevideo - Uruguay

Luis Puelles, Universidad de Murcia, Murcia - Spain



Speakers and Chair of the ISN Satellite Symposium “Brain Development and Evolution”: Paul Manger, Barbara Finlay, María E. Castelló, Suzana Herculano, Verónica Palma, Jose L. Ferrán, and Amadi Ihunwo.

The ISN Satellite Meeting “Brain Development and Evolution” was held the 29th of April, immediately after the closing ceremony of the VI LASDB Meeting which gathered more than 200 students and scientists mainly from the Americas, and Europe.

Considering that the topic of the VI LASDB Meeting was Development and Evolution, the main aim of the ISN Satellite Meeting was to deepen on the role of conserved molecular and cellular developmental mechanisms for the

“construction” of a great diversity of adult brain forms sub serving functional roles that enable animal adaptation to environmental changes along evolution. We also aimed to promote the interest in the field of Brain Development and Evolution among Latin American Developmental Biologists, as well as enriching the Latin American scientific community both working within the field of Neuroscience and Developmental Biology. Finally we were also interested in promoting public awareness about Brain Development and Evolution.

Thus, the whole ISN Symposium was a free activity organized in two sessions. The first one was centered on the role of neurogenesis on brain growth and brain diversity, whereas the second session was centered on the molecular mechanisms that control brain development. The last talk of the ISN Symposium centered on ISN funding opportunities. All of the talks attracted the audience attention and were followed by several questions.

The ISN Symposium had an audience of almost 80 attendees from Uruguay, Argentina and Chile. Among them there was a high representation of undergraduate and graduate students as well as young scientists.

FINAL PROGRAM

16:00- Barbara Finlay

Department of Psychology, Uris Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA

Title of presentation: **“Gradients in duration of neurogenesis in the neural tube generating both conservation and diversity in vertebrate brains”**

16:30- Suzana Herculano-Houzel

Instituto de Ciências Biomédicas, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Title of presentation: **“ How to build a bigger brain: prenatal and postnatal mechanisms lead to varying brain size in rodents”**

17:00- Amadi O. Ihunwo

Morphological Anatomy Division, School of Anatomical Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Title of presentation: **“A comparative approach to mammalian studies on adult neurogenesis”**

17.30: Paul Manger

School of Anatomical Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Title of presentation: "**Uncoupling proteins, glia and the evolution of large brains in cetaceans, humans and elephants**"

18:00 -18:30: Coffee break

18:30 Verónica Palma

Lab. de Células troncales y Biología del Desarrollo, Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile.

Title of presentation: "**Sonic Hedgehog (Shh)/Gli signaling in the developing optic tectum of vertebrates: A comparative perspective**".

19.00: Jose L. Ferran

Departamento de Anatomía Humana y Psicobiología, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Murcia, España.

Title of presentation: "**Comparative genoarchitectonic analysis of the pretectum in tetrapods reveals a common pattern**"

19.30: Amadi O. Ihunwo

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Short presentation on: "**Funding Opportunities through ISN for Neuroscientists**"

Chair: María E. Castelló

The ISN Satellite Symposium's Program was announced at the VI LASDB web page: <http://lasdb2012.org/program/isn-satellite-symposium-brain-development-and-evolution/> and in the Program and Proceedings, in which the titles and abstracts of the talks were included in the (page 81-82, see attachment).

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As detailed in the attached document (Economical Report ISN Satellite Symposium Brain Evo Devo.pdf and corresponding bills), the ISN-CC grant (6000 dollars) was used to cover the following expenses:

DESCRIPTION OF EXPENSES	COST IN DOLLARS
Most of the cost of accomodation expenses of all the speakers (Hotel Embajador & Hotel Radisson)	2026.60
Partial cost of TRAVEL EXPENSES: 1) Air ticket of Barbara Finlay; 2) Air ticket of Amadi O. Ihunwo; and 3) Most of the costs of transportation of all speakers between Montevideo Airport and Hotels at arrival and departure.	3252.60
REDUCED REGISTRATION FEE of all speakers	900.00
WIRE TRANSFER COSTS (corresponding to the first wire transfer and an estimation of the second wire transfer)	57.34
TOTAL	6000.47

This expenses were partially covered by the already wire transferred 4800 dollars, and the remaining 1200 dollars were transitorily covered by María Castelló salary until the second wire transfer.

Other costs (partial cost of hotel expenses and coffee break) were covered by a donation from a Uruguayan company (Lonifar: 197.04 dollars) and the annual PEDECIBA grant of María E. Castelló (154.02 dollars).

We would also like to point out and acknowledge Dr. José Ferrán, Dr. Suzana Herculano, Dr. Paul Manger and Dr. Veronica Palma who obtained financial aid from other sources to cover their travel expenses. Without these contributions this ISN Symposium wouldn't have been possible.