

Between the 25th and 28th of August the 4th LIN-Symposium on 'Synaptic Function and Synaptic Pathology in Disease' took place in Tangermünde, Germany ([www.lin-symposium.de](http://www.lin-symposium.de)). The LIN-Symposium is organized by group leaders and senior post-docs of the Leibniz Institute for Neurobiology in Magdeburg and the hosts of the 2014 meeting were Martin Heine, Renato Frischknecht, Anna Fejtova, Constanze Seidenbecher, Christina Spilker, Uli Thomas and Michael R. Kreutz. The meeting was attended by a total of 127 participants from which 46 came from countries other than Germany.

The symposium has covered several different aspects of synaptic and neuronal function. We have discussed the assembly of the pre- and postsynapse, the dynamics of trafficking of protein components and molecular / cellular mechanisms of synaptic plasticity. Speakers provided novel answers for the old question which molecular mechanisms underlie synaptic plasticity and thereby indirectly learning and memory processes. The presentations included studies in different invertebrate and vertebrate systems. One major aspect of the meeting was the synaptic pathology in brain disease conditions. Here we had a group of outstanding speakers that presented the most recent progress in our understanding of synaptopathies like 'Autism spectrum disorders', 'Fragile-X' and others. The meeting was focused on very recent developments in synapse biology. We had a total of 11 sessions with talks of about 40 min. including discussion with 20 more senior faculty and 10 younger scientists (below the age of 40) that were in part selected from submitted abstracts.

Support from ISN was acknowledged in the programme booklet and when announcing specific ISN supported speakers. A total number of 12 students and young postdocs were supported by an ISN Fellowship (waiver of the conference fee) and the remaining funds were allocated to support the travel expenses of younger speakers. The venue of the meeting, the old Hanse town of Tangermünde, provides an optimal setting for informal discussions and the meeting was very well perceived by all attendants. In particular younger researchers had the chance to interact with more senior faculty and due to the generous support of the ISN more than 50% of all participants were senior graduate students and younger postdocs. Their feedback was very positive also because the poster sessions provided another forum for intense discussions. The posters could be viewed throughout the meeting which eased interactions. As a result several novel collaborations were initiated. A photograph showing the participants is appended. Thus, also due to the generous support of the

ISN the meeting was a big success. Finally, we hope that we could also support the aims and interests of the ISN with this meeting.

Michael R. Kreutz