



Buenos Aires, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Dear ISN Conference Committee C chair,  
Dr. Alessandro Prinetti

We are reporting here the results of the ISN Small Conference "State-of-the-art methods in Neuroscience Research". The small conference was held from September 27 to 29th and preceded the Argentine Society for Neuroscience Meeting. Both activities were held on the same venue in Mar del Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina. In the attached program of the ISN small conference and course you will find the details of the talks, the speakers and the students that received the ISN fellowships.

Files attached:

- 1) The general report of the ISN small conference (file: ISN Small Conference 2015)
- 2) The updated list of fellows that participated in the conference
- 3) A survey made after the meeting and that was reported from many of the participants of the conference.
- 4) Picture files took during the ISN small conference (files with a jpg extension)
- 5) Invoices that were cited in the financial report

The speakers Dr. Maria Soledad Esposito, Dr. Mark Schnitzer, Dr. Johannes Letzkus and Dr. Marcelo de Oliveira Dietrich gave their talks as scheduled. Dr. Cyrill Herry had to cancel and Dr. Alexxai Kravitz kindly accepted our invitation to give a talk. They coordinated and mentored small groups of attendees for protocol discussions. Dr. Cyrill Herry could not assist due to personal problems and his talk was replaced by Dr. Alexxai Kravitz talk entitled "In vivo optogenetics and electrophysiology", as indicated in the program.

Students actively participated in activities of the small conference. The activities included lectures plus scientific presentations, thus allowing participants to go from the big picture to the specific research objectives of each speakers' lab. In addition students were divided in groups and they worked during the small conference discussing seminal papers. They were also invited to write a project idea with a potential application of the new techniques covered by the small conference, to be submitted for evaluation after the conference. The Organization Committee of the Small Conference will evaluate these projects taking into consideration i) originality; ii) adequate -methods selection for the hypothesis to be tested. The whole assistance to the small conference and the successful defense of the project idea activity is being considered by the University of Cordoba and the University of Buenos Aires to be accepted as a course valid for PhD credits.



The organizers Dr. Esposito, Dr. Fustiñana, Dr. Piriz, Dr. Falzone and Dr. Rela coordinated the small conference and mentored the small groups, while the speakers interacted with all the groups making questions, discussing the papers and analyzing the limitations of the techniques. A week before initiating the ISN small conference, attendees received electronic materials: 1 main papers related to each technique covered by the conference. These provided students with prior knowledge of the topics that were developed during the small conference and course. Students were allowed to present (during dinner) their work in the form of posters and again a nice environment of intense scientific discussion was generated and enjoyed by the participants.

The small conference activities were very successful and highly appreciated by the students and researchers. Both students and speakers enjoyed the scientific environment that was generated during these three days.

We attach to this e-mail a number of pictures showing the assistants in the venue, where the record number of attendees, balanced between investigators and students, is striking.

The number of assistants to the course was 189 including 155 students and postdocs and 34 researchers. ISN fellowships were given to students and postdocs (see details on the attached abstract book "XXX-SAN-Annual-Meeting-Abstract-Book"). From the original list of fellows 14 students did not show up and 5 obtained funds from other sources. This allowed us to support 19 additional students and postdocs (see attached file "Updated list of fellows").

At the end of the small conference, students were encouraged to answer a survey containing an evaluation of the course and the results showed that more than 80% of the assistants considered the scientific content of the ISN small conference and course to be very good or excellent (see attached file "Course survey").

#### Financial report (supported by files attached):

Management (Silvina Ceriani)	AR\$ 2.000,00
Audiovisual Equipment rental (Hotel 13 de Julio - meeting venue)	AR\$ 7.400,00
Secretariat Assistant (Pablo Bramajo)	AR\$ 3.125,00
Lodging for speakers (Hotel 15 de Mayo)	AR \$ 37.200,00
Catering for students, coffee breaks and meals (Hotel 13 de Julio - meeting venue)	AR\$ 50.000,00
Catering for students, coffee breaks and meals (Hotel 13 de Julio - meeting venue)	AR\$ 5.000,00
Catering for students (Tío Curzio)	AR\$ 41.854,50
Total in Pesos	AR\$ 146.579,50
Total in Dollars	US\$ 15.761,24

All of the students and postdocs assisting to the ISN small conference and course stayed for the Argentine Society for Neuroscience (SAN) meeting that took place on the same



venue from October 1st to 3<sup>rd</sup>. They presented their work and assisted to the conferences and symposia. The abstract book of the SAN meeting is also attached to this e-mail.

Please contact me if you need further information or any other certificate, invoices, etc.

On behalf of the course organizers Dr. Espósito, Dr. Fustiñana, Dr. Piriz, Dr. Rela and myself, we would like to thank you and the ISN support to this small conference and course that allowed us to have this unique opportunity for our students to interact and to discuss new techniques for research in neuroscience with top leaders in the field.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tomas Falzone'. Below the signature, the name 'TOMAS FALZONE' is printed in a bold, sans-serif font.

Tomas Falzone, PhD.  
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