



ISN Report

Title of the ISN Symposium : ISN Symposium on RNA metabolism impairments in neuronal malfunctioning.

Main Meeting: European Winter Conference on Brain Research.

Local: Brides-les-Bains-France

Date: March 15-22, 2014

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The European Winter Conference on Brain Research (EWCBR) 2014 was a great success. The conference provided a pleasant and relaxed environment where science focused on different topics of neuroscience was avidly discussed. The close interaction among all the participants was ideal for “brainstorming” and planning future collaborations.

The 2014 program put together by the organizers (EWCBR and the European Brain and Behavior Society) was exciting and top-of-the-art. Symposium topics covered a wide variety of neuroscience topics including: sleep; pain and inflammation; RNA metabolism in the brain; behavioral neuroscience; Neuroglial interactions; Neuronal plasticity in health and disease; as well as Neural circuit organization and computations. Importantly, EBBS-sponsored two young investigator symposiums, which made the conference highly attractive for students.

The conference was attended by approximately 140 participants from different countries including Germany, United Kingdom, France and USA, which had the larger number of participants; but scientists and students from other countries such as Portugal, Spain, Canada, Sweden, Poland, Israel, China, Australia and New Zealand were also present.

Our “ISN Symposium on RNA metabolism impairments in neuronal malfunctioning”, happened on March the 17th. The symposium was chaired by Dr. Hermona Soreq (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel) and myself Dr. Vania Prado (Western University, CAN). Thanks to ISN support, we were able to put together an outstanding group of scientists to discuss about RNA metabolism in the brain. *Dr. Jernej Ule*, from the Department of Molecular Neuroscience, CL Institute of Neurology (UK) talked about “Brain region-specific gene expression predicts the chronological age in human subjects”; *Dr. Javier Caceres* from MRC Human Genetics Unit, University of Edinburgh Western General Hospital (*SCO*) talked about “Role of SR and hnRNP A/B protein families in cell proliferation and differentiation”; *Dr. Adrian Krainer* from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (*USA*), talked about “Antisense-based therapy for the treatment of spinal muscular atrophy”; *Dr. Vania Prado* talked about “Cholinergic regulation of hnRNP and alternative splicing: Implication in Alzheimer’s disease”; and *Dr. Hermona Soreq* talked about “Multi-leveled RNA metabolism errors in Alzheimer’s disease”. The symposium was very well attended (~ 40 people) and the discussions were very productive.

The US\$7,000 provided by ISN was used to partially reimburse transportation (flight/train/car), accommodation and meeting registration for the speakers. Values received by individual speakers varied depending on transportation fare

See below photo of speakers before the symposium.



From left to right Dr Jernej Ule, Dr. Adrian Kraner, Dr. Hermona Soreq, D. Javier Caceres, Dr Vania Prado.