

Vladimir Parpura, MD, PhD, holds both a medical degree, awarded from the University of Zagreb in Croatia in 1989, and a doctorate, received in Neuroscience and Zoology from Iowa State University in 1993. He held faculty appointments at the Department of Zoology and Genetics, Iowa State University, the Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience, University of California Riverside, and the Department of Biotechnology, University of Rijeka, Croatia. He is presently a tenured Professor in the Department of Neurobiology, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, U.S.A. He discovered astrocyte-neuron glutamate-mediated signaling pathway, i.e. gliotransmission. This led to the concept of the tripartite synapse whereby astrocytes, by releasing a gliotransmitter, can modulate synaptic transmission. Parpura has been elected as a member of Academia Europaea in 2012, of Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives in 2016, as well as a corresponding member of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts and a Fellow of The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) both in 2017. He received 2017-2018 McNulty Civitan Scientist Award given by The UAB Civitan International Research Center and The Chesapeake District of Civitan International. Parpura is the current President of American Society for Neurochemistry. His presidential term (2017-2019) will end at the 2019 ISN-ASN meeting, the day before the new ISN Council will be in session. Parpura has long-track of involvement with the ISN. He co-organized a satellite meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia and was a member of the program committee for a satellite meeting in Heraklion, Greece. He (co)chaired 3 sessions, served twice as a poster judge/facilitator, and gave 9 talks at various ISN meeting/schools held in China, Italy, Greece, Slovenia, Mexico, Argentina, Australia and Japan. Most recently, Parpura served as a member on the Program Committee for the 2019 ISN-ASN Meeting that will be held in Montreal, Canada