Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Executive Office and the Council of the MNS, I am pleased to introduce this new issue of the MNS newsletter.

At the General Assembly held during the 2012 meeting in Istanbul (Turkey), the MNS has elected new council members and renewed part of its executive officers, namely the President and President elect. As the new President, my deepest hope is to see the society continue to grow into an efficient organization meant to play a regional as well as an international role in the development of Neuroscience.

Thanks to the efforts and commitment of its members, the MNS has been very active in organizing events, such as training schools for selected PhD students from the organizing region. The next edition (Sept. 2014) will be organized in Beni Mellal, Morocco. But the Society also joins events organized by national societies, e.g. the Italian neuroscience society, and international ones. This year, a major event on the neurosciences of addiction, is organized by the MNS at the FENS meeting, to be held in Milan next July. I strongly encourage you to register and take part to this important event.

In parallel to these ongoing activities, of course the most challenging task for a young international Society as ours is to organize the MNS 2015 meeting. Needless to say that we are all looking forward to this meeting, which will take place at the heart of the Mediterranean Sea on the beautiful Island of Sardinia (Italy). The site is simply breathtaking, and the meeting venue is perfect for both working and relaxing. So, as the deadline for symposium proposals has been extended to April 30th, I urge you to not miss this opportunity to send your proposal, and also to join the Society as a member.

Being among the founders of the MNS, my hope is that the Society brings its contribution to the development of neuroscience in the Mediterranean region and in the rest of the world. It is my belief that this can only be accomplished if we succeed to work hand in hand with existing international organizations and national societies, but more importantly by bringing together Mediterranean neuroscientists.

Best regards

Marie Moftah
MNS President
Alexandria, Egypt

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JOIN THE MNS, VOTE and BE MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL

The nominating committee of the MNS is preparing the campaign of elections to renew half of the council members this year (2014).

Only members who have paid their membership dues have the privilege to vote and to be candidate for the council.

We therefore urge you to fill the membership form (see last page of this letter), and send your payment now. The fees are low and accessible: 40€ for regular members, 15€ for students.

Contributed to this issue:
M. Landry, L. Fattori, A. Benazzouz, Y. Temel.
Edited by D. Boussaoud

MNS – FENS Satellite Symposium on Addictions
July 4, 2014 (register before June 2, 2014)
MNS 2015 - Cagliari
Call for symposia
Extended deadline April 30, 2014

White sand beaches of Sardinia

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
Liana Fattore (IN-CNR, Italy) - Contact: lfattore@unica.it
Cristina Cadoni (IN-CNR, Italy)
Anna Carta (Univ. Cagliari, Italy)
Marco Diana (Univ. Sassari, Italy)
Miriam Melis (Univ. Cagliari, Italy)
Annalisa Pinna (IN-CNR, Italy)
Valentina Valentini (Univ. Cagliari, Italy)
Patrizia Campolongo (Univ. La Sapienza, Roma, Italy)
Carla Cannizzaro (Univ. Palermo, Italy)
Paola Fadda (Univ. Cagliari, Italy)
Patrizia Fattori (Univ. Bologna, Italy)
Walter Fratta (Univ. Cagliari, Italy)
Micaela Morelli (Univ. Cagliari, Italy)
Abraham Zangen (Be’er Sheva University, Israel)

MEETING VENUE
www.hotelflamingosardinia.com/

Join the MNS at low membership fees:
Regular members: 40 EUR / Student members: 15 EUR
Download the membership form on www.mnsociety.com.

We encourage you to become member of the MNS, and:
Benefit from a discounted registration fee for the MNS 2015 meeting
Be eligible to vote and be candidate for the upcoming elections.

Plenary lecturers
Carlos Belmonte (Alicante, Spain)
Gaetano Di Chiara (Cagliari, Italy)
Abdeljabbar El Manira (Stockholm, Sweden)
Barry J Everitt (Cambridge, UK)
Rene Hen (New York, USA)
Idan Segev (Jerusalem, Israel)

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
Marie Moftah (President)
Marc Landry (President Elect)
Driss Boussaoud (Past President)
Nora Abrous (General Secretary)
Hagai Bergman (Vice Secretary)
Abdelhamid Benazzouz (Treasurer)
Yasin Temel (Vice Treasurer)
Hedayat Abdel Ghaffar (Council member)
Latifa Dorbani-Mamine (Council member)
Mohammed Errami (Council member)
Liana Fattore (Council member)
Patrizia Fattori (Council member)
Suleyman Kaplan (Council member)
Mohamed Najimi (Council member)
Maria Paz Viveros (Council member)
The Meeting venue

The Meeting will be held in the Hotel Flamingo Resort, set in Santa Margherita di Pula, a seaside area located on the southern coast of Sardinia, roughly 40 km from Cagliari and only 5 km from Chia, another extremely popular holiday location famous for its marvelous stretches of white fine sand and turquoise sea often used for filming commercials. The Flamingo Hotel is made up of a central building plus a number of small villas, which are situated throughout the private park, and is provided with a swimming pool and a private beach. Each room is classically decorated and has its own terrace or garden with table and chairs. During the day there are lots of organised sports activities and entertainment for guests of all ages: a wellness centre, a fitness centre, tennis courts, and beach volleyball are also available. In the immediate vicinities is Pula, a small town of seven thousand inhabitants which is very well kept with pretty and colourful houses, restaurants and pizzerias. In the summer, it’s the night-time hub for the young people. Pula hosts the evocative archeological site of Nora with remains dating back to the Punic times. On the road leading to Domus de Maria one can spot the Nuraghe Santa Margherita, an extremely ancient ruin of the Nuragic period which dates back to the III millennium.

Visit the web site:
http://www.hotelflamingo.it/

A word about Sardinia

Sardinia is the heart of Mediterranean culture, an island with a green soul, unspoiled countryside, protected marine parks, woods and forests, navigable lakes and marshland where flamingos nest and offer spectacular pink displays. Long uninhabited, despite its ancient geological origin, Sardinia has preserved its own freshness, capturing the gaze and admiration of many who, in the flow of centuries, were irresistibly attracted by the geographical position (the heart of the western Mediterranean): the Phoenicians followed by Carthaginians, the Romans afterwards, the Byzantines, the Spanish and the Piemontese. Characteristics are the famous Nuraghi dating back thousands of years, the rocks sculptured by time and the elements into strange shapes, the monuments which bear witness to the island’s rich history. But Sardinia is also a land of genuine flavours, where tasting the island’s traditional specialities never ceases to be an extraordinary discovery, and crystal clear sea, with white sandy beaches and limpid water in all shades of blue and green.

The city of Cagliari

European Capital of Culture Candidate 2019, Cagliari has its origins in Sardinian prehistory. Its history includes the birth of civilizations capable of creating organized and free societies, characterized by intense trades and cultural exchanges among the Mediterranean people. Cagliari, like the whole island, was born from the stratification of all the cultures that lived and inhabited its territory: a mixture of languages, architecture styles, art and culinary traditions. Cagliari is a lively and always on the go city, a destination for tourists coming from all over the world, and a nice experience to live: exclusive atmospheres with centuries of history, uncontaminated nature, a cuisine characterized by unique flavours, and a young and dynamic soul perceptible in the lively night life. The historical districts of Marina, Stampace, Castello and Villanova, offer a large choice of live concerts or dj performances. A 7-km long stretch of fine sand, the Poetto beach, skirts the city, framed by the Sella del Diavolo, an unmistakable headland warding the port of Marina Piccola. In summer, the Lungomare Poetto becomes more lively thanks to the entertainments provided by its characteristic beach kiosks.
Training through research and higher education is one of the key actions of the MNS. On site training schools on neurological and psychiatric diseases, bring to young medical doctors and researchers state-of-the-art techniques and advanced knowledge.

The Clinical Neuroscience summer school organized by the MNS in collaboration with Turkish Neurosurgical Society in Samsun in July 2013 was very successful. With the participation of 94 clinician-scientists, a nice scientific atmosphere was created, with authoritative lectures by the invited speakers and lively discussions about different aspects of deep brain stimulation. For the first time in Turkey, we organized live surgery with on-line commentary and the possibility to ask questions by the participants. There was a live connection between the OR and the lecture theatre through a satellite connection. We congratulate the local organization with this professional audio-visual setup. We have received many positive comments and the request to organize this course again.

Abdelhamid Benazzouz, Hagai Bergman, and Yasin Temel represented the
ISIS Euro-Mediterranean Master in Neuroscience and Biotechnology
ISIS is a Euro-Mediterranean master’s degree in Neuroscience and Biotechnology (http://isis-master.org/). The proposed curriculum is based on the courses offered by 11 partner universities, 5 in Europe (Bordeaux, Marseille, Nice, Turin and Valencia), and 6 in the South-Mediterranean area (Alexandria and Senghor in Egypt, Saint-Joseph and Saint Esprit de Kaslik in Lebanon, Tetuan and Marrakech in Morocco). The Neurex association (upper-Rheine neuroscience network), the Landau network “A Volta”, and the French-Moroccan Neuroscience “Groupement de Recherche International” (GDRI) are associated partners also involved in the project. The ISIS master’s degree was created as part of a TEMPUS IV project (ISIS, 1.3 M€, 2010-2014) funded by the European Commission and coordinated by Bordeaux University.

This master’s degree aims are three fold. (i) It will provide students with access to the techniques and concepts of modern biology through courses in Neuroscience. (ii) It will contribute to the standardization of teaching in Neuroscience and Biotechnology throughout the Euro-Mediterranean space, thus facilitating the acquisition of homogenous high level competences, knowledge and know-how by the students. (iii) Finally, this joined program aims at fostering exchanges and cooperation between the two sides of the Mediterranean area. Together with other Euro-Mediterranean projects (NEuromed, NEUreN), this partnership allows organizing powerful Neuroscience networks that result in mutual benefits for all students and staff from Euro-Mediterranean Universities.

NEUREN
The NEUREN project (http://www.orazal.com/clients/neuren/) aimed at implementing a joint research programme in the field of Neuroscience organized around researcher’s mobility (NEUREN project, Marie Curie Action - IRSES program, 2013-2017). It is based on an interdisciplinary consortium of 14 laboratories from 4 EU countries (France, Italy, Spain, Poland), 3 South Mediterranean countries, and 3 third-countries (USA, Australia, Canada). It covers a large scope of Neuroscience research topics from molecules to integrated physiology, associating basic, translational and clinical research, from bench to bedside. Partners show significant complementarities to cover all aspects of Neuroscience. Every institution brings its own technical and conceptual expertise to build a consortium of excellence, taking advantage of previous collaborations (NEuromed, ISIS) to exploit existing complementarity and synergy between partners. NEUREN therefore highly support the current efforts to reach outstanding international research standards and contribute to develop poles of technical and scientific excellence that will become the reference for the South Mediterranean area. Integration of various research groups across the Mediterranean area will also further diversify everyone’s technical expertise and serve to aggregate powerful teams of well-trained researchers.

The France – Morocco GDRI of Neuroscience
The GDRI is a research network, that brings together several laboratories from the two countries. It was created in January 2008 by the LRNS (France) and the CNRST (Morocco), composed of 16 laboratories (France, 5; Morocco, 11) - 2009: the annual GDRI School is launched - 2010: new teams joined the GDRI, and INSERM became a Partner in 2011 - January 2012: GDRI was renewed for a 4-year term (2012-2015), composed of 29 laboratories - Funding comes from CNRS, INSERM, CNRST, ITMO Neurosciences and Universities.

Scientific axes are (1) neurological and psychiatric diseases, (2) neuroendocrinology and adaptation to the environment, (3) neurotoxicity, and (4) Cognitive neurosciences & interface with applied mathematics.

The GDRI organizes an annual school of Neuroscience, and provides exchange grants for PhD students of the member teams. For more information: http://www.gdri-neuroscience-france-maroc.scicog.fr/.
2014 ELECTIONS of new council members

Nominating committee members (NC)
Driss Boussaoud (driss.boussaoud@univ-amu.fr)
Paul Pevet (pevet@inci-cnrs.unistra.fr)
Thomas Boraud (thomas.boraud@u-bordeaux2.fr)
Eman kheder (emankhedr99@yahoo.com)
Mohammed Bennis (mbennis2000@gmail.com)
Patrizia Campolongo (patrizia.campolongo@uniroma1.it)

The mission of the nominating committee
The NC organizes the election process during the year before the meeting (e.g. 2014). The key role of the NC is to supervise the process so as to balance the lists by gender, nationality and motivation of the candidates.

Council members per section for the period 2013-2015
Section 1, Mol & Cell Neurosci: Abrous*, Dorbani, Kaplan
Section 2, Neuroendocrinology: Fattore, Najimi*, Paz Viveros
Section 3, Integr & Clin Neurosci: Benazzouz*, Fattori, Temel*,
Section 4, Cog Comp & Theor Neurosci: Bergman*, Errami, Abdelghaffar*
(*) Members to be replaced (note that these members have served as councilors for 2 terms)

Lists of candidates
List 1 (section 1): 2 candidates for electing 1
List 2 (section 2): 2 candidates for electing 1
List 3 (section 3): 3 candidates for electing 2
List 4 (section 4): 3 candidates for electing 2

The methodology:
1) Determine the number of seats to be filled: 50% of the councilors are to be replaced, i.e. 6?
2) The NC prepares a form to be sent to the members to ask them to suggest names of potential candidates
3) The form is sent, and a list of names is collected: the number of candidates must be higher the number of seats to be filled (3 candidates for 2 seats; 2 for 1 seat);
4) The lists of candidates are sent to the MNS members for the vote;

Eligibility
Only candidates who have paid their membership dues for the election year can vote. The ballot is organized through internet, using a dedicated platform.
Title: Pr Dr Mr Ms
First name:
Last name:

Affiliation (University, Institution):
Laboratory:
Address:
Phone number:
Fax number:
E-mail:

Section to which you wish to be affiliated (maximum 2 choices):
Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience
Neuroendocrinology
Integrated and Clinical Neuroscience
Cognitive, Computational and Theoretical Neuroscience

Annual fees:
- Regular Member 40 €
- Student member* 15 €
- Sponsor Member ≥ 100 € ...........................

(*Provide a copy of your student ID)

Payment by check to "Société Méditerranéenne de Neurosciences - MNS" is accepted only from members residing in France
Bank transfer is to address to "Société Méditerranéenne de Neurosciences - MNS"
BPSO Pessac Centre – 00071, Code bank: 10907, Account Number: 42021769809, Clé RIB: 33
IBAN: FR76 1090 7000 7142 0217 6980 933
Address SWIFT (BIC): CCBPFRPPBDX

Date & signature

Membership form to send to:
Dr. Nora Abrous, Secretariat of the MNS
INSERM U862, 146 Rue Léo-Saignat
33077, Bordeaux Cedex, France
E-mail: nora.abrous@inserm.fr