

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 21 - OCTOBER 2023

Society Updates

Communications:

Dear members, you may have noticed a change in the adverts, emails, and other communication recently (even this newsletter). From my desk to yours I, Connor Haggarty, have officially taken the mantle as communications officer. By trade, I am a social neuroscientist with an interest in social behaviour and I have completed my postdoctoral training in neuropsychopharmacology with Dr. Leah Mayo, Dr. Harriet de Wit, and now Dr. Christine Rabinak. I am currently in Detroit working on a clinical trial with Cannabis and prolonged exposure for PTSD. I plan to create new and exciting content starting in the new year to keep everyone up to date with the society and our partner journals. I am also a member of the EDI committee so will be promoting these activities.



Executive Committee (EC):

Following this year's AGM, Dr. Shelly Flagel officially took the reigns as President of EBPS. Shelly is a professor of psychiatry at the University of Michigan. Her research interests include the mechanisms of reward learning and the neurobiology of motivated behaviour. I look forward to all the excellent work Shelly will complete in this role. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Yavin Shaham who will continue in his new role as Past-president.



We welcome Dr. Gavan McNally, who joined the executive committee as the President-elect. Gavan is an expert in the brain mechanisms associated with motivation and addiction. Also joining the executive committee are Dr. Leah Mayo who joins as the workshop Chair for 2024 (see page 4), Dr. Margarita Moreno as the Chair for our 2025 biennial meeting (*details soon to come*), and Dr. Marco Venniro, the Chair of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) committee.

Full Committee (FC): Onto the FC we welcome Dr. Eisuke Koya and Dr. Heidi Lesscher who begin their five-year stint.

Biennial Meeting - August 2023

EBPS 2023 was a roaring success. Thank you to Dr. Rainer Spanagel and the local organizing committee for their efforts. Over 300 members descended on Mannheim, Germany, for 4 days of talks given by researchers from all over the world. We hosted our first EDI panel session and provided 20 travel awards to trainees who in turn participated in a data blitz session.

Keynote Lectures

Rohini Kuner

Dr. Kuner gave a beautiful keynote lecture, walking us through the creative approaches she uses to elucidate the neural circuitry underlying pain.

Patricia Janak

Dr. Janak shared her exciting findings resulting from the application of novel tools to probe the neural mechanisms underlying the complexities of reward processing.

Gavan McNally

President-elect, Dr. McNally discussed his impressive research on punishment and how risk and risk aversion shape our behaviours and actions in this fascinating keynote: "If you want to predict behaviour, look at the behaviour".

Pier Vincenzo Piazza

Our Distinguished Investigator Award lecture given by CEO of Aelis Farma, Dr Piervi Piazza, took us through the development and testing of a novel CB1 receptor antagonist for the treatment of cannabis use disorder.

Leslie Ramsey

Dr. Ramsey, a Research Fellow at NIDA, presented her work on tools in investigating reward-based associative learning for her Early Career award lecture.

Highlighted Symposia

(the ones I attended)

"Translational insights on social support and substance use disorders"

Marco Venniro and Irene Perini put together this fascinating session on how social support can enhance recovery from addiction and how motivation for social interaction can aid in treatment seeking.

"The skin as a stress buffer: mechanisms underpinning the relationship between stress and touch processing"

Leah Mayo chaired this session on the benefits of interpersonal touch in stress reduction and harm reduction. The skin is an often-forgotten social organ that actively reduces stress, promotes recovery, and enhances social bonds with others.

"Novel optogenetic tools and their application in behavioral neuroscience"

Four incredible researchers highlighted the novel techniques they are actively engaging to image and manipulate brain activity to uncover complex activity in the rodent brain. My highlight was the sDarken sensors for serotonin action.

EDI Panel

This year we hosted our first EDI panel with individuals from the EDI committee. The aim of the committee is to promote EDI initiatives and to enhance and support the engagement of individuals from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds. Our panelists discussed the role of EDI and how we can help to increase representation and inclusion in the society.

Call for Papers

Psychopharmacology

“Stress, Trauma and Cannabinoids”

Submission deadline: September 1st 2024

We are pleased to announce our special edition related to the EBPS 2023 symposia of the same name. We welcome all types of papers exploring the role of cannabinoids on the processing of stress and trauma.

Guest edited by [Connor Haggarty](#), [Leah Mayo](#), [Christelle Baunez](#) and [Christine Rabinak](#). Please submit queries to: chaggarty@wayne.edu

Any other proposals for EBPS 2023 special editions

please contact: christelle.baunez@cnrs.fr

European Journal of Neuroscience

“Neurodiversity”

Submission deadline: December 31st 2024

Multi-journal special issue exploring neurodiversity the ways in which people experience and explore the world in many different ways. Guest editor: [Paola Bovolenta](#).

“Steven A. Brown Special Issue: Dynamic interactions of biological clocks, sleep and metabolism”

Submission deadline: December 22nd 2024

In memory of Steven A. Brown this edition will focus on the areas of Chronobiology and sleep, celebrating the field that Steven worked in for 25+ years. Guest edited by [Hans-Peter Landolt](#), [Konstantinos Kompotis](#), [Antoine Adamantidis](#) and [Martha Merrow](#)

FENS Events

FENS Forum 2024

25-29th June 2024, Vienna, Austria

The FENS Forum will bring together experts in all fields of neuroscience to take us to the forefront of our current understanding of modern brain science. For inquiries, please contact: forum2024@fens.org

Call for: Networking and Satellite Events

Networking Events are evening events that provide an excellent opportunity for attendees to connect with their peers and institutions/organisations in a personal and lively atmosphere.

Satellite Events offer you the chance to host independent events that align with the Forum's scope.

Submit proposals by December 6th

EBPS Committee

Executive Committee:

Shelly Flagel, (US) - *President*
Gavan McNally, (AU) - *President-elect*
Yavin Shaham, (US) - *Past-president*
Amy Milton, (UK) - *General Secretary*
Mohammed Shoaib, (UK) - *Treasurer*
Connor Haggarty, (US) - *Communications Officer*
Christelle Baunez, (FR) - *Psychopharmacology Rep*
Marco Venniro, (US) - *EDI Committee Chair*
Leah Mayo, (CA) - *Workshop LOC Chair*
Margarita Moreno, (ES) - *Meeting LOC Chair*
Rainer Spanagel, (DE) - *Past meeting Chair*

Full Committee:

Karen Szumlinski, (US) Markus Heilig, (SE)
Anand Gururajan, (AU) Eisuke Koya, (UK)
Heidi Lesscher, (NL)



EUROPEAN BEHAVIOURAL
PHARMACOLOGY SOCIETY

Save The Date:

NOVEL PHARMACOTHERAPIES TO TREAT
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS:
FROM BASIC SCIENCE TO SOCIETAL IMPLICATIONS

BANFF CENTRE, ALBERTA, CANADA
SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2024



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:
LEAH MAYO, MATTHEW HILL, STEPHANIE BORGLAND, HARRIET DE WIT