

## NENS AGM meeting - Lausanne March 19-20, 2011

On March 19-20th, coordinators from sixteen neuroscience doctoral schools met in Lausanne for the 2011 annual general meeting (AGM) of NENS. Several future NENS strategies were discussed:

### STUDENT MOBILITY

All participants unanimously emphasized the importance of supporting student mobility. The NENS stipends should be made more widely available, and should be open to all students who could benefit from this training for the completion of their master or doctoral thesis projects. Another mobility program for short lab visits will be introduced as part of the FENS Forum and in partnership with NENS: it will allow doctoral students to do two or three week stays in laboratories in the organizing country.

Student mobility should extend beyond European borders. One proposal was to give North American Students the opportunity to carry out a lab project during several months as part of their undergraduate curriculum, a program that would be coordinated with the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience (FUN). NENS will also work with the Japanese and Chinese Neuroscience Societies to award travel grants and lab visit stipends to those young scientists participating to the FENS Forum, allowing Asian students to discover European neuroscience institutions and laboratories. These programs will enhance the visibility of the European research institutions and foster collaborations between distant laboratories. To this end, all doctoral schools with labs that are willing to host foreign students for short visits

or research projects should be registered at NENS.

### JOB MARKET / JOB FAIR

The Job Market announcements hosted by the FENS website are widely used for posting and searching jobs, mainly at the doctoral and post-doctoral levels. Increasing numbers of students leave academia, aiming instead for jobs in industry, in publishing, in biotech companies, and in national or international public institutions. NENS wishes to help these students by inviting non-academic institutions to advertise jobs and to find qualified graduates. At the Job Fair that takes place during the FENS Forum, NENS also wants doctoral and postdoctoral students to be able to meet representatives both from inside and outside academia. A symposium on professional development will be organized, that will include soft skills workshops and seminars.

### FUNDING FROM EU

Doctoral programs benefit strongly from international collaborations. NENS hopes to obtain more support from the European Community for training in neuroscience and to disseminate information among affiliated schools in order to favor the development of international programs.

### BRAIN TEAM

In collaboration with the European DANA Alliance for the Brain (EDAB), a website platform will be created to share the experiences of those students who have participated in public

awareness activities. There will be an activity of the Brain Team at the FENS Forum. A travel grant to attend the Forum will be awarded to the Brain Team which has most successfully interacted with the public.

### NENS AGM

Finally, it was decided that the NENS AGM will take place during the FENS Forum in order to encourage participation and eventually to attract non-NENS affiliated schools. This will be implemented at the 2012 Barcelona FENS Forum. In odd years, members of the NENS Committee will be present at meetings of national societies and at the FENS featured regional meetings.

The report of the AGM 2011 meeting is accessible at:

<http://fens.mdc-berlin.de/nens/2011/meetings/march>

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## NEW CALL FOR NENS STIPENDS

If you would like to gain practical experience at a NENS lab in a different country during your Master's or PhD studies, you can apply for a NENS stipend. These stipends are no longer restricted to first year doctoral students, but are intended for students who have time to benefit from this experience before the completion of their master or thesis project.

For application details please visit

<http://fens.mdc-berlin.de/nens/stipends/>

or contact  
[nens-office@unil.ch](mailto:nens-office@unil.ch).

Next deadline is **June 15th, 2011**

Two NENS stipends were awarded on our last call of February 15th 2011. Leonie Koban, from Geneva, will visit Ghent University to practice intracranial EEG, and Catarina Luis, from Lisbon, will visit Charité University in Berlin to perform electrophysiology. Catarina's stipend is sponsored by the Portuguese Neuroscience Society.