



DANA foundation-FENS funded European Brain Awareness Projects 2022 Report

2020

Armenia/Yerevan
 Bosnia and Herzegovina/Tuzla
 Croatia/Rijeka, Zadar, Split
 Finland/Helsinki
 France/Marseille, Nice, Paris, Nouzilly
 Germany/Berlin
 Greece/Heraklion
 Hungary/Budapest, Debrecen
 Ireland/Limerick
 Italy/Padua
 Netherlands/Rotterdam
 Poland/Warsaw, Krakow
 Portugal/Aveiro, Coimbra
 Romania/Braila
 Russia/St.-Petersburg
 Serbia/Belgrade
 Slovenia/Ljubljana
 Spain/Ciudad Real, Toledo, Barcelona, Burjassot
 Switzerland/Basel
 Turkey/Izmir
 United Kingdom/Saxmundham, London

2021

Belgium/Brussels, Heverlee, Liège
 Bosnia and Herzegovina/Tuzla
 Croatia/Rijeka, Split
 Czech Republic/Prague
 Finland/Helsinki
 France/Toulouse
 Germany/Berlin
 Greece/Athens
 Hungary/Szeged, Pécs
 Ireland/Greystones
 Italy/Rome, Torino
 Poland/Gdansk, Opoczno
 Portugal/Coimbra
 Romania/Bucharest
 Russia/St.-Petersburg
 Serbia/Belgrade
 Spain/Murcia, Toledo
 Switzerland/Vaudarcus
 Ukraine/Kyiv
 United Kingdom/Edinburgh, Cambridge

2022

Belgium/Leuven
 Bosnia and Herzegovina/Mostar
 Croatia/Zadar, Zagreb
 Denmark/Copenhagen
 France/Tours, French Riviera
 Germany/Berlin
 Greece/Nationwide
 Ireland/Dublin
 Italy/Naples, Rome
 Lithuania/Nationwide
 Poland/Krakow, Warsaw, Gdańsk
 Portugal/Nationwide, Coimbra
 Romania/Brăila, Bucharest
 Russia/St.-Petersburg, Moscow
 Serbia/Belgrade
 Slovenia/Ljubljana
 Spain/Ciudad Real, Barcelona, Toledo
 Turkey/Mersin, Nationwide
 Ukraine/Kyiv

2022 Awarded Projects – Geographical Distribution

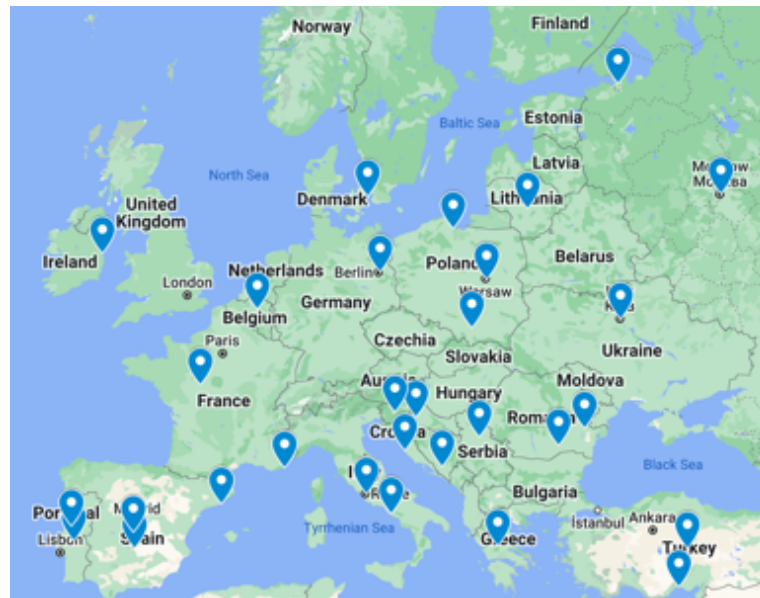


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Introduction

The Dana Foundation offers financial support of up to EUR 1,000 to those who organise a brain awareness event during the Brain Awareness Week period in March. The Dana Foundation has asked FENS to administer this support reserved for European organisations contributing to the Brain Awareness Week (BAW). In 2022, the directors of the Dana Foundation once more approved a grant to FENS.

Selection procedure

FENS distributed the Dana grants in a competitive procedure. A call for applications was launched and the best projects were selected by a committee composed of:

- Malgosia Kossut (EDAB Executive Committee Member)
- Roland Pochet (Belgian Brain Council Secretary General)
- Eva Sykova (DABI and EDAB Executive Committees member)
- Carlos Ribeiro (FENS Secretary General-elect)
- Francesca Cirulli (FENS Treasurer-elect)
- Nicolas Petersen (FENS Communications Committee member)

Selected projects

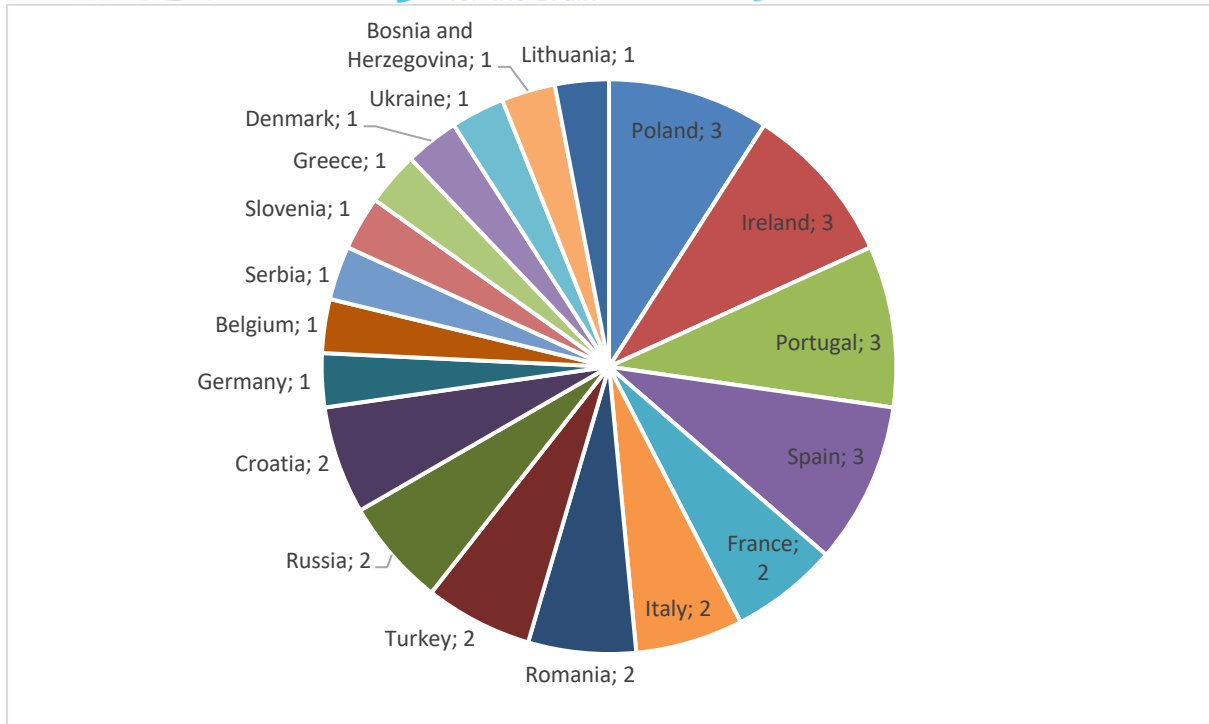
84 applications from 27 different European countries were submitted, of which 33 projects in 19 different European countries were selected for support by the Dana–FENS grants.

The following BAW projects (listed by country) were selected for funding:

1. Care4Brain: Accelerate research, improve health! - Ann Van der Jeugd (Leuven Brain Institute, Belgium)
2. BAW 2022 - "Neuroscientists in all of us" - Sandra Stojic (ELTE PPK, Budapest and University of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina)
3. The Active Brain during a Pandemic - Ana Simunic (University of Zadar, Croatia)
4. Brain myths-buster - Dinko Smilovic (Croatian Institute for Brain Research, Croatia)
5. Brain-storm: a scientific journey - Anne Rahbek-Damm (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)
6. Events for the Brain Awareness Week 2022 in Tours: how art performance can improve public outreach to brain disorders - Yves Tillet (INRAE, France)
7. BAW on the French Riviere, "Face to face with our brain" - Jacques Noel (University Cote d'Azur, France)
8. Brain Awareness Week Berlin (BAW Berlin) - Claudia Blum (Cluster of Excellence NeuroCure, Germany)
9. Online and in-person events of the Hellenic Society for Neurosciences during Brain Awareness Week 2022 - Panagiotis Politis (Hellenic Society for Neuroscience, Greece)
10. Launch of Journey Through the Senses: Synaesthesia AR Gallery - Svetlana Rudenko (Technological University Dublin, Ireland)
11. The BrainFM: Tuning into the Modifiable Risk Factors of Dementia - Anusha Mohan and Magda Kaczmarek (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland)
12. Tics, sleep, and COVID-19: An interactive event for parents and children with tic disorders in Ireland - Lisa Keenan (University College Dublin, Ireland)
13. Abuses, neglect, violence and brain damages consequences: from research to prevention - Antonio Virgili (Corpo Italiano di San Lazzaro, Italy)
14. Hobit 2022 2nd Edition - Supernormal Stimulus - Dionigi Mattia Gagliardi (Quasar Institute For Advanced Design, Italy)

15. Creative Brain Week - Ieva Petkute (Association "Dementia Lithuania", Lithuania)
16. Neurobiology of the COVID-19 pandemic - Elzbieta Pyza (Jagiellonian University, Poland)
17. The mysteries of neuroplasticity - Kinga Szydłowska (Marceli Nencki Foundation for Supporting Biological Sciences, Poland)
18. Brain Days in Tri-City - Wojciech Glac (University of Gdansk, Poland)
19. Talk Neuro to me (Fala-me Neuro) - Rui Rodrigues (Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal)
20. Brain Rail - Carolina Caetano (University of Coimbra and Coimbra Institute for Clinical Biomedical Research, Portugal)
21. Less Rare - Fostering The Knowledge And Dissemination Of Machado-Joseph Disease Through Art, Science And Education - Catarina Miranda (University of Coimbra, Portugal)
22. Smart Brain's Connections - Cristian Gurzu (National College Nicolae Balcescu, Romania)
23. The Music of the Brain - Mihai Stancu (SOMS/Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Romania)
24. 9th St.-Petersburg Brain Awareness Week "Signal Propagation" - Irina Sukhotina (Pavlov First St.-Petersburg State Medical University, Russia)
25. The 1st neuroscience conference for children - Sofya Kulikova (HSE University, Russia)
26. Power of the mind: The evolution of intelligence - Andrea Novaković (Student section of Serbian neuroscience society, Serbia)
27. Brain Awareness Week 2022: Embodied - Nika Jerman (SiNAPSA, Slovenian Neuroscience Association, Slovenia)
28. XI Brain Awareness Week - The Science of Brain Windmills. Organized by the Medical School of Ciudad Real - Javier Frontinan-Rubio (University of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain)
29. Do you like ice cream? - Roser Bastida Barau (Institut de Neurociències de la UAB, Spain)
30. Brain Awareness Week 2021: discovering neuroscience at the Hospital Nacional de Paraplejicos - Juliana Rosa (Hospital Nacional de Paraplejicos, Spain)
31. Let's remove socio-economic boundaries: lighting up neurons - Ozge Selin Cevik (Mersin University, Turkey)
32. NeuroTube - Ekin Kanicioglu (Bilsem, Turkey)
33. Brain Days with Bogomoletz Institute of Physiology - Andrii Cherninskyi (Bogomoletz Institute of Physiology, Ukraine)

Reports of the selected projects can be found below. The FENS administration is still waiting for the final reports from a few of the 2022 grantees and will submit the finalized version later in 2022.



Reports of the selected projects

1. Care4brain

Dates and Duration: 16/3/22 and 18/3/22

Contact:

Dr. Ann Van Der Jeugd
 KU Leuven Brain Institute, Neurosciences
 Herestraat 49, Leuven, 3000, Belgium
 Email: ann.vanderjeugd@kuleuven.be

Report

The Leuven Brain Institute hosted several events including four lectures, three demos, two workshops and a guided lab tour related to brain health and brain ageing for Brain Awareness Week 2022. All our events took place live following the national and local Covid rules, the lectures aimed at the general public and adults, the interactive workshops and demos at children, and over 100 people participated in our events.

Besides this, our institute also raised general brain awareness about the brain via our dedicated social media channels and the ones from our institute members and national outreach partners such as the Belgian Brain Council (BBC). We (re)posted over 50 messages that week, all related to facts about the brain such as the effects of stroke on cognition (see <https://twitter.com/neuropsych/status/1504735949510660098>) and portrayed our research in layman’s terms.

On Wednesday 16th of March, several PhD students, postdocs and staff members of both the Biology department and the Biomedicine department gave workshops where kids could discover how animals see the world, use microscopes to discover how brains look like, and how

fluorescence is used to enable this (see pictures). Meanwhile, adults could join several lab tours and visit the state-of-the-art microscopy site of the VIB/KU Leuven BioImaging Core. After this, miss Jill Kries and miss Lauren Blockmans, postdocs at the Research Group Experimental Otorhino-laryngology gave a lecture about language disorders that was very well attended and initiated an interactive and professionally moderated Q&A afterwards. The kids were given a fancy fluorescent vest and sun cap afterwards to literally raise awareness for brain health, a gift they very much appreciated (see picture).

On Thursday 18th of March, Profs Drs Thomas Vande Castele, Margot Van Couwenberghe, and PhD student, neuropsychiatrists at the University Hospitals Leuven, gave a lecture about their results of the large Leuven Late-life depression study where many of their volunteers who participated were present. Next, PhD student Rebeca Alejandra Gavrila Laic from the BioEngineers department gave a lecture on the on the functional impact of traumatic brain injury in the elderly population. Finally, miss Evelien Van Schoor & Jolien Schaevebeke, PhD students of the Cognitive Neurology group gave a lecture about what happens with your brains if you donate them. Again, many people were interested and this lectures sparked a stimulating conversation afterwards (see pictures). During the evening, an information booth about the beneficial effects of exercise was equipped by PhD student Pauline Hotterbeex of the Movement sciences department. To conclude the evening, a reception, funded by the Belgian patient organization representation Belgian Brain Council NPO was offered to all participants.

We've got a lot of positive feedback from the participants about our activities. They've indicated that they've learned a lot about the brain and neuroscience in general. Also, some people were interested to volunteer for our ongoing studies so overall, this edition of the BAW was a great succes and our participating researchers expressed that it felt great to be able to see people again after two years of online meetings. We would like to thank the BAW organisers and the FENS and DANA foundation for funding us, the money was well spent on merchandising. Also, we would like to thank the Belgian Brain Council for funding our reception.

Related Links

- <https://www.kuleuven.be/brain-institute/events-and-outreach/engagement>
- <https://www.facebook.com/LeuvenBrainInstitute/posts/407870367770521>
- <https://twitter.com/leuvenbrainins1/status/1504370788945772545>
- <https://www.braincouncil.be/brainawarenessweek>



2. A (neuro)scientist in all of us

Dates and Duration: 14.03.-18.03.

Contact:

Ms. Sandra Stojić

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Mostar, Department of Psychology
Matice hrvatske b.b., Mostar, HNŽ, 88 000, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tel: (00387-63) 355436

Email: sandra.stojic@ff.sum.ba

Report

The “Brain Awareness Week - 2022”, a global campaign to increase public awareness about brain research, was organized for the first time at the University of Mostar and under the sponsorship of FENS and Dana Foundation. Under the slogan, “A (neuro)scientists in all of us,” our mission was to demonstrate that “research interest,” or what we might call a “curiosity,” “passion,” “spark,” “is something that ties all of us, regardless of age, from 2 until 102. Learning, exploring, improving, discovering, and understanding the world we live in is what makes us all scientists, and therefore, keeping our brains active, productive, and healthy is essential. In line with that, each day of our BAW - 2022 was conceptualized to target a different audience and deliver relevant topics to each age group.

The event was officially opened at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Mostar. After the introductory talks and an overview of the BAW global initiative, guest speakers from the Faculty of Medicine delivered a lecture titled “Advances in a neurosurgery domain: the story from our medical unit.”

On day one, the virtual exhibition titled “Art in neuroscience,” a collection of various neuroscience images, was premiered. To attract as many visitors from other Departments, the exhibition was screened continuously during the whole BAW week in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science hallways. The same outreach strategy was followed by BA and MA students, who were in charge of the “interactive corner,” where various games, quizzes, anatomical models, and leaflets with interesting trivia about the brain could be found.

The second day of the BAW - 2022 started at the kindergarten. Five-year-olds and six-year-olds participated in the workshop “À la Cajal,” where they, with ink and drawing, learned about various types of neurons and an exciting life story and brilliant accomplishment of one of the greatest, Santiago Ramón y Cajal.

The week continued with the lecture, “What is neuroscience and what a neuroscientist does?” delivered to the primary school students and a roundtable titled “Oh hormones – the brain in the adolescence” in the high school. The final day was reserved for the elderly, where students visited several nursing homes and talked about “What is happening to my brain, and what can I do to keep it healthy?”

The BAW 2022 under of topic “A (neuro)scientist in all of us” was advertised via social media, radio interviews, and program announcements. The organization board was constituted of 20 students and one employee of the Department of Psychology. Ten institutions were visited, more than 400 people were actively involved, and the media outreach crossed over 4 000 views. As the epidemic situation was favorable, all activities were carried out as initially planned, without transference to the online mode.

Related Links

- https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TEMG5qBaLE4a4LIXSwFhteTEM_LRJrR8?usp=sharing
- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LRJsnIKFxi7fkSr11E7mpyFmaSv_9vSP/view?usp=sharing

- <https://bljesak.info/lifestyle/flash/mali-caplijinci-upoznali-se-s-temama-funkcije-i-zdravlja-mozga/377061>
- https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid036EnLyqpWGW3ak24ZTF CWJ9dAPe6pFCXvgX9iRKfS9q4Swh1Cg5PWbCASfJqhZBeel&id=144025432308692
- https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid028oduDJRV4ivCW5hvgSA UYxLMFTMzz9N2MX1GZeugYmhLxLVR9tTCwnK45yswWSgcl&id=1073574689385153
- <https://pogled.ba/novosti/doktori-vrdoljak-i-bosnjak-predstavili-suvremena-neurokirurska-dostignuca-skb-mostar/240727?fbclid=IwAR1OIYISqnG1TRrrNQYWPn5qeTbX5A4desfejLsFgqL7E4MAT8HjE8TTLw>
- <https://ff.sum.ba/hr/node/25678>
- <https://ff.sum.ba/hr/node/25702>
- <https://www.dnevnik.ba/vijesti/tjedan-mozga-na-filozofskom-fakultetu-studenti-ce-imati-priliku-vidjeti-kako-izgledaju-operacije-na-mozgu-2629155>
- <https://www.instagram.com/p/CbiSF6XMsWY/>



3. The Active Brain during a Pandemic

Dates and Duration: The whole BAW Week (7 Days)

Contact:

Dr. Ana Šimunić

University of Zadar, Department of Psychology

Obala kralja Petra Krešimira IV., 2, Zadar, Zadarska, 23000, Croatia

Tel: (+385) 23200570

Email: asimunic@unizd.hr

Report

Day 1

Our BAW started with a workshop for 25 elementary school pupils, Creative waste. They watched videos on the topic of human (non)care for the planet Earth, went through an exercise in sorting waste and made bookmarks from plastic bags.

Đ. Jurjević, a school psychologist, held an online public lecture Brain in a cage about elementary school pupils' thoughts, feelings and ways of dealing with periods of isolation and self-isolation, and psychiatric syndromes as side effects of the pandemic (35 attendants).

Day 2

A workshop for around 25 elementary school pupils, How to behave OK, about socially acceptable behavior and how to react in some socially awkward situations was held. Pupils drew the brain the way they imagined it (our BAW logo was an inspiration), and were presented a plastic model of the brain.

K. Jakšić, mag. psych., held an online public lecture, Virtual reality, on the possibilities of its implementation in scientific research and practical work in various branches of psychology (45 attendants).

Day 3

A workshop for 25 kindergarten children, Presenting the house of the brain, was held, where children were shown the brain as a house that has a ground floor (subcortical areas) and a first floor (cortical areas), got to know certain brain functions through different characters who live in the house and made their own paper "brain house".

A workshop for 28 high-school pupils, Pandemic, brain and reflection in the mirror: What is happening?, on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sleep and nutrition, with emphasis on eating disorders and prevention programs, was held.

J. Karuc, doctor of kinesiology, held an online public lecture, What happens to health when physical activity is low? Impact of a physical inactivity pandemic at the time of the COVID-19 virus pandemic, where he warned about the consequences of inactivity for the body and brain (40 attendants).

T. Gauta, a sports psychologist, held a workshop for 10 psychology students, Psychological flexibility in working with athletes, on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and mindfulness techniques that have proven to be useful in working with athletes.

Day 4

In the workshop Let's keep the brain active, 25 elementary school pupils got acquainted with certain lobes of the brain and done activities that activate specific regions of the brain, was held. In another workshop Words and the brain was held, 20 elementary school pupils were interactively taught about the importance and meaning of words and how they affect changes in the brain and body, ending with writing nice words to each other.

In the workshop Eco-friend, six younger elementary school pupils interactively got acquainted with the interdependence of humans, the environment and nature, using mental maps. In the same school, in the workshop I am cleaning my town and helping myself with PLOGGING, 20 elder pupils were given gloves and garbage bags and collected garbage around the school. This was followed by an interactive presentation on the benefits of such activities for the environment and our brains.

The workshop Presenting the house of the brain was repeated with a second group of around 25 kindergarten children. A workshop Anger was held for a third group of around 25 kindergarten children, where they were told a story about anger and how to deal with it, and drew how they imagined anger and other emotions.

Day 5

Our BAW ended with an online public panel What do we know about COVID-19 after two years? where teachers and students of the Department of Psychology, University of Zadar

presented research conducted during the past year. The topics were: Hypochondria, fear of COVID infection 19 and remembering COVID-related words; Face masks, conspiracy mentality and mental health: Some findings from the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic; The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the elderly: Is successful aging possible at the time of a pandemic?; Some experiences of single employees during the COVID-19 pandemic; Some sociodemographic characteristics and personality traits as determinants of attitudes towards vaccination (60 attendants).

Entire week

The Museum of illusions in Zadar gave a 50% discount for students to support our campaign. To promote the BAW, we put posters in public places, wore T-shirts, handed out glass bottles with our BAW logo, held press conferences and gave public event announcements and reports via social media. We believe that this BAW was very successful, considering a total of around 420 people joining our activities and many positive comments.

Related Links

- <https://www.facebook.com/tjedanmozgaZD>
- https://www.instagram.com/tjedan.mozga_zd/



4. Busting the brain myths

Dates and Duration: The whole BAW Week (7 Days)

Contact:

Dr. Dinko Smilovic

University of Zagreb School of Medicine, Croatian Institute for Brain Research

Salata 12, HIIM, Zagreb, 10000, Croatia

Tel: (99) 2381969

Email: smilovic.dinko@gmail.com

Co-organiser

Svjetlana Kalanj-Bognar, University of Zagreb School of Medicine

svjetlana.kalanj.bognar@mef.hr

Report

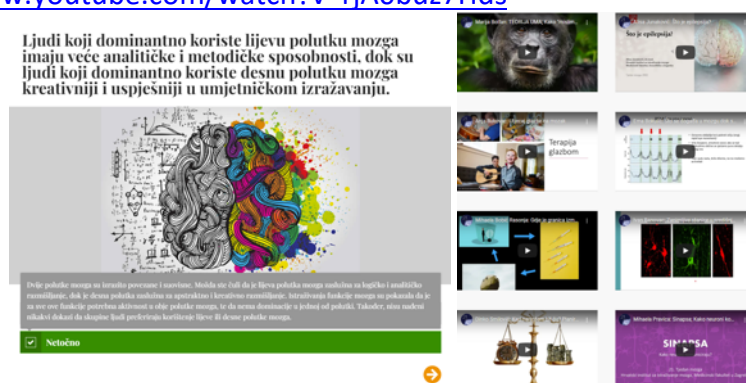
The Croatian Society for Neuroscience presented several major topics during BAW 2022, which culminated in the organization of 2 panels/symposia for the general public:

1) The brain and post-COVID syndrome and 2) The pandemic lesson: How to teach the adolescent brain "via remote". In the first panel discussion, clinicians tackled the problem of the consequences of brain damage that are chronic in nature such as cognitive deficits, difficulties in concentrating and remembering, impairment of decision-making, mood swings, and increased levels of anxiety due to the long-COVID syndrome. The public was heavily involved,

and we received an ample number of questions from individuals that were explained and answered in the panel. Best clinician practices for therapy and diagnostics were also discussed and commonly faced case reports were presented. The second panel was focused on the important topic of the impact of digital technology on brain development. As we have experienced a hefty increase in the application of digital technology in teaching over the past two years, we discussed how to best make use of it, and what are the common pitfalls and good practices of online education. Through the discussions, the participants presented their findings and experiences about the "new normal" in education with an emphasis on which didactic approaches have proven to be the most successful. The panel was attended by a large number of participants, and practical questions were prioritized. The panelists were experts from various fields such as psychology, child and adolescent psychiatry, neuroscience, and education. Besides the panel discussions, members of the Croatian Society for Neuroscience have made 15 educational videos aimed at a younger audience to be used as educative materials in class. In collaboration with many primary and secondary schools in Zagreb, these videos focus on many engrossing aspects of the brain, such as the theory of mind, epilepsy, the influence of music on the brain, addiction, planning, cells in the nervous system, sleep, and hallucinations among others. They are organized as short lectures with ample examples from everyday life to make them more relatable. Last but not least, we have made an interactive learning module in the form of an online pop quiz. The intention of the quiz is to debunk popular myths regarding brain function and pathology, with each question having a detailed explanation of the reasoning behind the misconceptions and the true meaning explained. It was a resounding success, as the quiz was visited by a large number of participants and was featured in a myriad of media outlets. All lectures and the interactive learning module are hosted on the website of the Croatian Society for Neuroscience (<https://www.hdn.hr/hr/en>) and can be freely accessed. The size of this year's outreach was made possible due to the promotional materials, such as posters and program leaflets, and ad campaigns on social media made possible by this grant.

Related Links

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgeSLEKgdjs>
- <https://www.hdn.hr/en/home-2/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Tjedan-mozga-111052457701817>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjA0buz7Hds>



5. BRAINSTORM - a scientific journey

Dates and Duration: 15/03/2022

Contact:

Mr. Anne Rahbek-Damm
Biotech Research & Innovation Centre (BRIC)
Ole Maaløesvej 5, Copenhagen, 2200, Denmark
Tel: (0045) 21288541
Email: anne.rahbek@bric.ku.dk

Co-organiser

The event was organized in collaboration between Issazadeh-Navikas lab and Khodosevich Lab at BRIC with assistance from outreach officer Anne Rahbek-Damm.

Report

On March 15th 2022, 30 motivated 1st year science students from Roskilde high school became neuro scientists for the day at BRIC. After a short introduction to the brain and neuroscience, the students were divided into teams and sent on the mission of identifying the next (fictional) drug for Parkinson's disease. In an Escape Room style challenge, the students had to work their way through four different "stations" solving different problems, by use of scientific techniques commonly used in neuroscience research.

Fun-da-mental Neuroscience

In the first room, students had to detect the activity of their own nerve cells by use of a spiker box which allowed them to detect nerve activity connected to different muscle movements (slow versus fast movements and ring finger versus index finger, plus movement versus external stimulus).

Substances in the brain

In the second room, students had to examine brain tissue of "patients" suffering from Parkinson's disease. The students examined stained microscope slides (mouse tissue) from the substantia nigra to identify which slides were from healthy individuals and which were from diseased. They then measured the extent of the damage and ranked the slides according to it.

Of Mice and Men

In the third challenge, students had to examine how mutations in a specific gene can cause Parkinson's disease-like symptoms by comparing the behavior of mice with gene X mutation with healthy mice. The students watched video clips of mice behavior and recorded their observations. Based on their observations they decided which mouse was the genetic mutant.

Finding Cures

During the final challenge, students had to calculate the effect of different drug candidates based of a mouse wire hanging test. They calculated the mean and standard deviation of the amount of time mice spent hanging with each medicine, made a graph to inspect the results and identified the best drug candidate.

Together the challenges were meant to illustrate the journey of a scientific idea from fundamental neuroscience over patient trials and translational research to clinical innovation.

Throughout the challenge, PhDs and postdocs from BRIC acted as instructors and tutors, answering questions both relating to the concrete tasks and to neuroscience in general. Because of the rather challenging programme and because the student-researchers interaction

was an key element, 15 researchers participated in the event, meaning that each student was in close contact with a researcher throughout the event.

Following the challenge, a researcher from BRIC gave another short talk presenting BRIC neuro research and the journey of a scientific idea, linking to the escape room activities and explaining how these reflect the actual research process.

Following the presentation the students had lots of relevant question both about the programme, about neuroscience and neurodisease in general and about “life as a researcher”. The whole group of researchers engaged in the question round as a panel, which made for a dynamic and informal conversation.

The programme ended with an oral feedback session. Both students and teachers and students expressed satisfaction with the event. The students experienced the tasks as challenging, but also fun and exciting and because they were so different, they were able to engage different groups of students (while some enjoyed the lab based exercises, others found the statistics exercise especially fun). They also highlighted the access to equipment that schools do not have, and the chance to engage with role models in the form of young researchers.

Even though the event was presented in the form of a contest and the students were timed during the challenge, everyone were announced as winners at the end of the event and everyone received a prize to acknowledge their hard work and dedication.

In total it was a fun and rewarding day which met our objectives.

Related Links

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7VKutyISq6w>
- <https://www.bric.ku.dk/news/2022/escape-room-at-bric/>
- https://twitter.com/UCPH_BRIC/status/1504787424207122478



6. Events for the Brain Awareness Week 2022 in Tours: how art performance can improve public outreach to brain disorders

Dates and Duration: 14/03/2022 to 25/03/2022

Contact:

Dr. Yves Tillet

INRAE, UMR Physiologie de la Reproduction et des Comportements

Centre INRAE Val de Loire, Nouzilly, 37380, France

Tel: (33) 247427966

Email: yves.tillet@inrae.fr

Report

Due to pandemic situation during the period before the Brain Awareness Week, we were not able to anticipate the organization of the play by the theater company “Pih-Poh”, and the workshop for pupils about the brain discovery. These events have been cancelled.

During this Brain Awareness Week, we organized 5 public lectures and a meeting with an author in a bookshop dealing with decision and related brain processes.

The public were less numerous compared to the Brain Awareness Week before the pandemic. A lot of people seemed afraid by the risk of contamination in the period where public events were just recently allowed.

Tuesday, March 15th

Public lecture I: How our brain can be misled?

The conference showed that our knowledge, desire, fears, emotions modify our perception of the environment and biased our judgement. Followed by a discussion.

Lecturer Prof Laurence Taconnat (Université de Tours).

General public –audience 110 persons.

Public lecture II: Is our brain under hormonal influence?

This lecture explored the role of hormonal inputs on brain activity and cognition, with a special attention to gonadal steroids like progesterone and oestradiol. Followed by a discussion.

Lecturer: Dr Yves Tillet, INRAE-CNRS-Université de Tours.

General public –audience 100 persons.

Wednesday March, 16th

Public lecture III: Stimulating the brain for treatment and understanding hallucination during schizophrenia

This lecture concerns the understanding of cognitive and cerebral mechanisms involved in auditory hallucination. The aim of this conference was to show new therapy and to disseminate our knowledge of schizophrenia. Followed by a discussion.

Lecturer : Dr Marine MONDINO - Centre de Recherche en Neurosciences de Lyon - Inserm U1028 / CNRS UMR5292 - Centre Hospitalier Le Vinatier, Bron.

General public –audience 100 persons.

Public lecture IV: New targets for the diagnostic and treatment for Alzheimer disease.

The conference presented the latest data on the different treatments of Alzheimer disease and focus on a new target, the protein PKR. As demonstrated on animal models, this protein is involved in inflammatory processes and neuronal death, two central aspects of Alzheimer disease. A discussion with the public followed the lecture.

Lecturer: Dr. Marion TIBLE (Neurocentre Magendie U1215, Bordeaux).

General public –audience 100 persons.

Friday, March 25th

Lecture V (in jail for prisoners): Can we help our brain to modulate our emotions?

It is now possible to explore how our emotions are expressed in the brain and how we are able to control them. The conference gave an overview of these points. The conference was given by the Prof C. Belzung (University of Tours, CNRS). Audience: 12 persons.

Monday, March 14th

Meeting with an author in a book shop:

A public discussion was organized in the bookshop “La Boite à Livres” in Tours. The discussion started by the presentation of a book entitled «Les vacances de Momo Sapiens” by the author, Prof M Pessiglione (ICM Paris). Then the author presented how our brain could make right or bad decision, and an attempt to explain these choices.

General public, audience: 12 persons.



7. Face to face with our Brain

Dates and Duration: March 12 to 21, 2022

Contact:

Mr. Jacques Noel

Université Côte d'Azur, Institut de Pharmacologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire

660 Route des Lucioles, Valbonne, 06560, France

Tel: (33) 652231611

Email: jacques.noel@univ-cotedazur.fr

Co-organiser

Carole Rovere, Université Côte d'Azur, Institut de Pharmacologie Moléculaire et Cellulaire

rovere@ipmc.cnrs.fr

Report

“Face to face with our Brain” was this year’s theme of the BAW on the French Riviera in the South of France. From 12 to 21 March 2022, the general public and schoolchildren could meet researchers in neuroscience, AI, law, economics, education and clinicians from the Université Côte d'Azur (UCA) and from all over France, all of whom were interested in how our brain works. 41 events were organized during the week. The inaugural conference “Cognitive bias and AI bias: a network of explanations?” compared the views of researchers in law, economics and AI on “Ethics, Brain and AI”, or how our brains and behaviors may be impacted by AI. We have worked with the House of AI on the French Riviera (Maison de l'intelligence artificielle) to

offer a mini-series of conferences on Brain, AI, neuromorphic electronic, Brain-AI and education. All conferences and encounters are on Youtube (in French; see links below). We collaborated with the University Hospital (CHU) for the 5th annual Brain & Health Day (with many conferences on brain tumour surgery, migraine, stroke, hypnosis, brain and sport...), also available on Youtube. A mini-series of conferences was organized at the Princess Grace Hospital in Monaco. The science & movies screenings of the film “5 nouvelles du cerveau” followed by conversation with researchers in neuroscience and AI were a great success. To entertain children and their parents, we have organized three escape-game days (Cerveau, A researcher loses memory) and brain workshops in Mouans Sartoux, Villeneuve-Loubet and Carros. Guillaume Néry, freediving world record holder at -126 meters, gave a spectacular closing lecture (see the link on Youtube below). The BAW on the French Riviera was organized under the national coordination of the French Society of Neuroscience, Université Côte d’Azur, Centre Hospitalo Universitaire of Nice and Maison de l’intelligence artificielle (Houe of AI). We have collaborated with local city councils in Cannes, Nice, Monaco, Villeneuve-Loubet, Mouans Sartoux, Valbonne, Biot, Carros and Grasse. The BAW on the Riviera was relayed in the media (TV interview in the local news, local press releases, radio interviews and on the internet, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook...). More than 1,000 people attended the events, and many more watched the conferences live and online replays (see links). Many lectures are available on Youtube and the BAW website (see the links below). Our aim is to give the opportunity for renowned scientists and young PhD students to sensitize lay public and school children to career in neuroscience and recent discoveries on the brain.

Related Links

- <https://www.vip-studio360.fr/galerie360/visites/vv-universite-cote-dazur/vv-semaine-du-cerveau-c.html>
- <https://youtu.be/lwVORCfKyOs>
- https://youtu.be/k_16byQZ_bE
- <https://youtu.be/nEEKWbjAa6E>



8. Brain Awareness Week Berlin (BAW Berlin)

Dates and Duration: The whole BAW Week (7 Days)

Contact:

Mrs. Claudia Blum

Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Cluster of Excellence NeuroCure

Charitéplatz 1, Berlin, 10117, Germany

Tel: (+4930) 450539814

Report

The Bernstein Center for Computational Neurosciences Berlin (BCCN Berlin) together with the Einstein Center for Neurosciences Berlin (ECN Berlin), the Cluster of Excellence NeuroCure, Schering Stiftung and the Collaborative Research Center 1315 (SFB 1315) have organized several events (Movies, Exhibition, Lectures, Pub Quiz) for miscellaneous target groups during the Brain Awareness Week in Berlin. Due to the pandemic situation we offer both online and hybrid events. The program and was available on our webpage (<https://www.baw-berlin.de/>). The target audience was pupils, university students, scientists and general public.

At March 12, 2022, 13.00-18.00 there was the Annual German Neuro-Olympiade organized by Mandy Watson and Dr. Marta Orlando (Deutsche Neurowissenschaften Olympiade Berlin e. V.).

At March 14, 2022, 10.00-12.00 the BCCN has shown the movie “Ich bin dein Mensch” with a discussion after the movie with with Ivo Boblan.

At March 14, 2022, 19.00 NeuroCure and ECN have shown the movie “My love affair with the brain - The Life and Science of Dr. Marian Diamond”.

At March 15, 2022, 19.00 – 21.00 the Schering Stiftung organized a Fishbowl “Menschliches Bewusstsein und Künstliche Intelligenz – eine grenzüberschreitende Beziehung?” This was a moderated panel discussion with experts and an artist.

At March 15, 2022, 16.00 -17.00 the SFB 1315 has organized the lecture by Laura DeNardo, UCLA “Developmental Circuit Mechanisms of Adaptive Threat Avoidance”.

At March 17, 2022, 16.00-18.00 NeuroCure and the ECN had together a “Meet a (Neuro)Scientist” event at the NeuroCure Research station at the Humboldt Lab Berlin. Prateep Beed explained there his research about serotonin.

And finally at March 18, 2022, 19.30-21.00 Berlin Brains Lecture took place at the Urania Berlin on “Misfolded protein origami - How misfolded proteins harm our brain” by Prof Dr. Erich Wanker and Dr. Anne Ast. The chair was Dr. Jochen Müller.

Related Links

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWa6Tn-tfTc>
- <https://www.baw-berlin.de/>



9. Online and in-person events of the Hellenic Society for Neurosciences during Brain Awareness Week 2022

Dates and Duration: The whole BAW Week (7 Days)

Contact:

Dr. Panagiotis Politis

Hellenic Society for Neurosciences; Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens
Soranou Efessiou 4, Athens, Attiki, 11527, Greece

Tel: (0030) 6946953879

Email: ppolitis@bioacademy.gr

Report

Our activities included a number of in-person and online events, presentations and webinars organized by members of the Hellenic Society for Neuroscience (HSfN). These activities comprised of talks and discussions open to general public, demonstrations, video presentations as well as interactive sessions regarding the brain and its functions. The majority of these events took place during or around the Brain Awareness Week, March 14-20, 2022.. We encouraged the participation of early career scientists and students that presented talks, art and movies regarding brain processes. The topics of the events included the function of neurons and the brain, the impact of the pandemic on stress and our brains, the imaging of the living brain, how our brain learns and remembers, and the impact of stress on our brains and brain-related diseases. Several senior and junior members of the HSfN participated with online talks/discussions and organization of the events.

In particular, the following events were held during BAW 2022:

1. A series of online and in-person events were organized in conjunction with the non-profit organization “I care for my brain” (<http://www.icareformybrain.org/>). These events included a social media campaign, radio and television spots, a kiosk in the metro station, videos, movies and reference material about the brain, video walls, series of lectures about the brain, Painting, Photography and Video exhibition, as well as an Annual Hybrid Conference on the 18-19 of March in Athens with target audience the general public. All these materials and exhibitions were presented in metro stations in the city of Athens, Greece, between 14 and 20 March 2022.
2. A series of in-person visits to high schools and discussions with students about neuroscience in Heraklion, Crete, Greece, were organized by neuroscience researchers (K. Sidiropoulou and I. Charalampopoulos) from the Univ. of Crete. Prof Sidiropoulou and Prof Charalampopoulos together with their research associates visited High Schools in the area of Heraklion, Crete to talk with high school students about neuroscience as a possible area of future studies. High school students have also visited the Medical school where they attended presentations by neuroscientists of the University of Crete about how the brain works and also visited a number of research laboratories.
3. A series of in-person visits of students from primary and secondary schools at the laboratory of Human and Animal Physiology of the University of Patras, Greece, were organized by Prof Marigoula Margarity. These visits included presentations by Professor M. Margarity on the basics of how our brain works, observation of brain sections and an exhibition of behavioural tests. For pupils of primary schools, Prof Margarity together with her research associates organized a demonstration of a plastic model of the brain and nerve cells. In total they managed to host and/or visit more than 10 schools during and around the BAW 2022. The following Schools have participated in these events:
 - 2nd General Lyceum of Preveza, Epirus, March 3rd, 2022
 - 3rd Junior High School of Preveza, Epirus, March 9th, 2022
 - Model General Lyceum of Patras, Peloponnese, March 14th, 2022
 - Junior High School of Methoni, Peloponnese, March 17th, 2022

- 1st Vocational School of Nafpaktos, Aitolokarnania, Central Greece, March 19th, 2022
- 2nd General Lyceum of Pyrgos, Ileia, Epirus, Peloponnese, March 22nd, 2022
- 2nd Primary School of Amaliada, Amaliada, Ileia, Peloponnese, March 4th, 2022
- Primary School of Aigialis and Tholoaria, Amorgos island, March 15th 2022
- Experimental elementary school of the University of Patras, March 16th 2022
- Special Vocational Education and Training Laboratories, Pyrgos, Ileias, March 24th

4. An online event and video presentation with the title "What is brain?" will be organized by Anastasia Tsingotjidou (Assoc. Professor, Veterinary Medicine, Univ. of Thessaloniki). In this context, Greek (e.g. Danai Stratou, Aris Georgiou, etc.) and international (e.g. Diane Ackerman) artists will present their answer in a few minutes self-video. The video has already been composed and contains the answer to a simple question: "What is brain?". An online discussion with the audience will follow. This online event was not performed during the BAW week, but we plan to organize it at the end of May 2022.

Related Links

- <https://museum.med.uoc.gr:8443/showAnnouncementDB.jsp?id=6>



10. Launch of App: Synaesthesia Gallery AR: Journey Through the Senses

Dates and Duration: 15/03/22

Contact:

Dr. Svetlana Rudenko
 Open Air Gallery AR
 Dublin, Ireland
 Email: rudenkos@tcd.ie

Co-organiser

Mads Haahr, Trinity College Dublin, School of Computer Science and Statistics

haahrm@tcd.ie

Report

Talks:

- Prof. Richard Roche, Maynooth University, Ireland
- Dr. Svetlana Rudenko, www.svetlana-rudenko.com Open Air Gallery AR, Music Curator LA JTTS,
- Prof. Mads Haahr, Haunted Planet Studios, www.hauntedplanet.com, Trinity College Dublin

FENS & DANA funding award BAW 2022. In this event for Brain Awareness Week 2022 at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, at Long Room Hub, Tuesday 15th March 4pm, we launched Augmented Reality (AR) App featuring Music by Liszt, Chopin, Schumann, Scriabin and others painted by artists-synaesthetes. 15 Multisensory Music/Art image-soundscapes of creative synaesthetic experiences were produced by six artists and geolocated across the Trinity College Dublin (TCD) campus. The work is the result of a seven-year collaboration between artists-synaesthetes and concert pianist, composer and researcher Dr Svetlana Rudenko (www.svetlana-rudenko.com)

Music has the power to move us all, but for some people it is experienced in a different way – not just heard but seen, felt, smelt. Synaesthesia is a peculiar wiring of the brain that is characterised by cross-sensory perceptions – in addition to perceiving one stimulus, people with synaesthesia may perceive an additional quality to the experience – a colour or smell or feeling. Ramachandran and Hubbard (2003) stated that ‘synesthesia causes excess communication amongst brain maps...Depending on where and how widely in the brain the trait was expressed, it could lead to both synesthesia and to a propensity towards linking seemingly unrelated concepts and ideas – in short, creativity.’ Our Gallery is a Journey Through the Senses and Creativity.

The Android and iOS App geolocates the Art and Music soundscapes across the TCD campus and adds interviews with a neuroscientist and the artists themselves. Concept video: <https://rebrand.ly/synaesthesia-ar-gallery-prototype>

The App is creative itself, as a Psychogeographical Augmentation of Location with Art and Music soundscapes. The free app has two modes: playable on Trinity College Dublin campus and can also stage itself in any location in the world, e.g., a park. The AR experience is hosted by Haunted Planet Studios, a serious game developer run by Prof. Mads Haahr, School of Computer Science and Statistics, Trinity College Dublin.

Artists: Timothy Layden, Ninghui Xiong, María José de Córdoba Serrano, Geri Hahn, Carol Steen, Svetlana Rudenko, James Wannerton. Scientific episode by Prof. Jamie Ward, University of Sussex.

Participants: 30 registered (Eventbrite), 35 participants in person

Related Links

- <https://rebrand.ly/synaesthesia-gallery-ar-download>
- <https://vimeo.com/699095407>
- <https://www.tcd.ie/trinitylongroomhub/whats-on/details/event.php?eventid=158664189>
- <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/synaesthesia-gallery-ar-journey-through-the-senses-tickets-268063965537?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>



11. BrainFM: Hear, Connect, Move - Towards proactive brain health

Dates and Duration: March 12 - 16, 2022

Contact:

Dr. Anusha Mohan
 Trinity College Dublin, School of Psychology
 College Green, Dublin, 2, Ireland
 Tel: (+35389965) 1623
 Email: anusha.mohan@tcd.ie

Co-organiser

Magda Kaczmarska, Global Brain Health Institute; Anusha and Magda contributed equally to the award and the organisation of the events

magda.kaczmarska@gbhi.org

Report

BrainFM is an educational tool that uses dance to learn about the brain. It combines multisensory didactic learning alternating with embodied co-creative experience to support understanding of neuroscience. Importantly, BrainFM stimulates community engagement while simultaneously reinforcing the concept into action. During Brain Awareness Week 2022, we delivered four BrainFM sessions, highlighting the neuroscience behind three modifiable risk factors for dementia (hearing, social stimulation and movement) to diverse intergenerational and multi-disciplinary communities in Ireland and beyond.

The events were spread over four days and included both online and in-person events. Each of the events were co-facilitated by Magda Kaczmarska, dance artist and Dr. Anusha Mohan, postdoctoral researcher at Trinity College Dublin. While Dr. Mohan explained the didactic content covering the neuroscience of how protecting our hearing, building meaningful social connections and being physically active affects the brain, Ms. Kaczmarska facilitated creative dance and movement activities tailored to reinforce the content, supporting a co-creative and communal component of building choreography together with the audience. This material was adapted to different audiences and to online and in-person sessions.

Each of the sessions started with an introduction to the facilitators, the topic and welcoming the audience into the space by kindling their creativity to say “hello” with their bodies. This was followed by learning of the mechanics of hearing which was reinforced by the “hearing dance” to a Bollywood dance number. Understanding the mechanics of hearing could enable us to segue into exploring hearing loss, how it affects the brain and how it could lead to social isolation. From here we further delved into the different brain regions affected by social

isolation and facilitated a kinesthetic mirroring technique to improve social connection with one another through an embodied experience. We finished each session with a co-creative component where the audience created a movement to represent different physical activities and discussed the impact of increased physical activity in the brain.

Each of the four events catered to a very different set of audience. The first session on March 12 was delivered to the attendees of the Creative Brain Week 2022 organized at the same time as Brain Awareness Week by the Global Brain Health Institute at Trinity College Dublin. This was a group of professional workers including artists, businesspeople, scientists, musicians, radio and theatre producers, dancers and others working to enhance the lives of people living with dementia. The audience expressed that the material learnt during the workshop was valuable to help their day-to-day interactions with people living with dementia.

The session on March 13 was organized for the people living with dementia. In this online session, participants explored the content and activities from the comfort of their homes. To this population, knowing more about what they can do to improve their quality of life and understanding the science behind the information they receive through different channels gives them the power to be the agents of their own brain health. The audience was inspired after the event to seek out more dialogue around brain health, dementia and neuroscience.

The session on March 14 was tailored to primary school children. We had a classroom full of children participating online from St.Paul's Primary School in Navan along with their teacher. Here students were exposed to content that was condensed to contain the essence and the activities were more interactive than with the other groups. The idea with introducing these topics to primary age children is to accelerate the exposure of the next generation to these topics and encourage conversation at a much younger age.

The final session on March 16 was open to the general public of the Dublin Docklands. Here we interacted with the people from the local community in person and were able to establish a bond and a sense of oneness within the community. Raising these topics with people of different age groups encouraged discussion and awareness about how to protect our hearing, how to improve physical activity and increase meaningful social connections to not only increase our overall health but also significantly reduce the risk of developing dementia.

BrainFM was also featured in several promotions and video summaries of Creative Brain Week 2022. Additionally, we were invited to share our experiences and journey in developing BrainFM on March 15, 2022 as part of the "The Creative Brain on Arts, Health and Wellness".

With the support of the FENS Brain Awareness Week award, BrainFM was able to draw in a diverse multicultural audience and continue to grow into a tangible reality.

Related Links

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTk7tsyiEak&t=2556s>
- <https://creativebrainweek.com/>
- <https://twitter.com/fensorg/status/1504820689311875073?s=12&t=-10bukp2eAQWWVZ4zDCePA>



12. Tics, sleep, and Covid-19

Dates and Duration: The whole BAW Week (7 Days)

Contact:

Ms. Lisa Keenan

University College Dublin, Psychology

School of Psychology, Newman Building, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin, Ireland

Email: lisa.keenan1@ucdconnect.ie

Report

This project had two components: 1) Social media events aimed at increasing awareness of tics and Tourette syndrome (TS), and 2) An online art-neuroscience workshop for families and children with tics or TS in Ireland.

Our social media events took place on Twitter. We had a different theme each day, covering one aspect of TS and engaging readers with an activity or action linked to the daily theme. Day 1 introduced tics and TS with a blog post and asked readers to complete our 'Tic Myth Buster' quiz, which included common misconceptions and stereotypes. On Day 2, we answered and explained each item of the 'Tic Myth Buster' quiz and tasked readers with asking a friend or colleague what they know about tics or sharing something new they've learned. Day 3 covered hidden aspects of TS, including co-occurring symptoms and conditions, highlighting the fact that each person with TS will have a different set of symptoms but also a unique collection of personal talents and strengths. We invited members of the TS community to 'share their strength,' which included responses such as creativity and resilience. On Day 4, we shared some insights into the work we do in our lab about tics, TS, and sleep. We invited readers to 'Ask the Researcher', where they could submit a question about tics or TS, which would be incorporated into a future blog post and included at our upcoming family event. On Day 5, we highlighted the importance of awareness and support for TS and encouraged the TS community to share their favourite resources.

Our art-neuroscience workshop for families and children with tics or TS in Ireland provided an opportunity to learn about the brain-basis of tics in a fun and engaging way. The event was hosted by members of our current research project on TS: Lisa Keenan (PhD researcher), Dr Michelle Downes (Assistant Professor of Developmental Neuropsychology), and Maria Dinca (MSc Researcher). We were also joined by an artist, Shakira Browne. We began with some short talks covering the neuroscience of tics and sleep, before engaging families in an art activity centred on understanding the complexity of TS. Our artist guided families at home in drawing

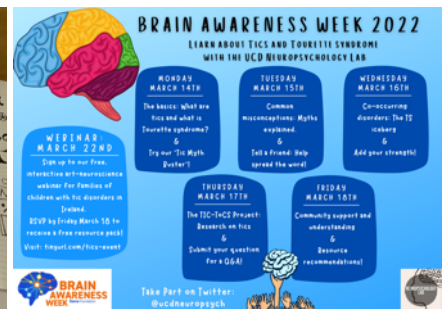
an iceberg, where visible symptoms (e.g., motor tics and vocal tics) are depicted above the water, while other symptoms and characteristics are hidden beneath the surface. Children were encouraged to get creative and to share ideas with the artist, who would then take inspiration from them into a collaborative piece. This activity led into a more informal discussion-based session, covering topics from the Covid-19 pandemic to the lack of support for TS in Ireland and children’s experiences at school with TS.

Given the importance of creating a supportive community for families affected by tics and TS, we used this event as an opportunity to celebrate diversity, find comfort in shared experiences, while also increasing understanding of the brain-basis of tics. We received great feedback from the families who took part in the event and thanked children for attending with a free resource pack filled with paper-based activities and stickers related to tics and the brain.

Our artist is currently finalising the collaborative piece inspired by the art-neuroscience event, which we are very excited to see. The artwork will be housed in our lab and pictures will be shared on our website and social media platforms to increase awareness of tics and provide a physical memory of the event.

Related Links

- <https://www.ucdneuropsychologylab.com>
- <https://twitter.com/ucdneuropsych>



13. Abuses, neglect, violence and brain damages consequences: from research to prevention

Report to be received.

14. HOBIT II - How Our Brain Innovates Thinking

Dates and Duration: The whole BAW Week (7 Days)

Contact:

Numero Cromatico
 Via tiburtina 213, Roma, 00185, Italy
 Tel: (+39) 3291337741
 Email: numerocromatico@gmail.com

Report

HOBIT is an interdisciplinary festival that every year focuses on the dissemination of topics concerning the relationship between art and neuroscience. The event is organised by Numero Cromatico, a non-profit association and research centre established in Rome in 2011.

The second edition focused on the Supernormal stimulus, a particular phenomenon of perception which was described and analysed using neurobiological, neuropsychological and aesthetic tools.

The initiative included webinars with academics and professors, artists and performers; a day of experiments at MAXXI Museum in Rome; a guided tour of a thematic art exhibition.

Numero Cromatico hosted four webinars with a duration of about an hour and a half.

Four external speakers were invited to deal with the proposed topic:

- Delfina Stella (from Centro Nazionale di Produzione della Danza Virgilio Sieni) dealt with the relationship between mind, body and dance in her talk “Danza e cervello: il movimento come pratica empatica di conoscenza”;
- Paolo Oricco and Maria Luisa Abate (from Compagnia Marcido Marcidorjs e Famosa Mimosa) in conversation with Dionigi Mattia Gagliardi (artist and researcher of Numero Cromatico) discussed about theatre as a supernormal stimulus in a talk called “Il teatro come amplificazione del corpo e della voce”;
- Andrea Pinotti (from the Università degli Studi di Milano Statale) gave a lecture on virtual reality called “Reale virtuale. La sfida degli ambienti immersivi”;
- Grazia Pulvirenti and Renata Gambino (from the Università degli Studi di Catania) talked about the literary phenomenon of ekphrasis as a supernormal stimulus: “Ekphrasis d’autore: un genere di superstimolo? Emozioni innanzi al paesaggio marino di Friedrich di Heinrich von Kleist”.

Alongside the four online appointments, HOBIT II included a day in which a neuroaesthetic experiment was carried out by the collective in collaboration with BrainSigns at Museo MAXXI in Rome, where Numero Cromatico currently has an exhibition on show called “Superstimolo”.

All the proposed activities had an excellent response, successfully involving different target audiences, with an average of about 90 participants for each appointment, doubling the number of participants of the previous year. The response of participants was very positive and active: at the end of each talk, participants seized the opportunity to ask a few questions to the speakers.

We are proud that HOBIT became an annual event with a growing number of participants, activities and topics to discuss. This second experience within Brain Awareness Week fills us with pride and paves the way for future projects and collaborations, corroborating our hybrid and transdisciplinary approach to artistic and scientific research.

Related Links

- <https://en.numerocromatico.com/hobit-2>
- <https://www.facebook.com/numerocromatico>
- <https://www.numerocromatico.com>



15. Creative Brain Week

Report to be received

16. Neurobiology of COVID-19 pandemic

Dates and Duration: The whole BAW Week (7 Days)

Contact:

Prof. Elzbieta Pyza

Jagiellonian University, Department of Cell Biology and Imaging, Institute of Zoology and Biomedical Research

Gronostajowa 9, Krakow, Malopolska, 30-387, Poland

Tel: (12) 664 5337

Email: elzbieta.pyza@uj.edu.pl

Co-organiser

Irena Nalepa, Maj Institute of Pharmacology, Polish Academy of Sciences, Department of Brain Biochemistry

nalepa@if-pan.krakow.pl

The BAW 2022 was also organized by the Polish Copernicus Society of Naturalists.

Report

During the BAW 2022 in Krakow, Poland there was six lectures presented online, followed by Q&A sessions:

1. Alina Borkowska (Collegium Medicum of the Copernicus University in Bydgoszcz, Poland) - Neuropsychiatric disorders in COVID-19 patients.
2. Agnieszka Chocyk (Institute of Pharmacology PAS, Krakow, Poland) - Stress, is it enemy or friend?
3. Agnieszka Pałucha-Poniewiera (Institute of Pharmacology PAS, Krakow, Poland) – Depression – when sadness becomes the disease.
4. Anna Blasiak and Tomasz Blasiak (Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland) - Neurobiological basis of making decisions.
5. Boguslaw Habrat (Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, Warsaw, Poland) – Addictions in COVID-19 pandemic.
6. Janusz Heitzman (Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, Warsaw, Poland) – The influence of COVID-19 pandemic on mental health of Poles.

Lectures were given in Polish on the Jagiellonian University platform YouTubeUJ. Links for lectures were on a home page of the Polish Copernicus Society of Naturalists (PCSN) (https://ptpk.org/tydzien_mozgu).

Questions for speakers were collected during the whole week and answers were published on the BAW 2022 page of the PCSN home page.

Each lecture was viewed by several hundreds to several thousand people.

All lectures are published in a form of articles in the popular science journal "Wszechswiat" (Universe).

There were also a special day (Brain Day) of short lectures for primary school students about stress and sex of the brain. Lectures were prepared by neuroscientists from the Maj Institute of Pharmacology in Krakow: Katarzyna STACHOWICZ, Bernadeta SZEWCZYK, Bartłomiej POCHWAT, Helena DOMIN, Katarzyna RAFA-ZABŁOCKA.

For kinder garden kids there is was a small book, prepared by Dr. Katarzyna Stachowicz from the Maj Institute of Pharmacology, to download.

For high school and University students there was a competition on best articles on the brain, its functions and diseases. Best articles will be published in the journal "Wszechswiat". The winners of this competition are: Kornel Szypulski (Jagiellonian Univ.), Aleksandra Tyszka (Jagiellonian Univ.) and Renata Pukło (Maj Institute of Pharmacology in Krakow).

Related Links

- https://ptpk.org/tydzien_mozgu
- <https://www.facebook.com/cafenauka>
- <http://if-pan.krakow.pl/pl/>



17. The mysteries of neuroplasticity

Report to be received

18. Brain Days in Tri-City 2022

Dates and Duration: The whole BAW Week (7 Days)

Contact:

Dr. Wojciech Glac

University of Gdansk, Department of Animal and Human Physiology

Faculty of Biology, Wita Stwosza 59, Gdansk, Pomorskie, 80-308, Poland

Tel: (4858) 5232001

Email: wojciech.glac@ug.edu.pl

Report

Thanks to the on-line formula, over 20,000 people took part in the 11th Brain Days in the Tri-City at the University of Gdansk.

12th edition of the Brain Days in Tricity took place at the University of Gdansk from 14 to 20 March 2022. We have conducted 50 on-line live webinars and over 50 laboratory workshops for children and adults. The whole program is available at the website dnimozgu.ug.edu.pl. In total, over 2,000 people participated in all on-line lectures. All the places at the reserved workshops (over 500) were used, and over 1,500 people participated in the open-access workshops.

Thanks to a grant from the Dana Foundation and the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies we have prepared a city game about neurobiology on the campus of the University. The game was played using a mobile application and over 80 teams took part in it. Everyone who finished the game was rewarded with brain gifts. The game is still enabled to play and anyone can play the game at any time.

The main organizer of Brain Days in Tricity was the Faculty of Biology at the University of Gdańsk, but the program was so rich thanks to the cooperation with Science Center Hevelianum in Gdańsk, which hosted some of the lectures and workshops, as well as many psychologists, neurobiologists, engineers and neurologists from University of Gdańsk and other higher school from Gdańsk. The organizational work was also carried out by students of the University of Gdańsk, who prepared a lot of lectures and workshops.

Related Links

- www.dnimozgu.ug.edu.pl
- <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1j96V04ukTri3H9je1xijN4-VGAD3Cdt6?usp=sharing>



19. Fala-me Neuro

Dates and Duration: The whole BAW Week (7 Days)

Contact:

Mr. Rui Rodrigues

Instituto de Medicina Molecular, Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de Lisboa

Av. Professor Egas Moniz, Lisboa, 1649-028, Portugal

Email: ruirodrigues926@gmail.com

Co-organiser

Rita Belo, Instituto de Medicina Molecular, Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade de Lisboa

rfbelo@gmail.com

Other organizers throughout the country:

- Eva Carvalho, Catarina Castro, Ana Teixeira (Porto area)
- Raquel Bóia, Catarina Neves (Coimbra area)
- Dalila Silva, Teresa Santos, Mafalda Manso, Isa Mota, Tiago Coelho (Lisboa area)

- Rebekah Koppenol, Carlos Matos (Algarve area)

Report

This year our Brain Awareness Week (BAW) project, under the umbrella of projects of “Fala-me Neuro”, was entitled “Brain and Time”. We had initially proposed a cycle of 3 workshops in local schools, aimed at high school students with ages 15-18 (estimation of 150-200 participants), to happen during BAW 2022 in different locations in Portugal (Porto, Lisboa and Algarve). Fortunately, our team was expanded, and we were able to reach a bigger audience (far more than expected). Our BAW 2022 activities were performed in 4 different locations in Portugal, with 4 different teams reaching 5 different schools (ranging from primary to high schools). In detail:

14.03.2022; Colégio Europeu Astoria (Astoria International School), Lisboa

- Team members: Dalila Silva, Teresa Santos, Mafalda Manso, Isa Mota, Tiago Coelho

- Target audience: 5th grade classes (2 classes with 30 students each)

14.03.2022; Escola Martim de Freitas, Coimbra

- Team members: Raquel Bóia, Catarina Neves

- Target audience: 9th grade classes (2 classes with 30 students each)

15.03.2022; EB 2,3 C/Secundário De Santo António Da Charneca, Barreiro

- Team members: Dalila Silva, Teresa Santos, Mafalda Manso, Isa Mota, Tiago Coelho

- Target audience: 6th grade classes (4 classes with 30 students each)

16.03.2022; Escola EB1 Lousado – Agrupamento de Escolas de Ribeirão, Vila Nova de Famalicão

- Team members: Eva Carvalho, Catarina Castro, Ana Teixeira

- Target audience: 4th grade classes (2 classes with 20 students each)

17.03.2022; Escola Secundária Manuel Teixeira Gomes, Portimão

- Team members: Rebekah Koppenol, Carlos Matos

- Target audience: 10, 11 and 12th grade classes (9 classes, 230 students total)

In all schools the activities consisted of a brief presentation about the brain and time, with special focus on 1) brain development and aging and 2) circadian rhythms (adapted to the different age ranges). Hands on activities followed which included: puzzles, quizzes based on their lectures, moulding clay and handouts of book markers and playful paper toys.

We've got a lot of positive feedback from the participants in all schools. All children (and teachers) had an amazing time learning about the brain and performing the practical activities. They indicated that they've learned a lot about the brain and time, circadian rhythms and the brain and neuroscience in general. Overall, we were able to reach ~500 students (from various ages).

Also, as initially proposed, we are now organizing other events (in-person, free of charge, informal Portuguese-speaking events) in other cities of Portugal. So far, we have already planned an event in Figueira da Foz at the end of this month (30th April 2022) and another one in the summer 2022 (location: to be defined). These events will host one or two renowned

Portuguese neuroscientists along with invited guests with distinct roles in society (e.g. physicians, athletes, journalists) to discuss current and controversial neuroscience topics.

Finally, we are continuing the dissemination of digital content entirely spoken/written in Portuguese on social media (@falameneuro in our current platforms Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn). Furthermore, we are now starting to create our own webpage to facilitate information sharing with a broader audience, with didactic, trendy and relevant information adapted in several formats, ranging from illustrations, infographics, educational videos/games and information regarding in-person events.

Related Links

- <https://www.facebook.com/falameneuro>
- <https://twitter.com/FalameNeuro>
- <https://www.instagram.com/falameneuro>



20. Brain Rail

Dates and Duration: 02/03/2022 - 30/03/2022

Contact:

Ms. Ana Carolina Silva Caetano
 CIBB (CNC-UC and iCBR), Science Communication Office
 Rua Larga, Faculdade de Medicina, polo I - 1º piso, Coimbra, 3004-504, Portugal
 Tel: (+351) 239 820 190
 Email: ccaetano@cnc.uc.pt

Report

Brain Awareness Week (BAW) 2022, organised by the CIBB Consortium of the University of Coimbra, was held in Coimbra in March (March 2 - 31, 2022). This year there were several initiatives, from online events to school visits. Our proposal aimed to engage the public in neuroscience, strengthen scientific culture, and promote health literacy, especially in the local and academic community of the city of Coimbra, Portugal.

The project underwent some changes from the original project: we incorporated the CNC neuroscientists' science communication project, "Brain Gain," an online event; we had postponed the Brain Fair to May (May 20 and 21) due to bad weather conditions (since it was an outdoor event); and we replaced the Bipolar Day video with an infographic. Nevertheless, the project was a complete success overall.

1. Brain Gain – À descoberta das Neurociências

Four online sessions and a competition were organized for the Brain Gain. The competition, called "The Brain Challenge," asked participants to create and present a pitch in a digital format

(video or poster). Participants had the opportunity to attend three online workshops on science communication, video, and data visualization to prepare for the pitch. In total, this event had about 280 participants.

2. Neuroscientists go to school

From March 14-31, CIBB researchers visited several schools (from kindergarten to high school) to deliver neuroscience information in a variety of formats: Games, formal lectures, hands-on activities, and experiments. Topics related to neuroscience, such as: Sleep, memory, brain development, human behavior, energy, healthy habits for the brain, among others, were topics discussed.

3. Digital Campaign

A digital campaign was launched from March 2 to 31. We are using CNC's social media to announce the activities and share some information about neuroscience and radio interviews with our neuroscientists. Between March 14 and 20, we posted a "truth or myth" each day (on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter). The truths and myths were based on the Truth-or-Myth Flash Cards from DANA - we translated some into Portuguese to use on our Facebook page.

4. World Sleep Day

Activities related to World Sleep Day 2022 (March 18) took place at Convento São Francisco in Coimbra. The activities focused on three events: a drawing exhibition on sleep hygiene; a colloquium for the general public, with the participation of a psychologist, doctors and neuroscientists; the premiere of the play "Morfeu & Apnea" by the Marionet theatre group. On this day we also received a very kind message from our President, who was invited but could not be present, the message was read before the play. More than 300 people were present.

5. World Bipolar Day

On the occasion of World Bipolar Day (March 30), we shared on social media an infographic about some of the research on bipolar disorder conducted at our centre. The infographic was co-created by researchers and a psychiatrist from the Hospital Centre of the University of Coimbra, and an illustrator was also involved.

6. Radio interviews | RUC

We promoted five short radio interviews with CIBB researchers and a podcast. The researchers had the opportunity to informally present their research and neuroscience topics to a wide audience. The topics were: Presentation of BAW22 activities; Sleep; Machado-Joseph disease; Immunity of the brain; Bipolar disease and one for the podcast "Observatório", a commentary on neuroscience with researchers of the CNC. All interviews were conducted by RUC - Radio Universidade de Coimbra.

Our activities, involving 35 researchers, directly reached about 1978 people: 1387 students in the Neuroscientists Go to School activity (21 schools participated); 280 people in the Brain Gain event; and 311 people in the World Sleep Day activities at Convento São Francisco in Coimbra.

In digital media - Facebook, Instagram and Twitter - we published 74 posts about BAW. On Facebook we reached an average of 900 people per publication, on Instagram about 800. On Twitter we count an average of 300 views impressions per tweet. The Truth and the Myths (7) reached an average of 700 people on social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) and the radio interviews reached more than 1000 people (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter). In

In addition, the infographic on bipolar disorder alone reached about 8000 people (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter).

Related Links

- https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1w7pyOhDt_d4fMxGs-IJ6elAO1uzWR4IX?usp=sharing
- <https://cnc.uc.pt/pt/public-engagement-activities/semana-internacional-do-cerebro-1>
- <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=CNC.UC&set=a.650786786338057>
- https://twitter.com/cnc_uc/status/1494023779151843328
- <https://noticias.uc.pt/artigos/neurocientistas-de-coimbra-desvendam-trilhos-do-cerebro-em-mais-uma-edicao-da-semana-internacional-do-cerebro/>



21. Less Rare - Fostering the Knowledge and Dissemination of Machado-Joseph Disease through Art, Science and Education

Report to be received

22. Smart brain's connections

Dates and Duration: The whole BAW Week (7 Days)

Contact:

Dr. Cristian Gurzu
National College Nicolae Balcescu, Biology
Bd. Alexandru I. Cuza 182, Brăila, 810125, Romania
Email: cristian.gurzu@yahoo.com

Report

14.03.2022 – BAW posters – a posters exhibition was organized about the functional anatomy of the most important brain connections as dopaminergic, cholinergic, serotonergic, noradrenergic, reward and motor pathways.

15.03.2022 - BAW fact sheets – young students prepared a classroom exhibition with fact sheets from Dana.org about how the scientist study the brain, how does the exercise affect the brain, how does the brain develop, how does the brain work, the addicted brain, right brain and left brain.

16.03.2022 - Neuroset competition – the 10th edition of live competition for young students about human brain and sense. They answered at questions about neuroanatomy, neurophysiology and brain diseases.

17.03.2022 – Smart brain’s connections – a symposium for students and teachers it was organized in school amphiteater. In the first part it was presented the functional neuroanatomy of brain connections for learning and memory. In the second part the students presented their own studies about brain connectome, brain computer interfaces, optogenetics, transcranial brain stimulation and brain waves devices.

18.03.2022 - Exploring the brain’s connections – the students of neuroscience class from Center of Excellence had an online lecture with their own presentation about brain receptors, synaptic functions, neurotransmitters, connectivity, neuroplasticity.

19.03.2022 - Romanian Brain Bee - the winners of local Brain Bee competition was attended at the 15th edition of neuroscience competition Romanian Brain Bee.

Local competition held on the website www.romanianbrainbee.com The competitors have to answer at questions and practical test with topics as neuroanatomy, neurophysiology, neurohistology and patient diagnosis. The winner of the Romanian Brain Bee will represent Romania at the International Brain Bee competition.

Related Links

- www.romanianbrainbee.com



23. The Music of the Brain

Dates and Duration: The whole BAW Week (7 Days)

Contact:

Dr. Mihai Stancu

Carol Davila University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Physiology and Neuroscience
8 Eroii Sanitari, Bucharest, 050474, Romania

Tel: (+40) 724 027 075

Email: mihai.stancu@umfcd.ro

Report

The 2022 Brain Awareness Week campaign spanned the entire week. We tapped into the audience’s notion of music and made an analogy about how a brain works. As such, we could explain neuroelectrophysiology notions, everyday aspects that people wouldn’t normally pay attention to, some clinical insights and relevant science for this matter. We also took advantage of better meeting opportunities and had neuroscientists present their work and shed some light (or tones, for that matter) on auditory and brain states mechanisms.

We engaged our target audience – the general public, high-school students, (bio)medical students and members of the local academia in a hybrid format. Part of our audience was able to join in person for the events, while everything remained available online as well. We used social media for our campaign and we managed to reach ~16.000 people with news about the Brain Awareness Week.

Our week started with the Opening Symposium, where representatives of the Scientific Organisation of Medical Students (Bianca Gutu) and the National Neuroscience Society of Romania (Mihai Moldovan) welcomed our guests and gave a brief introduction for our event, including the continuous participation in this project since the beginning.

We then enjoyed three auditory neuroscience interactive lectures from our guests from Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich. As previously stated, we took advantage of the travel opportunity and brought two scientists for live talks and a third online one. Conny Kopp-Scheinflug, Dardo Ferreiro and Mihai Stancu talked about what silence is, how we can distinguish different tones or how our brain localizes a sound source.

The second day was divided in two parts, a presentation competition with candidates from the general audience and a demo experiment for sound discrimination in humans.

The presentation competition brought 10 presenters and their take on a “Music of the Brain”-related subject in front of the audience, both on-site and online. From a witty approach of a clinical case, in which music and sound were of utmost importance in patient recovery, all the way to how Beethoven wrote and what it meant, the session was fully enjoyed and welcomed.

The winner was awarded the BAW Dana Prize.

The second part of the day was filled with a demo experiment held by Dardo Ferreiro, in which volunteers could use virtual reality equipment and an ad-hoc arena to go through an experiment that was designed to show how people come to plan their strategy when it comes to distinguishing sounds in their everyday environments.

The third day was an Open Lab Day, in which curious people were given tours of the neuroscience lab at our university. Different groups showcased their ideas, projects, equipment and experiments and were happy to answer all the questions that came their way. A particular moment of interest was another demo experiment that had a human EEG displayed, where people could actually follow the brain wave rhythms depending on certain conditions or actions in real time. For this, we again took advantage of travel being possible and enjoyed the presence of Mihai Moldovan, from the University of Copenhagen. We were joined by a group of neuroscience master students, which organically led to discussions and debates, all of which was to the benefit of our audience.

For the fourth day, as an outreach campaign, we also wanted to check how well we did our job, so we organized an interview for those looking to join the research groups at our department. As such, a committee interviewed more than 40 people who signed up for the available positions and who were eligible.

The fifth day was comprised of the SNN Round Table. We brought together scientists, clinicians, musicians and the audience in a warm and stimulating environment, a popular café in Bucharest, and sparked a conversation that lasted for 4 hours. We went through the concepts of frequencies and how it applies to certain systems in our brains, how consciousness can be

altered and whether the Music of the Brain changes with that and, of course, music – for which we actually were thrilled to listen to one of our talented colleagues play his guitar.

As a final mini-event, we finished the Brain Awareness Week with a collective viewing of the film “Brain on Fire” – a good example of what happens when the brain orchestra is on fire and the music coherence stops.

Given the feedback, we are confident that our week was successful and people really enjoyed science.

Related Links

- <https://soms.ro/brain-awareness-week-2022/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/events/365820898876741/>



24. 9th St.-Petersburg Brain Awareness Week “Signal Propagation”

Dates and Duration: 6 Days

Contact:

Dr. Irina Sukhotina

Pavlov First St.-Petersburg State Medical University, Department of Pharmacology

Lev Tolstoy street, 6/8, St.-Petersburg, 197022, Russia

Tel: (+7 (812)) 338 7102

Email: irina.sukhotina@gmail.com

Co-organiser

Olga Lyubashina

lyubashinaoa@infran.ru

Report

Brief:

The St.-Petersburg Brain Awareness Week “Signal propagation” focused on neurotransmitters that perform a signaling function in the interaction of neurons. The lectures focused on new clinically important brain signal molecules (Days 1, 5), on the shared participation of neurotransmitters in brain diseases (Day 2), and the impact of balance of excitatory/inhibitory neurotransmitters in sleep/awakening cycle (Day 4). “University Saturday for schoolchildren” (Day 6) invited scientific talks of young scientists. A tours to research laboratories (Day 3), as well as quizzes, Q&As, debates, puzzles throughout the week added dynamic elements to the program.

Specifically:

Opening day (Day 1) suggested topics that were interesting as new discoveries in neuron signal propagation, “Proton as neuromediator of CNS” by Prof. Tikhonov, and “Neurotrophins: from molecule to organism” by Prof. Stepanichev.

Webinar (Day 2) “Searching a messenger” presented talks interesting both for specialists and citizens, such as “From the past empiric to the current targeted approach in the treatment of migraine” by Prof. Amelin, “Cutting-edge ideas about the brain mechanisms of epilepsy” by Dr. Sivakova, and “Evolution of views on the pathogenesis of depression” by Dr. Sorokin. Brain disease-based topics continued during workshop “On the cutting edge of science” (Day 5) about new signal molecules as potential targets in understanding of brain disorders. There were talks “Trace amines: rudimentary amines or a new system of signaling molecules?” by Prof. Sukhanov, “Cognitive consequences of dysfunction of glutamatergic system” by Prof. Tyulkova, “Opto- and chemogenetic achievements for brain treatment” by Prof. Zaitsev.

The commonly interesting knowledge in interaction of excitatory and inhibitory neurotransmitters in sleep/awakening cycle was given in workshop “Mechanisms of sleep regulation” (Day 4) as talks “The rhythm of life: who plays the main role?” by Dr. Korostovtseva, “Pathogenetic models of insomnia” by Dr. Amelina, “Sleep and cognitive functions” by Dr. Ulyanova, and “Molecules of alertness: the orexin system” by Dr. Osipenko.

“Open Labs Day” for general public (Day 3) contained virtual visits to the Laboratory for regulation of brain neuron functions, and Laboratory of ontogeny of nervous system (Pavlov Institute of Physiology RAS), as well as on-site visit of Laboratory of pain mechanisms study (Pavlov First St.-Petersburg State Medical University).

Lectures “University Saturday for schoolchildren” (Day 6) were given by young scientists and physicians under main topic “Neurotransmitter for genius”. Specifically, the talks were “Dopamine, motivation and learning: modern ideas”, “BDNF, physical activity and cognitive functions”, “Alarm system”: learning, stress and neurotransmitters”, “Glutamate: cognitive travel”. After a set of talks and debates, the quizzes based on presented lectures with prizes as books on neuroscience were carried out. The first prize was sent far away of St.-Petersburg to siberian city Omsk!

Advertising:

The contribution of FENS and DANA was acknowledged in printed materials (the event Program) and on a web-site of the event (brainweekspb.org). Pavlov First St.-Petersburg State Medical University made significant contribution to advertise BAW activities by including them to a special printed Calendar issue, and posting an announcement on the University web-site. Co-organising institution Pavlov Institute of Physiology RAS and interested Universities also put notifications on their web-site. In social networks the event was announced and promoted by BAW Organising Team.

Statistics:

Up to 390 participants were registered to events of BAW, and we had approx. 150 non-registered digital listeners daily, 2800 views of Opening Day for now. The audience was mainly represented by students (57%), as well as by teachers, psychologists, young neuroscientists, but also by ordinary people interested in neuroscience. About 200 schoolchildren connected to lectures of “University Saturday”. The possibility of remote participation made it possible to involve more listeners from general public, as well as from cities other than St-Petersburg.

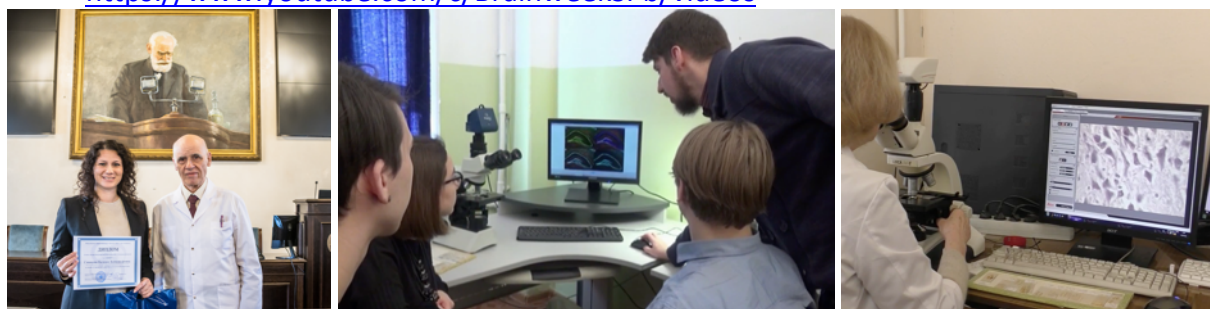
Post-hoc:

The best lecturer (Dr. Sivakova) and the 5 quiz-winners were awarded. After BAW we received nice and enthusiastic feedback from participants. The archive and video of events are available at brainweekspb.org and BrainWeekSPb YouTube channel. Post-release articles are published in newspapers “Pulse”, “Psychological newspaper”, and “Herald of High School”.

The main objectives of BAW “Signal propagation” – educating the audience about the integral role of neurotransmitters in the normal functioning of the brain, discussing that an imbalance in these chemicals can have serious consequences in brain functioning, showing the progress of neuroscience in dealing with these challenges – have been achieved.

Related Links

- <https://brainweekspb.org>
- <https://www.youtube.com/c/BrainweekSPb/videos>



25. The 1st Conference in Neuroscience and Cognitive Sciences for Children

Dates and Duration: 21/03/2022-09/04/2022

Contact:

Dr. Sofya Kulikova
HSE University
37A, blvd Gagarina, Perm, 614000, Russia
Email: SPKulikova@hse.ru

Report

The key idea of our BAW project was to encourage children (from 5 to 16 years old) and their parents to learn new facts about brain, to read about recent discoveries in Neuroscience and to speculate together with scientists about possible directions of future research in Neuroscience and Cognitive Sciences. To achieve this goal we decided to organize the 1st Conference in Neuroscience and Cognitive Sciences for Children (<https://perm.hse.ru/scienceperm/neuroscience>). First, we have made a call for applications at all schools in our region to invite schoolchildren to prepare their review or research papers and to submit it to our selection committee. The application procedure was open until the 6th of April. Then, the best applications were selected for oral presentations during the 2nd off-line event, i.e. the conference itself, which was held on the 9th of April. Non-selected applicants were also invited to join the off-line part of the conference, which was open to anyone interested, including parents, school teachers and students. Our conference schedule included:

1) “research” sections for school children (grades 1-4, 5-9 and 10-11) moderated and judged by neuroscientists. The best presentations were awarded with diplomas and prizes, including books on Neuroscience adapted for participants age.

2) an art section - exhibition of the works of pre-school children. Different art formats (drawings, clay modeling, etc.) depicting brain organization were exhibited during the conference. The best works were also awarded with diplomas and prizes.

3) a workshop for pre-school children and young school children (grades 1-4) introducing our youngest participants to the basis of brain organization and functioning. At the end of the workshop,

each participant colored its own neuron, cut it from the paper and all neurons were glued to each other to create a big artificial neuronal network.

4) two open plenary lectures given by invited speakers working in the field of neuroscience:

- “Brain state: from experiment to model and back” by Ksenia Pavlova (PhD, TRENDS Center, MIPT, University 20.35)

- “Brain and Language” by Alina Minnigulova (Center for Language and Brain, HSE University, <https://www.hse.ru/en/neuroling/>).

All registered participants received a notebook with BAW logo to make their notes during the event and in between the sessions participants had “coffee-breaks”, when, just as real scientists do, they could share their impressions of others’ works and enjoy juice and little snacks.

Since this was the first event of this kind in our region, we did not make any specific expectations on the quality of the submitted reports. And since conducting neurobiological experiments often require specific equipment we expected to receive more “review” than “research” reports. To our great pleasure and surprise, we have got enough submissions of very high quality, including even a couple of works describing experimental studies using EEG! For example, Galina Amelkina (grade 10) presented a research investigating the impact of binaural music on creativity and its related EEG-biomarkers, while Elizaveta Mikerina (grade 5!) investigated approaches to improve her attention using biofeedback from a portable EEG system. After the event we have received a positive feedback from all participants who expressed their willingness to continue learning neuroscience and to participate in future conferences of this kind. We hope that next year our conference would attract even a greater number of participants as we are planning to invite children not only from the Perm region but also from other Russian regions.

Related Links

- <https://perm.hse.ru/news/590649863.html>
- <https://perm.hse.ru/scienceperm/neuroscience>
- <https://disk.yandex.ru/d/kunRts2vaZPOtQ>



26. Power of the mind: The evolution of intelligence

Dates and Duration: The whole BAW Week (7 Days)

Contact:

Ms. Andrea Novaković
 Serbian Neuroscience Society
 Bulevar Despota Stefana 142, Belgrade, 11000, Serbia
 Tel: (00381) 693355203
 Email: andrea.novakovic198@gmail.com

Report

During the whole BAW Week, the exhibition was organized in the SASA Gallery of Science and Technology. Every day, with the help of our volunteers, visitors had the chance to see educational posters on related project topics and try different interactive workshops such as memory and quiz games, origami making, sudoku etc. The units presented were: Evolution, Neuroanatomy of intelligence, Types of intelligence, Animal intelligence, Intelligence disorders and quantification of intelligence, Art and intelligence, Neuromyths, and Artificial intelligence. Also, in order to support young scientists and their newest scientific research, we invited students from the University of Belgrade School of Electrical Engineering and Faculty of Computer Science, to enrich our project with their professional workshops on Artificial intelligence.

Eleven lectures were held by University professors and scientific experts in the ARTGET Gallery of the Belgrade Cultural Center. “The evolution of intelligence through history and experiment”, “Psychopathology of anxiety in the 21st century”, “Neurobiology of creativity”, “Adult neurogenesis in the hippocampus” were just some of the lecture titles. Promotion of the publication “ZooBrainology”, written by the members of the Serbian Neuroscience Society and the Serbian Evolution Society, also took place during the event.

“Days for children” were organized during the weekend in the Belgrade Zoo. Kids had the opportunity to learn about intelligence of different animals and their behavior, while having the guided interactive tour around the Zoo. At the end of the workshop, we organized quiz with questions from presented educational material. Our project also supported and helped the Association for helping persons with autism. In collaboration, we organized children’s creative workshop, which was held in the ARTGET Gallery and dedicated and adjusted for children with autism.

Art and poetry competition – “Little Genius” was also part of the project programme. Contest participants were children from kindergarten, elementary school, middle school and high school. We received about 1500 drawings, poems and short stories. Winners from every category were

awarded by gifts sent to their school addresses. Their art works were presented in the Gallery of Science and Technology during the BAW duration and will also be published on the website of the Student's section of Serbian Neuroscience Society.

Our event visited people from every age group, mostly including children and students. We estimate that the exhibition was attended by approximately 1000 people.

Related Links

- https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bNn1fNq47fqf6oiaqnKHG-tk_h34DUnj?fbclid=IwAR37mFJwW-u8TchujvAkldbFO3xIWM9skvl6edZpJwW2oUa18_lbew1nHF4
- <https://neuronauke.org/>



27. Brain Awareness Week 2022: Embodied

Dates and Duration: 14/03/2022-18/03/2022

Contact:

Ms. Nika Jerman
SiNAPSA, Slovenian Neuroscience Association
Zaloška ulica, 4, Ljubljana, 1000, Slovenia
Tel: (00386) 40264665
Email: nikjer@gmail.com

Co-organiser

Alina Holnthaner

alina.holnthaner@gmail.com

Report

This year SiNAPSA, Slovenian Neuroscience Association, organized BAW on the topic 'the body and the brain.' Through the diverse week-long program we addressed different aspects of the topic. We hosted 40 speakers, organized 11 workshops for children and adults, 10 movie projections with commentaries and an art contest for children. The main event was organized in Ljubljana, while we also organized three local BAW events in Maribor, Novo mesto and Koper. Due to the unstable epidemiological circumstances regarding COVID-19 we held a live event in all the aforementioned cities, however in Ljubljana and Maribor we also provided simultaneous streaming online to reach the widest audience possible across the whole country. All events were free of charge.

On Monday we began with the introductory talks which addressed the historic problem of the differentiation between the body and the brain/mind. The speakers, all of them university professors in their fields, approached the dilemma through the philosophical and neurobiological point of view and also presented contemporary views on the topic within the field of cognitive science.

On Tuesday and Thursday we organized clinically-oriented lectures with diverse speakers working in the field of healthcare and therapy. They talked about physiology of movement, gut-microbiota-brain axis, gender dysphoria, effects of mindfulness practice on psychosomatic disorders, the role of body-oriented interventions in mood regulation, effects of prayer on autonomic nervous system and non-epileptic seizures. The speakers also discussed how different neurological diseases affect the movement of the body and we asked ourselves how physically handicapped and people with dementia, schizophrenia and depression experience their bodies.

Wednesday in the 3rd week of March is the Slovenian National Day of the Brain. Every year on this day we strive to promote brain health and neuroscience research in Slovenia. This year we opened the event with an introductory speech about the importance of brain health. Throughout the day, we presented the short video-clips about promotion of brain health in Slovenia, which were made in collaboration with <https://www.zdravaglava.si/> The video-clips are available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gribniRLtk4&list=PLxVeVhLefvcaKeNqtV9VbSq6nKQYx7RJ6&index=9>

On Wednesday's lectures our guests presented the most interesting findings of the neuroscientific studies in the past year. We learned about the development of the vaccine against Alzheimer's disease, about the use of psychedelics in psychotherapeutic practice, about the field of neuroeconomics, connection between anorexia nervosa and gut microbiota as well as about the interactions of dopamine and insulin.

Friday's round table discussion focused on the topic of trauma and the role of body in the experience and understanding of traumatic experiences. Different perspectives and approaches to understanding and dealing with trauma were introduced by the three guests from different fields: a psychiatry clinician and professor who is also a psychotherapist, a PhD in social anthropology and a social psychology professor and somatic therapist.

All through the week we held movie projections, followed by commentary by people working with bodies in different ways: a pharmacologist, a dancer and an actor, a world sub-champion in free diving, an economy student, a medical student, a clinical psychologist, a psychotherapist.

We also organized four workshops on the topics of dance, meditation and mindfulness, two children's workshops with the emphasis on learning about the function of different brain regions, and an art contest for children, where they could gain many exciting prizes, provided by our sponsors and donators.

As many years before, we again collaborated with Radio-Television Slovenia, with radio shows 'Možgani na dlaní' (transl. 'Brain at the palm of your hand') and 'Frekvenca X' (transl. 'Frequency X'). These shows traditionally cover the topics related to the main topic of each year's BAW in the radio shows during the whole month of March. This year, we jointly asked our followers and listeners what were the abilities they admire in their bodies and what are the situations in which they realize the limitations of their own bodies. We showed the answers

during the BAW and they presented the participation's answers in the radio shows during the whole month of march.

We are very satisfied with the program content and the audience we reached with this year's BAW. Besides the audience attending live lectures, we reached additional 1872 people who watched the event online on live stream, with many more watching the filmed lectures afterwards.

Related Links

- <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxVeVhLefvcaU1e83b7SFjtIP4mf3FMkW>
- <https://tedenmozganov.si/about-us/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/teden.mozganov>
- https://www.instagram.com/teden_mozganov/



28. XI Brain Awareness Week of Ciudad Real – The Science of Brain Windmills

Dates and Duration: The whole BAW Week (7 Days)

Contact:

Mr. Javier Frontiñán

University of Castilla-La Mancha (Medical School), Medical Sciences

F. Medicina. Camino de Moledores s/n, Ciudad Real, 13071, Spain

Tel: (+34) 926 29 53 00

Email: javier.frontinan@uclm.es

Co-organiser

Alicia Flores

alicia.flores@uclm.es

Report

In this edition of the Ciudad Real Brain Awareness Week we have once again organised face-to-face activities. Our motto represents the fight against those giant windmills that Don Quixote faced and to highlight the role of all the current Quixotes who, with their pipettes and microscopes, fight against windmills in the form of neurons, microglia, astrocytes, etc. For this reason, we have organised activities related to general knowledge of the brain and on specific topics such as neurodegenerative diseases, mental health, healthy ageing, the role of neuroscience in education, etc. The summary has been a week full of activities organised in different venues in our city and our region. We will now go on to describe the number of people who attended the different activities.

Activities with schools: workshops in which 204 students from 8 schools took part. To this we must add the participation of 18 teachers. These workshops were given by 56 students from the Faculty of Medicine of Ciudad Real.

Activities with secondary schools: series of conferences, talks and workshops in which more than 500 students from 12 secondary schools took part. In addition, more than 35 teachers participated in these activities.

The activities aimed at the general public were attended by more than 500 people: Inaugural conference (60 people), presentation of the book "El cerebro enamorado" (10 people), I Jornadas "educación y cerebro" (140 people), presentation of the book "Alimenta el sueño para un cerebro sano" (15 people), Residencia de mayores Virgen de la Sierra (50 people), closing ceremony (25 people), workshop "Mi cerebro hace..." (39 people) and the concert "Mi cerebro hace..." (39 people). (39 people) and the concert "The age of plastic" (170 people).

All this means that the activities have reached an audience of more than 1250 people.

We would also like to highlight the transversality of the activities, focused on students, but with activities aimed at the general public. We would like to highlight the workshop "Re-discover your brain" that we organised at the Virgen de la Sierra old people's home. It was such a successful activity that we are going to repeat it in nursing homes throughout the region. Also a great success was the conference on education and the brain that we organised in collaboration with the Faculty of Education of the University of Castilla-La Mancha, which will be repeated in future editions. We have also tackled the podcast format with a chapter in the award-winning programme "Investiga que no es poco", reaching a much larger target audience. Finally, for yet another year we have organised the cerebrarte cultural competition, this year with a children's drawing competition, a scientific photography competition and a micro-story competition. In total, 220 works were submitted.

We are grateful for the support of the FENS and the Dana Foundation to be able to organise all these activities, since without their financial support, it would not have been possible. This kind of support encourages us to continue organising activities throughout the year.

Related Links

- https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zRewGqsW9An_eAlf9sFBDiwuKs-G5Zlz?usp=sharing
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iFilK0tmgY>
- https://www.uclm.es/noticias/noticias2022/marzo/ciudad%20real/xisemana_cerebro_c_r
- <https://twitter.com/BAWCR>
- <https://www.cmmedia.es/programas/radio/investiga-que-no-es-poco/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVz-q35ymLI>
- <https://cadenaser.com/2022/03/22/la-lucha-de-la-uclm-contra-el-alzheimer/>
- <https://www.lanzadigital.com/provincia/ciudad-real/henko-presenta-la-edad-del-plastico-en-la-biblioteca-de-la-uclm/>



29. Connections. Explore yourself from head to toe

Dates and Duration: 15/05/2022

Contact:

Mrs. Roser Bastida

Institut de Neurociències de la UAB, Communication

Carrer de la Vinya s/n, Campus de la UAB, Cerdanyola, Barcelona, 08193, Spain

Tel: (0034) 660605772

Email: roser.bastida@uab.cat

Report

The idea was to prepare materials for teachers to develop in their classes a one-hour activity every day for one week, working on the nervous system.

For each session, there is a video with an introduction that asks a question to the kids. After the activity, they will have the answer.

We also thought of offering the possibility to 5 schools to have an online conversation with researchers on Friday (the last day).

All documents and materials were created together with the educational cooperative Eduxarxa, which has a wide expertise in developing this kind of content.

We sent the information about these materials to all schools in Catalonia, and although several schools replied that they were interested in participating, they asked us to do it in September-October, as now schools have the schedule closed (because we are near the end of the course).

Related Links

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrV1A6E_8tA
- <https://inc.uab.cat/en/outreach/materials-for-schools>



30. Let's be scientists: discovering neuroscience with the Hospital Nacional de Paraplégicos

Dates and Duration: The whole BAW Week (7 Days)

Contact:

Dr. Juliana M. Rosa

Hospital Nacional de Paraplégicos, Research Unit

Finca La Peraleda, s/n, Toledo, 45071, Spain

Email: jmartinsd@sescam.jccm.es

Co-organiser

Juliana M. Rosa

jmartinsd@sescam.jccm.es

Report

Our activity consisted in four main pillars:

1. Students became scientists for one day: Several researchers from the National Hospital of Paraplegics went to several schools (four schools, 120 students) to show the scientific methodology and perform in situ experiments with them. The activity aimed to demonstrate that science is fun and can be performed by anyone. For that, we developed a hands-on activity with primary school students (8-9 years old). The objective of this activity was to teach them the importance of the brain in the integration of the sensory information and in its later interpretation. To do this, they were introduced to the scientific method and worked under the following hypothesis: do our senses deceive us?

In the first place, a selective attention test was carried out and then the students were divided into 3 groups to performed different workshops: vision, touch and proprioception in each of which they had to collect data to perform later analysis and interpretation.

2. How our brain senses the world? This activity was developed for little kids (5-6 years old, two schools, 90 children) and was aimed to show them the different places in the brain that information is received, i.e. primary somatosensory cortex receiving touch signals, while visual cortex receiving visual signals. For that, each kid received a brain hat and had to glue on it the distinct senses (touch, vision, olfaction, taste, hearing). This activity was preceded by a theater that scientists performed to explain the different senses and their places in the brain.

3. Panels on Public transport: to reach a vast number of people from our local society, we developed a A3 panel with information about the brain and the BAW. A total of 45 panels were placed inside the buses of our city.

4. Short videos about our research: To reach students aged between 10-15 years old, we used a series of short movies with information about the research that is being performed by our PhD students in our institutions. A total of 16 short movies were made and distributed through our youtube channel (Infomedula TV) to Elementary Schools from our city

Related Links

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6ZmNoLVSfo&list=PLW0WwwKx8nsHz35ofocLx1aMug9OdhJIs>
- <https://hnparaplegicos.sanidad.castillalamancha.es>
- <https://www.facebook.com/150505754980444/posts/5246459995384969/>



31. Let's remove socio-economic boundaries: lighting up neurons

Dates and Duration: The whole BAW Week (7 Days)

Contact:

Ms. Özge Selin Çevik

Mersin University, Physiology

Ciftlikkoy campus, Mersin University Faculty of Medicine, Physiology Department

Yenişehir/Mersin, yenişehir, Mersin, 33343, Turkey

Tel: (+90) 05066246755

Email: ozgesebatur@gmail.com

Report

I offered various activities and learning seminars to schools located in low-income areas in Mersin, Turkey. Our target student groups' are age-diverse between 5 - 10 years old. I visited 5 schools that consisted of primary school and preschool. For each school, I chose 3 classrooms that approximately consisted of 25-30 students.

During our visit to schools, according to their age range, I offered some activities and learning seminars that related to brain function and health. For instance, If the classroom was chosen from preschool, I gave them some funny information about brain health and gave them some neuron crafts and coloring pages that included the whole structure of neurons (you will find it in the pictures). While they were coloring, I talked about why neuron was important and how we could protect them, etc. For other older age groups, I gave the knowledge more detail. And for that age group, I also designed a brain cap that illustrated the whole brain and its parts in different colors. I gave information about the structure of the brain, the roles of its parts, and harmful and beneficial environmental factors that affect brain health conditions.

Before visiting the school, I prepared for each of the gift boxes that consisted of a brain anatomy model, puzzles, and lots of books that related to the brain (you will find them in the pictures). They loved the gifts very much. An issue that saddens me deeply is the fact that there is a group of students who have difficulties reaching education and information. I am grateful to the BAW for supporting our students and me.

Related Links

- <https://twitter.com/ozgeselcevik/status/1503438951704453121>



32. NeuroTube

Dates and Duration: 1/06/2022

Contact:

Ms. Ekin Kanıcıoğlu

Mamak BILSEM

Büyük Kayaş Mahallesi, Kayaş Caddesi, Mamak, Ankara, 06270, Turkey

Tel: (+90) 5425420168

Email: ekinkanicioglu@gmail.com

Co-organiser

Hakan Kayır

Report

Neurotube is a YouTube channel on Neuro-science. For Brain Awareness Week we created 8 videos to help young people better understand how their brain works using BackYard Brains' experiments. Videos include an introduction to the subject by a highschool student named Ekin, following Dr. Hakan Kayır, who is an experienced neuroscientist currently a research associate at University of Guelph, performed the experiments while explaining the process.

The target audience is middle school-highschool students in Turkey.

Most of the subjects included in the videos are not in the regular curriculum and the available content on the internet only provides theoretical knowledge. This means our videos are a unique source for curious Turkish minds. We aim to tell complex concepts, such as bioelectricity and action potential, in a simple but effective way. We believe that everyone should have access to neuroscience, regardless of where they were born or what language they speak. This project is the first step of making neuro-science more accessible and raising awareness on brain research.

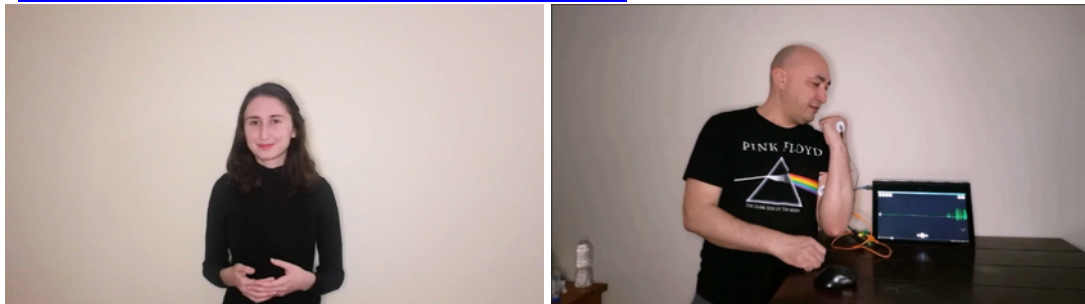
Video series starts with explaining bioelectricity and how our brain communicates with our muscles, with EMG recordings. Secondly we go into agonist-antagonist muscle pairs, to understand fine movement while also showing EMG from biceps and triceps. Then a robot hand will be controlled by EMG signals from hand, human-machine interface. After that, the sympathetic nervous system is defined, and its activation is shown by recording electrocardiography (ECG). The increase in heart rate under stressful conditions such as cold-water application to hands are observed. Next, the parasympathetic nervous system is defined and its activation by digesting food is shown by recording ECG before, during, and after eating food. Electrical activity in the brain is explained, and representative electroencephalography (EEG) is recorded. Sensorimotor control is explained and reaction time upon a visual stimulus is

measured. Cognitive load is explained and the effect of mental math problem solving on reaction time is evaluated.

As a part of Soranlar Kulubu's meet a scientist series, we organised the "Meet with Neuroscientist" event online. Dr. Hakan Kayir answered all of our brain questions and talked about the importance of brain research and mental health. Event lasted more than two hours, took place in Brain Awareness Week, March 19.

Related Links

- <https://youtu.be/MU-T5Qe22Bs>
- https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWJfFEnVK9X_kCYNng9YXYw
- <https://mobile.twitter.com/soranlarkulubu/status/1504585190059950086>
- https://www.instagram.com/soranlar_kulubu/



33. Brain Awareness Week Ukraine - War Edition

Dates and Duration: The whole BAW Week (7 Days)

Contact:

Dr. Andrii Cherninskyi
 Bogomoletz Institute of Physiology
 4 Bogomoletz street, Kyiv, 01024, Ukraine
 Email: andrii.cherninskyi@biph.kiev.ua

Report

Four main groups of events were scheduled for the BAW Ukraine 2022. Unfortunately, not all of them were implemented as of today because of the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

BrainLectures - a traditional set of talks about the brain and its functions to be delivered online were scheduled. BAW's preparatory period was at the very start of the war, so we could not do this part as we planned. During BAW, Dr. Andrii Cherninskyi from Bogomoletz Institute of Physiology had organized a series of seven lectures:

- Brain and memory: basic principles, structures involved, most important diseases
- Brain and emotions: beyond the Papez circuit
- The riddles of consciousness
- Taste and olfaction: the most enigmatic senses
- Ion channels: basic elements of neuronal work and targets for drugs
- Synapses: basic principles, synaptopathies and drugs
- How and why do scientists study behavior using animals

Not a very big audience was covered due to circumstances, but more than 20 listeners went through the whole cycle of lectures. According to feedback, this series helped people to distract from the war and to come mentally to a normal life. This was true for the lecturer as well.

In the next week, another cycle of seven lectures was provided by our partners from Medical Academy “Dobrobut”.

The next events were focused on schools.

The online celebration of the "NeuroScience Online" educational course and the Ukrainian Brain Bee competition. In March we were not sure if the competition is timely, but decided to do this. Almost 200 school students have registered for the Brain Bee, and 58 passed the preliminary test. 8 best students were invited for the final stage which was organized on May 29. During this online meeting, children have introduced themselves and talked about where they are now. Some of them were in Ukraine, some were forced to go abroad, and some were on their way home. The judge's team consists of researchers, PhD students, and former Ukrainian Brain Bee champions. Yelyzaveta Tsepovatenko from Kyiv lyceum “Podil” became the national champion of 2022. Then organizers and judges presented the prizes to the best students. Those were excellent non-fiction books by world-known writers as well as Ukrainian authors. Very special prizes were the "eco-bags" made by the social enterprise aimed to help youth with neurological issues like autism spectrum disorders, Dawn's syndrome, cerebral palsy, and others. This will remind participants about the official Brain Bee slogan "Building Better Brains to Fight Brain Disorders". Also, branded Ukrainian Brain Bee T-shirts were printed for all the finalists.

The next parts of our plan are pending and we will get back to them as the situation becomes more appropriate. The webinar "Neuroscience in school" will be delivered to school teachers. Now is the end of the education year, which makes teachers busier. Because of the Russian aggression, more than 1700 educational institutions are damaged, and of them, 180 are completely destroyed. Many teachers were forced to relocate, lost their job, or shifted to a part-time jobs. We hope the situation will improve by the start of the next education year (September).

Also, the full cycle of popular lectures is still scheduled. These days lecturers need more time to prepare, and we expect this part to be done in August.

We thank FENS and DANA for supporting our activities. Receiving this grant was and is a huge motivational factor to implement the plan. Notably, buying books, printing bags and T-shirts not only provided cool prizes but also helped Ukrainian business which was seriously injured by the war state.

Related Links

- <https://www.facebook.com/Ukraine2IBB22>

