IBNS International Behavioral Neuroscience Society NEWS

Volume 17, Issue 2 April, 2013

Elena Choleris, Ph.D., Editor-in-Chief
Stephen Mahler, Ph.D., Guest Editor

Inside This Issue:

Presidential Letter

There is a Chinese proverb and curse that says "May you live in interesting times". Unfortunately, this is an urban myth since there is no evidence of the curse in any Chinese dialect; nonetheless it is a fitting statement for the times we live in, not only for IBNS, but for neuroscientists in general.

IBNS is at a crossroads of sorts. Our last two meetings have been among our largest ever, which is fantastic news. Not only is our reach wider, and diversity and depth of the science greater than ever, but our financial viability is strong—allowing us to maintain some of the lowest annual fees of any scientific society. Of course, this increase in size also presents challenges; how do we grow and yet maintain the unique aspects of the meeting that we hold dear, such as the nurturing and supportive environment for younger researchers to give presentations, organise symposia, and engage in discussions with senior behavioural neuroscientists? This year we used parallel sessions to accommodate increased interest, we used social media (Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn) to extend our reach far beyond the confines of the Grand Hotel in Malahide, and we recorded selected talks which are now available on our YouTube channel (http://www.youtube.com/user/IBNSconnect/). Looking forward, I don't see these as one-offs, but fully expect us as a society to embrace social media and the power it can deliver.

As neuroscientists, we are living in interesting times. There has been explosive growth in powerful techniques such as optogenetics, siRNA (small interfering RNA), DREADDs (Designer Receptors Exclusively Activated by Designer Drugs), and the Brainbow (fluorescent proteins 'light up' neurons), in addition to advances in imaging and high throughput behavioural analysis that allow us to examine the dynamics of neurons and networks to answer questions regarding the brain and behaviour that were fantasies just a few years ago. The US government has launched the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative to "accelerate the development and application of new technologies that will enable researchers to produce dynamic pictures of the brain that show how individual brain cells and complex neural circuits interact at the speed of thought." Just last week the NIH Advisory Committee released an Interim Report enunciating the six themes that have emerged, and which are likely to become core principles for the NIH BRAIN Initiative. Nine research areas were identified as high-priorities, backed by a proposed $110 million USD. As explained in the report, the "overarching vision is to combine these approaches into a single, integrated science of cells, circuits, brain and behavior". Whilst there is something for all IBNS members in this list, the areas that scream out for us to play a role include: #5. Link Neuronal Activity to Behavior and #9. Disseminate Knowledge and Training.

In contrast to this exciting initiative, we are faced with the reality that research funds have

never been tighter. Governments around the world are addressing years, or in some cases decades, of deficit spending by implementing austerity plans. The AAAS reports that NIH's budget was cut by 5.5%, resulting in 650 fewer grants and success rates as low as 14%. Even here in the "lucky country" of Australia, where we escaped economic recession, there is plenty of talk of tightening belts. Success rates from the NHMRC have dropped from a high of 27.6% in 2007 down to 20.5% in 2012, and rates for the ARC are just below 22% but with only 54% of requested funding being provided.

Despite the challenges we face in acquiring the funding we need to achieve our goals, I am incredibly excited about what the future holds for us as neuroscientists and as a Society. Interesting times indeed!

Contributed by Stephen P. Kent, Ph.D.
President, International Behavioral Neuroscience Society
Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, LaTrobe University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Impressions of IBNS 2013: Malahide, Ireland

Michael Corley, Graduate Student
As a graduate student of the Blanchards, both past Presidents of IBNS, I know to clear my schedule and be ready for IBNS each year. For students, IBNS provides wonderful opportunities to learn about great science from other places, opportune times to network with peers and leaders in the field, and a beautiful location for site seeing. This year, I was able to present my research to an international audience, learn from others presenting at the many symposia, and make new friends. I tasted a "real" Guinness, enjoyed traditional Irish dance and music, and experienced being inside the 5,000 year old Newgrange passage tomb. I am looking forward to the experiences and opportunities at IBNS 2014 in Las Vegas.

Stephen Mahler, Postdoc
Each year, I look forward to hearing the announcement of the location for IBNS' next meeting. Two years ago, when I heard that IBNS would be going to Ireland, I knew I would find a way to attend.

I had attended the IBNS conference three times in the past seven years—in Whistler (2006), Rio de Janeiro (2007), and Villasimius (2010). I knew that I could count on IBNS to provide top-notch scientific content, chances to catch up with old colleagues and to meet new ones, and an overall well-run meeting with a great balance of scientific and social content. The chance to visit Ireland was the icing on the cake—I was sold.

Fast forward to June of this year, I was fortunate enough to meet and converse with many of you in beautiful Malahide. Regarding the scientific content of this meeting, I was especially impressed with Jaap Koolhaas' talk on the serotonergic, and other neural substrates, of aggression and violence. Such naturalistic behavioral paradigms in which spontaneous variability within wild rodent populations are assessed are of major importance, and are a classic example of the type of talk common at IBNS, but rare at other neuroscience conferences. I was also impressed by outstanding talks by John Cryan, Phil Skolnick, Bruce McEwen, Paul Kenny, Randy Gallistel, Serge Ahmed, Trevor Robbins, Charlotte Boettinger—just a sample of the world-class scientists giving major talks at this conference. In addition, junior scientists including Jared Young, Nick Gilpin, Paul Meyer, the rapid-fire Travel Award Data Blitz talks, and many others also showed that the next generation of scientists is likely to keep this meeting exciting for many years to come.

In sum, I look forward to seeing many you again, and meeting others for the first time in Las Vegas 2014!!

Paul Meyer, Assistant Professor
In starting up my new lab at the University at Buffalo, I had

been looking to expand my research perspective and my social network. That's why I chose to attend the IBNS meeting in Ireland. As a behavioral neuroscientist, I had often been encouraged to attend the meeting by colleagues. Also, as a part of my teaching curriculum, I was in the middle of designing a class called "Experimental models of psychological disorders", making the meeting an ideal place to gather material for my new course. The location of the meeting in Malahide was a cherry on top of it all.

In terms of size the meeting was perfect: large enough to provide choices, but not too many choices. Having two rooms with talks going on simultaneously allowed me to pick what most interested me, but also got me to go to talks that I wouldn't have necessarily gone to at larger meetings. The effect of this is always to broaden one's perspective, which was my goal in attending the meeting.

For example, Nicholas Gilpin's session on nicotine reinforcement gave me several ideas about directions for my own research. Ruud van den Bos's talk also gave me several ideas, not just about things to try in my lab, but also to include a section on animal models of gambling and risk-taking in the course I am designing. These are just two of many examples.

The poster sessions were excellent, I definitely enjoyed having them in the evening when both the poster presenters and the attendees relaxed a bit and talked science in a more informal way.

The conference size and program was also ideal for meeting people. I caught up with friends I had not seen in a while. Faces I did not know became more familiar throughout the meeting, and I made new friends and contacts during the opening reception, poster sessions, meet the professionals lunch, and over pints of Guinness in the evening.

The organization by Marianne Van Wagner was seamless, and it is clear that Marianne knows most, and spends time with the IBNS members. As a first-timer, she made me feel comfortable and welcome. In short, it was a wonderful experience, and I look forward to seeing friends/colleagues new and old at future meetings.

Kelly Lambert,
Professor

In my opinion, the best aspect of the 2013 IBNS program was that, typical of previous meetings throughout the past two decades, the Society showcased relevant and current behavioral neuroscience research. Since attending the very first IBNS meeting in 1992 I have had the opportunity to develop friendships with colleagues who share my passion and interest for the many interesting aspects of the discipline of behavioral neuroscience. As in past meetings, I thoroughly enjoyed all of the keynote addresses and symposia presentations at this year's meeting. I certainly took lots of notes for my research programs and writing projects!

In addition to the more traditional aspects of the scientific program at the Ireland meeting, we were also gently pushed in new directions. We learned about the importance of our "digital presence and image" and, as a Society, we committed to using these tools to expand the reach of IBNS. We also experimented with concurrent sessions to accommodate increased interests in participating in the scientific program. This program change provides more options for members to attend sessions that are most relevant for their own research programs and interests. Even with the new concurrent sessions, it is the time when we are all together that remains one of my favorite features of the conference. After several days of serious science, it's wonderful to join all the members of the Society at the Banquet each year---eating good food and relaxing with our friends and colleagues. And, Marianne typically throws in an entertainment surprise featuring the local culture, this year the Irish dancing was spectacular!

The Grand Hotel, Malahide

So you Want to be a College Professor?

How to navigate the transition from R01 institutions to the liberal arts college environment

I've been on both sides of the interviewing table, and if I had to name one critical criterion for a successful application to a professor position at a liberal arts college it would be this: Fit. I've seen it make the difference when choosing between two equally qualified applicants, and I've even seen it pull an applicant with a less extensive CV to the top of the pile. Therefore, the more that you can do to demonstrate that you are a good fit for the position, the more likely you'll be successful in your application. However, most candidates are applying from R01 research institutions, and I've often seen good candidates get bad advice from their mentors regarding this process, largely because of a lack of understanding of the significant cultural and resource differences between these types of institutions. So, what does it meant to be "a good fit" for a liberal arts professor position, and how do you communicate that in your application materials?

Understand what it means to be at a liberal arts college

In your application, you must show that you understand your audience. In the United States, a school designated as a college is primarily comprised by undergraduate students, and will have few, if any, graduate students. While universities do have graduate students, in some cases these may be primarily or solely masters level students. So, do your research in advance on your candidate schools, and be sure that you're targeting the appropriate audience in your materials.

Liberal arts colleges will require you to teach and most will also require you be active in research. Therefore, the successful applicants are ones that can articulate and show a strong commitment to teaching at the undergraduate level, and also in involving undergraduates in their research. Throughout your materials you should address these points, and also anticipate the kinds of questions you may get if you are coming from a research institution. Such as: Why do you want to teach undergraduates? Why do you want to be in a liberal arts environment? Can you do your research with undergraduates being your primary source of labor? Show that you understand the goals and needs of the institution, and that these align well with your own interests and abilities.

In addition, you should address teaching students from diverse backgrounds. If you are lucky enough to land a phone and/or on campus interview you will get this question, so be prepared in advance. You'd be surprised at how many good candidates get tripped up on this question, and I believe it's because diversity is often interpreted rather narrowly. For example, the diversity of previous knowledge/experience that students bring to a course is also a valid diversity issue. Be prepared with examples of issues that you have encountered, and/or those you anticipate encountering, and successful strategies to resolve those issues.

You also have to demonstrate that you understand the resources that are likely to be available, including time as a factor. Discuss your long term research goals, but also some short term projects that may be suitable for a quarter or semester long laboratory class. And keep in mind time as a personal resource, as you will be teaching full courses in addition to doing research. So if you dream of a hugely ambitious startup of a world class science facility, it may not be realistically possible if you have a heavy teaching commitment.

As well, schools vary greatly in regards to their expectations for scholarly productivity, and in their concomitant to support of research. Understand that startup funds, equipment, and facilities likely will not be anything like those at R01 institutions, and in some cases, may not even be available. Therefore, when describing your research in your application materials you should generally address the practicalities of doing your work at an undergraduate institution. If you make it to an on campus interview, it is entirely appropriate to discuss an actual figure, but it is also fine to ask during a phone interview if startup funds are available. Sometimes there will be room for

negotiation, but understand that the institutional resources may be limited. Institutions with smaller endowments simply do not have the financial resources to budget large sums for research costs, so if you come in asking for too much you may price yourself out of a job. If you do interview on campus for a tenure track job, be very sure that you are crystal clear about the institution's expectations for tenure, and the resources that will be provided.

Don't assume anything, and ask a lot of questions if necessary. And then think hard about whether or not you can realistically fulfill their scholarly standards with the time, space and financial resources that you will have available.

And lastly, when applying for a position show that you understand what it means to be a good colleague. This topic prompted the liveliest discussion around the lunch table, and most of the related anecdotes distinctly fell into the category of "what not to do". Many of these faux pas seemed to stem from a disconnect between the presumed expectations of the candidate and the mission/culture of the college. Keep in mind also, that we faculty are the machinery by which the college implements its mission, and by which it grows and progresses. Therefore, service to the department and to the college is essential, and required for successful tenure review. So discuss your willingness to participate in service in your application, and how you will be able to contribute to the mission of the college in your work.

Hopefully this advice will help you highlight the qualities that make you an especially good fit for your desired position. Good luck!

Contributed by Kim Gerecke, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Dept. of Psychology and Director, Neuroscience Program. Rhodes College, Memphis, TN

Congratulations to our 2013 New IBNS Fellows!

Each year, a select group of senior IBNS members are selected as new Fellows of the IBNS. Thanks to the members of the Fellows and Honorific Awards Committee for their work to select these worthy nominees!

David Eilam

I am a professor in the Department of Zoology at Tel-Aviv University, where I also had my graduate and undergraduate studies, which were then followed by a postdoctorate with Professor Henry Szechtman. In my laboratory we study human and animal behavior with emphasis on fine-grained analysis of motor performance. My research interests are behavioral neuroscience and animal cognition, with a focus on three subjects: (i) Rituals in OCD patients and in normal behavior of animals and humans; (ii) Spatial behavior and cognitive mapping in animals and humans; (iii) Collective behavior and its controlling mechanisms in social animals. (I published over 90 peer-reviewed papers on these research subjects). Nature and especially watching animals is my main personal interest, and for this I dedicatedly travel around the world.

Liisa Galea

I am a Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of British Columbia. I obtained my Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the University of Western Ontario under the supervision of Drs. Martin Kavaliers and K.-Peter Ossenkopp. I was then a postdoctoral fellow at the Rockefeller University in NYC under the supervision of Dr. Bruce McEwen. My expertise is in the area of neuroendocrinology, specifically gonadal and adrenal hormone influences on behaviour (cognition, emotional behaviour) and neuroplasticity (neurogenesis, dendritic morphology). I was among the first to study adult neurogenesis, and developed the first animal models of postpartum depression. When I am not doing all that science stuff, I am the happy mother of two teenage kids – yes one can be happy with teens in the house!

Kim Gerecke

I am an Associate Professor of Psychology, and Director of the

Neuroscience Program at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN. My research concerns the identification of mechanisms of neuroprotection against neuronal death in aging and disease. Specifically, my research involves using animal models to assess how lifestyle components, such as exercise and an enriched environment, can protect the brain against neurodegenerative diseases or environmental toxins. And as for hobbies, I love to protect my brain by hiking!

Anthony Kline

I received my Masters and Doctoral degrees in Psychology/Behavioral Neuroscience from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1996 and 1998, respectively. Now, I am a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and Associate Director of Rehabilitation Research at the Safar Center for Resuscitation Research at the University of Pittsburgh. I hold appointments in Psychology and Critical Care Medicine and am a member of the Center for Neuroscience (CNUP) training faculty, as well as the co-director of the CNUP summer undergraduate research program. My research focuses on the assessment/development of translatable therapies that facilitate functional recovery after TBI (i.e., pharmacotherapies and environmental enrichment) as well as the elucidation of potential mechanisms for the observed effects.

David McKinzie

I grew up in central Indiana and went to Purdue University, majoring in psychology. I had worked in Phil Kramer's lab during this time and he suggested applying for graduate school at Binghamton University with Skip Spear. Not being sure what I would do with a bachelor's degree in psychology, I was fortunate that Skip took me in and I managed to get my PhD in experimental psychology in 4 years (probably my greatest accomplishment). I was not necessarily planning a return to Indiana, but I was able to land a post-doc position at the Indiana University School of Medicine, working with Bill McBride. My research focus was alcohol dependence and I worked primarily with the alcohol-preferring P rats. I gradually moved into an assistant professor position before jumping blindly into Industry, taking a position across town at Eli Lilly. I have been at Lilly for over 14 years now and my lab uses behavioral and neurochemical methods in attempts to develop new medicines for psychiatric disorders. I have two children of high school age and my hobbies are chiefly being a chauffeur for my daughter and walking the family dogs.

Cliff Summers

I am a Professor at the University of South Dakota, with joint appointments in Biology and the Medical School. I received my PhD in 1987 from the University of Colorado in comparative Reproductive Endocrinology. My research focus is on the effects of Social Stress on Decision Making. I am interested in the molecular and neurochemical events that confer individual susceptibility or resilience and how they influence social behavior and status.

Congratulations IBNS 2013 Poster Winners!

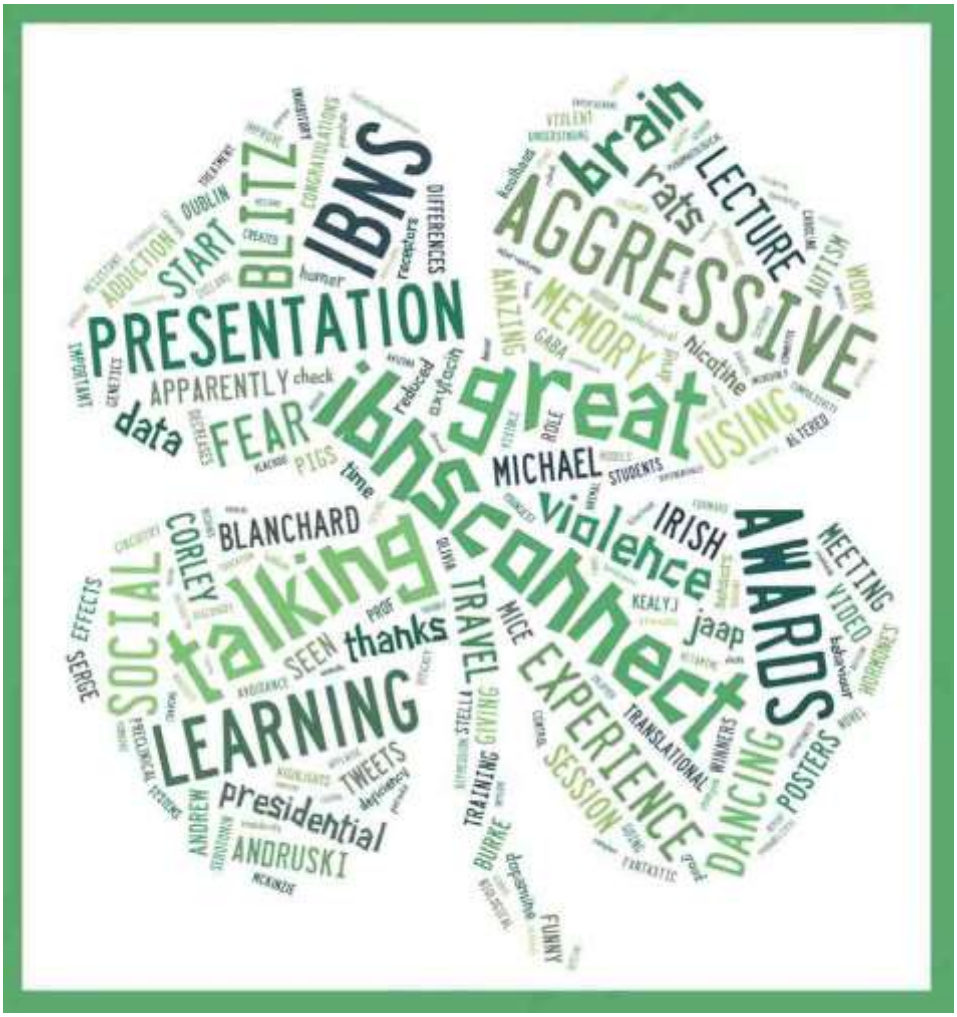
Cristina Bañuelos (1st)—University of Florida

John Bryce Ortiz (2nd) & Ann Hoffman (3rd)—Arizona State University

IBNS' New Online Look!

IBNS took major strides towards expanding its digital presence in 2013 online and via social media in an effort to provide platforms for behavioral neuroscientists to meet, collaborate and exchange ideas. There were several aspects to this effort including a new, updated website (please check it out) and a larger presence on Facebook and LinkedIn. As a part of this effort it was decided that IBNS needed to have a clearly defined, consistent name in its presence online and on social networks, so that no matter where one was to look they could easily find IBNS. "IBNSconnect" was selected and is, or will be, established on all the currently popular social networks. The main URL for the website was changed to www.IBNSconnect.org, and all the iterations (.net, .com…etc.) were purchased and directed to this link (one of the problems with the previous website designations was that many of them were owned by the International Bank Note Society – who knew?).

Another major effort of the Society in social media involved promoting interactions among attendees at this year's meeting, and creating more continuous and ongoing commentary on the meeting as it happened. A digital recording and webcasting solution was put together, including recordings of a majority of the major presentations that were near-instantly branded and shared



The Most Frequently Posted Words about the IBNS 2013 Meeting

online. Many of these will soon be available on the website. One of the features of future meetings will be additional publicity for member presentations via online outlets such as this. Likewise, many of the presenters were asked to share summaries of their presentations, and the main points they hoped their audiences would come away with.

On site, as you undoubtedly noticed, a BUZZlounge was also created. This included a massive video display playing back all the moderated social postings from meeting attendees via Twitter, and a comfortable area where attendees could pull up chairs and refine their online social networking skills. In addition, a Digital Reputation presentation was given in the main session room. Here, attendees got an overview of what is happening in the world of social networking, the importance of having and maintaining a digital reputation, and the basic steps to creating a successful, well-rounded online social presence. This presentation sparked many conversations in the meeting room, as well as later in the BUZZlounge.

Most recently, as part of the "rebranding" effort of IBNS we

have updated the IBNS logo, which debuts in this newsletter, and in announcements for the upcoming meeting at the Red Rock Resort—just outside Las Vegas near the beautiful Red Rock Canyon area, and just a short drive from the Vegas strip.

Contributed by F. Scott Hall, Ph.D.
Chair, IBNS Communications Committee
NIDA Intramural Research Program, Molecular Neurobiology Branch.

Congratulations IBNS Members!!!

Career Milestones and Grants

Jacqueline Crawley received an Autism Speaks grant to discover pharmacological treatments for the diagnostic symptoms of autism using genetic mouse models. Dr. Crawley welcomes applications from IBNS behavioral neuroscientists for postdoctoral and post-undergraduate positions to join preclinical projects in her new lab in northern California.

Jodi Lukkes received a 2013 NARSAD young investigator award.

Vicente Martinez accepted a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor in Rehabilitation Medicine and Neurophysiologist at the University of Washington

Erik Oleson, Ph.D. received a 2013 NARSAD young investigator award, and accepted a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the University of Colorado, Denver.

Melissa Perreault received a 2013 NARSAD Young Investigator Award

Paul Sanberg, IBNS member and former president, had a number of new duties this year. At the beginning of the year he was promoted to Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation at the University of South Florida, where he is also Distinguished University Professor and Executive Director of the Center of Excellence for Aging and Brain Repair.

Bridgette Semple coordinated and chaired a session focused specifically on novel behavioral methods in experimental traumatic brain injury at the Annual Symposium of the National Neurotrauma Society meeting (August 4-7th 2013). Speakers included Demetrio Sierra (Massachusetts General Hospital), Stuart Friess (Washington University St Louis School of Medicine), and Patricia Washington (Georgetown University). This session was the first in the history of the meeting to be both organized and presented by early career investigators, and it received very positive feedback!

Neeraj Kumar Tiwari accepted an Assistant Professor position at Shri Ramswaroop Memorial University, UP, India

Awards

Paul Sanberg was elected as a Charter Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI), and was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to the nomination evaluation committee for the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, which is the highest honor awarded by the United States for technological achievement, presented annually by the president. In addition, he was asked to serve on the USPTO/Smithsonian Institution Selection Committee for the Innovation Expo 2014.

Publications

Benedict Albensi senior-authored a paper in *Molecular Neurobiology* Snow et al. 2013 "Roles for NF-kB and Gene Targets of NF-kB in Synaptic Plasticity, Memory, and Navigation"

Collin Challis first-authored a paper in the Journal of Neuroscience, Challis et al. (2013). "Raphe GABAergic Neurons Mediate the Acquisition of Avoidance after Social Defeat." These findings have received media attention as a new neural substrate of social anxiety after bullying, e.g.: "Bullied Mice Overcome Anxiety"

Raul Galí lead-authored a paper in *Science Translational Medicine*. Galí et al 2013. "Amygdala-Dependent Fear Is

Regulated by Oprl1 in Mice and Humans with PTSD."

Matz Larsson single-authored papers in *Frontiers in Zoology* and *Animal Cognition*. Larsson (2013). "The optic chiasm: a turning point in the evolution of eye/hand coordination," and **"**Self-generated sounds of locomotion and ventilation and the evolution of human rhythmic abilities."

Francesco Papaleo senior-authored a paper in *Biological Psychiatry* in which his group describes the "ultimate" attentional set-shifting task in mice. Scheggia et al. 2013. "The Ultimate Intra-/Extra-dimensional Attentional Set-Shifting Task for Mice."

IBNS 2014:

Red Rock Resort, Las Vegas, NV

Call For Symposia and Satellite Proposals!!

--Proposals may be submitted online: http://www.ibnshomepage.org/?page=CallSymposia

--Typical symposium: 4 speakers scheduled for 2 hours.

--Satellites are structured and financed by the organizers, prior to or after the IBNS meeting dates.

--Proposals should include: 1) a title; 2) the name of the chairperson(s); 3) a substantive description of the topic and proposed talks; 4) the list of speakers, affiliations & emails; 5) tentative titles of their talks; 6) acknowledgement from each speaker that the speaker is willing to attend and will cover their own fees and expenses.

--For satellite proposals include the above + anticipated location & financing plans

--All proposals are reviewed by the Program Committee and then submitted to the IBNS Council for consideration.
Deadline for priority consideration of symposium proposals is October 14, 2013.

IBNS Sustaining Corporate Sponsor
Elsevier Science, Inc.
Corporate Sponsor
Stoelting Co.

www.IBNSconnect.org

IBNS Officers	
President	Stephen Kent
Past-President	D. Caroline Blanchard
Secretary	Susanne Brummelte
Treasurer	Stefan Brudzynski
IBNS Regional Councilors	
Australasia	Matthew Hale
Australasia	Yoichi Ueta
Canada	Elena Choleris
Europe	Anders Agmo
Europe	Francesca Cirulli
Latin America	Carlos T Tomaz
Student	Corina Bondi
USA	Jared Young
USA	Francisco Gonzales-Lima
USA	Cliff Summers

IBNS International Behavioral Neuroscience Society