



Belgium | Canada | Croatia | Estonia | Finland | France | Germany | Greece | Hungary | Israel | Italy | Ireland | Latvia | Norway | Poland | Portugal | Romania | Slovakia | Spain | Switzerland | Taiwan | Turkey | United Kingdom

## Announcements from NEURON

### COMING UP

#### NEURON Lay Lecture Series: 'Prevention in Mental Health'

Prof. Philip McGuire

**June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 16:00 CEST**

Connect online [here](#)

### FENS2022 NEURON EVENTS

#### ERA-Net NEURON Lecture (PL08) 'Developmental cognitive neuroscience in the era of big data'

Prof. Damien Fair

**July 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 CEST**

#### ERA-NET NEURON Excellent Paper in Neuroscience Lecture (SL12) 'Molecular biomarkers for stroke'

Dr. Steffen Tiedt

**July 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 CEST**

## STAY POSTED

### ERA-Net NEURON call for Networking Groups on Chronic Pain will be announced very soon!

Networking groups should address cross-cutting challenges in the research field of chronic pain, to build knowledge on specific aspects, identify gaps, and find solutions for urgent issues (no experimental research will be funded).



More information can be found on our website

<http://www.neuron-eranet.eu/index.php>

 [era-net neuron](#)

 [EraNeuron](#)

 [LinkedIn](#)

Produced by CSO-MOH, IL

## From the desk of the coordinator | June 2022



Marlies Dorlöchter

Dear All,

Spring symbolizes progress and new beginnings - corresponding well with the progress being made in the evaluation of the applications to the ERA-Net NEURON Cofund2 Joint Transnational Call 2022 (JTC2022) on 'Cerebrovascular Diseases including Small Vessel and Brain Barrier Dysfunction'. The call was launched on January 7th and the deadline for the submission of the preproposals was March 8th. Currently, the successful applicants of the first stage are working hard on their full-proposals for the next evaluation stage. We look forward to welcoming the next collection of NEW funded projects to the NEURON family.


In January we were excited to hear about the progress being made in the research projects funded under JTC2019 on 'Translational Biomarkers in Brain Disorders', despite having to carry out the first half of their projects during the Covid19 crisis. During the JTC2019 Midterm Symposium, the coordinators of the 15 funded projects presented their main achievements so far, the obstacles they encountered and their future plans. During the meeting the stage was also given to early career researchers (ECRs) participating in the projects by providing them with an opportunity to give a short pitch about their part in the project. More about the Midterm Symposium on pg. 4.

ERA-Net NEURON supports ECRs by providing them with the stage to present their research not only during the Midterm Symposium, but also through the annual Excellent Paper in Neuroscience Award (EPNA). In March, we announced the winner of the EPNA2021 award - Steffen Tiedt. Dr. Tiedt received the award for his publication 'Circulating Metabolites Differentiate Acute Ischemic Stroke from Stroke Mimics' (Annals of Neurology, 2020, 88, 4, 736-744). The award ceremony will take place in July at the [FENS Forum 2022](#), together with a talk that will be given by Dr. Tiedt on his research. In addition to the EPNA lecture, this year ERA-Net NEURON is involved in several other activities during the FENS Forum 2022, including the ERA-Net NEURON lecture by Prof. Damien Fair and an EPNA alumni event (more on pg. 7).

In the beginning of February, NEURON, in collaboration with [EBRA](#), had organized an open 2-day virtual meeting on "European Biomedical Research Infrastructures' resources for Researchers in Neurosciences". The webinar addressed the different resources that several European Biomedical Research Infrastructures, such as [ELIXIR](#), [EBRAINS](#) and [INFRAFRONTIER](#), can offer researchers in neurosciences. Videos and presentations from this webinar can be found [here](#).

Another sign for new beginnings, NEURON, as a partner in [EBRA](#), has resumed its role in the organization of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and Open Science face-to-face workshops for researchers. An elaborate three-day workshop aimed at preparing Principal Investigators (PIs) and Early Career Researchers (ECRs) for safely navigating aspects of Public and Patient Involvement (PPI), data sharing, data management plans (DMP), ethical self-assessments, justification of animal experimentation, as well as detailed and statistically sound experimental design of projects, took place in April (more about the RRI workshop on pg. 5).

We not only preach about Public and Patient Involvement to the researchers, we also implement these values ourselves, as funders. One of NEURON's main goals is to increase the meaningful participation and



involvement of people suffering from brain disorders in our various activities. Just recently, on April 25-26<sup>th</sup>, we completed a virtual 2-day [training workshop](#) organized collaboratively with the European Federation of Neurological Associations ([EFNA](#)) to prepare lay people who are interested in becoming a lay reviewer for our latest funding call on Cerebrovascular Diseases. The programme was closely developed together with three NEURON patient reviewers to best fit their needs. With this, the workshop forms another milestone in NEURON's dedication to reinforce the collaboration with patients, carers and patient representatives at various levels and our continued effort to improve and implement new and valuable ideas and measures (more on page 6).

We further aim at engaging with the general public and educating about brain and mental disorders through our ERA-Net NEURON Lecture Series for lay audience. The next lecture on the topic of 'Prevention in Mental Health' will be given by Philip McGuire, a professor of psychiatry and cognitive neuroscience in the department of psychosis studies in King's College London. The [lecture](#) is open to everyone and will take place virtually on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

With this, I wish you good health and happy new beginnings and welcome you to keep up with our [website](#) and follow us on twitter [@EraNeuron](#) and [LinkedIn](#) in order not to miss further information on our calls and events.

Sincerely yours





## ERA-Net NEURON's JTC2019 Midterm Symposium on Biomarkers 18-19 January, 2022 | Virtual meeting

Approximately 100 participants joined the JTC2019 midterm symposium on the topic of 'Translational Biomarkers in Brain Disorders', which took place virtually in January.

In Europe, one out of every four citizens experiences a neurological or psychiatric condition, leading to a serious economic and social burden due to long-term disability and mortality. Neuroscience research and its translation into diagnostic and therapeutic outcomes are crucial for improving health in our society, and the validation of reliable biomarkers in the field of brain diseases is an important milestone in this pathway.

Fifteen transnational research consortia are funded under the umbrella of the NEURON JTC 2019. In total, 60 research groups from 13 countries collaborate in these multinational interdisciplinary projects.

In accordance with ERA-Net NEURON's long-time support and investment in ECRs and with the long-lasting tradition of promoting the ECRs involved in the funded projects in the framework of the midterm symposium, ECRs were taken notice of this time as well. ECRs from all the projects funded under JTC2019 were invited to present a short pitch about their part of the research project and a vote was conducted for the best pitch, which was awarded at the end of the meeting. Regardless of the virtual mode of interaction, the symposium provided an opportunity for exciting discussions on scientific methods and results.

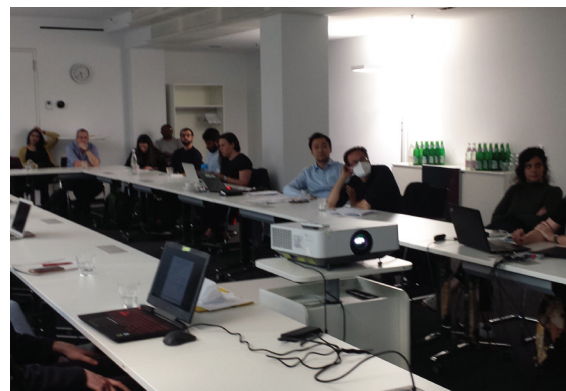
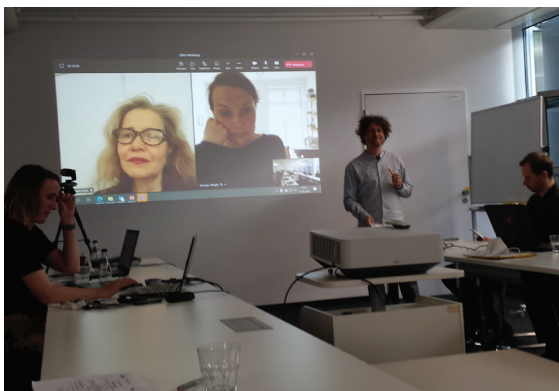
Finally, the midterm symposium included an inspiring workshop on 'Biomarker for Mental Health' moderated by Etienne Hirsch and Sheyla Mejia and included four talks. The first talk 'About Vulnerability' by Michaela Th. Mayrhofer, Head of ELSI Services and Research, BBMRI-ERIC, the second talk 'Predictive Model Systems Cluster - PREMOS in EBRA' by Sabine Hölter-Koch, Head Behavioural Unit German Mouse Clinic (GMC), the third talk 'Clustering around imaging biomarkers' by Thilo van Eimeren from the University of Cologne and Stefano Cappa from IUSS, Italy, who are involved in the working groups on Biomarkers in JPND and EBRA and, finally, a talk on the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium by Ole Andreassen from the Institute of Clinical Medicine in the University of Oslo. The workshop ended with an interactive discussion and was well received.

## Workshop on RRI 27-29 April, 2022 | Berlin, Germany

Since 2018, the ERA-Net NEURON, as partner of EBRA, took on the task to promote research quality in neuroscience. To do so, NEURON organizes workshops for researchers on the topics of Responsible Research Innovation and Open Science. In the recent event that took place in April, NEURON collaborated with the Quality, Ethics, Open Science, and Translation Center, QUEST at BIH/Charité to conduct an intense three-day workshop aimed at preparing the clinical and preclinical Principal Investigators (PIs), as well as Early Career Researchers (ECRs), to safely navigate Public and Patient Involvement (PPI), data sharing, data management plans (DMP), ethical self-assessments, justification of animal experimentation, as well as detailed and statistically sound experimental design of projects. The participants in the workshop included 22 PIs and ECRs of EBRA clusters (PSMD, TRISOMY21, and BRAINFOOD) and of ERA-Net NEURON funded projects from nine different countries.

The content and emphasis of the workshop was developed in close cooperation with QUEST, [EBRAINS](#), [ELIXIR](#) and the [MS Society](#), UK. The event involved various forms of teaching and learning approaches, including plenary lectures, practical breakout sessions, group discussions, individual consultations and an eLearning session on DMP generation with the Data Stewardship [Wizard](#).

The response to the workshop was tremendously positive, with participants reporting a clear benefit of DMP generation, understanding of the data sharing challenges and options in brain research, and of the benefits of Patient and Public Involvement in research. They were extremely grateful for the opportunity for the personalized one-on-one consultations that were tailored to each project. Moreover, many reported that the workshop greatly improved their confidence in the conduction of the scientific projects.



## Call for Lay Reviewers: Training Workshop April 25-26, 2022 | Virtual workshop

Active engagement in research of people affected by certain health conditions or diseases (e.g. patients, carers, family members) is essential for ensuring that the research carried out is relevant and meaningful. In the last 20 years, there has been a growing interest at European and national level in patient engagement, and in particular a focused interest in patient and public involvement (PPI) in research. We use the term 'patients and public' to include current, former and potential patients, carers, people who use health and social care services, and people from organisations that represent people who use these services.

In 2016 NEURON began the implementation of PPI as a learning process, in parallel with, and as part, of the NEURON calls. The nature of this implementation process is gradual and assessed at every step, in order to make sure it is well executed. Organizations that represent patients and the public, such as the European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA), are indispensable partners in this process.

Since 2019, NEURON has developed a strategy for PPI at different steps of the annual calls for research proposals. NEURON emphasizes the translational aspect of the research results as a central objective in each call and thus, the relevance and feasibility of the proposed research projects are among the most important aspects. A patient perspective on those two aspects benefits the proposal design and review process.

To increase the involvement of patients in the evaluation process of the call applications, NEURON, together with EFNA, organized, for the second time, a 2-day virtual [workshop](#) intended to train patients to become reviewers in the current NEURON call on "Cardiovascular Diseases". The programme of the workshop comprised of interactive sessions to introduce ERA-Net NEURON in general and the particular roles of patient reviewers in the NEURON funding scheme, hands on trainings to practice written lay reviews and discuss them at a panel meeting, and a practical training on communication skills. For the first time, experienced NEURON patient reviewers were actively involved in the development of the curriculum for the current workshop.

The attendees in the workshop included a mixture of patients, carers and medical professionals, from eight different countries. Response to the workshop was extremely positive, with 100% of the attendees reporting a clear understanding of the role of a lay-reviewer and feeling ready to take on such a role. One participant accurately articulated: "... they all call it workshop, but this was a real workshop!".

## Upcoming ERA-Net NEURON Events at FENS Forum 2022 7-13 July, 2022 | Paris, France

7-8.7.2022	ENCODS Symposium in Sorbonne, Two RRI-workshop sessions
10.7.2022	FENS FORUM Networking event
13.7.2022	FENS FORUM The ERA-NET NEURON Lecture
13.7.2022	FENS FORUM ERA-NET Neuron/Excellent Paper in Neuroscience Award

### RRI-training workshop

In the framework of ENCODS – PhD Student Symposium two sessions of RRI workshop will be given, including an introduction about RRI, building awareness of the various aspects of RRI, responsible research and sustainable innovations. The NEURON Guidelines will be used as a basis for the curriculum.

### Joint networking event

The Joint networking event, including Cajal, EBRAINS, ERA-NET NEURON, IBRO, and FENS, will consist of a welcome by Patricia Gaspar, FENS-CHET Chair, and brief presentations from the various partner organizations. ERA-Net NEURON will have an assigned space, including flyers and additional material and a NEURON representative will be on-site to exchange with the attendees.

### Plenary lecture

The ERA-Net NEURON plenary lecture in the FENS Forum is intended to support and promote the presentation of cutting edge research in neuroscience, as well as increase the visibility of ERA-Net NEURON. The ERA-Net NEURON plenary lecture in the FENS 2022 will be given by Prof. Damien Fair, a behavioural neuroscientist from the University of Minnesota, on the topic of ‘Developmental cognitive neuroscience in the era of big data’.

### Excellent Paper in Neuroscience Award 2021

The ERA-NET NEURON strives to support young excellent neuroscientists in early stages of their career through a devoted set of activities. One of these activities is the annual Excellent Paper in Neuroscience Award (EPNA). The awardee of the EPNA receives a monetary prize, as well as an opportunity to present their research in a conference. The call and the award ceremony are aimed to increase the attractiveness of neuroscience research within the early-career researchers and raise the awareness of the talented awardees and their excellent scientific results to a larger audience.

The winner of this year’s EPNA2021 is Steffen Tiedt from the Institute for Stroke and Dementia Research, University Hospital, LMU Munich for his publication ‘Circulating Metabolites Differentiate Acute Ischemic Stroke from Stroke Mimics’ (Annals of Neurology, 2020). The award ceremony and the lecture by Dr. Tiedt will be given this year in the framework of FENS 2022 on July 13<sup>th</sup>.