

## ***The Goals of N.E.U.R.O.N.***

The primary objectives of the North East Undergraduate Research Organization for Neuroscience (N.E.U.R.O.N.) are to provide:

- An open forum for neuroscience undergraduate and graduate students to present and discuss their work with trainees, faculty, and others with similar interests.
- To provide faculty an opportunity to discuss research and curricular issues in Neuroscience.
- To enhance communication and collaboration among neuroscience researchers and educators.

In order to achieve these goals, N.E.U.R.O.N. has annual conferences that are focused on enhancing neuroscience training. The semi-annual, 1-day conference provides a forum for undergraduate and graduate students to present and gain feedback from peers and faculty on the research in which they have engaged during the academic year. Students and faculty participate in workshops that discuss important topical and pipeline issues in neuroscience. Notable neuroscientists provide the keynote.

### **Past Key Note Speakers**

1997-Year One: Dr. Bruce McEwen, Rockefeller University, "Sex, stress, and the synapses: Endocrinology and neuroscience combine forces"

1998-Year Two: Dr. Patricia Goldman-Rakic, Yale School of Medicine, "Cortical memory systems"

1999-Year Three: Dr. Robert Sapolsky, Stanford, "Stress, neurodegeneration, and individual differences"

2000-Year Four: Dr. Sandra Witelson, McMaster University, "Einstein and other brains"

2001-Year Five: Dr. Ed Kravitz, Harvard Medical School, "Fighting Lobsters – From genes to behavior"

2002-Year Six: Dr. Donald Pfaff, Rockefeller University, "Hormonal and genetic influences on arousal of the brain, sexual and otherwise"

2003-Year Seven: Dr. Eve Marder, Brandeis, "Stability and plasticity in adult and developing neural circuits"

2004-Year Eight: Dr. Huda Akil, U Michigan, "Searching for the Neural Basis of Mental Illness"

2005- Year Nine-NYC: Dr. Joseph LeDoux, New York University, "Emotion, Memory, and the Brain"

2006- Year Ten: Dr. Edwin Lephart, Brigham Young University, "Phytoestrogens: Brain, Hormones and Behavior. What's In Your Laboratory Diet?"

2007- Year 11-Boston: Dr. Erich Jarvis, Duke Medical Ctr, "Evolution of brain pathways for vocal Learning"

2007- Year 11-NYC: Dr. C. Su Carter, U. Illinois Chicago, "The Love Code: Implications for Autism"

2007-Year 12-Boston: Dr. William Carlezon, Harvard, "Role of Nucleus accumbens CREB in motivated behavior: Implications for co-morbidity of addiction and depression"

2008-Year 12-NYC: Dr. John Morrison, Mount Sinai Medical School, "Estrogen and the Aging Brain"

## **Past & Planning for N.E.U.R.O.N.**

This will be the twelfth year of having annual N.E.U.R.O.N. conferences. The 15<sup>th</sup> N.E.U.R.O.N. Conference will be held at Simmons College in Boston, MA on November 8, 2008. The 16<sup>th</sup> N.E.U.R.O.N. conference will be held on April 4, 2009 in New York City at Hunter College. To date over 2000 undergraduates, 750 graduate students, and 750 faculty/professionals, have participated in the N.E.U.R.O.N. meetings. Fourteen keynote talks have been given by eminent neuroscientists. Sixty professional development workshops have been offered. There have been over 1000 presentations made by trainees. The progress and outcomes of each annual N.E.U.R.O.N. conference are presented in posters at annual Society for Neuroscience Conference. The history, past progress, and future goals are also described in review papers that can be found at: <http://www.funjournal.org/>

We hope to further expand participation in the coming year. We are particularly eager to increase involvement in N.E.U.R.O.N. by students, faculty, and/or speakers from diverse and/or under-represented groups. To date, about 60% of our participants are women and approximately 35% self-identify as racial and/or ethnic minorities. The majority of participants indicate that they are either on financial aid, working to pay for college, and/or are the 1<sup>st</sup> generation from their families to attend college. Thus, there is gender, racial, ethnic and socioeconomic diversity among our constituents that we hope to see continuing to expand.

You can become involved in N.E.U.R.O.N. by attending and/or presenting at the meeting or bringing others. As well, we seek assistance from faculty who are willing to organize symposium and/or workshops.

### **Tentative Schedule for This Year's Meetings**

Pre-registration needs to be submitted via the web site about one week in advance of the meeting. We can accommodate on-site registrants, but the information for those who do so will not be included in the program. Further, for catering, we need to know in advance the number of attendees, in order to provide adequate refreshments for all. A typical program for the meeting is below.

**8:30-10:00 Registration**, poster prep, and breakfast

**9:30-11:00 Brain Primer Program-High School Trainees**

**10:00-11:30 Poster Session and/or Talks**

**11:30-11:45 Welcome**, Introduction of Keynote Speaker

**11:45-1:00 Keynote Address & Discussion**

**1:00-2:15 Workshops with Lunch, topics are:**

♦*How to Gain entrée & thrive in your post-graduate program of choice* ♦*Publishing*♦*Grantsmanship*♦*Outreach and non-traditional opportunities in neuroscience*

**2:15-2:45 Awarding of Tieman, Erskine, & Promising Neuroscientists Awards (see web site for details)**

## **Abstracts Published in JBNR**

The *Journal of Behavioral and Neuroscience Research* (JBNR) publishes a special issue of the proceedings of the N.E.U.R.O.N. conference.  
[http://academic2.stroze.edu/Math\\_And\\_Science/flintr/jbnr/](http://academic2.stroze.edu/Math_And_Science/flintr/jbnr/)

### **Acknowledgments**

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### **For more information, or to Register**

Visit: <http://www.albany.edu/neuron/>, or contact a person below

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### **Local Organizing Committee-Boston:**

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**Locations:** N.E.U.R.O.N. is now held twice each year, once in New York City and once in Boston, MA, to increase diversity and enhance integration between neuroscientists within and between these cities. The 2008/9 NEURON conferences will be at Simmons College in Boston, MA on November 8, 2008 and CUNY Hunter in New York City on April 4, 2009.

**Directions to Hunter College, CUNY:** (East 68<sup>th</sup> and Lexington, NYC)

**From the East Side:** take the Lexington Avenue subway train No. 6 to the stop 68th Street – Hunter College. Exit on the South West side, and you will be facing the West Building (bottom left rectangle on the map below).

**From the Upper West Side:** the M66 bus line runs West to East along 65th Street on the West Side, and can be boarded on Broadway or Central Park West for easy transfers from West Side subway lines. The M66 conveniently switches to 68th Street on the East Side, so that getting off at the intersection with Lexington Avenue, will leave you in front of Hunter College. Crossing Lexington Avenue will take you to the Hunter West entrance (bottom left rectangle on the map below).

**From 6th Avenue:** take the F train to Lexington Avenue and switch to the number 6 train towards uptown. Then follow directions for the East Side.

**From 7th Avenue and/or Penn Station:** take the E train to Lexington Avenue and switch to the number 6 train towards uptown. Then follow directions for the East Side.

**From the East Side:** take the Lexington Avenue subway train No. 6 to the stop 68th Street – Hunter

**Accommodations:** The Edison Hotel has special Hunter College Rates.

Edison Hotel  
228 West 47<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY  
(212) 840-5000

There are also youth hostels in the area.  
Contact Jason Young for info.



**Directions to Simmons College** (300 The Fenway, Boston, MA)

**Public Transportation:** Take MBTA green line E train (Heath Street) to

Museum stop. Turn right onto Louis Prang Street. From here you can see Simmons's green cupola.

Walk past Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum on left.

Simmons College is on the left.



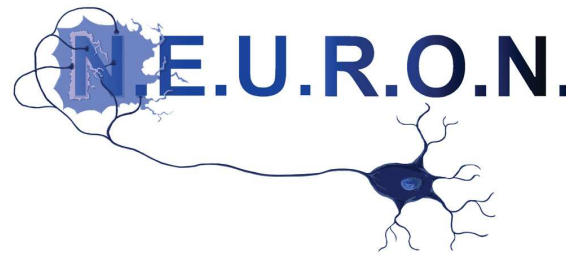
**Driving from the West (including NYC and CT)** Take Route 90 East (Massachusetts Turnpike) to Exit 22. Stay left and follow signs marked "Prudential Center/West 9." Stay on Huntington Ave. west approximately 1 mile. Pass Museum of Fine Arts on right, then turn right at next light on Louis Prang St. Continue through two lights. The main building of Simmons will be on left. Turn left on Avenue Louis Pasteur. Simmons's library is on left. **Driving from the South** Take I-93 N to Exit 26, "Storrow Drive". Follow local directions below. **Driving from the North** Take I-93 South to Exit 26, Storrow Drive west/North Station. Keep left on exit and follow signs for Storrow Drive west. Follow local directions below.

**Local Directions:** Look for sign "Kenmore Square, Fenway, Route 1 South" and exit left, following sign for "Fenway 1 South." Do not take Kenmore Square exit. Stay right at light, following sign for "Boylston St. Outbound, Riverway 1." Get in left lane and proceed to first light. Turn left onto Park Drive. Follow Park Drive to lights (gas station on right corner) and cross Boylston Street and Brookline Avenue. Stay left. At next set of lights, bear left following "Fenway" sign to reverse direction. At lights, continue straight, crossing Brookline Avenue again. You will be on "The Fenway." Turn right onto Avenue Louis Pasteur after Emmanuel College. Simmons's library is on left. Passengers may be dropped off here. There is limited parking. We are trying to get parking at Boston Latin School next door.

**Accommodations:** A reasonable nearby hotel is Best Western at Longwood, 342 Longwood Avenue, Boston MA 02115; 617-731-4700

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## THE FIFTEENTH CONFERENCE of



will be held

**Saturday, November 8,  
2008**

at

**Simmons College, Boston, MA**

The keynote speaker will be

**Dr. Klaus Miczek  
Tufts University**

Who will present a talk entitled,

**"Why do aversive social  
stress experiences promote  
intensely rewarding drug  
taking? Common molecular  
adaptations"**

## THE SIXTEENTH CONFERENCE of



will be held

**Saturday, April 4, 2009**

at

**Hunter College, NYC, NY**

The keynote speaker will be

**Dr. David Rubinow  
University Of North  
Carolina**

presenting a talk entitled,

**" Mood Dysregulation in  
Context: Lessons from  
Reproductive  
Neuroscience"**