



Newsletter of the North Central Florida Chapter  
of the Society for Neuroscience

# Neural Networking

## NCF-SFN: The Year in Review

### Chapter Officers

President

Kim Hawkins

Treasurer

Danielle Sambo

Secretary

Paramita Chakrabarty  
Ph.D.

Chapter Representative

Joseph McQuail, Ph.D.

Brain Awareness

Brittany Butler

Conference Coordinator

Caitlin Orsini, Ph.D.

Community Outreach

Sruti Rayaprolu

Faculty Liason

Marcelo Febo

The 2014-15 year was a busy one for our chapter!

Our year began with our fall annual general meeting where we announced the winners of 3 travel awards sponsored by the Chapter to attend the Neuroscience meeting in Washington, DC. At that meeting we presented a poster detailing our outreach activities and also held our first NCF-SFN social at Capitol City Brewing.

We sponsored a new logo competition and the winning entry was submitted by Danielle Sambo (*shown at right*).

During Brain Awareness Week in the spring, 44 of our volunteers visited 20 area schools to teach

2,857 students about the brain! A popular new demonstration for our BAW activities was the Human-to-Human Interface, a transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulator that allows one person to control the limb movements of another. Our outreach was even featured in an article in the Gainesville Sun!

At the conclusion of BAW, we held a successful scientific conference that included poster presentations, a professional development workshop, data blitzes and talks given by Mrs. Paula Yorker of the Sia Brain Awareness Foundation and Dr. J. David Sweatt, Director of the McKnight Brain Institute at the University of Alabama, Birmingham.



NCF-SFN's new logo designed  
by Danielle Sambo

Thanks to all the Chapter members and faculty who helped make it a great year!

### Inside this issue:

Nominations and Elections	2
Thanks to Neuroscience Faculty	3
McKnight Poster Session at SFN	3
NCF-SFN Travel Award Announcement	3
General Chapter Information	4
2014-15 Photo Collage	4

## Call for Nominations and Officer Elections

The new year for the Chapter will officially begin September 1, 2015 at which time a new board of Chapter leaders will take office. All Chapter members are welcome to submit nominations and run for office. The composition of the board will also change in the next

year. The position of secretary has been eliminated as Sarah Tyson, Neuroscience Graduate Program Assistant, will take on the functions of this position. There are also now Vice-Chair positions to assist the Brain Awareness and Conference Chairs. These provide

an opportunity for newer chapter members to take on leadership roles and familiarize themselves with the intricacies of planning these important events before "graduating" on to become the regular chair position in the following year. *Continued on Page 2.*



2014-15 NCF-SfN Chapter Officers with Guest Speaker David Sweatt at the 2015 Chapter Conference

*Did you know?  
NCF-SfN is one of  
only a few local SfN  
Chapters that is run by  
students and postdocs,  
not faculty members*



Fall 2014 General Meeting

## Call for Nominations and Officer Elections

*Continued from Page 1.*

Active involvement by students and postdocs in chapter leadership is essential because NCF-SfN is one of only a few local SfN Chapters that is run by students and postdocs, not faculty members

**President:** Face of the Chapter. The president is highly involved with every aspect of the Chapter. Responsibilities include providing all necessary support the other officers, making agendas for meetings, preparing general meeting slides and conference slides, and helping Sarah Tyson with the Chapter portion of the neuroscience website.

**Brain Awareness Week Chair:** Responsibilities include recruiting, organizing, and training volunteers for BAW. The BAW Chair is the direct contact for the nearby school districts to schedule and plan classroom BAW activities and with the Dana Organization. The Chair will work with the Treasurer to order supplies for BAW. The BAW Chair will manage and assign specific tasks to the BAW Vice Chair.

**Brain Awareness Week Vice Chair:** The Vice Chair will assist the BAW Chair. The Vice Chair will be responsible for planning and organizing home-school and private groups coming to the MBI and making sure rooms are reserved for BAW activities. The Vice Chair will be responsible for managing activities with the Cade Museum and

other community groups, as well. The Vice Chair is a 2 year opportunity to be automatically placed into the BAW Chair position in the second year.

**Conference Chair:** Responsibilities include contacting potential speakers, scheduling, set-up (room reservations, poster boards, etc), and all-in-all planning of the annual conference. The Conference Chair will manage and assign tasks to the Conference Vice Chair.

**Conference Vice Chair:** Responsibilities of the Vice Chair will be to manage registration of the conference and applications for poster presentations and Data Blitz, recruitment for the poster competition and Data Blitz, and making and sending out various flyers, updates, information, etc to participants. The Vice Chair is a 2 year opportunity to be automatically placed into the Conference Chair position in the second year.

**Treasurer:** The Treasurer will create and manage the yearly budget, contact potential and past sponsors, order supplies, handle dues, and maintain the membership list. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn how to handle budgets, a skill valuable in nearly any career.

**Chapter Representative:** The Chapter Rep must attend the 2016 national SfN conference in San Diego, Nov 12-16 and attend local chapter workshops and socials. Responsibilities of the Chapter Rep include the

newsletter, filing reports with SfN, sponsoring new national members, organizing and advertising SfN travel awards, and act as liaison to SfN. The Chapter Rep will also plan a social at the annual national meetings for past and present NCF SfN members.

If you're interested in running for a specific office, please consider contacting the current officer for more information:

**President:** Kim Hawkins  
(kim.hawkins88@ufl.edu)

**Brain Awareness Chair:**  
Brittany Butler  
(b.butler15@ufl.edu)

**Conference Chair:**  
Caitlin Orsini (orsini@ufl.edu)

**Treasurer:** Danielle Sambo  
(dsambo@ufl.edu)

**Chapter Representative:**  
Joseph McQuail  
(jmcquail@ufl.edu)

All nominations will be due by **Monday, August 17th** and the official vote will be taken at a chapter meeting to be held on **Thursday, August 20th from 4-5pm in L1-101**

## Thanks to Neuroscience Faculty & Staff

While the NCF-SFN Chapter is largely a student-run enterprise, we rely on guidance and support from faculty and administrators in the Department of Neuroscience to support our efforts.

In the past year, the Chapter established the "Outstanding Service to the Chapter" award. The first recipients of this award were Drs. Ron Mandel and Jada Lewis. Dr. Mandel has been highly involved in the planning

of brain anatomy demonstrations to visiting students, an important component of our education outreach activities. Dr. Lewis supported the purchase of the Human-to-Human Brain Interface an educational (and fun) tool to teach about electrical nerve conduction and also sponsored the Neuroscience Poster Competition within the College of Medicine's Celebration of Research symposium.

We'd also like to acknowledge Dr. Notterpek's continuing leadership and involvement as Department Chair and also invaluable support from Kathy Stalnak and Sarah Tyson from the Department office.

Also, we'd like to thank Drs. Jennifer Bizon and Sara Burke for serving as panelists on our professional development workshop during our Chapter Conference in March.



McKnight Brain Institute;  
Home of the Department of  
Neuroscience

## McKnight Brain Poster Session at SFN

SfN is quickly approaching and we are planning for the annual Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Research Foundation Poster Reception on October 18th. This is a great networking event where you have a chance to present your research and connect with researchers at other McKnight institutes.

This year, posters submitted by the deadline, September 20th, will be judged and cash awards of \$500, \$300, and \$200 will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place respectively.

If your research is at all related to aging, development, or learning and memory, we encourage you to submit an abstract for the MBRF poster session beginning

August 3rd. Please contact MBRF Poster Reception Representative Lara Ianov (lianov@ufl.edu) or NCF-SFN if you would like more information about the submission process.

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*Connect with  
researchers at other  
McKnight institutes  
and win cash awards  
for your research on  
brain aging and  
memory*

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## Travel Awards for Neuroscience 2015

Planning to attend Neuroscience 2015 in Chicago? NCF-SFN is here to help! Any member whose dues are paid in full for the 2015-16 year is eligible to apply for a Travel Award from the Chapter. In 2014, the chapter gave three \$200 awards to offset travel costs of members who were presenting their research at

the national meeting of the SFN. Last year's recipients were Sofia Beas, Emily Dabe and Caitlin Orsini.

To apply, be sure to renew your dues as the Chapter membership year begins anew as of September 1.

Completed applications will include a copy of your accepted abstract, a curriculum vita, and a brief statement describing your past and/or future participation in Chapter activities. Further instructions will be provided in early September.

Winners will be announced at the Fall General Meeting.



Treasurer Danielle Sambo  
presents 2014 Travel Award  
to Sofia Beas

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*The North Central Florida Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience is located on the campus of the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL. Since its inception, the Chapter has been led by graduate students and postdoctoral fellows with support from faculty and administrators in the UF Department of Neuroscience. Each year we organize scientific and professional development venues for our members, visit local schools and community centers to educate about the brain and scientific research and sponsor travel awards to support attendance at the national meeting of the Society for Neuroscience.*

*Advancing the Understanding of the  
Brain and Nervous System*

**Visit us on the internet!**  
**<http://neuroscience.ufl.edu/sfn-north-central-fl-chapter/>**

## Scenes from 2014-15 NCF-SFN Activities

