



International Society for Neuroethology

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THIS ISSUE FEATURES

President's Column by *Catharine Rankin*
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2018 Developing Neuroethology & Capranica Awards
KNRA Award Information & a New ISN Website



The Prez Sez

Catharine Rankin
President of the ISN



Hi Everyone!

I cannot believe I am writing my last **Prez Sez** column for this newsletter. The two years I have been President have flown by so quickly. It has been such a pleasure to be connected with all of you and to work towards the long-term success of our Society. Many people work behind the scenes to keep the society healthy and growing. The Executive Committee, especially the Treasurer, **Karen Mesce**, and the secretary, **Susan Fahrbach**, have been a joy to work with and have been a great source of history and knowledge about how things have been done in the past and how they should be done. I have also relied on our Past President, **Peter Narins**, who has generously shared the lessons learned

and pertinent information from his presidency. **Eric Warrant**, our President-Elect has been on a steep learning curve, gathering insights from watching how things have gone during my presidency. The ISN Council have always been available to serve on committees and do critical tasks for the society. They have also had to endure quite a few “hacker attacks” when someone took email addresses off of our website and pretended to be me asking them for money for some society need (Yes! That happened at least 3 times! Quite amazing.). Our society is blessed by so many people committed to ISN’s longevity.it is very gratifying. Thank you to everyone who has served the society in many different capacities in the past 2 years!

I am very excited about the upcoming **Congress in Brisbane**. I hope you have made time to look over the website and see the fantastic line-up of Plenary Speakers and Symposia. I had a great time putting together the **Presidential Symposium** and am looking forward to your responses to the speakers I have chosen! I tried to balance men and women, vertebrates and invertebrates, traditional neuroethologists and speakers who will be new to many of you! Here is the list:

Gary Lewin (Max Delbrück Zentrum, Berlin, Germany) *Molecular exploitation of extreme physiology present in African rodent diversity*

Marie Dacke (Lund University, Sweden) *Celestial orientation and dirty dancing: From behaviour to neurons*

George Perry (Pennsylvania State University, USA) *The widespread and long-term evolutionary consequences of human behavior*

Jon Pierce (University of Texas, Austin, USA) *Complex magnetic orientation behavior from a simple nematode*

Carolyn McBride (Princeton University, USA) *Molecular insights into the evolution of mosquito preference for human odor*

Margaret McCarthy (University of Maryland Medical School, USA) *Surprising origins of sex differences in the brain*

It is not too late to decide to join us! Register and make plans to come Down Under for a fabulous and unique congress!

Before the 2018 Congress has even begun we are busily working on the **2020 Congress in Lisbon**. **Rui Olivera** will have an update on the plans for 2020 at the **Business Meeting** in Brisbane where we will also hear the options for the location of the 2022 Congress, so so be sure to attend! It is an easy way to stay in touch with ISN plans for the future.

It has been a real privilege to serve the International Society for Neuroethology. I thank you for your trust. I hope to see you in Brisbane where we can reconnect with old friends and meet some new friends. Travel safely, and I’ll see you there! And, if you can’t attend, we know that you’ll be with us in spirit as we celebrate the past, present, and future of our discipline. We hope to see you at a Congress again soon!

Catharine Rankin
President, ISN



SLATE OF CANDIDATES ANNOUNCED FOR 2018 ISN ELECTION

The nominations committee and President-Elect Eric Warrant have worked hard to bring the ISN membership a stellar slate of candidates. Voting via e-mail will take place soon after the Brisbane Congress.

1. Candidates for **Council** (15 candidates for election to fill our **seven vacancies**, 2018-2022)

Ana Amador (Argentina)
Karen Carlton (USA)
Marie Dacke (Sweden)
Coen Elemans (Denmark)
Martin How (UK)
Andrew Iwaniuk (Canada)
José Luis Peña (USA)
Hiroshi Riquimaroux (China)
Ana Silva (Uruguay)
Andrea Simmons (USA)
Mayaso Soma (Japan)
Monika Stengl (Germany)
Nachum Ulanovsky (Israel)
James Windmill (UK)
Yoko Yazaki-Sugiyama (Japan)

2. Candidates for **President Elect** (2 candidates for election to fill **one vacancy**, 2018-2020)

Karen Mesce (USA)
John Montgomery (NZ)

3. Candidates for **Secretary** (2 candidates for election to fill **one vacancy**, 2018-2020)

Gabriella Wolff (USA)
Andres Vidal-Gadea (USA)

4. Appointment as **Treasurer** (no vote required, for tax purposes must be U.S. citizen): Mark Bee (USA)

5. Candidates for **Early Career Representative (ECR)** (2 candidates for election to fill **one vacancy**, 2018-2022)

Jan Marek Ache (USA)
Miriam Henze (Australia)



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS
OF THE 2018 DEVELOPING
NEUROETHOLOGY AWARDS**

One benefit of being on a sound financial footing is that the ISN can promote global participation by providing travel support for members from emerging countries to attend and present their work at the International Congress of Neuroethology. Gifts from ISN members can also be designated for this purpose.

The 2018 awardees are **Anand Krishnan**, who is a DST-Inspire Faculty Fellow from IISER in Pune India who studies avian acoustic niches in semi-arid scrub habitats; **Sandeep Kumar**, a doctoral student from the National Brain Research Centre in Haryana, India who uses zebra finches to study the neural control of female-directed song; **Francisco Javier Maza**, a doctoral student from the Universidad de Buenos Aires in Argentina who will present his research on the function of crab hemiellipsoid bodies; and **Maria Ines Sotelo**, also a doctoral student from the Universidad de Buenos Aires in Argentina, who specializes in studying spatial navigation in amphibians.



2018 CAPRANICA PRIZE

One of the pleasures of breaks between academic semesters is the opportunity to read a bit more widely than usual. A good place to start is with the paper that is the winner of this year's Capranica Prize.

This year's Capranica Prize winner is **Ayelet Sarel**, lead author on a report published in **Science** magazine titled *Vectorial representation of spatial goals in the hippocampus of bats* (Sarel, Finkelstein, Las & Ulanovsky, Science 355, 176-180). This research was

performed in the Department of Neurobiology at the **Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel**, in the laboratory of ISN member **Nachum Ulanovsky**. Former Capranica Prize awardee **Arseny Finkelstein** also contributed to this project.

ISN member **Almut Kelber** served as Chair of the 2018 Capranica Prize Committee. Her comments to President Rankin on the committee's decision noted that

...the paper by Sarel and co-authors examined a new set of hippocampal neurons in the navigation system of the fruit bat. Navigation in mammalian systems, and now also in insects is, of course, a hot topic with at least one Nobel Prize for this kind of work. But this paper provides a unique addition to the head direction, place cell, grid cell story. It asked not how the animal knows where it is, but rather does it have cells that know where the animal wants to go...As the authors noted, this could be accomplished with a series of readings of place cells. But an alternative was that there might exist goal direction cells that report on the animals heading relative to goals as well as cells reporting on the distance to the cells. In a series of very clever and technically challenging experiments, Sarel and co-authors did in fact find these cells and, moreover, showed that the goal cells could respond to memories of where the goal was rather than simply using visual cues of the goal.

The committee judged this to be a truly transformational paper. Learn more about how the Ulanovsky lab at the Weizmann has developed the Egyptian fruit bat as a novel model for behavioral neuroscience by visiting <http://www.weizmann.ac.il/neurobiology/labs/ulanovsky/>



Rousettus aegyptiacus. By en:User:Dawson [CC BY-SA 2.5 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5>)], via Wikimedia Commons.

KONISHI AWARD APPLICANTS SOUGHT

The ISN Executive Committee is puzzled by the small number of applications it receives for our KNRAAs.

If you are an early career investigator in neuroethology, you are encouraged to prepare a Konishi Neuroethology Research Award application for 2019. These awards are intended to promote research by early career investigators studying the neural basis of natural animal behavior. Funds awarded (up to \$2500 U.S. dollars) can be used to cover *any* direct research expenses (including travel to a field site) although conference travel, participation in formal workshops or courses, are excluded, as are salaries. Applications are reviewed on the basis of scientific merit, feasibility of the project, and consistency with the mission of the ISN. We can fund 3 or 4 of these awards every year, but recently have received very few applications. This article is intended to spur young investigators and their mentors to plan a submission for 2019 (anticipated deadline is April 30, 2019).

Are you unsure if you qualify to apply? Note that the ISN uses a broad definition of early career investigator. For the purposes of the Konishi award, an early career investigator is defined as a graduate student currently enrolled in a doctoral program or an investigator who has received a doctoral degree within the past 10 years. Individuals in the latter category may be postdocs or faculty members. In addition, investigators more than 10 years beyond the doctoral degree are welcome to apply but must provide a statement on their biosketch explaining why their career path was interrupted. See the ISN website for more details and a list of past awardees.



A NEW ISN WEBSITE IS COMING

The ISN Executive Committee is working with professional designers at Allen Press to improve the appearance and functionality of the ISN website.

Those of you who refer to the ISN website for information about the society have probably noted that our site no longer meets user expectations for utility and design. The Executive Committee decided earlier this year to contract with Allen Press for the first substantial update of the ISN website in many years. Our goals are to provide easier access to important information, more opportunities to

engage more frequently with the ISN, and a mobile-friendly interface while still maintaining critical features such as the member directory and membership dues functions. We hope that the redesigned website will serve as an ambassador for those outside our field at the same time it helps members share a warmer sense of community. The new interface should be available by the end of July 2018. We look forward to receiving your feedback and suggestions. Thanks very much to those who responded to our earlier call for images. We hope to use as many of your stunning images as possible so that our new website represents us as well as possible. Direct specific questions to our Allen Press representative, **Terry Leatherman** (tleatherman@allenpress.com).