



# International Society for Neuroethology

Newsletter April 2013

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## President's Column

*Alison Mercer*  
President of the ISN

Having been in this role for several months now I am struck by how many of you give time and energy to the operations of the Society and how willingly people become involved. Given the good hearts of our members it is no surprise that the ISN is in such good shape.

One very important question has been occupying my mind – what more can the ISN do for its PhD students, postdocs, and early-career neuroethologists? I am delighted that a mechanism will soon be in place to help us answer this question. In the September elections, 84% of those who voted were in favor of adding early career representatives to the ISN Council. This is an important development that will provide an

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opportunity for our younger members to have a voice and help guide the future direction of the Society. A call for nominations is included in this newsletter.

As a result of our recent elections there are now seven new members of Council (**Amir Ayali**, **Ari Berkowitz**, **Melissa Coleman**, **Rüdiger Krahe**, **José Peña**, **Sakiko Shiga**, and **Sarah Woolley**). I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their willingness to donate their time to the ISN, and to extend huge thanks also to those who have completed their terms on the Executive Committee in 2012: **Martin Heisenberg** (now Past Past President) and **Fred Delcomyn** (ex-Treasurer). In addition, **John Hildebrand**, **Hans Hofmann**, **Hans-Joachim Pflüger**, **Cathy Rankin**, **Alan Roberts**, **John Simmers**, and **Daniel Tomsic** completed their terms on Council. All have contributed much time and energy to the ISN, and many continue to support the Society in a variety of important ways.

Earlier this year **Fred Delcomyn** handed over the Treasurer's records and responsibilities to **Karen Mesce**. The Executive Committee will miss Fred's knowledge of ISN operations and his good counsel, but the accounts and balances are passing from one very safe pair of hands to another. As many of you will know, Karen has already contributed a great deal to the Society. In addition to keeping the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings and dealing with correspondence during her recent term as ISN Secretary, Karen edited a series of very interesting and informative newsletters. This enormously important task has been taken over by our new Secretary, **Susan Fahrback**, who I know will be very keen to hear from you all. If you have news, views, announcements, formal contributions, or even just ideas for what you would like to read in the newsletter, please contact Susan directly ([fahrback@wfu.edu](mailto:fahrback@wfu.edu)). Susan, Karen, **Paul Katz** (Past President), and **Peter Narins** (President-Elect and a past Treasurer of the Society) bring extensive knowledge of ISN procedures and processes to the Executive Committee, and I am grateful to them all for their guidance, commitment, and good humor. Many thanks also to **Linda Hardwick** from Allen Press for her practical advice and management of the Society's operations. The management services that Allen Press provides for the Society are all working very well!

During Paul Katz's term as President the Society shifted from holding its International Congress from every third year to every second year. After the successful 2010

Congress in Salamanca, **Art Popper** and his team stepped up to the plate with enthusiasm and commitment to organize the 2012 Congress in College Park. Those of you who attended will know that it was a knockout. Thank you to the huge team of workers at the University of Maryland and to the Program Committee, co-chaired by **Andrea Simmons** and **Hans-Joachim Pflüger**. Less visible, but equally important were those who served on selection committees in the run-up to the meeting. Here I would like to recognize the Awards Committee (**Ron Harris-Warwick**, **Heather Eisthen**, **Amir Ayali**, **Gerhard von der Emde**, **Emanuel Mora**, and **Elke Buschbeck**); the Capranica Prize Committee (**Christine Koepl**, **Ken Catania**, and **Sakiko Shiga**); and the ISN Fellows Committee (**John Simmers**, **Catherine Carr**, **Kentaro Arikawa**, **Ellen Covey**, and **Peter Narins**). Thank you all!

Three excellent proposals were put forward to host ICN 2016. **Maurice Chacron**, **Rüdiger Krahe**, **Jon Sakata**, and **Sarah Woolley** proposed holding the Congress in Montreal; **Justin Marshall**, **Judith Reinhard**, and **Mandyam Srinivasan** offered to host the Congress in Brisbane; and **Ana Silva** and **José Peña** put forward a proposal for Montevideo. All 3 proposals offered enticing venues, and as you will see in this newsletter the polling was very close. I am sure that, regardless of your initial preference, you will be excited about the outcome. ICN 2016 will be held in Uruguay from March 29 through April 3, 2016. Congratulations, Ana and José. We wish you the very best for the preparations ahead and look forward to a wonderful meeting.

Fortunately we do not have to wait until 2016 for our next ICN "fix." **Yoshi Oka** and the 2104 ICN local organizing committee are working hard on the preparations for the 11<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Neuroethology in Sapporo, Japan. I am delighted to announce that **Heather Eisthen** and **Masashi Kawasaki** will co-chair the Program Committee for the Sapporo meeting. We are in for a treat! Yoshi, Heather, and Masashi have joined the Executive Committee, which will meet in July 2013 to finalize plans.

The 2014 Congress will dovetail with the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry (JSCPB). The two meetings will overlap by one day to encourage participation in both, and the joint meeting will be referred to as "2014 ICN/JSCPB." This year, ISN is providing \$10,000 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean School of

Neuroethology. This training course is being organized by **Emanuel Mora** of Havana University. A range of interesting topics will be explored including sensory processing in visual, auditory, olfactory, and somatosensory systems, decision-making processes in the central nervous system, and motor control strategies such as central pattern generators and peripheral feedback control. This is an excellent initiative and an important opportunity for ISN to support the next generation of international neuroethologists.

Speaking of education, very many thanks to all of those people who have contributed items to the Education Section of our website. Please continue to do so, and encourage other ISN members to do the same. The website is looking great. **Zen Faulkes** and the ISN web oversight and education committee are doing an outstanding job. Thank you!

Last but not least, I would like to draw your attention to the call at the end of this newsletter for nominations for the honorary position of **Fellow of the Society for Neuroethology**. Please heed this call. This is an important opportunity for the Society to recognize those outstanding individuals whose research has inspired us all and whose efforts helped build the remarkably interesting profile that neuroethology enjoys today. Those awarded this honor will join our inaugural group of 2012 Fellows: **Robert Capranica, John Hildebrand, Masakazu Konishi, Michael Land, Randolph Menzel, and Rüdiger Wehner**. If the eminent neuroethologist who inspired you the most is not already a member of this group of ISN superstars, he or she will need your help to ensure that their work is duly recognized by the Society. Make sure that you nominate them in the coming round.

I began with a comment about the extraordinary generosity of ISN members to the Society in terms of their time and energy. I have been able to list some above, but there are certainly many others worthy of recognition. I hope they will forgive me for not mentioning their contributions here. ISN is as strong and vital as we make it, so any comments or suggestions that you might have about how things could be improved would be warmly welcomed. Please don't hesitate to send me your ideas.

Best wishes,  
Alison



## Results of the ISN Election of September 2012

### 1. Election of Officers

*Peter Narins* is President-Elect

*Susan Fahrbach* is Secretary

New members of Council are *Amir Ayali, Ari Berkowitz, Melissa Coleman, Rüdiger Krahe, José Peña, Sakiko Shiga, and Sarah Woolley*

### 2. Whether to have a student or postdoc representative on the ISN Council

86.3% voted yes

### 3. Results of the poll to select a site for ICN 2016

Uruguay, 41.4%

Australia, 36.9%

Canada, 21.7%

*The 2016 Congress will take place in Montevideo from March 29 through April 3, 2016.*



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## 2014 ICN/JSCP



Preparations for the 11<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Neuroethology in Sapporo, Japan are now well underway.

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### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

#### The 2013 International Society Neuroethology Capranica Prize

**Please note the April 30, 2013 Deadline!**



The Capranica Neuroethology Prize was established in 1986 by Robert and Patricia Capranica to provide an annual cash prize for recognition of an outstanding achievement or future promise in the field of neuroethology by young people early in their careers. The ISN now awards this prize, which will continue to bear the Capranica name to honor Robert and Patricia Capranica.

The 2013 prize (US\$1,000) will be awarded to a promising young investigator who is the author of a paper published on line or in print during the 2010 calendar year, which is judged to be the most outstanding in terms of scientific significance in the field of neuroethology on the basis of criteria including: novelty of the scientific discovery, implications for scientific technical advancement, or importance for advancement of knowledge. The young investigator must be first author on the submitted paper and must have played a major role in the inception and execution of the study. Eligible candidates must be either graduate students or postdoctoral trainees who have received their doctoral degree within the last 5 years. Either the nominee or the advisor must be a member of ISN.

ICN 2014 will dovetail with the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry (JSCP). Start planning your visit to Japan now!

Applicants should submit (either by postal mail or, preferably, by e-mail in PDF format) a brief statement of their qualifications and the significance of their published paper, a copy of the paper, a *curriculum vitae*, and a letter of reference from their graduate or postdoctoral advisor that details the role of the applicant in the published study as well as the overall accomplishments of the young investigator. The cash prize will be awarded to the recipient and their name will be announced at the 2014 International Congress of Neuroethology in Sapporo, Japan.

**\*\*\*All materials must reach the ISN office by April 30, 2013\*\*\***

Inquiries, as well as all application materials, should be addressed to:

Capranica Prize Selection Committee  
International Society for Neuroethology  
P.O. Box 1897  
Lawrence, KS 66044, USA  
Email address: [jlancaster@allenpress.com](mailto:jlancaster@allenpress.com)

*Selection of the recipient of the Prize will be based entirely on scientific merit, irrespective of race, creed, sex, age, or nationality. Donations to the fund supporting this Prize are welcome; please contact the above address for details on how to make a contribution.*



## 2013 NEUROETHOLOGY GORDON CONFERENCE

The Co-Chairs (**Heather Eisthen** and **Hans Hofmann**) of the 2013 Gordon Research Conference (GRC) in Neuroethology are happy to announce that registration for this meeting is now open. View the program at: <http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2013&program=neureth> Participants may present a poster, if they wish; in addition, some submitted abstracts may be selected for oral presentation.

The 2013 GRC has the theme of **Networks, Circuits, and Modules**. The meeting will be held August 18-23, 2013 at Mount Snow Resort in West Dover, Vermont, USA. The conference will be preceded by a weekend Gordon Research Seminar (GRS; August 17-18, 2013) designed to foster professional development and networking among graduate students and post docs conducting neuroethology research. The theme of this meeting is **Closing the Loop**, and the Co-Chairs are **Brian Dias** and **Paloma Gonzalez Bellido**. Registration for the Gordon Research Seminar is separate from that for the main conference, and can be accessed at: [http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2013&program=grs\\_neuret](http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2013&program=grs_neuret) Young investigators may attend one or both of the meetings. All attendees will either give an oral presentation or a poster. **Eve Marder** has graciously agreed to participate in the GRS as a mentor. Students who wish to attend the GRS and/or the GRC will be given high priority in the 2013 Heiligenberg Student Travel Award competition (**NOTE THE DEADLINE OF 30 APRIL 2013 FOR THIS COMPETITION.**)

The full title of this GRC is **Neuroethology: Behavior, Evolution & Neurobiology**. The Co-Chairs have taken care to ensure that the meeting will be truly multidisciplinary. The program brings together scientists studying neurobiology, computational neuroscience, robotics, molecular and evolutionary genetics, and human health issues. The goal is to address the fundamental neural mechanisms underlying behavior.

If you are a neuroethologist who has not previously attended a GRC, why not take the time to check out the online program? The Neuroethology GRC has a tradition of being a welcoming and inclusive meeting. The daily schedule allows ample time for informal discussion. Many productive neuroethology research collaborations have had their origins in the relaxed atmosphere of a GRC.

## SUBMISSIONS FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

Please send meeting announcements, advertisements, and other related information for the next newsletter (July/August 2013) to the ISN secretary, Susan Fahrbach ([fahrbach@wfu.edu](mailto:fahrbach@wfu.edu)). Send all materials via email.

Advertisements for jobs and graduate/postdoctoral positions should be no more than 150 words. Suggestions for feature articles, including research group reports, autobiographical sketches, meeting summaries, and *Neuroethological Viewpoints*, should also be sent to the ISN secretary. Please do not submit full articles of this type without a response from the Secretary. Feature articles may be up to 1,500 words in length.

The newsletter also welcomes research commentaries, book reviews, and other material that might be of interest to the ISN community. These should be no longer than 450 words in length, and should only be submitted after consultation with the Secretary.



## SATELLITE MEETING

### NEURAL BASES OF BEHAVIOR

#### Neuroethology and Neurobiology of Memory in the Southern Cone

A Tribute to Héctor Maldonado  
Córdoba, Argentina  
September 30 – October 2, 2013

**Héctor Maldonado** (1927-2010) was an outstanding scientist who strongly contributed to the understanding of the neural bases of animal behavior by using innovative and non-traditional model systems. He was also a great team leader, the founder of Neuroethology in Argentina, and a promoter of our discipline across Latin America. This symposium honors his legacy.

Two days of symposia and poster presentations will precede the Closing Homage Ceremony, which will be highlighted by the participation of Professors Yadin Dudai and Randolph Menzel. In addition, this meeting will serve as the first step in the organization of the 2016 ICN to be held in Montevideo, Uruguay. See the ISN website for more details.

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## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### 2013 Heiligenberg Student Travel Awards



*Walter Heiligenberg (1938 – 1994)*

**Heiligenberg Student Travel Awards** are awarded annually to qualified students who wish to present work in the field of neuroethology at selected national and international scientific meetings. This year up to six awards are available. The awards cover expenses such as travel to and from the conference site, registration fees, and/or housing costs up to a total of \$700 per awardee. The GRC in Neuroethology is being given high priority this year, but students wishing to attend other conferences with a strong neuroethology presence are also encouraged to apply.

This award is given in honor of **Walter Heiligenberg**, who was a distinguished neuroethologist and a pioneer in the field. Walter made seminal contributions to understanding the neural mechanisms underlying the jamming avoidance response of weakly electric fish. He was both a great scientist and an inspiring teacher.

**Qualifications:** Both the student and the student's mentor must be ISN members by the application deadline of April 30<sup>th</sup>. Applicants must be registered graduate students at a university, and must plan to present their work at the conference. Priority will be given to applicants with demonstrated academic excellence and research potential as evidenced by the abstract of the work to be presented and the recommendation letters. Demonstrated financial need will also be considered. Preference will be given to applicants who have not previously received this award.

**To apply**, fill out the application form available on the ISN website and submit this, together with two letters of recommendation, to Joyce Lancaster at [jlancaster@allenpress.com](mailto:jlancaster@allenpress.com)

**The deadline for applications for the 2013 Awards is April 30, and the decisions on funding will be announced by May 31, 2013.**

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

### Fellow of the International Society for Neuroethology

**April 30, 2014** is the deadline for submitting nominations for the honorary position of Fellow of the Society for Neuroethology. (Relax, you have a whole year to think about your nomination. But don't forget to tackle this important task.)

**Eligibility:** Candidates for Fellow must have been a member of the ISN continuously for at least the six years prior to nomination. Candidates must be a current member.

**Criteria:** Fellows are recognized for meritorious efforts to advance the science of neuroethology. These include any of the following:

- a significant body of published research
- leadership in educational and outreach efforts
- extraordinary service that promotes science, particularly neuroethology

**Who can nominate?** Fellow nominations may be made by any current regular, lifetime, or emeritus member of the ISN. The nominee must not be a member of the nominator's current department nor be a doctoral or postdoctoral associate of the nominator (either currently or within the past 10 years).

**Nomination procedure:** A letter from the nominating member must be submitted detailing the qualifications of the nominee and providing evidence of achievements that demonstrate fulfillment of the criteria. Supporting letters must be submitted by two additional current members of the ISN. The nomination should include a brief biographical sketch of the nominee (< 250 words) that includes educational and professional background and a description of major achievements. Send materials in the form of a single pdf file to Joyce Lancaster at [jlancaster@allenpress.com](mailto:jlancaster@allenpress.com)

**The deadline for nominations is April 30, 2014. New Fellows will be formally recognized at the 2014 International Congress of Neuroethology.**

*Selection of Fellows will be based entirely on scientific merit, irrespective of race, creed, sex, age, or nationality.*



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## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

#### Early Career Representatives for ISN Council

**Nominations are now being called for two early career representatives (one PhD student and one Postdoctoral fellow), to serve on the ISN Council. These individuals will provide an important voice in our Society for young neuroethologists.**

#### Eligibility:

**Graduate student** nominees must be enrolled for a doctoral degree at the time of the election.

**Post-doctoral** nominees must have completed a doctoral degree within the last 6 years and must not currently hold a faculty position.

If the status of an early career representative changes during their term of office, they will be expected to complete their full term on Council. Elected Councilors normally serve for two Congress intervals. A shorter term of one Congress interval (2 years) can be negotiated by early career representatives as long as it has the agreement of both the nominee and Council. In the first election of early career representatives, one of the two people elected will be chosen at random to serve a 2-year term, rather than a 4-year term, to create staggered terms in the future, unless one of the two representatives volunteers to accept a 2-year term.

All nominees must be members of ISN by 31 May 2013, the deadline for nominations.

Applicants should submit (either by postal mail or, preferably, by e-mail in PDF format) a brief statement (ca. 250 words) that outlines why they would like to serve on Council, a *curriculum vitae*, and a letter of reference from their graduate or postdoctoral advisor that details the overall accomplishments of the young investigator, particularly as those accomplishments pertain to the field of neuroethology.

**All materials must reach the ISN office by May 31, 2013. A special election will be held in June 2013.**

Inquiries, as well as all nomination materials, should be addressed to:

#### Joyce Lancaster

International Society for Neuroethology  
P.O. Box 1897

Lawrence, KS 66044 USA

E-mail address: [jlancaster@allenpress.com](mailto:jlancaster@allenpress.com)



#### ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

Allen Press, the e-administrator for the ISN, has recently announced a change in staffing. Linda Hardwick, who has ably served the ISN in countless important ways and made everything run smoothly, will be replaced by Joyce Lancaster. Except for the change in e-mail address, all other contact information for the ISN administrative office will remain the same. Linda has informed the ISN that she is working hard to facilitate a smooth transition, and that the transition is expected to be completed by the end of April 2013. The ISN extends its warmest thanks and deepest gratitude to Linda for her service to the Society. Individual members who want to thank Linda and wish her well as she takes on new responsibilities at Allen Press can contact her at [lhardwick@allenpress.com](mailto:lhardwick@allenpress.com).

