



Dear Neurochemistry Friends and Colleagues,

Following the Call for the Programme of the ESN2021 Biennial meeting to be held in Saint-Petersburg, Russia, in my capacity as the Chair of The Programme Committee, I invite you to participate in the meeting and to consider organising a symposium or workshop to be included in the Programme. The details for preparation of an application are given in the attached document.

The Programme Committee, consisting of leading neurochemists in Europe and Russia, aim to generate a highly interesting and attractive program for the meeting, covering broad areas of neurochemistry research – from molecular to behavioural levels and from disease to therapeutics. We welcome suggestions for emerging "hot" topics and new concepts in well-established areas. We rely on the activity of all ESN members and invite our leading scientists to shape the scientific arena of the meeting. We also give a chance to our younger colleagues to join the efforts. The ESN Young Scientists Steering Committee (YSSC), chaired by Dr Eva-Maria Blumrich (currently in Edinburgh), has prepared a special invitation letter encouraging young scientists to be proactive (see attached letter).

We hope that together we will be able to organise a very successful meeting and I am looking forward to working with all of you.

With very best regards,

Prof Alessandro Prinetti
PC Chair
University of Milan,
Italy



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The European Society for Neurochemistry is delighted to invite its members to submit proposals for the Programme of the

24th ESN Biennial Meeting -

8th Conference “Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms of Regulation in the Nervous System”

May 23-26, 2021, Saint Petersburg, Russia

Please send your proposals to ESN2021@neurochemsoc.eu by April 30th, 2020

The Meeting will be organized by the I.M. Sechenov Institute of Evolutionary Physiology and Biochemistry together with I.P. Pavlov Institute of Physiology, both in Saint Petersburg, under the auspices of the Russian Academy of Sciences with involvement of leading scientists from Moscow, Kazan and other scientific centers of the Russian Federation. It will be held in the Hotel “Saint Petersburg” located very close to the main attractions of the city and excellent facilities for conferences with up to 700 participants.

The International Programme Committee chaired by **Prof Alessandro Prinetti (Milan, Italy)** aims to generate a highly interesting and attractive program for the meeting, covering broad areas of neurochemistry research, stimulate scientific interchange, identify new "hot" topics and help to develop new concepts. With your help, we will be able to organize a highly attractive scientific meeting that will give the participants an opportunity to present and discuss their new data in cellular and molecular neuroscience.

The Programme will consist of parallel sessions of Symposia and Workshops selected from the proposals received. Symposia should include a maximum of 4 presentations by leading scientists in the field highlighting their research and presenting a brief overview of the topics. Workshops are intended to encourage more vivid discussion, often on sharply focused research issues, between the speakers (up to 4) and the audience. The success of this interactive format is determined by the active discussion generated by the Chair and speakers. Chairs of the sessions and invited speakers will have free registration for the meeting.

There will also be Plenary Lectures (Opening Lecture, ESN-sponsored Lecture, the Bachelard Award Lecture) and 2 “ESN Young Scientist Lectureship Award” presentations (all selected by the Programme Committee and ESN Council from nominations announced in due course). Continuing the tradition started at the ESN meeting in Tartu (Estonia) in 2015, there will be 2 parallel sessions of “Young Members’ Symposium” (up to 10 speakers in total selected by the ESN Council from the applications - the Call will be announced in due course). And, of course, there will be Poster sessions.

The proposal must include the following information combined in one pdf file:

1. Symposium/Workshop title and Session Chair (name, affiliation, contact data)
2. Abstract (description of the topic of the Symposium/Workshop and how it relates to the conference focus – up to 1000 characters)
3. Speakers (names, tentative titles of the talks, affiliations, short CV with a list of main publications, contact addresses, preliminary agreement to participate).



ESN Young Scientist Steering Committee's (YSSC) letter to young ESN/ISN members

Call for Proposals – ESN2021 meeting in St Petersburg, Russia

As you all know there is no biennial ESN meeting this year. This does not mean there is nothing happening at ESN. In fact, it means there is a space in everyone's calendar to plan, since we all know, the earlier we do, the better. Normally when a young scientist plans to go to a conference, we look at a meeting program, discuss with our PI whether it makes sense for us to attend, decide to go and start preparing. What do I put in my abstract? Where can I get travel support? Even if you are more experienced, this is not probably changed much, apart from not having to discuss your plans with your PI and probably having a clearer idea about the finances.

Have you ever considered looking at this from another perspective? Are you aware that YOU could be a part of the program? It might sound like a tremendous effort and very difficult. Here are a few tips to take into consideration on obvious questions before you put your thoughts aside again.

- 1) I am not a classical neurochemist, so I don't know which topic I could go for.
 Don't be put off by the word "chemistry"! Look at the program from the past meetings and you will see that not everything is strictly chemical or molecular. There is a bit of chemistry in everything and we are open to a variety of topics.
- 2) I am only a Postdoc. PIs have to organise meetings!
 Nice try! The YSSC is also composed of Postdocs and PhD students and we put our proposals in as well. Therefore: Sorry, that's not an excuse, the earlier you start the sooner you realize it's not actually that difficult.
- 3) How do I start planning a symposium or a workshop?
 - a. Find a colleague to do it with you;
 - b. Decide on a topic;
 - c. Decide on a scope. Workshop or symposium? How many speakers? Here the programs of other meetings can be a good source of information;
 - d. Contact people you know who work in that field. Remember: It's great to get the big shots, but you don't have to! It is worth giving others, who are at your career stage, a chance;
 - e. Contact potential speakers. The worst they can say is no, so what's to lose? Have a couple more in mind then you would need. Be polite, not pushy, say

who you are, describe what you want them to do, give them a date for a reply (around 2 weeks). If they don't get back to you, remind them once, if that does not help it might be for the best;

- f. Draft a proposal as required by the Call but remember that you will need confirmations of the speakers to participate.

4) What about the money (registration fees, travel support)?

ESN waives the registration fees for the session chairs and all invited speakers of the session (but check how many speakers are allowed)! Travel costs are not covered by ESN, but you could look for other sources or go with the local speakers. Even if you cannot support their travel, this is unlikely to put everyone off. Just be honest about it! People might still come and combine it with holidays or meeting with collaborators.

5) Why should I do all this, what's in it for me?

Experience, recognition, networking, confidence and something on your CV that makes you stand out from others who did not take this opportunity and, of course, exploring new and exciting destinations.

The call for proposals for the ESN2021 biennial meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia is now out! The deadline for submission is the 30th of April (see the flyer attached). So, if you want to shape the meeting with your ideas, your thoughts and your topics, here is your chance! Questions to our YSSC e-mail: esn-yssc@outlook.com or check out the information at: <https://neurochemsoc.eu/>

Even if you are still not convinced that organising a symposium at the ESN2021 meeting would be a good idea, please keep an eye on the calls for nominations for Young Scientist Lectureship Awards, applications for the Young Member Symposium, travel awards, come along and present your poster and be a part of it!

Your ESN-YSSC