

## 2<sup>nd</sup> BraYn (*Brainstorming Research Assembly for Young Neuroscientists*) conference



### PROJECT OVERVIEW

#### MISSION

BraYn is a scientific conference organised by young scientists specifically intended for neuroscientists under the age of 40. The meeting is open to PhD students, Post-docs and Junior PIs from all around Europe.

Every day, young Neuroscientists face the difficulties of carrying out their research at several levels; this conference is intended to be a useful meeting point to maximise our scientific investigation to its full potential. The philosophy of the conference is simple: to **meet, connect, collaborate, and share**. Indeed, we need to encourage cooperation among different research groups in order to broaden our horizons, and improve the quality of our research.

In order to achieve these goals, we have designed a congress that favours the participation of young neuroscientists and promotes the active interaction among different laboratories. To foster participation, we applied a registration fee of just 50 euro that allows attendants to:

- Attend the talks of keynote speakers in different neuroscience fields, including presentations by Nobel Prize laureates;
- Attend free practical workshops;
- Actively participate in the congress through abstract submission and the possibility to be awarded prizes for oral and poster presentations;
- Publish the scientific abstract in a peer-reviewed journal;
- Participate in social events including coffee breaks and social dinner.

The first edition of the BraYn Conference was held in Genoa (Italy) in June 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The conference registered 310 attendees, and it was supported by 19 biotech companies. The second edition will take place in Milan (Italy) in November 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2019, “Mario Negri” Institute auditorium, Via G. La Masa, 19. We anticipate the attendance of over 500 delegates, which will also include experienced senior leaders (mentors and invited speakers) from different disciplines of neuroscience including neuroimmunology, neuronal plasticity, neurodegeneration, and neuro-oncology.

#### SPECIFIC AIMS

The main aims of the BraYn conference are:

- 1) To give young neuroscientists the opportunity to present and discuss the most recent results obtained in their laboratories in a peer-to-peer context; encourage the participation of attendees to the different practical workshops offered during the congress;
- 2) To represent an important platform to establish long-term, fruitful, and interdisciplinary collaborations among the participants;
- 3) To give young neuroscientists the opportunity to hear the talks of internationally renowned senior speakers and directly interact with them in an open round table session;

4) To make the BraYn conference an annual flagship event for young European researchers.

## **ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

The organising committee includes 16 young neuroscientists (mean age: 36; 11 females, 5 males), working in 13 different Universities and Scientific Institutes located in Italy and Europe. It includes one PhD student, Senior Postdocs and Junior PIs.

### **Scientific director:**

Giovanni Ferrara, PhD in Pharmacology, now Research Associate (Senior Postdoc), Dept. of Neuroscience, Rehabilitation, Ophthalmology, Genetics, University of Genoa, Italy

### **Scientific committee:**

Stefano Angiari, PhD in Cellular and Molecular Pathology and Biology, now Senior Postdoc, School of Biochemistry and Immunology Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

Barbara Bettegazzi, PhD in Molecular Medicine, now Senior Postdoc, Neuroscience Division, San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan, Italy

Enrica Boda, PhD in Neuroscience, now Assistant Professor in tenure track in Human Anatomy, Dept. of Neuroscience and Neuroscience Institute Cavalieri Ottolenghi, University of Turin, Italy

Sonia Calabrese, PhD in Embriology, Pathology and Experimental Hematology, now Senior Postdoc at University of Catania, Italy

Giuseppina D'Alessandro, PhD in Neurophysiology and Pharmacology, now Senior Postdoc, Dept. of Physiology and Pharmacology, La Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

Manuela Medelin, PhD in Neuroscience and Cognitive Sciences, now Postdoc, University of Verona, Italy

Alessandra Musella, PhD in Neurocience, now independent PI, Neuroimmunology and Synaptic Plasticity Lab, European Centre for Brain Research, Santa Lucia Foundation, Rome, Italy

Giovanni Nardo, PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, now Senior Researcher, Dept. Of Neuroscience, Mario Negri Institute, Milan, Italy

Ilaria Prada, PhD in Molecular Medicine-Neuroscience, now Senior Postdoc, Institute of Neuroscience, Italian National Research Council, Milan, Italy

Matteo Tamborini, PhD in Pharmacological Sciences, now Research Associate, Neuroscience Center, Humanitas Research Hospital, Milan, Italy

Rosa C. Paolicelli, PhD in Cellular and Molecular Biology, now PI at University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Elisabetta Volpe, PhD in Immunology, now senior Postdoc at Santa Lucia Foundation Scientific Institute, Rome, Italy

### **Conference Secretariat**

Jose Lifante Cañavate, PhD student in Neuroscience, Dept. of Neuroscience, Rehabilitation, Ophthalmology, Genetics, University of Genoa, Italy

Valentina Petrosino, PhD student in Neuroscience, Dept. of Neuroscience, Rehabilitation, Ophthalmology, Genetics, University of Genoa, Italy

Margherita Romeo, PhD in Pharmacology, Dept. of Molecular Biochemistry and Pharmacology, Mario Negri Institute, Milan

Maria Chiara Trolese, PhD student in Pharmacology, Dept. of Molecular Biochemistry and Pharmacology, Mario Negri Institute, Milan

## **LIST OF INVITED SPEAKERS**

**Giacomo Rizzolatti**, Professor Emeritus of Human Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Parma, Italy; confirmed.

**Pierre Gressens**, Professor of Perinatal Neurology, Hammersmith Hospital, ICL, London, UK and Research Director at INSERM, Paris France, confirmed

**Marco Prinz**, Medical Director of Institute of Neuropathology and head of Innate immunity group, Institute of Neuropathology (Freiburg, Germany), confirmed.

**Sonia Garel**, PI at IBENS (Institut de Biologie de l'École Normale Supérieure, Paris), France, confirmed.

**Thomas Korn**, PI at Department of Neurology Technical University of Munich, Munich, Germany, to be confirmed.

**Emiliano Biasini**, PI at the Centre for Integrative Biology (CIBIO), University of Trento; to be confirmed.

**Thomas C. Südhof**, M.D. Avram Goldstein Professor, Stanford University School of Medicine Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor, Department of Molecular & Cellular Physiology; to be confirmed.

## **Contacts**

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