



# CAN-ACN

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR NEUROSCIENCE  
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES NEUROSCIENCES

# CAN Connection

The Canadian Association for Neuroscience Newsletter

## August 2016

Dear Colleagues,

The Canadian Association for Neuroscience's mission is to represent, promote and advocate for neuroscience research in Canada, and we need your support. By becoming a member or renewing your membership today, you will help support our activities for the coming year.

Please take a few minutes to visit the [CAN membership page](#) today, and encourage your colleagues to join!

### Getting our voice heard

Your contributions and participation are essential to ensure that our message and recommendations are considered and taken into account by the government and funding organisms. This is especially important in these times of changes and uncertainty in research funding. Now is the time to send our recommendations to the science review panel, and [we ask for your input to send a strong message](#): if you have not yet done so, please fill in

our [new CIHR reforms survey](#) today.

The CAN-ACN advocacy committee, led by Katalin Tóth, has been very active since it was formed. You will find a summary of their recent initiatives in this newsletter.

### Bringing our community together

We are already advanced in our planning of the next Canadian Neuroscience meeting, which will take place [May 28 to 31 in Montréal](#). Please mark your calendars, and get ready to submit your proposals for parallel symposia. The call will be sent in the fall.

We also invite you to join us for the [CAN Social at SfN, on November 15th in San Diego](#). This much anticipated yearly event is another great way to keep in touch with your colleagues from across the country!

Freda Miller, President  
Canadian Association for Neuroscience

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CAN  
ACN

<http://can-acn.org>  
<http://can-acn.org/membership>



[https://twitter.com/can\\_acn](https://twitter.com/can_acn)



<https://www.facebook.com/can.acn>

## CAN-ACN Elections

We are proud to announce the newly elected CAN-ACN Board members and executives.



Next CAN President-elect:  
**Jaideep Bains,**  
U of Calgary



New Board member:  
**Alanna Watt,**  
McGill U



CAN Treasurer-elect:  
**Derek Bowie,**  
McGill U



New Board member:  
**Jean-Claude  
Béïque,**  
U of Ottawa

Congratulations to the new CAN Directors and executives.

They will take office in June 2017, when they will join our current Board members.



New Board member:  
**Martin Paré,**  
Queen's U

### CAN Board of Directors

#### Executives:

President: Freda Miller, U of Toronto

Vice-President: Lynn Raymond, Uof British Columbia

Secretary: Edward Ruthazer, McGill U

Treasurer: Ellis Cooper, McGill U

Past-President: Doug Munoz, Queen's U

#### Board Members:

Charles Bourque, McGill U

William Colmers, U of Alberta

Melanie Woodin, U of Toronto

Shernaz Bamji, U of British Columbia

Roger Thompson, U of Calgary

Stephanie Borgland, U of Calgary





## Highlights from Advocacy & Outreach @ CAN16

The Advocacy Committee of the Canadian Association for Neuroscience organized the first Neuroscience Advocacy Session at the CAN16 Meeting.

Katalin Tóth, chair of the CAN Advocacy committee, with Maxime Robert, for the McGill BrainReach Program, winner of the first prize in the student initiative category. (picture 1)

Queen's University Neuroscience Outreach Program representatives Ashley Parr, Scott Murdison and Dayna Scott, winners in the best SfN Chapter category. (picture 2)

Allen Champagne, also from Queen's University, won an honorable mention for his involvement in the CESAP program. (picture 3)

Read more about the prize winners on our website:

<http://can-acn.org/2016-can-advocacy-and-outreach-prize-winners-announced>

The advocacy session also featured invited speaker Wendy Suzuki, Professor of Neural Science and Psychology in the Center for Neural Science at New York University. (picture 4)

Dr. Suzuki presented her work in advocacy and outreach, which emphasizes the importance of exercise for brain health. She uses personal experience to illustrate how brain research can be applied to help us lead a better life, through compelling narrative.



## CAN Advocacy initiatives

### Science Review contribution

The Advocacy committee is preparing the CAN contribution to the review of federal support to science, launched by the Honorable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science. **We ask for your input.** You can submit your comments directly to the [sciencereview.ca](http://sciencereview.ca) website, and, if you have not done so already, **please participate in our [new CIHR reforms survey](#)**. It is a very short survey, and your participation will ensure we also relay your opinion to the Minister in our contribution.

### Pre-budget consultation letter

The CAN advocacy has recently submitted recommendations to the pre-budget consultations to the Honorable Bill Morneau, Minister of Finances.

Our main recommendations were

#### 1) **a doubling of the operating budgets of the NSERC and the CIHR.**

If Canada invests in science 2% of the GDP, we will only return to the level of support science had 10 years ago. We believe that Canada's demonstrated excellence in research can only be sustained with support that reaches 3% of the GDP, which would make Canada's research investment comparable to Germany's and the USA's research investments. Doubling funds that are available in open competitions through the CIHR and the NSERC would be essential to stop the downward trend experienced by fundamental discovery research laboratories across Canada.

#### 2) **An increase of \$150 million to the 2017 Budget for CIHR.**

In the latest competition, the 13% success rate was made possible by moving the 2016- Autumn competition to the 2017 budget of the CIHR. This means that next year the expected success rate will be 5-6% unless the government decisively steps in and restores science funding in Canada. These investments would ensure that the standard of research excellence is maintained in Canada. Canadian scientists are willing and ready to continue to make important contributions that benefits all Canadians. It is important to ensure that we have the means to do so.

You can read the full letter here:

<http://can-acn.org/documents/2016/CAN-Pre-budget-08-02-final.pdf>

### Thank you letter to Minister Philpott

We have sent the thank you letter to Minister Jane Philpott, that many of you have signed.

### Thank MPs for your CIHR funding

We also encourage you to thank your MP and the Ministers of health and science for your CIHR funding, if you have received new funding recently. You can highlight the value of your research, and how many people you employ with these funds. Please view our [July 2016 Advocacy news](#) for more details and for instructions on how to find your MPs address..

### New CAN Advocacy officer

We are happy to announce that **Jason Tetro**, a well known science writer and frequent contributor to the Huffington Post has joined our team as our advocacy officer. Jason has been hired part time to work on advocacy and outreach initiatives. You can reach Jason directly if you have a newsworthy story for him: [news@can-acn.org](mailto:news@can-acn.org)

### CAN Advocacy committee

Chair of the CAN Advocacy committee  
Katalin Toth, Université Laval

Members:

Michael Hendricks, McGill University

Beverly Orser, University of Toronto

Jaideep Bains, University of Calgary

David Kaplan, University of Toronto

Jean-Claude Béique, University of Ottawa

Doug Zochodne, University of Alberta

Jay Ingram, science writer, communicator

Anastasia Voronova, University of Toronto  
(Liaison to CSMB)

[advocacy@can-acn.org](mailto:advocacy@can-acn.org)

## CAN Meeting - 10th Anniversary celebration

In May 2016, we celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the Canadian Neuroscience Meeting which was first held in Toronto in 2007.



Above: Brandishing the official CAN baton, President Doug Munoz gave a very lively overview of the history of CAN, in a presentation titled: *CAN: Past, Present and Future*.



Right: Doug Munoz and incoming President Freda Miller highlighted the hard work and vision of the organizer of the first Canadian Neuroscience meeting, Jonathan Dostrovsky and Brian MacVicar.



Below: The unique contribution of Past, Present and Future CAN Presidents was acknowledged by the awarding of a CAN presidential puck.





## Highlights from the 10th Annual Canadian Neuroscience Meeting

Melanie Woodin, Charles Tator and Margot Taylor



The CAN 2016 Public Lectures featured two leading Canadian neuroscience experts, who presented recent research on the impact of innate vs. acquired brain disorders. Speaker **Margot Taylor**, from SickKids Hospital, discussed her research on the autistic brain, showed very interesting differences in its functioning. The second speaker, **Charles Tator**, from the University of Toronto showed compelling evidence that concussions are a very important public health concern. He presented strong arguments about the necessity to increase awareness about concussion in children, teens, and the general population.

Kathryn Vaillancourt, John Aspler, Yvonne Hung, Michael Hendricks, Ivan Semniuk, Liam Crapper and Michelle Wilson.



McGill graduate students **Kathryn Vaillancourt** and **Liam Crapper**, hosts of the On Your Mind podcast, presented the CAN sponsored satellite "Speak Up—on the role of communication in modern neuroscience." They assembled an impressive and diverse panel of experts. Topics discussed included how to approach and interest journalists, how to write in a compelling fashion, should research be hyped, how news stories get picked up by the press.

John O'Keefe



The CAN 2016 Presidential lecture was given by Nobel laureate and McGill Alumnus **John O'Keefe**, who placed the hippocampus as a cognitive map in a broad historical perspective.

The Chair of the CAN Nominations Committee, **Sam David**, proudly gave the CAN Young Investigator Award to **Matthew Hill**, from University of Calgary. Dr. Matthew Hill's research on endocannabinoids has deepened our understanding of how the brain responds and adapts, or fails to adapt, to stress.

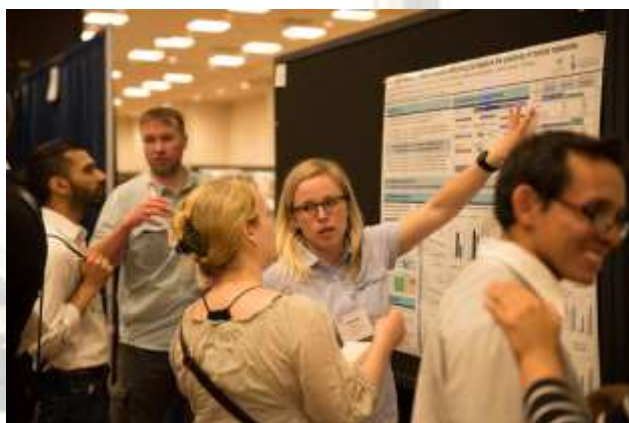
Another highlight of every CAN meeting are the very lively poster presentation sessions, where trainees, researchers and professors discuss their latest results.

View the [CAN Flickr photo gallery](#) to see more pictures of the meeting.

Matthew Hill and Sam David



Poster sessions



## Highlights from the 10th Annual Canadian Neuroscience Meeting

Eric Marcotte and Ravi L. Rungta,  
Brain Star of the year

CIHR Brain Star Pierre Mattar

CIHR BrainStar Ruifeng Cao | McGill  
University

Karl Deisseroth



CIHR's Eric Marcotte presented the Brain Star of the year award to **Ravi L. Rungta**, from University of British Columbia. **Ruifeng Cao** (McGill University) and **Pierre Mattar** (IRCM) were also selected in the top three BrainStar awardees of 2016.

We wish to thank the Conference Chairs for their hard work and dedication !



2016 Scientific Program Chair: **Kathleen Cullen**

Co-Chair: **Jaideep Bains**

Local Chair: **Melanie Woodin**

Congratulations to them, and to the **CAN2016 Program Committee**, on the development of a great scientific program!

We also wish to thank all the participants who contributed to making this meeting a success.

View more pictures of the meeting in the

**CAN Flickr gallery**





# 11th Annual Canadian Neuroscience Meeting

May 28 - 31 2017 | Montreal - Hotel Bonaventure

## Scientific Program Committee

Chair :

**Jaideep Bains**, University of Calgary

Co-Chair :

**Shernaz Bamji**, University of British Columbia

Local Chair:

**Richard Robitaille**, Université de Montréal

Members of the Committee

**Marie-Ève Tremblay** – Université Laval

**James Fawcett** – Dalhousie University

**Stephanie Fulton** – Concordia University

**Jean-Claude Béïque** – University of Ottawa

**Maurice Chacron** – McGill University

**Martin Paré** – Queen's University

**Marco Prado** – Western University

**Sarah McFarlane** – University of Calgary

**Ian Winship** – University of Alberta

**Catherine Rankin** – UBC

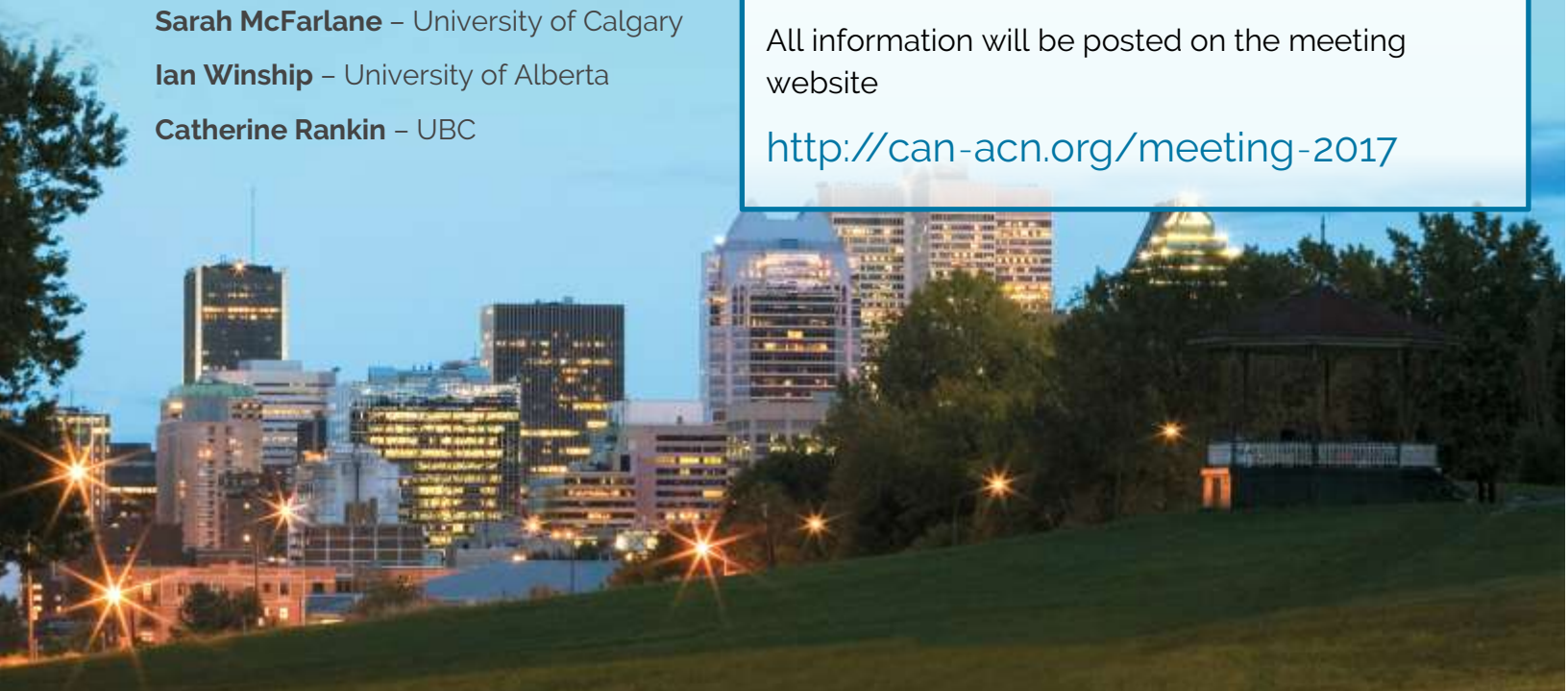


Save the dates!

Calls for parallel symposia proposals and for posters will be launched in the Fall.

All information will be posted on the meeting website

<http://can-acn.org/meeting-2017>





## CAN-CAN News section

We recently added a new CAN-ACN News section on the front page of our website,

<http://can-acn.org>

, which features original, in-depth articles about recent publications in Canadian neuroscience.

This original content is written by **CAN Advocacy Officer Jason Tetro**, who works in collaboration with the authors of the publications to write comprehensive articles about the discoveries.

View all stories in this section here:

<http://can-acn.org/category/can-news>

We thank all scientists who have contributed to these stories, and **invite you to submit recent papers of interest** that you have published directly to Jason Tetro at

[News@can-acn.org](mailto:News@can-acn.org)

Learn more about Jason on his website:

<http://jasontetro.com/>

## Neuroscientist profiles

CAN has also hired **Sarah Ferguson**, a journalism student for the Summer, to write in-depth and original profiles of Canadian neuroscientists.

View Sarah's profile here:

<http://can-acn.org/sarah-ferguson-profile>

We invite you to read profiles of these neuroscientists in the new Profiles section of our website at:

<http://can-acn.org/canadian-neuroscientist-profiles>



Sarah Ferguson

Contributor to the CAN Profiles section

## Canadian Neuroscience YouTube Channel

CAN-ACN has a YouTube Channel in which we collect and share videos about Canadian Neuroscience.

This Channel currently features more than 125 videos. You can view the channel and subscribe here:

<http://bit.ly/2bxMhf6>

If you have a video you would like to share, please e-mail us at [info@can-acn.org](mailto:info@can-acn.org)

Read more neuroscience press releases on the [CAN-ACN website](#). We also share these news on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#):

[twitter.com/can\\_acn](https://twitter.com/can_acn)

[www.facebook.com/can.acn](https://www.facebook.com/can.acn)



Jason Tetro

CAN advocacy officer



## Congratulations

**Nooran AbuMazen** from Waterloo won the CIHR Canadian Brain Bee, and went on to win **2nd prize in the 2016 Brain Bee World Championship in Copenhagen**. It is estimated that about 50 000 students competed worldwide in 2016.

**Andres Lozano** (U Toronto) received the [Order of Canada](#)

**André Parent** (U Laval) was named [Officer of the Order of Québec](#)

**Ashok Malla** (McGill U) received an [Honorary Doctorate from Université de Montréal](#)

**Gustavo Turecki** (McGill U) was named [Chair, CIHR Advisory Board on Research Excellence, Policy and Ethics](#)



Congratulations to Canadian Brain Bee winners: Steph Swanson (2nd), Nooran AbuMazen (1st), Ling Yang (3rd)

## 2016 CAN Social at SfN

Tuesday, Nov 15 - 6:30PM | Hard Rock Hotel Rooftop

**Hard Rock** HOTEL SAN DIEGO

207 Fifth Ave, corner of L Street,  
In front of the Convention Center