

# CAN Connection

The Canadian Association for Neuroscience Newsletter

## January 2017



CAN-ACN

Dear Colleagues,

The new year is an opportunity to look forward and share with you some of the activities, events and opportunities CAN will be offering in 2017.

First, I would like to invite you to submit nominations for the [2017 CAN Young Investigator award](#), which recognizes outstanding research achievements by a young neuroscientist at the early stage of his or her career. Don't miss the nomination deadline: **January 30th 2017**.

I am very happy to share the latest news about the planning for the 2017 Canadian neuroscience meeting (#CANMTL), which is led by Scientific program chairs [Jaideep Bains](#) and [Shernaz Bamji](#), with the help of the [2017 Program committee](#). The chairs are particularly proud to announce the lineup of plenary speakers, which includes Nobel laureate [Linda Buck](#), [Hollis Cline](#), [Dwight Bergles](#), [Charles Bourque](#) and [Tim Bussey](#). We are also pleased to note that we have reached gender parity, with an equal number of men and women in our plenary speakers roster. [View the 2017 program](#).

We will also have the great honour of welcoming [Margaret Trudeau](#) [Canadian icon and mental health advocate](#), at our annual meeting. She will give a special lecture on the opening night of the meeting, May 27th.

The CAN advocacy committee, led by [Katalin Toth](#), has again been very active. Next month, CAN representatives and neuroscientists will be back on [Parliament Hill in Ottawa for a Neuroscience luncheon](#). [Beverley Orser](#) and [Charles Bourque](#) will deliver lectures to showcase

great examples of how investments in basic research can and do lead to improved treatment strategies. We hope to welcome upwards of 30 members of Parliament to this event. Learn more about our 2017 advocacy efforts on page 4, and invite your MP to attend!

We are also pleased to announce the launch of the contest for the second [Neuroscience advocacy awards](#), which will be given in a special advocacy session at #CANMTL. We have partnered with [leaders of Canadian SfN Chapters](#) for this event—more about the contest and session on page 3.

CAN continues to develop its partnerships. We are pleased to announce [IBRO](#) will be sponsoring the 2017 CAN meeting, and specifically a [Women in Neuroscience Luncheon](#) on May 29th, and will provide [travel awards for international trainees](#). Please encourage your international trainees to apply today—deadline is **February 13th**.

We also welcome a new partnership with the [International Society for Developmental Neuroscience](#), who is sponsoring a plenary lecture and symposium at #CANMTL.

Please take a look at the [pictures from the CAN Social at SfN, which took place November 15th in San Diego](#). I want to thank CAN Secretary [Ed Ruthazer](#) for organizing this event, and the Canadian neuroscience community and our friends who make this one of the best parties at SfN every year.

[Freda Miller](#), President  
Canadian Association for Neuroscience

# 11th Annual Canadian Neuroscience Meeting

May 28 - 31 2017 | Montreal - Hotel Bonaventure

## Plenary speakers

Presidential Lecture:

**Linda Buck**

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research  
Center Seattle

Keynote Lecture:

**Charles Bourque** | McGill U

Special Lecture:

**Margaret Trudeau** | Mental Health  
Advocate

Featured Plenary speakers:

- **Hollis Cline** | The Scripps RI
- **Dwight Bergles** | Johns Hopkins U
- **Tim Bussey** | Western U

Plenary symposium speakers:

- **Karun Singh** | McMaster U
- **Julie LeFebvre** | SickKids Hospital
- **Graziella DiCristo** | U de Montréal
- **Richard Robitaille** | U de Montréal
- **Marie-Ève Tremblay** | U Laval
- **Grant Gordon** | U of Calgary
- **Paul Frankland** | U of Toronto
- **Kari Hoffman** | York U
- **Katherine Duncan** | U of Toronto

## New this year for trainees:

"All You Need Is Love...And A Little Help  
From Your Friends."

[A Science Communication and Advocacy  
Workshop](#)

presented by **Jason A. Tetro**, CAN  
Advocacy Officer

Space is limited—register today!

## Thank you!

Thank you to all CAN members who  
submitted **proposals for parallel symposia**.

**The members of the 2017 Program  
Committee** have reviewed all the

proposals, and the selected proposals will  
be announced very soon.

Once again this year, the committee and  
meeting chairs were impressed by the  
quality of the submissions, and had very  
hard decisions to make.

## Date & Deadlines

View the full listing on the last page of this  
newsletter

[http://can-acn.org/  
meeting-2017](http://can-acn.org/meeting-2017)

## CAN Advocacy & Outreach news

### 2017 CAN Neuroscience Advocacy & Outreach Awards

Awards consist of a \$1000 prize and a chance to present at the #CANMTL meeting. Prizes will be awarded in three categories:

- Best Canadian SfN Chapter
- Best trainee initiative (group)
- Best trainee initiative (individual)

Details on the [CAN Advocacy awards webpage](#).

Application deadline: **February 15th, 2017**

### First Canadian SfN Chapters meeting at SfN16

CAN organized a luncheon for representatives of Canadian SfN Chapters and Neuroscience advocacy groups to facilitate sharing and networking, and to join forces to increase the visibility and awareness of neuroscience research in Canada. Each chapter rep made a short presentation of their activities, with a particular focus on public outreach and advocacy.

We wish to thank all the participants, who showcased the breadth of grass-roots neuroscience advocacy and outreach initiatives, and also showed how much we have to gain from sharing these across the country.

All participants agreed on the importance of recognizing and encouraging the **hard work of trainees, who invest time and energy to ensure the success of these initiatives.**

Representatives **Josephine Nalbantoglu, Bev Orser** and **Doug Allan** are organizing a special advocacy session at #CANMTL which will feature these trainees - CAN will provide travel awards for them to attend. The session will also feature presentations by the 2017 CAN Advocacy and Outreach prize winners.

More information about this event will be posted on the CAN website as it becomes available.



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

## CAN Advocacy & Outreach news (continued)

### Call to action—January 2017

The federal budget for 2017 is being finalized right now. We encourage you to send an email to Prime Minister Trudeau and Finance Minister Bill Morneau to urge them to increase the CIHR budget. As you know, Project Grants are expected to have a 7-8% success rate unless the CIHR budget is significantly increased by the current government. It is very important to let the government know about the dire situation our labs are facing. These emails do matter! Please, send your letter and encourage your colleagues to do the same.

You can use this [model letter that you can modify and send](#).

Please, send your email to these addresses:

Prime Minister's email:  
The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
[Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

Finance minister's email  
The Honourable William Francis Morneau  
[Bill.Morneau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Bill.Morneau@parl.gc.ca)

Please also consider signing the petition launched by the **Canadian Society of Molecular Biosciences**:

**The double-double: Investment in scientific excellence and job creation**

View the petition on the CSMB website, and add your name:

<https://www.csmb-scbm.ca/advocacy/Petition.aspx>

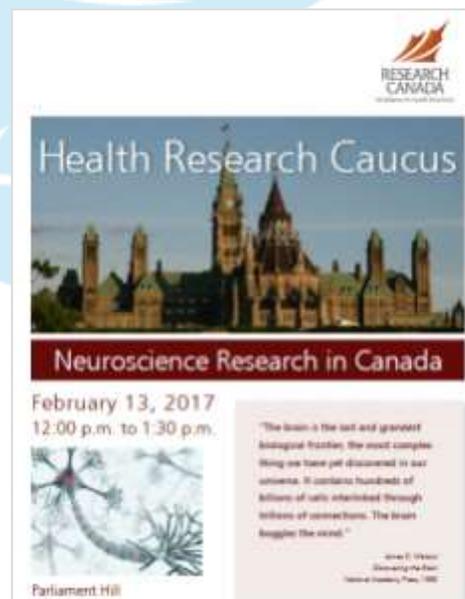
### CAN is returning to Ottawa in February!

CAN is participating in a Neuroscience luncheon, organised with Research Canada for the Health research caucus on Parliament Hill on February 13th 2017. During this event, **Beverley Orser** and **Charles Bourque** will deliver lectures to showcase great examples of how investment in basic research can and does lead to improved treatment strategies.

View the event flyer: [Neuroscience Research in Canada luncheon](#).

Sponsorship opportunities are available for this event – [reach out to us](#) if your institution would like to participate.

Please **invite your Member of Parliament to participate in this event**, to learn more about neuroscience research in the country. Use this tool to find your representative:



Find your MP

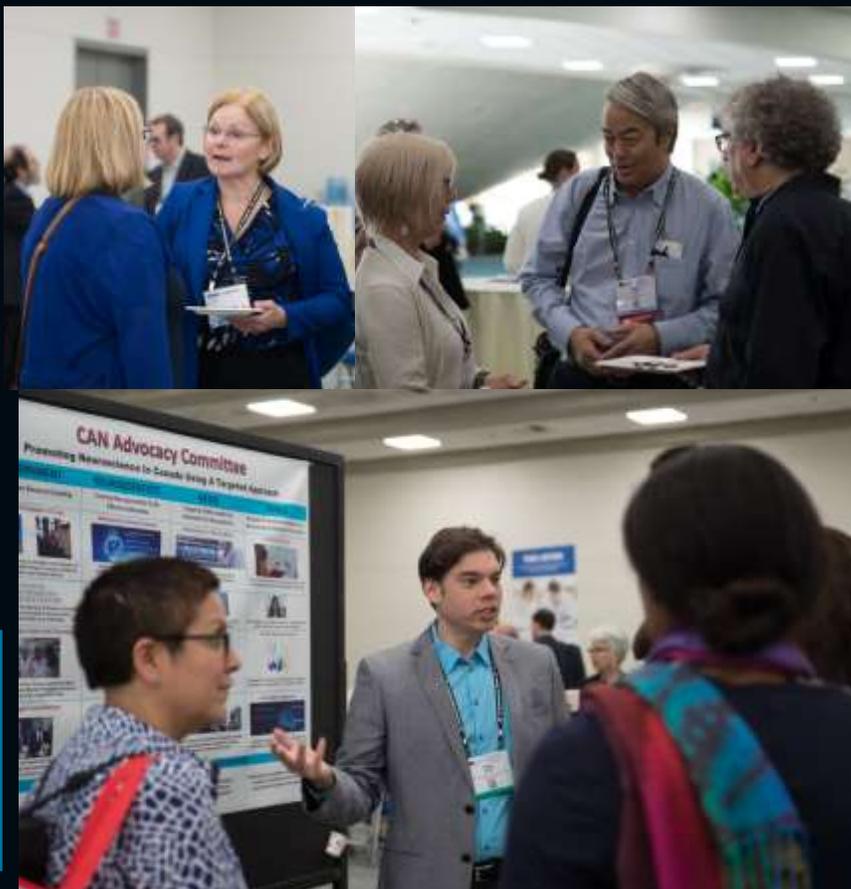
# Advocacy @SfN16 in San Diego

The Advocacy session at the Society for Neuroscience Meeting in San Diego this November was a great opportunity to share and network with neuroscience advocates from all around the world, and to learn from our partners, and important sponsors, at SfN.

CAN Advocacy officer **Jason Tetro** presented a poster overview of our advocacy activities to a very interested group of colleagues.

Learn about CAN-ACN's advocacy activities in 2016, and some of our plans for 2017 in our

[CAN 2016 Advocacy report—PDF](#)



## CAN Social @SfN16



More pictures in the  
[CAN Flickr gallery](#)



# Celebrating Excellence in Canadian Neuroscience

We invite you to visit our website regularly and read the [CAN-ACN news section](#), which features important discoveries made by Canadian neuroscientists.

In the last few months, we have featured research:

By University of Toronto's [Evelyn Lambe](#), which explains [how loneliness may lead to depression](#) - [paper in Elife](#)

By University of British Columbia's (UBC) [Brian MacVicar](#), showing the important role a glutamate transporter has in the development of Alzheimer's disease, and better yet, how a known antibiotic can help protect cells, at least for a short time in mice. Paper in [Nature Communications](#).

By [Michael Gordon](#), also from UBC, showing how [starvation and hunger makes bitter food more palatable, at least in flies](#) - Paper in [Current Biology](#)

[Research from Charles Bourque](#), at McGill University, revealing the existence of an anticipatory thirst in mice, causing the animals to drink right before sleep, that is driven by central clock neurons. When researchers inhibited signal from the clock neurons from making the animals thirsty, they became dehydrated before the end of their sleep period. [Paper in Nature](#)

[Research from Weihong Song's laboratory at UBC](#), linking an inherited form of Multiple sclerosis with rare mutations in a gene coding for a nuclear receptor - suggesting that this receptor could be a good drug target for treatment of MS. [Paper in Neuron](#).

In [Freda Miller's laboratory at SickKids](#)

[Hospital](#), investigating the many signals that cause cells to differentiate into neurons - and revealing a complex environment, including a few unexpected ligands. [Paper in Neuron](#).

## Featured press releases

Two other recently [featured press releases](#) on the CAN website show how different forms of impaired communication between neurons can lead to distinct neurological disorders.

[Research from the laboratories of Graziella Di Cristo and Jacques Michaud](#), at CHU Ste-Justine, shows that defects in a protein called SYNGAP1, one of the leading causes on inherited intellectual disability, alters the formation of connections, or synapses, by inhibitory neurons in the brain. In turn, these alterations in the inhibitory neurons cause deficits in memory and social behavior. Paper in [Nature Communications](#).

[Karun Singh's](#) team, at McMaster University, found that a specific protein, called DIXDC1 is turned "off" in some individuals with autism, a change predicted to cause brain synapses to stay immature, and reduce brain activity. Singh's team is now searching for drugs that could turn DIXDC1 back on, providing hope for the development of a new treatment for autism. [Paper in Cell reports](#).

Read more on the [CAN-ACN website](#)

We also share these on [twitter.com/can\\_acn](#) & [facebook.com/can.acn](#)

Do you have a newsworthy discovery you would like to share? Please get in touch with us: [news@can-acn.org](#)

# Congratulations!

## Order of Canada appointments:

[Donald T. Stuss](#), O.C., For his contributions as an internationally respected neuropsychologist who has expanded scientific understanding of brain function, injury and rehabilitation.

[Charles Haskell Tator](#), O.C. For his advocacy as a world-renowned authority on concussions and for promoting increased safety in sports.

[Bryan Kolb](#), O.C. For his leadership and for his contributions to our scientific understanding of brain function and development.

[Michael Tymianski](#), C.M. For his contributions to neuroscience, particularly through his leadership in investigating new mechanisms to protect the brain following a stroke.



## New members of the Royal Society of Canada:

[Jehannine Austin](#), UBC, founder of the world's first specialist psychiatric genetic counseling service

[Frédéric Charron](#), IRCM, for his work on neural development and associated pathologies

[Clay Holroyd](#), U Victoria, cognitive neuroscientist

[Philip Jackson](#), U Laval, for studies on the cerebral bases of social cognition and human empathy

[Charles Bourque](#), McGill U, whose work has revealed how the brain monitors and regulates the vital process of body hydration

[Bruce McNaughton](#), Lethbridge U, for important work on synaptic plasticity, spatial cognition and long-term memory.

[Guy Rouleau](#), McGill U, for identification of genes causing neurological and psychiatric diseases, and a better understanding of the associated molecular mechanisms.

[Jean-Pierre Julien](#), U Laval, for landmark discoveries on pathogenesis of ALS and identification of new therapeutic targets.

## Other awards:

[Shayna Rosenbaum](#), York U, [International Neuropsychological Society Award for Early Career Research](#) for her "substantive independent contribution to research in the area of brain-behaviour relationships."

[Yves De Koninck](#), U Laval, [Canadian Pain Society Distinguished career award](#)

[Karen Davis](#), Krembil RI, Canadian Pain Society Outstanding Pain mentorship award

[Gustavo Turecki](#), McGill U, [Prix Acfas Léo-Pariseau, Sciences biologiques et sciences de la santé](#)

[Michael Meaney](#), McGill U, [Margolese National Brain Prize](#)

## Upcoming deadlines:

January 30 2017:

- ✓ 2017 CAN Young Investigator Award nomination deadline  
<http://can-acn.org/2017-can-young-investigator-award>
- ✓ CAN Meeting Abstract submission deadline for poster presentation  
<http://can-acn.org/2017-call-for-posters>

February 13 2017:

- ✓ CAN Meeting Trainee travel award application deadline.  
New in 2017: IBRO sponsored travel awards for international trainees.  
<http://can-acn.org/travel-award-application>

February 15 2017:

- ✓ 2017 Neuroscience Advocacy & Outreach prizes—Application deadline  
<http://can-acn.org/contest-best-neuroscience-promotion-advocacy-groups-in-canada>

March 27 2017:

- ✓ Hotel room reservation at special CAN rate at the Hotel Bonaventure meeting venue (\$199 per night)  
<http://can-acn.org/2017-venue>

March 30 2017:

- ✓ CAN Meeting registration deadline - Early-bird rate  
<http://can-acn.org/registration-2017>

## Keep in touch!

**General inquiries:**

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**Advocacy committee:**

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