

# CAN Connection

## January 2018 Newsletter

Canadian Association for Neuroscience  
Association canadienne des neurosciences



### CAN - ACN

Dear Colleagues,

I am happy to share some opportunities for Canadian neuroscientists in this beginning of a new year.

#### Awards

First, I would like to remind you that we are accepting nominations for the **CAN2018 Young Investigator Award**. This award recognizes the outstanding research achievement of a neuroscientist at an early stage of his or her career. I invite you to submit a candidate today.

Second, we are happy to announce we will once again be awarding **Neuroscience Advocacy & Awareness awards** to deserving individuals and groups this year. These awards are a great opportunity to share the great work, often done by trainees, of your neuroscience groups, so please do send us proposals for these awards also.

Have your say in budget 2018.

In the last few months, we have seen some evidence suggesting that the Liberal government's next budget may include some much-needed new investment in scientific research funding, yet neither the amount or the ways these funds will be allocated is known yet.

As researchers, it is important for us to **make the case that re-investing in tri-council funding is important for all Canadians today**. One specific point to emphasize is that investing in research leads to the **training of highly qualified personnel**, which is much needed in Canada's knowledge economy of today and tomorrow. The quality of the training provided in laboratories allows trainees to make very

meaningful contributions to the economy.

If you have not done so already, visit the <https://supportthereport.ca> website to read and share recent news and resources about the Naylor report. Also visit the advocacy section of the CAN website for more actions you can take today, so that collectively we can have an impact on science funding <http://can-acn.org/advocacy>.

CAN meeting - May 13-16, 2018

We hope to have a chance to welcome you at the upcoming **Canadian Neuroscience Meeting in Vancouver**. Program committee Chairs **Shernaz Bamji** and **Paul Frankland** have put together an excellent and diverse scientific program. I invite you to visit the meeting website today and to register.

In addition to the scientific content, we are happy to announce a workshop on **Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI)** in Neuroscience, hosted by Judy Illes - **we need your input to guide the workshop and develop strategies** to improve EDI in our community. Please read more on page 5. We are also innovating in our advocacy forum: we have invited MPs to participate in special **session on science policy** (more on page 3).

Finally, I wish to thank all our members for their engagement with CAN-ACN, either through your membership, your submissions to participate in the CAN meeting, your participation in the CAN Social, or by sharing your neuroscience news and events with us. Your involvement is what keeps our community vibrant!

**Lynn Raymond**, President

Canadian Association for Neuroscience

## Advocacy news

### #SupportTheReport

There are many reasons to support the full implementation of Canada's fundamental science review (Naylor report). One of these reasons seems to resonate more in the Finance Minister's office: **Research as a training enterprise**. As you know, a research laboratory is an exceptional training ground for the highly qualified personnel that will be the driving force of Canada's knowledge economy. This is an aspect of research that is often not known by the public at large and by elected officials. When you have the opportunity to talk about the Naylor report to elected officials or decision makers, we encourage you to **emphasize the high level training you provide to your trainees and lab members**.

It is very important to keep the momentum and to continue to advocate for the full

implementation of Canada's fundamental science review. You can find resources, news and information on actions you can take today on the <https://supportthereport.ca> website.

### Next Chair of the CAN Advocacy committee

The CAN board has approved the nomination of **Melanie Woodin** as next chair of the CAN Advocacy Committee. Melanie Woodin will take office in June 2018, as the current Chair of the Advocacy Committee, **Katalin Toth**, will take office as Vice-President (President-elect) of CAN-ACN. As of December 2017, **Julie Poupart** has officially taken on the role of CAN Advocacy Officer. We invite you to contact Julie or the advocacy committee if you have news, opportunities or resources to share with us and your colleagues. [advocacy@can-acn.org](mailto:advocacy@can-acn.org)



Read CAN's latest advocacy report and calls to action on the advocacy webpage:

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

## Budget 2018

**You can still have your voice heard in advance of Budget 2018.** Please visit the pre-budget consultations webpage launched by the Minister of Finance, Bill Morneau.

<https://www.budget.gc.ca/2018/prebudget-prebudgetaire/index-en.html>

Filling in these surveys should only take a few minutes, and provides you with an opportunity to tell the government why support for fundamental research through tri-council funding is one of the best investments our country can make for the future of all Canadians.

You can also directly write to your Member of Parliament, to let them know investing in science is good for the health, prosperity and economy of all Canadians.

<http://www.ourcommons.ca/parliamentarians/en/constituencies/FindMP>

## Advocacy Events and Opportunities

### CAN representation

The Chair of the CAN advocacy committee, **Katalin Toth**, went to Parliament Hill in Ottawa to represent the interests of Canadian neuroscientists at

- The Stem Cell Research and Regenerative Medicine Luncheon, on December 5, 2017, and
- The Biotechnology Research and Innovation in Canada Reception October 16, 2017

These events, organized by Research Canada, were opportunities to meet MPs and members of other interest groups with similar interest in Health Research, and build relationships that are necessary to impact science policy.

### Upcoming Advocacy events

In the coming months, CAN will participate in:

- A luncheon on Parliament Hill, February 14, 2018 (by invitation only) **Opioid Crisis: How Can Research Inform Solutions?**
- **SfN's Hill Day**, on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC: CAN representatives have been invited by SfN to participate in this event on March 8th 2018.
- A reception on Parliament Hill, in Ottawa in May 2018 (by invitation only) **Application of Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning in Health Care**

### NEW: Science policy session at the CAN2018 meeting

**Ever wondered how elected officials make decisions about science policy?** CAN has invited elected officials to participate in a conversation about science policy at the CAN2018 meeting, so you can ask them. We are thrilled to announce that the following MPs have already accepted our invitation:

- **Matt Jeneroux**, MP for Edmonton Riverbend, and Conservative Shadow Minister for Science
- **Joyce Murray**, MP for Vancouver Quadra
- **Elizabeth May**, MP for Saanich – Gulf Islands, and Leader of the Green Party

An invitation has also been sent to a member of the NDP.

This event will be an opportunity to build bridges between politicians and scientists, and to initiate a constructive relationship that will ensure that all Canadians reap the benefits that supporting fundamental research brings. Members of all major political parties will be invited to make a presentation about their vision for Canada's role in promoting and supporting scientific research. This will be followed by a discussion panel with the audience.

Mark your calendars! This will take place **Monday May 14th 2018, at 5:30 PM at the Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel in Vancouver**

### 2018 contest for Neuroscience Advocacy and Awareness Awards

We are proud to announce that we will once again be rewarding the individuals and groups who have been active in advocacy and promotion of neuroscience research. View details here:

<http://can-acn.org/contest-best-neuroscience-promotion-advocacy-groups-in-canada>

Application deadline: February 15th 2018



## 12th Annual Canadian Neuroscience Meeting May 13 - 16 2018 Vancouver

### Program

We invite you to visit the CAN2018 Program page to view the most up-to-date list of all plenary speakers.

<http://can-acn.org/2018-meeting-program>

### Abstracts

Submit an abstract for poster presentation:

<http://can-acn.org/2018-call-for-abstracts>

Poster abstract submission deadline is **January 30th 2018**.

### CAN2018 Parallel symposia announcement

We wish to thank all our members who submitted proposals for parallel symposia for the upcoming CAN meeting in Vancouver. Many excellent proposals were submitted, and the scientific program committee had some difficult decisions to make. The committee selected the following twelve for presentation at the meeting:

#### **Novel insights in the neurobiology of depression**

Speakers: Caroline Ménard; Benoit Labonté; Mounira Banasr; Naguib Mechawar

#### **Tackling Proteinopathies: New Strategies to Identify and Test Drug Targets.**

Speakers: Maxime Rousseaux; Jinsoo Seo; Jeehye Park; Blair Leavitt

#### **Cannabinoid-metabolism interplay in the control of cognition and behaviour**

Speakers: Giovanni Marsicano; Matthew Hill; Guillaume Ferreira; Stephanie Fulton

#### **Mild Traumatic Brain Injury: Understanding an invisible injury.**

Speakers: Brian Christie; Richelle Mychasiuk; Cheryl Wellington; Sandy Shultz

#### **Synapse to nucleus: new insights into epigenomic, transcriptional, and translational programs underlying neural circuit plasticity**

Speakers: Iva Zovkic; Wayne Sossin; Tae-Kyung Kim; Stefano Brigidi

#### **Bridging the gap between mesoscopic and microscopic brain imaging**

Speakers: Ravi Menon; Ravi Rungta; Bojana Stefanovic; Matthieu Vanni

#### **Predicting Fear and Safety in the Brain**

Speakers: Gavan McNally; Susan Sangha; Michael McDannald; Mihaela Iordanova

#### **Novel molecular targets of Alzheimer's disease pathology**

Speakers: Hideto Takahashi; Vania Prado; Jack Jhamandas; Weihong Song

#### **Time and memory**

Mary Cheng; Qi Yuan; Satoshi Kida; Mauro Costa-Mattioli

#### **Novel Approaches to Promoting Spinal Plasticity**

Wolfram Tetzlaff; Alyson Fournier; Karim Fouad; Ian Winship

#### **Mechanisms underlying brain dysfunction in Alzheimer's disease**

Fernanda De Felice; Isabelle Aubert; Marco Prado

#### **Development and function of motor circuits: from hardwired patterning to functional maturation and sensory integration.**

Douglas Allan; Angelo Iulianella; Tuan Bui; Tomoko Ohyama

<http://can-acn.org/meeting-2018>

## 12th Annual Canadian Neuroscience Meeting

May 13 - 16 2018 Vancouver

### EDI-Neuro workshop

**Judy Illes** will lead the interactive Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity in Neuroscience (EDI-Neuro) lunch workshop on May 14th, 2018 at our annual meeting. This workshop will be used to inform actions that CAN, as an association, will put into place to address these important issues in 2018-2019.

**We need input from membership to guide the workshop and effectively develop strategies to improve EDI in the neuroscience community.** You can give your input here (Deadline **March 1**):

<http://can-acn.org/equity-diversity-and-inclusivity-in-neuroscience-workshop>

### Young Investigator Award

It is now time to propose candidates for the CAN 2018 Young Investigator Award!

The CAN Young Investigator Award recognizes outstanding research achievements by a young neuroscientist at the early stage of his or her career. Candidates are proposed by neuroscientists who are members of CAN and the winner is chosen by the CAN Nominations Committee.

Application deadline is **January 30th, 2018**.

<http://can-acn.org/2018-can-young-investigator-award>

The winner of this award will have the opportunity to present his or her research at the CAN2018 meeting.

### Satellite symposia at CAN2018

Three full-day satellites have been confirmed for May 13th 2018 at the Sheraton Wall Centre.

Satellite 1: Canadian Action and Perception Network

Satellite 2: 6th Annual Canadian Neurometabolic Meeting

Satellite 3: Canadian Neurometabolic Platform

Satellite 4: Neural stem cells in development and adulthood



Register today for the CAN Meeting

REGISTER NOW

Book your accommodations at the Sheraton Wall Centre

BOOK NOW



## FINA committee report

The Standing Committee on Finance, chaired by the Honourable Wayne Easter, recently released a report in preparation for budget 2018, and you can read it on the House of Commons website

Driving inclusive growth: spurring productivity and competitiveness in Canada

<http://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/FINA/report-21/>

The report makes many important recommendations, including the implementation of the recommendations of the Naylor report:

### Recommendation 50

Use the Fundamental Science Review (the Naylor Report) as a framework for long-term support of science and research. In particular, the government should invest in investigator-led research, the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, applied sciences research institutions, as well as in agricultural research. The government should also expand access to the Canadian Graduate Scholarship program.

## Convergence Initiative

CAN is proud to support the continuing work of the Convergence Initiative. In the fall season, the group hosted talks by **Trevor Butterworth**, Executive Director of Sense about Science USA, and **Chloe Soutar**, a PhD candidate at Queen's University and founder the non-profit research skills education program RISE: Research and Information Science Education. Both full-length conferences are available on the convergence initiative website.

Also available on the website: the online interactive catalog of the first Convergence exhibition. If you did not have a chance to see this exhibit in Montreal during the last CAN meeting, take a moment to see the great work done by the Art and Neuroscience students involved in this project.

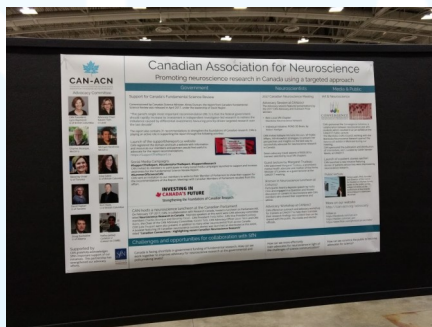
[www.convergenceinitiative.org/season-2017-2018](http://www.convergenceinitiative.org/season-2017-2018)

## CAN at SfN17: CAN Social, Advocacy reception & Exhibit Booth.

CAN was once again well represented at the Society for Neuroscience meeting last November in Washington DC. We thank all of you who came to the **CAN Social**.

CAN also participated in the **Advocacy reception**, where we had the chance to network with neuroscience advocacy groups from around the world.

Finally, thank you to all who came to visit us at the **CAN Booth** – we always enjoy exchanging with our members and with neuroscientists from around the world, who like to inquire about neuroscience research in Canada.





## Congratulations!

### Order of Canada nominations

#### New Officers of the Order of Canada

**André Parent, O.C., O.Q.**

Université Laval – CERVO Brain Research Centre

For his groundbreaking work to advance our understanding of basic anatomical structures of the brain and their function.

**Molly S. Shoichet, O.C., O.Ont.**

University of Toronto

For her cutting-edge research in biomedical engineering and for her efforts to promote women in science and to advance scientific literacy.

Dr. Shoichet was also recently named **Ontario's first Chief Scientist**.

**Janet F. Werker, O.C.**

Vancouver, British Columbia

For her internationally renowned contributions to our understanding of speech perception and language acquisition in infants.

#### New Members of the Order of Canada

**Judy Illes, C.M.**

Vancouver, British Columbia

For her contributions to the field of neurology, including pioneering research that has highlighted the ethical, social and legal implications of advances in neuroscience.

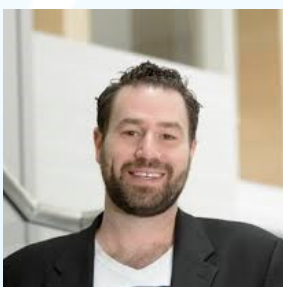
### Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists

**Stephanie Borgland** - University of Calgary

An internationally recognized leader in the neurobiology of motivated behaviour. She has made exciting discoveries on how satiety-promoting hormones modulate plasticity within the mesolimbic circuit and how obesity or drugs of abuse rewire circuits involved in motivated behaviour and reward valuation. Her innovative research is illuminating the neurobiological factors underlying disordered eating or addiction.

**Matthew Hill** - University of Calgary.

He has made outstanding contributions to our understanding of the neuroscience of stress. His research on how the endocannabinoid system gates activation of the stress response and mediates both termination and adaptation of brain circuits to stress has guided the field. His translational work on the role of the endocannabinoid system in the stress response and stress-related psychiatric diseases has influenced the investigation of novel treatments for anxiety disorders.



## Upcoming deadlines

Poster abstract submissions <a href="http://can-acn.org/2018-call-for-abstracts">http://can-acn.org/2018-call-for-abstracts</a>	January 30, 2018
Young Investigator Award Nominations <a href="http://can-acn.org/2018-can-young-investigator-award">http://can-acn.org/2018-can-young-investigator-award</a>	January 30, 2018
Trainee Travel Award Application <a href="http://can-acn.org/travel-award-application-2018">http://can-acn.org/travel-award-application-2018</a>	February 13, 2018
Submission for Neuroscience Outreach and Advocacy Awards <a href="http://can-acn.org/contest-best-neuroscience-promotion-advocacy-groups-in-canada">http://can-acn.org/contest-best-neuroscience-promotion-advocacy-groups-in-canada</a>	February 15, 2018
Fill in survey on Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity <a href="http://can-acn.org/equity-diversity-and-inclusivity-in-neuroscience-workshop">http://can-acn.org/equity-diversity-and-inclusivity-in-neuroscience-workshop</a>	March 1, 2018
Registration – Early bird rate <a href="http://can-acn.org/registration-2018">http://can-acn.org/registration-2018</a>	March 23, 2018
Hotel room reservation at the Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel at CAN preferential rate <a href="http://can-acn.org/2018-venue">http://can-acn.org/2018-venue</a>	April 12, 2018

## Keep in touch!

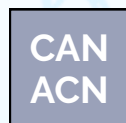
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