Annual General Meeting
May 22, 2024
1. Welcome
2. President’s report
3. Advocacy report
4. EDI committee report
5. Secretary’s report
6. Treasurer’s report
7. Closing remarks
CAN Direction & Activities

- Promote neuroscience research through meetings and communications
- Work to increase Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion in neuroscience research
- Advocate for increased science funding
- Promote collaborations between neuroscientists through partnerships
CAN Meetings

- CAN2018 (Vancouver) – 710 registrants, 468 poster abstracts
- CAN2019 (Toronto) - 1116 registrants, 694 poster abstracts
- CAN2021 (Virtual) - 613 registrants, 414 poster abstracts
- CAN2022 (Toronto) - 825 registrants, 540 poster abstracts
- CAN2023 (Montreal) – 1183 registrants, 773 poster abstracts
- CAN2024 (Vancouver) – 850 registrants, 531 poster abstracts

Next meeting: May 21-24, 2025
Sheraton Centre Hotel, Toronto
We are very grateful to our CAN2024 meeting sponsors and exhibitors

Five Platinum Sponsors:

- BrightFocus Foundation
- CIHR/INHMA
- IBRO
- The Azrieli Foundation
- Brain Canada Foundation

+ all Institutional sponsors

+ 23 exhibitors
Support for International Partnerships

- Renewed partnership with Japan neuroscience Society
- Support for Parallel Symposium 9
  - Co-chairs: Anastassia Voronova | University of Alberta & Nobuhiko Ohno | Jichi Medical University
  - Topic: Myelin in neurodevelopment and neurodegeneration
- SfN – Advocacy
- Travel awards – BrightFocus, IBRO
- Brain Star / CAN meeting collaboration: CIHR-INMHA
- Others: FENS, British Neuroscience Association, Lundbeck, French neuroscience society
Objective: To advocate for increased funding for science and research in Canada.

- Temple Scott Associates (Government and Public Relations Firm)
- Monitor activity on Parliament Hill
- Pre-budget and post-budget engagement
- Other opportunities for engagement
- Second In-Person CAN Hill Day (Ottawa, November 2023)

➢ More from Liisa Galea / Tabrez Siddiqui (Advocacy Committee Co-Chairs)
Networking and Training: Canadian Neuroscience Seminars – Postdoctoral Series (CNS-PDS)

- Goal: This series is aimed at showcasing the outstanding research performed by our postdoctoral fellows.
- Organizer: Tarek Shaker and CNS-PDS Committee
- Inaugural Presentations March 2023
- Monthly

Canadabrainpower.ca website
Contact us if you would like to contribute
- Conference Childcare, Dependent, or Disability Care Subsidy

**Who:** CAN trainee members, postdoctoral fellows, and pre-tenure faculty (or equivalent) who attend CAN meeting

**What:** support childcare or adult dependent care while attending the meeting for oral or poster presentations. Members who require a travel companion due to their own disability are also eligible for the subsidy.

**Amount:** up to $500 CAD

- Trainee power pitch sessions

Organized by trainees, for trainees.
Congratulation to J Quinn Lee & Gilberto Rojas Vite.
Thank you!

Outgoing members

- Leigh Anne Swayne (Secretary)
- Keith Murai (Past president)
- Ian Winship, Natasha Rajah, Tamara Franklin (Board members)
Welcome!

Incoming members (June 1)

Melanie Woodin (President)
University of Toronto
Welcome!
Incoming members (June 1)

- Doug Zochodne (VP)
- Alyson Fournier (VP-elect)
- Soheila Karimi (Secretary)
- Annie Ciernia (Board)
- Ravi Rungta (Board)
THE CAN TEAM

Julie Poupart
Chief Operating and Advocacy Officer
THE CAN TEAM

Sarah-Kate Burke, Rachel Waller, Jude Ross, Tori Lunden Marischal De Armond

PODIUM
Professional conference organizer
Membership management
• Objective: Continuous delivery of a high-quality Canadian Neuroscience Meeting each year
Advocacy committee

Co-chairs:
• Liisa Galea, CAMH
• Tabrez Siddiqui, U Manitoba

Committee members:
• John Mielke, University of Waterloo
• Ciaran Murphy-Royal, Université de Montréal
• Shalina Ousman, University of Calgary
• Lisa Saksida, U Western
• Melanie Woodin, University of Toronto, CAN Vice-President
• Haung (Ho) Yu, CAMH – U of Toronto

Trainee members:
• Shalini Iyer, University of British Columbia
• Amy Smith-Dijak, McGill University
• Leanne Young, McGill University
Hill Day, in-person in Ottawa

Budget consultations & Response to budget

Engagement with House of commons permanent committees, requests to appear at studies:
• Finances
• Science and Research
• Health
• Industry and Technology

Op-ED and publications in newspaper

Advocacy awards
2024/04/22: The Canadian Association for Neuroscience applauds new investments in science and research announced in budget 2024 Response to budget 2024

2024/03/22: Research is the key to better brain health Publication of an online Op-Ed linked to the Brain Health insert in the Toronto Star

2024/03/13: Invitation to write to the Minister of Finances Draft sample letter on the importance of investing in scientific research as they work on the 2024 Canadian budget.

2024/02/28: Urgent appeal to recapitalize the Canada Brain Research Fund CAN letter sent to the PM, and Ministers of Health, Mental Health & Addictions and Finances

2024/02/09: Read CAN's submission to the 2024 Pre-budget consultations

2023/11/07: 2023 CAN Parliament Hill Day

2023/08/10: ThinkSci Outreach Program wins a CAN Advocacy Award

2023/07/14: Investing in science will benefit all Canadians. Finance committee pre-budget consultations submission

2023/06/20: Brief submitted to study on Government of Canada’s Graduate Scholarship and Post-Doctoral Fellowship Programs: Canada needs to stop the brain drain

2023/06/16: Advocacy opportunities – June 2023 Shared with our membership
November 2023 Hill Day

15 CAN advocates from across Canada participating in meetings with Members of Parliament, Senators, Senior decision-makers and their staff.

Advocating for
1. increased funds for CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC
2. Increased support for graduate student and postdoctoral fellowships
3. Making research on Brain and Mental Health a national priority.
Brain Health insert in Toronto Star

Interview with Adriana Di Polo, President of the Canadian Association for Neuroscience

Can you tell us what you see as the biggest challenge for brain health in Canada?

One in two people will suffer from a mental illness across their lifetime. It is estimated that 1.7 million Canadians will suffer from dementia, such as Alzheimer’s disease, by the year 2030. The burden of brain disorders and diseases has substantially increased over the last 25 years with the aging of the population and the
Support for grass-roots advocacy initiatives

Example

• The Canadian Association for Neuroscience is proud to announce its support of the ThinkSci Outreach Program with a 2023 CAN Advocacy and Outreach award.

• The “ThinkSci Outreach Program” is a workshop-based initiative organized and led by undergraduate and graduate students, with the goal of immersing high school seniors and 1st year CEGEP students into the world of neurophysiology. Its long-term goal is to reach local, regional and national underrepresented student communities in Canada.

• Initiative lead by Phoenix Plessas-Azurduy, a B.H.Sc Honours Final Year Undergraduate Student at McGill University.

You can apply for funding too!
CanadaBrainPower.com website
An initiative of CAN Past-President, Keith Murai

The goals of this website is to:

• To increase visibility of the impact of neuroscience research in Canada involving scientific discoveries, training, major success stories, innovative aspects of the research, and impacts on the economy, public health, and government.

• To provide consistent and constant messaging about the value of investments in fundamental and health-oriented research and training, and the need to boost support for Tri-Agency (CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC).

• To showcase important research throughout Canada

• Different from CAN-ACN website which is geared towards CAN members.

• canadabrainpower.com/
We need your stories!

Canada Brain Power
Cutting-Edge Neuroscience Research Driving Canada’s Knowledge Economy.

Scientists across Canada perform innovative research to understand how the brain and nervous system work and to address complex health and societal challenges. Major progress in these areas depends on bright minds and Canada’s commitment to supporting and strengthening investments in fundamental and disease-related neuroscience research and training.

Knowledge & Expertise
Supporting neuroscience research in Canada means investing in a highly-skilled, diverse, and knowledgeable workforce prepared to confront new biomedical challenges.

Learn more

Funding Research Benefits all Canadians
Learn how cutting-edge research is funded in Canada and why this investment is beneficial to all Canadians

Who made this website?
This website is an initiative of the Canadian Association for Neuroscience, an association of over 1000 neuroscientists working across Canada to understand the brain and nervous system. Learn more about the Canadian Association for Neuroscience on our website.

Get in touch with us
Members of the Canadian Association for Neuroscience are invited to send us stories, and content for publication on this website.

Contact the team
Taking advocacy to new heights using the power of storytelling

- Duncan McHugh, Digital & Instructional Media Producer | The Learning Centre | [lc.landfood.ubc.ca](http://lc.landfood.ubc.ca), University of British Columbia
- Kim Hellemans, Assistant Professor and the Associate Dean of Science (Student Recruitment, Wellness and Success) at Carleton University & co-host of the podcast, *Minding the Brain*. [https://science.carleton.ca/profile/dr-kim-hellemans/](https://science.carleton.ca/profile/dr-kim-hellemans/)
- Alireza Kamyabi, Policy analyst in the Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer in Vancouver Coastal Health. [https://www.alirezakamyabi.com/](https://www.alirezakamyabi.com/)
- Hosts: Liisa Galea and Tabrez Siddiqui, co-chairs of the CAN Advocacy committee
CAN Advocacy support

• Temple Scott Associates (Government and Public Relations)
• Monitor activity on Parliament Hill
• Pre-budget and post-budget engagement
• Other opportunities for engagement
• Coordinated the In-Person CAN Hill Day (Ottawa, November 2023)

• Funding by SfN through Memorandum of Understanding
More about

✓ CAN's outreach and advocacy activities
✓ Resources for neuroadvocate

On our website at
https://can-acn.org/advocacy
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion committee report
Members of the EDI Committee

CAN EDI subcommittee members:
• Derya Sargin | U of Calgary (Co-Chair of the committee)
• Jennifer Murray | U of Guelph (Co-Chair of the committee)
• Jibran Khokhar | U of Guelph
• Annemarie Dedek | Carleton U

Trainee members
• Olivia Ghosh-Swaby | Western U
• Rocio Hollman | UBC
• Paul Sheppard | Western U
• Neil Merovitch | U Toronto
• Haley Vecchiarelli | U Victoria
EDI at the CAN meeting

Getting Equity, Diversity and Inclusion discussions in the main meeting room

Sex & Gender in the Neurosciences
Panelists: Caroline Ménard, Bita Moghaddam, Liisa Galea, Justin Matheson

Increasing accessibility: Canadian Association for Neuroscience Conference Childcare, Dependent, or Disability Care Subsidies
Secretary’s report: Leigh Anne Swayne
Secretary’s report

1. Membership
2. Elections
3. Bylaws updates
## Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>Membership</th>
<th>Meeting attendance</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>946</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>1285</td>
<td>1202</td>
<td>Montreal</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>955</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>Toronto</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>766</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
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<td>2020</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>1183</td>
<td>1116</td>
<td>Toronto</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>836</td>
<td>710</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>1151</td>
<td>1118</td>
<td>Montreal</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>Toronto</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>692</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1104</td>
<td>931</td>
<td>Montreal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1018</td>
<td>943</td>
<td>Toronto</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>484</td>
<td>Vancouver</td>
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2024 Elections

- **2 Board Members** (every year, for 3 year terms).
- **VP-elect** (1 year term as VP, 1 year as President, 1 y as Past President).

- 348 Regular members eligible to vote – 130 votes (37% participation rate)
Welcome New members

• Alyson Fournier
  Vice-President-elect

Board members

• Annie Ciernia
• Ravi Rungta
Suggested changes to the CAN Bylaws – for approval by members 2024-05-22

Change 1: Additions highlighted in yellow:

7.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

7.04 ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE:

Elections will be preceded by a call for nominations by email to regular members in good standing. For any vacancies on the Board of Directors for which more than one suitable candidate has been identified, an election shall be conducted using an online system. The result of the election shall be announced by email communication with the members.

New Board members take office on June 1 following their election.

The candidate elected to the position of President will serve as Vice President (i.e. President-elect) for one year, President for one year, and Past President (Chair of the Awards and Nominations committee) for one year.

Change 2: Name change: “Nominations committee” becomes the “Awards and Nominations committee”

10.0 AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE:

Change 3: Remove 10.4 and 10.05 – these two were replaced by the text added in change 1, as this refers to elections and the composition of the Board of Directors

10.04 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, regular members in good standing shall be entitled to put forward other names to be considered by the nomination committee in accordance with 10.02. Elections will be preceded by a call for nominations by email to regular members in good standing.

10.05 ELECTION:

For any vacancies on the Board of Directors or for any appointments of Officers of the Association for which more than one suitable candidate has been identified, an election shall be conducted using an online system. The result of the election shall be announced by email communication with the members.
### Canadian Association for Neuroscience
#### Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

**Year ended August 31**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Courses and workshops</td>
<td>$2,171</td>
<td>$1,850</td>
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<td>Commissions and incentives</td>
<td>23,328</td>
<td>13,386</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference registrations</td>
<td>383,177</td>
<td>312,641</td>
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<td>Exhibits and sponsors</td>
<td>162,192</td>
<td>108,011</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
<td>67,345</td>
<td>63,587</td>
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<td>Membership fees</td>
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<td>77,085</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>6,788</td>
<td>2,580</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>750,986</td>
<td>579,140</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditures</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Board and committees</td>
<td>883</td>
<td>1,556</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conferences (Schedule 1)</td>
<td>416,663</td>
<td>332,624</td>
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<td>General and administrative expenses (Schedule 2)</td>
<td>97,164</td>
<td>66,721</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing and communications</td>
<td>2,484</td>
<td>4,090</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memberships</td>
<td>13,888</td>
<td>8,680</td>
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<td>Special projects and initiatives (Schedule 3)</td>
<td>121,680</td>
<td>60,990</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>652,762</td>
<td>474,661</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Excess of revenue over expenses from operations</strong></td>
<td>98,224</td>
<td>104,479</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gain (loss) on foreign exchange</td>
<td>31,947</td>
<td>(10,328)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excess of revenue over expenditures</strong></td>
<td>$130,171</td>
<td>$94,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>2023</td>
<td>2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets, beginning of year</td>
<td>$ 551,840</td>
<td>$ 457,689</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excess of revenue over expenditures</td>
<td>130,171</td>
<td>94,151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets, end of year</td>
<td>$ 682,011</td>
<td>$ 551,840</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Thank you for attending and...
See you in Toronto!

May 21 - 24, 2025
18th Canadian Neuroscience Meeting