



CAN-ACN

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR NEUROSCIENCE
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES NEUROSCIENCES

Annual General Meeting

May 22, 2024

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. President's report
3. Advocacy report
4. EDI committee report
5. Secretary's report
6. Treasurer's report
7. Closing remarks

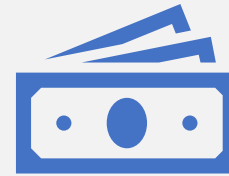
CAN Direction & Activities



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



Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



General Sponsor



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

CAN Advocacy

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)

Continuing Initiatives

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

New Initiatives

- 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.

CAN Board and Committees

Thank you !

Outgoing members

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

CAN Board and Committees

Welcome!

Incoming members (June 1)



Melanie Woodin (President)
University of Toronto

CAN Board and Committees

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

CAN
Operations

CAN Operations

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



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Advocacy Report

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

CAN Advocacy efforts

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

CAN Advocacy efforts

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
Ottawa, November 7, 2023

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

Research is the key to better brain health | Research Is The Key To Unlocking Better Brain Health | Canadian Association for Neuroscience

healthinsight.ca/wellness/brain-health-2024/research-is-the-key-to-unlocking-better-brain-health/

Research Is The Key To Unlocking Better Brain Health

 **Adriana Di Polo, PhD**
President of the Canadian Association for Neuroscience
Full Professor, Department of neuroscience, Université de Montréal
Canada Research Chair in Glaucoma and Age-Related Neurodegeneration

[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)
[Email](#)
[LinkedIn](#)

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

Advocacy Awards

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 CÉGEP 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!

Ongoing Initiative

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/*

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.

We need your stories!



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

[Learn more](#)

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](#)

Advocacy session at #CANACN24

Taking advocacy to new heights using the power of storytelling

- Duncan McHugh, Digital & Instructional Media Producer | The Learning Centre | 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](http://mindingthebrain.ca). <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/>
- 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 advocacy

More about

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

On our website at

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



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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, Bitu
Moghaddam, Liisa Galea, Justin Matheson

Increasing accessibility: Canadian
Association for Neuroscience Conference
Childcare, Dependent, or Disability Care
Subsidies



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Secretary's
report:

Leigh Anne
Swayne



Secretary's report

1. Membership
2. Elections
3. Bylaws updates

Membership

YEAR	Membership	Meeting attendance	Location
2024	946	783	Vancouver
2023	1285	1202	Montreal
2022	955	900	Toronto
2021	766	613	Virtual
2020	914	0	cancelled
2019	1183	1116	Toronto
2018	836	710	Vancouver
2017	1151	1118	Montreal
2016	900	880	Toronto
2015	692	557	Vancouver
2014	1104	931	Montreal
2013	1018	943	Toronto
2012	541	484	Vancouver

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

Changes to bylaws – for approval

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.



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Treasurer's report

End of year Financial statements

Canadian Association for Neuroscience Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Year ended August 31

2023

2022

Revenue

Courses and workshops	\$ 2,171	\$ 1,850
Commissions and incentives	23,328	13,386
Conference registrations	383,177	312,641
Exhibits and sponsors	162,192	108,011
Grants	67,345	63,587
Membership fees	105,985	77,085
Miscellaneous	6,788	2,580
	<u>750,986</u>	<u>579,140</u>

Expenditures

Board and committees	883	1,556
Conferences (Schedule 1)	416,663	332,624
General and administrative expenses (Schedule 2)	97,164	66,721
Marketing and communications	2,484	4,090
Memberships	13,888	8,680
Special projects and initiatives (Schedule 3)	121,680	60,990
	<u>652,762</u>	<u>474,661</u>

Excess of revenue over expenses from operations

98,224

104,479

Other

Gain (loss) on foreign exchange	<u>31,947</u>	<u>(10,328)</u>
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Excess of revenue over expenditures

\$ 130,171

\$ 94,151

CAN Net Assets (End of year)

Canadian Association for Neuroscience Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended August 31

	2023	2022
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 551,840	\$ 457,689
Excess of revenue over expenditures	<u>130,171</u>	<u>94,151</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 682,011</u>	<u>\$ 551,840</u>



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Thank you for
attending and...

See you in Toronto!

May 21 - 24, 2025

18th Canadian Neuroscience
Meeting

