



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

CAN 2025 (Toronto) – 1082 registrants, 630 poster abstracts

Next meeting: May 18-21, 2026, Hotel Bonaventure Montréal

We are very grateful to
our CAN2025 meeting
sponsors and exhibitors

Platinum Sponsors:

- CIHR/INHMA
- IBRO
- The Azrieli Foundation
- Brain Canada Foundation
- + all Institutional sponsors

+ 23 exhibitors



Platinum Sponsors



Gold Sponsors



Collaborative Program In Neuroscience (CPIN)
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO



Silver Sponsors



Djavad Mowafaghian
CENTRE FOR BRAIN HEALTH





CAN 2026

- Montreal
- May 18-21, 2026
- Hotel Bonaventure Montréal

CAN 2027

- Calgary
- June 6-9, 2027
- Calgary Telus Convention Centre



CAN Partnerships

- SfN – Advocacy support – New Memorandum of understanding signed
- Travel awards – BrightFocus, IBRO
- Brain Star / CAN meeting collaboration with CIHR-INMHA
- FENS (meeting registration)
- Lundbeck Foundation (Brain Prize lecture)
- Japanese neuroscience Society (meeting registration and joint symposium)
- French neuroscience society (TBC)

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
 - Third In-Person CAN Hill Day (Ottawa, November 2024)
- More from Liisa Galea / Tabrez Siddiqui (Advocacy Committee Co-Chairs)

Trainee 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: Ève Honoré and CNS-PDS Committee
- Inaugural Presentations March 2023
- Monthly

Trainee power pitch sessions

Organized by trainees, for trainees.

Congratulation to Liv Ansley-Engel and Zeeshan Haqqee

Trainee support

- 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.

- Professional development awards

CAN doubled the funds for travel awards this year
In addition to funds from IBRO and BrightFocus

CAN Board and Committees

Thank you !

Outgoing members

- Adriana Di Polo (Past president)
- Karl Fernandes and Elsa Rossignol (Board members)



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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
- **Doug Zochodne**, University of Alberta, 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 targets 2024-2025

Recommendation 1: That the Government of Canada **increase the core budgets of CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC by ten percent annually for the next five years**, as recommended in the 2023 Report of the Advisory Panel on the Federal Research Support System (Bouchard report), which stressed the necessity of increased funding for investigator-initiated research and talent support. The objective of this recommendation is to **bring Canada's investments in research and development to a level on par with other countries in the G7.**

Recommendation 2:

Given the rising prevalence of neurological and mental health disorders, it is imperative that the **Government of Canada prioritize brain and mental health research.** To address this urgent need, a comprehensive moonshot program dedicated to understanding the brain should be launched. This initiative will drive innovation and lead to significant improvements in public health across the country.



Recent Advocacy efforts

- CAN election one-pager – April 2024
- CAN pre-election advocacy webinar with Evidence for Democracy – April 2024
- CAN at the 2024 Canadian Science Policy Conference – November 2024
- CAN submits a brief to the House of Commons Science and Research committee study on the Capstone Research Funding Organization Announced in Budget 2024 – November 2024
- CAN Hill Day 2024 – November 5, 2024
- Submission to pre-budget consultations of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance – August 2024



November 2024 Hill Day
Ottawa, November 5, 2024

November 2024 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. Making research on Brain and Mental Health a national priority.




Advocacy webinar April 9



WEBINAR

Bridging Science and Policy: Tools for Effective Advocacy

Sponsored by:
 **CAN-ACN**
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR NEUROSCIENCE
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES NEUROSCIENCES

Date: April 9th, 2025
Time: 11 AM to 1 PM EST
Where: Zoom

Hosted by:
 **Evidence for
Democracy**

Recording available on the CAN website



Advocacy Awards

Support for grass-roots advocacy initiatives

Sponsorships will consist of a financial contribution of up to \$1000 CAD to support a specific event/activity, a letter of recognition from the CAN advocacy committee, and a feature article about the event on the CAN website and social media accounts. The event/activity does not have to be in-person, but can be virtual, through social media, etc.

You can apply for funding too!

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.



Pioneering Research & Impact

Neuroscientists in Canada are defining the boundaries of knowledge about the brain and nervous system. Learn more about some recent major discoveries.

[Learn more](#)

Main goals of this website are to:

- To increase visibility of the impact of neuroscience research in Canada
- 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).

We need your stories!

<https://CanadaBrainPower.com>

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 #CANACN25

Navigating Regulatory Frameworks for Research Models in Canada

Research animal models continue to play a vital role in our research ecosystem. These models are essential for understanding disease mechanisms, developing new treatments, and translating discoveries into real-world applications. However, their use is increasingly under scrutiny, with strict ethical and regulatory standards guiding their implementation.

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 2024)
-
- 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** | Western U
- **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

Economic barriers to trainee achievement, retention and funding opportunities

Session at the CAN meeting

Shalini Iyer, graduate student, representative of Support our Science

Panelists

- Dr. **Sam Weiss**, Professor at UCalgary, Scientific Director of the CIHR Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction

- Dr. **Sarah MacFarlane**, Professor at UCalgary, Director of the REALISE Career Development Program

- Dr. **Maithe Arruda-Carvalho**, Associate Professor at UofT, mid-career researcher

- Dr. **Annemarie Dedek**, Assistant Professor at University of Waterloo, early-career researcher

- Dr. **Haley Vecchiarelli**, Postdoctoral fellow (Tremblay lab, UVic)

- CGSD-holding PhD student, **Adiia Stone** (Murray lab, UGuelph)

Moderators: Dr. **Paul Sheppard** (postdoctoral fellow, UWestern) and **Olivia Reshmi Ghosh-Swaby** (PhD student, UWestern).

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

CAN Commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

May – 2025

This is an important time to reiterate the commitment of the Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN) to the values and principles of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. These are core values for CAN and they must inform research design and dissemination, and support for all researchers.

As a scientific society, we affirm that systematic barriers exist and that they place undue burden on the success of the marginalized, including Indigenous and racialized individuals, those with disabilities, the LGBTQ+ community, non-binary and transgender people, and the intersectionality across these identities. CAN continues its commitment to work toward breaking down barriers and policies that impede the success for these people and others, including factors based on immigration status, family responsibilities, and generational status in education.

Furthermore, CAN continues its support for the inclusion of related such factors in experimental design, including sex as a biological variable with sex operationally defined, at all levels of study, from single cell microbiology through behaviour and in incorporating the spectrum of gender in studies involving human participants.


Science is strengthened by these principles and upholding them helps build a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future for all.



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Secretary's
report:
Soheila Karimi



Secretary's
report

1. Membership
2. Elections

Membership

YEAR	Membership	Meeting attendance	Location
2025	1125	1082	Toronto
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

2025 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)
 - **Treasurer-elect** (2 year term, renewable)
-
- 377 Regular members eligible to vote – 170 votes (45% participation rate)

CAN Board and Committees - Election results



Matt Hill –
Vice-President-Elect



Craig Moore
Board member



Robert Bonin,
Treasurer-elect



Arezu Jahani-Asl,
Board member

Welcome !

Term beginning June 1



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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

2024

2023

Revenue

Courses and workshops	\$ -	\$ 2,171
Commissions and incentives	16,332	23,328
Conference registrations	290,427	383,177
Exhibits and sponsors	155,278	162,192
Grants	136,080	67,345
Membership fees	85,652	105,985
Miscellaneous	9,894	6,788
	<u>693,663</u>	<u>750,986</u>

Expenditures

Bad debts	314	-
Board and committees	4,728	883
Conferences (Schedule 1)	424,343	416,663
General and administrative expenses (Schedule 2)	68,657	97,164
Marketing and communications	2,050	2,484
Memberships	8,028	13,888
Special projects and initiatives (Schedule 3)	145,338	121,680
	<u>653,458</u>	<u>652,762</u>

Excess of revenue over expenses from operations

40,205 98,224

Other

Gain on foreign exchange	<u>13,577</u>	<u>31,947</u>
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Excess of revenue over expenditures

\$ 53,782 \$ 130,171

CAN Net Assets (End of year)

Canadian Association for Neuroscience Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended August 31	2024	2023
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 682,011	\$ 551,840
Excess of revenue over expenditures	<u>53,782</u>	<u>130,171</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 735,793</u>	<u>\$ 682,011</u>



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Thank you for
attending and...



See you in Montreal!

May 18-21, 2026

19th Canadian Neuroscience
Meeting