

Iranian Neuroscientists Community (IRNSC)

Mohsen Omrani^{1,2}, Mahmoud Kiaei³

1. President of the Iranian Neuroscientists Community
2. Centre for Neuroscience Studies, Queens University, Canada
3. Department of Neurology and Neuroscience, Cornell University, United States



Introduction & Activities

The Iranian Neuroscientists Community (IRNSC) is a network of Iranian neuroscientists formed with the goal of increasing scientific collaborations amongst its members, and also fostering the development of neuroscience in Iran. The IRNSC was found in 2005 by few Iranian Neuroscientists who met at the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) annual meeting in Washington, DC. IRNSC's first social gathering was held in parallel with the 36th annual meeting of SfN in October 2006 in Atlanta. Since then, there have been three more social meetings, held in parallel to the SfN annual meetings, as the main gathering event of IRNSC. Currently, IRNSC has more than 150 members and more than 50 scientists attending its annual events. The current organizing committee of IRNSC are Dr. Mohsen Omrani (president of the IRNSC), Dr. Mahmoud Kiaei, Dr. Pouya Tahsili Fahadan and Dr. Masoud Shekarabi (Treasurer of the IRNSC).

The year, the 4th IRNSC annual meeting was held concurrently with the SfN 2009 meeting in Chicago, IL. The goal of these social events is to provide a friendly

environment to facilitate and encourage scientific and social interactions among the expanding community of Iranian neuroscientists. These events also provide us the opportunity to discuss methods of expanding the IRNSC's activities. At the end of each meeting, a report of the community's activities over the previous year is presented and an election is held for choosing the president of the community for the upcoming year.

IRNSC's activities go beyond these social gatherings. Each year, IRNSC prepares a scientific itinerary of the presentations made by Iranian neuroscientists during the SfN meeting. This has proved very useful and provided an extra help for the members to attend other members' presentations at the conference and become familiar with their scientific research and meet them in person. Hopefully, this type of activity will increase interactions among the members and will lead to fruitful future collaborations. With the same goal in mind, IRNSC has formed a database of its members' affiliations and research interests in its website. This database has the structure of a Wiki website to give IRNSC members the chance to update their profile as often as they want.



NEUROSCIENCE

Figure 1. Some of IRNSC members in 3rd social meeting parallel with 39th SfN conference in Washington.

*Corresponding Author:

Mohsen Omrani
mohsen@biomed.queensu.ca

To help the growth of neuroscience in Iran, the IRNSC has formed a collaboration with the Knowledge Diffusion Network (KnowDiff), a nonprofit organization that aims to promote collaboration of Iranian academics living abroad with the scientific community inside of Iran, to organize neuroscience seminars and workshops at Iranian universities and research centers. Through this program, IRNSC has organized a couple of scientific lectures and workshops in different academic institutes over the last years. One of the latest activities of IRNSC has been organizing online video lectures to facilitate scientific communication between scientists residing in and outside of Iran. IRNSC is currently trying to turn these video conferences into a recurrent lecture series.

IRNSC is also interested in helping neuroscientists in Iran developing connections and collaborating with neuroscientists around the globe and feels committed to providing the infrastructure for scientific growth in Iran. IRNSC has already contributed toward providing a large archive of scientific journals to Roozbeh Psychiatric Hospital at Tehran University of Medical Sciences. The archive included six journals in the field of neuropsychology and cognitive sciences. These Journals were generously donated by Dr. Russell A. Poldrack at the University of California, Los Angeles. "The funding to cover shipping expenses was provided by generous contributions from IRNSC members." The funding to cover shipping costs was provided by magnanimous contributions from IRNSC members. Finally, to enhance the flow of information amongst its members, IRNSC publishes semi-annual newsletters and distributes them through emails.

Each volume of the newsletter includes a report of the last social meeting and the decisions made in the meeting, a short personal and scientific biography of a renowned Iranian neuroscience professor and a summary of the latest paper by an Iranian neuroscientist published in a high ranked journal (e.g. Nature and Science). For more informa-

tion on IRNSC's activities, please visit our website at www.IRNSC.org.

Collaboration with IJN

In line with IRNSC's goals, we welcome any scientific interactions with Iranian neuroscience institutes and would like to support them in any way possible.

We look at publication of IJN as a great opportunity to attract new members and expand IRNSC's activities. IRNSC members come from a wide range of specialties in different fields of neuroscience. With more than 15 well-known Iranian professors among IRNSC's members, IRNSC could provide IJN with a rich asset of potentially experienced reviewers which would benefit IJN for editorial assistance and peer review process of original manuscripts. Furthermore, a couple of our members have the experience of being editors in some well respected neuroscience journals.

They could provide IJN editorial board with invaluable consultations to increase the quality of IJN publications. In addition, we encourage IRNSC members to consider IJN for submitting their original high quality scientific reports/reviews/commentary for publication.

This would be mutually beneficial to both IRNSC and IJN to reach their goals. This could help IRNSC to acquaint neuroscientists inside and outside of Iran with each other's scientific research which in longer term might culminate in successful collaborations. On the other hand, IJN could benefit from more rapidly becoming an international journal.

Both of these could significantly boost the growth of neuroscience as a nascent field of science in Iran. We are eagerly looking forward to that day. With these goals in mind, we congratulate IJN for commencing its activity and would like to extend our hand for a constructive collaboration.



Figure 2. 3rd IRNSC social meeting parallel with 39th SfN conference in Washington.

Authors' Guidelines

Aim and Scope: Iranian Journal of Neuroscience is devoted to the rapid publication of original papers of interest to the broad community of neuroscientists. Papers in all areas of neuroscience including molecular, cellular, developmental, systems, behavioral and cognitive, and related fields will be considered for publication.

Submission: Submission of a paper to Iranian Journal of Neuroscience is understood to imply that it deals with original material not previously published, and that it is not being considered for publication elsewhere. Manuscripts submitted under multiple authors are reviewed on the assumption that all listed authors have agreed on the submission and that a copy of the final manuscript has been approved by all authors. Manuscripts are first reviewed by the editorial staff to ensure their appropriateness relevant to the framework of the journal. The manuscript would be peer-reviewed by related specialists. If accepted, the article shall not be published elsewhere in the same form, without the consent of the Editors and Publisher.

Manuscripts of length up to a maximum of 8000 words will be considered for publication. Articles should be written in English, should be complete in all respects, and double spaced with wide margins. The layout and style should adhere strictly to the instructions given and in particular, the reference style of Iranian Journal of Neuroscience. The author must declare that all experiments on human subjects were conducted with the adequate understanding and written consent of the subjects. When experimental animals are used, the methods section must clearly indicate that adequate measures were taken to minimize pain or discomfort.

Submission items include Cover Letter, Reviewer Suggestions (at least 3), Manuscript including Title Page, Abstract, Manuscript Text, References and Tables/Figure Legends), Tables and Figures. Text files (double-spaced) of the manuscript should be supplied in Microsoft Word format.

Authors should send their submission (in triplicate) to the following address:

Editor-in-Chief, Neuroscience Section, Department of Anatomy, School of Medicine, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Shaheed Hemmat Highway, Tehran, P.O. Box: 15144-6183, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Title Page: This page should contain the following items: (i) complete title (preferably no chemical formulas or arbitrary abbreviations); (ii) full names of all authors; (iii) complete affiliations of all authors; (iv) the number of text pages of the whole manuscript (including figures and tables) and the number of figures and tables; (v) the name and complete address of the corresponding author (as well as telephone number, facsimile number and E-mail address, and if available URL address) to whom correspondence and proofs should be sent; (vi) acknowledgements.

Keywords: 3-6 keywords or phrases should be provided; preferably, these should be selected from the body of the text.

Abstract: An Abstract of up to 250 words describing the purpose of the study, the methods, the results, and the conclusion should precede the main text.

In general, the main text of the manuscript should be organized as follows: Introduction, Materials and methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements, and References.

References according to APA style: The authors are responsible for the accuracy of the bibliographic information. Citations in the text should conform to the referencing style used by the American Psychological Association (APA). Examples of reference citations in text:

Single author:

(Adam, 1992) OR Adam (1992) proved that...

Two polymorphisms, haplotypes & association with polysubstance abuse. *Mol. Psychiatry*, 9, 916-931.

(Ringsven & Morse, 1996) OR In their study, Ringsven, Y., Spangler, R., LaForge, K.S., Maggos, C.E., Ho, A., & Kreek, M.J. (1996). Corticotropin-releasing factor & type 1 corticotropin-releasing factor receptor messenger RNAs in rat brain & pituitary during 'binge'-pattern cocaine administration & chronic withdrawal. *J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther.*, 279, 351-358.

First citation: (Lupton, Brunn, & Platt, 2000) OR Lupton, Brunn and Platt (2000)

Subsequent citations: (Johnson et al., 2002).

Six or more authors:

(White et al., 2001) OR White et al. (2001)...

In addition, all references cited in the text should be listed at the end of the manuscript on a separate page in alphabetical order by authors' last names. All items in the list of references should be cited in the text and, conversely, all references cited in the text must be presented in the list. Personal communications and unpublished data including manuscripts submitted, but not yet accepted for publication should not be used as a reference, nonetheless, they may be placed in parentheses in the text.

Reference to a journal publication:

Senden, T. J., Moock, K. H., Gerald, J. F., Burch, W. M., Bowitt, R. J., Ling, C. D., et al. (1997). The physical and chemical nature of technigas. *Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, 38(10), 1327-33.

Sanchez, D., & King-Toler, E. (2007). Addressing disparities consultation and outreach strategies for university settings. *Consulting Psychology Journal: Practice and Research*, 59(4), 286-295. doi:10.1037/1065-9293.59.4.286

Reference to a book:

Frank, R. H., & Bernanke, B. (2007). Principles of macro-economics (3rd ed.). Boston: McGraw-Hill/Irwin.

Berkow, R., & Fletcher, A. J. (Eds.). (1992). The Merck manual of diagnosis and therapy. (16th ed.). Rahway (NJ): Merck Research Laboratories.

Illustrations: Illustrations will appear either across a single column (8 cm) or a whole page (15cm). The illustrations should be numbered in Arabic numerals according to the sequence of appearance in the text, where they are referred to as Fig. 1, Fig. 2, etc.

Figure legends should be concise and clear and should not duplicate the body of the text. Each illustration must have a title and an explanatory legend. The title should be part of the legend and not be reproduced on the figure itself. The legends should be placed on a separate page at the end of the manuscript and begin with the number of the illustration they refer to. All symbols and abbreviations used in the figure must be explained.

Tables: Tables should be so constructed that they, together with their captions and legends, will be intelligible with minimal reference to the text. Tables of numerical data should each be typed (with double-spacing) on a separate page, numbered in sequence in Arabic numerals (Table 1, 2, etc.) and referred to in the text as Table 1, Table 2, etc. The title of the table should appear above it. A detailed description of its contents and footnotes should be given below the body of the table.

Proofs: Authors will receive proofs by email. Only printer's errors may be corrected; no change in, or additions to, the edited manuscript will be allowed at this stage. The corrected proofs must be returned within 72 hours after receipt by email. If the Publisher receives no reply, the assumption will be made that there are no errors to correct and the article will be published.

Reprints: A total of 5 reprints of each paper will be provided free of charge to the author(s).