

Invitation to the 1st young researchers workshop on vision and neurodegeneration

Dear fellow researchers,

We are very pleased to invite you to our “young researchers workshop on vision and neurodegeneration” to be held on **march 29 – 30, 2007** at the Seminaris Seehotel am Templiner See in **Potsdam/Germany**. The aim of this workshop is to give young investigators (PhD students to young postdocs) an opportunity to present themselves and their work to fellow researchers to allow them to build and strengthen personal networks in an international environment. In order to keep the participation costs as low as possible, there is no registration fee for this workshop, but participants will have to organize their accommodation and meals themselves.

The workshop is organized by fellows of the European Retinal Research Training Network – RETNET, a Marie Curie research training network (www.euro-ret.net). Additional help comes from fellows of the Neurotrain research training network (www.neurotrain.org). The workshop will be held just prior to the 3rd Pro Retina research colloquium 2007 (www.pro-retina.de) at the very same location, and it is possible for participants to attend both events (separate registration!).

We intend to give as many young researchers as possible an opportunity to present. Unfortunately, time and resources are scarce and the time for the presentations is therefore limited to **5 minutes per person**. In order to emphasize interactions between participants, in each session there will be a combined discussion of approximately 20 min.

Apart from the presentations, there will be an evening of round table discussions with a number of senior scientists from the field. Several principal investigators from different European countries have agreed to participate in this event. Depending on interests, different topics such as “careers in research”, “women in research”, “personal motivation”, “family and research”, “dishonesty and fraud”, etc. may be discussed. We hope that these discussions will enable young scientists to benefit from the wealth of experience senior researchers have acquired during their careers.

To register, the young researchers should submit an abstract (150 - 200 words) of their presentation, a brief CV (max. one page), and (where available) a list of publications to either / or:

Kostas Nikopoulos (K.Nikopoulos@antrg.umcn.nl)

François Paquet-Durand (francois.paquet-durand@med.lu.se)

The deadline for registration is **March 2nd, 2007**.

Applicants will be informed about the acceptance of their presentation shortly after the deadline.

Researchers – both young and not so young anymore – who do not wish to present may still attend the workshop. Non-presenting participants should also register so we may plan accordingly (register with either Kostas or Francois, see above). Workshop language will be English.

On behalf of RETNET,
Naomi Chadderton
François Paquet-Durand

The Programme

Thursday, 29. March

- 17.00 Opening remarks and warm up coffee
- 17.30 – 19.30 Round table discussion with senior scientists on a diverse range of topics.

Friday, 30. March

- 09.00 - 10.30 Session 1: “Genetics of neurodegenerative diseases”
Chairs: W. Raffelsberger, Strasbourg/France; V. Roni, Tuebingen/Germany
- Session 2: “The Retina: A window on neurodegenerative processes”
Chairs: T. Cronin, Paris/France, M. Karali, Naples/Italy
- 10.30 - 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00 - 12.30 Session 3: “Cell death mechanisms in neurodegeneration”
Chairs: F. Paquet-Durand, Lund/Sweden, E. Körtvely, Munich/Germany
- Session 4: “Therapeutic approaches for the treatment of CNS disorders”
Chairs: N. Chadderton, Dublin/Ireland, C. Maubaret, London/United Kingdom
- 12.30 - 13.00 Closing remarks, possibility to have lunch (not included!)
- 13.00 Start of ProRetina meeting

Depending on the number of participants, additional sessions may be scheduled in the late afternoon of the 29th. The participants will be notified in due time, once registration is closed.

How to get to the workshop?

The Seminaris SeeHotel is in the south-western part of Potsdam, close to Pirschheide forest, next to the Templiner See.

Arrival by car:

North: Coming from A 24 (Hamburg/Rostock) take A 10 (Berliner Ring), then exit “Potsdam Nord”.

West: Coming from A 2 (Hannover) take A 10, then exit “Groß Kreuz”.

South and East: Coming from A 9/A 13 / A 12 (Leipzig, Dresden, Frankfurt/Oder) take A 10 and then exit “Michendorf”.

Within the city borders of Potsdam you will be guided by the hotelguide-system. Coming from the national road B1 there is a private access road directly to the hotel.

Arrival by train:

Potsdam central station is about 5 km away (long distance and regional trains). The nearest local train station is called “Potsdam Pirschheide” (regional trains, tramway and local buses) and is about 800 m from the Hotel.

Arrival by plane:

The airports Tegel, Schönefeld and Tempelhof are all within 50 km from the Hotel. From the airport take motorway A 10 “Berliner Ring”, exit at “Groß Kreuz” (see above) or take a regional train directly to “Potsdam Pirschheide”.

