

**ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΤΑΙΡΕΙΑ ΝΕΥΡΟΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΩΝ
HELLENIC SOCIETY FOR NEUROSCIENCE**

T.Θ. 1390, Πανεπιστήμιο Πατρών, 26500 Πάτρα,
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2009 BRAIN AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

A. Dependence: A brain disease -March 7, 2009

This event took place at the Papacharalambeio Hall of the city of Nafpaktos on Saturday, March 7, 2009 at 6:30 pm. It was co-organized by the Hellenic Society for Neurosciences, the Municipalities of the cities Antirion and Nafpaktos, the High School of Antirion and the Third High School of the city of Nafpaktos.

Event program

Oral Presentations

1. Title of the talk: "Addiction to Drugs: a Brain disease"
Speaker: Papadopoulou-Daifoti Zeta, Professor, Laboratory of Experimental Pharmacology, Medical School of the University of Athens, Athens
2. Title of the talk: "The psychopathology of the addiction to drugs" Speaker: Ioannis Liapas, Professor, Division of Social Medicine-Psychiatry and Neurology/Psychiatric Clinic, Medical School of the University of Athens
3. Title of the talk: "Therapeutic approaches to drug addiction"
Speaker: Evangelos Kafetzopoulos, Psychiatrist, B Unit of long term therapy, OKANA, Athens

Discussion with the students of the High School of Antirion and of the Third High School of the city of Nafpaktos and the general public

The students had worked on the projects on addiction to drugs and were prepared to ask question to the speakers. The activity was sponsored by the Pharmaceutical company Wyeth.

Photos



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Picture 1. “Dependence: A Brain Disease”-Nafpaktos March 7, 2009. The president of the Hellenic Society for Neuroscience addresses the audience.



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Picture 2. “Dependence: A Brain Disease”-Nafpaktos March 7, 2009. Professor of Pharmacology, Dr. Zeta Papadopoulou-Daifoti presents her talk entitled: “Addiction to Drugs: a Brain disease”



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Picture 3. “Dependence: A Brain Disease”-Nafpaktos March 7, 2009. Professor of Psychiatry, Dr. Ioannis Liapas salutes people from the audience. He presented a talk entitled: “The psychopathology of the addiction to drugs”





Picture 4. “Dependence: A Brain Disease”-Nafpaktos March 7, 2009. Psychiatrist Dr. Evangelos Kafetzopoulos presents his talk entitled: “Therapeutic approaches to drug addiction”



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Picture 5. “Dependence: A Brain Disease”-Nafpaktos March 7, 2009. The Mayor of the city Antirion welcomes the speakers and addresses the audience



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B. We, our brains: From the neuron to the brain and to behavior- March 9, 2009

This event took place at the Eugenides Foundation on Monday, March 9, 2009 at 6:30 pm.
It is co-organized by the Hellenic Society for Neurosciences and the Eugenides Foundation.

Event program

Oral Presentations

1. Title of the talk: «The brain is born: the foundations»
Speaker: Antonis Gavalas, Research Assistant Professor, Developmental Biology Division, Center of Basic Research, Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens.
2. Title of the talk: «The brain changes: how experience affects the adult brain»
Speaker: Christina Dalla, Lecturer, Department of Pharmacology, Medical School, University of Athens.
3. Title of the talk: «The brain in action: interpreting the world»
Speaker: Irimi Skaliara, Research Assistant Professor, Developmental Biology Division, Center of Basic Research, Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens.
Elias Kouvelas, Professor Emeritus of Human Physiology at the University of Patras, will present the speakers and will act as the discussion moderator.

See all presentations and the discussion at:

http://multimedia.biol.uoa.gr/idryma_evgenidou_9_3_09.htm

The speakers gave also an interview on public television. A summary of their presentations was also published at the newspaper “Vima Science”. In addition, the program of the activity was published in several Greek newspapers.

C. Journey to the Brain-March 29, 2009

The main event took place at the Cultural and Conference Center of the University of Patras on March 29, 2009. Additional activities will take place in the cities of Nafpaktos and Antirion.

(Coordinator: M. Margariti)

C1. @rtbrain: The brain's centers- February 18, 2009:

Dr. M. Margariti, Assistant Professor of the Department of Biology, University of Patras, visited the High School of Vraxnaika where she gave a lecture to the pupils of the 3rd grade regarding structure and function of the brain. The post-graduate students, A. Vasilopoulou



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and Z. Linardaki, performed a demonstration of mice's behaviour, using the passive avoidance test, the thigmotaxis and Elevated plus maze test apparatus. Advertising material regarding the School Conference entitled "Journey to the Brain" of March 29th, 2009 was allocated to the pupils. The pupils will join the School Conference presenting aspects of brain function under the title: @rtbrain: The brain's centers.



Picture 6. @rtbrain: The brain's centers- February 18, 2009. The post-graduate students, A. Vasilopoulou and Z. Linardaki, perform a demonstration of mice's behaviour, using the passive avoidance test, the thigmotaxis and Elevated plus maze test apparatus.





Picture 7. “@rtbrain: The brain’s centers”- February 18, 2009. Dr. M. Margarity, Assistant Professor of the Department of Biology, University of Patras, visited the High School of Vraxnaika where she gave a lecture to the pupils of the 3rd grade regarding structure and function of the brain.

C2). Visit of Neuroscience lab-March 3, 2009:

The pupils of the Antirio High-School, accompanied by the Director of the School, Mrs. Harakida E., visited the Laboratory of Human and Animal Physiology of the Department of Biology at the University of Patras. Dr. M. Margarity gave a lecture entitled: “Brain: the most known unknown”. In addition, the pupils, with the assistance of the post-graduate students A. Vasilopoulou and Linardaki Z., toured the laboratory spaces. Moreover, selected microscopy samples of CNS as wells as behavioral recording test were presented to the pupils. At the end of the visit a light welcome reception for the students occurred at the library of the laboratory.





Picture 8. “Visit of Neuroscience lab”-March 3, 2009. Visit of pupils of the Antirio High-School, accompanied by the Director of the School, Mrs. Harakida E., visited the Laboratory of Human and Animal Physiology of the Department of Biology at the University of Patras





Picture 9. “Visit of Neuroscience lab”-March 3, 2009. Assist. Professor Marigoula Margariti gives a lecture on brain function to the pupils of the Antirio High-School.





Picture 10. “Visit of Neuroscience lab”-March 3, 2009. The pupils of the Antirio High-School look at selected microscopy samples of CNS

C3). Mr Brain shall we play? March 5, 2009

At the 17th primary school of Patras a theatrical play took place in three phases by the association of educators- animators of Patras “Through the theatre” by Lakis Kouretzis, with the guidance of Afroditi Parzakoni as the main animator. The play was presented to the pupils of the two final grades of the primary school having as main theme «**Mr Brain shall we play?** ». The play was videorecorded in order to be presented at the central event on 29th of March.





Picture 11. “Mr Brain shall we play”- March 5, 2009. Theatrical presentation of the visual cortex





Picture 2. “Mr Brain shall we play”- March 5, 2009. Theatrical presentation of the control of movement by motor cortex and Basal ganglia.



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Picture 13. “Mr Brain shall we play”- March 5, 2009. Theatrical presentation of the cerebral cortex.





Picture 14. “Mr Brain shall we play”- March 5, 2009. Actresses.

C3. Journey to the Brain- March 29, 2009 (main activity)

(Conference and Cultural center of the University of Patras)

1). 17th Elementary School of Patras and the group of educators-inspirers “Through the Theater”. Presentation of the theatrical play that was played on March 5, 2009.

2). Construction at the Conference and Cultural Center of the University of Patras of the group of educators-inspirers “Through the Theater” with subject: The Brain and its Functions”.



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3). “Nicotine flirting with the brain”, a theatrical performance by the High-School of Antirrio. The set (scene state) included the construction of hand-made acetylcholine-houses, suburb of red blood cells, lung vacuoles and auto-lighting neuron. The students also prepared and handed out a leaflet on “How to quit smoking” (Supervisors: E Charakida, I. Platanioti, E. Chronopoulos & N. Papaeuthimiou).



Picture 15. “Nicotine flirting with the brain”- March 29, 2009. A theatrical performance by the High-School of Antirrio.





Picture 16. “Nicotine flirting with the brain”- March 29, 2009. A theatrical performance by the High-School of Antirrio.

4). High School of Vrahneika. "**@rtbrain: the centers of the Brain**" An artistic exhibition (hand-made posters, paintings, T-shirts) by the High-School of Vraxneikon. A report was also presented on the means via which the students retrieved the most valuable information from the net, so as to learn how to evaluate the collected data and to communicate electronically with scientists. The current effort was accomplished in collaboration with Dr Jeff Lichtman at the Department of Molecular Biology of the University of Harvard (research group of brainbow mice), which resulted into the development of a school website - <http://gym-vrachn.ach.sch.gr>, and the publication of a mini-article-type in Wikipedia (Supervisors: S. Vagena & Ch. Christakoudis).





Picture 17. “@rtbrain: the centers of the Brain”-March 29, 2009. An artistic exhibition (hand-made posters, paintings, T-shirts) by the High-School of Vraxneikon.





Picture 18. “@rtbrain: the centers of the Brain”-March 29, 2009. An artistic exhibition (hand-made posters, paintings, T-shirts) by the High-School of Vraxneikon.

5). 3rd High School of Nafpaktos. Substance-depedence and the brain (Oral and Poster presentations) (Supervisors: K. Karakostas, D. Bekos & P. Theodoropoulou).

6). Experimental High School of the University of Patras. “Music & the brain”. The music group of the school played rock songs that had the word brain or songs referring to brain functions. The pupils had also Oral and Poster presentations and songs about “Music and the Brain”. (Supervisors: A. Plakouda, Ch. Tzelati, P. Chantziantoniou, C. Chantziwannis , V. Sxoinias, Y. Chardaloupa, G. Pitta & A. Argyriou).



Picture 19. “Music & the brain”-March 29, 2009. The music group of the Experimental High School of the University of Patras played rock songs that had the word brain or songs referring to brain functions.





Picture 20. “Music & the brain”-March 29, 2009. The music group of the Experimental High School of the University of Patras played rock songs that had the word brain or songs referring to brain functions.

The whole event attended by the local authorities, the Rector of the University of Patras, Mr. S. Koumpias, the Vice-Rector of Strategic Research Planning and Development Mr. V. Anastasopoulos, Education representatives of the First- and Second-Grade, professors, teachers and parents. Present was also the president of the Hellenic Society of Neuroscience, Dr. S. Efthimiopoulos.

Responsible for the co-ordination of the whole event was Mrs. M. Margarity, Assistant Professor of the Department of Biology, at the University of Patras and member of the Hellenic Society of Neuroscience, who stated that: “the end of the current exhibition does not mark the end of the journey. This is such a temporary “brake”, as our journey to this microscopic, but still magnificent world, our commonest unknown...the brain...has just began”.



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The end of the event was marked by a small Gala dinner, distribution of publication material (hats, balloons, blocks etc), certifications of attendance, and a symbolic release of a huge balloon with a picture of a brain.

The event was supported by the students' parents, their Schools, the related Mayor, the Hobby Place of Patras, Patras Catering and Loux A.E.

Sponsors of the exhibitions were the University of Patras & the pharmaceutical company, Pfizer.



Picture 21. “Journey to the Brain”-March 29, 2009. The audience



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Picture 22. “Journey to the Brain”-March 29, 2009. The audience





Picture 23. “Journey to the Brain”-March 29, 2009. The audience

D. Presentation of the first English Edition of the book: "Atlas of cytoarchitecture of human cerebral cortex", Authors: Constantin Von Economo (1876-1931) και George N Koskinas (1885-1975)-March 16, 2009

The president of Bodosaki Foundation, Mr Dimitrios Vlastos
The Secretary of the Ministry of National Education and the
Rector of the University of Macedonia Professor Elias Kouskouvelis

invited scientists and lay people in the presentation of the first English Edition of the book:
"Atlas of cytoarchitecture of human cerebral cortex", Authors: Constantin Von Economo
(1876-1931) και George N Koskinas (1885-1975), Karger AG, Basel 2008, Scientific
Editorship Professor Lazaros Triarchou.



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The presentation took place on March 16th, 2009, at the National Research Foundation

Speakers

Marieta Giannakou, ex Minister of Education, Neurologist-Psychiatrist
Gabriela Economo & Elena Economo
Dr. Thomas Karger, Director of Karger AG
Lazaros Triaechou, Professor of Neuroscience
Marinos Dalakas, Professor of Neurology

E. Theatrical play “Neurodysey”-March 17, 2009

The theater play "NeurOdyssey" will be played at the Art theater “Karolos Koun” 14 Frynichou street, Plaka on the 17th of March 2009 at 6pm.
The theater play "NeurOdyssey" is directed by Mania Papadimitriou and is co-production with the group "PASPARTOU".

Odyssey is the most famous journey of the man to his birth land after an adventurous itinerary to the world.

In our day, science with its modern pathways of molecular biology and neuroscience makes a journey of investigation in centers of decision making and human consciousness in the brain.

The goal of this play is the parallelism of these journeys.
The activity was sponsored by the Pharmaceutical company UCB.

F. Early life experiences influence adult brain function and behaviour-March 17, 2009.

This activity was organized by Associate Professor Maria Panayotacopoulou. It included a lecture by Professor Fotini Stylianopoulou at the Deree College of Athens entitled: " Early life experiences influence adult brain function and behaviour" Professor of Psychology Lena Pateraki co-ordinated the discussion.

G. Eidolons and certainties in the world of brains-April 6, 2009

George Papadopoulos, Professor of Neuroanatomy of the Veterinary School of the University of Thessaloniki, gave a lecture in the department of architecture at the University of Thessaly (City of Volos) entitled: "Eidolons and certainties in the world of brains"



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H. Drugs: Use-Abuse and Dependence-April 7, 2009

Lectures were given at the amphitheater of the National Foundation of Research on the subject “Drugs: Use-Abuse and Dependence” by:

Zeta Papadopoulou-Daifoti, Professor of Pharmacology in the Medical School of the University of Athens and

Katerina Tyligada, Associate Professor of Pharmacology in the Medical School of the University of Athens.

The President of the National Foundation of Research Professor Kyriakidis introduced the speakers and acted as the discussion moderator.

