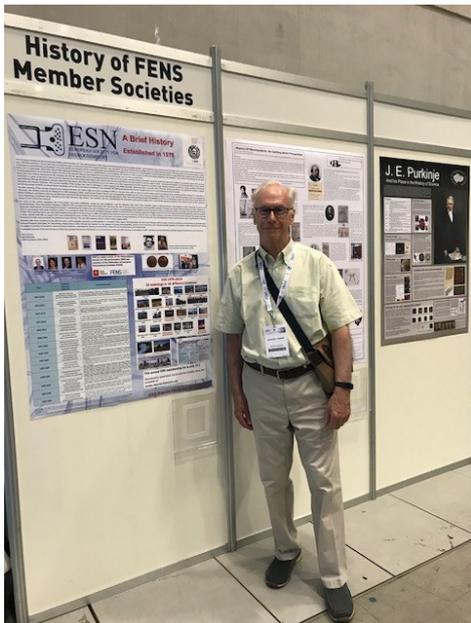


ESN AT THE FENS FORUM IN BERLIN

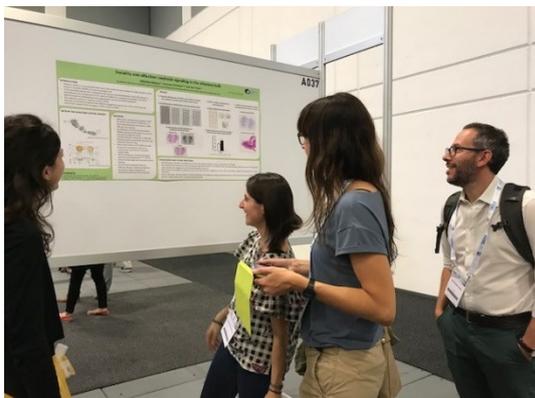
This year the FENS Forum, which took place in Berlin on July 7-11, was celebrating the 20th anniversary of FENS. This Forum of Neuroscience was a great success gathering close to 7,400 participants with more than 4,000 posters presented which surpassed any previous FENS meeting. THE new FENS President, Carmen Sandi, acknowledged the excellent support and partnership from the ESN.



ESN historian **Tony Turner** presented a poster in the FENS History Corner describing the more than 40 year history of ESN. The poster was well attended and the whole session with the posters presented by various FENS member societies was a great success.

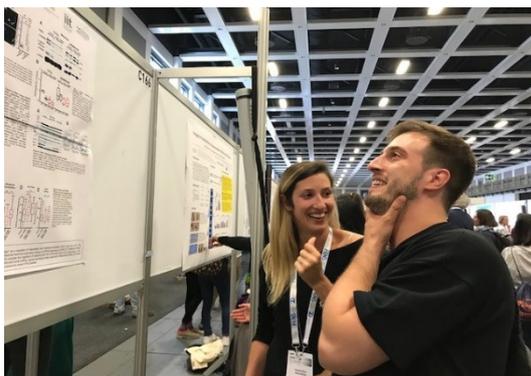
Continuing the ESN initiative to support participation of young ESN members at the FENS Forums, three travel awards have been given this year to young scientists who took a very active part in the Forum and sent us their comments on the event.

Valentina Gigliucci (Institute of Neuroscience, Milan)



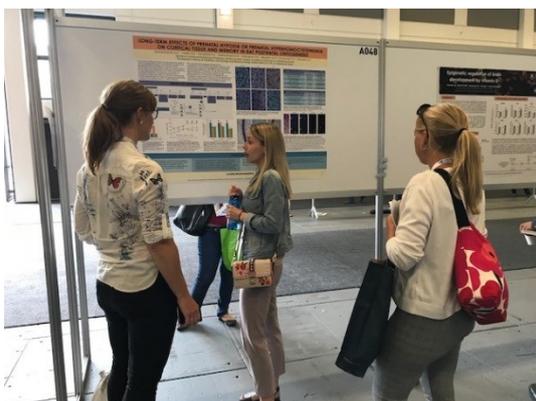
"The FENS Forum in Berlin was a great experience. A very friendly and collaborative environment. It was a great opportunity to share my work and to get feedback on it by neuroscientists of different backgrounds and knowledge. I came home full of energy, and with plenty of tips and ideas that I can't wait to apply to my own work to improve it and push it forward."

Francesca Pischedda (University of Trento, Italy)



"I had really a great time at the FENS Forum. First, I had the possibility to attend two extremely interesting symposia where I got exposed to cutting-edge science. I learnt about the newest approaches in super-resolution microscopy, the intimate cross-talk among the inflammatory system and the CNS and, finally, the most recent advances in cerebral organoids as a pathology model. Next, I really enjoyed the poster session. In fact, I had the chance to discuss face-to-face with junior and senior colleagues, challenge my own hypotheses and gain meaningful suggestions".

Anastasiia Shcherbitskaia (Institute of Evolutionary Physiology and Biochemistry, RAS, Saint Petersburg, Russia)



"I was very pleased to attend the FENS Forum 2018. I met old colleagues and made new friends, took part in interesting discussions and learned some new ideas for my research. Due to the large number of represented companies I got an idea about new products in the field of my research and received useful contacts. In general, the conference opened new prospects for me. Thanks to ESN for such a wonderful opportunity".

"ESN & friends – get together to step forward" – follow up

ESN council members Eva-Maria Blumrich, Natasha Nalivaeva and Tony Turner invited ESN members to come together and bring a guest to an ESN networking event at the FENS Forum in Berlin last month.

The event started off as an idea to support connections within ESN, to create a platform to update members about the current topics in the society and to attract new, especially young members, to ESN by raising awareness about the society. It turned out to be a great evening with interesting conversations about science, career plans and exchange of personal and professional experiences in a relaxed atmosphere. Around 35 participants from undergraduate students to experienced senior group leaders attended the talks about history and current topics as well as future plans for ESN and stayed afterwards to enjoy food and drinks with ESN council members.

Hopefully this could be the start of a new tradition for future FENS forums or maybe even other sister society meetings. To keep up the spirit from a lovely interactive evening one of the future plans for ESN discussed has already been put into place: a social media presence for ESN. In

addition to our new, completely refurbished, website ESN is now also present on Twitter. So please join us @ESNsociety and get the latest updates about ESN and our meeting in Milan 2019!

Thank you very much again to all the ESN members, members-to-be and friends who joined us in Berlin and hope to see you again at ESN Milan 2019 and at the next FENS Forum in Glasgow in July 2020!



A group of attendees at the ESN Social event on July 8, 2018.

Written by Natalia Nalivaeva and Eva-Maria Blumrich. Photos by N.Nalivaeva.