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Cancellation of the ESN meeting, St. Petersburg

March 02, 2022

Dear Participants of the ESN meeting 2022, dear ESN members,

With deep sadness, we inform you that, after careful consideration of the situation, ESN Council decided to **cancel the 24th Biennial Meeting of the European Society for Neurochemistry** and 8th Conference on “Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms of Regulation in the Nervous System” planned in **St. Petersburg, Russia, May 22-25, 2022**. ESN is committed to human rights, international law, democracy and science; therefore, we cannot hold our meeting in Russia under the current circumstances. In addition, the sanctions imposed by many states around the world preclude any further organization of the conference.

ESN would like to thank the chair of the Local Organizing Committee, Prof. Michael Firsov, and all members of the LOC for their incredible work to organize this meeting. Originally planned for 2021, the meeting was postponed to 2022 due to the Coronavirus disease pandemic, but they organized it “a second time” with the same enthusiasm, despite the numerous difficulties and restrictions of the Coronavirus disease pandemic. We also would like to thank the Program Committee chaired by Prof. Alessandro Prinetti for their work setting up an exciting program, and keeping all speakers on board despite postponing the meeting from 2021 to 2022. We also thank all symposium organizers and speakers as well as satellite meeting organizers/speakers. We feel deeply sorry, that these efforts will not result in an exciting scientific conference with intense discussion, personal exchange and meeting international colleagues and friends.

For those participants who have already paid registration fees: we are working on solutions for the registration fees, but we kindly ask you for some patience. Given the financial sanctions, this is a complicated matter and we need some more time to carefully develop respective procedures. We will get back to you regarding this issue as soon as possible.

We will very soon also notify the recipients of the Young Scientist Lectureship Award (YSLA) as well as the applicants selected for the Young Membership Symposia (YMS). We will also find a way how you can benefit from your successful application, despite we cannot anymore offer you to give a talk at the ESN conference this year.

One of the main aims of ESN since its foundation in 1976 was to build bridges between scientists from different countries, and especially between scientists from Eastern and Western European Countries. ESN will continue with this tradition, we will keep our bridges and contacts to scientists in Ukraine, in Russia and in any other country in Europe and around the globe. These days, our thoughts are with those suffering from this war. For the future, we strongly hope that we can meet again, including with our Ukrainian and Russian colleagues, under conditions that are more peaceful.

On behalf of ESN Officers and Council
Johannes Hirrlinger
(ESN President)