



1st Annual Report SIG 'Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience of Pain' (CANoP)

May 2019

The establishment of the SIG 'Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience of Pain' (CANoP) was accepted by the SGSS executive committee in June 2018. Founding members are Chantal Berna Renella, Centre hospitalier universitaire Vaudois/ University of Lausanne, Chantal Martin-Soelch, Université de Fribourg, Petra Schweinhardt, Balgrist University Hospital Zurich, and Nicolas Silvestrini, Université de Genève.

An Inaugural Meeting of CANoP was held at the Université de Fribourg on January 31st 2019. The main purpose of the meeting was to bring researchers who work on topics related to the SIG's overarching theme together from all over Switzerland. Specifically, the intention of the meeting was to get to know each other and exchange, to network and to increase the visibility of the individual groups. In addition to short presentations by ten respective group leaders, two internationally leading pain researchers, Prof. Dr. Irene Tracey (University of Oxford, England) and Prof. Dr. Christian Büchel (University of Hamburg, Germany) gave key note presentations. The inaugural meeting was a full success: over 70 scientists and clinicians, including Principal Investigators, postdoctoral fellows, PhD and MSc trainees attended. The Lemanic Neuroscience Doctoral Program (UNIL/UNIGE) offered credits to its students for the attendance, in addition of clinical medical societies providing credits (SGSS; ASMPP). The presentations were excellent and during the breaks, attendees were busy exchanging and getting to know each other. There was also an extremely lively poster session and finally, a 'scientific speed dating session' during which more junior attendees had the opportunity to closely interact in small groups with several Principal Investigators.

Finally, a collaboration with the Pain Research Forum PRF; (www.painresearchforum.org) allowed media training of a participating early career scientist before the meeting. This PRF correspondent covered the inaugural CANoP meeting and his content will be available on the PRF web page.

The inaugural CANoP meeting was successfully held thanks to the support of the SGSS as well as funding obtained from the University of Fribourg. In return, great visibility was offered for the SGSS. Finally, links of interest and possible collaborations have been created between the CANoP and pain psychology SIGs, with mutual synergies.

The aim is to organize a similar CANoP Research Meeting every two years, the next one in January 2021.