



Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities (BBAW), Leibniz Hall, Jägerstr. 22/23, D-10117 Berlin
July 22nd, 2009, 6pm

PhD and Postdoc Career Development Workshop

Organizer: Lars Schwabe*

Most of the attendances of the Computational Neuroscience Conference probably agree that studying the brain and the nervous system is a stimulating intellectual challenge with a multitude of applications. Since the brain and the nervous system are among the most complex organs, understanding it requires the most sophisticated tools, instruments, and methods. In other words, our field requires broad thinkers with outstanding analytical, mathematical, technical and quantitative skills. When being close to the end of your PhD work or already in a so-called Postdoc position, you might already be such a broad thinker with many skills. But what's next?

This workshop is about you and your career. We will have presentations tailored for PhD students close to the end of their PhD work, who search for funding opportunities and positions, and presentations for Postdocs, who search for ways of funding their own independent research. Moreover, we will also have field reports of people, who successfully applied for funding and who can talk about all those issues, which might be useful when you plan the next steps in your career.

The workshop closes with a round-table discussion (approx. 30 min) with the speakers, some senior faculty and postdocs from our field. The idea behind this round-table discussion is to have the senior faculty outline their view of an “ideal” postdoc candidate and to give hints for applying for postdoc positions as well as tips for the transition to your own independent research and group. All talks are scheduled together with a short discussion.

18-20: Funding opportunities

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| 5 min | Introduction |
| 30 min | The Sloan-Swartz Program in Theoretical Neuroscience, 1993-2009
(H. Cohen, <i>Swartz Foundation, USA</i>) |
| 45 min | Marie Curie Actions of the EU FP7
(Dr. Sandra Haseloff, <i>Humboldt Foundation, Bonn</i>) |
| 30 min | ERC Young Investigator Grants of the EU FP7
(Salim Chehab, NCP ERC, EU-Bureau of the BMBF, Bon) |

20-21:00: Shared experiences and round table discussion

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| 15 min | Junior research groups at the Max-Planck-Institutes
(Dr. Tim Gollisch, <i>Head of the Visual Coding Junior Research Group at the Max Planck-Institute for Neurobiology, Martinsried, Germany</i>) |
| 15 min | Academic career paths in the US
(K. A. Blackwell, <i>Krasnow Institute of Advanced Studies, George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, USA</i>) |
| 15 min | The “ideal” Postdoc from a lab head’s perspective
(J. Bower, <i>Research Imaging Center University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio, Texas, USA</i>) |
| 15 min | Discussion |

The last two talks are planned to take place as an informal discussion.

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