

Organization For
Computational Neurosciences

Member Newsletter | February 2026 | Volume 9 No 2



35th Annual Computational Neuroscience Meeting
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
July 11th–15th, 2026



Message from the President

Thomas Nowotny, Professor of Informatics, University of Sussex, UK



Welcome to the latest edition of our OCNS newsletter. Last year, the annual CNS conference was held in Florence, the Cradle of the Renaissance. To fit the bill, we had a well-attended meeting with a lot of scientific energy. Our thanks go to the local organizers—Michele Migliore, Alessia Bonafede and, most importantly Sergio Solinas. Equally, many thanks to our Program Committee, led by Julie Haas, and the board of directors, without whose voluntary contributions the CNS conference would not be possible. You will find more information about the meeting in Florence inside the newsletter.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing directors, Max Garagnani, Dimitrios Pinotsis (Sponsorship chairs), Tatiana Kameneva (Registrations chair), Christopher French (Website/Infrastructure Chair), and Claudio Mirasso (Social Media Chair) for their dedicated service over the last three years. At the same time, we welcome new board members to continue the operations of OCNS (more inside the newsletter). Members of the board of directors are appointed through an annual election in the fall, and all OCNS members interested in contributing to the organisation and the CNS meetings are strongly encouraged to apply for election.

Finally, for this year's annual conference, CNS*2026, we return to the North American Continent for the first time since 2018. We will convene in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, in what is already promising to be another outstanding event. Tutorial and workshop proposals are looking strong, and registration is open! I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Halifax Convention Centre in July.

In this issue

- [Announcing CNS*2026 in Halifax](#)
 - [Updates from CNS*2025 Florence](#)
-

CNS*2026: Halifax, Canada July 11–15, 2026

Local Organizers: Thomas Trappenberg, Dalhousie University, Canada



**OCNS is excited to invite you to the
35th Annual Computational Neuroscience meeting
CNS*2026
in
Halifax, Canada from July 11–15, 2026.**

Registration and abstract submission is open!

[https://www.cnsorg.org/cns-2026-quick.](https://www.cnsorg.org/cns-2026-quick)

OCNS Board: 2026



Row 1: Thomas Nowotny, Leonid Rubchinsky, Volker Steuber, Gennady Cymbalyuk, Julie Haas.
Row 2: Shailesh Appukuttan*, Roman Baravalle, Demian Battaglia, Alexander Dimitrov, Skirmantas Janusonis.
Row 3: Kerstin Lenk, Eirini Mavritsaki, Albert Mazzoni, Robert McDougal, Michelle Moerel.
Row 4: Adam Newton, Trang Anh Nghiem, Rodrigo de Oliveira Pena, Athanasia Papoutsis, Maurizio de Pitta.
Row 5: Cesar Renno-Costa, Ausra Saudargiene, Ankur Sinha*, Sergio Solinas, Nada Yousif.
(*Student/post-doc members)

OCNS Board: New arrivals and members rotating off

The current **Board of Directors** consists of 25 elected and ex officio members. According to the **OCNS Bylaws**, **elections** are held to replace three or four outgoing directors each year. The board elects its officers. The duties carried out by members of the board can be seen **here**.

Terms for a number of Board members were renewed this year:

- Thomas Nowotny (President)
- Leonid Rubchinsky (Vice president)
- Gennady Cymbalyuk (Treasurer)

The following members have completed their terms and have rotated off at the end of 2025. OCNS thanks them for their service:

- Max Garagnani (Sponsorship chair)
- Dimitros Pinotsis (Sponsorship chair)
- Tatiana Kameneva (Registration chair)
- Christopher French (Webmaster)

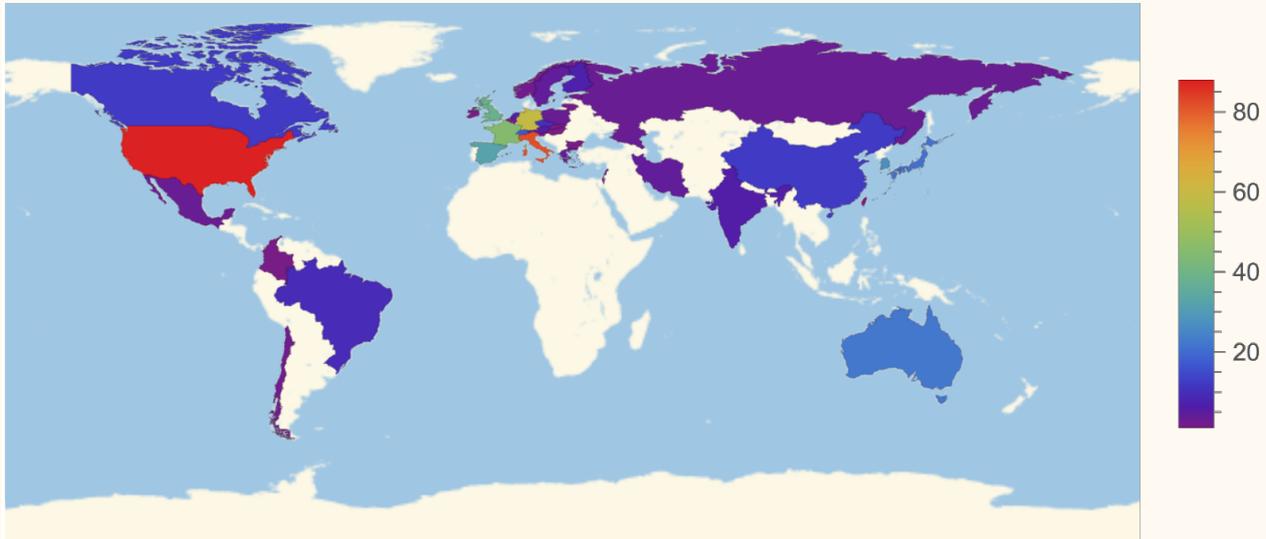
A number of new Board members were elected in the 2025 Elections, or have moved to new roles within the Board from 2026:

- Maurizio de Pitta (Sponsorship chair)
- Skirmantas Janusonis (Registration chair)
- Roman Baravalle (Newsletter chair)
- Ausra Saudargiene (Social media chair)
- Nada Yousif (Training & EDI chair)
- Cesar Renno-Costa (Travel awards chair)
- Trang Anh Nghiem (Membership chair)
- Adam Newton (Webmaster)
- Demian Battaglia (Workshops chair)
- Alexander Dimitrov (Tutorials chair)

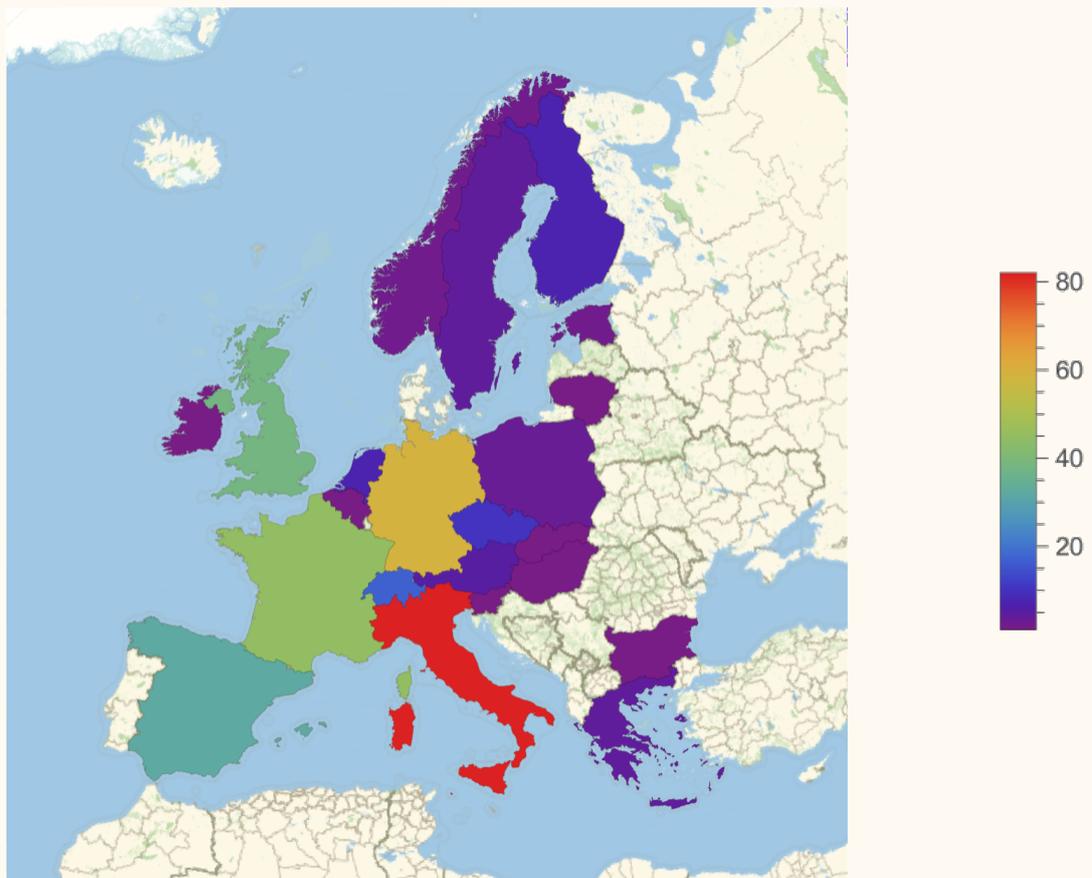
CNS*2025 Florence: in charts

Local Organizers: Michele Migliore, Institute of Biophysics, Palermo, Italy
Sergio Solinas, University of Sassari, Sassari, Italy
Alessia Bonafede, Italian National Research Council, Italy

Registrants (world):



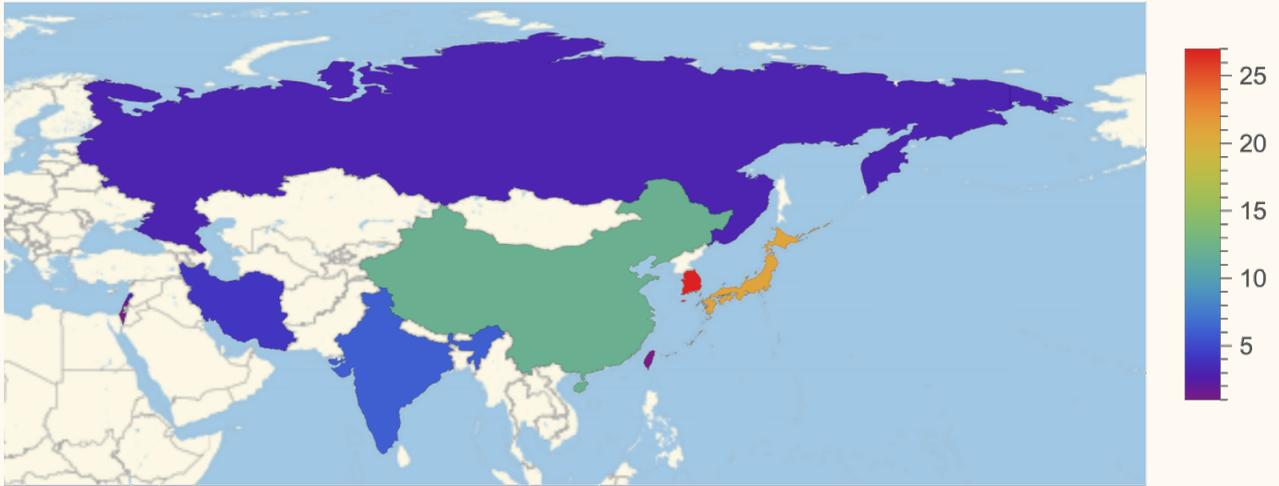
Registrants (Europe):



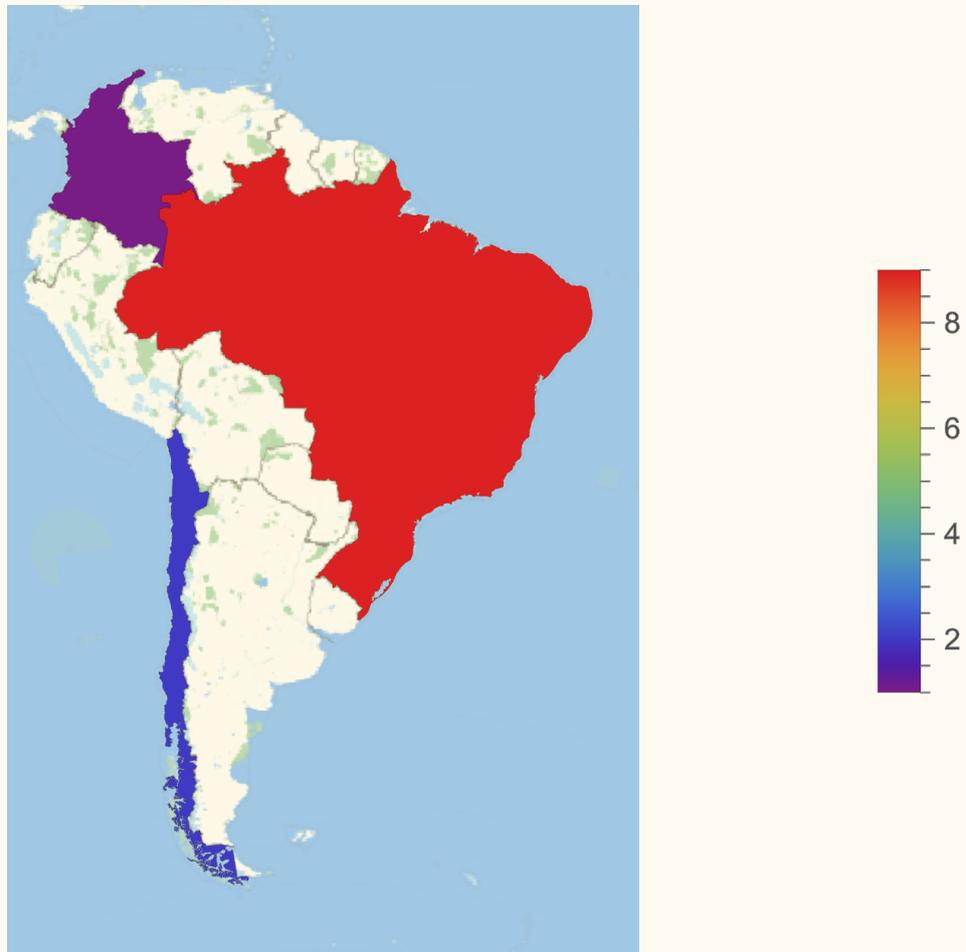
CNS*2025 Florence: in charts

Vice President/Secretary: Leonid Rubchinsky, Indiana University Indianapolis, USA
Tutorials Chair: Alberto Mazzone, Krembil Research Institute, Toronto, Canada
Workshops Chair: Athanasia Papoutsis, Newcastle University, UK
Infrastructure chair: Christopher French, University of Melbourne, Australia
Infrastructure chair: Robert McDougal, University of Melbourne, Australia
Treasurer: Gennady Cymbalyuk, Georgia State University, USA
Social Media Chair: Claudio Mirasso, Universitat De Les Illes Balears, Spain

Registrants (Asia):



Registrants (South America):



CNS*2025 Florence: From the Program Chair

Program Chair: Julie Haas, Lehigh University, USA



Many thanks to departing members Amelie Aussel, Dai Feng Wang and Ilia Kuzneitsov. This year we are excited to welcome Arezoo Alizadeh, Andre Peterson, Vasileios Christopoulos, Masanori Shimono, and Yunliang Zang who, along with the continuing members, have already selected a great slate of speakers for CNS*2026.

CNS*2025 Florence: Travel Awards

Travel Awards Chair: Michelle Moerel, Maastricht Centre for Systems Biology, Netherlands

A limited number of merit based travel awards, given based on review of summaries by the program committee, are available to presenting students and postdocs who are OCNS members. Women and members of other historically marginalized communities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics are particularly encouraged to apply. Applications for travel grants are to be submitted during the abstract submission process at the annual OCNS conference.



This year's travel awards were competitive, with many more excellent applicants than available funds. We were pleased to award 19 travel grants to participants from all over the world:

- Giovanni Rabuffo
- Jeeyune (Jiyoun) Jung
- Alicia Garrido-Pena
- Moein Khajehnejad
- Deyue Kong
- Lida Kanari
- Ziling Wang
- Sara Kamali
- Eirini Troullinou
- Michael Deistler
- Ryo Nakatani
- Merlin Pelz
- Alejandro Rodriguez-Garcia
- Saeed Farjami
- Subhadra Mokashe
- Jeonghwan Cheon
- Dominique Hughes
- Anastasios-Polykarpos Athanasiadis

OCNS conference proceedings

Publications Chair: Shailesh Appukuttan, CRMBM & INT, Aix-Marseille University, France



Proceedings from the annual CNS conferences are published by the end of the year annually. Links to proceedings from previous conferences are below:

• **CNS 2025 Florence (Introduction)**

• **CNS 2024 Natal (Introduction)**

Proceedings from previous conferences are archived on the website here:

<https://www.cnsorg.org/annual-meeting-publications>.

OCNS Membership

Membership Chair: Rodrigo de Oliveira Pena, Florida Atlantic University, US

The OCNS membership consists of:

| Member type | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Student | 228 | 139 | 185 | 182 | 212 |
| Post-doc/not-for-profit employee | 137 | 93 | 135 | 118 | 141 |
| Faculty/for-profit employee | 257 | 179 | 215 | 209 | 217 |
| Total | 625 | 401 | 535 | 509 | 570 |

Membership Benefits

OCNS members enjoy a number of rights and **benefits**:

- Reduced conference registration fees
- Eligibility for travel awards
- Nomination and voting rights for OCNS director elections
- Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
- Computational neuroscience schools
- Submission of extra abstract to the conference
- Free access to Springer encyclopedia
- Reduced journal subscription fees
- Book discounts

Membership Renewal

To **renew** your OCNS membership, please login at www.cnsorg.org to pay your OCNS dues. Please note that renewing with a multiple year membership will reduce your costs:

| Member type | One year | Two years | Three years |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| Student | 10 USD | 15 USD | 20 USD |
| Post-doc/not-for-profit employee | 20 USD | 30 USD | 40 USD |
| Faculty/for-profit employee | 50 USD | 75 USD | 100 USD |

Please contact the Membership Chair at membership@cnsorg.org before you pay your dues if:

- You are uncertain which category is appropriate for you.

- Your employment status has changed.
 - *If you believe that special circumstances prohibit you from paying the full dues.*
-

Membership type definitions:

- **Student:** Anybody studying toward an undergraduate or graduate degree.
- **Postdoc/not-for-profit employee:** Anybody who is employed as a postdoctoral scholar or postdoctoral fellow, and anybody who is employed in a university lab or non-industry research institute as a technician or research assistant not seeking a degree.
- **Faculty/for-profit employee:** Anybody who is employed as faculty, laboratory head, independent researcher, or in an equivalent position, and anybody who is employed in industry or for-profit institutions
- Retired persons should apply for or remain in their pre-retirement category.

Frontiers in Computational Neuroscience partnership

Submit a Research Topic idea to Frontiers in Computational Neuroscience

Are you passionate about a specific area of computational neuroscience? Submit your idea and become a Topic Editor of an OCNS Research Topic—a collaborative article collection hosted by Frontiers in Computational Neuroscience.

Who can become a Topic Editor?

Researchers who have completed a PhD are eligible to edit a Research Topic in Frontiers in Computational Neuroscience. If you have not completed a PhD but are interested in a Topic Coordinator role, you are also welcome to complete this form. The role is similar to a Topic Editor position, but you will not handle manuscripts during peer review.

Why host a Research Topic?

By leading one of our expert-led article collections, you will benefit from:

- A free editorial article
- A full APC waiver dedicated to your Research Topic (specific advantage if you edit an OCNS society led collection)
- Networking and collaboration with experts in your field
- A downloadable e-book summarizing your Topic (when 10+ articles are published)

We are especially keen to receive proposals from OCNS members who want to help advance the field of computational neuroscience.

Please use the link below to submit a topic:

https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/j360CQ5WAhVr7MLTxflIG_wZD?domain=forms.gle

International Neuroinformatics Co-ordinating Facility (INCF)

A collaborative network for open, FAIR, and citable neuroscience



enabling open and
FAIR neuroscience

The mission of INCF network is to promote the uptake of FAIR data management practices in neuroscience through the development of standards and best practices that support open, FAIR, and citable neuroscience. Specifically, the network aims to:

- Provide coordination of global neuroscience infrastructure through the development and endorsement of standards and best practices in support of open and FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) neuroscience
- Support neuroscience as discipline to move towards FORCE (FAIR, Open, Research-object based, and Citable Ecosystem) through the development of community resources and the provision of training opportunities
- Encourage neuroscience as discipline to move towards FORCE
- Promote the advancement and continued development of neuroinformatics

INCF provides a community environment which has developed over the past decade with the engagement of neuroscience, neuroinformatics, and data science researchers, tool developers, and infrastructure developers from academic groups across the globe. This environment has proven conducive to initiating standardization efforts between not just the large brain projects but within the global neuroscience community as a whole.

Connect with INCF



@INCFOrg



@INCF



@INCF

[Subscribe to the INCF newsletter](#)

[Become a member](#)

Why should you support INCF?

There is a very real need for coordination of global neuroscience data, which is satisfied by the activities of the INCF network. Standardizing global neuroscience can be done in a cost-effective manner but it cannot be done without support. Support for infrastructures such as INCF is crucial, and granting agencies must allow and encourage grantees to participate in activities such as the INCF network in order to develop and implement data management and data sharing workflows. The responsibility lies not only on funders: we, the neuroscience community, have as much responsibility for collecting and curating data as we do to ensure data can be effectively shared. Participating in the INCF network is an opportunity to build the capacity that will enable neuroscience teams to take on this data sharing responsibility.

OCNS is a proud institutional member of the INCF.

Neuromatch

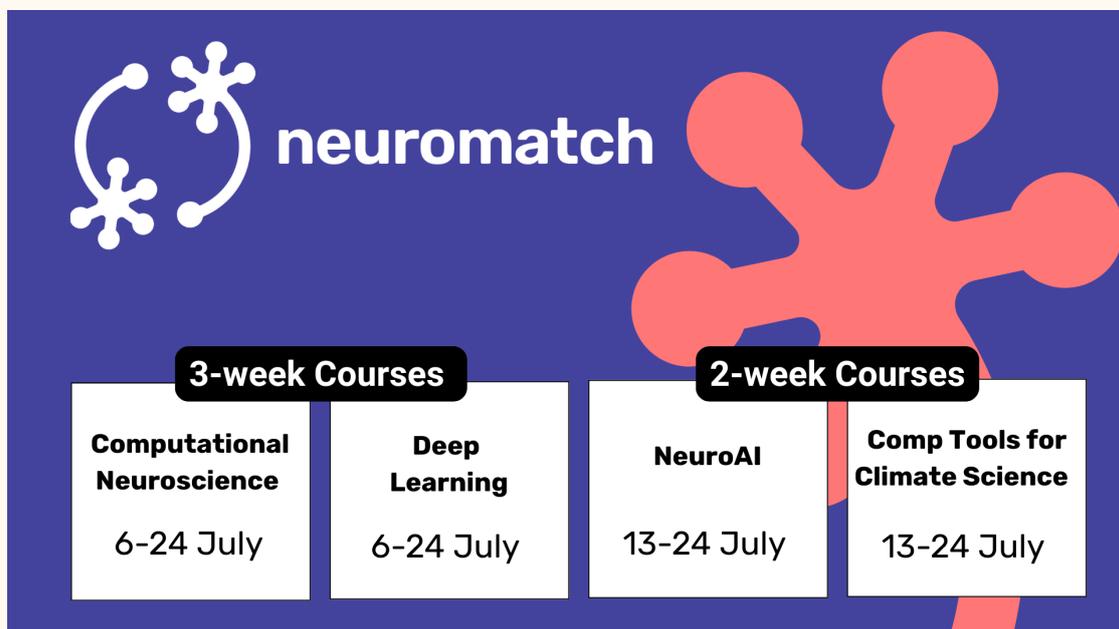
Enabling inclusive collaborative and global participation in the computational sciences



Neuromatch is a nonprofit organization (registered as a 501(c)(3) in the U.S.) training the next generation of global computational research leaders.

Neuromatch Academy

Applications for our Neuromatch Academy open 16 February until 15 March. Neuromatch run virtual courses in Computational Neuroscience, NeuroAI, Deep Learning, and Computational Tools for Climate Science in July. More information at: <https://neuromatch.io/courses/>.



The graphic displays the Neuromatch logo and the word 'neuromatch' in white on a dark blue background. To the right is a large red stylized brain icon. Below the logo, two categories of courses are listed:

| 3-week Courses | | 2-week Courses | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Computational Neuroscience | Deep Learning | NeuroAI | Comp Tools for Climate Science |
| 6-24 July | 6-24 July | 13-24 July | 13-24 July |

Connect with Neuromatch



Support OCNS

Sponsorship Chairs: **Maurizio de Pitta, University of Toronto, Canada**



OCNS is a non-profit organization supporting the international computational neuroscience community. Our annual meetings draw ~500 attendees from a variety of backgrounds: physics, mathematics, computer science, biology, medicine, engineering, and others. We seek sponsorship from corporate and philanthropic organizations to support the annual OCNS meeting. We have predefined levels of sponsorship and are also happy accommodate specific requests:

- **Silver: USD 2000**
- **Gold: USD 3000**
- **Platinum: USD 5000**

Sponsor names and logos with links to sponsor websites will be featured in the program and on the OCNS website. Sponsors may also send attendees to the meeting. These attendees will have access to the main meeting, the conference banquet, and workshops at no cost for Gold and Platinum level sponsorships. Gold and Platinum level sponsors may also host booths in central meeting foyer or provide leaflets and posters to be displayed.

Additional opportunities for specific acknowledgements may include (we will work with you to create a suitable package):

- Advertisements in the program.
- Sponsorship of a specific plenary talk or specific session.
- Sponsorship of a specific workshop or tutorial.
- Sponsorship of the banquet.

Past sponsors include MetaCell, MathWorks, Springer Nature, BrainCorp, Neuralynx, CRC Press, Bernstein Network, eLife, Frontiers, INCF, NSF, MIT Press, and many others.

We also seek financial support through **donations and endowments** from individuals and corporations to promote computational neuroscience around the world. You may make a private donation by check to our **mailing address**, directed to the OCNS Treasurer. If you would like to discuss how you can contribute differently or to target a donation, please contact the OCNS President directly.

OCNS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit/charitable organization registered in the USA. Sponsorship is tax-deductible to the extent provided by the US tax laws. Gifts and contributions can be deducted except for the amount of waived registration fee.

Please contact the Sponsorship Chairs at sponsorship@cnsorg.org for information on **supporting OCNS**.

Sponsored by



METACELL

Thank you to OCNS for hosting an excellent annual meeting, and to everyone who connected with MetaCell, attended our presentation and joined our event. It was great catching up with friends and partners in Natal, and we were proud sponsors of the meeting!

If you're interested in new ways to standardize, visualize, share, and build your computational models, please visit metacell.us and get in touch with our team.

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Please contact the Newsletter Chair, Ankur Sinha, at newsletter@cnsorg.org for any contributions, corrections, clarifications, comments, and remarks.