



The BRAINet SYNAPSE

BRAINet is a friends group of the OHSU Brain Institute (OBI) that helps build community awareness, interest, and support for neuroscience research at OHSU.

BRAINet Synapse Newsletter

November 2016

President's Message

*By Helen Richardson,
BRAINet President*

Hello BRAINet Members,

What an informative lecture we had in October. Dr. David Spencer helped us understand the dynamics of epilepsy as well as the most recent approaches to treatment and graciously responded to the audience's numerous questions.

Your BRAINet Board of Directors is planning our activities for the next couple of years and would like to know some of your thoughts and ideas. For that reason we are asking those who attend our November luncheon to plan on staying an extra

15 minutes after the lecture. At that time one or two Board members will take seats at all the luncheon tables and ask a series of questions designed to elicit your opinions and feelings. We will then incorporate what you tell us into our planning process.

We are excited about hearing from you and hope you are enthusiastic about helping us in our planning process.

See you in November!

Regards,

Helen Richardson, President



**Not sure if you've
renewed your
membership dues?**

Feel free to call or email Kate Stout
to confirm your status:
(503) 494-0885
stoutk@ohsu.edu

**We look forward to a voter
turn-out like no other!**

November Lecture Luncheon

This month we will have our lecture luncheon on the *second* Monday so as to avoid the Thanksgiving holiday week. Join us on **Monday, November 14, at 11:30 a.m.** at the Multnomah Athletic Club for a lecture from Dr. Robert Hitzemann titled: "Neuroscience: Past, Present and Future."



Dr. Hitzemann is professor and outgoing chair of the department of Behavioral Neuroscience. The goal of his research is to understand how genes regulate complex behaviors, particularly complex drug-induced behaviors.

11:30 Registration and Lunch Served
12:00-1:00 Lecture

Cost

\$25 Members

\$25 Guests of Members

\$30 Non-Members

To register and pre-pay to secure your reservation (you can renew your membership at the same time!), please visit:

<https://goo.gl/Oktc3G>

Registration will close at midnight on Wednesday, November 9.

This month we will be served Chicken Pot Pie.

Brain in the News

by George Ivan Smith, BRAINet member

From infancy we learn by observing and mimicking others. The individual neurons that support observational learning have been pinpointed in a recent study, according to a report in the Oct. 2016 issue of *Brain in the News*. Dr. Itzhak Fried, senior author, noted that "observational learning is the cornerstone for our ability to change behavior. It's human nature to want to learn from other people's mistakes rather than commit your own."

Before the study, Fried implanted electrodes deep inside patients' brains, part of a standard treatment for epilepsy, and used in this study to let researchers record the activity of individual neurons in the brains of 10 people playing a card game.

Players drew a card from one of two decks, one that included 70% of the winning cards, and the other that contained 30%. Each person took turns choosing cards on his or her own then watched two other players draw cards from the same deck. Learning from their own and other players' choices, participants quickly learned the better deck.

The researchers found that individual neurons deep in the frontal lobe reacted as the players considered whether they or their opponents would draw a winning card.

The anterior cingulate cortex is a region important to high-level decision making, reward anticipation, social interaction and emotion. The same cells changed their response after the players discovered whether their prediction was accurate, reflecting their learning process.

"The anterior cingulate cortex acts as the central executive of human decision-making, yet we know little about the neuronal machinery at this level," said Fried.

See: <https://goo.gl/aaaXXq>

Reminder: Notice of Elections

We will hold annual elections for BRAINet board members on November 14 at the lecture luncheon. Please note that all board members are up for election.

All paid members as of November 14 are eligible to vote.

President:

Helen Richardson

Vice President and President Elect:

Lee Golden

Secretary:

Vacant

Treasurer:

Tracy Morgan

Members-at-Large:

Ellyn Arwood

Michael Campbell

Jim Cereghino

Nancy DeGraw

Kathryn Hansman-Spice

Roger Meyer

Patsy O'Shea

Wayne Schweinfest

Vacant



OREGONCAREPARTNERS

Creating a Culture of Quality Care

Oregon Care Partners Offering Free Trainings for Oregon Caregivers

Are you caring for an aging loved one? Oregon Care Partners provides free trainings on a wide variety of topics to help you with common caregiving challenges like managing anger or other challenging behaviors, managing medications, or caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia. In-person classes are held around the state and led by caring professionals who understand the needs of family caregivers. All trainings are completely free of charge thanks to funding from the State of Oregon. The following free, in-person classes are being offered in your area in November. To register for classes, visit www.OregonCarePartners.com or call 1-800-930-6851.

Reminder

OHSU Brain Institute Forum and Annual Meeting
THE MEETING OF THE MINDS

Clinicians and Researchers Dialogue

with presentations from



Marc Freeman, Ph.D.
Director, The Vollum Institute



Bitia Moghaddam, Ph.D.
Incoming Chair, Department
of Behavioral Neuroscience

Friday, November 18, 2016

The program will include lectures from Marc Freeman, Bitia Moghaddam, and Tarvez Tucker, followed by the announcement of the Art of Neuroscience winners and a light reception with faculty and staff.

(BRAINet Members Only)

Contact [Kate Stout](#) for more information on time and location.

BRAINet Contacts:

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