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

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CNS*2024 Natal: Report from Local Organizer

Cesar

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CNS*2024 Natal: Messages from Volunteers

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CNS*2024 Natal: Pictures

See all the pictures online here https://photos.app.goo.gl/YtpTN6ui4ap6P8Bz6.

CNS*2024 Natal: Travel Awards

Michelle

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.

CNS*2024 Natal: Feedback form Summary

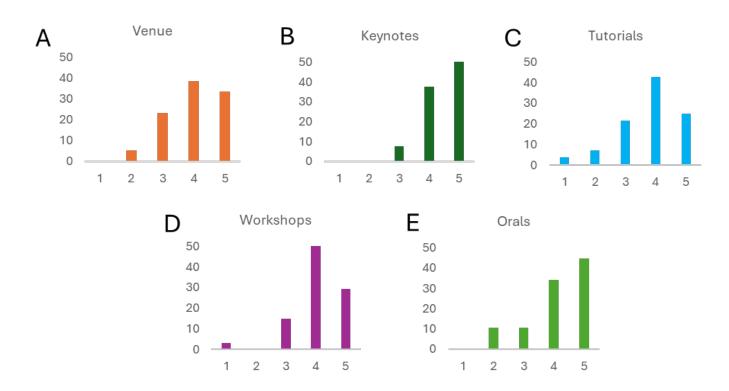


Figure 1: Summary of participant feedback, CNS*2024

We received 42 responses on the Participant Feedback Survey distributed at the end of CNS*2024. Overall, the feedback has been positive. The data is presented in Figure 1 above, with 5 being the highest rating.

Most people have enjoyed the venue: 71% gave 4 or 5 rating in this category (Figure 1 A). Attendees commented highly on the quality of the keynote speakers: 55% gave the highest (5) rating in this category (Figure 1 B). The common theme was a commendation to the local organizers for catering, efficiency, and airport pickup; while the AV, staff English proficiency, and the small space allocated for posters received mostly negative comments.

Tutorials had mixed reviews: 10% of the attendees submitted the rating less than average satisfaction (1 or 2), while most people, 42%, gave the rating 4 (Figure 1 C). No comments were provided.

The attendance at the workshops varied. Some workshops received very high praise; 80% of people gave ratings 4 or 5, with comments such as "very interesting topics", "amazing", "excellent session" (Figure 1 D). While other workshops left attendees dissatisfied, with suggestions to reduce the number of parallel sessions to boost the attendance.

Overall, 79% attendees enjoyed oral presentations and gave the ratings 4 or 5, while 21% rated the presentation as satisfactory (3) or below (2), Figure 1 E. Positive comments included "OCNS is superb in supporting young scientist's careers". Suggestions for improvements included more talks on data-driven, deep learning-based approaches. We thank everybody for their feedback that will be taken into account when organizing CNS*2025.

OCNS Initiatives: Software Working Group

Marcel Stimberg Ankur Sinha

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OCNS Initiatives: Mentoring Program Updates

Eirini

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OCNS: New Program Committee

Julie

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OCNS: Elections

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CNS*2025 Florence

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OCNS: Member Updates: Scientific Items

Updates of scientific interest from OCNS members

- Benjamin Ellenberger, Paul Haider, Jakob Jordan, Kevin Max, Ismael Jaras, Laura Kriener, Federico Benitez, and Mihai A Petrovici. "Backpropagation through space, time, and the brain". In: arXiv preprint arXiv:2403.16933 (2024). URL: https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2403.16933
- Kevin Max, Laura Kriener, Garibaldi Pineda García, Thomas Nowotny, Ismael Jaras, Walter Senn, and Mihai A Petrovici. "Learning efficient backprojections across cortical hierarchies in real time". In: Nature Machine Intelligence (2024), pp. 1–12. URL: https://doi.org/10.1038/s42256-024-00845-3

OCNS: Member Updates: Community Development

Updates related to community development from OCNS members

The Capo Caccia Worskhops toward Neuromorphic Intelligence

https://capocaccia.cc/en/event/ccnw24/landing-page/

The goal of the CCNW workshops is to promote the neuromorphic approach to designing technologies, establish an international community, and to encourage collaboration amongst small groups, in order to achieve the kind of technical advances which could only otherwise happen in well-funded industrial labs.

The CCNW has an open format, whose intention is to encourage creativity and exploration of ideas and projects in a relaxed and intellectually open environment. Although there is a skeleton program that sets a default route through the two weeks, ad hoc deviations from or elaborations of this basic program are encouraged. Discussion groups and projects arise dynamically. There are no formal lectures. Instead, the morning consist of two 1.5 hr discussion sessions in which a few discussants will make short contributions to the topics in order to ignite more general interaction. Although the sessions of the skeleton program have assigned moderators and discussants, these persons should also be seen as defaults. Whiteboards and overhead tablets are available for drawings. Formal presentations with prepared media (such as Powerpoint slides) are strictly forbidden. The daily program includes a late afternoon sports break, and happy hour.

The Lu.i educational neurons

https://physiologie.unibe.ch/~petrovici/group/lui.aspx

With an increasing presence of science throughout all parts of society, there is a rising expectation for researchers to effectively communicate their work and, equally, for teachers to discuss contemporary findings in their classrooms. While the community can resort to an established set of teaching aids for the fundamental concepts of most natural sciences, there is a need for similarly illustrative experiments and demonstrators in neuroscience. We therefore introduce Lu.i: a parametrizable electronic implementation of the leaky-integrate-and-fire neuron model in an engaging form factor. These palm-sized neurons can be used to visualize and experience the dynamics of individual cells and small spiking neural networks. When stimulated with real or simulated sensory input, Lu.i demonstrates brain-inspired information processing in the hands of a student. As such, it is actively used at workshops, in class-rooms, and for science communication. As a versatile tool for teaching and outreach, Lu.i nurtures the comprehension of neuroscience research and neuromorphic engineering among future generations of scientists and in the general public.

Messages from our Sponsors

Short messages from OCNS sponsors

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.

INCF Updates

Helena/Matthew

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