

THE TRIANGLE TRANSMITTER

Triangle SfN Chapter Reactivated!

Dear Colleagues and Friends of Neuroscience,

It is a great pleasure to announce the reinstatement of the Triangle Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience (SfN). The Triangle area is home to some of the top US universities and research institutes for neuroscience and is consistently ranked as a top region in the country for its concentration of life science companies. We strongly believe that with so many resources in our area we can have a significant impact by educating the public, legislators, and local officials. In doing so, we aim to improve science policy in our state and beyond. There is good reason for neuroscience to be such a hot topic and now, more than ever, it needs to be promoted both amongst the scientific community and the public. Promoting neuroscience research and fostering collaborations within our community are amongst our top goals for the Triangle Chapter of SfN. To achieve our goals, we need your help.

I would like to ask you to join the Chapter and encourage your colleagues and students to do so as well. You do not need to be a national member of Society for Neuroscience to join our local Chapter. By joining you will enjoy our networking socials and scientific outreach activities and meet people with similar interests. You will have the opportunity to participate on our committees, and, above all, you will be able to share your discoveries with our community.

Warm regards,

Amir H. Rezvani, PhD

President, Triangle SfN Chapter

Plan to attend the Triangle SfN Social at SfN 2014 in Washington, DC!

Who: Neuroscientists and friends from North Carolina

What: Sponsored social event at the annual SfN meeting in Washington, DC

Where: Renaissance Hotel, Meeting Room #5

When: Tuesday, November 18th, 6:30 pm

For more details and to RSVP:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/trianglesfn>

This event is co-sponsored by the Western and Triangle Society for Neuroscience Chapters

NOVEMBER 2014

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Congressman David Price Meets with Triangle Neuroscientists

On September 2nd, 2014, the newly reinstated North Carolina Triangle Chapter of the Society of Neuroscience hosted a town hall meeting with Congressman David Price (D-NC) to discuss the federal research funding crisis and science policy. Students, post-docs, faculty and research professionals from local universities and institutions, including Duke University, North Carolina State University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) were in attendance. In his opening remarks, Congressman Price reminded everyone about the important role NIH-funded research plays in national, state and local economics. The Congressman, a long time supporter of science, was named a “Champion of Science” by the Science Coalition in 2002 and recognized as “Legislator of the Year” for 2010-2011 by the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO).

Congressman Price supports the effort to double funding for NIH over five years as a member of the U.S. House of Representative Appropriations Committee. During his discussion, Congressman Price shared his recent amendment proposal to increase funds for the National Science Foundation for the 2015 fiscal year. Unfortunately, the proposal was not adopted despite bipartisan support for scientific research.

Congressman Price concluded by emphasizing the need for a comprehensive fiscal plan to balance the budget, which includes increasing research funding. Taken together, Congressman Price’s remarks are the latest sign that Washington is at least aware that there is a research funding crisis.

-- Tara Ann Cartwright, PhD



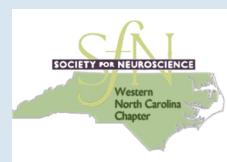
Congressman David Price with Triangle Chapter members (from left): Leah Townsend; Mamta Behl, PhD; Chintan Oza, PhD; Amir Rezvani, PhD; Congressman Price; Shannon Farris, PhD; Charlotte Boettiger, PhD; and Patricia Jensen, PhD.
(Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)

Speaker Exchange Program: Bridging the NC SfN Chapters

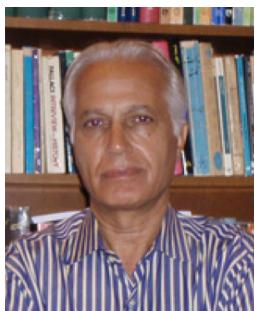
The Triangle and Western SfN Chapters have joined together to establish a new Speaker Exchange Program (SEP) program designed to enhance communication between SfN chapters throughout North Carolina.

Through the SEP, Triangle SfN members have the opportunity to present a talk during the Western Chapter Seminar series, which will be held on Thursdays at 11 am at Wake Forest University. Currently, there are multiple dates available for

speakers between January and April 2015. If you are interested in presenting a talk at WFU or hosting a member of the Western NC SfN Chapter for a seminar in the Triangle, please contact Triangle SfN at TriangleSfNchapter@gmail.com.



Meet the Executive Board



Amir Rezvani (President)

Amir Rezvani received his BS and MS in Biological Sciences, his Ms. Ed. in Science Education, and his PhD in Neurophysiology. He is currently a Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Psychology & Neuroscience

at Duke University. He is also a member of the Duke Institute of Brain Sciences (DIBS) and holds an adjunct faculty position at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work. Amir's primary area of research involves understanding the neurobiology of addiction and cognitive functions and drug development for addiction. His passion is promoting public awareness of addiction as a brain disease via public speaking and workshops as well as teaching at Duke. As the elected president of our chapter, Amir's main goal is to find ways to foster collaborations between members and to enhance the visibility of neuroscience in the Triangle community by educating the public about the science of the brain and its implications in our lives.

Patricia Jensen (President-Elect)



Patricia is a tenure-track investigator at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). She was recruited to the NIEHS in late 2009, where she heads the Developmental Neurobiology Group. Her group studies how diversity

arises among functionally distinct subtypes of noradrenergic neurons, and how the fates and functions of these different subtypes are altered following genetic and environmental perturbations during development. She is committed to the success of the Triangle Chapter and its role in effectively communicating the importance of neuroscience research to the public and policymakers.



Mamta Behl (Secretary/Treasurer)

Mamta Behl is currently a Neurotoxicologist in the Division of the National Toxicology Program (DNTP) at the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), RTP. Mamta received her B.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences (B.Pharm) from Mumbai University, India, MS in Psychological Sciences (Learning & Memory) and PhD in toxicology (neurotoxicology) from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. Thereafter, she completed her post-doctoral fellowship in the Toxicology Branch at the DNTP. Fulfilling the roles of both Secretary and Treasurer of Triangle SfN Chapter, Mamta's goal is to reach out to fellow neuroscientists in the Triangle area to gain insight into novel developments and share ideas for progress in the field, and to promote and encourage students and post-doctoral fellows in career advancement.



Charlotte Boettiger (Council Member)

Charlotte Boettiger is an Assistant Professor in the UNC Department of Psychology & the Biomedical Research Imaging Center, where she uses cognitive neuroscience tools to study addiction. She studied

Biology at UC Berkeley and received her PhD in Neuroscience from UCSF. Her lab is focused on determining the neurobiological bases of "intermediate phenotypes" – essentially sub-trait – of addiction, and the brain mechanisms of addiction treatments. Through exciting neuroimaging, pharmacological, and genetic approaches, Charlotte's lab aims to make discoveries that improve treatment and prevention of these common and debilitating neurobehavioral disorders. She is also a faculty member of the UNC Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies. Charlotte's work is currently

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supported by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences, and The Foundation for Alcohol Research. In collaboration with a UNC Movement Disorders Fellow, she spends her spare time on a longitudinal study of cognitive development.



Chintan Oza (Council Member)

Chintan Oza is a Postdoctoral Associate in the laboratory of Dr. Warren Grill in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Duke University. His current research focus is on understanding the relationship between abnormal neural oscillatory activity and the symptoms of movement disorders and to improve the effectiveness of Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) through the design of novel stimulation patterns in rodents and patients. Chintan has a PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Drexel University, PA where he studied cortical plasticity associated with spinal cord injury and robotic rehabilitation in rodents. Chintan also has a Master's degree in Biomedical Engineering from Columbia University, NY and a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Nirma Institute of Technology, India. Chintan chose to serve on the council to represent and enhance participation of the Neuroengineering researchers in the Triangle region. Chintan also serves as the Chair of the Sponsorship committee.



Leah Townsend (Council Member)

Leah Townsend is currently working on her PhD in Neurobiology under Dr. Spencer Smith at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Leah graduated from UNC-CH in 2011, receiving both a BS in psychology and a BA in philosophy. Her

research interests center on developing neural circuitry, especially how development is perturbed in neurodevelopmental disorders. As the student representative on the Executive Council, Leah's goal is to add a graduate student perspective to the decisions of the council while also bringing her experience working with other professional societies to the table.



Shannon Farris (Chapter Representative)

Shannon moved to the Triangle 2 years ago from southern California to do her postdoctoral work with Serena Dudek at the NIEHS. Her research interests include activity-regulated gene expression underlying learning and local protein synthesis in dendrites. This past summer, Shannon led the efforts to reactivate the Triangle Chapter as part of her SfN early career policy fellowship. She is elated that the Chapter has been able to bring together such a diverse group of scientists, from all career stages, to increase the awareness of neuroscience research being done in the Triangle.

Triangle Neuroscientist Spotlight

Have you or a colleague recently published some exciting findings? Received an award? Been featured on the cover of a journal? Have something you want to share with the neuroscience community in the Triangle? The communications committee is looking to highlight local neuroscientists and to spread awareness of the tremendous research being done right here in the Triangle. Contact us at TriangleSfNNews@gmail.com to let us know what you're working on - we'd love to feature you in our next newsletter!

Want to Get Involved with Triangle SFN?

As the Triangle SfN Chapter continues to grow, there are plenty of opportunities to become involved! If you're interested in joining any of the committees below, or if you have a great idea for a project or activity you'd like to see Triangle SfN sponsor, please contact us! We understand that you may not be able to commit to being a full-time committee member – but if you're interested in helping out on even a single event, or have other ideas about how you'd like to get involved, please don't hesitate to send us a message.

Programming Committee

Love to plan events? Want to be involved in the planning of our annual Spring Meeting? Have great ideas for advocacy or outreach events? The programming committee is looking for passionate volunteers to help develop and coordinate future events.

Communications Committee

Do you love to write, and want to contribute to the quarterly newsletter or the website? The Communications Committee is looking for volunteers to contribute creative content. We're looking for regular contributors as well as one-off pieces – if you have a great idea for a single feature you'd like to see in the newsletter or on the website, please email us at TriangleSfNNews@gmail.com.

Sponsorship Committee

In order to continue to host successful events, including town-hall advocacy forums and social activities with our sister chapters, the sponsorship committee is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help contact vendors and solicit donations. Money raised by the Sponsorship Committee will also be used for scholarships and travel awards to the annual SfN meeting.

Save the Date for the Spring Meeting: Friday, April 10th 2015



The Spring Meeting will be held at the RTP Headquarters.

You must be a Triangle SfN Chapter member to submit an abstract and be eligible for the travel award! See page 6 for information on how to become a member.

The reactivated Triangle SfN Chapter will be hosting its first annual Spring Meeting and poster session at the RTP Headquarters in April 2015.

In addition to featuring talks from both national and local speakers, this event will allow Triangle SfN members the opportunity to network and discuss their own work at a poster session and reception.

Encore presentations of posters from SfN 2014 are encouraged. The top two posters (one graduate student and one post-doc) will receive a travel award for SfN 2015, to be held in Chicago, Illinois.

Abstract submission will be open from February 1st, 2015 to February 27th, 2014; stay tuned for more information. Space is limited, so plan to submit your abstract early!

Interested in Advertising through Triangle SfN?

Have your message seen by hundreds of neuroscientists and their colleagues throughout the Triangle region – contact us today (TriangleSfNChapter@gmail.com) to learn about sponsorship and advertising opportunities.

NORTH CAROLINA TRIANGLE CHAPTER SOCIETY FOR NEUROSCIENCE

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES FOR 2014

Annual Dues:

Regular Membership: \$20.00/year or \$50.00/3 years

Student Membership: \$5.00/year or \$12.00/3 years

Partner Membership: \$25.00/year or \$60.00/3 years

**Membership in Triangle SfN
does not require membership in
National SFN**

Name: _____

Position: _____

Dept. & Institution: _____

Office Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

CHECK ONE

Regular:	1 year	\$20.00 (<input type="checkbox"/>)	Student:	1 year	\$5.00 (<input type="checkbox"/>)
	3 years	\$50.00 (<input type="checkbox"/>)		3 years	\$12.00 (<input type="checkbox"/>)
Partner:	1 year	\$25.00 (<input type="checkbox"/>)			
	3 years	\$60.00 (<input type="checkbox"/>)			

Date: _____

Dues payable by cash, check or paypal (TriangleSfNChapter@gmail.com)

Return your payment and this form to:

Dr. Shannon Farris
Chapter Representative
111 T.W. Alexander Dr.
Mail Drop F2-04
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

**Please make checks payable to:
SfN NC Triangle Chapter**

KEEP IN TOUCH!

General questions and comments:
TriangleSfNChapter@gmail.com

Facebook:
facebook.com/groups/trianglesfn

Communications committee:
TriangleSfNNews@gmail.com

LinkedIn:
[Society for Neuroscience Triangle Chapter](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1117113/)

Twitter: [@Triangle_SfN](https://twitter.com/Triangle_SfN)

Website: <http://www.trianglesfn.org>