

SfN Reaches K-12 Teachers at 2007 NSTA Conference

Since 2003, the Society for Neuroscience has maintained a strong presence at the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) National Conference on Science Education. The annual event represents one of the Society's largest public education efforts and illustrates its commitment to connecting with K-12 teachers in an effort to infuse neuroscience content in educational programs.

This year's NSTA conference took place March 29 through April 1, 2007 in St. Louis, Mo., attracting nearly 10,000 attendees. The Society partnered with NIH and other biomedical research institutions and organizations to form the "Research Zone" in the exhibit hall. Staffing the exhibit for SfN were members of the Public Education and Communication Committee (PECC), neuroscience students from the Washington University, and SfN staff. There, the Society's educational resources were distributed to K-12 educators, science educator coordinators, and university faculty who prepare future teachers.

SfN President David Van Essen spent time at the exhibit and also attended one of SfN's three sponsored workshops. Workshop proposals were solicited from members and selected by the PECC. Each was presented by a neuroscientist-teacher pair. Participants in the workshops were led



SfN member James Churchill of St. Louis University in a discussion about neuroscience education with a teacher at the NSTA Conference.

through hands-on neuroscience education activities (such as blindfolded taste tests and computer simulations) that could be translated to the classroom.

SfN members will be asked to submit workshop ideas for the 2008 NSTA conference in Boston. Please check future Society publications for details about this and other public education initiatives. ■

SfN Partners with the National Science Olympiad Tournament

The Society for Neuroscience sponsored two events at the 2007 Science Olympiad National Tournament, which took place May 18 – 19, 2007 at Wichita State University in Kansas. Approximately 5,000 people were in attendance as 15-member teams of middle and high school students competed in 46 different academic events. More than 14,000 schools in all 50 states field Science Olympiad teams, who train and compete in local and state events throughout the year.

SfN contributed a special award to the team with the highest score in the Health Science event, which included a neuroscience component. Public Education and Communication Committee member James Churchill represented SfN at the awards ceremony, presenting a trophy and certificates to the team from Centerville High School in Centerville, Ohio.

SfN member James Olson is a scientist coach for the Centerville team. The award entitles two members of the team and coach Penny Valenti to attend Neuroscience 2007 in San Diego.

The next national tournament will be held in May 2008 at



The competitors of the 2007 Science Olympiad National Competition, including the two Health and Science winners, Hassan Kamran and Kyle Lyman.

George Washington University in Washington, DC. SfN members are encouraged to get involved by helping their local teams prepare for the competition. For more information, please visit www.sfn.org/so. ■