



# The Voice of Neuroscience in the UK Today

# Why support the British Neuroscience Association?

- Help deliver our ambitious strategy to place brain research high on the agenda of the life science policy makers and key opinion formers in the UK.
- Support our work to drive forward research that addresses key issues affecting the performance and health of UK business and their employees.
- Benefit from your sponsorship of our Association through unique networking, marketing and profile building opportunities within the UK life science community.

## Why Neuroscience Matters

Now is an exciting time for neuroscience, and UK neuroscience is world-class.

The last decade alone has seen a vast increase in our understanding of the brain in health and disease and its powerful role as the key influence over our health and performance.

With life science and mental health now high on the Government's business and wellbeing agenda, there is growing acknowledgement of the need for research into finding ways to prevent, manage and treat disorders of the brain. Degeneration of the brain is now increasing as our population ages.

Research spending in the UK is currently concentrated on more physically apparent health problems such as heart disease and cancer.

Research spending on brain disorders, such as dementia, stroke and mental illness, is grossly insufficient, yet neuroscience research brings many benefits. We now have imaging technology that reveals the brain in incredible detail, new biomarkers to indicate disorders of the central nervous system and monitor the effect of drugs, and improved clinical practice. We are learning more about behaviour and emotions, our senses, learning and memory. All of these developments assist the translation of laboratory science into new treatments for the benefit of human health.

The BNA is committed to the aim of moving world-class neuroscience research up the agenda for three key reasons:

- It is estimated that 1 in 4 people within the UK experience some form of mental health disorder that effects their physical health and performance at work and at home.
- £112 billion is the estimated cost every year to the UK of dealing with the effects of disorders of the brain.
- We now know that the brain has major influence over 'physical' health issues. Brain research is not only essential in its own right – it is also central to many other fields of science.

*"Every day we see or hear something about the brain on TV, radio, social media and in the newspapers. Disorders of the brain affect an estimated third of the European population, so never has it been more important to invest in brain research."*

*The British Neuroscience Association is here to drive research forward. **Please join us in our work to meet the challenges we all face."***

Professor Russell Foster, University of Oxford  
President of BNA

## About the BNA

The British Neuroscience Association is the largest society in the UK representing all aspects of neuroscience in health and disease, from the lab to the clinic.

A registered charity and a registered company limited by guarantee, the BNA receives no Government funding for its activities.

Our collaborative fellowship embraces academia, industry, medical charities and funding agencies.

## Our ambition

To become the undisputed voice of UK neuroscience, acknowledged and respected nationally and internationally for our ability to connect, inform and influence all stakeholders.

### INFORM

- Advise on issues in neuroscience.
- Promote neuroscience research.
- Support scientists and professionals working in neuroscience.

### INFLUENCE

- Represent UK neuroscience to Government, funding agencies, and science administration and regulatory organisations.
- Represent UK neuroscience nationally and internationally.
- Encourage young scientists to take up a career in neuroscience.

### CONNECT

- Host a national meeting every 2 years, a Festival of Neuroscience that brings together scientists at all stages of their careers and the general public.
- Organise lectures, symposia, meetings, events.
  - Engage with the public and the media.

## Examples of our achievements

- The BNA Festival of Neuroscience, a unique international event which brings together 15+ organisations and 1500+ people every 2 years
- Joint meetings with the Association of British Neurologists, enhancing translational neuroscience
- International links forged with the Federation of European Neurosciences; International Brain Research Organisation; US Society for Neuroscience, European Brain Council
- National network of 37 Local Groups across the UK
- A Neuroscience Summit
- High profile positive media coverage for BNA events and for BNA neuroscientists, including broadsheet newspapers, TV and radio.

**“The BNA is the organisation that brings together people from different disciplines who wouldn't otherwise talk to each other.”**

Professor Dame Uta Frith, UCL

Winner of the BNA's 'Outstanding Contribution to Neuroscience Award', 2013.

## Be a part of the BNA

**Whether you choose to be a member or sponsor of the BNA, you will benefit in the following ways:**

- Build your corporate reputation as a supporter of neuroscience.
- Make the most of our sponsorship deals and advertising opportunities.
- Realise the business development and marketing opportunities available through having a presence at our events or co-hosting a prestigious scientific meeting.
- Build your networks and business relationships within the neuroscience and wider community.
- Extend the positive promotion of your company via the website and a profile in the BNA Bulletin.
- Connect with the UK's leading neuroscientists.
- Contribute to 'The Voice of British Neuroscience'.

## Our Patrons



Comedian Ruby Wax has used her television fame and personal experiences to promote a better understanding of mental health. She holds a master's degree in mindfulness-based cognitive therapy from Oxford University and is currently a Visiting Professor in Mental Health Nursing at the University of Surrey.



Lord Robert Winston is Professor of Science and Society and Emeritus Professor at Imperial College London. He speaks frequently in the House of Lords on education, science, medicine and the arts, and is and is a board member and Vice-Chairman of the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology.



Professor Jackie Hunter CBE is CEO of Stratified Medical - creating medicines through a combination of machine learning and drug discovery expertise. She was previously CE and deputy chair of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, and has 25 years' experience in the pharmaceutical industry.



Neuroscientist Professor Sir Colin Blakemore FRS, is Professor at the School of Advanced Study, University of London and Emeritus Professor of Neuroscience at the University of Oxford. He speaks and advises on a number of public issues including neuroscience and the law and animal research.

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