

The British Neuroscience Association (BNA), in collaboration with Neuroscience Ireland (NSI) and with the British Society for Neuroendocrinology (BSN) as our Festival Partner, is delighted to invite you to submit proposals for sessions at the 2019 Festival of Neuroscience, being held in Dublin 14-17 April.

General Information

Proposals should be submitted on the understanding that organisers have already made speakers aware of the meeting date and location, and confirmed their acceptance to attend if the proposal is accepted. Organisers and speakers should be aware that the proposal may be rejected (for example, if the focus of the proposed session is too narrow). The Programme Organising Committee (POC) may want to work with organisers to modify some potentially acceptable proposals so that they can meet with the objectives of the meeting more effectively.

Sessions will be either Symposia or Workshops:

Symposia

Each symposium is 100 minutes in length and consists of four talks; each talk is therefore usually 25 minutes long, although the Chair is free to divide the time differently, e.g. four 20 minute talks followed by 20 minutes discussion.

Two of the speakers should co-chair the session.

All speakers' publications should be recognised for having made an important contribution to their field. At least one speaker should be a leader of the field, and at least one should be an early career researcher.

In order to widen opportunity to speak at the Festival as much as possible, it is expected that none of speakers will have presented a talk at the previous BNA Festival of Neuroscience in April 2017 - see list on [page 4](#). In addition, any individual can only speak in one symposium or session during the Festival. If an individual's name appears in more than one proposal, the POC will work with the symposium organiser to seek an alternative speaker.

Workshops

Workshops consist of 4-6 participants including a chairperson, and are focussed on topics of wide interest (e.g. policy, careers, funding, grant-writing, publishing, short courses etc.) It is expected that none of the participants will have presented a talk at the previous BNA Festival of Neuroscience (April 2017, see [page 4](#)). Each proposal will be considered individually, and it is expected there will be discussion with the POC and Meetings Secretary on how to best fit into the programme.

Equality and diversity

It is expected that all proposals will have a gender balance and meet the BNA's Policy for Equality and Diversity, available online at bna.org.uk/about/policies/#equality-and-diversity-policy. Please particularly note the comments on gender.

Geographical spread

Organisers should ensure all speakers are from different Universities or research institutions to ensure wide-ranging representation. If the session is sponsored solely by the BNA, sessions may not include more than one international speaker from outside the EU (see below).

Finances and Expenses

Sponsorship: Although the BNA will fund some sessions that are accepted into the scientific programme, organisers are strongly encouraged to arrange funding from other sources. Acceptance will be based principally on scientific criteria, but, where proposals are of equal merit, proposals are more likely to be successful if they are accompanied by firm commitments from sponsors to meet speaker expenses and to make a contribution of at least £1750+VAT to cover the overhead expenses of running the session.

Expenses: Proposers should make speakers aware the BNA will cover the following costs for each speaker:

- Meeting registration
- One night's accommodation
- Travel expenses up to a maximum of £125 from UK or Ireland locations, or £250 for speakers from EU locations

Sessions may include one international speaker based outside the EU. Ticket costs for speakers outside the EU are to be approved BNA Office prior to purchase by 31st January 2019 at the latest. After this date there is no guarantee BNA will be able to meet ticket costs.

If a symposium organiser is able to cover speaker expenses from elsewhere they are at liberty to refund their speakers according to their own guidelines. If this is the case then please make sure that the BNA office is aware of any such arrangement made with speakers.

For expenses of speakers in Partner Society symposia, please [see page 3](#).

Information required for proposals

Please contact the Chair of the POC if you have any questions about the scientific programme, and the BNA office (office@bna.org.uk) if your questions are about the submission process.

Please submit your proposal at www.bna.org.uk/symposia/bna-2019-symposia

Details of organiser

The organiser is likely to be one of the co-chairs or speakers in the session but does not have to be. They act as the first point of contact for all correspondence with the POC.

- Title, First Name, Surname
- Email address
- Phone number
- BNA or NSI membership status
- Department
- Institution
- City
- Post code
- Country

Your proposal for BNA2019 session

- Session title
- Session theme (select from list)
- Session type (symposium/workshop)
- Brief description (up to 2000 characters describing the area of research; please note that the text will be used in publicity to advertise the session should it be accepted into the programme)
- Justification for inclusion in the BNA2019 scientific programme (up to 2000 characters; please see below for [information about criteria used to select proposals](#) for inclusion in the programme)

Speaker details

Symposia should have four speakers only (including two co-chairs). After entering the details for one speaker, click 'add speaker' in order to add the next, and continue until all four are included in your application.

Workshops will typically have four speakers, but additional speakers can be proposed and these additional speakers will be accommodated should time and space allow.

For each speaker, please provide:

Title, First Name, Surname
Department
Institution
City
Country
Email
Career stage
Gender
Provisional title of lecture
If they will be a co-chair for the session

Funding

If you have suggestions for how this proposal might be funded, or have already secured funding, please give details.

Are you submitting for a Partner Society session? If so, please state this in here. See below for details about Partner Societies.

Selection criteria

All proposals will be reviewed by members of the Programme Organising Committee (POC), headed by the POC Chair and BNA Meeting Secretary Professor Hugh Piggins. The POC will consider each proposal on its own merits as well as the Festival programme as a whole when deciding whether or not to include: they may also contact the organiser to discuss changing the proposal before accepting.

Criteria the POC will assess when reviewing proposals include:

- How well it meets the criteria specified in the guidelines, e.g. gender balance, geographical spread etc (see above)
- Importance of the neuroscience research covered in the proposal
- Whether the ideas and techniques are novel
- Quality of the research and the speakers
- For symposia - newsworthiness of the topic
- For workshops – level of likely demand
- They will also look to see whether the proposal markets a product/service.

Partner Societies

Partner Societies have ownership of a symposium at the Festival and receive a number of benefits including reduced registration rates for all their members. (If you are interested in finding out more about being a Partner Society please see [read more online](#) and/or contact Anne Cooke at anne.cooke@bna.org.uk.)

Although Partner Societies are free to choose topics and speakers for their symposia, they must still follow the Festival symposia guidelines on composition etc stated above, and be subject to review by the Programme Organising Committee (POC). The POC may request changes to be made to a symposium proposal submitted by a Partner Society before accepting it for inclusion.

Speakers taking part in a Partner Society symposium receive complimentary registration to attend the whole festival.

Partner Societies are responsible for covering travel expenses of the speakers taking part in their symposium. This gives Partner Societies the autonomy and freedom to use their own policy and procedures for reimbursing speakers, independent of the BNA, and means that speakers will have direct contact with Partner Societies and recognise them as owning the symposium.



BNA2017 Festival of Neuroscience – Speakers and Chairs

John Aggleton	Marloes Henckens	Anna Christina Nobre
Ivan Alvarez	David Henshall	Uta Noppeney
Antonis Asiminas	Cyril Herry	Rebecca Oakey
Chris Bailey	Lindy Holden-Dye	Ilona Obara
Alexis Bailey	Megan Holmes	Vincent O'Connor
Tim Bates	Paul Howard-Jones	Thomas Oertner
David Belin	Masud Husain	Siobhan O'Mahony
Kinga Bercsenyi	Michael Hutton	Swidbert Ott
Adrian Bird	Giandomenico Iannetti	Zahid Padamsey
Jennifer Bizley	Ronaldo Ichiyama	Silvia Paracchini
Katie Blakemore	Sarosh Irani	Carmine Pariante
Matei Bolborea	Anthony Isles	Monica Perez
Paula Brunton	Rachael Jack	Hugh Perry
Nichola Brydges	Anna Janssen	Paul Pilowski
Denis Burdakov	Kate Jeffery	Marysia Placzek
Karen Campbell	Heidi Johansen-Berg	Guy Poppy
Luca Carnevali	Mark Johnson	Ratko Radakovic
Bhismadev Chakrabarti	Roland Jones	Trevor Robbins
Lisa Chakrabarti	David Jones	Edwin Robertson
Stella Chan	Jasmina Jovanovic	Tania Roth
Charles Chavkin	Nikolas Karalis	Michael Rowan
Kei Cho	Tara Keck	David Rowitch
Claudia Clopath	Julian Keil	Alireza Salami
Becky Conway-Campbell	Eamonn Kelly	Paolo Salomoni
Carlos Crestani	Joung-Hun Kim	Louise Serpell
Mark Cunningham	Sarah King	Caroline Sevoz-Couche
Rafal Czajkowski	Irene Knuesel	Mark Sheffield
Jeff Dalley	James Kolasinski	Angus Silver
Andrea Danese	Esa Korpi	Sanjay Sisodiya
Gerry Dawson	Zoe Kourtzi	Leslie Smith
Nazanin Derakhshan	Dimitri Kullmann	Demetris Soteropoulos
Sophie Dix	Charlotte Lawrenson	Karen Spencer
Oliver Dolly	Jo Lewis	Charlotte Stagg
Ana Domingos	David Linden	Paul Sternberg
Mandy Drake	Brigit Liss	Reinhard Stoger
Karen Duff	Katie Lunnon	Sana Suri
Robin Dunbar	Christian Madry	Michael Thomas
Fergus Earley	Silvia Marino	George Tofaris
Michael Emmerson	David Maxwell	Kamen Tsvetanov
Michael Fanselow	Ciara McCabe	Lorraine Tyler
Carrie Ferrario	Barry McColl	Stamatina Tzanoulinou
Craig Ferris	James McCutcheon	Jim van Os
Helen Fisher	Gráinne McNamara	Mariana Vargas-Caballero
Joseph Galea	Jack Mellor	Sonja Vernes
Sarah Garfinkel	Emilio Merlo-Pich	Anthony Vernon
Douglas Garrett	Daniel Michaelson	Tim Vogels
Sandrine Geranton	Martine Migaud	Kirill Volynski
Gary Gilmour	Veronique Miron	Valerie Voon
Vivette Glover	Anna Mitchell	Sheena Waters
Diego Gomez-Nicola	Paula Moran	Magdalena Weidner
Usha Goswami	Nils Muhlert	Garry Whitehead
Penny Gowland	Chris Murgatroyd	Sandrine Willaime-Morawek
Rita Guerreiro	Yoko Nagai	Gavin Woodhall
Antonia Hamilton	Andrew Nelson	Geraldine Wright
Anjannette Harris	Dianne Newbury	Adam Zeman