The Nansen Neuroscience Lectures 2012

http://english.dnva.no/ http://www.dnva.no/

When: Wednesday 10 October 2012, 12:15 – 14:00

Where: The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters – DNVA, Drammensv 78, 0271 Oslo *Why*: The Nansen Neuroscience Lectures (NNL) are organized on Fridtjof Nansen's birthday to commemorate Nansen's fundamental contribution to neuroscience*. The NNL are given by speakers selected from the top tier of international neuroscience research.

Admission: Open to public, no charge

A. David Smith

Slowing progression in Alzheimer's disease by lowering homocysteine – evidence from neuroimaging

Semir Zeki

The neurobiology of beauty

Affiliations of speakers:

A. David Smith, FMedSci

Professor emeritus of Pharmacology
University of Oxford
Founding Director of Oxford Project to Investigate Memory and Ageing (OPTIMA)
http://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/optima
Hon. Assoc. Director MRC Anatomical Neuropharmacology Unit
http://www.mrc.ox.ac.uk/

Semir Zeki, FRS, FMedSci

Professor of Neuroesthetics (having previously held the Chair of Neurobiology) University College London http://www.vislab.ucl.ac.uk/ http://profzeki.blogspot.com/

Abstracts:

A. David Smith

Slowing progression in Alzheimer's disease by lowering homocysteine – evidence from neuroimaging Alzheimer's disease (AD) progresses from an asymptomatic stage, through mild cognitive impairment (MCI), to eventual dementia. One therapeutic approach is to modify risk factors in the early stages. Raised plasma total homocysteine is a risk factor for AD and can be lowered by B vitamins (folate, vitamins B12 and B6). In the 2-year VITACOG trial we found that B vitamins slowed cognitive and clinical decline in those with MCI who had high baseline homocysteine. The B vitamins also markedly slowed atrophy in those regions of the brain that show loss of tissue in AD.

Semir Zeki

The Neurobiology of Beauty

The lecture will be a neurobiological dissection of one of the most famous definitions of beauty, given by Edmund Burke in A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful (1757): "Beauty is, for the greater part, some quality in bodies acting mechanically upon the human mind by the intervention of the senses". I will examine, in light of experimental evidence, the four pillars of this definition: the abstract nature of beauty (as is implied in the definition), the human mind in the experience of beauty, the quality in bodies (that arouse the sense of beauty) and the neural nature of the intervention by the senses.

Organizers:

Linda H Bergersen and Jon Storm-Mathisen in cooperation with the Centre for Molecular Biology and Neuroscience (CMBN) at the University of Oslo, the Nansen Neuroscience Network (NNN), and the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (DNVA).

^{*} Nansen as neuroscientist: see notes at http://www.dnva.no/kalender/vis.html?tid=48780
Previous NNL: see below







The Nansen Neuroscience Lectures

The Nansen Neuroscience Lectures (NNL) were organized for the first time on 11 October **2010** (in conjunction with Fridtjof Nansen's birthday 10 October) by the Centre for Molecular Biology and Neuroscience (CMBN) in cooperation with the Nansen Neuroscience Network (NNN) and the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (DNVA).

The program of the 'NNL101010' is shown below.

In the Nansen jubilee year **2011**, the NNL were replaced by the Fridtjof Nansen Science Symposium, neuroscience part, 28 April 2011 http://www.dnva.no/kalender/vis.html?tid=48780

"Nansen Neuroscience Lectures 101010"

Where: Nye auditorium 13, Domus medica, Sognsvannsv 9, University of Oslo

When: Monday 11th October 2010, at 11:00-13:45

http://www.cmbn.no/events-2010.html

11:00-11:15

Jon Storm-Mathisen, Professor, Centre for Molecular Biology and Neuroscience, University of Oslo, and Stein Lorentzen-Lund, Project Director, Nansen Neuroscience Network:

"Nansen Neuroscience Network - innovation 123 years after the nascence of Norwegian neuroscience" (Nansen's thesis published 1887)

11:15-12:00

Albert Gjedde, Professor, Department of Neuroscience and Pharmacology, University of Copenhagen: "PET studies of oxygen delivery to brain tissue in humans in vivo: effects of aging, exertion and disease" Short introduction by Johanne Egge Rinholm, PhD, UiO

12:00-12:15 Coffee, fruits, refreshments

12:15-13:00

Kenneth Hugdahl, Professor, Department of Biological and Medical Psychology, University of Bergen:

"Functional neuroimaging: promises and challenges -- unravelling the neuroscience of auditory hallucinations in schizophrenia"

Short introduction by Cecilie Morland, PhD student, UiO

12:00-13:45

May-Britt Moser, Professor, The Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience & Centre for the Biology of Memory, NTNU, Trondheim:

"How does the brain navigate in space"

Short introduction by Lasse Ormel, PhD student, UiO

13:45 End of lectures

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Organizing committee: Linda H Bergersen, Jon Storm-Mathisen