

Event Report
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2013 World Neuroscience Competition: The International Brain Bee

In its 15th year, the International Brain Bee neuroscience competition for high school students (ages 15-18) reached several prominent milestones. With a record number of countries represented, for the first time in the program's history, student champions traveled from all six continents to participate. The four-day program took place in Vienna, Austria, hosted primarily by the World Congress of Neurology, the World Federation of Neurology, Lonza Life Science Corporation, and the Vienna Medical University. Seventeen countries were represented: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, India, Italy, Kenya, South Korea, Macau, Malaysia, New Zealand, Romania, Singapore, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, and the United States of America.

Propelling the annual event into the next chapter of its growth, the program encompassed four days of engaging with the host conference and local partner institutions: the Vienna Medical University Institute for Neurology and Department of Anatomy, the Vienna Biocenter, and Open Science. Other supporting organizations were the Society for Neuroscience, Fulbright Austrian-American Educational Commission, Heidelberg University HBIGS Graduate School for Cellular and Molecular Biology, and University of Maryland. Activities included a hands-on neuropathology workshop with human brains, a personal conversation with the Director of the world's oldest institute for brain research, live demonstrations of the latest technologies in neuroscience and neurology research, tours of research laboratories, seminars and plenary lectures by leading neurologists and neurosurgeons, a dynamic discussion-based game at Open Science, visits to the Natural History Museum and the Sigmund Freud Museum, located at his former residence and office, and an elegant Awards Ceremony and celebration dinner at the historic "Lusthaus", the 16th Century hunting lodge.

This year was also special because of the application of multilingual competition material for participants from non-English speaking regions. The additional languages requested were Italian and Portuguese. Students from Italy and Brazil, where the national Brain Bee competitions are held in their native languages, were provided with translated materials, with live translators available at the competition. This year was also complete with the establishment of the Patient Partner Program, whereby each student connected with a patient challenged by a neurological disorder. Sponsored by Sutter Instrument Company and an anonymous donor, the partner of the IBB Champion also receives a prize package of \$500.

Topics of competition included research methods and medical technology, brain functions underlying sensations, intelligence, emotions, movement, and consciousness, and brain dysfunctions that result in Alzheimer's, autism, and addiction. The intense five-part competition included a neuroanatomy laboratory exam with real human brains, a diagnosis section using video footage of actual patients and interactive laboratory exam evaluation, a neurohistology test, a written quiz involving analysis of brain scans, problem-solving of case studies, and direct question-and-answer with live judges, all three of which were distinguished neurologists: Dr. Gustavo Román of Colombia and the USA, Dr. Giancarlo Logroscino of Italy, and Dr. Walter Struhal of Austria.

After rigorous and close competition that spanned two days and 7.5 total hours of contest modules, the 2013 IBB Champion is Jackson Huang of Australia, composing the second-straight win for the country. He received a \$3,000 scholarship and an internship with a notable neuroscientist of the Society for Neuroscience. A student of Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology, Jackson has excelled in multiple and diverse academic and extracurricular subjects, including math, science, Mandarin language, and orchestra. Recently, he was recognized with the "Student of the Year" award. The Australian National Brain Bee Challenge Coordinator is Dr. Linda Richards, who has integrated the Brain Bee competition into school curricula around the country, engaging nearly every student in the 10th grade.

Finishing in Second Place and receiving a \$2,000 scholarship was Giulio Deangeli of Italy, a student of the scientific Secondary School Liceo Scientifico "Giovan Battista Ferrari" of Este, a small town in the province of Padua. And in Third Place with a \$1,000 scholarship was Jiantao Shen from New Zealand, a student of Mount Roskill Grammar School. Fourth Place was awarded to Tiago Lubiana Alves of Brazil, and Fifth Place went to Alexandra Madalina Robu of Romania. The full list of rankings is below.

The Brain Bee motivates youth to learn about the human brain and inspires them to consider careers in neuroscience, psychology, neurology and related fields. Dr. Norbert Myslinski from the University of Maryland is the Founder and President of this important non-profit grassroots program. Julianne McCall from the Heidelberg University Spinal Cord Injury Center was the Director of the 2013 International Brain Bee Championship. Around 150 Brain Bee Chapters in 30 countries hold annual competitions involving tens of thousands of students. Each Chapter Winner competes in their respective National Championships. Each National Champion is invited to represent their country in the International Brain Bee Championship that is held in a different country every year. Dr. Myslinski is proud that The Brain Bee "Builds Better Brains to Fight Brain Disorders."

Rank	Student	Country
1	Jackson Huang	Australia
2	Giulio Deangeli	Italy
3	Jiantao Shen	New Zealand
4	Tiago Lubiana Alves	Brazil
5	Alexandra Madalina Robu	Romania
6	Peter Sung Hyun Kang	South Korea
7	Emily Ruan	United States of America
8	Aditya Narayan	India
9	Mani Hemaprashaad	Singapore
10	Madhur Singal	United Arab Emirates
11	Sharon XiaoBo Yang	Canada
12	Iryna Repetylo	Ukraine
13	Lukas Schick	Germany
14	Cindy Lo Chi Cheng	Macau
15	Sun Ziwen	China
16	Megat Shahrul Imran Ismail	Malaysia
17	Fiona Mutanu Mutetei	Kenya