

Summer School on Dopaminergic Neurons



Parkinson's disease, experts share their views on new research frontiers

Tomorrow, 19th July 2012, the **Summer School on Dopaminergic Neurons** will be starting. The school was organised by SISSA and CBM and here the most innovative approaches to treat Parkinson's disease will be handled. Internationally known speakers and several researchers will be participating. Within the activity of the school, the results of Dopaminet, a European project involving SISSA and CBM, will be illustrated.

As the world population ages, aging-linked diseases will become increasingly common. Among them, Parkinson's disease and the most innovative approaches to treat it, as well as the most recent discoveries on the processes triggering this disorder, will be handled at the **Summer School on Dopaminergic Neurons**, organised by the International School for Advanced Studies

(SISSA) and by the Centre of Molecular Biomedicine (CBM), and held at SISSA on Thursday and Friday.

At this conference, where around 100 participants are expected, 15 internationally known speakers will be presenting their most recent studies in the field of genomics and in the development of new therapies for Parkinson's disease patients.

"At the school the latest results of the Dopaminet project will be illustrated. Dopaminet is a European project started in 2009 on characterisation of dopaminergic cells, those neurons showing degeneration also visible in Parkinson's disease patients" explained Stefano Gustincich, the scientific coordinator of the school and of the project.

Two plenary lectures will be opening these two days: on Thursday Moussa BH Youdim of Technion-Rappaport Family (Israel) will be giving a speech on the new drugs against Parkinson's disease, while on Friday morning Alain Prochiantz, of Collège de France, will be opening the lecture by explaining in depth the new molecular mechanisms discovered by research.

On Friday afternoon a round table will be organised, with the title "Neurodegenerative diseases: from bench to bedside. Institutional strategies and role of the private sector in the transfer of knowledge". This will be the concluding event of the school and debate will be also extended to other neurodegenerative diseases. In this event a multidisciplinary panel representing research, clinics, policy makers and industry will be participating.

"Parkinson's disease is the second most common neurodegenerative disease in modern society, hitting around 1-2% of people over 65 years of age. Its cause has been detected in degeneration of dopaminergic neurons in a brain area called midbrain, where dopamine is produced, a neurotransmitter which is essential to control movements" stated Gustincich, whose group, by using cutting-edge technologies, has been engaged for many years in the study of this disease.

"In our aging society, the economic impact of the expenses to treat patients has been increasing" concluded Gustincich "Some of the most prominent experts in this field will be taking part in the school and in these two days young researchers involved in the study of neurodegenerative diseases will be trained and updated on the new developments in this field. Moreover the creation of new collaborations at the international level will be enhanced".

USEFUL LINKS:

- [Dopaminet Official Website](#)
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