

PRESS RELEASE

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## Brain Awareness Week 2019

The event dedicated to research on the brain returns to Trieste and Gorizia from 11 to 16 March



Trieste, 5 March 2019

How does the brain work? What happens in pathological conditions like aphasia, depression or dementia? These are just some of the questions that researchers will try to answer during the Brain Awareness Week, which returns to Trieste and Gorizia this year from 11 to 16 March. The event, organised by the Interdisciplinary Laboratory and the Neuroscience Area of SISSA and the Department of Life Sciences of Trieste University, will include conferences, round table discussions, science cafés, visits to laboratories and, for the first time, a special radio show.

**Eight appointments have been organised for the 2019 edition: six in Trieste, one in Gorizia and one on the RAI Radio1 frequencies for Friuli Venezia Giulia.** The venues are: Antico Caffè San Marco, Caffè Tømmaseo, CSV – Volunteer Services Centre, Polo didattico di Valmaura and SISSA, in Trieste; Caffè Mama e Angela, in Gorizia. Unless otherwise indicated, the events are open to the public and admission is free.

The week will begin on **Monday 11 March at 4.30pm at CSV** with the conference “**Sintomi somatici della depressione**” (Somatic symptoms of depression). Matteo Balestrieri, Director of the Psychiatric Clinic of ASUIUD – Integrated University Medical Centre of Udine and regional manager of the IDEA Association, will speak on the lesser-known symptoms of depression, such as changes in the feeling of hunger, sleep or feeling of heaviness.

**On Tuesday 12 March at 6pm, Caffè Tømmaseo** will host the meeting entitled “**Recenti sviluppi nella ricerca sulle demenze: diagnosi e prevenzione**” (Recent developments in the research on dementia: diagnosis and prevention). Giuseppe Legname, Professor of Biochemistry at SISSA and Paolo Manganotti, Director of the Neurological Clinic of ASUITS – Integrated University Medical Centre of Trieste, will explain the diagnostic approaches, the preventive strategies, the treatments currently available and future prospects. They will focus on the role of sleep disorders, an integral and fundamental part of the recovery and restoration of the central nervous system in these pathologies.

**On Wednesday 13 March at 5.30pm**, the usual appointment returns with the Science café at **Caffè Tømmaseo**. In the first talk, entitled “**Leggi razziali, tre continenti e un lieto fine: la scoperta del fattore di crescita nervoso**” (Racial laws, three continents and one happy ending: the discovery of the nerve growth factor) Enrico Tongiorgi, Professor of Neurobiology of the Department of Life Sciences of Trieste University, will retrace the scientific and personal story of Rita Levi Montalcini and the fundamental stages in the discovery for which she received the Nobel prize. To follow, Paolo Battaglini, Professor of Physiology of the Department of Life Sciences of Trieste University, will hold the seminar “**Abbiamo davvero due cervelli?**” (Do we really have two brains?). Battaglini will describe the two-way relationship between the intestine and the brain that controls various functions such as satiety, hunger and inflammation. Although the intestine cannot be considered like a brain.

**On Thursday 14 March at 6pm, Caffè San Marco** will host the round table discussion entitled “**Quando si perdono le parole: storie di afasia**” (When words are lost: stories of aphasia). Sara Andreetta, researcher in Cognitive Neuroscience at SISSA, and Isolda Di Narda, speech therapist at ASUIUD, will

explain how difficulties of expression and changes in the dynamics of communication can occur following a brain injury. Furthermore, Giuseppe Bobbo, President of the Regional Aphasia Association of Friuli Venezia Giulia, will present the book "Non ho parole" (I am speechless), a collection of testimonies of people who live with this disorder.

In the morning of **Friday 15 March**, starting from **10am at Polo didattico in Valmaura** the regional phase of the **Olympics of Neurosciences**, organised by the Department of Life Science and the Immaginario Scientifico Science Center, returns. During the competition, that will involve the five best students of 17 higher secondary schools of Friuli Venezia Giulia, three students will be selected to take part in the national competition. During the challenge, conceived in Trieste 10 years ago, some of the winners of previous editions will also join, in video or in person. Access is limited to the participating students.

The week will close on **Saturday 16 March** with visits to the laboratories of Trasduzione Olfattiva (Olfactory Transduction) managed by Anna Menini and to the Laboratory of Physiology and Technology of neurons managed by Laura Ballerini to discover how they work and how nerve cells are studied. "Viaggio nel cervello" (Journey through the brain) is organised in two shifts, at **10am** and at **11am**, with **compulsory booking** until full (at mail address [ilas@sissa.it](mailto:ilas@sissa.it))

The appointment in **Gorizia** is for **Thursday 14 March at 6.30pm** at **Caffè Mama e Angela** with Paolo Battaglini, Professor of Physiology of the Department of Life Sciences of Trieste University and the Science café entitled "**Abbiamo davvero due cervelli?**" (We really have two brains).

For the first time, this year the event will reach beyond the region's borders thanks to **Radar: Segnali dalla scienza, dalla cultura, dalla società** (Radar: signals from science, culture and society) broadcast on the frequencies of **RAI Radio1 for Friuli Venezia Giulia** and available **via streaming on [www.sedefvg.rai.it](http://www.sedefvg.rai.it)** On **Tuesday 12 March from 11.18 to 12.30**. **Daniela Picoi** will host a special programme with guests and news on the scheduled events.

The Brain Awareness Week is a worldwide initiative dedicated to research on the brain. Every March, hundreds of universities, hospitals, patient groups, associations, museums and schools all over the world join forces to give life to an event for people of all ages. Founded in 1996 by *Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives*, the Brain Awareness Week has already involved 5600 partners in 120 countries.

The local edition is organised in collaboration with the Immaginario Scientifico Science Center and the IDEA Association of Trieste, with the patronage of the

Italian Society for Neuroscience, within proESOF, the series of initiatives that mark the path to ESOF2020.

For more information:

Segreteria del Laboratorio Interdisciplinare della SISSA

[ilas@sisssa.it](mailto:ilas@sisssa.it) T 040 3787549/401

Paolo Battaglini, Dipartimento di Scienze della Vita, Università di Trieste

[battaglini@units.it](mailto:battaglini@units.it) T 040 5588601

To register for the visit to SISSA laboratories: [ilas@sisssa.it](mailto:ilas@sisssa.it)

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**USEFUL LINKS**

Programma completo:

<https://bit.ly/2NzxdRq>

Locandina: <https://bit.ly/2Hfh4zx>

**IMAGE**

Credits: Divulgando Srl

**CONTACTS**

**SISSA**

Nico Pitrelli

→ [pitrelli@sisssa.it](mailto:pitrelli@sisssa.it)

T +39 040 3787462

M +39 339 1337950

Chiara Saviane

→ [saviane@sisssa.it](mailto:saviane@sisssa.it)

T +39 040 3787230

M +39 333 7675962

**Università degli Studi di Trieste**

Giampiero Viezzoli

→ [ufficio.stampa@amm.units.it](mailto:ufficio.stampa@amm.units.it)

T +39 040 558 3042