

Developmental brain disorders such as autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder were the topic of the 15th annual free public forum entitled "Childhood Brain Diseases." The forum was sponsored by the Neuroscience Research Center at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and held from 10:30 a.m. to noon at The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, Room 3.001 on Feb. 6. Pedro Mancias, M.D., from the Department of Pediatrics was the moderator of the forum. The panel included Pauline Filipek, M.D., from the Children's Learning Institute; Deborah Pearson, Ph.D., from the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences; Nehal Parikh, D.O., from the Department of Pediatrics, and Anne Sereno, Ph.D., from the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy. Filipek has researched and published extensively on earlier diagnosis and treatment of autism in infants. Pearson conducts research on both ADHD and autism. Parikh's research includes early detection and prevention of perinatal and neonatal brain injury in extremely premature infants. Sereno's research has clarified brain mechanisms of attention and eye movements and shown how this can help in diagnosis and treatment of human diseases. The event included a question-and-answer session.

On March 18, the annual Brain Night was held at the McGovern Museum of Health and Medical Sciences. This free event was attended by middle school children and their families, and included hands on demonstrations of the human brain, the neuron, comparative brains, helmet safety demonstrations, among other activities. The event was staffed by faculty, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students from the UT Houston Neuroscience Program.

These events were organized and supported by the Neuroscience Research Center with the help of the SfN Chapter Grant.

The Houston Society for Engineering in Medicine and Biology did not meet this year, and it has suspended operations. We hope to find another venue for Chapter meetings in the future.

Reviewers for SfN travel grant applications were selected from each of the institutions having major research programs in Neuroscience: University of Texas-Houston (V. Dragoi and D. Baxter), Rice University (D. Burgund and T Schnur), Baylor College of Medicine (K. Tolias) and University of Houston (L. Frishman and H. Ogmen). Two graduate students, Wade Kothmann and Cameron Jeter, were selected and won awards from SfN. Both recently defended their doctoral dissertations.