



Message from the President

Dear EBBS members,

as another challenging year is coming to an end, I would like to provide you with a brief feedback on EBBS activities during 2021 and with an outlook of our plans for 2022.

Over the past two years, we have been called upon to face very difficult times and adapt to new and challenging sets of circumstances. The pandemic has significantly changed the way we live, we work and interact with the others. While facing these changes, the need in the neuroscientific community to keep collaborations and scientific exchange among colleagues and friends alive clearly emerged. EBBS will go on creating more and more opportunities on this matter.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021 has been a very good year for our Society. The 49th EBBS conference held in Lausanne has been a success. Because of the hybrid format, a wide audience has remotely participated to the meeting and many of us have, after long time, had the opportunity to meet and discuss about neuroscience in person. Building on the success of the meeting, the number of EBBS members skyrocketed to over 900, demonstrating the growing interest toward the Society.

As for future activities, the EBBS Executive Committee is organizing a satellite event of the FENS forum (<https://forum.fens.org/>) that will be held in Paris on the morning of the 9th of July 2022. The title of this mini-conference will be *Understanding Behaviour: Molecular, Cellular & Systems Approaches* as it will be aimed at discussing theoretical and technical approaches in linking brain function and behavioural outcome. More information will be available soon at the EBBS website <https://ebbs-science.org/miniconference.php> and via the Society twitter and facebook pages. In addition, in keeping with our tradition, a *special EBBS/Behavioural Brain Research lecture* will be held during the FENS forum. This year Timothy Behrens, from Oxford University and University College London, has been invited to give the talk on “Flexible inferences in the prefrontal hippocampal circuitry”.

I do hope that by summer 2022, the pandemic situation will allow us to safely travel to Paris and enjoy the conference in person.

Please remember that in spring, all EBBS members will be called to vote for the President-elect and new ordinary members of the Executive Committee ensuring the future of EBBS leadership. We thus invite nominations for candidates, who have to be EBBS members, to stand for elections.

Finally, EBBS will continue its effort in fostering high quality neuroscientific research, advocating for equality and equity across the neuroscientific community and promoting young researchers and students. I am overall optimistic that the Society will continue to be resilient and thrive, even in the face of future adversities.

I look forward to continuing working together with you.

Stay healthy and my best wishes for the holidays and the new year!

Igor Branchi

President of European Brain and Behaviour Society

