



Translational Research Center for Gastrointestinal Disorders (TARGID)
KULeuven
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Belgium

XIIth Little Brain Big Brain - Call for Applications

We are pleased to announce the call for applications for the XIIth Little Brain Big Brain (LBBB) meeting, to be organized from **September 4 to 6 in Leuven, Belgium**. Neurogastroenterology increasingly becomes redefined to expand beyond the study of motility and the field uses rapidly advancing and emerging technologies, in addition to becoming more dependent on collaborative efforts. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that emerging leaders in neurogastroenterology have sufficient knowledge of the broad scope of the field and that they are able to establish a network of potential collaborators. It is the objective of the XIIth LBBB meeting to encounter this need of young investigators in order to retain the highest quality investigators in the field of neurogastroenterology.

As it is a main goal of this highly interactive meeting to stimulate interdisciplinary discussion, participants of the XIIth LBBB should have sufficient experience and expertise in neurogastroenterology research in order to be able to participate actively in discussions. Therefore, candidates should be aiming to establish a career as an independent researcher in the field of neurogastroenterology. Ideally, applicants have finished their PhD in 2011 or before; for non-postdocs (senior PhD students, non-PhD researchers with sufficient experience) a motivation letter from a senior investigator should complement the application. Candidates will be selected by the organizers and a committee of senior investigators working in neurogastroenterology, based on the following criteria: **1)** quality of the submitted abstract **2)** scientific achievements, **3)** area of research (to ensure that the breadth of the field of neurogastroenterology will be adequately represented) and **4)** ability to actively participate in discussions (to ensure meaningful discussions about the state-of-the-art of our field). There will be a strict limit of 30 participants.

The LBBB meeting will be organized as a satellite meeting to the *2012 Joint International Neurogastroenterology and Motility Meeting* which will take place in Bologna, Italy from September 6 to 8, 2012. Therefore, potential participants to the LBBB meeting are expected to submit abstracts to and attend the Joint Meeting in Bologna. Food and housing will be provided for the duration of the LBBB meeting and every effort will be made to reimburse travel expenses to cover the cost of economy class tickets (although it is at this point still unclear whether the organization will be able to fully cover travel expenses). Therefore, participants are encouraged to seek financial support to cover part of these expenses themselves.

Besides an abstract, applicants are to supply a short statement on their research and career goals, an up-to-date curriculum vitae and, for non-postdocs only, a one-page supporting letter from a formal or informal mentor in the field of neurogastroenterology. The participants will be expected to deliver a 15-minute oral presentation on the most recent work from their laboratory on which they would like feedback and discussion. Furthermore, participants will be expected to actively contribute to the discussion of the presentations delivered by fellow participants. Potential participants should plan a round trip from their origin to Brussels (arriving September 3 in the late afternoon, leaving September 9 in the afternoon) and are encouraged to participate in a group booking of a round trip from Brussels to Bologna (going to Bologna on the 6th and arriving back in Brussels September 9 at 2pm). The organization of LBBB will try its outmost best to cover the expenses of this trip. **The application deadline is March 31, 2012.** Applicants will be notified by early May 2012. Details about the application process can be found at the end of this letter.

We have made every effort to send this Call for Applications to the broadest possible audience in the field of neurogastroenterology. We acknowledge that we may not have reached everyone. For this reason, please feel free to forward this announcement to any colleagues you deem should receive it.

On behalf of the organizing committee:

Lukas Van Oudenhove, Ricard Farré and Werend Boesmans



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XIIth Little Brain Big Brain - Application Guidelines

The application deadline for the XIIth LBBB meeting is **March 31, 2012**. The abstract and accompanying materials (see below) should be emailed to LBBB@med.kuleuven.be. Participants will be notified by early May 2012.

1. Abstract

Submission of an abstract is mandatory. Abstracts should be submitted to one of the following categories:

1. Gut-brain interactions and psychological mechanisms

In this category we welcome research on gut-brain interactions in the broadest sense, both in humans and animals. This category is not limited to the study of brain mechanisms underlying the processing of visceral signals or regulation of food intake, but may also include behavioral, physiological or epidemiological studies in health, functional gastrointestinal disorders and disorders of food intake.

2. Gastrointestinal motility, signaling, the regulation of food intake and related (functional) GI disorders

In this category we welcome abstracts that focus on peripheral mechanisms in the regulation of gastrointestinal motility, enteroendocrine and hormonal signaling, food intake, and related (functional) gastrointestinal and metabolic disorders.

3. Enteric nervous system: cells, signals and genes

All work, varying from basic molecular biology and development of the enteric nervous system to physiology of motor control at the cellular level is to be submitted to this category. This includes research focusing on enteric neurons, glia, smooth muscle and interstitial cells of Cajal.

4. Extrinsic neural pathways, inflammation and neuroimmune modulation

We welcome abstracts that focus on the regulation of secretion, sensitivity and immune homeostasis and on motility by extrinsic neural pathways. This category includes research on mucosal permeability, inflammation and neuroimmune interactions in health and disease.

Abstracts have to be submitted as a word document. The abstract guidelines of the Joint NGM meeting should be respected (<http://www.ngm2012.org/abstract-submission.html>) and the contents may be a duplication of an abstract submitted to the Joint NGM meeting. Please clearly specify in your application email to which category your abstract applies.

2. Research and career goals

Applicants should provide a short statement (limit of 300 words) describing their future research and career goals as a PDF file.

3. Curriculum vitae

The CV is an integral part of your application. Please provide a synoptic CV (to fit on one A4 page) and a list of publications as one PDF file. Longer CVs will be discarded.

4. Letter of recommendation (for non-postdocs only)

In order to be considered, non-postdocs (senior PhD students, non-PhD researchers with sufficient experience) should provide a one-page supporting letter from a formal or informal mentor in the field of neurogastroenterology.