

1. AS - 03-11.09.2022

„The lung-brain axis in
health and disease“

Application opens:

14th of December 2021

Application deadline:

31st of January 2022



Conference Venue: Castle Rauschholzhausen

(<http://schloss.faber-management.de>), close to Giessen / Marburg, Germany

European Psychoneuroimmunology (PNI) Funded by Volkswagen Foundation

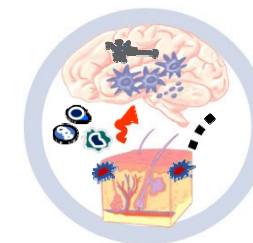
Local organization team: Christoph Rummel, Eva Peters, Karsten Krüger, Adriana del Rey

For more information please
visit:

<https://www.uni-giessen.de/e pn-autumn-school-series>

Eligible for application and funded attendance:

- Trainees such as PhD students, postdoctoral fellows, early career group leaders
- From psychoneuroimmunology, neuroscience, neuroimmunology, molecular psychosomatics and psychology, lung and skin sciences addressing neuroendocrine-immune interactions and pathomechanisms



2. AS - 02-10.09.2023

„The skin-brain axis and
the breaking of barriers“

The brain in health and disease

Autumn School Series:

European Psychoneuroimmunology



Aims and scope:

Complex interdisciplinary interactions emerge as an important melting pot for the development of new integrative approaches addressing modern civilization health challenges. The COVID-19 crisis highlights the importance to understand how infections can trespass body barriers. The PNI interactions that control inflammation at these barriers are presently poorly understood. The European Psychoneuroimmunology (PNI) Autumn School Series aims at exploring innovative ideas and research avenues addressing this knowledge gap in a multidisciplinary field that includes neuroscience, immunology, and mental health/stress research from basic to clinical science. The series combines the expertise of the German-Endocrine-Brain-Immune-Network (GEBIN) and the recently established European PNI Network (EPN) with specialists in lung and skin research to establish a training event for a new generation of young motivated researchers. It is planned as a series to cover two major organ systems responsible for interaction between the individual and the environment and the therapeutic options arising from the understanding of these two areas of research. The scope is to promote novel research on health challenges of substantial relevance. In addition, we consider it highly promising to complement the series with the study of lifestyle effects that combat civilization threats. This series of Autumn Schools would foster interactions between leaders and trainees in traditionally separated research fields within the framework of PNI. Trainees will be taught by preeminent PNI/lung/skin/life style researchers mainly recruited from experts within Europe to foster further interactions. We aim at creating an attractive atmosphere to increase the interest of a new generation of scientists who will be able to contribute to the development of an urgently needed integrative multidisciplinary medicine.

Selection of venue:

The castle “Rauischholzhausen” first mentioned between 750 and 779 is a Justus Liebig University Giessen conference center offering special discount prices for university-based trainee events. With the charm of an old castle, these fully equipped state-of-art facilities will foster close interactions of all participants, teachers, and trainees with a beautiful park surrounding the castle.

The brain in health and disease

Autumn School Series:

European Psychoneuroimmunology



Format:

The format follows a template that ensures continuity and some branding of this specific trainee event series. Overall, the thematically related areas are allocated in morning sessions 1-2 and afternoon session 3. Teachers have 80 minutes for each topic including discussion and involving interactive formats such as student response devices / clicker systems, case examples or other formats chosen by the speakers (group work, quiz, etc.). Practical courses and “hands on” formats with active participation of the trainees will take place in the late afternoon (15:00-18:00). Short evening after dinner sessions are planned to support social interaction and networking in different formats like one-by-one elevator pitch, match-making for mentors and peers, meet the PI, and career development courses “How to start your own research group”. Tuesday afternoon/evening will be used to informally meet with the PIs in the frame of an excursion to local sites in Gießen/Marburg funded by sources external to the present proposal since informal meetings in particular are instrumental for long-term networking. An Autumn School Mini-Congress Presentation Event on the second day will allow the students to present their own research in trained short presentations in small groups of 15 participants and posters presentations. While the overall structure remains the same, details on the format can be found in the program of each topic of the autumn school series.

Scientific reach-out:

A special issue, which is at presently being discussed with the Editor of Brain, Behavior and Immunity (BBI), on “Immune to brain communication i.e. lung-brain and skin-brain axis and life-style contribution to health” and an open call (September 1st, 2021 until May 15th 2022) in BBI Health for the special issue: “Emerging PNI research: future leaders in focus” (<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/brain-behavior-and-immunity-health/call-for-papers/special-issue-emerging-pni-research-future-leaders-in-focus>) with Prof. Rummel being one of the editors will enable high visibility of trainees in the field of PNI and of the outcome³ of the autumn school series.