

# Kyiv Chapter

(Kyiv, Ukraine)

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## Chapter Goal

The goal of the Kyiv Chapter is twofold: to attract undergraduate students to master's and graduate programs in neuroscience and to promote the importance of neuroscience to the public.

## Description

In recent years, the field of neuroscience has seen remarkable advancements, leading to a deeper understanding of the brain and nervous system. However, this rapid progress has not been matched by a corresponding increase in the number of students pursuing advanced degrees in neuroscience in Ukraine. This gap poses a significant challenge: without a steady influx of trained neuroscientists, the potential for future discoveries and innovations could be severely hindered.

To address this issue, the Kyiv Chapter has set a priority to engage undergraduate students and inspire them to consider careers in neuroscience. This involves organizing student workshops that highlight the exciting opportunities within the field. By showcasing the groundbreaking research and real-world applications of neuroscience, the chapter aims to ignite students' passion and curiosity.

The Chapter annually conducts a student workshop titled “Biophysical Methods in Neuroscience” at the Bogomoletz Institute of Physiology in Kyiv, Ukraine, a premier research institute in the field of neuroscience in Ukraine. Each year, this seminar attracts 60-70 students from various universities across the country. Over the course of three days, students attend lectures delivered by leading scientists, including distinguished guests from abroad. In the afternoons, students visit the Institute's laboratories, where they are introduced to state-of-the-art research methods and ongoing projects by the scientists. To facilitate a more hands-on and personalized experience, students are divided into small subgroups and rotate through different labs. This structure allows students to become more familiar with modern techniques and equipment.

In addition to the seminar, the Chapter involves in organization of the annual Brain Bee competition for schoolchildren, which serves to spark interest in neuroscience from an early age. This initiative further helps to attract young students to the field, fostering the next generation of neuroscientists.

In addition to educational outreach, the chapter is committed to raising public awareness about the importance of neuroscience. Many people remain unaware of how neuroscience impacts their daily lives, from understanding mental health disorders to developing new treatments for neurological diseases. To bridge this knowledge gap, the chapter hosts public lectures, seminars, and interactive events. Typically, such lectures are organized twice a year - during Brain Awareness Week in March and during Science Days in May. These activities help demystify the field, making it more accessible and engaging for a broader audience.

### Audience

The Kyiv Chapter has reached out to all universities and research institutes in Ukraine with interests in the neurosciences. This outreach has broadened the diversity of research presentations and engaged faculty and students from various institutions. Additionally, the Kyiv Chapter has been very active in Brain Awareness Week activities, involving the National Scientific Medical Library of Ukraine and the general public, further promoting neuroscience education and awareness.

### Assessment Opportunities

A key measure of our success has been our ability to attract a significant number of students to our programs. Our student workshops consistently draw large attendance, and our public lectures attract a substantial audience. This high level of engagement from both students and the general public indicates the effectiveness of our outreach and educational initiatives.

### Funding

The Kyiv Chapter does not charge membership dues. We receive financial support primarily through Chapter grants (which we hope will be re-opened) and FENS grants for BAW and BB activities. Additionally, we occasionally fundraise through donations from benefactors.

### Resources/References

We have several platforms on social media, including Facebook and YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@NeurotwinBIPH>

<http://brainbee.in.ua/index.php?id=organizatoru-konkursu&lang=en>

<https://www.facebook.com/UkrSocNeuro/>

<http://www.sfn.in.ua>