

Armenian neuroscientists to participate in Neuroscience 2007

by Maral Habeshian

SAN DIEGO, Calif. - Scientists from around the world will gather Nov. 3-7 in San Diego, California for Neuroscience 2007 to exchange ideas about cutting-edge research on the brain, spinal cord, and nervous system. Among them will be UNESCO Chair in Life Sciences Professor Sinerik Ayrapetyan whose research and countless published works in biophysics, radiobiology and magnetobiology has placed him at the forefront of his field.

The San Diego conference is the 37th annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience (SfN), and is expected to draw more

than 30,000 scientists, including Dr. Arbi Nazarian, an assistant professor at Western University of Health Sciences. Recognizing that the annual conference provides the ideal networking opportunity for Armenian neuroscientists, Dr. Nazarian has organized the second Armenian Neuroscientist Social. Last year's gathering in Atlanta, Georgia brought together 30 Armenian neuroscientists.

"The goal is to create a cohesive community of Armenian neuroscientists in order to provide grants and scholarships for Armenian students in the field," says Dr. Nazarian who decided to organize the event after consistently running

into other Armenians during past conferences.

According to Dr. Nazarian, there are about 80 Armenian neuroscientists throughout the world. The SfN conference is the largest conference of its kind, and he is always fascinated by the Armenian students he meets, as well as very well known scientists in the field.

"The social gathering allows for scientific agendas to be presented. Ultimately, my vision is to secure funding so that students in Armenia would be able to study abroad."

The largest and most thriving neuroscience community is in the United States. Dr. Nazarian attributes this to the limitless resources that are available to neuroscientists.

Research in Japan and Europe is also thriving while China and CIS countries are catching up quickly, he explains.

Through their research, neuroscientists work to describe the human brain and how it functions normally, determine how the nervous system develops, matures and maintains itself through life, and find ways to prevent or cure many devastating neurological and psychiatric disorders.

ARMENIA 2008

Dr. Sinerik Ayrapetyan is expected to address the social gathering in San Diego to detail the Congress of All Armenian Life Scien-

tists (CAALS), scheduled to take place in Yerevan, Armenia and Stepanakert, Karabakh, November 7-8, 2008.

Dr. Ayrapetyan has been appointed the chairman of CAALS that will examine the possibility of making Armenia a scientific regional research and educational center by tapping into the vast potential of scientists from Armenia and the Diaspora, so as to prepare the next generation of leaders in the field of life sciences.

The Armenian Neuroscientists social will take place November 5, 6:30-8:30 P.M. in San Diego. Dr. Nazarian may be contacted for further details at (909) 469-5424, anazarian@westernu.edu. 