XIIIth Little Brain Big Brain – Call for Applications

The organisers of the XIII Little Brain Big Brain are pleased to announce the call for applications to participate in the meeting to be held September 3-5 in Bangkok, Thailand. The field of neurogastroenterology is continually being redefined to expand beyond the study of motility, and also uses rapidly advancing and emerging technologies. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that emerging leaders in neurogastroenterology have knowledge of the broad scope of the field, and are provided with an environment that fosters the establishment of a network of potential collaborators. It is the objective of the XIIIth Little Brain Big Brain meeting to meet this need of young investigators in order to retain the highest quality investigators in the field of neurogastroenterology.

A main goal of this highly interactive meeting is to stimulate interdisciplinary discussion, and participants of the XIIIth Little Brain Big Brain therefore need to demonstrate 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 will have completed their PhD before 2013 or before, and are within the first 6 years of establishing their own independent research program. We recognise that the Little Brain Big Brain meeting is exceptionally popular, but in the interests of introducing new talent and also due to strict limits on participants we ask that people who have attended at least 3 of the prior 4 Little Brain Big Brain meetings (i.e. meetings held in Belgium, USA, Korea and France) please defer their application to the next youngest investigator in their laboratory with the best potential for acceptance. Applicants who do not hold PhD qualifications (i.e. senior PhD students and non-PhD researchers with sufficient experience) need to provide a motivational letter from a senior investigator associated with their research in addition to the application materials outlined below.

The Little Brain Big Brain meeting will be organised as a satellite meeting to the 1st Federation of Neurogastroenterology and Motility Meeting which will be held in Bangkok Thailand from September 5-7, 2014. Therefore potential applicants to Little Brain Big Brain are required to submit abstracts to and attend the Federation meeting in Bangkok. Food and housing will be provided for the duration of Little Brain Big Brain meeting. Every effort will be made to reimburse travel expenses to cover the cost of economy class tickets, although at this point in time it is unclear whether our organisation will be able to fully cover travel expenses and participants are encouraged to seek financial support to cover these expenses themselves. Abstracts open Jan 1 2014, and the application deadline is 30 March 2014. Applicants will be notified by mid May whether their application is successful or not.

Applicants need to submit the following for consideration: a) Abstract (350 words maximum (abstract body only), see fields outlined below), b) A short statement on research and career goals (300 words maximum), c) A synoptic Curriculum vitae (one A4 page max.) with publications attached as a separate PDF file. Longer CV’s will be discarded. d) Letter of recommendation (for non-postdocs only). One page maximum, longer letters will be discarded. Candidates will be selected by the
 organisers and a committee of senior investigators working in the field of neurogastroenterology. Selection will be made based on the following criteria: 1) Quality of the submitted abstract, 2) Scientific achievements, 3) Ability to actively participate in discussions, to ensure meaningful discussions about the state-of-the art of our field and 4) Area of study, to ensure that the breadth of the field of neurogastroenterology will be adequately represented. There will be a strict limit of 30 participants selected. All selected participants will 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.

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.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES:
Email the abstract and accompanying material to lbbb@adelaide.edu.au. Outline in your email which category the abstract is submitted to. Applications close March 30, 2014

Submission of an abstract is mandatory and must be submitted to one of the following categories:

1: Gut-brain interactions and psychological mechanisms. This category includes research in humans and animals investigating brain mechanisms underlying the processing of visceral signals and regulation of food intake and behavioural, physiological or epidemiological studies in health and gastrointestinal disease

2: Enteric nervous system in health and disease. This category includes research in humans and animals investigating the basic molecular biology, development and physiology of motor control of the enteric nervous system in health and disease.

3: Vagal afferents in health and disease. This category includes research in humans and animals investigating the modulation of gastrointestinal function by vagal signals in health and disease.

4: Spinal afferents in health and disease. This category includes research in humans and animals investigating the modulation of gastrointestinal function by spinal signals in health and disease.

5: Immune function / epithelial barrier function / microbiota. This category includes research in humans and animals investigating either one or all of the above mentioned 3 topics and how they influence gastrointestinal function in health and disease.