

Sharing interdisciplinary neuroscience paywall-free at SfN

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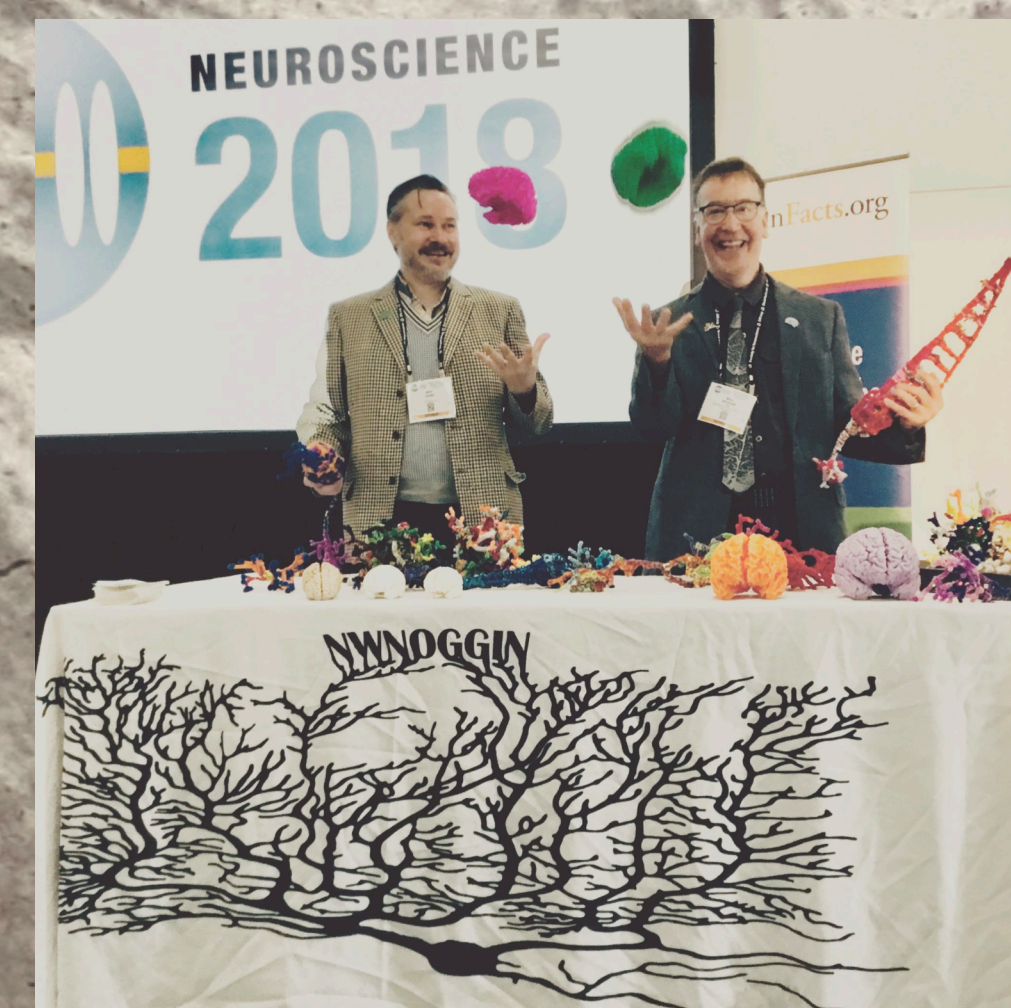


Nonprofit NW Noggin (nwnoggin.org) organizes collaboration and community around interdisciplinary neuroscience. Undergraduates, graduate students and artists inspired by brain research join us in public schools, correctional facilities, houseless youth centers and more to hear what people already know and want to know, and see where lab and classroom discoveries can contribute. We've met 65,000 people since 2012!

The last time we traveled to San Diego for the Society for Neuroscience conference, we gave the 2018 keynote address on brain awareness, and joined a panel on outreach. Representatives of resource-rich institutions described well-staffed offices, paywalled conferences, expert-judged Brain Bees and annual Brain Fairs.



Brain Awareness at SfN, San Diego



Brain Awareness at SfN, San Diego



Social Neuroscience Fair, Chicago, Illinois

In contrast, we introduced over 70 all-volunteer, paywall-free visits we'd made to community spaces that don't often get exposure to neuroscience, bringing specimens and art projects, and centering the questions, stories, knowledge and interests of those we met.

We invited everyone to join us in K-12 classrooms, where we'd arranged with San Diego Unified district staff and teachers for two days of direct public engagement over

We are fascinated by the money spent by government and private foundations aimed at increasing diversity, equity, inclusion and interdisciplinary approaches to "brain awareness" in education and research, much of which flows to the same privileged universities, private schools and institutions receiving funding in the past.



Fort Vancouver High School, Vancouver Washington



Pear, a houseless youth center in Portland Oregon



MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility, Woodburn Oregon



The Brain Observatory, San Diego



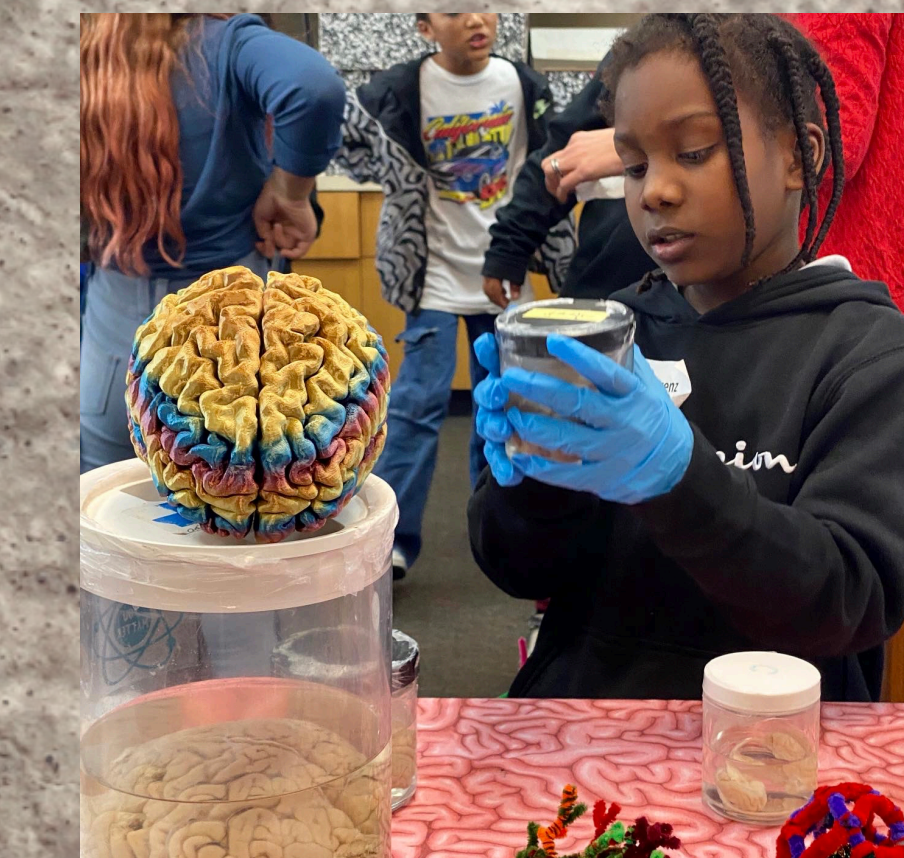
Indian Education Camp, Yoncalla Oregon

That is not our approach, so while we miss big structurally segregated dollars, we enjoy the privilege of going places and hearing directly from those not currently overrepresented in neuroscience, both inspiring and being inspired by questions, insights and art.

During the 2022 Society for Neuroscience conference in San Diego, we not only presented original posters, caught up with colleagues and walked the cavernous convention halls, but also joyously re-connected with district staff and teachers, organizing two additional days of engagement in local schools!



Webster Elementary, San Diego



Freese Elementary, San Diego



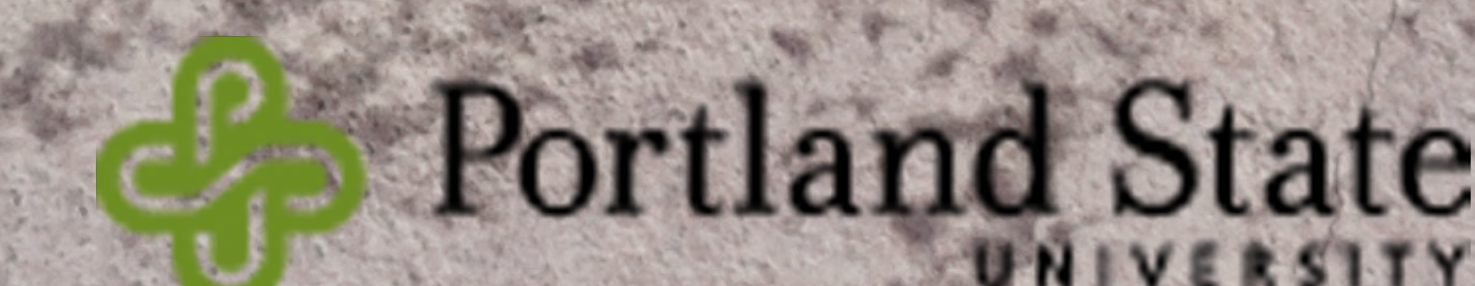
Turner Elementary, Washington DC

We met over 500 students at Webster and Freese elementary schools, examining brains we'd driven 1000 miles from Portland, Oregon, discussed new research and made art. We also met people passing by The Brain Observatory, a striking laboratory and exhibition space founded by Dr. Jacobo Annese, who dissected the brain of amnesia Patient H.M.

Building awareness of discoveries, educational options and careers through outreach engaging those not served by institutional "brain awareness" funding trains scientists to collaborate, reaches more people, and increases support for investment in research and art.



Portland Alcohol
Research Center



For more information
go to nwnoggin.org

