PRESS RELEASE
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ALBA-ELSEVIER AWARD LECTURE ON BRAIN SCIENCES 2021

FENS Forum 2022

Seung-Hee Lee, Associate Professor at Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) has been honoured with the ALBA-Elsevier Award Lecture on Brain Sciences 2021 in recognition of her major discoveries in neuroscience, particularly in identifying cortical circuit mechanisms of multisensory processing and perceptual decision-making. Launched this year, this ALBA Award highlights the research work of a scientist working in countries historically underrepresented in neuroscience publications and conferences and is sponsored by Elsevier. The winner will give a 20-minute lecture at the FENS Forum 2022 in Paris on Wednesday, 13 July 2022 at 11:30-12:15.

Prof. Elisabeth Binder (Max Planck Institute of Psychiatry, Germany), member of the ALBA Board of Directors and Chair of the ALBA Awards Selection Committee said, “The idea behind this award is not to just recognise scientific excellence, but to recognize outstanding science from a regional diversity angle. The award wants to ensure that neuroscientists from underrepresented groups have a seat at the proverbial table so that their exciting contributions are seen by as many as possible. Prof. Seung-Hee Lee has an impressive publication record backed by solid contributions to the field of systems neuroscience using in vivo recording and imaging tools together with novel behavioural assays. Moreover, her achievements have immensely contributed towards building a strong neuroscience community in South Korea and ensuring that research from this region reaches a wider global audience.” “As a global leader in research information & analytics and scientific publishing, Elsevier strives to make an impact in key areas to enhance diversity and inclusion in research across gender, race & ethnicity, and geographical dimensions and ensure that research is conducted and reported in the most equitable and inclusive manner possible.”, added Donna de Weerd-Wilson, Executive Publisher, Neuroscience at Elsevier.

With the impactful research into how the mammalian cortex integrates sensory information and adjusts perceptual behaviours in a dynamic sensory context, Prof. Lee has led her team to make significant discoveries, including circuits in the parietal cortex resolving audio-visual conflicts and in the cingulate cortex gating visuomotor transformation as well as a key role for the neuropeptide somatostatin in improving visual processing and cognitive behaviours. Her research findings provide a new framework for developing therapeutic interventions for various neurodegenerative and neuropsychiatric disorders that are characterized by the severe

disruption of perceptual behaviours and cognitive decline. She is also known for her efforts to help the Korean academic community and encourage more women in neuroscience. Her other accolades include the Scitech Korea Young Neuroscientist Award by the Korean Society for Brain and Neural Science (2017) and the Young Scientist Award by the World Economic Forum (2015), among other honours. “This award will be a great opportunity to expose our work to the broader neuroscience community. It will definitely promote the scientific career of myself and other female neuroscientists in Korea.”, reaffirmed Prof. Lee.

The ALBA-Elsevier Award Lecture on Brain Sciences, awarded for the first time in 2021, will be celebrated every alternate year at the FENS Forums of Neuroscience.

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The **ALBA Network** aims to promote equity and diversity in the brain sciences. The goal of ALBA is to establish a global network in order to share best practices and provide better visibility, networking and mentoring opportunities to scientists from underrepresented groups in brain research.

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The **Federation of European Neuroscience Societies** is the main organisation for neuroscience in Europe. FENS mission is to advance research and education in neuroscience within and outside Europe, to facilitate interaction and coordination between its members. It currently represents 44 European national and single discipline neuroscience societies, with 22,000 member scientists from 33 European countries.

The **FENS Forum of Neuroscience** is the largest international neuroscience meeting in Europe, covering all fields from basic to translational neuroscience. In 2022, the FENS Forum will be organized in collaboration with the French Society of Neuroscience and will take place on 9-13 July 2022 in Paris, France.