

The annual general meeting of the Society for Neuroscience attracts over 20,000 neuroscientists every year. In 2015 it was held in Chicago where I attended with the support of the MACP to present “The effect of joint flexibility and knee pain upon corticospinal and reflex control of quadriceps. Long M, Kassam J and Alexander CM” and “Short interval intrahemispheric inhibition (SICI) in a shoulder girdle muscle in humans. Mudgal, K. and Alexander, C.M.” The conference differs to many attended by MSK physiotherapists as, in the main, it is a conference where work is presented in poster format. There are thousands and thousands of posters that change every half day for 5 days. This means that the conference gives people an opportunity to speak to the researchers to discuss ideas, challenge and network. The world’s leading neuroscientists are there along with PhD students to senior researchers alongside a few clinicians and local undergraduates. Many people return year on year from all over the world and so you find that you can catch up with people who have travelled from far and wide.

The work is grouped in themes and topics, which makes it a little easier to find the work in your field. These themes are Development, Neural Excitability, Synapses, and Glia: Cellular Mechanisms, Disorders of the Nervous System, Sensory and Motor Systems, Integrative Systems: Neuroendocrinology, Neuroimmunology, and Homeostatic Challenge, Cognition and Behaviour, Novel Methods and Technology Development and finally History, Teaching, Public Awareness, and Societal Impacts in Neuroscience. Although much work is laboratory based and not yet applicable to treatment, there are some physiotherapists who present more applied work particularly in relation to control of movement and stroke rehabilitation.

The size of the conference means that it is impossible to feedback any detail however I would recommend a search of the online access to abstracts that can be found at the SfN annual general meeting website <https://www.sfn.org/annual-meeting/neuroscience-2015>. I would highly recommend this conference to present neuroscience research. The conference happens in the autumn with the abstract submission deadline in the preceding spring. However if you are an MSK clinician, I suggest a thorough search of the type of work presented in preceding years before making a decision to choose this conference over conferences such as WCPT and IFOMPT.

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