

# 2020 NEWSLETTER

THE ORGANIZATION FOR HUMAN BRAIN MAPPING'S NEWSLETTER



## 2020 AT A GLANCE

2020 has been a year to remember, to say the least. While the world endured lockdowns, shutdowns and many other challenges related to the global pandemic, many changes happened within the Society as well. OHBM reconfigured the Annual Meeting and Educational Courses and successfully executed its first ever virtual meeting. We addressed matters of diversity and inclusivity and developed new initiatives in accordance with OHBM's diversity and inclusivity goals including an action plan and a member survey, and Council approved the addition of a Sustainability and Environment Action SIG. And finally, OHBM hired a new Executive Director, Trish Shomion.

### IN THIS ISSUE

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**OHBM 2021 ANNUAL  
MEETING AND  
EDUCATIONAL  
COURSES**

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**UPDATE FROM  
APERTURE**

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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**SIG UPDATES**



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE

**FEBRUARY 1st!**

The abstract submission site is now open! Submit your abstract as soon as possible to avoid issues when uploading at the deadline. [Access the guidelines, submission process information and submission site here.](#)

The [OHBM Annual Meeting](#) is the place to learn about the latest international research in human brain mapping. It is an opportunity for you to have one-on-one discussions with experts in the field and connect with your peers from around the world. At the educational sessions, junior and senior scientists of various backgrounds teach about the most current and ground-breaking developments in the field, including machine learning techniques, high resolution imaging and open science methods. The meeting is typically held every June alternating locations between North America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

**The 2021 meeting will be held virtually June 21-25, 2021. The 2021 Educational Courses will be held virtually May 31 – June 4, 2021.**

Save the dates!

## Update from the Official Journal of OHBM

(Formerly Topic)

### APERTURE.....

Aperture officially launched to the public on October 1st, one of the many exciting milestones this year for the open access publishing platform, including hiring Tonya White as Aperture's first Editor-in-Chief, working through early submissions, and hiring a part-time journal manager. Aperture is now open for submissions. The publishing platform is still in a beta-phase as the Aperture Oversight Committee, Editor-in-Chief, and Editorial Team continue to improve the author and reviewer experience. Aperture's Editorial Team now consists of one Editor-in-Chief, 33 Handling Editors, and a growing number of Editorial Board members. As part of our launch campaign, Aperture has also curated an increasing list of high profile invited contributors who will submit to Aperture. We expect the publication of 10-20 high-quality Research Objects within the next 6 to 12 months. For more information on Aperture and how to submit, visit [the Aperture website](#).

## **OHBM AWARDS COMMITTEE**

The call for 2021 Award nominations is open and the deadline has been extended to **January 8, 2021**. Visit the [OHBM Award pages](#) to learn more, including details of the nomination process. The Awards Committee recommended the establishment of the Karl Zilles Award in Integrative Neuroscience for doctoral student or post-doctoral fellow. The Karl Zilles Award will acknowledge research in the spirit of Karl's life-long work integrating modern neuroanatomical approaches with multi-modal in-vivo neuroimaging.

## **OHBM BEST PRACTICES COMMITTEE**

The committee was formally established, with members identified, invited, and in place by summer 2020. The committee has met twice via Zoom to discuss its charge and commence its activities. The OHBM Best Practices Committee seeks to identify new areas where research best practice is newly needed as well to to adopt sensible best practice, following adjudication, which supports and strengthens the work of the OHBM, its membership, and the wider brain mapping research community.

## **OHBM COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

In the past year we have published 23 blog posts on the OHBM blog and increased our Twitter following to over 12k people. These blog posts have helped to promote a wide variety of OHBM activities including interviews with the Chair, the Treasurer (with an update on financial strategy) and keynote speakers of the Annual Meeting. We wrote articles promoting the 2020 virtual OHBM Annual Meeting (including posts on the inclusive activities on offer), and then summarized the Annual Meeting activities in a recent review. We worked closely with the Diversity & Inclusivity Committee to write posts aiming to understand which countries see least representation at OHBM (and possibly why). We have helped promote the OHBM Equinox and launch of Aperture (including an interview with Editor-in-Chief Tonya White). We have also created OnDemand tutorials on subjects as diverse as using MR Spectroscopy to measure GABA, anatomy and network neuroscience, and making the most of OHBM OnDemand educational content for brain mappers across the world. In addition, we interviewed four researchers as part of the OHBM Oral History initiative (Markus Raichle, Helen Mayberg, John Mazziotta and Rudiger Seitz). [Click here to view the OHBM blog](#).

## **OHBM EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The OHBM 2020 Educational Courses moved to a virtual format. The dates were selected after the main meeting, from July 13th to 17th. The program included 11 workshops (7 half-day and 4 full day) on a broad range of topics selected by the educational committee out of 27 submissions, with two additional industry-sponsored courses made available to the participants. Videos for all courses were pre-recorded and made available to registered participants, and a series of live, interactive Q&A sessions were also organized for each course. All the material for the courses is now available for OHBM members via the OHBM OnDemand educational portal.

## **OHBM DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVITY COMMITTEE**

In 2020 we organized the Diversity Symposium for OHBM 2020, completed a manuscript (currently under review at Neuroimage), organized a "Live Review" activity in collaboration with Frontiers for Young Minds for OHBM 2020 Annual Meeting with the aim of making "complicated scientific topics more understandable by kids ages 8-15," wrote diversity related blog posts for the OHBM blog, drafted the OHBM statement - [GEORGE FLOYD AND BLACK LIVES MATTER](#), liaised with the Awards Committee, collaborated with the BrainArt SIG and provided online artistic materials for children, helped with the selection of some of our very own OHBM superhero artwork, established with Council that non-gendered restrooms should be available at in-person meetings and updated the Code of Conduct to better reflect the virtual nature of the 2020 meeting.

## **TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE**

This past fall, OHBM assembled a Technology Task Force with a goal of identifying the virtual conference platform for OHBM 2021. In conjunction with the Education and Program Committees, this group has also identified areas of improvement for next year's meeting, and are working tirelessly to ensure these changes are incorporated into the Program and platform for 2021. The Task Force is comprised of a diverse set of OHBM members with varying backgrounds. We are extremely proud of what this group has accomplished thus far, with the acknowledgement of the work still ahead of them. Stay tuned in the coming months for details and sneak peeks of the 2021 virtual platform!



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### **OHBM BRAIN ART SIG**

In 2020 we created and managed a contest to solicit designs for a logo for the new Aperture journal, wrote an [OHBM blog post](#) to recap 2019 activities and foreshadow 2020 ones, wrote and ratified our bylaws, conducted official elections for future SIG officials, collaborated with the Diversity and Inclusivity Committee on family-friendly activities during the virtual meeting, as well as wrote an [OHBM blog post](#) about it, collaborated with OS-SIG to put on a **Brain Visualization** session during the OHBM hackathon, planned & managed the **2020 BrainArt Competition**, planned & managed the **2020 BrainArt Exhibition**, very topically entitled "**Neurodiversity**" (this has led to the creation of a [website](#) and a [YouTube channel](#)), and finally, we created a [guided meditation video](#) (collaboration between video artist Dan Lloyd and meditation instructor Tanya Dawe) for the 2020 Virtual Meeting entitled "A Stillness of the Mind."

### **OHBM STUDENT POSTDOC SIG**

The unprecedented and sudden transition from an in-person to virtual meeting in 2020 allowed the OHBM Program Committee and all SIGs to learn how to quickly adapt to providing a virtual learning experience. Although the format of the 2020 meeting changed, students and postdocs continued to make up more than half of attendees at the 2020 OHBM Meeting (54.5%; 1979/3628). Although we had to quickly transition our program to a virtual format, the Student and Postdoc SIG (SP-SIG) continued to serve the trainees and postdocs of the neuroimaging community through our major activities established in previous years as well as several new initiatives.

### **OHBM OPEN SCIENCE SIG**

In the lead up to OHBM 2021, we have been working on pulling together our new committee for this year. Since OHBM 2020, we have conducted our search and have elected the new officers for the following year. With that completed, the SIG is moving ahead with plans for the next year. As in past years, this year we will be focusing our efforts on our two main events: the OHBM Brainhack and the Open Science Room (OSR).

### **OHBM SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT ACTION SIG**

Earlier this month, OHBM announced the formation of a new Special Interest Group that will tackle sustainability and environmental issues around brain imaging. Awareness of the environmental impact of human activity has never been higher, and there is now strong international consensus that we urgently need rapid action to tackle multiple crises, including dangerous climate change and irreversible ecosystem degradation.

Neuroimaging research activity plays a part in these crises - from liquid helium extracted through fossil fuel production, to the energy usage of big data. We all have a responsibility - especially as professional scientists - to address these issues and move towards a sustainable future. [Click here to learn more about the SEA-SIG.](#)