

About The International Brain Bee

The International Brain Bee (IBB) aims to motivate students to learn about the brain and inspire them to pursue careers in neuroscience or medicine. Founded in the US in 1998, the IBB has grown into a global network spanning more than 50 countries. The IBB hosts two annual events:

- 💡 A virtual IBB World Championship for national Brain Bee champions from around the world, held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience.
- 💡 An in-person IBB NextGen event hosted at a major neuroscience conference, for the top finalists of the World Championship.

The IBB was incorporated in 2018 as a non-profit educational organization, and is supported and governed by five international neuroscience and educational organizations:

Alzheimer's Association
American Psychological Association (APA)
Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS)
International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)
Society for Neuroscience (SfN)



Rafał Sawicki
POLAND



Rafał Sawicki is a 17-year-old student studying at III LO im. Marynarki Wojennej RP in Gdynia, Poland. He is passionate about biology and chemistry, especially human anatomy and neuroscience.

From a very young age, he was curious about how the world works and loved to observe nature and animals. In high school Rafał discovered his passion for the human brain and the field of neuroscience. Outside of the classroom he plays volleyball in a team and competes in championships on regional level. Moreover he is also passionate about other sports such as alpine skiing and kitesurfing.

In his spare time, he enjoys playing the piano, doing sports and traveling. Rafał is an ambitious and hard working person, he is thankful for the opportunity to represent his country on the international stage.

The participating Brain Bee countries and their champions are as follows:

Albania	Brandi Myderizi
Argentina	Josefina Garay Diehl
Armenia	Anna Poghosyan
Australia	Tiffany Yi
Azerbaijan	Aykhana Bayramli
Brazil	Felipe Costa
Canada	Emma Rees
China	Xutang Liang
Croatia	Elena Weiser
Egypt	Abdulaziz Waleed Abdulaziz Hefny Alkhishen
France	Céline Mallett
Germany	Lina Duppe
Hong Kong	Chun Hei Au
Hungary	Áron Pankucsi-Versényi
India	Shomoita Sarkar
Iran	Mahsa Alizadeh
Israel	Khatia Iremadze
Italy	Aurora Maria Amato
Japan	Miki Sato
Kazakhstan	Alua Bahtbekova
Latvia	Pāvels Batirevs
Lithuania	Kristina Kaupaite
Macau	Chan Pak U
Malaysia	Wan Umar Iyash bin Wan Zulkifli
Mexico	Delaila Reyna Martínez
Netherlands	Luca Cojocar
New Zealand	Janie Kim
Nigeria	Divine Uchendu
Pakistan	Anabia Basit
Palestine	Rama Mahmoud Ghaleb Nashashibi
Poland	Rafał Sawicki
Romania	Alexandra Irina Danaie
South Korea	Narim Lee
Taiwan	ShihHan Lin
Thailand	Rachaya Thaiyapirom
Turkey	Asya Irmak Usta
Ukraine	Anastasiia Lysenko
United Kingdom	Jasmine Nlems
United States	Claire Zhou
Vietnam	Bao Khac Gia Nguyen



The International Brain Bee

... be a part of something extraordinary

www.thebrainbee.org

2025 IBB World Championship

The 2025 International Brain Bee (IBB) World Championship will take place **virtually** on **November 7-12**, in conjunction with Neuroscience 2025, the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in San Diego, CA.

A record **40 National Brain Bee Champions** from around the world will come together for an exciting competition and an engaging educational and social program. Each participant previously won the highest level of Brain Bee competition in their country to qualify for the World Championship.

The competition includes a written exam, a neuroanatomy and neurohistology components, and a patient diagnosis section. Results from these online assessments will determine which students advance to the **Live Judging Session** on **November 12**. This final round – and most of the social and educational programming – will be live streamed, culminating with the **virtual Award Ceremony** announcing 2025 IBB World Champion and runners-up later that day. The winners will also be recognized during the Brain Awareness Campaign Event at Neuroscience 2025 in San Diego.

Program Highlights

- **Cultural Video Exchange**, a compilation of 2-minute videos created by National Champions. A vote for the best video will be conducted on Instagram.
- **Cajal Club Lecture** by **Dr. Simona Lodato** of Humanitas University (Milan, Italy). The lecture is sponsored by the Cajal Club and will focus on the cerebral cortex.
- **Neuroimmunology Lecture** by **Dr. Juliette C. Madan** and **Dr. Richard Morse** of Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center (Lebanon, NH), sponsored by **The Alex Manfull Fund**.
- **Career Panel** featuring **Dr. Andy Shih** (Chief Science Officer at Autism Speaks) and **Dr. Daffyd Williams** (retired Canadian physician and astronaut).

The full schedule with live streaming links will be available at www.thebrainbee.org. The complete program will also be posted shortly.

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Awards and Honors

The **IBB World Champion** will receive a monetary prize of **US \$3,000** and a personalized plaque. The second and third place winners will receive US \$2,000 and \$1,000, respectively. The **top five finalists** will receive medals and will be invited to participate in the **third IBB NextGen event** to be hosted at the **FENS Forum 2026** in Barcelona, Spain, in July 2026.

Additional honors include the **IBB Neuroanatomy and Neurohistology Award** and the new **Cajal Club Neural Progenitor Award**, recognizing the winner of the IBB Live Judging Session.

About the International Brain Bee

The International Brain Bee (IBB) aims to inspire students to learn about the brain and to inspire them to pursue careers in neuroscience and medicine. Founded in the US in 1998, the Brain Bee has expanded to over 50 countries – driven almost entirely by volunteers. The annual World Championship, held alongside a major scientific conference, represents the culmination of this global initiative. Beyond competition, the IBB fosters cultural exchange and global connections, encouraging students to support one another and build a lifelong professional network.

The IBB was incorporated in 2018 as a non-profit educational organization. It is supported and governed by the **Alzheimer's Association**, the **American Psychological Association**, the **Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS)**, the **International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)**, and the **Society for Neuroscience (SfN)**.

Acknowledgements

The IBB gratefully acknowledges its **Governing Partners**, program partners, and sponsors for the 2025 IBB World Championship, including the **International Youth Neuroscience Association**, the **Cajal Club**, **The Alex Manfull Fund**, and **Eleanor Thompson** for sponsoring this year's Career Panel in memory of **Dr. Drew C. Richardson**. The 2025 World Championship is also supported in part by a grant from the **Dana Foundation**.

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 www.thebrainbee.org

2025 IBB World Championship Schedule

This does NOT include the 48 hour period for National Champions to complete the Written, Neuroanatomy/Neurohistology, and Patient Diagnosis components (November 7th, 03:00 AM – November 9th, 03:00 AM EST/UTC-5).

<https://www.worldtimebuddy.com/>

Day	Event	Details	Time Eastern Standard Time	Weblink
09/11/2025	Opening Ceremony	Welcome and overview of schedule and events	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	https://youtu.be/VP67Mjtdke8
	Opening Social	Ice-breaker and mix & mingle event for National Champions including Bingo game	10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	closed session for National Champions only
	Cultural Video Exchange	Showing of a compilation of 2-minute videos created by National Champions featuring their country	11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	https://go.thebrainbee.org/cultural-exchange-stream
10/11/2025	Neuroimmunology Lecture	Juliette C. Madan, MD, and Richard Morse, MD (Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center)	9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	https://youtu.be/_Kla34qVxsw
	Cajal Club Lecture	Simona Lodato, PhD (Humanitas University)	11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	https://youtu.be/XKnDViX4XQY
11/11/2025	Career Panel	Andy Shih, PhD (Chief Science Officer, Autism Speaks), Dafydd Williams, MD (retired Canadian Physician and Astronaut)	9:30 AM – 11:30 AM	https://youtu.be/3UubDQtwAZM
	Allen Brain Institute Workshop	Lauren Alfiler (Allen Institute)	12:00 PM – 1:30 PM	closed session for National Champions only
12/11/2025	Live Judging Session	Final competition Q&A	7:00 AM – 10:00 AM	https://youtu.be/TnbiQwqlzQs
	Community for Rigor Workshop	Konrad Kording, PhD (Community for Rigor)	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM	https://youtu.be/iQQ-idZlgpc
	Award Ceremony	Official award presentation, recognition of champions, partners/sponsors, and closing remarks	2:00 PM – 3:00 PM	https://youtu.be/vBeBlxzEN1o



A Letter from the Brain Bee Founder and Artificial Intelligence

Dear Brain Bee Champions,

2025 is a rare magical year because it is the perfect square of 45 X 45. It is also magical because you are here at the International Brain Bee (IBB) Championship. Like The World Games in China, the IBB is an international competition. Like EXPO 2025 in Japan, it is an experience you do not want to miss. Like the total lunar eclipse of September, the IBB eclipses all other neuroscience competitions for teenagers. 2025 has seen the discovery of new species, such as the pink bumpy snail fish; and new DNA elements, such as the Range Extender. 2025 will also see you represent your country on the world stage. Like the World Experience in London, the Innovative Festival in New York City, and the Dream Force in San Francisco, the IBB will inspire you and motivate you. The IBB will ignite your curiosity, stretch your imagination, and harness the neuroplasticity of your brain to expand your mind.

The promise of neuroscience is real. Its future will be revolutionary. You stand at the threshold of discoveries that will transform health, education and society, including gene engineering, regenerative medicine, advanced brain imaging, and cognitive enhancement. Some of you may help to develop brain chips to prevent seizures, retinal implants to restore vision, or cures for brain cancer and Alzheimer's disease.

Albert Einstein once said, “Imagination is more important than knowledge.” Twenty-five years ago, my imagination sparked the creation of the International Brain Bee—a movement to inspire teens to understand the brain, improve lives, and pursue careers that heal and innovate. I felt homesick for a place I’d never been. To reach it, I had to overcome fear, embrace hard work. As Thomas Edison said, it’s “1% inspiration and 99% perspiration.” With the help of friends and colleagues, the Brain Bee now spans over 50 countries. When I see these youth from many nations working together in harmony, I believe the Brain Bee is an instrument of global peace.

In a greater context, we are in the midst of a major evolutionary transition that merges technology, biology, and society. We are at a point of singularity where we are not able to tell the difference between carbon and computer. In the future, we will be experiencing the singularity of black holes, as well as the singularity of AI. But nothing can compare with the singular beauty of the human brain and mind, with all of its sensations, emotions, thoughts, and visions; our human minds that may one day be lost in the vastness of space, or swallowed up by our own AI creations. But whatever happens, it depends on you.

Your essential learning experiences with the Brain Bee are just the beginning. We hope that you will be life-long learners, for we are living in exponential times. The neuroscience that you learn prepares you for jobs that do not exist yet, where you’ll be using technologies that have not yet been invented yet, in order to solve problems that we don’t even know are problems yet.

In closing, I wish you love and happiness in your life. The human brain holds the key to your future. Remember neuroplasticity. Not only can your brain create behavior, but behavior can create your brain, for better or worse. The choice is up to you.

Follow your heart but take your brain with you.

Dr. Norbert Myslinski
Founder of the International Brain Bee

SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 9

TIME EST	EVENT & DETAILS	LIVE STREAMING LINK
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Opening Ceremony: Welcome and overview of schedule and events	Web Link
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Opening Social: Ice-breaker and mix & mingle event for National Champions including Bingo game	For National Champions Only
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Cultural Exchange Video: Showing of a compilation of 2-minute videos created by National Champions featuring their country	Web Link

NOVEMBER 10

TIME EST	EVENT & DETAILS	LIVE STREAMING LINK
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Lecture: <i>Neuropsychiatry and Neuroinflammation: When the brain loses its mind</i> by Juliette C. Madan, MD, and Richard Morse, MD (Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center)	Web Link
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Cajal Club Lecture: <i>A Window into the Making of the Human Brain: Lessons from Organoids</i> by Simona Lodato, PhD (Humanitas University)	Web Link

SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 11

TIME EST	EVENT & DETAILS	LIVE STREAMING LINK
9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Career Panel: Presentation and Q&A with neuroscience professional Chair: Eleanor Thompson, Vice President of Product Development at WellRhythms - Andy Shih, PhD, Chief Science Officer at Autism Speaks - Dafydd Williams, MD (retired Canadian Physician and Astronaut)	Web Link
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Allen Brain Institute Workshop: Lauren Alfiler (Allen Institute)	For National Champions Only

NOVEMBER 12

TIME EST	EVENT & DETAILS	LIVE STREAMING LINK
7:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Live Judging Session: Final competition Q&A	Web Link
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Community for Rigor Workshop: Konrad Kording, PhD (Community for Rigor)	Web Link
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Award Ceremony: Official award presentation, recognition of champions, partners/sponsors, and closing remarks	Web Link