



## Chapter Continuity/Leadership Continuity

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### Chapter Goal:

One of the goals of the Michigan Chapter for the Society for Neuroscience (MISFN) is to become more inclusive by attracting more students and faculty from smaller colleges and institutes who were not charter members of MISFN to become engaged in our annual meetings and special events. In addition, we would like to attract more clinically oriented faculty and students to participate in MISFN events.

### Description:

Over the past two decades, the MISFN Council has made significant efforts to open our annual meetings and special events (such as our BRAIN Bee and Brain Awareness Week) to colleges who were not charter members of the chapter. In addition to the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Wayne State University (3 of the charter members), Western Michigan University and Central Michigan University were added as regular members and hosts of the MISFN annual meetings. Our “at-large” counselor position has been filled by members from other institutions, such as Michigan Technological University, Grand Valley State University, Saginaw Valley University, and Rochester College (the latter from which MISFN’s Past-President represented). This outreach program has been highly successful and students and faculty from all parts of Michigan are now participating in MISFN events. We provide travel grants for the annual meeting and special grants for other events. One of our new initiatives is to reach out to the clinical neuroscience community to increase their participation in our MISFN conference and events. This may include offering special awards for outstanding clinical papers and posters at upcoming events.

Because we keep our membership fees low; they are affordable to undergraduate and graduate students, allowing them to participate in MISFN scientific meetings, where they can present their research findings and exchange ideas with other scientists. Because of our engagement efforts and faculty that cares about the students, we have many volunteers to help us with organization of the MISFN events and with keeping MISFN visible in social media.

Leadership continuity in our chapter is achieved by providing mentorship for new roles within the MISFN Council. For example, preparation for the position of MISFN President starts with the position of President-Elect. After one year, the 2-year-long tenure of MISFN presidency commences and the past President mentors the new President for a year.

### Audience:

The MISFN has reached out beyond the membership of the chapter to all colleges and institutes in the state who have interests in the neurosciences. This has expanded the diversity of research



presentations and has engaged faculty and students who otherwise would not have become members of our Chapter. The MISFN has been very active in the Brain Awareness Week activities and these have involved local K-12 schools and the general public.

### Assessment Opportunities:

The primary metric of our success has been our ability to maintain and grow our membership over the years, not just in terms of total numbers, but also in terms of the diversity of colleges and institutions represented at our meetings. We do receive several “likes” on our social media platforms and our counselors have been very good about providing constructive feedback from their constituents at our regular Counselors meetings and this has helped improve our programs at the annual meetings.

### Funding:

The MISFN has been successful in raising funds for our events. We do have a modest membership fee, but most of the costs of our annual meeting have been covered by the host institutions. We do have vendors who provide additional funding and set up displays at our annual meetings and we have been able to garner external support as well.

### Resources/References:

We have several platforms on social media, including Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=michigan%20chapter%20of%20the%20society%20for%20neuroscience>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/SfnMichigan>)

Information about MISFN can be obtained from our annual programs, minutes of the counselor meetings, and references about our chapter on the SfN website.