GSAN Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2020

Meeting Agenda:
1. Feedback on February Events
2. Updates and Event Planning – March Events

(1) Feedback on February Events:

(1.1) Winter IPN 101 (February 3, 2020) - Academics:
- Ran smoothly as usual

(1.2) MGH Valentine's Day Activity (February 14, 2020):
- Event was super successful

(1.3) Rescheduled: Office for Students with Disabilities Information Night (February 17, 2020) – Wellbeing (Jasmine):
- Turnout was very low, but it was productive because a lot of things were discussed and there were a lot of questions asked anonymously
- For future iterations of this event, may be better to host it as a webinar (better for anonymous questions)
  - Or people could just submit questions anonymously and we can interview OSD representatives then publish the answers – this could also be done more frequently
- Jasmine has written up the questions and answers – this document will be available soon for the Neuroblog

(1.4) Weekend Coding Workshop (February 22-23, 2020) - Academics:
- Some turnout issues – turnout started at about 30% at the beginning of the weekend and went down from there
  - For the future, do not run a weekend-long event
  - May also be better to run the event during the week – when people may already be in working/coding mode

(1.5) Active Listening Training for Peer Supporters (February 24, 2020) - Wellbeing:
- Hosted this mostly for PGSS but it was not heavily advertised – not many people showed up

(1.6) Douglas Hobby Sharing Event (February 26, 2020):
- Went well, a lot of people came (about 20 people in total)

(1.7) R Programming – Douglas Edition (March 3, 2020) – Academics:
- Turnout was really good – more people showed up than those who signed up
- For next time:
    - Cut down on the amount of content – go a little bit slower
    - Registration should be mandatory so that everyone has enough time to set up software, download data files, etc.
- Malosree is very keen to run this event again next semester!
- It was really great to hold this workshop at the Douglas – a long-term goal would be to have more events running in parallel at the MNI and at the Douglas

(2) Updates and Event Planning – March Events:

(2.1) Troubleshooting Grad School (March 11, 2020) – New and International + Academic:
- https://www.facebook.com/events/285745235737322/
- Workshop on problems in grad school – e.g. taking time off, having a child, failing candidacy/class, not finishing in time limit (*also will focus on international students)
- There will be 5 panelists
- There is a google form for anonymous questions

(2.2) MATLAB Workshop – MNI Edition (March 12, 2020) – Sustainability Officers:
- https://www.facebook.com/events/135815941088626/

(2.3) Sustainability Documentary Screening (March 13, 2020) – Sustainability Officers:
- https://www.facebook.com/events/2571510723106209/
- Will be screening the documentary, Minimalism
- Will be giving a brief talk before the screening – but no powerpoint
- Snacks will be available
- Possibility to run this event at the Douglas as well – maybe create an implementation guide so that someone at the Douglas could run it
    - Could gauge interest by putting a poll up on the Instagram story

(2.4) St. Patrick's Day Brunch (March 14, 2020) – Social:
- https://www.facebook.com/events/2832538756866512/

(2.5) Intro to AI for Neuroscientists (March 16, 2020) – Academics:
- https://www.facebook.com/events/819558855230976/
- Will be held at the MNI
- Blake Richards (a neuroscientist and computer scientist) will be the speaker
    - Will talk about the basics of AI, history of AI, how to use it in your research

(2.6) MATLAB Workshop – Douglas Edition (March 18, 2020) – Academics:
- https://www.facebook.com/events/1039856346380791/

(2.7) MGH Hoppy Hour (March 20, 2020):
- https://www.facebook.com/events/528222511438690/
- Sponsors are being contacted for upcoming hoppy hour – we still have enough drinks so just need to get food – might make it St. Patrick's Day themed (may be able to use leftovers from St. Patrick's Day brunch)

(2.8) Funding for International Students (late March / early April) – New and International:
- Will be in late March or early April (before the faculty of medicine internal studentship deadline)

(2.9) Panel on Open Science (March 20, 2020) – Academics:
- Currently 6 people on the panel – individuals in different positions (PI's, students, etc.)
- Will talk about why students should be active in open science – the goal is to make open science very accessible to students

(2.10) Other Upcoming Events:
- **Trip to the Cat Café:**
  - Tentative date – end of March

- **Trip to the Dog Café:**
  - There is a café on St. Denis where people bring their dogs
    - Last year, some IPN students brought their dogs, then GSAN ordered food for the table and everyone stayed to hang out
  - Neelima would like to organize this event again- if you are interested in helping to organize this, let her know

- **Imposter Syndrome Panel Discussion:**
  - Based on last year's feedback, people seemed to prefer a round table discussion format
  - If you have any ideas for PIs (male and female) who may be interested in participating, let Neelima know

- **Summer Gala:**
  - Social team is still looking for venues

- **Talent Show (April 24, 2020):**
  - Venue has almost been finalized
  - Announcement for this will be sent in the next newsletter

- **Summer Hike:**
  - There should be options to walk or run this

(2.11) Updates from Institute Reps:
- **MGH:**
  - Had a Valentine's Day event – a yoga instructor came in to run this – was super successful
  - Sponsors are being contacted for upcoming hoppy hour – we still have enough drinks so just need to get food – might make it St. Patrick's Day themed (may be able to use leftovers from St. Patrick's Day brunch)
  - Posters have been put up
- **SCSD:**
  - Will work with their other association to go to Cabane a Sucre sometime in March
- **Downtown:**
  - Hoppy hour had less people than at the MNI (about 20-25 people) – space was very good, lots of drinks leftover
- **Glen:**
  - Taco Tuesday happened – went well
- **MNI:**
  - There will be a MATLAB workshop here soon – no posters for this yet
- **Douglas:**
  - Hobby Sharing Event – went well, a lot of people came (about 20 people in total)

- LDI x Glen Hoppy Hours will be in April – will have to choose a date and location

- **Reminders for all reps:**
  - There is a poster ready for peer support – please ensure that you have put this up!
  - There will also be a new poster coming soon for student advocacy
  - Always be sure to check Slack

(2.12) Other Updates:
- **French Classes:**
  - Everything is going well
  - This semester, the advanced class is actually being taught at the MGH – this seems to be working very well
  - Attendance has been good for all the classes

- **PGSS Updates:**
  - Meetings have been chill – could bring up the newsletter issue at the general assembly
  - Everyone vote!

(2.13) Communications Updates:

- **Slack:**
  - o Always be sure to check Slack
  - o ==There is a pinned post in the *General* channel – **"Intro to Slack for GSAN"** – read this if you are not familiar with the interface==
  - o ==If you have any other questions about how to use Slack, ask Neelima==

- **Newsletter:**
  - o Last month, we decided to shorten all blurbs and prioritize GSAN events over all other events in order to shorten the newsletter
  - o There has been a huge improvement – newsletter has been shorted a lot (depending on the size of your phone screen, you still have to click *"Read More"*)
  - o There is still an issue with PGSS unsubscribing from us – they say that they do not know why this is happening, may be an issue with Mailchimp

- **Social Media:**
  - o We have been doing the Sunday "What Happening this Week" stories – seem to be helpful

(2.14) GSAN Elections:

- Each person should write up a short exit report for whoever takes on this role next – informative summary of what you have done, suggestions, etc.
  - o Neelima will share a template for this soon
  - o Use information from the Google calendar to fill in your exit report – to remember details about events you have hosted, etc.
- Online voting for executive elections?
  - o Some people seem to prefer online voting – especially if their labs are far
    - ▪ People are interesting in the general assemblies but not everyone can come to the MNI
  - o We actually do have access to SimplyVoting (online voting system) through PGSS – they would set this up for us
  - o BUT to change the voting procedure, we would need a constitutional amendment which will have to be voted on at the next meeting – so we cannot change the procedure this year, but we can propose it for next year at the next general assembly to see what people think then pass this information on to the next executive team
- There will likely be an info session in May about the executive positions – open to anyone
- For next year's committee, rebrand the position of "Institute Rep" to sound more serious with a greater time commitment to ensure that reps understand the role