

# Diversity in

**D**iversity in the current world of innovation and technological advancement is a key aspect in considering a holistic approach to Neuroscience research. The different sub fields in Neuroscience are connected in a delicate network and the connections between each other ensure that collaboration is essential to progress. While collaborative efforts between different labs and institutions are slowly becoming important, such efforts with other fields like mathematics, computer science, physics and chemistry also ensure that the horizons are broadening.

Molecular and Cellular Neurosciences are of considerable interest to understand the chemical and biological basis of any conditions, and Behavioral studies are quintessential in determining the understanding of perception and consciousness. Neural Engineering and mechanistic perspectives on how the hu-

man brain functions have contributed considerable discoveries to the field in recent times. Psychological perspectives and the research on mental health have become a point of growing awareness and the steps taken to understand it, has evolved.

While the pandemic brought the world to a monumental stop, it also brought to light new avenues for inclusivity through virtual engagement. This ensured that scientific communication was not hindered even if the actual research may have been, during the initial stages.

The measures to find Translational and Clinical implications in Theoretical studies ensure that academic research is becoming more relevant to the general population. Due to the pandemic, the growing interest in biological research has galvanized and the need for communicative science rose, especially in the face of increasing misinformation.

-Maalavika Govindarajan

# Neuroscience



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While Neuroscience is a vast and increasingly growing sector in scientific research, it still has a long way to go. Inclusivity is one of the aspects that needs to be addressed and minority and underrepresented groups must be given more opportunities to not only enter but also thrive in the field. Eric Nestler, Director of the Friedman Brain Institute and president of SfN said that “Over the last 20 years or so, I’ve seen a large increase in the number of women who have entered neuroscience, but at the same time, the number of senior women faculty and the number of women in leadership positions continue to lag. The situation is even more dire for underrepresented minority groups.” Vidita Vaidya, Professor at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai feels “Many young women in India don’t even have the access to an equal education, an equal nutrition, and equal access to many opportunities. We need diversity in science with representa-

tion from people who have had experiences from all walks of life.”

But science communication has opened channels in today’s world like never before. More people across all levels of Neuroscience and STEM are creating content, sharing their experiences as part of academia, including useful resources for people curious about and/or interested in pursuing science. Researchers are now being more mindful regarding their philosophy on diversity by sharing their statement on diversity and inclusion. Other practices like associating an individual with their preferred choice of pronoun(s) has helped create awareness of the conscious need to create a supportive environment for a diverse and inclusive community. These are great steps in the right direction to make Neuroscience research inclusive and welcome more folks for a better tomorrow!

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