

Small Brains, Big Ideas – PLUS
Biomedical Insights from Invertebrates
October 29th to November 7th, 2012
Santiago-Valparaíso, Chile
Facultad de Medicina Universidad de Chile
Santiago, Chile
Centro Interdisciplinario de Neurociencia
Valparaíso, Chile

The second version of the successful 2010 course will take place from October 29th to November 7th 2012. The course will be orchestrated by a group of lectures and hands on laboratory that will expose Latin-American students/junior Faculty to recent advances and modern techniques in neurosciences, using invertebrates as model systems. The course as before will primarily focus on *Drosophila melanogaster* and *Caenorhabditis elegans*, and the use of these animal models both in basic neuroscience and biomedical research. This time, however we have incorporated scientists working with butterflies and bees two powerful invertebrate models for research of the brain function.

The course will include areas ranging from genetic approaches to the study of the nervous system, brain and synapse development, cellular and molecular neuroscience, analysis of brain circuits, and behavior. Instructors will be both faculty members from the host institutions as well as renowned scientists in each field. This will allow students not only to gain first hand experience with approaches in these model systems, but also to interact and network with leaders in the specific areas of research.

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