Carmen Sandi for George Fink Prize Lectureship

Professor Carmen Sandi has made seminal contributions to understanding how stress hormones, neuropeptides, and mitochondrial and metabolic mechanisms shape brain function and behavior, with a particular focus on individual differences in vulnerability and resilience to stress. Alongside this scientific impact, she has served as President of the EBBS and FENS, founded and chaired the ALBA Network to promote equity and diversity in brain sciences, and now leads the Global Stress and Resilience Network, exemplifying Fink's dual legacy of scientific breakthrough and tireless institutional leadership.

Professor George Fink's career was distinguished by two parallel streams: groundbreaking discovery (GnRH self-priming, direct CRF measurement) and extraordinary institutional leadership (Presidency of ENEA, founding editor of the Encyclopedia of Stress). Professor Carmen Sandi has followed precisely this dual path, making seminal contributions to our understanding of stress neurobiology, neuroendocrine and neuropeptidergic mechanisms, behavior, cognition, and resilience, while simultaneously building and leading some of the most important international organizations in neuroscience.

Scientifically, Professor Sandi has revolutionized our understanding of how stress and neuropeptides shape brain circuits and behavior across multiple domains. Her laboratory at the Ecole Polytechnique Federal de Lausanne (EPFL) has uncovered fundamental mechanisms by which stress hormones and neuropeptides, including vasopressin, oxytocin, and CRH, regulate social behaviors, anxiety and resilience. Her work has been particularly influential in revealing how biological and environmental factors interact to determine individual differences in stress vulnerability and resilience, with important implications for understanding stress-related psychiatric disorders. Her more recent work on brain mitochondria and metabolism, has opened new avenues for linking cellular mechanisms to anxiety, motivation, and resilience, and for identifying potential intervention strategies.

But Professor Sandi's impact extends far beyond her own laboratory. She has served as **President of the European Brain and Behavior Society (EBBS)** and then of **the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS)**, one of the largest and most influential organizations in neuroscience worldwide. She was a **founding force behind the ALBA Network**, a global initiative dedicated to promoting equity, diversity, and inclusion in neuroscience that directly addresses the underrepresentation of scientists from Latin America, Africa, Asia, and other regions. She has also created and led major scientific networks devoted to stress and resilience, including the Swiss Stress Network and, most recently, the Global Stress and Resilience Network, which brings together researchers worldwide to advance the understanding of stress biology and resilience and to reduce the burden of stress-related disorders.

Like George Fink, who edited the monumental Encyclopedia of Stress, Professor Sandi has dedicated herself to building the infrastructure of international collaboration, creating platforms, networks, and organizations that enable others to succeed. Her tireless advocacy for diversity and her willingness to take on demanding leadership roles exemplify the very best of what the George Fink Lectureship seeks to honor.

For these reasons, Professor Carmen Sandi is an outstanding recipient for the George Fink Named Prize Lectureship.