

2010 Brain Storm Competition Guidelines

Brain Storm is a competition aimed at high school students taking biology, AP Psychology or other high school science courses. It is an effort to encourage students to learn about the brain and consider neuroscience as a career.

In order to limit the number of students at our competition in the medical school, we will hold a preliminary 'in school' competition this year. We once again anticipate sending the winner of our final competition to McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario for the second Canadian Brain Bee competition May 29, 2010!

'In-School' Component

A **preliminary competition** will include **multiple choice questions (MCQs) which students from various schools across the island will take at their school in a time-limited and supervised setting.** Students enter this contest as individuals, not as groups or schools. This first part of the competition **will take place the weeks of Feb. 23-March 3, 2010.** **ALL results from the preliminary competition are to be received by Dr. McLean by March 4, 2010.** Participating teachers will have an answer key, mark the MCQs and return the names of participants and marks to me mclean@mun.ca promptly. It is extremely important that teachers let me know the results (out of 40) so that invitations for the final event can be sent out.

The top **40** students will be invited to the actual competition (see below) which we (members of the Newfoundland Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience) will host at the medical school in St. John's on **Saturday, March 21, 2009 starting at 10 am (storm postponement date will be the next Saturday, March 27).** **There may have to be a limit placed on the number of students per school.** The organizers will need some flexibility on that decision.

Both the preliminary and the St. John's competition will be based on the [Brain Facts booklet](#). The ~70 page booklet is available free online.

The St. John's component of the competition will be in 3 stages. We will provide a modest subsidy reimbursement to help defray travel costs for those contestants who travel to St. John's from some distance away. This year, Elluminate Live software will be used for those students who can not attend the competition in person who are from a more remote area.

St. John's Medical School component. 10:00 am, Sat. March 20, 2010. This portion will be in the auditorium of the medical school (see directions above). **Contestants should arrive no later than 9:45 am.**

Stage 1. Again, this competition is as individuals, not as schools. The first part will be questions asked to all students with 3 chances (3 cards) to get a wrong answer before elimination. Students will be asked these questions one at a time. The students will

pass in a card after each incorrect answer and will be eliminated when the third card is passed in. **Questions will be short verbal answers to verbal questions (ie. not multiple choice).** At the time when approximately 10 students remain in the competition, we will take a break during which students will visit some of the neuroscience research labs in the medical school. A luncheon will then be provided for contestants and guests.

Stage 2. At approximately 1 pm, the next part of the competition will begin and will have a slightly different setup. All remaining students will write down answers to several questions at the same time. **Questions will be verbal or visual clues and will mainly require one word answers.** After all the questions are given, the answers will be marked by judges and presented to the audience. The top 3 students will then compete in the final stage.

Stage 3. In this stage, all 3 students get 3 cards again, with each student writing down the answer after each verbal question (again, short answers required, not multiple choice). If the student gets a wrong answer, he/she passes in a card. The student is eliminated when he/she has no card remaining (ie. 3 incorrect answers). **We anticipate the contest will end between 1:30 pm and 2:00 pm.** Prizes will be given to all contestants in the St. John's stage. The top 3 winners will receive cash prizes so they will need to supply their S.I.N. in order to receive the cash.

The winner will then win the trip to the Canadian Brain Bee in Hamilton, Ont. In the May 28-29, 2010. We will arrange for the flight and accommodations in Hamilton.