NCCR Synapsy Conference on the Neurobiology of Mental Health
on January 24 - 26, 2018
(and post-conference PhD work for credit validation)

Organizers: NCCR Synapsy

Location: Campus Biotech Geneva

Validation: 1 ECTS with term paper for LNDS students; else 3 entries on LNDS seminar sheet

Description
The 2.5 day high-profile Synapsy Conference aims at bringing together basic and translational research leaders, with the intention of promoting productive scientific exchanges among researchers focusing on the mechanistic bases of psychiatric disease. The major focus of the Conference will be on developmental processes and sensitive periods that influence the emergence of psychiatric diseases.

The scientific program is structured around the concept of research domains relevant to psychiatry, exploring the mechanistic entry points from a broad range of angles, spanning the whole spectrum between basic neuroscience and clinical psychiatry. Each of the six plenary sessions will focus on one major cognitive function through four main talks, including a lecture by a clinician working in the field of psychiatric disorders. Topics covered will include “Brain States and Cognition", “Emotion and Mood”, “Learning and Memory”, “Sensation and Perception”, “Sensory-motor Integration” as well as “Social Interactions and Communication”.

Registration is free for PhD students, but mandatory on the conference website before January 3, 2018.

For LNDS students, the participation to local symposia or national conferences usually warrants entries on a “seminar sheet” (12 entries = 1 ECTS) as these events do not provide the possibility to assess students’ learning achievements. However, the organizers of the Synapsy conference provide students with the possibility to submit a post-conference term paper.

Credit validation and instructions for post-conference term paper

- Write a mail to "lns@unil.ch" with the subject “Synapsy Conference” indicating that you registered as conference participant and will write a term paper to be submitted by February 28, 2018 (by mail to "lns@unil.ch")
- During the conference, sign the participation list the LNDS coordinator will send to the conference organizers.
- All submitted term papers will be collectively forwarded to the conference organizers for evaluation
In your term paper (1-2 pages long; please provide your name, the talk title your paper is referring to, as well as bibliographic references for your arguments in case applicable) you can either
   a) critically discuss one of the conference talks in face of other controversial research findings
      OR
   b) put one of the conference topics in context with your own research
      OR
   c) develop a small project proposal based on a conference topic sketching your ideas on what could be done in future studies.