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## Welcome to the The 9<sup>th</sup> International Congress of NEUROENDOCRINOLOGY 2018

As the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, it is with pleasure and excitement that I invite you to attend the 9th International Congress of Neuroendocrinology in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on July 15-18, 2018 – the optimal time to come and experience the beauty of Canada.

This meeting is being jointly sponsored by the International Neuroendocrine Federation (INF) and the Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology (SBN). We truly hope that all current and potential members of the INF and SBN throughout the world will make it to Canada for this exceptional meeting in 2018. We also have the support of the British Society for Neuroendocrinology, the American Neuroendocrine Society, and Société de Neuroendocrinologie (France), as well as many National Institutes, Universities, and Research Groups. Clearly this is a joint effort that will bring together researchers from all over the world with a common research theme.

Neuroendocrinology research in Canada has a long and proud history, exemplified by outstanding discoveries in all areas of physiology. Thus the Local Organizing Committee consists of members of the Neuroendocrine Community from across Canada. Neuroendocrinology is the marriage between the neurosciences and endocrine systems, achieved at the level of the brain. All aspects of our basic physiology are controlled through the neuroendocrine system. The neuroendocrine system is the means by which the brain, often at the level of the hypothalamus, maintains homeostasis, regulating reproduction, metabolism, eating and drinking behaviour, energy utilization, blood pressure, sleep and circadian rhythms. Each of these areas will be represented in the scientific program by exceptional researchers from many Universities, Research Institutes, and Teaching Hospitals throughout the world. Dr. Valerie Simonneaux will Chair the Program Committee and is already busy planning the unique and diverse scientific program for ICN 2018.

ICN 2018 will be held at the Westin Harbour Castle, an incredibly modern and sophisticated waterfront retreat in the heart of downtown Toronto, and easy accessible city from anywhere in the world. A Four Diamond hotel, its central location on the vibrant waterfront gives guests easy access to all of the city's most thrilling attractions. All of its guest rooms have direct lake views overlooking Lake Ontario to partial lake/city views. Guests of The Westin Harbour Castle have the best of both worlds-the peaceful beauty of the lakefront and the bustling financial district of Toronto. Premier downtown attractions and restaurants are within a 15-minute walk from the hotel's front door. We will also facilitate sensational excursions in and around the city of Toronto in order for our guests to enjoy their experience at the meeting to the greatest extent.

We are also hoping to schedule a couple of focussed satellite meetings at attractive and popular destinations in Ontario, including the Muskoka Cottage Country and Niagara Falls region. The International Congress of Neuroendocrinology has been held previously in Europe (4 times, 1990, 1994, 2002, 2010), Japan (once, 1998), the USA (2 times, 1986 and 2006), and Sydney, Australia in 2014. This is the first time that the International Congress will be held in Canada, bringing it back to North America after a 12-year hiatus to other areas of the world. We hope that you will put this meeting on your calendars early and make this a "can't miss" experience for you, your trainees, and your colleagues in 2018!



Denise D Belsham, PhD, Chair, Local Organizing Committee Department of Physiology

## For any inquires, please contact ICN2018@icsevents.com