



16th Brain Awareness Week

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Brain Awareness Week has been initiated by The Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives as a global campaign to increase public awareness of the progress and benefits of brain research. The Croatian Society for Neuroscience encourages its members and the rest of Croatian neuro-community to actively participate in the campaign. The Student Society for Neuroscience at the School of Medicine, University of Zagreb has a traditional role in organizing workshops and lectures for elementary school and high-school students, as well as for other University students and general public. During the third week of March (March 13-17), at the Croatian Institute for Brain Research, student volunteers hosted more than fifty activities for more than a thousand young visitors ranging from preschool to high-school population. After concise presentation on the basics of neuroanatomy with emphasis on neural development in the first three years of life and how the brain processes spatial information (official topics for this year), a unique opportunity was given to the visitors by exhibiting real

brain macro-specimens together with microscopic brain slices. The youngest were also provided with plaster casted brain hemispheres which were much appreciated souvenirs after the visit. Furthermore, volunteering students reached out to schools and held lectures in various high schools and elementary schools in Zagreb. Also, a public lecture for students at the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology was organized as a joint event by the Student Society for Neuroscience and Probiom student group. During the Week, an academic symposium dedicated to brain pathology research organized by the Department of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts took place on March 16, with lectures given by neuroscientists and clinical practitioners from the domain of neurology, psychiatry, neurosurgery, neuropediatrics and neuroradiology. Additionally, Brain Awareness Week activities were organized in cities throughout Croatia, i.e. in Osijek, Split, Rijeka, Zadar, Vukovar, Dubrovnik and Slavon-ski Brod.