



Change in venue for the 2018 annual meeting of the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society.

Shortly after Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico and other parts of the Caribbean, we at IBNS expressed our concern for our colleagues and the citizens of Puerto Rico, and encouraged our members to help where they could. We were determined to keep the meeting in Puerto Rico, if at all possible. We were initially assured by the hotel that they would be open within plenty of time for the meeting. Unfortunately, we were told last week that the repairs to the hotel would not be completed in time. The hotel will not open at all until April at the earliest, and will not be fully open for some time after that as portions remain closed for renovation on a rotating basis. As you are no doubt aware from news reports, the repairs to basic infrastructure in Puerto Rico are moving at an incredibly slow pace. Focus of all governmental and non-governmental groups remains on that basic infrastructure. As a consequence, relatively unimportant repairs (like the hotel) will be delayed while workers concentrate upon more important issues. This means that the hotel will not be able to host us next June. While we are disappointed in this outcome, we have accepted the circumstances. The representatives at El Conquistador have been very helpful in finding an alternative location, at relatively short notice. With their assistance we were able to maintain the same hotel pricing for the conference, including additional discounts for students. Thus, we wish to announce that the 2018 annual meeting location will be moved to the Boca Raton Resort and Club, Boca Raton, Florida (www.bocaresort.com). The dates will be almost exactly the same, June 27, 2018 to July 2, 2018.

Although we are all quite disappointed that we were unable to hold the meeting in Puerto Rico in June, 2018 as we had hoped, the IBNS Council will be discussing when we might be able to bring the meeting to Puerto Rico at a later date. That information will be forthcoming in the near future. The IBNS council will also be discussing ways that we might be able to help our Puerto Rican colleagues with meeting attendance, including registration waivers for our Puerto Rican colleagues and additional travel awards for Puerto Rican students (pending Council approval of course). Announcements about those efforts will be made after the Council meeting at the SFN Conference in November.

In the meantime, there continues to be an ongoing humanitarian crisis in Puerto Rico. We encourage all of our members to help where they can, and to contact their Senators and Representatives to encourage them to increase the commitment of federal resources to resolve this ongoing crisis. Additionally, we encourage our members to contribute where they can to the recovery effort. Information on how to help is available at FEMA, and volunteer resources of many organizations helping the recovery effort are coordinated through the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster.

F. Scott Hall, PhD, IBNS President

Carmen Maldonado-Vlaar, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee