



August 2025

**Summer issue**



## **A COMPREHENSIVE NETWORK AGAINST BRAIN CANCER**

### **Editorial**

Summer is on the way to finish but we can enjoy the sun and water every day. Because the lazy days are long sometimes, spend a bit of time with our newsletter and check shortly what's new in our community.

In the past months, we've been weaving together diverse expertise: spatial transcriptomics course, or an annual meeting presenting computational modeling, neural imaging, newest trends in brain cancer diagnosis or treatment, and machine learning. Each new dataset, algorithm, and insight becomes a thread in a much larger tapestry – a “network for the brain” in both the literal and collaborative sense.

But at the heart of Net4Brain lies something even more powerful: connection. Not just between neurons in a model or datasets in a repository, but between people – researchers, engineers, clinicians, and visionaries – who believe that knowledge grows stronger when it's shared.

In the coming months, we'll share updates on breakthroughs, challenges, and stories from the people making it all possible. We invite you to follow along, contribute, and be part of shaping a future where our understanding of the brain expands human potential.

Best regards,



Dr. Terezia Kiskova  
Science Communication Coordinator



## **Upcoming scientific events**

### **Core group meeting in Belgrade**

**Date: 6 September**

On 6<sup>th</sup> September 2025, the CG meeting will take place at the Institute for Biological Research "Siniša Stanković" – National Institute of the Republic of Serbia, University of Belgrade. The most relevant information will be shared with you via our social media. The meeting hosts Dr. Milica Pešić.

### **Bordeaux School of Neuroscience in France**

**Date: 22 September – 10 October**

Cutting-edge technologies inspired by the neuroscience field are transforming our ability to study brain cancers from a neural perspective. This course will enable students to integrate theoretical and methodological concepts in neuro-oncology, combining modern neuroscience approaches with hands-on experience in state-of-the-art methodologies. The course provides an integrated understanding of the crosstalk between neuro-oncology and neuroscience.

### **Net4Brain Early Career Researchers (ECRs) Meeting**

**Date: 28 October**

We are excited to launch the first Net4Brain Early Career Researchers (ECRs) Meeting, taking place on 28<sup>th</sup> October (online). This new initiative is part of our ongoing commitment to supporting PhD students and ECRs by promoting engagement and professional development across the network.

This event is designed to be more than just a scientific meeting; it's an opportunity for young researchers to connect, learn from leading experts, and gain practical tips for navigating the early stages of a research career.

We are also pleased to announce our two confirmed keynote speakers, who will share valuable research insights and tools with the community:

**Prof. Bozena Kaminska-Kaczmarek** – Head of the Laboratory of Molecular Neurobiology, International Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology (IIMCB), Warsaw, Poland. She will share insights from her latest research on brain tumour biology and immunology.

**Dr. Trygve Bakken** – Senior Scientist, Allen Institute for Brain Science, Seattle, USA. He will present the ABC Atlas and Genetic Atlas online tools, along with recent scientific findings.

The day will include interactive discussions on topics relevant to early-career researchers: publishing and peer review tips, funding and fellowships for ECRs, building collaborations, life/work balance and managing early-career pressures.

To attend the event and/or express interest in presenting, please register here: [Registration Link](#), or contact the ECR leader Prof. Annalisa Occhipinti at [a.occhipinti@tees.ac.uk](mailto:a.occhipinti@tees.ac.uk)



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## ***Approved short term scientific missions (STSMs)***

### **Catarina Passarinho**

Leveraging Radiomics for Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy analysis

### **Ahmet Azgin**

Quantitative MRSI of Gliomas: Improvement of data processing pipeline integration

### **Khuraman Sayin**

Identifying and creating deep learning models on brain tumor data (MRI) that determine patient survival time and the probability of tumor recurrence.

### **Simona Katrin Galun**

Imaging of 3D glioblastoma models with light-sheet microscopy

### **Bárbara Marques**

Establishment of biomimetic glioblastoma patient-derived models

### **Hamed Allahverdi**

Decoding tumor plasticity and evolution in glioblastoma through spatial transcriptomics in patient avatar models

We are looking for their reports in the Autumn issue.



## Past scientific events

### Training school in Stockholm



In June 2 to June 4, 2025, at the SciLifeLab Karolinska Solna campus Stockholm, a **Training School on spatial transcriptomics technologies and their applications** took place. Engaging lectures were complemented by extensive laboratory work, at the end of which each participant could see the results of their efforts. These were days full of new facts, but also of friendship and collaboration.

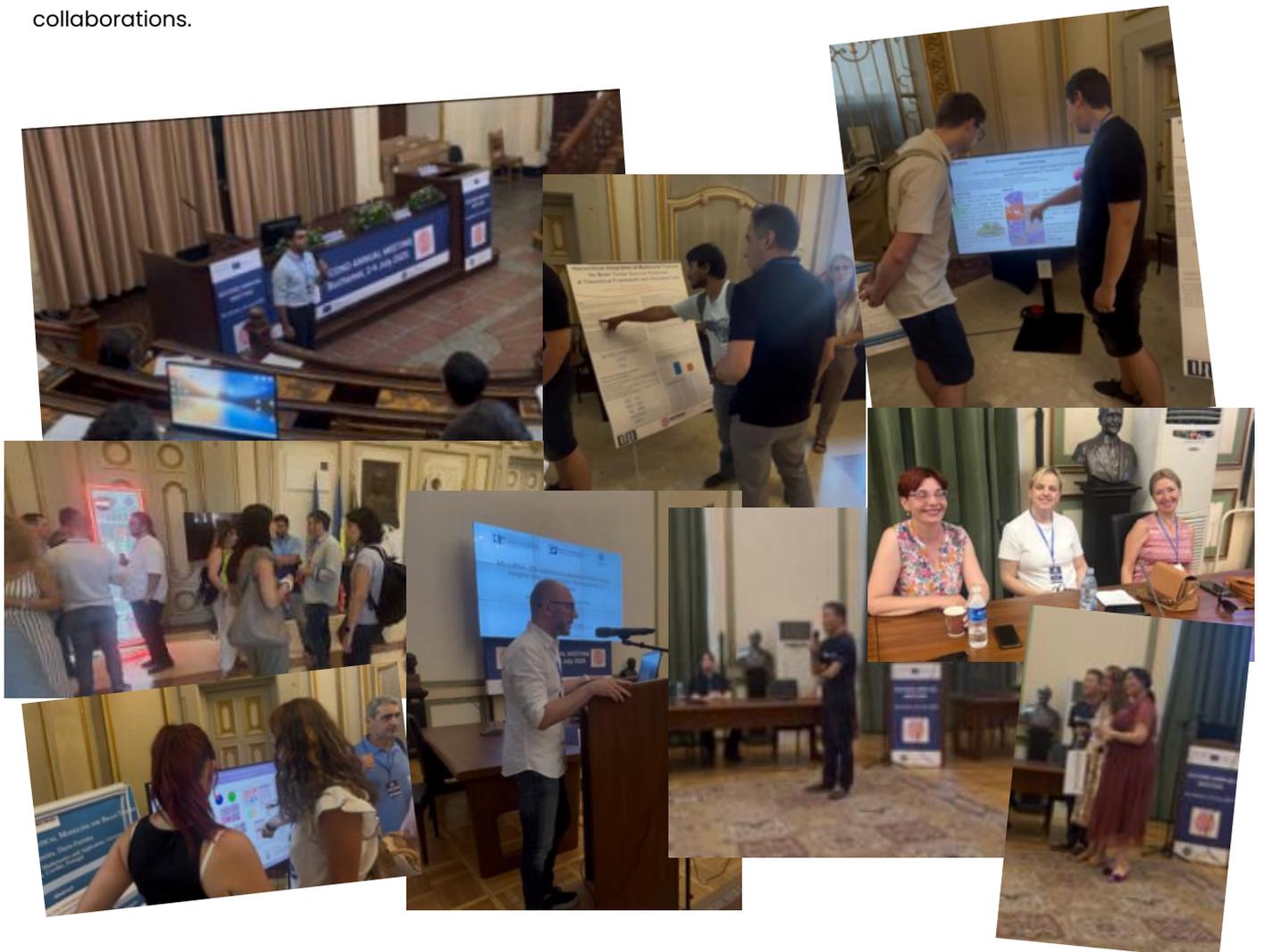




## Annual meeting in Bucharest



This year in July (2-4), the annual meeting was held by Carol Davilla University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania. It brought newest results from almost all participating communities of our Net4Brain community. It was a great opportunity to share new ideas, discuss the newest trends and talk about the collaborations.



## **Promo activities in Net4Brain community**

Carla Vitorino's Research Team have been present at the **XVIII COTEC Europe Summit** to present their recent works on 3D Bioprinting in the scope of the development of BBB-glioblastoma model.

The 2025 COTEC Europe Summit was held at Convento São Francisco, Coimbra, Portugal, on 13 and 14 May 2025.



## **News**

### **First Net4Brain baby**

Our WG6 leader, **Claudia Mazo**, got on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2025 a little daughter, Amber Zaykova Mazo. We wish Amber all the best.



### **Promo and dissemination team**

We are currently creating a design and promo team for sharing our news. Our group is now composed of **Claudia Mazo**, as WG6 leader, **Terezia Kiskova**, as Science Communication Coordinator. Our big thanks belong to **Mauricio Reyes**, as a creator of AI songs (together with Terezia Kiskova). Our newest members are **Ilaria D'Agostino** creating LinkedIn account (Net4Brain Dissemination) and **Aylin Toplu**.

Do you have some ideas? Are you feeling like a creative fellow? Would you like to join us?

Simply contact: [terezia.kiskova@upjs.sk](mailto:terezia.kiskova@upjs.sk)



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## **Contacts**

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Further contacts see:

<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22103/#tabs+Name:Main%20Contacts%20and%20Leadership>

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