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Nice to Meet New! p05

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from the editor...



Hello, All,

I hope by the time you're reading this, that the Covid-19 crisis has eased. It's been an horrific start to 2020!

A very full issue this month with wise words from our Chairman, Bjorn, a welcome to the MWJ's newly-appointed Features Editor, Photocup rules for our DIMs, and all the usual regulars.

Happy reading - and I hope you're all well!

Kate

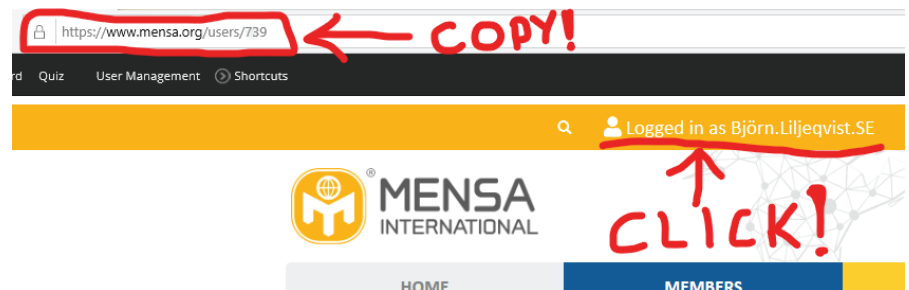
how to verify your membership to others

Going to a Mensa gathering in another country? Are you using SIGHT or trying to join a SIG? Need to prove that you are a member of Mensa? Easy! Log onto mensa.org. Go to your personal profile page, by clicking on "Logged in as YourName" at the top of the screen. Copy the URL, which looks like this: <https://www.mensa.org/user/<number>>

That's it! This link is your passport. It is all you have to show others. By clicking on it, anyone who's logged in can verify your good standing as a member regardless of which national Mensa you belong to. Sharing your national membership number is useless. Just give them the link to your profile page! By the way – have you got your free <yourname@member.mensa.org> "vanity" e-mail alias yet? A great thing to put on one's resume; you can get this on your profile page.

If you still don't have an account at Mensa.org, go get one today. All members of Mensa everywhere can do this, and if you want to have access to Mensa services outside of your own country, it is the first step.

Screenshot from mensa.org, profile page example.



2020 Mensa Canada Annual Gathering

24 July, 2020, 9:00 am

Paris of the Prairies - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada



International Mensans are invited to attend Mensa Canada's first Saskatchewan AG in Saskatoon.. Expect an eclectic slate of entertaining speakers, escape room fun, games room, friendly Canadian-style hospitality and entertainment. You can join an assortment of field trips to discover the wonders of the region including the excellent Remail Modern Art Museum and Wanuskewin Heritage Park. Visit <https://ag2020.mensacanada.org/>, or contact Vicki Herd via email at vherd@shaw.ca, via phone 403-243-6144, or via text 403-604-0843

from the chairman...

Why are we here?

As I write this column, the planet is united in fear of Corona. An invisible viral showstopper is making its way around the world, forcing us to change our plans and wash our hands with lots of soap. Less than a month until the meeting of the Executive Committee, this year in Frankfurt, Germany, the question is if we'll be able to go there in the first place. Italy itself was just quarantined, and by the time this column is published, it's anyone's guess what state we'll be in. I hope for the best.

The power unleashed from a single strand of RNA is striking. Infected or not, it's on everyone's minds. But is the virus intelligent? Probably not too bright, no ... Yet it seems to express a narrow cunning, evolved for a simple task without concern for us. Human intelligence, in turn, is mounting a counterattack, busily working in labs to develop vaccines and other measures. In the long run, my money is on human intelligence. After all, that is how we got where we are. And why we have Mensa.

Members often send me ideas and opinions on what Mensa should or should not do. Recently, an Australian gentleman wrote to me with an impassioned plea for action, by Mensa, to do something about climate change. He wrote: "The world is in crisis, climate change could well mean not only the extinction of

human life but all life on earth, yet Mensa's policy is to not get involved in politics. So we sit back and watch as the idiots drive us off the cliff?"

If Mensa's non-political nature stands in the way, should not the Constitution of Mensa then be changed, to allow that? The short answer is no, we're not changing the Constitution. The non-political nature of Mensa is genius, and as central to our ethos as that 2% limitation.

The longer answer is more interesting, because the question isn't bad, and using intelligence for good is a core value of Mensa. We were never supposed to be a pointless society. Indeed, if we resigned ourselves to being a party club for smart folks, a lot of members would in fact leave, those individuals who stay precisely because one wants to contribute to a good cause. So what cause is that?

Our cause is larger and more abstract than many other problems. For that reason, it is sometimes forgotten and then the sociable aspect of Mensa becomes easier to notice. So let me state it plainly, paraphrasing the Constitution of Mensa:



Björn Liljeqvist, International Chairman

Intelligence exists. It is valuable, and should be put to good use. But to find it, we must know what we're looking for.

Who's to say what is good use? The Constitution talks about "benefit of humanity" but is silent on what that means. It's for everyone to decide how they want to use their intelligence. So what if members have different opinions on what would benefit humanity – as long as we agree that intelligent solutions are generally to be preferred.

Enduring societies tend to have something in common. They know why they exist, what role they are meant to fill. A society with a sense of purpose is also likely to be a good social club. These are not mutually exclusive things. As long as Mensa

(from p03)

remembers the "why", parties and meetups will follow as the most natural thing, for we'll have cause to celebrate.

Here's an example from my own country. The attitude towards giftedness in Sweden is much different today compared with twenty years ago. Our society finally warmed up to the notion of paying attention to the needs of the gifted too. It's an intellectual climate change, so to speak. It is now generally accepted – across the political divides – that children of high cognitive ability have a right to stimulation and education at their level. Sweden might be a special case; lots of countries are way ahead of us in gifted education. The point is the shift in mentality. A lot of work remains, and Mensa can't take credit for it all. Simply that it was instrumental in the process is enough to make me happy.

Hundreds of more or less divisive issues in politics and life can still be important to us as members and citizens, without Mensa having to side one way or other on each of them. Mensa can still make a difference, by promoting the value of intelligence, loud and clear. That is not a small thing.

In the works ...

There are a few interesting projects going on right now in Mensa International. A new adaptive intelligence test not least; a trademark reform to make licensing easier; a "refactoring" of governing documents (to make them easier to read, without changing the meaning); updated elec-

tion rules; new promising national groups; etc. My favourite one is about improving communications for members. An electronic newsletter, with surveys and useful stuff is about to complement the Mensa World Journal. A new international discourse forum is in the works and will be launched soon.

An interesting platform we have been exploring is called Workplace by Facebook. I can strongly recommend it to all national groups who want a better option for their members than the regular, ad-driven Facebook, where each member has to be confirmed manually each time they join a group. Instead, this is a mini-facebook (same owner) aimed at private organisations, without the ads and only for the employees, or in our case, members.

Since December, we are using Workplace as the main community for international volunteers, including the IBD. Upgrading from simple e-mail lists to Workplace has been a game changer, giving us the best parts of the facebook-style interactivity without most of the known downsides. There's a mobile app too, obviously. While this community is hosted separately from Mensa.org, our own website remains the public face of Mensa International, and the repository for official documents. We're exploring the possibility of offering all members access to our international Workplace, and if we're successful in that, you will hear of this again – at least if you register at mensa.org.

For full details on our work, please see the minutes from the Interna-

tional Board of Directors and the Executive Committee on the member pages at Mensa.org.

All the best,

Björn Liljeqvist
International Chairman

MWJ Poetry Competition

The Mensa World Journal is proud to announce its 2020 Poetry Competition for members worldwide.

Members are invited to submit their original poems to the editor, mwjeditor@mensa.org, by August 1, 2020.

Poems are to be previously unpublished and no longer than 30 lines in length. There are no limitations on the theme/topic.

All entries must be in English and following the judges' decision, no correspondence will be entered into.

By submitting an entry (maximum of three entries) into the competition, members understand that their poem may be published in the Mensa World Journal or in any other National Mensa journal at the editors' discretion. The author will, of course, be acknowledged.

Please include your National Mensa and membership number with your entry.

Nice to Meet New - in Malaysia

While others were busy celebrating International Women's Day and enjoying special discounts, a group of Mensans already sat as equals meeting new friends of diverse backgrounds, while taking the opportunity to peek into the fastest growing start-up in the region: Fave.

Albeit the unfortunate circumstances of the coronavirus outbreak, where some members couldn't join us for health concerns, the first Nice to Meet New (NTMN) of the year kick-started with an encouraging turnout of 51 participants. Among the participants included familiar faces that joined as early as 1989, to quite a number of young Mensans accompanied by their parents.

Launched in 2019, NTMN is a quarterly event meant to welcome new members and to provide an avenue to interact and connect with current members. This year, we upgraded the program to feature members who had benefited from Mensa and had extraordinary achievements at their careers. We hoped the conversation would help members find value in their membership, while learning how diverse our community can be. Today's meeting proved to be a great success, with increased member's engagement and interest in volunteering.

We were greeted by Fave's co-founder, Yeoh Chen Chow, at their

headquarters in Bangsar South. Chen Chow has been a member of Malaysian Mensa Society since 1996. Prior to starting Fave, he led regional operations for Groupon Asia Pacific. He also had a stint at JobStreet.com and Accenture. After leading a member's introduction and ice-breaking session, Chen Chow generously shared his start-up journey from raising funds to business structure and company culture, not forgetting to throw in a couple jokes in the process. He also shared some words of wisdom for those interested in joining or starting a start-up.

"The right attitude to have for a start-up, is not just being passionate about an idea; everyone can come up with an idea. Instead, you should be passionate about a problem, a problem you can't stop talking to your friends about, a problem you stay awake at night to think about, a problem you won't give up trying even after failing one too many times," he said. He went on to share that "It's very challenging to run a startup as you often get rejected and fail so many times, that you thought of giving up. However, remember that among the many success stories people tell, there's always one common factor, which is they did not give up for that one last time."

Past Chairman Low Keng Lok also took the stage to address questions related to Mensa. "What Mensa means to me is a level playing field

where we are all equals, regardless of race, gender, and age, because we all joined under the same criterion, that is, achieving the top 2 percentile of IQ score," said Keng Lok. He also emphasized that Mensa is a place for forming strong bonds and lasting friendship. The event rounded up with a quick tour around the office followed by a dinner session.

Feedback since the event has been quite positive. Many agreed that the sharing session was a great addition. Nevertheless, we also received a request for more time to be allocated for member interaction, so rest assured, more events are coming your way!

Personally, I think the new NTMN structure is definitely an upgrade. Being a rather fresh member myself, having just joined in December last year, this event is indeed a memorable one. Within a couple of meetups, I felt that I was already part of the family. To me, Mensa is a home for brilliant (some say crazy) minds like us to find like-minded friends, to have in-depth discussion on topics of interest, and to be comfortable as ourselves without a worry of being judged.

How I wished I'd joined this club earlier. Now, the introvert inside me is looking forward to the next event. I hope to see you there too!

Tou Hui Ling

interested in publishing your own book?

If you are a Mensan who has written a book and wish to turn your publishing dream into a reality, you can self-publish your book. Some publishers offer publishing kits that help reduce your costs.

The difficulty of self-publishing is that you may not have the marketing and promotion capabilities to get your book out to the world on your own.

You may initially opt to publish an eBook and later, expand to a print and audio version. Remember that you will need an ISBN (International Standard Book Number) and a barcode. You will need separate ISBNs for each format of your book i.e. eBook, print or audio book. Note that you will only need one barcode for the printed version of your book. There could be additional production costs for your book such as editing, cover design, formatting, and more. If you are planning to write fiction, or have already written a fiction book, I can recommend Amazon KDP (Kindle Direct Publishing), as I have published books through them before.

You may also consider Lulu, Wattpad, Author Solutions (AS), Archway (a new joint venture between publishers AS and Simon & Schuster), AuthorHouse, Xlibris, and iUniverse. You could start writing online with NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) in November each year. There are pros and cons to self-publishing. You can upload your Microsoft Word document to the platform

of your choice. If you choose to format it into an HTML file, that is preferred on some platforms.

Self-publishing is becoming more popular. Cover design is important for sales, as is engaging a proof-reader or editor, unless you have a friend who can do this for you. I tend to design my own book covers using Canva Pro or Adobe Spark.

One of the cons of self-publishing is that you may pour a ton of work into an eBook that'll sell for so little online. You need book reviews to break into the top rankings and there are companies who offer review services. Again, you could ask a friend to read and review your book online, to promote it.

If you write multiple books in a series or collection, this increases your chances of success. However, if your only objective is to share information you know and turn that into revenue, you are probably better off looking into consulting, coaching, or creating a video course that you can sell for a much higher price point than an eBook.

On the other hand, if you have some spare time and believe that being able to point to the fact that you are a published author, self-publishing will help you to boost your credentials or career, then it's worth it. Self-publishing is also worth it if you can use the clicks and views that your eBook receives to boost another venture.

It is worth it to publish a short

eBook but a book that takes a few months to produce, may not be worth it in

this format. It gives you experience in launching, marketing, and selling a product, which is valuable to know anyway.

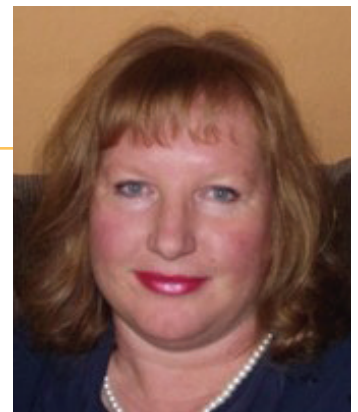
The highest paid authors tend to be fiction writers rather than non-fiction writers, which I find an interesting trend. I've written both fiction and non-fiction books and published under *nom de plumes* or pen-names.

I find it to be a more creative process to write non-fiction books and draw on my life's experiences and places to which I have travelled. To share your ideas with the world and leaving a legacy are other great reasons to stretch yourself to write your first book and be published.

Debra Widdicombe

Debra (Bailey) Widdicombe joined Mensa South Africa on 28 April 1997. She has been a member of Mensa for 23 years, including when she immigrated to the UK and then later, to Australia. She currently resides in Sydney and is a member of Mensa Australia. She has published two eBooks, written several articles and a variety of poems, for which she has received awards. She hopes to publish an anthology of poetry when she retires, gathering a collection of her poems written over the years.

Debra is a Senior Systems Analyst by profession and enjoys writing about Science, Technology, innovations, and travel.



Member Profile

by Susan Jensen

Tanya Brittain, a British Mensa member since 2004, works hard to promote the preservation of the Cornish language and other aspects of British culture.

Tanya lives between Cornwall and London, acting as a cultural ambassador/preservationist in both locations. In London, as CEO of the Public Monuments and Sculpture Association, Tanya promotes the creation of new public artwork and the preservation of existing sculptures and monuments.

Tanya's passion is music. For seven years, she produced a yearly Cornish music festival which attracted so many visitors it tripled the town of Looe's population during the event. She wrote, produced and marketed a film about the festival (narrated by Max von Sydow) bringing wide attention to the event and to the revival of the Cornish language.

A professional songwriter, Tanya financed the production of a music video for her original Cornish language song, Gwrello Glaw. The video quickly secured over 1 million views on Facebook and attracted thousands of comments about Cornish language from people all over the world. You can see it on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/171805877>

Or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/>



[TheChangingRoomMusic/videos/1120216018040759/](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TheChangingRoomMusic/videos/1120216018040759/)

This video was filmed in Looe Harbour, aboard 'Erin' a traditional Cornish lugger and features Tanya playing the accordion.

In 2014, Tanya helped found the Cornish folk group *The Changing Room*. The band consists of Tanya on accordion and four other musicians performing on banjo, guitar, Bodhran and harp. Since then, *The Changing Room* has performed all over the world and won all three prizes at the 2017 International Pan Celtic Song Contest. Their 2015 debut album, *Behind the Lace*, was applauded by the British Telegraph as one of the best folk albums of the year.

The author of three bilingual books, Tanya has been creative about promoting the Cornish language. She initiated a series called

See you on the Beach, where celebrities said, "See you on the Beach" in Cornish, like this commercial by American musician Huey Morgan: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOCDa8v6ZCU&feature=youtu.be>

In part thanks to Tanya's efforts, the number of fluent Cornish speakers has risen significantly in recent years, from around 500 at the turn of the 21st century to over 3,000 today.

Tanya lives with her life partner, Gareth, and is the mother of two grown kids and three stepchildren.

Tanya's hectic life hasn't left her much time to attend Mensa meetings. She enjoys reading the *Mensa World Journal* and is inspired by the profiles of Mensans who have courageously forged their own unique path in the world.

Susan Jensen

From directing us home to helping us cope with stress, recent discoveries on how neurons perform small miracles.

by Inham Hassen

Most, if not all of us have a place called home. Imagine you know where your home is, but do not know how to get there? Especially if it is a journey you have been performing almost every day for many years. You know where you are right now and you know where your house is, but you have no idea which way is left, and which way is right. Imagine that?

This sounds very hard to imagine, but this happens to patients who have faced damage to a part called the retrosplenial cortex, or the “inner compass” of the brain. To further explore the inner compass, scientists at the University of Michigan, attempted to record signals from individual neurons from the brains of mice. The findings were astonishing. While neurons in the cortex work hard to encode directional signals while the head is moving, a single neuron performs the small miracle of ensuring that you know which direction is left and which is right, irrespective of whether your head is stationary or moving, similar to a compass always knowing which direction is north.

Neurons continuously send out electrical signals – which scientists refer to as “neuronal firing”. Neuronal firing patterns vary. For decades, scientists believed that memory is stored in the brain (both human and animal), through unique

firing sequences among neurons. Scientists from the National Institute of Health Clinical Center in the USA have recently identified that neurons have unique firing patterns for every bit of information that a person comes across. The researchers mentioned pairs of seemingly unconnected words such as “cake” and “fox”, and observed that the firing pattern remained the same, whenever the person recalled the word pair. Neuron firing patterns perform the small miracle of ensuring you remember what you saw.

Humans have a miraculous capability of coping with stress. Some of us are just better at it, but all of us have our own ways of coping with it. Scientists from the University of Science and Technology of China and the Chinese Academy of Science, recently found out that a type of neuron called the CRF Neuron (corticotropin-releasing factor neurons) are responsible for the way we cope with stress, the way we do - whether we fight the stressor or avoid the stressor - with more active CRF neurons giving a better chance to fight the stressor.

The average human brain has 86 billion neurons, which allow us to achieve everything, from performing simple day-to-day tasks to conducting complex scientific research. Neurons are the microscopic mira-



cle-workers in our brain that enable us to achieve big and small miracles. Every passing day, scientists discover something new about the way neurons work inside the brain. Yet, the human understanding of the way the brain functions, is still minimal and a long journey is still ahead, for broadening its understanding.

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 All articles retrieved from Neuroscience News www.neurosciencenews.com

Welcome to our new Features Editor

Inham Hassen came across Mensa during his schooldays, when he picked up an old copy of the *Reader's Digest* from a used bookstore in his hometown, Colombo, Sri Lanka. After the set of puzzles that was aptly titled "Are You Mensa Material?" gave him an affirmative answer, he made it one of his dreams to be a part of the High IQ Society.

Nearly 15 years later, he managed to achieve his dream by crossing the hurdle of clearing the most challenging test in his life. By day, he is an IT Project Portfolio Man-

ager – a stressful, but an enjoyable role. He spends his free time reading pretty much everything he comes across – from marketing brochures for cheap holidays to ancient Greek philosophy.

He recently moved to Britain from his home country Sri Lanka, with his wife Rizviya, a doctor who specialises in the field of neurorehabilitation, and resides in Chertsey, a beautiful town in north Surrey. He likes to network with like-minded people and invites fellow Mensans to connect with him through LinkedIn –



accessible via <http://bit.ly/inham>

Junk food orders up trouble for young brains

That teenager in your kitchen feasting on fast food, candy bars and pop might not be able to help themselves - all the more reason for adults to help them before they cause long-term damage to their developing brains.

In a new study from the University of Western Ontario, researchers Cassandra Lowe, J. Bruce Morton and Amy Reichelt highlighted adolescence as a period of "dual susceptibility." While teen brains are still developing decision-making capabilities, their limited restraint and heightened reward system make them more prone to eating poorly, which in turn may lead to negative changes in the brain.

These findings, according to researchers, show the importance of changing behaviours and helping adolescents form healthy habits early on to minimize these changes. The study, Adolescent obesity and dietary decision making - a brain-health perspective, was published today in *The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health*.

"Adolescents are more prone to eating calorie-dense, high-sugar foods because they lack the control to regulate it," said Lowe, a BrainSCAN postdoctoral scholar. "Their brain is still maturing so they're more sensitive to the rewarding properties of these foods. But, at the same time, they lack the control mechanisms to prevent themselves from eating junk foods."

During adolescence, the prefrontal cortex—involved in self-regulation, decision-making and reward-seeking - is developing, making it difficult for teenagers to resist unhealthy foods. Until this area of the brain matures, adolescents are more likely to take part in impulsive and reward-seeking activities.

"The prefrontal cortex is the last area of the brain to develop. It's the part of the brain that is critical for behavioural regulation; it's the manager of the brain," said Reichelt, also a BrainsCAN postdoctoral scholar. "The teenage brain has a triple-vulnerability - a heightened drive for rewards, reduced self-regulation

(continued on p11)

supplementally...

by john blinke

Coal Ash

When people ask me what I think of nuclear power, I usually say it is a reasonable option if we can solve the waste disposal problem. You know the issue: there is no good place to put RAD waste for 10,000 years. Here in the Great Lakes watershed, we don't want radioactive particles getting into food fish or into the water, itself. It could hurt people and devastate our sport fishing industry.

But RAD waste isn't the only thing to worry about. I invite you to look up the "TVA Kingston Fossil Plant coal fly ash slurry spill." Coal doesn't disappear when you burn it. The ash (pictured above) is turned into a poisonous slurry and stored in ponds where it is supposed to dry out. In 2008, over a billion gallons of the nasty stuff broke out of storage and wiped out local homes and wild life.

Red Mud left over from aluminum production is handled similarly. It is penned up in huge holding ponds. Red mud is so corrosive that you need to see a doctor if it gets on your skin. Some of it can be repurposed. But, on the whole, it accumulates. Typically, it is dammed in valleys in the woods where it will be dangerous for a long time — maybe outlasting the radioactive waste that gets so much press.



Sticky Tape

When you can look at things in new ways, you often find out something you did not know before. I was playing with a digital microscope, looking at different things, and I happened to stick some clear shipping tape together, sticky side in. Under the microscope, I saw random blobs of air trapped between the tape. Some of them resembled cartoon animals or people. (It's called pareidolia) Cool! So I took pictures. When I looked again later, things had changed. Why? A lightbulb went off (figuratively) and then another. The first realization was that the figures were changing because air was seeping out from between the tape layers. As time went on, the blobs shrank. The second realization was that this must be the reason we are told to leave sticky stuff like permanent tape or Velcro alone overnight before putting any stress on it. As air seeps out, more contact is made be-

tween the surfaces and the tape will adhere more strongly. I was seeing that process before my eyes.

This was wonderful new information. On the other hand, it was wrecking my pareidolia viewing! Drat!

Curiosity Stream

Although I do not subscribe to streaming entertainment like Netflix or Hulu, I do subscribe to Curiosity Stream. It is an ad-free streaming service for original science content. It costs \$20 per year for the standard version and you can pay more money to get HD quality. The shows are mostly pretty good. I have been learning about the Norman Conquest as well as about the best preserved dinosaur and the latest NASA missions.

John Blinke

(from p09)

abilities and susceptibility to be changed by environmental factors—including junk foods.”

Over time, the excessive consumption of calorie-dense foods can lead to changes in the structure and function of the prefrontal cortex, including altering dopamine signalling and inhibition. The neurotransmitter dopamine is released when the brain’s reward system is activated. It can be activated by natural rewards, such as social interaction, as well as eating calorie-dense foods.

“If a behaviour is rewarding, dopamine makes us want to carry out that behaviour again,” Reichelt added. “Adolescents have increased num-

bers of dopamine receptors in the brain, so when they do experience something rewarding, that experience of reward and how the brain processes it is heightened compared to that of an adult.”

As adolescents overstimulate their reward systems, these unhealthy diets can result in poor cognitive control and heightened impulsivity as they move into adulthood. This demonstrates the importance of changing behaviours and helping adolescents form healthy habits early on to minimize changes to the brain.

“One avenue we really need to look into is the use of exercise as

a way of regulating changes in the brain that can help us make better dietary choices,” Lowe said. “There’s evidence that exercise can help improve the brain in terms of cognitive control, but also reduce reward sensitivity to things like food items.”

“Teenagers don’t want to be told what to do - they want to be able to make their own informed choices,” Reichelt said. “If you provide them with easily understandable information about how their diet is affecting their brain, while providing them with other alternative behaviours, that’s going to help them in maintaining healthy lifestyle practices long term.”

Extracted from Neuroscience News 10.03.2020

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MENSA PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Intercontinental Project Convergence "IPC"

The Search for

The Mensa International Photographer of the Year

2020

Rules of the competition for Direct International Members (DIMs)

1. This competition is organized by Mensa International as part of the International Project Convergence.
 2. The theme for 2020 is "**SHYNESS**"
 3. There is no fee for entry into the Competition. The entrant must be a member in good standing of Mensa International, or of a national Mensa group that is not running a national competition, for the duration of the competition. **Important:** *Members of national groups should ask their national office or board for details of their national competition. Only submit using these guidelines if your national group confirms they are NOT taking part in Project Convergence.*
 4. Photos should be in .jpg format not exceeding 1 MB. Entries in the DIM category must be received by **July 31, 2020**.
 5. Name, country, membership number and title of photograph should be included in the photo information/ label or in the text of the email.
 6. The photos should be e-mailed to the following address: **photocup2020@gmail.com**.
Please Note: *Any entries sent to Mensa International by members of a national group that is running a national competition will be declared invalid and will not be passed to the national Mensa for inclusion in their competition.*
 7. Each entrant may submit two colour images.
 8. All entries must be the sole work of the entrant.
 9. Any promotion of entries is not allowed.
 10. The three best entries in the Direct International category (including members of non-participating national groups) will be selected by a judging panel organized by Mensa International separately from the International judging panel. Entries will be judged on the effectiveness of how they convey the theme as well as composition, technical and other considerations. The decision of the Judging Panel is final.
 11. The three best entries in each national Mensa competition and in the DIM category will be included in the Mensa World Photo Cup competition run under the supervision of Mensa International.
 12. The International winner (*MI Photographer of the Year*) will be selected by a professional judging panel that will include the Mensa International Chairman ex-officio.
 13. Winning photographs will become part of the 'Mensa IPC Collection' and will be exhibited at the Annual Gatherings and otherwise publicised, inside and outside Mensa.
 14. Entrants will retain copyright of their photos but will grant Mensa non-exclusive rights for publication in Mensa journals, on Mensa websites, on Photo SIG posters, for display in exhibitions, or other appropriate places as part of the Mensa IPC Collection without any financial reward to the contestant.
 15. Contestants agree that their name and country may be published nationally and internationally.
 16. By submitting entries for the competition, the entrant accepts all the conditions listed above.
- Closing date for DIMs' entries: **July 31, 2020**.