

Denise Manahan-Vaughan is head of the Department of Neurophysiology within the Medical Faculty of the Ruhr University Bochum (www.rub.de). The Ruhr University is one of Germany's largest universities, comprising 20 faculties and educating ca. 40,000 undergraduate students. It is employer of several thousand postgraduate and senior researchers.

Prof. Manahan-Vaughan's department is responsible for tuition in physiology of preclinical medical students. She also heads a team of ca. 30 researchers that assist her in her research work as to the cellular mechanisms of learning and memory, and the molecular basis of brain disease. She has published over 130 peer-reviewed papers in international journals (www.rub.de/neurophys).

She is Dean of Studies of the International Graduate School of Neuroscience (www.rub.de/igsn), that offers a structured *english language* curriculum in neuroscience to postgraduates that engage in their doctoral research at key laboratories within the university. The IGSN has conferred over 130 PhDs in neuroscience since its foundation in 2001.

Prof. Manahan-Vaughan also coordinates a graduate program that is integrated within a large research consortium that is funded by the German Research Foundation (www.rub.de/sfb874), and previously coordinated a large graduate school that was funded by the Marie Curie instrument of the EU (NovoBrain).

In 2003, she founded the Network of European Neuroscience Schools that interlinks ca. 200 graduate programs across Europe (<http://www.fens.org/Training/NENS/>). Its goal is to standardise and optimise the quality of structured graduate program, and to foster trans-national interactions and mobility of graduate students. Since 2012 she has been a member of the Senates's grant approvals committee (for graduate schools) for the German Research Foundation.