Gatherings Aim to Bridge a Wide Divide

An annual meeting brings together Arab and Israeli neuroscientists.

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NeuroBridges grew from the friendship between Ahmed El Hady, an Egyptian neuroscientist at Princeton University, and his Israeli colleague Yonatan Loewenstein of the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Brain Sciences (ELSC) at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. After they met in Germany, Loewenstein invited El Hady to an ELSC retreat in Ein Gedi, an oasis near the Dead Sea in Israel. During a hike, the duo agreed that science could bring more researchers together, both professionally and personally.

This year's NeuroBridges will be at a chateau in Burgundy, France, in September. To reach a wider and younger audience, it will be a 10-day summer school in computational neuroscience. Can such meetings bring peace in the Middle East any closer? ?To be honest, this is not a question that concerns me very much,? Loewenstein says after a very long pause. ?The question I ask myself is what I can personally do to improve the situation.?

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