

Certified Conference Interpreter Test



English Sample materials

Simultaneous Interpreting: Monologue Task (Seen Speech)

Interpreting Brief

The following interpreting brief provides the context for the monologue.

A cell-biologist researcher, Amir Hejrani, is presenting at an international Cell Migration Conference in London on the results of his research. The audience consists of fellow cell biologists, cancer researchers and medical professionals. You have been assigned this speaker and must interpret the speech using the simultaneous mode in a conference interpreting booth.

Seen Speech Text

The following text has been provided to you to assist with interpreting the seen speech task. You will have 15 minutes to prepare for the task in the Preparation Room, where you will be given a hard copy of the text of the speech, which you can take with you into the test room. Note that this may differ slightly from the video-recorded version, and you will need to be able to adapt to this.

[Please turn over]

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. My topic today is the mechanisms of cell migration in the nervous system.

Many neurons resemble other cells in developing embryos in migrating long distances before they differentiate. However, despite shared basic machinery, neurons differ from other migrating cells. Most dramatically, migrating neurons have a long and dynamic leading process, and may extend an axon from the rear while they migrate. Neurons must coordinate the extension and branching of their leading processes, cell movement with axon specification and extension, switching between actin and microtubule motors, and attachment and recycling of diverse adhesion proteins. New research is needed to fully understand how migration of such morphologically complicated cells is coordinated over space and time.

Nervous systems are the organs through which animals perceive, interpret, and respond to the world around them. They consist of specialized, electrically active cells connected together in networks. Essentially, all nervous systems develop by four main stages: the proliferation of progenitors in an epithelium, the specification of neurons and glia, the growth and guidance of axons and dendrites, and the development and refinement of electrical and chemical synapses. However, some more complex nervous systems, including those of vertebrates, have another stage in which newly specified neurons migrate before they differentiate and form synapses. Some migrations cover long distances—up to thousands of cell diameters—and follow complex routes, changing direction at landmarks along the way. Because they migrate, neurons from different proliferative zones, and correspondingly distinct lineages and genetic programs, are able to position close to each other and communicate, potentially increasing efficiency. In addition, different types of neurons arrive at a particular location at different times during development, so circuits are established in a specific order. For these reasons, it is generally thought that neuron migrations facilitate circuit formation

and improve nervous system function, although this hypothesis has not been critically tested by the appropriate mutation studies.

[...]

[The sample ends here]