

April 2021

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## Australasian Neuroscience Society Newsletter



*Historical ANS materials (now destined for our archive) rescued in the nick of time after Sarah's office cleanout and Julian's timely phone call just one day later. Well done Julian and Sarah!*

## Notifications

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### **Become an ANS member or student member!**

Please join us by becoming a Member of ANS.

You can join online at any time!

<https://tas.currinda.com/register/organisation/172>

### **Check out our website**

[www.ans.org.au](http://www.ans.org.au) and follow updates on the ANS

Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/AusNeuroSoc>)

or via our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AusNeuroSoc>).

# Acknowledgements

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## Sponsors *(we thank our Society partners)*

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- Melbourne Neuroscience Institute, The University of Melbourne
- Neurological Foundation of New Zealand
- Otago Division of Sciences, University of Otago
- University of Tasmania
- The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health
- The Eccles Institute of Neuroscience, Australian National University
- The John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University
- Centre for Neuroscience, Flinders University
- Centre of Excellence for Integrative Brain Function, ARC Centre of Excellence
- South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute
- Hopwood Centre for Neurobiology, South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute
- Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland

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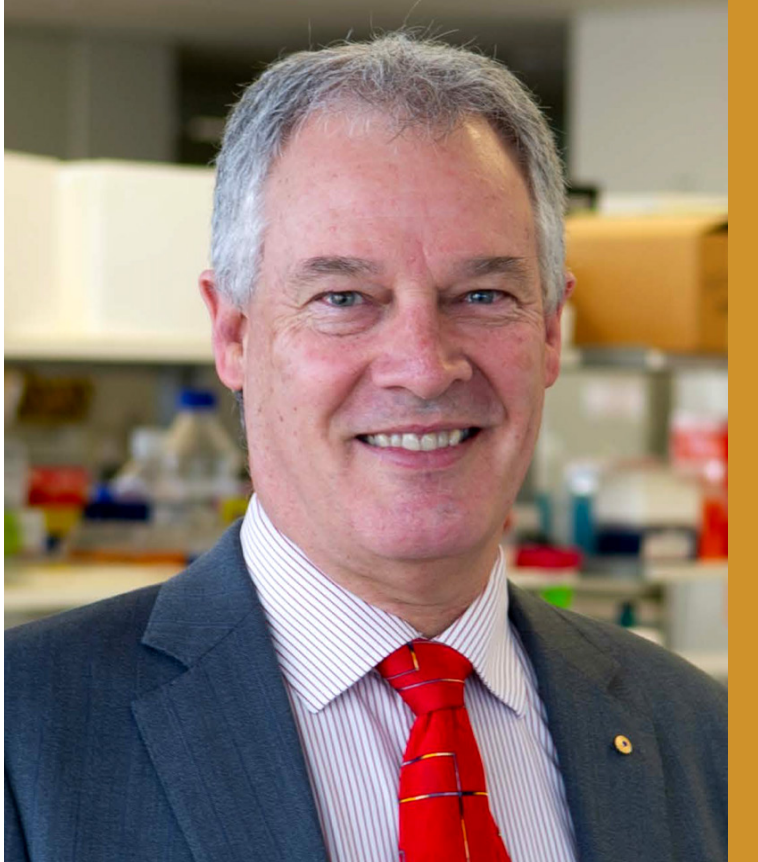
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## Message from the President

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*ANS President Prof Peter R Schofield AO*

After a year dominated by working from home and virtual meetings, neuroscientists are heading back to the laboratory and realising the importance of social interaction. With national vaccinations commencing, attending a scientific conference with lively discussion and new ideas is again a reality. I encourage you to start planning to “Reconnect the Network” in December in Melbourne.

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While 2020 will be remembered as a year of uncertainty and change, we have been fortunate to have limited the worst impacts of COVID-19 in Australia and New Zealand. I hope we can all look forward to a progressive return to normality in 2021 as our national vaccination strategy commences and expect that you will be relishing getting back to the lab and interactions with colleagues.

To our members, I hope that your research, teaching or study has not been too badly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. I am particularly mindful of the financial impacts of the pandemic on jobs in the university sector and the continued low success rates of investigator-initiated NHMRC and ARC grants. It has been a challenge for many, and our collective advocacy is required to ensure the importance of neuroscience is properly valued and supported.

April 2021

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*(Message from President ... Continued)*

I would like to pay tribute to President Cliff Abraham for his strong leadership over a challenging two years and to Treasurer Brian Dean who helped the society grapple with its desire to support neuroscience activity around the country from a limited budget. While some tough decisions were required, we now have a strong base on which to grow. Thanks to Thomas Fath for his organisational prowess and untiring work as Secretary and thanks also to departing State Representatives Yazi Ke (NSW), Ethan Scott (QLD), Alison Cauty (TAS) and Kristin Hillman (NZ) and Student Body Committee Chair Amr Abdeen. It's a pleasure to welcome new Secretary Michael Lardelli and new Treasurer Jana Vukovic to join Conference Executive Chair Kaylene Young and myself on the Executive and Nicole Jones (NSW), Tara Walker (QLD), Lyndsey Collins-Praino (SA), Cathryn Blizzard (TAS) and Johanna Montgomery (NZ) as new State Representatives and Ashleigh Geiger as new Student Body Committee Chair who form the Council. Together with our continuing members, the Executive and Council look forward to serving you, the members of ANS.

Since 2005, the Australasian Course in Advanced Neuroscience (ACAN) has been held on Stradbroke Island where an outstanding intensive three-week course has taught early- and mid-career researchers the theory and practice of electrophysiological recording and optical imaging techniques. While Stradbroke Island is a lovely venue for such a

course, its isolation presents a number of logistic challenges. The ACAN Committee, now led by ACAN Director Chris Reid, decided to move the meeting to the mainland, but their best laid plans were thwarted by the pandemic and the 2020 course had to be cancelled. However, it's now ready to return, being held at the Florey Institute from 25 July to 14 August.

Council took the difficult decision that we would not be able to conduct our 40th anniversary Annual Scientific Meeting in Perth in December 2020. I want to pay tribute to the entire Local Organising Committee's efforts and especially the co-convenors Julian Heng, Stuart Hodgetts, and Ann-Maree Vallenge. We truly appreciate your hard work and look forward to returning to Perth when we are able. However, as an example of the incredible pivot of activity that we have seen during the pandemic, we held a very successful one-day virtual meeting featuring ANS prize recipient presentations, an exciting 3 Minute Thesis final, and the Annual General Meeting.

"Reconnect the Network" is the theme for our next Annual Scientific Meeting to be held from 6 to 8 December 2021 at the Pullman Albert Park in Melbourne. I encourage you to start planning and submit your symposium proposals, and later, submitting an abstract, and attending. By December, with the national vaccination rollout completed, we should all be returning to being able to enjoy each other's company, having a stimulating scientific exchange, and with international

speakers attending virtually, there should be more opportunity than ever for members to present their world-class neuroscience research findings.

Wishing you the best for a productive and successful 2021 and to Reconnect in December in Melbourne.

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## Prof Peter R Schofield AO

*President, ANS*

[p.schofield@neura.edu.au](mailto:p.schofield@neura.edu.au)

## A Word from the ANS Secretary

The ANS owes a debt of gratitude to Thomas Fath for his work as Secretary of the society, particularly during “the year that shall not be named”! If I can fulfil the role of Secretary to the high standard he set then I will regard that, personally, as a great success.

The ongoing virus situation is creating considerable instability for many research programs and careers. Of course, a life in research means constantly striving for that next research grant, but older scientists (like me) often have the privilege of a continuing employment position while so many younger scientists are struggling to find that security. So an important role of the ANS is to facilitate the career development of its younger members. Along those lines, a very impressive development last year was the organisation of online symposia to keep neuroscience communication and education moving forward when face-to-face meetings became impossible. Congratulations to all the people who helped organise those symposia and particular thanks to Kaylene Young for her amazing energy and the work

she continues to do as ANS Conference Executive Chair. Recordings of some of the symposia are available to view by logging into the “Members-Only” area of the ANS website (<http://ans.org.au/member-login>). The members-only area was an innovation set up by Thomas Fath and will be developed further as a way of increasing the value of ANS membership. If you have any ideas regarding material that you would like to see in the members-only area then please let me know.

One document that you can currently find after logging into the members-only area is “A HISTORY OF THE AUSTRALASIAN NEUROSCIENCE SOCIETY 1980-2020”. This has been assembled by co-editors Laurie Geffen and Julian Heng, with contributions from many past presidents of the society. As well as those images of meetings from decades past (that leave you wondering how some senior members of ANS could ever have looked so young and fresh) it describes the initial establishment of the society, its decade-by-decade development, and the achievements (including ANS prizes awarded) of many ANS members. Laurie and Julian are currently assembling similar information on the 40 years of ANS activity for a paper to be submitted to the Journal of the History of the Neurosciences.



*What on Earth could motivate two neuroscientists to go skip diving – in the rain!? A new source of research funding? Of course not! Rather, their total dedication to preserving ANS history.*

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*(A Word from the ANS Secretary ... continued)*

Regarding our history, a significant problem in this digital age is the preservation of information held in old file formats, on outdated memory hardware, or on websites that are subsequently revised or moved to new platforms. The regular turnover of ANS Council membership and changes in the provision of secretariat and conference organisation services also carries with it the risk of loss of “corporate memory”. The above efforts to celebrate the 40 years of ANS activity revealed some gaps in our story – a result of the fact that the ANS has never appointed an archivist with the explicit duty to maintain detailed records. Consequently, the call went out some weeks ago to members for any old ANS materials including Annual Scientific Meeting programs and abstract books. Gratifyingly, a flood of material has come in, and former president Elspeth McLachlan has been busy collating it all. (Thank you to everyone who responded!) Elspeth asked me to pass on this request, *“To help fill in the gaps that still exist, we would be grateful if you find anything in your own archives (especially AGM papers between 1993 and 2004), to let us know and we will advise you if we need a copy. In particular, older members who still have copies of the Proceedings published in Neuroscience Letters from 1982-1989 may be prepared to part with them, even temporarily for copying, as many libraries seem to have disposed of the hard copies”*.

In time, the collated information will appear on the ANS website, including e.g. copies of the programs and abstract books of past meetings for download by members.

### Michael Lardelli

ANS Secretary  
[michael.lardelli@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:michael.lardelli@adelaide.edu.au)



*Historical ANS materials (now destined for our archive) rescued in the nick of time after Sarah's office cleanout and Julian's timely phone call just one day later. Well done Julian and Sarah!*

## Research Highlight

### “Changes in brain state modulates cortical coding and perception of somatosensory information.”

Variations in our conscious states have significant implications for everyday cognitive functioning and behaviour – from states of heightened and divided attention, and from wakefulness to sleep. Understanding how fluctuations in conscious state interact with fundamental brain functions, such as sensory processing remains elusive. Dr Conrad Lee, post-doctoral fellow at the Eccles Institute of Neuroscience at the Australian National University, demonstrates for the first time that an animal's conscious state affects the dynamics of cortical population activity, which in turn influences the population's capacity to process sensory information.

Head-fixed mice were trained to detect varying amplitudes of whisker-deflection under two-photon calcium imaging. Neurons in the vibrissal primary somatosensory cortex were imaged across different behavioural states, defined based on detection performance and pupil diameter. Here, active states were marked by decreased network synchrony, extending over shorter cortical distances. This decrease in network correlation resulted in enhanced information transmission capacity at the population level. As a result, single-cell responses shifted towards lower stimulus intensities, revealing enhanced detection sensitivity. This change in response profile reflected the behavioural demands of the task, mirroring the corresponding

psychometric performance. Interestingly, calcium signals were also predictive of the animal's choice, suggesting that the coding regime within the first stage of cortical processing may underlie adaptive routing of relevant information through the sensorimotor system.

Lee CCY, Kheradpezhoh E, Diamond ME, Arabzadeh E (2020). State-Dependent Changes in Perception and Coding in the Mouse Somatosensory Cortex. *Cell Reports* 32(13) 108197. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2211124720311864>

#### **About the first author: Dr Conrad Chun Yin Lee**

Conrad was awarded a PhD from the Australian National University in 2017. Since then, he has been a post-doctoral fellow at the Eccles Institute of Neuroscience at the Australian National University. He is supervised by Prof Ehsan Arabzadeh and funded by the ARC Centre of Excellence for Integrative Brain Function. His expertise is in behavioural neuroscience, and in vivo electrophysiology and imaging. He will continue to explore how changes in internal state affect brain wide network dynamics and sensory processing within the zebrafish model with A/Prof Ethan Scott at the Queensland Brain Institute at the University of Queensland.



*Dr Conrad Chun Yin Lee*

## Art of Neuroscience Competition Open

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The 11th annual Art of Neuroscience competition is now open for submissions. The deadline for this year's competition is May 19, 2021. We will award €1000 to the winner and €250 each to four honorable mentions.

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The Art of Neuroscience is an international competition open to scientists and artists worldwide. We are looking for striking artworks related to the field of Neuroscience in its broadest sense. Submissions can include images or videos representing actual neural data or tissue, but also more abstract visualizations, sculptures or even musical scores that are in some way related to concepts about nervous tissue, the brain or cognition.

Submit your artworks for the 2021 edition of Art of Neuroscience! Go to <https://submit.aon.nin.nl> > Register > Login > Upload!

**Submission deadline May 19, 2021.**

For more information, please visit: <http://aon.nin.knaw.nl>. For questions, please send an email to [aon@nin.knaw.nl](mailto:aon@nin.knaw.nl)

## New Zealand on the Equity and Diversity Committee:

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Are you passionate about issues surrounding equity and diversity? Do you have ideas of how ANS can improve our performance in this area? Do you currently reside in New Zealand? The ANS Equity and Diversity Committee is now seeking expressions of interest for a member to represent New Zealand.

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If interested, please write a brief statement about why you are interested in this position and send it, along with your CV, to: [lyndsey.collins-praino@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:lyndsey.collins-praino@adelaide.edu.au). More information and terms of reference can be found here: <https://www.ans.org.au/about-us/committees/equity-diversity-committee>

**Expressions of interest open until Friday,  
23rd April.**



# ANS EMCR Committee News

Dear ANS early- to mid-career researchers, we are preparing for an exciting 2021, keep an eye out for EMCR related announcements in your inbox and in future ANS newsletters.

## Join the ANS EMCR Committee for 2021

We are excited to announce that we are recruiting new representatives to sit on the ANS EMCR Committee. The committee is made up of passionate neuroscientists interested in creating opportunities for collaboration, career development, research communication, and awards for EMCRs. It is a great group of proactive EMCRs and we'd love to recruit more. If you are interested, send us an email with a brief bio and statement regarding why you would like to join the committee.

## Submit your abstract for the 2021 ANS EMCR webinar series

We are looking for ANS EMCR members (0-10 years post-PhD) who are motivated to conduct a 15 min presentation for the ANS membership as part of a limited webinar series in 2021. This is a great opportunity to raise your researcher profile among colleagues and discuss advancements in your neuroscience research. An email will be sent out shortly with more details and the abstract template.

## Email us with new publications, awards, and grants so we can share these achievements with the ANS community

Share your achievements with us so we can promote the excellent achievements of our EMCR members. We can publish a spotlight on your achievement in the ANS newsletter and promote the good news through our Twitter and Facebook accounts, which have a combined audience of 8,000 members of the public and Australasian neuroscientists.



If you are interested in any of these opportunities or if you have any questions about EMCR activities please send an email to Rebecca San Gil ([r.sangil@uq.edu.au](mailto:r.sangil@uq.edu.au)) and Stewart Christie ([stewart.christie@flinders.edu.au](mailto:stewart.christie@flinders.edu.au)) and we'll take care of the rest.

Thanks, on behalf of the ANS EMCR Committee.

**Rebecca San Gil**

*Chair, ANS EMCR Committee*

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## Communications

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### **Do you have information that you would like included in our ANS newsletter, posted on our website or Facebook page or tweeted?**

ANS has a Communications Committee to help members disseminate information and assist the Society in publicising its activities to Members and the public. This committee is Co-chaired by Dr Nathalie Dehorter (Australian National University) and Dr Marco Morsch (Macquarie University). It oversees the production of the newsletter and ensure that current content is posted on the ANS website (<http://www.ans.org.au/>), ANS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AusNeuroSoc>; curated by Dr Nathalie Dehorter) and disseminated

through the ANS Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/AusNeuroSoc>; postings by Dr Lila Landowski, University of Tasmania) and LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8362021/>; curated by Prof Thomas Fath).

If you have content for us, please email Omar Ibrahim ([omar.ibrahim@monash.edu](mailto:omar.ibrahim@monash.edu)) or Marco Morsch ([marco.morsch@mq.edu.au](mailto:marco.morsch@mq.edu.au)).

### **The deadline for inclusion of submissions in the next Newsletter is April 15th**

We encourage everyone to check out the ANS website.

[www.ans.org.au](http://www.ans.org.au)

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## Policy

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### **ANS Policy on Requests for Publicity via Email Circulation**

The policy of ANS is to minimise email traffic to members. Advertisements for meetings and other significant announcements such as job vacancies can be added to the website and included in the newsletter if appropriate. Such requests should be directed to the ANS Secretary.

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# 2020 AGM Minutes

## Australasian Neuroscience Society Annual General Meeting

3.00pm – 4.37pm, meeting took place virtually on December 9th, 2020.

### 1. Attendance and apologies (Thomas Fath)

Attendance: 89 members (see attendance sheets held by Secretary). Apologies: Mary Galea and Johanna Montgomery. *The Secretary opened the AGM, welcomed member and opened to questions.*

### 2. Confirmed the Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting

The Secretary put forward the following motion which was voted on and accepted:

Motion 1: To accept the Minutes of the 2019 ANS AGM as published in the January 2020 ANS newsletter, which is available on the website.

Moved: Thomas Fath.

Seconded: Kaylene Young.

Vote: Carried.

### 3. President's Report (Cliff Abraham)

The President spoke to his report.

It was noted that many activities were cancelled during 2020 including the conference in Perth. The cancellation of activities reduced overall ANS expenses for the year.

Just over half of the membership renewed for the 2020-21 financial year which is a solid base for the association.

He commented that because of the financial situation this year difficult calls had to be made and that support to the regional reps and committees had to cease and ANS was unable to provide financial support to other societies.

The President gave an update on The Association Specialists (TAS) contracts advising that the Association Management and Event Management contracts were renewed for another year, however the Executive intends to review the association management moving forward and that there have been modifications to the current contract to help reduce costs. TAS provided support in transferring costs for the 2020 conference to the 2021 conference and worked hard to assist in the difficult conditions. The online conference had a special contract with TAS to source sponsorship with \$18k generated which was a great effort in the current commercial environment.

ANS members had produced a document of the history of ANS, which is available in the members only section of the website. Cliff

Abraham thanked former President Laurie Geffen and other contributors for creating a great historical record.

It was noted that ACAN is an important element in ANS. Cliff Abraham gave thanks to Stephen Williams for superb leadership and welcomed new leadership with Chris Reid at The Florey Institute. An MOU has been signed between ANS and The Florey Institute.

The President commented on ANS representation on the Asia/Pacific Regional Committee (IBRO-APRC). Lindy Fitzgerald was serving on the committee and has now stepped down, Bronwyn Kivell, long time member of the society agreed to be nominated and she was elected to join the committee. Cliff Abraham thanked Lindy Fitzgerald and welcomed Bronwyn Kivell.

The President encouraged members to participate in the calls for ANS symposia meetings, awards and plenary as there have been minimal submissions over the last few years.

The President thanked everyone for their support to the society for the year, particularly in a challenging year and thanked the Executive and Council for their hard work and dedication and working as a group.

### 4. Secretary's Report

The Secretary thanked those who had led ANS communications highlighting the contribution of Co-Editors Marco Morsch and Omar Abdelrahman in regards to the newsletter and also for the social media and website updates by Nathalie Dehorter and Lila Landowski.

He noted that the ANS website had launched a members only section which is now live. It is going to be increasingly utilised as a repository for ANS documents such as policies, terms of reference and position descriptions and recordings of the 2020 online seminars.

He also advised that the ACAN website had been finalised and added to the ANS website.

### 5. Treasurer's Report

#### 5.1 The Society has received the Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer (Brian Dean) commented on what a challenging year it had been, thanking the Executive and Council for some tough decisions that had to be made.

The Treasurer spoke about the Audited accounts 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, commenting that income is down due to the cancellation of conferences, the ACAN course not running, expenditure being up and the need to book things in advance. The outcome was a deficit of \$228,565. Despite this, the

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association is still in a healthy position with current assets of \$219k and over \$1 million in reserves in a share portfolio.

The Treasurer had performed a Financial Review from 1 July 2020 to 30 November 2020 and noted expenses greater than \$10k with the Secretariat cost being the highest expense.

The ANS Conference in Adelaide was run with a \$42k loss.

The budget has been agreed by Council for the next financial year.

ANS is expected to make a surplus of \$775. The Treasurer gave an ACAN progress report – things moving steadily along with a high level of expenditure payment to The Florey Institute to allow arrangements to run the ACAN course. The ACAN course expects a surplus of \$5k.

The Treasurer commented on returns in the two ANS share portfolios which has increased by \$6k and for ACAN by \$1.5k.

The Treasurer put forward the following motion which was voted on and accepted:

Motion 2: The Society approves the Treasurer's Report.

Moved: Brian Dean.

Seconded: Peter Schofield.

Vote: Carried

## 5.2 Appointment of Auditor

The Treasurer put forward the following motion which was voted on and accepted:

Motion 3: The Society agrees to appoint Mark Tinworth of Tinworth & Co as the Auditor for 2020-2021.

Moved: Brian Dean

Seconded: Kaylene Young

Vote: Carried

## 6. Conference Executive Chair's Report

The Conference Executive Chair (CEC) Associate Professor Kaylene Young presented her report and outlined that the Perth meeting was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19. The CEC thanked the Perth Local Organising Committee for their hard work even though the meeting did not go ahead. Kaylene Young also gave thanks to TAS's work behind the scenes before the meeting cancellation including the efforts of Lynne Greenaway, Melanie Cook, Seb Bown and Nell Harrison.

The CEC thanked the program committee and virtual working group for their work on the ANS 2020 Online Series and commented that today's conference was a great meeting and thanked TAS for their support. The conference

sponsors were also acknowledged including the Chen Institute, Abcam, ARC Centre of Excellence for Integrative Brain Function and Ugo Basile (APAC Scientific).

Jess Nithianantharajah was invited to speak about ANS 2021. Jess spoke to the challenges to host the 40th ANS meeting, discussing the theme 'Reconnect the Network' and the importance to focus on reconnection and coming together as a society given the current global challenges. The event will be held from 6 - 8 December 2021 with 3 full days and hosted at the Pullman Hotel, Melbourne.

The CEC continued her report highlighting the speakers confirmed for the 2021 meeting and introduced the local organising committee.

Speakers Confirmed:

- Plenary lecture – Prof Edvard Moser (2014 recipient Nobel Prize) International Lecture
- Linda Richards
- Claire Parish
- Lars Ittner
- Bernard Balleine

ANS 2021 Local Organising Committee (LOC):

- Chairs: Assoc./Prof. Jess Nithianantharajah (Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health) & Dr Toby Merson (Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute, Monash University)
- Assoc./Prof. Lucy Palmer (Florey Institute)
- Assoc./Prof. Elisa Hill (RMIT University)
- Prof. Zane Andrews (Monash University)
- Dr Stephanie Simonds (Monash University)

- Dr Sarah Stephenson (Murdoch Children's Research Institute)
- Dr Michael Lazarou (Monash University)
- Assoc./Prof. Grant Dewson (Walter and Eliza Hall Institute)

The CEC welcomed on board the LOC team and advised that a call for Symposia will start February 2021 and call for Abstracts in May 2021.

## 7. Special Resolution – Amendments of the ANS Constitution

The Secretary advised that changes to the ANS Constitution were required for the following reasons:

- ACT Government-mandated changes
- Alignment with ANS policy/ procedure changes
- Improved clarity and flexibility of the Constitution

Proposed changes are as follows:

2. Object:

*Current:*

- 2.1 The primary object of the Society shall be the advancement of the neurosciences by facilitating the dissemination of information pertaining to neuroscience in teaching and research, by conducting meetings, seminars and lectures at local and national levels.

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*Proposed new wording:*

2.1 The primary object of the Society shall be the advancement of the neurosciences by facilitating the dissemination of information pertaining to neuroscience. This object shall be achieved by conducting meetings, lectures and courses, by supporting public outreach activities, and by engaging in the advocacy and promotion of neuroscience for the benefit of the Society's members.

*Removed:*

2.3 The Society shall engage in the advocacy and promotion of neuroscience for the benefit of its members. This may be by appointing a member of the Society to represent the interests of the Society on Councils or Boards of other societies or to engage in advocacy strategies as required by the Society.

### 3. Membership

*Current:*

3.1 There shall be four classes of Members of the Society – Ordinary, Honorary, Student and Sustaining.

*Proposed new wording:*

3.1 There shall be four classes of Members of the Society – Ordinary, Honorary, Student and Retired.

*Removed:*

3.4 Sustaining Membership of the Society shall be open to any interested organisation upon payment of an annual subscription as is from time to time determined by Council.

3.5 The privileges of Sustaining Members shall be 1. to be listed in publications distributed within the Society; 2. to designate a representative to act on its behalf as an individual Member of the Society for the purpose of voting and exercising other privileges; 3. to exhibit its products at meetings of the Society upon conditions to be determined.

*Current:*

3.6 The Society does not undertake to discipline its members.

*Proposed new wording:*

3.4 The Society shall maintain procedures for handling internal disputes and the disciplining of its members.

### 4. Executive

*Current:*

4.1 The Executive of the Society shall be the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Conference Executive Chair and, as required by the Executive, the elected positions as described in 4.2, 4.3 and 4.5.

*Proposed new wording:*

4.1 The Executive of the Society shall be the President, the President Elect, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Conference Executive Chair and, as required by the Executive, the elected positions as described in 4.6.

*Added:*

4.2 The Executive shall conduct such business of the Society as is not explicitly mentioned in this Constitution as being a matter for the Council or the Annual General Meeting.

*Current:*

4.5 As deemed appropriate by the Executive, the election of incoming Secretary, Treasurer and Conference Executive Chair may take effect one year before the due date of the retirement of the incumbent of these positions, allowing the positions of Secretary-elect, Treasurer-elect and Conference Executive Chair-elect to be occupied for up to one year.

*Proposed new wording:*

4.6 As deemed appropriate by the Executive, the election of a Secretary-Elect, Treasurer-Elect or Conference Executive Chair-Elect may be conducted no earlier than the Annual General Meeting in the year preceding the retirement of any of the incumbents. The positions of Secretary-Elect, Treasurer-Elect and Conference Executive

Chair-Elect can be occupied for up to one year. The transition from Secretary-Elect, Treasurer-Elect or Conference Executive Chair-Elect to Secretary, Treasurer or Conference Executive Chair, respectively, shall be at a time agreed by the Executive and the retiring incumbent. The period of office for an individual transitioning mid-term will be deemed as commencing at the following Annual General Meeting.

### 5. Council

*Current:*

5.1 The Society shall have a Council consisting of: 1: The Executive; 2. Elected positions described in 4.2 and 4.3; 2. The President-Elect; 3. Additional members elected by the Society to fill positions required to conduct the business of the Society including Council Members known as "Regional Representatives", who will be the respective representatives of the States of Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and New Zealand. 4. A Postgraduate Student Representative. and a 5. A Neuroscience Research Professional Representative who will represent postgraduate student members and members who are professional neuroscience researchers but not senior group leaders, respectively.

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*Proposed new wording:*

5.1 The Society shall have a Council consisting of: 1. The Executive; 2. The Past President; 3. Regional Representatives for the States of Australia, the Australian Capital Territory, and New Zealand; 4. Neuroscience Research Professional Representative; and 5. Postgraduate Student Representative

## 6. Public Officer

*Current:*

6.1 The Council shall appoint a person who is resident in the Australian Capital Territory to be Public Officer of the Society for the purposes of the Associations Incorporation Ordinance.

*Proposed new wording:*

6.1 The Council shall appoint a person who is resident in the Australian Capital Territory to be Public Officer of the Society for the purposes of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991. The Public Officer shall perform such duties as are required by the Act.

*Removed:*

6.2 The Public Office shall be deemed to have vacated his office if he: (a) ceases to be resident in the Australian Capital Territory, or (b) he is removed from office by resolution of Council.

6.3 If for any reason the office of Public Officer shall become vacant the Council shall, within fourteen (14) days after it becomes vacant, appoint another qualified as aforesaid to fill that vacancy.

## 7. Elections

*Current:*

7.1 Subject to this clause 7, the Executive and other members of the Council shall be elected by a ballot of all Members of the Society which shall be held in the month preceding the Annual General Meeting of the Society, so as to enable new Officers and other members to assume office immediately following the meeting.

*Proposed new wording:*

7.1 Subject to Sections 4 and 7, the Executive and other members of the Council shall be elected by a ballot of Members of the Society. Under normal circumstances the newly elected members shall assume their office at the next Annual General Meeting following the election.

## 9. Finance and Property

*Current:*

9.1 The funds of the Society shall be deposited in a bank account on behalf and in the name of the Society.

*Proposed new wording:*

9.1 The funds of the Society shall be invested as agreed by the Council so as to safely maximise returns on the investments of the Society.

*Current:*

9.2 The Treasurer shall be responsible for, and shall keep proper accounts of, all monies due or payable by the Society. Once at least in each financial year of the Society, which will end on 30 June, the accounts of the Society shall be examined by the Auditor. The Auditor shall certify as to the correctness of the accounts.

*Proposed new wording:*

9.2 The Treasurer shall present an annual budget to the Council for approval prior to the start of the financial year and properly account for all monies due or payable by the Society. Once at least in each financial year of the Society, which will end on 30 June, the accounts of the Society shall be examined by the Auditor. The Auditor shall certify as to the correctness of the accounts.

## 13. Dissolution

*Current:*

13.1 The Society shall not be wound up except in accordance with section 315 of the Companies Ordinance.

*Proposed new wording:*

13.1 The Society shall not be wound up except in accordance with Part 7 of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991.

*Current:*

13.2 The Society shall, upon the passing of a special resolution by a majority of at least three quarters of Members present and voting to the effect that the Society be dissolved, petition the court for an order that the Society be wound up. The said resolution may be put to members by means of a postal ballot.

*Proposed new wording:*

13.2 The Society shall, upon the passing of a special resolution by a majority of at least three quarters of Members present and voting to the effect that the Society be dissolved, petition the court for an order that the Society be wound up. The said resolution may be put to members by means of a ballot.

*Current:*

13.3 Subject to Section 19 of the Associations Incorporating Ordinance, the surplus assets of the Society shall, upon a dissolution, be distributed in accordance with a special resolution passed by a majority of at least three quarters of Members of the Association present and voting. The said resolution shall have due regard for the objects and purposes of the Society. The said resolution may

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be put to members by means of a postal ballot.

*Proposed new wording:*

- 13.3 Subject to Part 7 of the Associations Incorporations Act 1991, the surplus assets of the Society shall, upon a dissolution, be distributed in accordance with a special resolution passed by a majority of at least three quarters of Members of the Association present and voting. The said resolution shall have due regard for the objects and purposes of the Society. The said resolution may be put to members by means of a ballot.

## 16. Common Seal

*Removed:*

- 16.1.2 The Secretary shall keep a register containing a list of all documents sealed with the Common Seal of the Society.

*Added:*

17. Custody and inspection of documents  
17.1 The Secretary shall keep in his or her custody or under his or her control all records, books and other documents relating to the Society.  
17.2 A member of the Society may apply to inspect the records, books and other documents of the Society by placing the request to the Secretary.

## 7.1 Motion 4: That the Constitution of ANS be amended in accordance with the amendments set out in the Constitution change document of the Notice of the Annual General Meeting.

The Secretary put forward the following motion which was voted on and accepted:

Moved: Thomas Fath.

Seconded: Peter Schofield.

Vote: Carried.

## 8. ANS Awards

The Secretary announced the recipients of the ANS awards.

- Mark Rowe Award – Dr Jesse Di Cello, Monash University
- AW Campbell Award – Dr Robyn Brown, University of Melbourne
- Nina Kondelos Award – Prof Kay Double, The University of Sydney
- Paxinos – Watson Award – Jessica McFadyen and Marta Garrido, The University of Queensland and University of Melbourne

3M Thesis Award

2nd Place – \$250 – Andres Vidal–Intriago

Sophie Mathiesen

1st Place – \$500 – Leanne Jiang

Amr Abdeen thanked the Chen Institute and all the speakers. All talks will be uploaded on the Chen Institute.

## 8. Honorary Membership Award

Honorary membership was voted on at the 2019 AGM election. The honorary membership was awarded at the 2020 AGM to Professor Paul Pilowsky, University of Sydney.

## 10. Appointment of 2021 office bearers and Council Members

Outgoing Council Members:

- Kristin Hillman – New Zealand Representative
- Ethan Scott – Queensland Representative
- Yazi Ke – New South Wales Representative
- Alison Canty – Tasmanian Representative
- Amr Abdeen – Student Body Chair

Outgoing ANS Executive Members:

- Brian Dean – Treasurer
- Thomas Fath – Secretary

The Secretary Announced the appointment of 2021 office bearers and Council members:

2021 ANS Executive:

- Peter Schofield – President – Neuroscience Research Australia
- Kaylene Young – Conference Executive Chair – University of Tasmania
- Jana Vukovic – Treasurer – University of Queensland
- Michael Lardelli – Secretary – University of Adelaide

2021 ANS Council Members:

- Tara Walker – Queensland Representative
- Johanna Montgomery – New Zealand Representative
- Nicole Jones – New South Wales Representative
- Nathalie Dehorter – ACT Representative
- Anthony Hannan – Victorian Representative
- Lyndsey Collins – Praino – South Australian Representative
- Hamid Sohrabi – Western Australian Representative
- Cathryn Blizzard – Tasmanian Representative
- John Bekkers – Public Officer
- Rebecca San Gil – Neuroscience Research Representative
- Ashleigh Geiger – Student Body Chair

2021 National Committees

- Ryan Doig – Animals in Research – National Committee Chair
- Anthony Hannan – Scientific Program – National Committee Chair
- Kristin Hillman – Neuroscience Education and Outreach – National Committee Chair
- Lyndsey Collins–Praino – Equity and Diversity – National Committee Chair
- Chris Reid – ACAN Director
- Sam Berkovic – ACAN Committee Chair
- Ramesh Rajan – Australian Brain Bee Coordinator

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2021 Communications Committee

- Nathalie Dehorter – Facebook and Newsletter
- Lila Landowski – Twitter
- Thomas Fath – LinkedIn Co Chair

2021 Newsletter Co-Editors

- Marco Morsch
- Omar Abdelrahman

## 11. Other Business

Peter Schofield thanked Thomas Fath for running a great AGM.

The incoming President Peter Schofield gave the following thanks;

- Thanked Brian Dean for the excellent management of finances during the challenging year and welcomed Jana Vukovic.
- Thanked Thomas Fath for his role as secretary and welcomed Michael Lardelli.
- Thanked all of the ANS representatives and welcomed all the new ANS representatives
- Thanked Kaylene Young for managing the online seminars.
- Thanked Cliff Abraham as President/Chair.
- Thanked the members for their continued support.

The Secretary also thanked membership for their support.

## 12. Close

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.37pm.