

January 2020



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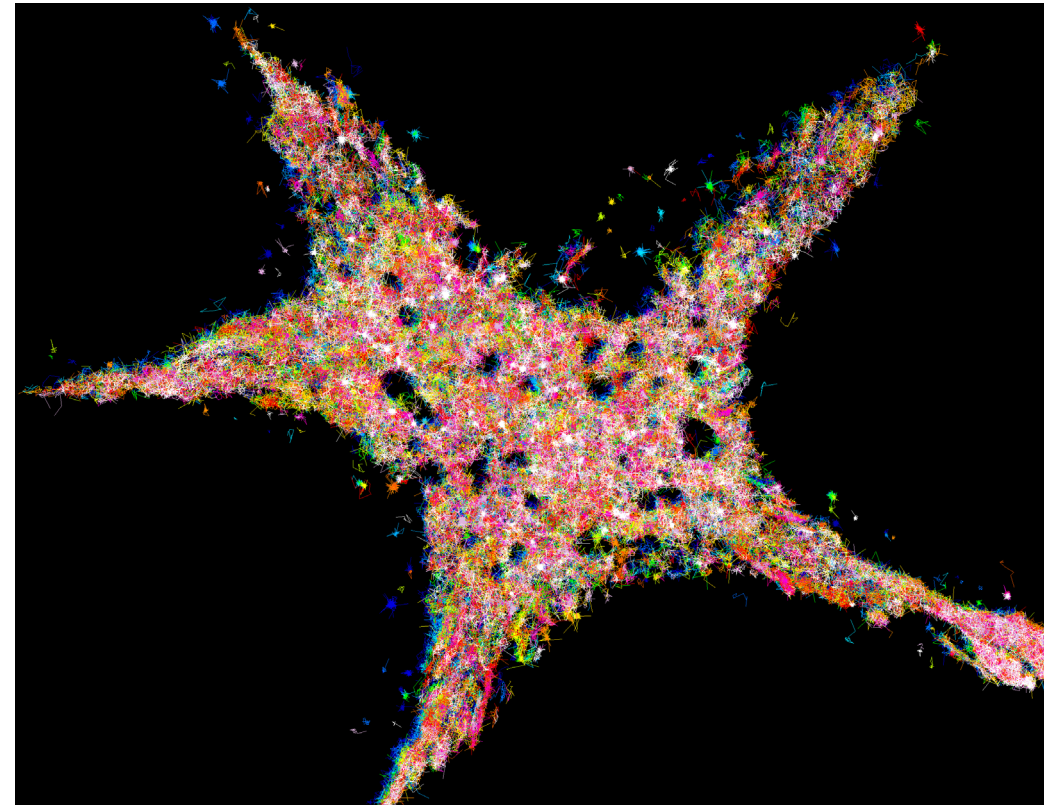
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## Australasian Neuroscience Society Newsletter



*"Twinkle Twinkle Little SNARE" by Adam Hines (University of Queensland): 1st Prize in the Images of Neuroscience Student Photography Competition.*

## 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 new and improved website

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

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

## Council Members

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<b>President:</b>	Cliff Abraham
<b>President-Elect:</b>	Peter Schofield
<b>Secretary:</b>	Thomas Fath
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Brian Dean
<b>Conference</b>	
<b>Executive Chair:</b>	Kaylene Young
<b>Public Officer:</b>	John Bekkers
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<b>NZ Representative:</b>	Kristin Hillman
<b>Qld Representative:</b>	Ethan Scott
<b>SA Representative:</b>	Michael Lardelli
<b>Tas Representative:</b>	Alison Canty
<b>Vic Representative:</b>	Anthony (Tony) Hannan
<b>WA Representative:</b>	Hamid Sohrabi
<b>Neuroscience Research</b>	
<b>Representative:</b>	Rebecca San Gil
<b>Student Representative:</b>	Amr Abdeen

## Acknowledgements

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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
- Eccles Institute of Neuroscience, Australian National University
- Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland
- 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

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# Become an ANS member

## Australasian Neuroscience Society

### Why be a member?

The Australasian Neuroscience Society (ANS) is the largest network of neuroscientists and the peak neuroscience body in Australia and New Zealand. ANS leads and fosters excellence in neuroscience research and teaching, as well as the application of neuroscience discovery for the benefit of society. Membership of ANS provides a multitude of career-enhancing benefits at all levels of seniority.

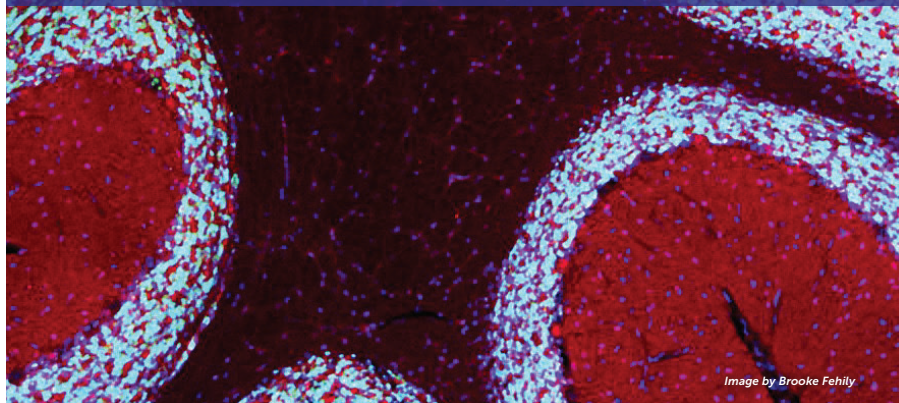


Image by Brooke Fehily

## Benefits of ANS membership

- Enhance your career with education and networking opportunities
- Apply for ANS Research Awards available at all career levels
- Reduced registration rates to support your participation in the annual ANS conference
- Organise national conference symposia and nominate Plenary speakers
- Access State-based funding for local neuroscience events
- Global partner benefits including special registration rates at sister society conferences, such as FENS and SfN
- Be part of the Australian Brain Alliance, supporting neuroscience nationally and internationally
- Professional training opportunities locally and special access to courses offered internationally
- Participate in awareness activities in the public and political arenas
- Access resources and training for neuroscience teaching
- Support diversity in neuroscience
- Post and access free job and PhD position ads on our website
- Quarterly newsletter
- Career development opportunities for your research students



To become a member or find out more visit: [www.ans.org.au](http://www.ans.org.au)

# Message from the President

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Welcome to 2020! Hopefully you have had a chance to kick back over the holiday period and are ready to start the new decade afresh.

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Before thinking about what's ahead, I'd like to compliment, congratulate and thank the Adelaide local organising committee (LOC), led by Michael Lardelli working with our Conference Executive Chair Helen Cooper, for putting on such an excellent conference. The large LOC worked for well over a year to get everything in place. And it all came together beautifully. There was a real buzz around the oral and poster sessions, and I'm sure this was also true at the many satellite meetings. So well done, team.

This is also a good time to recognise Helen for her long service on the Executive as the Conference Executive Chair (CEC; aka Editor). This is such an important job, liaising between the Executive, the LOC and The Association Specialists conference managers, to ensure that procedures are followed, and timelines met. And of course, she was an integral member of the Executive and Council. She has now stepped down from the role, with our warm thanks, and we welcome Associate Professor Kaylene Young (UTAS) as our new CEC. Also coming onto the Executive is Professor Peter Schofield (NeuRA) as President-Elect, replacing Linda Richards who has stepped down as Past-President. Many of you will know Peter already, and I'm really looking forward to working with him and tapping into his vast knowledge of the Australian neuroscience research and funding scene.

Another exciting feature of the conference was the Australian and New Zealand final of the Brain Bee. Once again it was fantastic event, and we owe a huge debt to Ramesh Rajan for his leadership efforts, but we should also acknowledge the efforts across all the major centres for encouraging and supporting so many students in their first ever foray into the wonders of the nervous system. I was particularly excited to learn that we had our first Australian winner from the Northern Territory, namely Peter Susanto, along with the New Zealand winner from the North Island, Xiaojian (Kai) Guo.

Speaking of conferences, you will have learned from previous newsletters that we have a formal agreement with FENS allowing members to attend each other's meeting at member rates. Last year we arranged a similar deal with the Japanese Neuroscience Society and over the break we have completed a similar one with the Canadian Association of Neuroscience. As all these partners have their conferences mid-year, now is a good time to be thinking about taking advantage of this ANS membership feature. And hopefully your colleagues from these regions will take increasing interest in coming to our meeting!

Also coming up is the next iteration of ACAN, organised again by Stephen Williams. Note that online applications are due 14 February! It's a must for any PhDs and Postdocs wanting to be upskilled

in electrophysiology and imaging. I'd also like to let everyone know that our membership year has been extended to 30 June. Current members thus get an extra 6 months of membership for free. Although this will cause a hit to our income stream next year, we hope that ultimately it will be more sensible and convenient for members, while also coming into register with the financial year. So, keep connected with ANS, and encourage others to join and do so as well. The Society has a lot to offer!

Finally, if you are applying for a significant national or international award, fellowship or prize, and you feel that a letter of reference from ANS would be helpful, I am on tap to help out by either writing a letter or suggesting someone who is well placed to do so.

All the best for a productive and successful 2020.



**Prof Cliff  
Abraham**

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*PhD, President, ANS*  
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## Annual General Meeting, ANS 2019

The 2019 ANS Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 4th December at the Adelaide Convention Centre during the Annual Scientific Meeting. ANS Executive provided an update on the activities of the Executive and Council in 2019 to the Society's members and reported on plans for 2020. Reports were presented by the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor. For a summary of these reports, please see the AGM Minutes at the end of this issue of the Newsletter. The AGM Minutes, as well as the audited financial reports of the Society, will be available on the ANS website.

Council moved a motion at the AGM to adjust the membership year to run from 1 July to 30 June annually from 2020. This motion was accepted by the membership. The Council has agreed that, to facilitate this transition, membership fees for the 6-months transition will be forgone and the due date of 3-year membership adjusted to reflect this action. The 2019 ANS awards were presented during the AGM. See below for the list of awardees.

ANS can bestow Honorary Membership to distinguished neuroscientists who have rendered notable service to the Society. Candidates for Honorary Membership must be nominated by Council and then elected by a majority of Members voting at an Annual General Meeting of the Society. We were pleased to present Honorary Membership of ANS to Professor Charles Watson. This year the motion has been put forward to award Honorary membership to Professor Paul Pilowsky, which was accepted by the membership and will be presented at the 2020 AGM in Perth.

## ANS 39th Annual Scientific Meeting of 2019



### The 39th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of the Australasian Neuroscience Society was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre from 2-5 December 2019.

Just over 600 people attended to deliver/receive the 80 symposium presentations, 80 oral presentations selected from abstract submissions, and the 219 posters spanning all areas of neuroscience. There were five plenary lectures delivered by international and national leaders in neuroscience research:

ANS International Plenary – Hollis Cline (Scripps Research Institute, California, USA)  
Elspeth McLachlan Plenary – Geoffrey Goodhill (Queensland Brain Institute)  
Eccles Lecture – Pamela McCombe (University of Queensland)

Lawrie Austin Plenary – Selena Bartlett (Translational Research Institute, Queensland)  
ANS Plenary - Jose-Manuel Alonso (SUNY College of Optometry, New York, USA).

The capable conference management of The Association Specialists helped to attract a large number of exhibitors and sponsors. ANS greatly appreciates the contribution that our sponsors and exhibitors make to the intellectual life of our meeting.

A very important component of the Adelaide ASM was the very strong student contribution. Almost one third of the people attending the conference were postgraduate students (196) and they contributed 135 posters and 29 oral presentations. The prizes awarded for the best oral and poster presentations by student members of ANS were:

- The Istvan Tork Student Oral Award for 2019: Christopher Small of the University of Queensland for his presentation, "SV2A surface pool nanoclustering and recycling in synaptic

(ANS 39th Annual Scientific Meeting of 2019... continued)

*vesicles is controlled by synaptotagmin-1 in hippocampal nerve terminals”.*

- The Sir Grafton Elliot-Smith Poster Award for 2019: Manju Ganesh of the University of Otago for her poster “*Deciphering the fate of integrated pericytes in mouse motor cortex*”. This prize was sponsored by Australia’s Brain Foundation.
- The winner of the ANS Student Body Committee’s ‘Images of Neuroscience’ Photography Competition was Adam Hines of the University of Queensland for, literally, a stellar image of cellular SNARE distribution.



Of course, the ANS has annual awards for achievements by more senior researchers. The Mark Rowe Award is given for the best publication by an early career researcher member of ANS and this year the winner was Xiang Li for his 2019 paper in Nature Neuroscience on N6-methyl-2'-deoxyadenosine control of gene expression and fear extinction. The AW Campbell Award is given for the best contribution by a member of the Society during their first five postdoctoral years. This year the awardee was Philip Ryan, of the University of Melbourne and Florey Department of Neuroscience and Mental Health for his work on the mechanisms of fluid control, identifying a key group of oxytocin-receptor-expressing neurons in the parabrachial nucleus (OxtrPBN neurons) that control fluid intake. The 2019 winner of the Nina Kondelos Prize for outstanding contribution to basic or clinical neuroscience research by a female neuroscientist

was Erica Fletcher of the University of Melbourne. And the 2019 winner of the Paxinos-Watson Prize for the most significant neuroscience paper published during 2018 by any member of ANS was Patrick Sexton of Monash University for his publication in Nature on the Cryo-EM structure of the active, Gs-protein complexed, human CGRP receptor. A Lifetime Honorary Membership Award was given to Charles Watson following the announcement of this at the previous year’s meeting.

Joshua Ameliorate’s striking “brain in transparent head” conference logo set a beautiful background for the neuroscience of our 2019 meeting. Also, the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health



Photo credits: Dennis Fang and Esmeralda Paric of Finč Pictures.  
Contact: [fb.me/FincPics](https://fb.me/FincPics).

in Melbourne generously donated the services of their Media and Communications Manager, Claire Smoorenburg. Claire did a wonderful job getting news articles into media around Australia. Her efforts in local media, combined with those of Lyndsey Collins-Praino, generated a large audience for the very successful free public lecture delivered by Selena Bartlett. Other program innovations at the 2019 meeting were a very successful (oversubscribed) workshop on Neuroscience Teaching organized by Kay Double and Gaby Todd, and a workshop on the NHMRC Grant System with contributions by Helen Cooper, Lindy Fitzgerald, Tony Hannan, and Paul Martin (chaired by Tim Sargeant). Recordings of some of these events will be made available to ANS members soon. We had wonderful volunteer photographers making

January 2020

*(ANS 39th Annual Scientific Meeting of 2019... continued)*

a visual record of all the ASM events (thanks again to Dennis Fang, Ian Musgrave, and Esmerelda Paric) and many delegate-contributed images were posted to the ASM's hashtag, #ausneuro2019.

As expected, the traditional pre-meeting ANS Imaging Workshop (organised this year by Pirjo Apaja) was very popular with close to half of ANS meeting registrants attending. For the 2019 ASM, ANS also introduced a policy of subsidizing the associated satellite workshops and meetings and five such events were held. It's great to see the ASM acting as a central focus for a week-long, annual "festival of neuroscience".

Also as expected, the ANS Student Body and Early- and Mid-Career Researcher Committees joined forces to conduct another, very popular "speed-dating" style Networking Event attended by well over 300 people. Congratulations to Karissa Barthelson and Brenton Hordacre for their efforts in putting this together.

According to tradition, ANS members attending the Conference Dinner were expected to pack onto the dance floor regardless of age or dancing ability. This duty was fulfilled to the satisfaction of the Local Organising Committee assisted by Adelaide band, The Cast.

There were many South Australian researchers, (and some from other states too), who contributed considerable efforts to making the 2019 ASM a success. They are too numerous to list here, but Andrea Harrington and Martin Lewis deserve a special mention for their work in organizing abstract assessment, oral presentation session construction, and the judging of the student oral and poster prizes. I have received very positive feedback from people regarding the 2019 ASM but if you have suggestions for improvement or new ideas be sure to communicate them to the co-chairs of this coming December's 40th ASM in Perth: Julian Heng, Stuart Hodgetts, and Ann-Maree Vallence.

**Michael Lardelli**

*39th ASM LOC Chair,  
ANS South Australia  
representative  
[michael.lardelli@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:michael.lardelli@adelaide.edu.au)*

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*We thank all the ANS 2019 sponsors*



## Nina Kondelos Award – Professor Erica Fletcher

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I am deeply humbled and grateful to receive the Nina Kondelos Award.

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I would like to particularly thank George Paxinos for his generosity in supporting this award in honour of his sister. I am also deeply honoured to be considered alongside the previous winners, all of whom I look up to as stalwarts of Australian neuroscience. I have spent my career undertaking investigations in retinal cell biology. Studies in the retina were a natural extension of my original clinical training in optometry, where a young Dr David Vaney and Rachel Wong were lecturers in “Neurophysiology of Vision”. To this day, neither probably realizes the impact their lectures had on me. I undertook my PhD with Michael Kalloniatis investigating inherited retinal degenerations and followed this with postdoctoral training under Heinz Wässle at The Max Planck Institute in Frankfurt, Germany. During this time, we evaluated the role of retinal glial cells in regulating the turnover of neurotransmitters, and also developed tools, that I continue to use today, that allow the high-resolution evaluation of synaptic circuits within the retina. Both Michael and Heinz remain important mentors and importantly shaped my approach to research – that to understand disease one has to first have a firm grasp of how the normal system works.

My career has been devoted to retinal cell biology, in particular to fundamental studies designed to aid our understanding of the causes of diseases such as age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy. Both conditions are leading causes of irreversible vision loss. My group has investigated

the contribution of glial cells in these diseases, uncovered mechanisms important for maintaining photoreceptor integrity and more recently turned our attention to microglia, the innate immune cells of the retina and how they regulate our visual system. Part of this journey has included contributions to the preclinical development of the “bionic eye” and also the development of a novel way of treating early age-related macular degeneration using a laser.

None of our work would have been possible without the dedication of some stellar young scientists who have worked for many years in my group. I have been also been fortunate to have enjoyed long standing collaborations with clinical colleagues and received financial support from the NHMRC and ARC. In closing I would like to thank the ANS once again for this award. I look forward to many more years of interaction with colleagues as part of the larger ANS community.

**Prof Erica  
Fletcher**

*The University of Melbourne*  
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## A.W.Campbell Award – Dr Philip Ryan

I am very grateful to the ANS for being awarded the 2019 AW Campbell Award. It is a great honour to be recognised by the neuroscience community, and I am very excited to have the opportunity to present my research at the annual ANS meeting in Perth 2020.

My research focuses on characterising the neural circuits which control feeding, drinking, salt appetite and affective behaviours using genetically encoded tools and techniques. I completed my PhD at the Florey Institute in Melbourne in 2013, where I determined that a neuropeptide, relaxin-3, played a key role in increasing food intake, and decreasing anxiety- and depressive-like behaviour in rats; and that injecting an antagonist to the relaxin-3 receptor decreased addiction-related behaviours, such as alcohol-seeking and relapse.

Following my PhD, I was awarded a NHMRC Overseas Biomedical (CJ Martin) Fellowship in 2013, and commenced postdoctoral studies at the University of Washington, Seattle, in the laboratory of Professor Richard Palmiter, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Investigator, who is well-renowned as the first to develop a transgenic mouse, and is an expert in using genetically encoded technology to trace neural circuits. During my time in Seattle (2013-2017), I made a major discovery in the field of fluid control, identifying a key group of oxytocin-receptor-expressing neurons in the hindbrain parabrachial

nucleus which control fluid intake. These neurons robustly suppress water intake, but not food or salt intake after salt depletion, indicating an important role in controlling satiation of thirst and maintaining fluid homeostasis.

In Seattle, I developed expertise in cutting-edge genetically encoded tools and techniques to study brain circuitry, such as optogenetics, DREADDs (designer receptors exclusively activated by designer drugs) and viral tracing techniques. I also used calcium imaging technology, which involves implanting a miniature microscope into a mouse's brain, enabling visualisation of the activity of thousands of neurons simultaneously in an awake mouse while it is performing different behaviours.

I returned to the Florey Institute in mid-2017, where I am continuing my research in the Mental Health Division, investigating the neural circuits in mouse models of alcohol binge-drinking and sucrose intake, using many of the tools and techniques I learnt during my postdoc in Seattle. I was recently awarded an ARC DECRA (Discovery Early Career Research Award) and Rebecca L Cooper Foundation Project Grant, which is enabling me to establish and expand my research in Australia.

### Dr Philip Ryan

*The Florey institute  
of Neuroscience and  
Mental Health*

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## Brain Bee



*Photo credits: Dennis Fang and Esmeralda Paric of Finč Pictures. Contact: [fb.me/FincPics](https://fb.me/FincPics).*

The 2019 Brain Bee Challenge had its finals at the ANS conference in Adelaide, with wonderful support from the three SA coordinators (Lyndsey Collins-Praino, Hannah Keage and Sarah Cohen-Woods) and the Adelaide LOC as well as the ANS conference organizers. The finals were conducted in a wonderful spirit of cooperation between the contestants, with guidance from Prof Charles Watson and assistance from Ms Katja Gutwein and other members of the CIBF. For the first time ever, we had an Australian National Champion from the NT, Peter Susanto. To make Peter's achievement even more astonishing is that he is also likely (our records are not that good!) the youngest, at the age of 13. The NZ Champion was Xiaojian (Kai) Guo, from Auckland.

This year we are moving to a model of providing all the learning material online, allowing us to make it more interactive and also to embed assessments within the learning material, to allow students to monitor their understanding. The competition is open now, with some issues with appropriate links from the ANS website for the Brain Bee being sorted out currently. We expect these will be all sorted within the week, and the Round 1 of the competition will be held online across the entire month of March, through the platform of our partners, Education Perfect.

## FENS Forum Awards

The 2020 meeting of the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS; <https://forum2020.fens.org/>) will be held in Glasgow, 11th-15th July. The FENS meetings are some of the largest international neuroscience meetings.

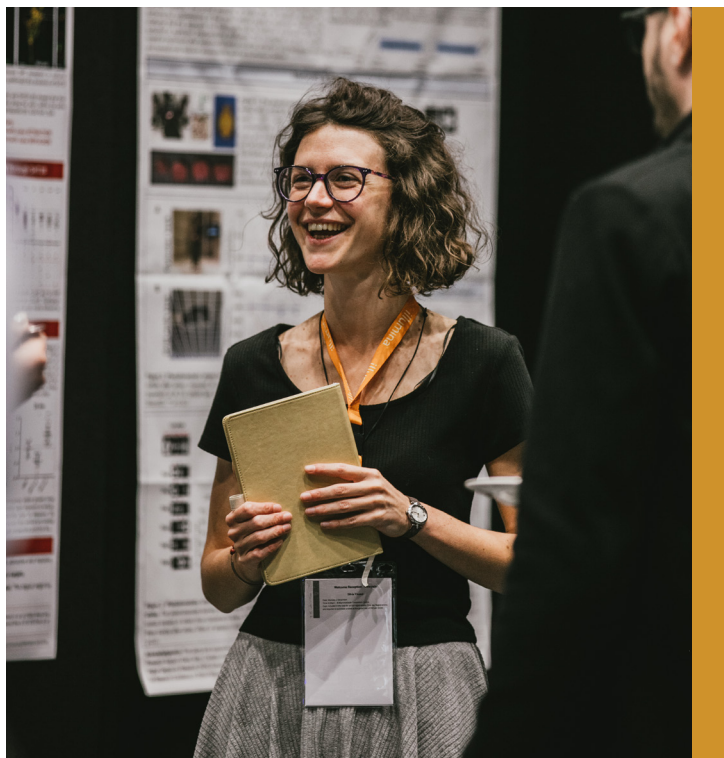


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Contact: [fb.me/FincPics](https://fb.me/FincPics)

ANS is supporting its members to attend the FENS Forum by [1] providing travel scholarships for selected Early Career Researchers and [2] registration of ANS members at FENS member rates, which forms part of the FENS-ANS partnership agreement.

### Two ANS travel scholarships for Early Career Researchers to attend FENS 2020

We are particularly pleased to be providing two travel scholarships to ANS members registered and presenting an accepted abstract at the 2020 FENS meeting. Each scholarship will be up to the equivalent of €2,000 in Australian dollars. To be eligible, applicants should be either undertaking a higher degree by research or be up to five years postdoctoral (relative to opportunity) and should be submitting an abstract to the meeting. To apply for these ANS scholarships, please submit a two-page CV, including a statement regarding why you wish to attend the meeting, a copy of the abstract to be submitted and evidence of student or postdoctoral status to the ANS Secretariat at [secretariat@ans.org.au](mailto:secretariat@ans.org.au) by COB Friday, 30 January 2020. An additional

support letter from your supervisor can be included if wished but is not required. Note that payment of the travel scholarship will be dependent on evidence of acceptance of the abstract included in the application by the FENS meeting. The travel scholarships will also include a free ticket to the Young Investigators "Jump the FENS" party.

### ANS members can benefit from registration at FENS members rates

All ANS members wishing to register for the FENS meeting can also benefit from the cheaper FENS member rates, which means significant savings. To take advantage of this opportunity please email your name, affiliation, email address and status (student or non-student) to the ANS Secretariat at [secretariat@ans.org.au](mailto:secretariat@ans.org.au) by COB Monday, 3 February 2020 (for Early Bird registration) or COB Monday, 8 June 2018 (for the late registration deadline). We will then organise an email to you from FENS with instructions on how to register for the meeting, paying the same rates as FENS members.

If you have any question about these opportunities, please email the ANS Secretary.

**Prof Thomas Fath**  
[thomas.fath@mq.edu.au](mailto:thomas.fath@mq.edu.au)



## News from the Equity and Diversity Committee

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In its October 2019 meeting, the ANS Council ratified a new Policy Statement and new Terms of Reference for the ANS Equity and Diversity Committee, both of which can be found on the [ANS website](#).

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These include several policies for enhancing diversity in ANS and at the annual meeting. Notable among these is a commitment to gender balance of invited and selected speakers at the annual meeting starting in 2020. The gender distribution of invited speakers at the 2019 meeting (44% women, 56% men) has been submitted to the [biaswatchneuro](#) website for posting, and we will continue to post these numbers for future meetings.

The ANS Equity and Diversity Committee is currently seeking new members for two-year terms starting in 2020. We seek to maximise our committee's diversity in terms of gender identity, Indigeneity, ethnicity, disability, and career stage. ANS members should register their interest by emailing the E&D Committee Chair, Ethan Scott ([ethan.scott@uq.edu.au](mailto:ethan.scott@uq.edu.au)) before March 1st, outlining their motivations for joining the committee and the types of contributions that they would hope to make. New members will be selected by the committee as a whole. Cheers and thanks.

### Ethan Scott

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*ANS Council member,  
Queensland Representative  
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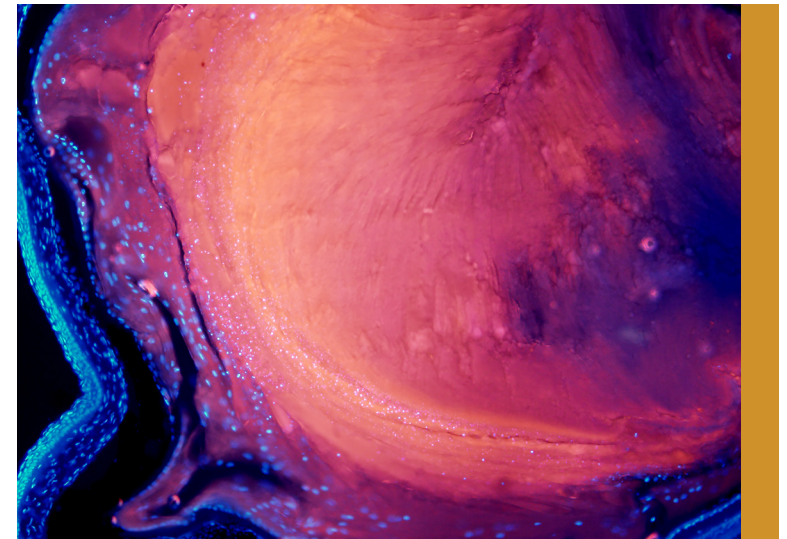
## News from the Student Committee

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Student Body Committee  
Newsletter Report  
- January 2020

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The beginning of 2020 marks three years since the conception of the ANS Student Body Committee (SBC), and we are pleased to see that the efforts of all student representatives, past and present, have rapidly gained traction to cultivate the growth of our committee across Australia and New Zealand. It is safe to say that we ended 2019 on a fantastic note!



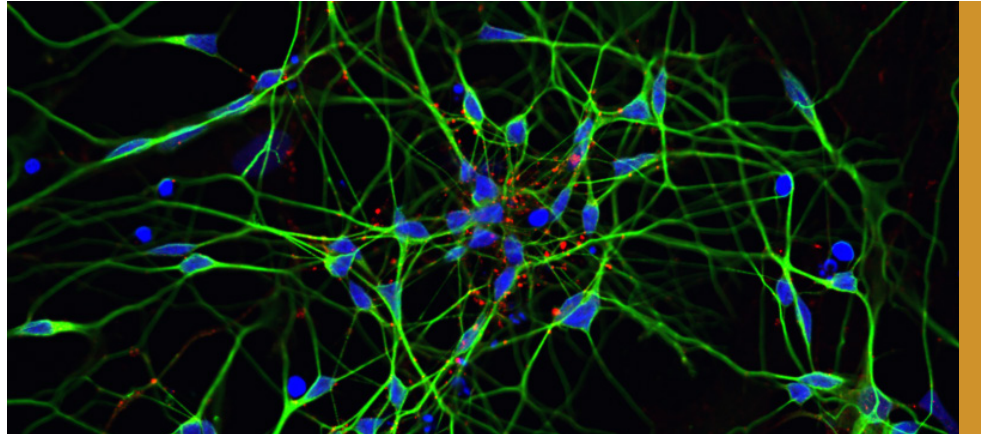
*'Eye See You' from Heidi Walkden  
(Griffith Univeristy); awarded  
People's Choice Award*

*(News from the Student  
Committee ... continued)*

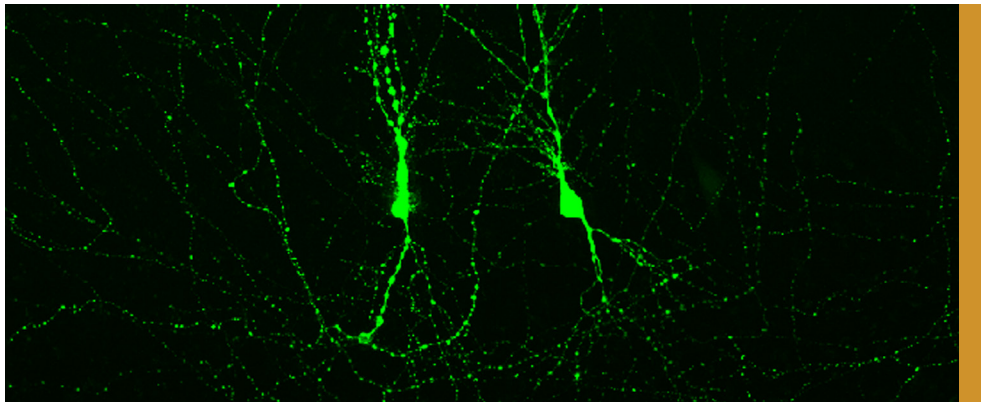
We held our third annual neuroscience student retreat in Western Australia on the Lady De Vine cruise boat, which created a welcoming environment for over 50 young neuroscience researchers to network and establish connections in the field. We were delighted to be Gold Sponsors of the SOBR Symposium down in Victoria; this provided a valuable opportunity for aspiring scientists to present their research and win highly prized awards. During National Science Week, we held a Speed Meet a Scientist event in conjunction with Sydney's Woollahra Libraries to introduce families and secondary school students to the latest advancements in medical sciences. Indeed, this effort is directed at attracting bright young minds to pursue careers in neuroscience in the future. All fantastic and successful highlights, it is a wonder that they are only a portion of our events across Australia and New Zealand!

At the ANS Annual Scientific Meeting in Adelaide, the SBC held its annual Images of Neuroscience Photography Competition, which showcased a collection of 16 fantastic images with cutting-edge techniques used by ANS students. We would like to congratulate the winners of the Student Imaging Competition:

- **1st prize** was awarded to Adam Hines (The University of Queensland) for their entry titled *'Twinkle twinkle little SNARE'*.



*'Electric Neurons' from Simon  
Maksour (The University of  
Wollongong); awarded 2nd prize*



*'Not a Glitch in the Matrix' from  
Yukti Vyas (The Univeristy of  
Auckland); awarded 3rd prize*

- **2nd prize** was awarded to Simon Maksour (The University of Wollongong) for their entry titled *'Electric neurons'*.
- **3rd prize** was awarded to Yukti Vyas (The University of Auckland) for their entry titled *'Not a glitch in the Matrix'*.
- **People's Choice Award** went to Heidi Walkden (Griffith University) for their entry titled *'Eye See You'*.

We collaborated with the ECR sub-committee of ANS 2019 local organising committee to host the Student and ECR Networking Night on the third evening of the conference. The event was a huge success welcoming over 200 participants to obtain invaluable input on various topics from 12 speakers of diverse career stages. In an effort of continuously improving this event year by year, we would like you to share your input with us at: <http://bit.ly/ansasm2019>.

We have recently launched an Instagram account – follow us at ansabc to receive the latest updates from us!

Lastly, if you are a student who is interested in getting involved with the ANS-SBC, then please send us an email at [ans.studentbodycommittee@gmail.com](mailto:ans.studentbodycommittee@gmail.com), or email your regional student representative or one of the executives listed on the website.

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**Amr Abdeen**

*Student Body Committee,  
Student Representative*

# News from the Early-Mid Career Researchers Committee

January 2020

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The ANS early-mid career research (EMCR) committee had a busy December organising an enjoyable, and highly successful, networking event at the 39th Annual Scientific Meeting held in Adelaide.

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The event was held in conjunction with the ANS Student body and had over 300 registered attendees and 13 speakers. As the sun set over the River Torrens, we enjoyed a “speed networking” event where EMCRs and students were able to move to different tables and speak with invited experts on a range of topics. Although a little cooler than expected, it was notable that there were several strong and meaningful conversations around each table, helping guide students and EMCRs in their research careers.

The networking event also provided a unique opportunity to bring together all EMCRs (0-10 years post PhD) for an informal launch and introduction of the EMCR committee. Dr Erin McAllum and Dr Brenton Hordacre introduced the committee and discussed aims and goals for the future. This proved a fruitful opportunity to answer questions, discuss opportunities and ensure all EMCRs are correctly identified and receiving relevant communication.

If you are an EMCR and have not received our communication, please log on to the ANS website and update your information and sign up to the EMCR mailing list.

Of course, the success of the EMCR and Student Networking event would not be possible without

the generous support from ANS and the invited experts who generously donated their time to come and discuss a range of topics with ANS EMCRs and Students. We therefore wish to acknowledge the following speakers for their contribution to this event.

- Associate Professor Kay Double (Topic: Experiences of starting your first lab)
- Doctor Robyn Brown (Topic: Handling work/life balance)
- Professor Andrew Lawrence (Topic: What activities should you engage in and which should you avoid?)
- Professor Jose Manuel Alonso (Topic: Experiences of hiring post docs)
- Professor Jozef Gecz (Topic: Writing winning grant applications)
- Doctor Vanesa Stojanovska (Topic: Disseminating science using social media)
- Doctor Ann-Maree Vallence (Topic: I'm a PhD student looking at doing a post-doc or applying for a fellowship, what should I do?)
- Doctor Elenour Drummound (Topic: Experiences of working as a post-doctoral researcher overseas)
- Doctor Ryan Anderton (Topic: Teaching/research balance and moving between them as an ECR)

- Professor Susan Hillier (Topic: Identifying and articulating transferable skills/experience from the PhD for jobs (applications) outside academia)
- Associate Professor Gaby Todd (Topic: Combining teaching and research roles. Is teaching a legitimate career pathway and how to balance this with research and personal/family life?)
- Doctor Verity Pearson-Dennett (Topic: A PhD students' perspective - how I managed work/life balance and approaches to manage supervisors to get the best out of them)
- ACAN Team (Topic: Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience)



# Call for 2020 Symposium proposals opens February 4th, 2020



The outstanding success of the 2019 Adelaide ANS annual meeting can be attributed to the high quality of symposia across the scientific program.

The ANS Council now invites our members to consider submitting a symposium proposal for the 2020 Perth meeting. We welcome proposals from all fields of neuroscience and encourage the participation of early career researchers. Also keep in mind the requirement for gender balance and geographical distribution.

The ANS Council call for symposium proposals for the 2020 Perth meeting will open February 4th and close March 16th. All information, including the symposium submission policy and guidelines can be found on the ANS website.

**Stuart  
Hodgetts**

*Joint Chair ANS2020 Local  
Organising Committee*

**Ann-Maree  
Vallence**

*Joint Chair ANS2020 Local  
Organising Committee*

**Julian Heng**

*Joint Chair ANS2020 Local  
Organising Committee*

# ANS2020: A Forward Vision

Welcome! The ANS has the vision to lead and foster excellence in neuroscience research, teaching & the application of discovery for the benefit of society.

To us, the Society's annual meetings have been the forum to catch up with our peers and mentors, to marvel at mentees and colleagues as they grow from strength to strength, and to support each other's shared trials and tribulations of research, funding and beyond. Then we dance it all off at the conference dinner.

This year's meeting looks to deliver yet again, with special attention paid to our 40th Anniversary. On behalf of the Local Organising Committee, with guidance from our Conference Executive Chair, Kaylene Young, we are delighted to bring you this early update.

## About the ANS2020 meeting

The conference will be held on 8-11th December, at the Perth Exhibition and Convention Centre. Having already secured Nobel Laureate Professor Edvard Moser to speak, we are making progress with our Programme Committee (chaired by Tony Hannan) to secure Plenary Speakers, and to prepare ahead of invitations for Symposia and Conference Abstracts. Having achieved 44% female oral presentations (symposia and orals) in 2019, we are looking to

January 2020

(ANS2020: A Forward Vision  
... continued)

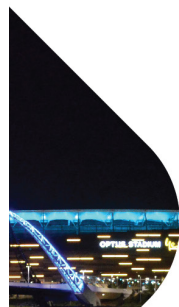
achieve a 50% target set by our Equity and Diversity Committee. Our WA ANS Student Body Council is co-leading a programme of social events in concert with LOC.

This year, we are developing an Anniversary program which includes a public speaking event, video profiles across the entire cross section of members, a conference report publication, and more. Our Anniversary Committee (led by Julian Heng) welcomes suggestions from members, and so please feel free to contact Julian ([Julian.Heng@curtin.edu.au](mailto:Julian.Heng@curtin.edu.au)) with your ideas.

We are keen to encourage even more EMCRs and students, our future neuroscience leaders, to present at this meeting. And so, the LOC is looking to increase the number of prizes for poster and speakers. Having already secured several gold sponsorships and trade display partners, we are reaching out to Universities and Institutions. Sponsorship support will enable us to fund student prizes, deliver the best value catering and entertainment, and make our meeting an outstanding success.

### What can you do to make our 40th Anniversary Meeting a Success?

1. **Get your science ready** – identify the awesome science which you will present at ANS2020.



# ANS2020

## A FORWARD VISION

40th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Neuroscience Society  
8-11 December • Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre

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



2. **Stay tuned to further developments** – sign up for ANS Facebook and Twitter feeds; bookmark our Conference Page on your web browser, and read about us in our regular ANS newsletters.
3. **Help us fund the meeting** – Please go to the website for a copy of the prospectus which you can send to your funding source. Contact Seb Brown (TAS, our conference partner) or Julian Heng for further details.

In our next instalment, we will introduce you to the LOC team so that you get in contact us to provide suggestions for how you think we can make the 40th meeting special for you. When you do come to Perth in 2020, don't forget to pack a pair of waterproof gear for some stand-up paddle boarding and windsurfing, as well as some bike riding right outside the Convention Centre!

### ANS2020 Plenary Sessions

1. The ANS2020 Presidential International Plenary will be given by Nobel Laureate Prof Edvard Moser (Norwegian University of Science and Technology)
2. The Eccles Plenary Lecture will be given by Prof Kate Drummond (Director of Neurosurgery at The Royal Melbourne Hospital and Head of Central Nervous System Tumours for the VCCC Parkville Precinct)
3. The Elspeth McLachlan Plenary will be delivered by Prof Linda Richards (Deputy Director, Queensland Brain Institute, University of Queensland).
4. The ANS Plenary will be given by Prof Bernard Balleine (University of New South Wales).

Stuart  
Hodgetts

*Joint Chair ANS2020 Local  
Organising Committee*

Ann-Maree  
Vallence

*Joint Chair ANS2020 Local  
Organising Committee*

Julian Heng

*Joint Chair ANS2020 Local  
Organising Committee*

# ACAN 2020 – Applications Open

Application deadline -  
14th of February 2020.

Graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty interested in using electrophysiological and optical techniques in their research are encouraged to apply for a place on the Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience (ACAN) 2020, which will be held from the 3rd to the 23rd of May 2020 at the Moreton Bay Research Station, North Stradbroke Island, Queensland. ACAN is an intensive three-week course that teaches the theory and practice of electrophysiological recording and optical imaging techniques. Our Australasian and International faculty will guide each participant in the latest research methods in cellular and systems neuroscience. Confirmed international speakers for ACAN 2020 include: Ede Rancz, The Francis Crick Institute, London, UK; Florian Mormann, University of Bonn, Germany; Ning-Long Xu, Institute of Neuroscience, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China; Brad Baker, Korea Institute of Science and Technology, Korea; and Angus Sliver FRS, University College London, UK.

During the course, each participant will become proficient in patch-clamp recording, calcium imaging, optogenetics, and many other techniques through unbridled access to state-of-the-art equipment. Thanks to the generous support of The Finkel Foundation, ACAN 2020 will feature a dedicated 2-photon imaging / electrophysiology setup, which will complement an array of in vitro and in vivo recording techniques.



The application deadline is **Friday 14th of February 2020** and successful applicants will be notified by the 1st of March 2020. For full details about the course and the online application process please visit: <https://acan.qbi.uq.edu.au/>

The fee for ACAN 2020 is A\$5250, which covers all meals, accommodation, laboratory supplies and teaching materials. Scholarships from the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand are available for NZ citizens/permanent residents.

As in previous years we will also organize recreational activities that will allow you to enjoy the beach life of North Stradbroke Island. I look forward to receiving your application.

**Stephen  
Williams**

*ACAN Director, Queensland  
Brain Institute  
[acan-admin@uq.edu.au](mailto:acan-admin@uq.edu.au)*



January 2020

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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 help the Society publicise 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), and will oversee 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 ([oe.abdelrahman@qut.edu.au](mailto:oe.abdelrahman@qut.edu.au)) or Marco Morsch ([marco.morsch@mq.edu.au](mailto:marco.morsch@mq.edu.au)).

### **The copy deadline for the next Newsletter is Monday 1st April 2020.**

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.

# Final Minutes

## Australasian Neuroscience Society Annual General Meeting

5.45pm – 7.13pm, Wednesday 4th December 2019, Adelaide Convention Centre, Adelaide

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

Attendance: 90 members (see attendance sheets held by Secretary). Apologies: Rebecca San Gil, Elspeth McLachlan and Mary Galea.

The Secretary welcomed all members present and noted that as there was a quorum the meeting was declared open at 5.49pm.

### 2. Science and Technology Australia presentation

Zoe Doubleday from Science and Technology Australia presented on the benefits of STA membership. ANS is an affiliated member of STA and is represented by the Cognitive and Medical Sciences Cluster Representative, which is currently Dr Karen Gregory from Monash University.

### 3. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting (Thomas Fath)

The Secretary advised that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting of the members were published in the ANS newsletter in April 2019, and was available on the ANS website.

- Motion 1: That the Minutes of the 2018 ANS

*AGM as published in the April 2019 ANS newsletter be ACCEPTED as a true and correct record of the meeting.*

Moved: Thomas Fath.

Seconded: Alison Canty.

Vote: Carried.

### 4. President's report (Cliff Abraham)

The President presented his report to members:

#### *Council Achievements in 2019*

- Society agreements: FENS, JNS, CAN which include reciprocal member rates for meetings.
- Proposal to host 2021 FAONS symposia.
- IBRO-APRC.
- ANS Sponsorship committee.
- ANS Program committee.
- Special thank you to Ms Claire Smoorenburg (Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health) to support media activities of the conference.
- ANS 40th anniversary meeting Perth 2020 and the 40th anniversary program committee.

- ANS 2021 ASM, Melbourne.
- Plenary nominations were issued for the 2020 ASM.

The President acknowledged and thanked outgoing Council members for their service to ANS:

- Anne-Maree Vallenge, WA state representative
- John Bekkers, ACT state representative
- Erin McAllum, Neuroscience Research representative
- Barbora Fulopova, Student Body Committee Chair

The President acknowledged and thanked outgoing Executive members for their service to ANS and presented the ANS medals to:

- Linda Richards, Past-President
- Gary Egan, Treasurer (resigned 30 June 2019)
- Helen Cooper, Conference Executive Chair

The President welcomed new Executive members:

- Brian Dean, Treasurer (commenced 1 July 2019)
- Kaylene Young, Conference Executive Chair
- Peter Schofield, President-elect

The President acknowledged and thanked Michael Lardelli for his role as Chair of the Adelaide Local Organising Committee for ASM 2019 and presented the ANS medal. The President further thanked Linda Richards who served as Past-President in 2019.

### 5. Secretary's report (Thomas Fath)

The Secretary presented his report to members and noted:

- Current ANS membership was 796 and was comparable to the same period in 2018.
- The amended ANS Strategic Plan with accompanying actions addressing each goal, was available on the ANS website.

#### *Updates to the ANS webpage:*

- The new ANS website was launched following the ASM in 2018.
- Submissions for plenary presentations were now being accepted through the ANS website.
- Symposium proposals would also be submitted through the website.
- A members-only area on the website would be implemented in early 2020.

### 6. Appointment of 2020 office bearers and Council members

The Secretary announced the appointment of 2020 office bearers and Council members:

#### *2020 Council members:*

- President – Cliff Abraham
- Treasurer – Brian Dean
- Conference Executive Chair – Kaylene Young
- President-elect – Peter Schofield
- Secretary – Thomas Fath
- New Zealand representative – Kristin Hillman
- Queensland representative – Ethan Scott

# Final Minutes

- New South Wales representative – Yazi Ke
- Australian Capital Territory representative – Nathalie Dehorter
- Victorian representative – Anthony Hannan
- South Australia representative – Michael Lardelli
- Western Australia representative – Hamid Sohrabi
- Tasmanian representative – Alison Canty
- Neuroscience Research representative – Rebecca San Gil
- Public Officer – John Bekkers
- Student Body Chair – Amr Abdeen
- 2020 Local Organising Chairs of Annual Scientific Meeting – Julian Heng, Ann-Maree Vallence and Stuart Hodgetts

The Secretary announced the national committee chairs for 2020:

#### *National Committee Chairs*

- Animals in Research National Committee Chair – Marcello Rosa
- Equity and Diversity Committee Chair – Ethan Scott
- Neuroscience Education and Outreach Committee Chair – Kristin Hillman
- Newsletter Editor and Communications Subcommittee Co-Chairs – Omar Abdelrahman & Marco Morsch

## 7. Treasurer's Report (Brian Dean)

- The Treasurer presented his report to members and outlined the following:
- 2018/19 financial year operations

- 2018/19 financial year outcome
- Low risk investment of ANS assets in a wealth management fund
- The ANS membership year would move from a calendar year (1 January to 31 December) to align with the financial year (1 July to 30 June) and take effect from 1 January 2020. To support this transition, 6 months of membership fees would be forgone.

### 7.1 Receive and consider the 2019 financial accounts

The Treasurer referred members to the ANS financial accounts for the financial year ended 30 June 2019 which contained the representation letter and independent audit report by Tinworth & Co.

### 7.2 Appointment of auditor

- Motion 2: That ANS agree to appoint Mark Tinworth of Tinworth & Co as the Auditor for the financial year ending 30 June 2020.

Moved: Brain Dean.

Seconded: Paul Martin.

Motion: Carried.

The Treasurer responded to questions about the accessibility of the accounts which were available at the meeting and would also be added to the member only section of the website when it had been built.

The Treasurer also responded to a question about the ANS purpose and overlap with similar societies and reported the Neuroscience Education and Outreach Committee planned to develop member resources in 2020. The Treasurer responded to a final question about why members were not asked to formally accept the financial statements as had been done in previous years.

## 8. Conference Executive Chair's Report (Kaylene Young)

The CEC acknowledged and thanked members of the Adelaide 2019 ASM LOC and presented her report to members:

- Registration costs were maintained in 2019 to remain affordable to members
- 20 symposia (\$2,500/symposium for international speakers)
- Imaging workshop
- NHMRC grant workshop
- Student & Early-Mid-Career Researcher (EMCR) networking event
- Student travel awards
- Carer's grants
- Public lecture-Selena Bartlett (\$5000)
- Satellite Meeting Subsidy Partnership Scheme

#### *ANS Satellite meeting partnership subsidy*

- To subsidy was provided to enhance the annual scientific meeting and to provide broader networking opportunities for the

ANS membership

- The amount of \$20 was available per satellite meeting registrant (ANS members and non-members) up to a maximum of \$1000 for the purpose of reducing satellite meeting costs such as registration fees, room hire costs, catering and speaker travel expenses.

#### *2019 Satellites*

- Australasian Auditory Neuroscience Workshop
- Cell Architecture in Development and Disease Symposium
- Dementia, Aging, Neurodegenerative Disease (DANDIS)
- NeuroEng 2019, The 12th Australasian Workshop on Computational Neuroscience and Neural Engineering
- ANS Sensorimotor Satellite Meeting
- Neuroscience Teaching Workshop

#### *2020 Plenary Lecture Nominations*

- 2020 International Lecture - Edvard Moser (2014 Noble Prize for Physiology or Medicine)
- 2020 Eccles Lecturer - nominated by the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia
- Call for 2020 Plenary Nominations
- ANS, Elspeth McLachlan, Lawrie Austin Plenary Lectures

## 9. Special Business

The Secretary asked members to vote on a special resolution.

# Final Minutes

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## 9.1 Change to the ANS membership year

- Motion 3: *That the membership year be adjusted to run from 1 July to 30 June annually from 2020.*

Moved: Brain Dean.

Seconded: Paul Martin.

Motion: Carried.

## 10. ANS Awards

The Secretary announced the recipients of the ANS awards.

### *ANS-FENS Cajal Course Travel Awards*

During 2019, four ANS-FENS Early Career Travel awards were issued. The recipients each received funding AU\$1,500 to attend Cajal training courses in Europe.

- Emmanuel Marquezlegorreta (University of Queensland) - Cajal course on Neural Circuits
- Saurabh Bandhavkar (University of Queensland) - the Cajal course on Neural Circuits
- Nishita Bhembre (University of Queensland) - Cajal course on Advanced Techniques for Synapse Biology
- Rachel Clarke (Monash University) - Cajal Course on Biosensors (not in attendance at the meeting)

### *Mark Rowe Award*

The 2019 winner was Xiang Li, postdoctoral research fellow, University of Queensland

for his paper: Li, et al (2019) The DNA modification N6-methyl-2'-deoxyadenosine (m6dA) drives activity-induced gene expression and is required for fear extinction Nature Neuroscience

### *AW Campbell Award*

The 2019 winner was Dr Philip Ryan, University of Melbourne and Florey Department of Neuroscience and Mental Health for his work on the mechanisms of fluid control, identifying a key group of oxytocin-receptor-expressing neurons in the parabrachial nucleus (OxtrPBN neurons) that control fluid intake.

### *Nina Kondelos Prize*

The 2019 winner was Prof Erica Fletcher (The University of Melbourne).

### *Paxinos-Watson Prize*

The 2019 winner was Professor Patrick Sexton, Monash University for his publication on the Cryo-EM structure of the active, Gs-protein complexed, human CGRP receptor published in Nature.

## 11. Honorary Membership Nomination

### 11.1 Award to Charles Watson

The Secretary presented the lifetime Honorary membership award to Charles Watson which was announced at the 2018 Annual General Meeting.

### 11.2 Nomination of Paul Pilowsky for 2020

The Secretary announced that Council

had nominated Paul Pilowsky for Honorary membership.

- Motion 4: *That Honorary membership be awarded to Paul Pilowsky.*

Moved: Cliff Abraham.

Seconded: Natasha Kumar.

Motion: Carried.

## 12. Other Business

The Secretary opened the meeting to questions and comments from the floor.

**With no other business, the Annual General Meeting was declared closed at 7.13pm**