

March 2024



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Australasian Neuroscience Society Newsletter



Notifications

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 and follow updates on the ANS Twitter account or via our Facebook page.

 <https://www.ans.org.au>

 <https://twitter.com/AusNeuroSoc>

 <https://www.facebook.com/AusNeuroSoc>

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Message from the President

I hope 2024 has started well for you. It was great to see so many members and new colleagues at the Annual Scientific meeting held in Brisbane in December. Congratulations to Tara Walker and Tom Burne (Chairs of the Local Organising Committee) and their team, for their energy, effort and creativity that underpinned a superb scientific and engagement experience.



Professor
Janet Keast

President, ANS

janet.keast@unimelb.edu.au

Their success in “Exciting the Network” was also strongly supported by Jason Mattingley (Conference Executive Chair), our many exhibitors and sponsors and the professionalism of the TAS team. The diversity and quality of neuroscience presented at the meeting was truly impressive – so thanks to all of you for coming and for so generously sharing your ideas and perspectives. The buzz surrounding informal discussions at posters, breaks and social events was a great reflection of the strength and positivity of our neuroscience community.

I would also like to congratulate the 2023 winners of the ANS awards and the plenary lecturers, as announced at the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM). I would especially like to congratulate Emeritus Professor Marcello Costa on the Society’s Distinguished Achievement Award. Also announced at this AGM was a new annual Award, generously supported by Marcello. This award will recognise the best publication on neural regulation of organs by

an early career researcher. This adds to the range of Awards that are available to ANS members at various career stages.

At our AGM we also formally thanked outgoing members of Council and Committees, Peter Schofield (Past President), Hamid Sohrabi (WA Representative), Rebecca San Gil (Neuroscience Research Representative), Ramesh Rajan (Australian Brain Bee Convenor) and Chris Reid (ACAN Course Director). Hamid is returning to the 2024 Council as Conference Executive Chair and Jason Mattingley as President-Elect. I am delighted to welcome new members of ANS Council and Committees, and to rejoin our colleagues continuing in these roles from 2024 (<http://ans.org.au/about-us/council-members>, <http://ans.org.au/about-us/committees>). For the first time we also have two new roles in the Executive, a Secretary- and Treasurer-Elect, held respectively by Matilde Balbi and Steve Kassem. These roles were established in an earlier revision of the Constitution to provide experience in running the Society before fully taking on these major responsibilities. I also thank the new Brain Bee leadership team (Jenny Rodger, Bruno van Swinderen, Matt Kirkcaldie, Charles Watson) who are continuing the excellent engagement with neuroscience fans (students and teachers) in secondary schools. Jay Bertran-Gonzalez as incoming ACAN Course Director is continuing another great ANS tradition in neuroscience research training.

After discussions over several Executive and Council meetings in 2023, we are very close to finalising the new ANS Strategic Plan, to guide our priorities and achieve our goals over 2024-2028. Thank you for

March 2024

(Message from the President ... continued)

your input to the recent membership survey that provided valuable insights and input to this plan. I look forward to soon circulating the Strategic Plan, along with updates on several new initiatives that are being finalised. Keep an eye out too for messages from your State/Regional representative as they develop additional activities for ANS members during the year.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again at our next Annual Scientific Meeting to be held in Perth from 2-4 December, at the Pan Pacific. This year our international plenary speaker is Professor Tracy Bale, the current President of IBRO. Discussions are already underway to embed greater engagement with IBRO in our 2024 conference program and in future ANS activities. A reminder that there will soon be calls for Australia/NZ nominations for the prestigious ANS Plenary Lectures and for symposium proposals at the Perth meeting. This is also an excellent opportunity to run satellite meetings aligned with ANS. I am sure this will be a wonderful Annual Scientific Meeting and thank the LOC and Conference Executive Chair for hosting this great event.

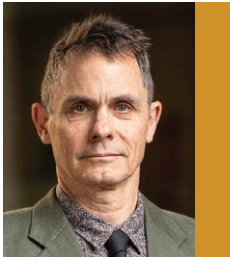
Thank you for your support of ANS and neuroscience in 2023 and all the very best for 2024.



Annual Scientific Meeting to be held in Perth from 2-4 December 2024

From the Secretary

One of the tasks of the ANS Secretary is to organise the call for, and assessment of, applications for the annual ANS Awards.



Michael
Lardelli

Secretary, ANS

michael.lardelli@adelaide.edu.au

This year will see an expanded range of ANS Awards with the establishment of the Marcello Costa Award for the best publication on neural regulation of organs by an early career researcher. This then becomes one of three annual ANS Awards granted on the basis of the quality of a publication in the preceding year, the other two being the Mark Rowe Award and the Paxinos-Watson Award. To avoid having one particularly attractive paper sweep the award pool, the ANS Council has decided that a paper may only be nominated for one of these awards. You might like to start thinking now about whether to “throw your recent paper into the ring” for one of this year’s awards. The application procedures are quite easy and you can read about them on the ANS website’s Awards page.

At the most recent ANS Council meeting, it was also decided to establish an annual Australasian Neuroscience Society Education Excellence Award. The winner will be expected to present at an annual symposium on neuroscience education that will become a regular event at the ANS Annual Scientific Meetings.

Details on all of the ANS Awards and their updated application procedures will be provided when the call for applications is made in May. At the moment, the intended closing date for applications is 12 July 2024. Last year there was, initially, a dearth of applications for the ANS Awards which caused some concern. We then extended the deadline and received the greatest number of applications ever!

Please apply early this year to avoid overly stressing the ANS Secretary.

From the Treasurer

Thank you to each of the 700+ dedicated ANS members for supporting the Society.

Jana Vukovic

ANS Treasury

Your ANS Membership fees enable us to continue our work in the advancement of the neurosciences by facilitating the dissemination of our shared passion for neuroscience. We have provided a full breakdown of our running costs for 2023 – as outlined below:

● **Commitment to Diversity: 1%**

Promoting inclusivity, the Committee for Diversity receives funding to implement various initiatives.

● **Indigenous Travel Awards: 5%**

Acknowledging the indigenous contribution to our society, these funds supported travel for three Indigenous students to attend the annual conference.

● **Brain Bee: 14%**

The Brain Bee initiative receives substantial support to inspire and engage the next generation of neuroscientists.

● **Administration: 18%**

These funds cover various essential needs such as accounting and audit fees, bank fees, database maintenance, insurance, investment expenses, website hosting fees, and other miscellaneous items.

● **International Links: 4%**

Subscriptions, including the FENS Agreement, promote international collaboration and information exchange.

● **State Representative Activities: 14%**

Empowering state representatives, this fund facilitates activities that strengthen the ANS's presence and impact at the state level.

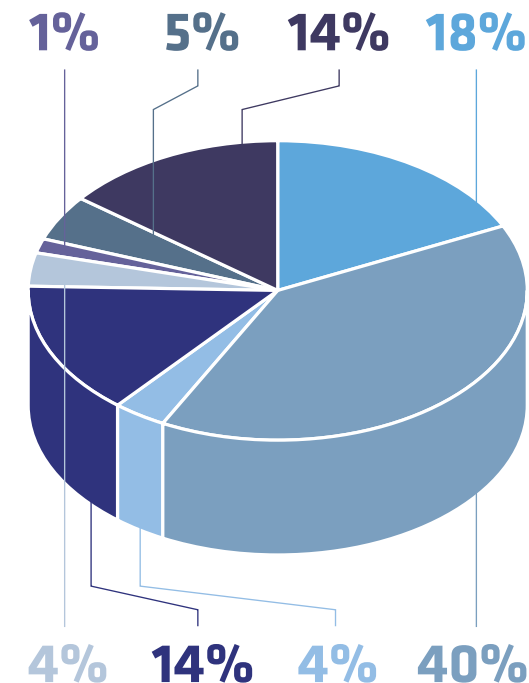
● **Recognizing Excellence: 4%**

Acknowledging outstanding achievements in neuroscience, this fund supports achievement awards.

● **Secretariat: 40%**

The Secretariat provides support in day-to-day operations (e.g. accounting).

Your continued support propels us forward in advancing the neurosciences and fostering a vibrant and inclusive community. Following the resounding success of the Brisbane conference, where we achieved a profit exceeding \$15,000, we are eagerly anticipating the Perth conference in December 2024. This conference profit serves as a crucial piece of the puzzle, playing a pivotal role in underpinning support for various activities that contribute to the growth and development of ANS. We are also excited to announce our intention to carve out funds to support the Early Career Research Committee in 2024. For those specifically interested in sponsoring Indigenous student Travel Awards, I encourage you to contact the ANS Secretariat for more information.



Distribution of ANS funds 2023.

The ANS Annual Scientific Meeting: Forging The Nexus, Crossing The Synapse

March 2024

ANS2024

2-4 DECEMBER, 2024 | PAN PACIFIC HOTEL, PERTH



FORGING THE NEXUS,
CROSSING THE SYNAPSE



Australasian
Neuroscience
Society

Planning is well underway for the 43rd ANS Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM), and we are thrilled to welcome you to Perth on December 2nd to 4th.

Hosted in Western Australia for the first time in nearly 20 years, the theme for this year's meeting is 'Forging the Nexus, Crossing the Synapse'. This reflects our desire to connect researchers across the country at the nexus of neuroscience, neurotechnology and forward thinking, and is also a nod to uniting our physical distance across the Nullarbor.

The Local Organising Committee – chaired jointly by Dr. Sarah Hellewell, Dr. Chidozie Anyaegbu, Dr. Stuart Hodgetts and A/Prof. Stephanie Rainey-Smith – are planning an exciting program which includes a confirmed international plenary lecture from acclaimed Professor Tracy Bale from the University of Colorado as well as symposia, oral and poster presentations spanning the breadth of neuroscience themes to showcase the exceptional work of Australasian researchers across career stages.

The ASM will be held at the newly refurbished Pan Pacific Hotel in the Perth CBD, centrally located to the picturesque Swan River, hotels, and the best of Perth's dining and entertainment. If you have not previously visited Western Australia or it has been some time since you ventured out West, you may be pleased to discover Perth as a cosmopolitan city with unique biodiversity, world-leading beaches and unforgettable sunsets.

Western Australia's vibrant and engaged neuroscience community are excited to see you in December.

ANS2024

2-4 DECEMBER, 2024 | PAN PACIFIC HOTEL, PERTH



FORGING THE NEXUS,
CROSSING THE SYNAPSE



ANS Indigenous Travel Award Reflection



Emily Garratt, Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre, Australia

As a Palawa woman, my main goal for the future is to share my passion and knowledge in neuroscience. I aim to make positive contributions to the field and ensure all Australian's have an equitable and healthy future. In 2023, the Australasian Neuroscience Society (ANS) offered inaugural scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori students and researchers to attend the annual general meeting. I would like to sincerely thank ANS and its sponsors for affording me the opportunity to attend ANS in Brisbane via this award.

The ANS travel award improved my confidence and inspired me to proudly introduce myself as an indigenous woman in research. Meeting other students and researchers passionate about neuroscience was invaluable. A particular highlight from the conference was networking, with many relationships developed over the 3 days. It was also a profound experience hearing the myriad of pathways people followed into neuroscience, and how there is no "right" way to have this career. Attending this conference inspired me to pursue a career in neuroscience and led me to apply for a PhD. I am grateful to now be the recipient of the prestigious Japanangka errol West Scholarship at

the University of Tasmania and have just begun candidature based at the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre.

My PhD will focus on microglia as central drivers of neuro-immunometabolism. I will study models of diseases such as obesity and diabetes and investigate the mechanisms of brain insulin resistance and how it promotes systemic insulin resistance. I look forward to working on this project with a great supervisory team of Drs Jenna Ziebell, Dino Premilovac and Darren Henstridge.

I am extremely grateful to ANS for giving me the opportunity to attend the conference, as it was an important milestone toward achieving my goals.

Emily Garratt

Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre, Australia

The Australian and New Zealand Brain Bee Finals: The Ultimate Battle of Young Minds in Neuroscience



The 2023 finals of the Australian and New Zealand Brain Bee were held December in conjunction with the ANS Annual Meeting in Brisbane. The final round, where 10 regional finalists battled it out, was held live onstage at the W Brisbane, from 12 - 1pm on 5th December.

The New Zealand 2023 champion is Xin-Xin Zhu from the North Island and the Australian 2023 Champion is Samuel Richards from WA. Both of these incredible young neuroscientists will be competing in the International Brain Bee competition later this year.

The Australian and New Zealand Brain Bee has been running since 2007 and to date has involved roughly 85,000 high school (year 10) students across Australia and New Zealand. Bringing these outstanding students together in person and celebrating their achievements at our Neuroscience conference is an amazing way to recognise their talent and hopefully encourage the scientists and clinicians of the future.

In 2023, nearly 3000 students participated in the Brain Bee, and 10 finalists were selected based on their outstanding performance in the state/territory/island rounds. These finalists are listed below with the state coordinators who facilitated the regional competitions.

	State Coordinator	Finalist
ACT	John Bekkers	Shreepurvajaa ("Shree") Jonnalagadda
NSW	Jennie Cederholme, Cherylea Brown	Jeremy Zhang
NT	Bruno van Swinderen	Riley Stanley
QLD	Bruno van Swinderen	Samantha Conias
SA	Elysia Sokolenko, Sarah Cohen-Woods	Andrew Krashos
TAS	James Crane	Jingjie Zheng
VIC	Cherry Mao, Sarah Whittle	Alicia Park
WA	Jenny Rodger	Samuel Richards
North Island	Deborah Young	Xin-Xin Zhu
South Island	Stephanie Hughes	Brianna Searle

In the lead up to the finals, Professor Charles Watson and Matt Kirkcaldie provided weekly webinars on neuroanatomy, medical diagnosis and neurophysiology to all of the finalists.

Professor Charles Watson said:

"The Brain Bee encourages some extremely talented young people. For example, Peter Susanto, the Australian Champion in 2020 came third in the International Brain Bee Competition and was just named NT Young Australian of the Year for 2024."

The national finals are coordinated jointly by Dr Matthew Kirkcaldie, Prof Bruno van Swinderen and A/Prof Jenny Rodger

We hope to see you at the 2024 Brain Bee finals at the ANS meeting in Perth where you will be amazed by another 10 young finalists from across Australia and New Zealand. We can guarantee you will be on the edge of your seat right up to the last question!

<https://cms.australianoftheyear.org.au/recipients/peter-susanto>

(The Australian and New Zealand Brain Bee Finals: ... continued)



*Finalists from 2023
in Brisbane.*



*The New Zealand 2023
champion is Xin-Xin Zhu
from North Island.*



*The Australian 2023
champion is Samuel Richards
from Western Australia.*

NEO Committee Update

As part of our commitment to support neuroscience education year round, the NEO committee is pleased to announce that the online symposia series will continue in 2024. Our first symposium for 2024 will be held at 11am (AEST) on Thursday April 11 and will feature Dr Jin Huang (University of Sydney) and Prof Bronwen Connor (University of Auckland) who will talk about innovative outreach programs they have developed and delivered for school students.

Please check:

<https://www.ans.org.au/meetings-events/neuroscience-education-and-outreach-committee> for further updates and more detailed information including Zoom links.

A/Prof
Catherine
Leamey

*On behalf of the
Neuroscience Education and
Outreach Committee*

State Rep. Updates

Tasmania

This year I am planning to again support the students in their PowerPoint Karaoke. I am also looking into options for a guest speaker to come to our Neuroscience Seminar series. Having Dr. Helen Murray attend last year has led to a number of really exciting collaborations and I would like to see this extended to others.

Western Australia

As a new rep I have been in discussion with the ANS EMCR WA committee member and the WA HDR representative and we are planning an EMCR event later in the year prior to ANS 2024 to promote the conference and hopefully help make it successful. I am part of the local organising committee for ANS 2024 as well as the WA rep, one of my main aims this year will be to assist with organising the conference and highlighting the great work being carried out in neuroscience in Western Australia.

NSW

ANS NSW members can be part of Brain Awareness Week activities at UNSW's Museum of Disease, in which high School groups work on activities on the vestibular system, neuroanatomy, vision, and reflexes. For more information contact John Power: john.power@unsw.edu.au

New Zealand

I plan to visit several labs in Australia with the goal of facilitating collaborations between Australian and New Zealand neuroscience labs.

Jenna Ziebell

*Wicking Dementia Research
and Education Centre*

Samantha
Gardener

*School of Medical and
Health Sciences, WA*

Lezanne Ooi

*School of Chemistry and
Molecular Bioscience,
Wollongong*

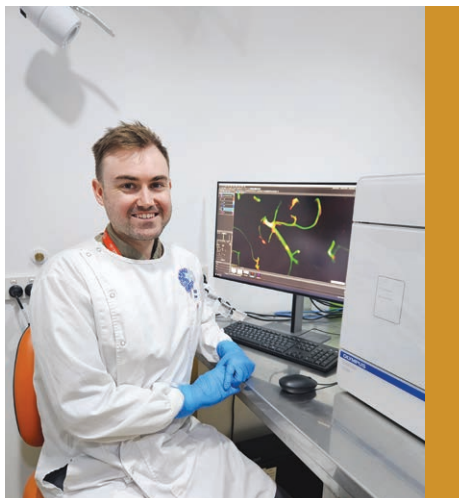
Karl Iremonger

*Department of Physiology,
University of Otago*

Researcher Profile:

Dr. Gary Morris, Research Fellow

March 2024



Dr. Gary Morris, Research Fellow

Tasmanian School of Medicine,
College of Health and Medicine,
University of Tasmania, Hobart,
Tasmania, Australia

PhD received (year and place):

2017 (University of New South Wales)

Email: gary.morris@utas.edu.au

1) **How did you get into science and your current position?**

Throughout high school I always had an interest in biology and was particularly fascinated by how genes are transcribed and how mRNA is translated. This steered me towards a major in biochemistry during my undergraduate degree. I then applied molecular biology to the study of a protein involved in Alzheimer's disease during a Master's degree, which ultimately led to a PhD, following by a postdoctoral career in neuroscience. I applied to join A/Prof. Brad Sutherlands lab at the University of Tasmania in 2019 and have been here ever since!

2) **Please outline the goal of your research in three short sentences.**

The primary goal of my research is to understand how the brain functions physiologically, so that we can better comprehend how and when it becomes dysfunctional. The overall goal is to design therapeutic strategies to target dysfunction in various neurological conditions, with a focus on Alzheimer's disease and stroke.

3) **What do you love about your job?**

One of my favourite things about research is that every day is different. One month can be spent writing grants and papers, the next I'll be in the lab for a stretch of time, so my work life rarely becomes monotonous. As I've progressed through my career, I've also really enjoyed the opportunity to work with postgraduate research students. Watching students learn and grow into the next generation of scientists is the most rewarding aspect of my job.

4) **What project(s) are you currently working on?**

At present, the bulk of my time is spent on a project focused on understanding the functional relationship between the immune cells of the brain (microglia) and cerebral blood vessels. I also like to always keep a few side projects going. I've been delving into blood biomarker research over the last few years and have also recently discovered a new passion for analysing large electron microscopy datasets of the brain.

5) **Do you have any advice for anyone considering a career in science? What advice would you give your 5-year younger self?**

While science is a great career, it can be quite stressful at times. There is a significant amount of rejection (e.g. grants and papers) which can take time to get used to. I've found it is important to take each of these moments as learning opportunities so that I am better placed to succeed the next time I write a grant or paper. I've also learned it's easy for science to become all-encompassing without realising it

and that it is important to maintain a good work life balance. Many of my best ideas come when I step away from the lab or my desk and am doing something completely different.

6) **What do you do when you are not working?**

I am an avid football fan (I support Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League) and I enjoy playing chess in my spare time. Tasmania is a beautiful place to live so I spend a fair amount of time getting outdoors and experiencing all the things Tassie has to offer.

7) **What are your future plans?**

I'd like to continue carving out a sustainable career in research and am looking to start my own research group in the near future. I'm also beginning to dip my toes into the teaching space as well and have been enjoying blending that with research.

Personal professional website:

<https://discover.utas.edu.au/Gary.Morris>

Research Gate:

<https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Gary-Morris>

Research lab website (The Perivascular Research Group led by A/Prof. Brad Sutherland):

<http://www.perivascular.org/>

Researcher Profile: Dr. Prashant Bharadwaj, Research Fellow



Dr. Prashant Bharadwaj, Research Fellow

School of Medical and Health
Sciences, Edith Cowan
University, Alzheimer's
Research Australia, Sarich
and Patricia Neuroscience
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QEll Campus,
RR Block Centre of Excellence
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8 Verdun street, Nedlands,
Western Australia

PhD received (year and place):

2012 (Melbourne, Australia)

Email: p.bharadwaj@ecu.edu.au

1) How did you get into science and your current position?

I started my research journey during my masters at RMIT University, Melbourne. As part of my Masters thesis, I worked on Alzheimer's disease (AD) at CSIRO molecular and health technologies. I continued AD research as a PhD student at CSIRO, Melbourne and moved to Perth to complete my studies and pursue my career in academia in Prof. Ralph Martins lab. My PhD thesis work in collaboration with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) preventive health flagship led to a successful National health and medical research council (NHMRC) grant which funded my post-doctoral position at ECU from 2012-2015 working on an anti-histamine drug for AD. Then, I was offered a position at Curtin University, where I led a project on the molecular mechanisms underlying increased risk of dementia in type 2-diabetes (T2D). In 2017, I received the NHMRC-ARC dementia research development fellowship. I currently work as a post doctoral researcher in Prof Martins lab at ECU, where I lead the childhood dementia (CD) study funded by WA health.

2) Please outline the goal of your research in three short sentences.

- Problem solving and discovery of biological mechanisms underlying complex neurodegenerative diseases.
- Developing novel treatments and biomarkers for neurodegenerative diseases
- Conduct high quality neuroscience research and translation of research to real life clinical applications.

3) What do you love about your job?

Lab experiments and problem solving.

4) What project(s) are you currently working on?

- Childhood dementia – prognostic biomarkers
- Neurofilament light
 - Alzheimer's disease biomarker
- Small molecule drug development for Alzheimer's disease
- Type-2 Diabetes and Dementia
 - Amylin-beta amyloid interactions

5) Do you have any advice for anyone considering a career in science? What advice would you give your 5-year younger self?

My advice for anyone considering a career in science is to be kind, persistent and not be discouraged by failure. I would advise my younger self to take more risks!

6) What do you do when you are not working?

Spend time with family and friends!

7) What are your future plans?

My vision for future is to conduct high quality neuroscience research in AD and CD, mentor junior academic staff, students and develop my own independent research team.

Links to websites:

- https://scholar.google.com.au/citations?hl=en&user=Dwtk6qwAAAAJ&view_op=list_works&sortby=pubdate
- <https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=24340748800>
- <https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/medical-and-health-sciences/our-staff/profiles/post-doctoral-research-fellows/dr-prashant-bharadwaj>
- <https://www.ecu.edu.au/newsroom/articles/news/ecu-researcher-wins-national-support-for-dementia-blood-test>

Australasian Neuroscience Society Annual General Meeting

Held at W Hotel, Brisbane

06/12/2023 @ 17:00 PM – 18:00 PM AEDT

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Meeting Chair, Michael Lardelli (Secretary) opened the meeting at 5:03pm AEST. He acknowledged that this meeting is held on the traditional lands of the Turrbal and Jagera peoples and we pay our respects to their Elders both past and present.

Apologies

Andrew Lawrence
Karin Aubrey
Andrew Gundlach
Charles Watson
Laurence Geffen
Margaret Morris
Alison Cauty
Nada Reeson
Paul Pilowsky
Samantha Gardener
David Vaney
Darryl Eyles
Norman Saunders
Bahaa Al-mhanawi

2. Proxies, Quorum

No proxies were received for this meeting.
A quorum was confirmed for this meeting.

3. Confirm AGM Minutes of 6 December 2022 as a true and accurate record of proceedings

Motion: That the ANS Council confirms the AGM Minutes of 6 December 2022 as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Moved: Michael Lardelli
Seconded: Peter Schofield
Motion Passed

4. President's Report

Janet Keast provided a verbal report for this meeting.

- Thanked ANS members for attending the AGM and Conference
- Special thanks to Peter Schofield for his work over many years as a member of the Council and Executive Thanks to Executive, Council and Committees
- Thanks to Sponsors and Supporters
- Thanks to TAS
- Thanks to Tara Walker, Thomas Burne and Jason Mattingley + LOC for ASM

Minutes for ANS AGM 2023

Janet summarised the activities and events that have taken place during 2023 and thanked those involved with organising:

- Annual Scientific Meeting: Co-chairs Tara Walker and Thomas Burne
- ACAN 2023: hosted by Florey/Melbourne University, Chris Reid (Course Director); Lucy Palmer, Karl Iremonger, Jay Bertran-Gonzalez (Co-Directors); Greg Stuart (Mngt Comm Chair). Jay Bertran-Gonzalez will also be the Course Director from 2024
- Brain Bee Challenge: Ramesh Rajan with new leadership team of Bruno van Swinderen, Jenny Rodger, Matt Kirkaldie, Charles Watson.
- State and Regional Events

Committee initiatives during 2023 include:

- Indigenous Travel Awards
- Code of Conduct
- Teaching Excellence Award
- ANS Supporter of Animal Openness Agreement

Janet announced a New Annual ANS Award:

- Marcello Costa Award
Awarded annually for the best publication on neural regulation of organs by an early career researcher.

5. Tribute to Professor Alan Mackay-Sim delivered by Professor James St John, Griffith University

Janet Keast introduced Prof. James St John. Prof. James St John reflected on the life, career and scientific achievements of Professor Emeritus Alan Mackay-Sim.

6. Secretary's Report

Michael Lardelli provided a verbal report for this meeting. He highlighted the increase in membership since 2020, noting the positive impact the Annual Scientific Meeting has on ANS' membership.

7. Treasurer's Report

Jana Vukovic provided a verbal update for this meeting, highlighting key outcomes from the FY2022-23 Audited Financial Report

- Profit from ordinary activities was \$44,852
- GFM Wealth Investment value total was \$959,064
- Net Asset value was \$1,308,656
- Jana confirmed that the Society was solvent and could pay creditors as and when invoices become payable

Jana Vukovic summarised the flow of revenue to expenses she uses for budgeting

- ANS Membership fees contribute to ANS operational costs
- ANS Investment returns contribute to ANS operational costs, State Rep activities, Equity and Diversity Committee initiatives and the Brain Bee Challenge
- ANS Conference registration and sponsorship are used to pay for all conference related costs to keep the event self-sustaining
- ACAN course fees and sponsorship are used to pay for ACAN operational and course costs to keep the course self-sustaining
- ACAN Investment returns pay for ACAN Equipment

7.1 Receive the auditor's report of the financial accounts

Motion: That the Society receives the annual Financial Report and accompanying Auditor's report

Moved: Jana Vukovic
Seconded: Lyndsey Collins-Praino
Motion passed

7.2 Appoint Tinworth and Co as the auditors for the 2023/24 Financial Year

Motion: The Society appoints Mark Tinworth of Tinworth & Co as the Auditor for the 2023-2024 Financial Year

Moved: Jana Vukovic
Seconded: Anthony Hannan
Motion passed

8. Conference Executive Chair's Report

Jason Mattingley provided a verbal report for this meeting.

- It was confirmed that the 2023 Conference had a total of 547 delegates
- During the conference there would be 53 oral presentations, 38 data blitz talks, 261 posters and 11 Symposia

Jason thanked the Brisbane LOC Co-chairs Tara Walker and Thomas Burne and the LOC members Rachel Gormal, Rebecca San Gil, Laura Fenlon, Eduardo Albornoz, Nela Durisic, Rodrigo Suarez, Victor Anggono and Hilary Yong for their work in making the 2023 Conference a success.

9. ANS Awards

Michael Lardelli introduced the ANS Awards for 2023, thanking the Assessment Committee for their work with special thanks to Nicole Jones.

The ANS Awards recipients for 2023 are:

- **AW Campbell Award** – Dr Laura R. Fenlon, School of Biomedical Sciences, The University of Queensland

- **Nina Kondelos Award** – Prof. Johanna Montgomery, Department of Physiology, University of Auckland
- **Mark Rowe Award** – Joint recipients – Dr Stuart Oldham, Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health, Monash University and Murdoch Children's Research Institute Oldham S, Fulcher BD, Aquino K, Arnatkeviciute A, Paquola C, Shishegar R, Fornito A
"Modelling spatial, developmental, physiological, and topological constraints on human brain connectivity"
– Science Advances 8, eabm6127, 2022
Dr Brett J. Kagan, Cortical Labs, Melbourne, Australia
Kagan BJ, Kitchen AC, Tran NT, Habibollahi F, Khajehnejad M, Parker BJ, Bhat A, Rollo B, Razi A, Friston KJ
"In vitro neurons learn and exhibit sentience when embodied in a simulated game-world"
– Neuron 110:3952-3969.e8, 2022
- **Paxinos-Watson Award** - Dr Brett J. Kagan, Cortical Labs, Melbourne, Australia
Kagan BJ, Kitchen AC, Tran NT, Habibollahi F, Khajehnejad M, Parker BJ, Bhat A, Rollo B, Razi A, Friston KJ
"In vitro neurons learn and exhibit sentience when embodied in a simulated game-world"
– Neuron 110:3952-3969.e8, 2022

10. ANS Distinguished Achievement Award

Janet Keast introduced Prof. Marcello Costa and presented him with the ANS Distinguished Achievement Award.

Marcello was nominated by Professor Nick Spencer for this award and at the October 10, 2023 ANS Council Meeting the award was confirmed unanimously.

Marcello thanked Nick Spencer for his nomination and the ANS Council for their vote in support. He also reflected briefly on his career as a neuroscientist in Australia. Marcello expressed a sincere hope that the next recipient of the ANS Distinguished Achievement Award would be a woman.

11. Appointment of 2024 office bearers and Council members

Michael Lardelli announced changes to the office bearers and Council members for 2024.

Thanks were given to outgoing Council members Peter Schofield, Rebecca San Gil, Ramesh Rajan and Chris Reid.

Michael then confirmed the ANS Council and office bearers for 2024.

2024 ANS Council & Office Bearers

Nicholas Price – *VIC Representative*
Karl Iremonger – *NZ Representative*
Ehsan Kheradpezhohu – *ACT Representative*
Thomas Burne – *QLD Representative*
Lezanne Ooi – *NSW Representative*
Jenna Ziebell – *TAS Representative*
Lyndsey Collins-Praino – *SA Representative*
Samantha Gardener – *WA Representative*
Kristie Smith – *Neuroscience Research Representative*
Alastair Fortune – *Student Body Chair*
John Bekkers – *Public Officer*

2024 ANS Executive

Janet Keast – *President*
Jason Mattingley – *President-elect*
Hamid Sohrabi – *Conference Executive Chair*
Jana Vukovic – *Treasurer*
Steve Kassem – *Treasurer-elect*
Michael Lardelli – *Secretary*
Matilde Balbi – *Secretary-elect*

Minutes for ANS AGM 2023

12. Next Meeting/Close

The next ANS AGM will be held during the 2024 Conference in Perth, Monday 2 December – Wednesday 4 December. Finalised meeting date TBC.

There being no questions or other business raised, the meeting was closed at 1801 AEST.



March 2024

Communications

Is there information you would like included in our ANS Newsletter, published in our monthly online Bulletin, 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 A/Prof Marco Morsch (Macquarie University). It oversees the production of the newsletter and ensures that current content is posted on the ANS website, published in our monthly online Bulletin prepared by the ANS Secretariat, posted on the ANS Facebook page (curated by Dr Nathalie Dehorter) and disseminated through postings on the ANS Twitter account (by Dr Lila Landowski, University of Tasmania) and LinkedIn (curated by Prof Thomas Fath, Macquarie University).

-  <http://www.ans.org.au>
-  <https://twitter.com/AusNeuroSoc>
-  <https://www.facebook.com/AusNeuroSoc>
-  <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8362021/>

If you have content for us, please email Marco Morsch (marco.morsch@mq.edu.au).

Become an ANS member or student member!

Please join with your colleagues in Australia and New Zealand by becoming a Member of ANS. You can join online at any time!
<https://tas.currinda.com/register/organisation/172>

www.ans.org.au



Policy

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 and monthly bulletin if appropriate. Such requests should be directed to the ANS Secretary.

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