

March 2023



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## Australasian Neuroscience Society Newsletter



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## 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 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>

# 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, 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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## Message from the President

What a wonderful experience it was to attend the in-person Annual Scientific Meeting in December and see the conference goal, to “*Reconnect the Network*”, being well and truly achieved. This great success was a just reward for the impressive efforts of the Local Organising Committee — expertly and energetically chaired by Zane Andrews and Jess Nithianantharajah, and supported by the Conference Executive Chair, Tim Bredy. I also recognise and thank the presenters, who provided such a high quality, diverse and creative event to stimulate our research, our exhibitors and sponsors, and most of all our neuroscience colleagues for making their way to Albert Park and engaging so strongly with the meeting. It was also a personal pleasure to congratulate our award winners, new Honorary Members (John Bekkers and Sarah Dunlop) and plenary lecturers. I am really looking forward to welcoming you all to the 2023 meeting in Brisbane, where I am sure we will have no trouble achieving the goal of “*Exciting the Network*”.



Professor  
Janet Keast

President, ANS  
[janet.keast@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:janet.keast@unimelb.edu.au)

First, I wish to thank Peter Schofield for his leadership of the Society over the last 2 years. Like the President before him, Cliff Abrahams, Peter worked diligently and passionately to maintain the momentum of the Society during the challenges of Covid. Thank you, Peter, for generously sharing your insights while I was President-Elect and for continuing to provide strong support on the Executive as Past President. Also new to the Executive is Jason Mattingley, as Conference Executive Chair, a role that is continuing to evolve with the Society. Thank you to outgoing members of Council (Tim Bredy [Executive], Tony Hannon, Johanna Montgomery, Nathalie Dehorter, Tara Walker, Catherine Blizzard, Nicole Jones, Ashleigh Geiger) and welcome to new members of Council (Nicholas Price, Karl Iremonger, Ehsan Kheradpezhoh, Thomas Burne, Jenna Ziebell, Lezanne Ooi). I am grateful to continuing members

of the Executive Team, Council members, Committee Chairs and their members for their ongoing service to the Society.

Two other major events during each year are the Australasian Course in Advanced Neuroscience (ACAN) and the Australia and New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge (aka, the Brain Bee). The ACAN team, led by Chris Reid (Course Director) and Greg Stuart (Management Committee Chair), will again be providing a unique training experience for students, in Melbourne in June (the training labs will be warm and dry, even if outside may not be). The 2023 Brain Bee is well underway, again led by Ramesh Rajan. Thank you to Ramesh and his team who support this inspirational event.

Now that we have a “reconnected network”, ANS Council is keen to ensure that the connections

further strengthen and grow (I’m fighting an urge to make more synapse puns at this point). An effective way of doing this is to build activity and interactions at the state level. Your state representatives (<http://www.ans.org.au/about-us/council-members>) are keen to hear from you so that they can best represent your interests at Council and in our regular communications with members (Bulletins and Newsletters). We will soon be providing some support to each state for activities that may assist with state networking. This year there will also be a survey of our members, which we urge you to participate in to guide the Society’s directions. Some recent sad news was the passing of Alan Mackay-Sim AM. Alan was honored by ANS with the Distinguished Achievement Award in 2017 and was a warm and generous colleague. I encourage you to read the article by James St John in this issue of the Newsletter, outlining Alan’s many achievements and attributes.

Finally, I would like to reflect upon several conversations during the ‘Covid years’, when many speculated about the future of conferences, professional societies – and just about everything else. The exceptional level of energy and talent in Australian and New Zealand neuroscience is very clear. I am optimistic that ANS can provide the experiences and support to further build the neuroscience community, but this will be most successful if we learn from our members and listen to your voice. I also believe that our multi-disciplinarity is our strength. With Council, I look forward to finding ways of further broadening our reach within the neuroscience community.

## #ANS2022: Network Reconnected

After 3 long years since the last ANS face-to-face annual scientific meeting, in December 2022 more than 760 attendees descended upon Melbourne to successfully reconnect the ANS networks! There were many highs, with the ANS community representing in full force the incredible neuroscience taking place. The poster sessions and exhibitor booths were buzzing hives of activity and discussion. The plenary and symposia sessions were exceptional and engaging to the point that in some cases, just getting a seat was a challenge!



Jess Nithianantharajah  
and Zane Andrews

*ANS2022 LOC Co-Chairs, On behalf of the LOC*

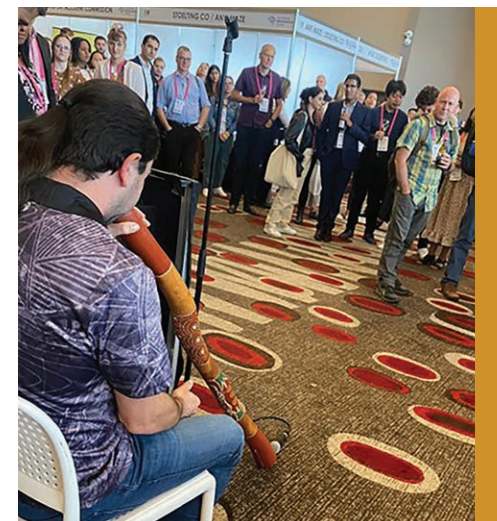
Given the many uncertainties leading up to the meeting and the late rush in registrations, LOC planning for the #ANS2022 meeting was challenging to say the least. However, looking back now, the LOC is extremely proud of delivering the meeting it envisioned and the various initiatives it led and implemented to ensure ANS truly reconnected the network. Specific highlights include reformatting the program to have more focused session streams, introduction of Student/ECR data blitzes and multiple awards for Best Student/ECR oral and poster presentations, revamping the social events (e.g., Welcome Reception live didgeridoo performance from a local Gunditjmara man Mr Tim Stares (Cultural Officer at Koorie Heritage Trust), ECR quiz night with pizza and drinks, relaxed dinner format that was cost-permitting for all attendees with a neuroscience-themed light-show of submissions from the ANS Conference image competition and live music from the Moreland City

Soul Revue, partnering with the inclusive artist studio Monte Lupo Arts to showcase stunning pieces made by those living with disability).

Finally, the ANS Equity and Diversity Committee hosted a panel conversation on “You Can’t Ask Me That” which was powerful and thought-provoking. Continuing to have these discussions on the challenges neuroscientists from marginalised communities in Australia/NZ face is central for how we improve equity, diversity and inclusion in our society.

We thank all those who attended #ANS2022 and made the meeting the success that it was. We appreciate your patience when things didn’t quite go to plan, and all your constructive feedback for how to make future ANS meetings even better.

Importantly, we would like to acknowledge the incredible input and tireless effort from all the LOC members including Sarah Stephenson, Hannah Vanyai, Elisa Hill, Sabrina Meikle, Grant Dewson, Michael Lazarou, John-Paul Fuller Jackson, Will Turner and Lucy Palmer. Each member played a pivotal and unique role on the LOC and the meeting would not have been what it was without them. Thank you.



*Top: Local Gunditjmara man, Mr Tim Stares, playing the didgeridoo during the welcome reception.*

*Bottom: ANS2022 LOC members (left to right): Hannah Vanyai, Lucy Palmer, Michael Lazarou, Elisa Hill, Jess Nithianantharajah, Zane Andrews, Sarah Stephenson, John-Paul Fuller-Jackson, Will Turner, Sabrina Meikle, Grant Dewson.*



## Message from the ANS Secretary

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Each Annual General Meeting of the ANS sees a turnover of office bearers as regional representatives and members of the Executive are replaced after their two-year terms. Some regional representatives volunteer to serve second consecutive terms (the maximum time allowed) while members of the Executive can serve up to three consecutive two-year terms. All this is set out in the ANS Constitution. There are no such limits on ANS Committee chairs and most other ANS roles - and we are always very grateful for the contributions our active ANS members make!

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Michael  
Lardelli

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Secretary, ANS

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

An underused facility of the ANS Constitution (<http://ans.org.au/about-us/our-constitution>) is the “elect” positions. Commonly, the “President Elect” position is held for 12 months by the person assuming the Presidency of the ANS at the following AGM. Since our current President, Prof. Janet Keast, has just begun her two year term, the President Elect position will not be taken up by the next President-to-be until next year. However, the Constitution also allows for “Elect” positions for the other offices on the Executive - i.e. the Secretary, Treasurer, and Conference Executive Chair roles. These “Elect” positions do not involve doing much other than attending the monthly, one hour Executive meetings (videoconferences) but bestow upon “The Elected” the opportunity of contributing to discussions and decision-making. They are a great opportunity for people to familiarise themselves with what the Executive does before becoming fully involved. And while members of the Executive are involved in weekly (frequently daily) communication and decision-making via email, a large part of the ANS bureaucracy is handled by the

ANS Secretariat - ie. secretarial services currently provided by The Association Specialists Pty Ltd (aka “TAS”). So Executive roles are not so onerous as to inhibit research or teaching!

My reason for describing all this is to encourage ANS members to put their hand up for an “Elect” position when the next call for nominations for ANS positions is made mid-year.

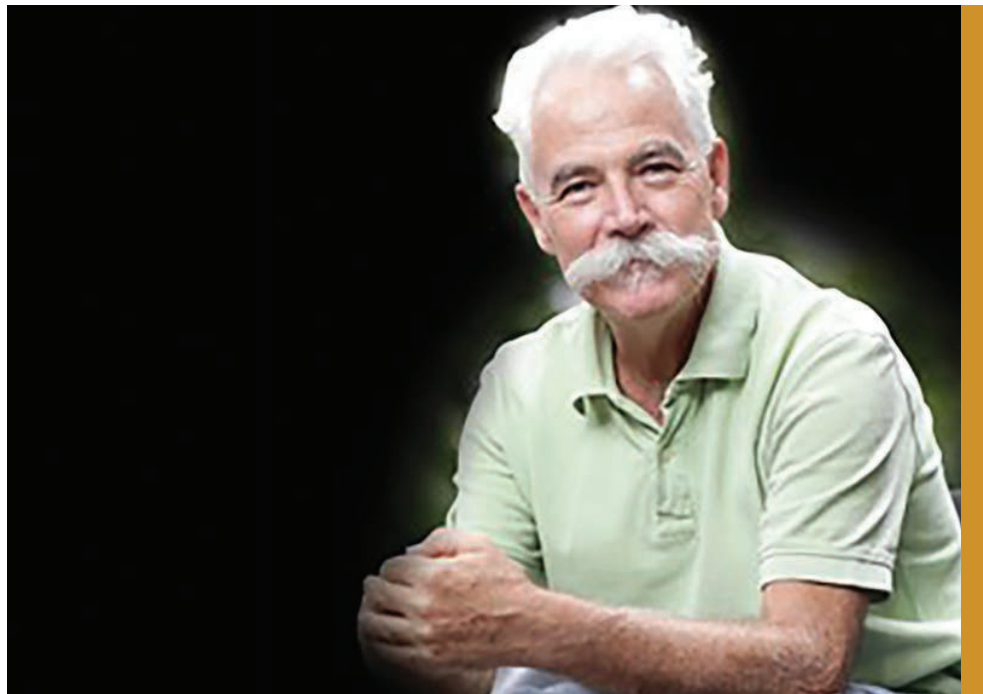
Ensuring that ANS Council, Executive, and Committee Chair positions are filled is one important task of the ANS Secretary. Another is organising the assessment of ANS Award (<http://ans.org.au/awards/ans-awards>) nominations. The task of assessing the Award applications - mostly performed by members of ANS Council - has been clarified for both applicants and assessors by the introduction of rubrics in 2022. For each award we try to have six people assessing all the applications. Scoring using the rubrics showed how amazingly tight is the competition for these awards. For example, for

last year’s Nina Kondelos Award (<http://ans.org.au/awards/ans-awards/nina-kondelos-award>), the separation between the lowest and highest scores was less than 5% and the top two candidates were separated by less than 1%! Since there is no limit to the number of times one can submit a nomination for this award, the conclusion I would draw is that unsuccessful applicants should keep trying. To a more limited extent, this also applies to the AW Campbell Award (<http://ans.org.au/awards/ans-awards/a-w-campbell-award>) where successive applications over a number of years are possible.

Please write to me ([michael.lardelli@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:michael.lardelli@adelaide.edu.au)) if you are interested in serving on the ANS Council or Executive and I look forward to receiving many nominations for the various ANS Awards when the call goes out for these later this year.

## Professor Emeritus Alan Mackay-Sim AM

Professor Emeritus Alan Mackay-Sim AM, was a pioneering stem-cell research scientist whose research focused on the olfactory system and how knowledge of this sense could be applied to other regions of the nervous system. Alan was awarded the Australasian Neuroscience Society Distinguished Achievement Award (2017) for outstanding career contribution to neuroscience.



*Vale Professor Emeritus Alan Mackay-Sim AM (1951-2023).*

Alan obtained his PhD from Macquarie University in 1980 and he then worked at the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Wyoming and the University of Adelaide before moving to Griffith University in Queensland in 1987.

His early work explored the neurobiology of the olfactory organ responsible for the sense of smell. It was through this discovery research that he identified how the glial cells of the olfactory system, the olfactory ensheathing cells, could be used to repair other regions of the nervous system. In 2002, he led a world-first human clinical trial which tested the safety of olfactory ensheathing cell transplantation for treating chronic spinal cord injury. The trial was conducted in Brisbane, with his team demonstrating that transplanting therapeutic nasal cells into the spinal cord was safe. Alan was awarded Queenslanders of the Year in 2003 for this work.

While Alan was not able to follow up the cell transplantation therapy with additional trials due to funding limitations, researchers around the world were inspired by the trial's outcomes and continued to work on the therapeutic approach. A Polish-UK team demonstrated proof-of-principle efficacy of the olfactory ensheathing cell therapy in a human in 2014.

In Alan's more recent work, he developed a unique cell model of adult stem cells that were obtained from the olfactory mucosa within the nose. Through this work he has made significant contributions to our understanding of the cellular and molecular

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*(Professor Emeritus Alan Mackay-Sim AM ... continued)*

causes of neurological and psychiatric diseases, including schizophrenia, Parkinson's disease and hereditary spastic paraplegia. This work has been especially powerful because the neural stem cells within the olfactory mucosa are easily harvested through a simple biopsy, and the regenerative power of the olfactory system means that they can be used to identify genetic and functional differences in the cell populations. He also used these patient-derived stem cells to identify drugs that had the potential to reverse the disease deficits in the patient cells.

Alan held many roles at Griffith University including the inaugural Director of the National Centre for Adult Stem Cell Research and Deputy Director, Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies (now known as Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery, GRIDD). In addition to the awards mentioned above, Alan received numerous awards and accolades for his lifelong work, including a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), a French Government Scientific Fellowship in 1991, the Neil Hamilton Fairley Medal (2018) for outstanding contribution to medicine, and he was a recipient of a prestigious Eureka Science Prize in 2011. He continued to serve on numerous health advisory boards after his academic retirement.

Alan was a very enthusiastic scientist who wanted to share his skills and knowledge to help other researchers. He very willingly collaborated with many researchers around the world to help find

new clues into human diseases. Alan will be remembered as an exceptional mentor, irrespective of the experience level of those around him. Alan was also passionate about engaging with people in the community and was an inspiring speaker and champion of research and supporting our next generation of scientists.

Alan passed away in January and is survived by his wife of almost 40 years, Lisa, and two adult children Matilda and Callum.

## Professor James St John

*Head, Clem Jones Centre for  
Neurobiology and Stem Cell  
Research, Griffith University  
[jstjohn@griffith.edu.au](mailto:jstjohn@griffith.edu.au)*



# New Zealand's Aotearoa Brain Project – Kaupapa Roro o Aotearoa (ABP)

March 2023

One of the key goals of New Zealand's Aotearoa Brain Project – Kaupapa Roro o Aotearoa (ABP) is to improve hauora roro (*brain health*) by raising awareness of the importance of brain health and helping people understand what they can do to make their brain health a priority.

Karl  
Iremonger

ANS Council New Zealand  
Representative

We're also passionate about connecting the brain health researchers, who are familiar with the world of the laboratory, with the brain health advocates and funders, who are familiar with the lived experiences and impact of illness, to improve the delivery of brain health solutions to people who need them.

Fieldays is one of Aotearoa New Zealand's largest Agricultural and Pastoral shows, held at the Mystery Creek Event Centre in Waikato, and ABP was thrilled to have a stall in the *Hauora Taiwhenua* Health & Wellbeing Hub at the November 2022 Fielddays show. The show drew a crowd of 75,000 attendees across four days, with attractions ranging from tractor racing to free hearing and blood pressure checks.

Along with other brain health groups from NZ, including university neuroscience research centres, NGOs, and advocacy groups, we formed a 'Neurohub' within the larger health hub. ABP helped support the 'big brain' get to Mystery Creek from the University of Otago, which was a highlight of the Neurohub and sparked conversations about looking after your brain with the young and old alike. Plastinated brains were also used to educate about the effects of *mate wareware* (dementia), stroke, and the differences between human brains and other species like cats, mice, and dolphins.

At the ABP stall we were interested in hearing people's concerns were about brain health and looking after their brain, so we could use this knowledge to help shape our activities for 2023. The key themes which came through were a deep interest in mental health, especially for the rural farming community, a desire to hear about lifestyles for keeping the brain healthy, and a real support for brain research to lead the way in finding treatments to prevent, delay or recover from brain disorders. This encourages us to continue and extend such outreach activities in 2023.



ABP Fieldays volunteer team.



# National Youth Science Forum participants get the Eccles treatment

March 2023

On 19 January the Eccles Institute of Neuroscience at ANU hosted twenty-eight Year 12 students as part of this year's National Youth Science Forum (NYSF). The NYSF program brings high school students from around the country to Canberra for two weeks to give them a glimpse into what really goes on in the world of STEM.

## Angela Nicoli

PhD student, Eccles Institute of Neuroscience

This year's cohort was treated to inspiring and intriguing talks from some of Canberra's own neuroscientists, touching on topics such as why neuroscience is so fascinating, and how exercise can level-up brain function.

Following the talks, participants embarked on a two-hour tour of the neuroscience labs at the John Curtin School of Medical Research. At four stations throughout the building, enthusiastic PhD students, postdocs and senior academics showcased a wide range of neuroscience research methods including electrophysiology, 2-photon imaging, behavioural studies, tissue staining and optical coherence tomography. Participants also gained insight into sensory processing, disease diagnosis, therapeutics and neuromodulation, with hands-on opportunities and interactive demonstrations throughout.

At the end of the day, students chatted with tour guides, presenters and organisers over afternoon tea. From all accounts, it was a great success. Students walked away "truly inspired" and "motivated to further their studies in STEM," with some even noting that they "hope to apply here one day". We expect we'll be seeing some of these faces again in the near future.



National Youth Science Forum. Images by Calo Huang.

## Update Tasmania

### Jenna Ziebell

ANS Council Tasmania  
Representative

On 30th November 2022, Professor Kaylene Young attended Parliament House for a dinner marking Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Australia's 50th Anniversary. The dinner was hosted by Parliamentary Friends of MS Co-Chairs, Senators Deborah O'Neill and Wendy Askew, and guests included Patron of MS Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Federal Ministers, Senators, and members of the MS community. As Deputy Chair of MS Australia's Research Management Committee, Professor Young's address outlined the scientific discovery that has underpinned improved MS clinical care over the last 50 years. It also outlined the research underway and the research needed to see a brain repair treatment reach the MS clinic. Professor Young also accepted the President's Medal awarded to the Menzies Institute for Medical Research, one of fifty medals cast to mark 50 years of progress in driving awareness, research, and support for people with MS.

Professor Kaylene Young  
attended Parliament House.



## Understanding Traumatic Brain Injury

TALK-TBI is a medical research future fund (MRFF) funded project which aims to increase the awareness of all severities of traumatic brain injury across Australia. One aspect of the research project is the 5-week long Understanding Traumatic Brain Injury Massive Open Online Course which is open for enrolments with the course starting March 27th. Another aspect of the project is understanding the lived experience from both the individual and the carer's perspective. The flyer below contains the contact details.



### Transforming Awareness, Literacy & Knowledge of Traumatic Brain Injury (TALK-TBI)

Do you live with a traumatic brain diagnosis, or care about someone with a traumatic brain injury? Would you like to share your experiences of living with a traumatic brain injury?

If so, we would like to hear from you. For more information on this project, please contact

Fiona, at [TALK-TBI@utas.edu.au](mailto:TALK-TBI@utas.edu.au) for a participant information pack.

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA  
**WICKING**  
Dementia Research and Education Centre

## The MND Collective NSW branch meeting

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By bringing together researchers with an interest in motor neurone disease (MND), the MND Collective aims to promote collaborative research and improve the lives of people living with MND.

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The MND Collective NSW branch will hold a meeting at Macquarie University on 21st April (morning tea and lunch will be included). Here, we will talk about the biggest questions in the field and how we can tackle them together. It will be a great chance to connect and exchange our expertise. This event is free and open to all MND researchers in NSW.

Please contact Stephanie Rayner  
[stephanie.rayner@mq.edu.au](mailto:stephanie.rayner@mq.edu.au)  
for more information.

# The ANS Developmental Neuroscience Forum (ADNF)

The ADNF Organising Committee would like to warmly thank A/Prof Michael Piper (The University of Queensland) for his essential contribution as co-founder and co-organiser to the monthly ADNF seminar series, which has attracted more than 80 national and international speakers since 2021.

The ADNF Organising Committee would like to welcome A/Prof Silvia Velasco (Murdoch Children's Research Institute) as new co-organiser. We are looking forward to having another exciting year of Online Neurodevelopmental Neuroscience symposia! The next symposium is scheduled on March 30th 2023.

We encourage ANS members, in particular early career researchers, to participate to the Forum as a speaker and attendee. The friendly environment makes a perfect place to discuss interesting neurodevelopmental research topics.

**Please contact the Organising Committee if you want to join the ADNF email list to keep track of the coming symposia or to participate as a speaker.**

The ADNF is present on Twitter:  
[@ANS\\_DevNeuro](https://twitter.com/ANS_DevNeuro)

The ADNF is also present on the ANS website:  
<https://www.ans.org.au/meetings-events/australasian-developmental-neuroscience-forum-adnf>



## ADNF Organising Committee

*The ADNF  
Organising  
Committee*

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### **Laura Fenlon, PhD**

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### **Silvia Velasco, PhD**

*Murdoch Children's Research Institute (Victoria)  
[silvia.velasco@mcri.edu.au](mailto:silvia.velasco@mcri.edu.au)*



# 2023 Solving Sanfilippo Symposium

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2023 Solving Sanfilippo Symposium hosted by the Sanfilippo Children's Foundation will be held at SAHMRI in Adelaide on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th May 2023.

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The program will cover biomedical, translational, clinical and symptom management research with plenty of time for discussion and collaboration with fellow researchers and parents of children with Sanfilippo syndrome.

Please contact [research@sanfilippo.org.au](mailto:research@sanfilippo.org.au) to receive further information or to express your interest in presenting your research at the symposium.

## **The Sanfilippo Children's Foundation 2023 Grant Round is Now Open**

Expressions of Interest were due on 14th March 2023. Sanfilippo Children's Foundation accepts applications for Incubator or Translational grants for projects that specifically address Sanfilippo syndrome. Projects that target therapies to halt or slow disease progression, repair and reverse cell damage (including the application of advances made for other neurodegenerative diseases), or improve quality of life through symptom management are welcomed.

For more information about our funding program, visit: <https://www.sanfilippo.org.au/research/research-funding-program>

Sanfilippo  
Children's Foundation



## Australasian Neuroscience Society Annual General Meeting

Held at Pullman Melbourne Albert Park – Element Room  
06/12/2022 @ 17:00 PM – 18:00 PM AEDT

### 1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair, Peter Schofield opened the meeting at 1715 AEDT and read an Acknowledgment of Country for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Māori peoples of New Zealand.

### 2. Assess Quorum and Apologies

A quorum was confirmed for this meeting.

#### Apologies

Andrew Lawrence  
Paul M Pilowsky  
Elspeth McLachlan  
Milindu Liyanapathirana  
Laurie Geffen  
Colin Masters  
Robert Porter  
Linda J. Richards  
Karl Iremonger  
David Vaney  
Timothy W. Bredy

### 3. Confirm the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting

Motion: That the minutes of the 2020 ANS AGM are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Michael Lardelli

Motion: Passed

### 4. President's Report

The current President, Peter Schofield delivered his President's Report.

- Peter noted that his term as President was ending during this AGM and thanked ANS members generally, all those serving on Committees, and his fellow members of the Executive and Council for their hard work and support of him during his tenure
- ACAN 2022 returned to a face-to-face course, held at a new location in The Florey Institute, special thanks were given to ACAN Director, Chris Reid and faculty members Karl Iremonger, Ian Forster, Lucy Palmer and Jay Bertran-Gonzalez
- Peter thanked the Melbourne Local Organising Committee for the work they have put in to

# Minutes for ANS AGM 2022

organise the 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM). Over 750 delegates have registered for the ASM, off a budget expectation of 450 delegates

- An outline of member initiatives for the coming year, including a member survey was provided by Peter

### 5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary, Michael Lardelli, spoke to his report, reflecting positively on the significant increase in member numbers as a result of the 2022 ASM returning to an in-person format for the first time since 2019.

### 6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Jana Vukovic provided the Treasurer's report.

- Jana Vukovic reviewed current accounts for ACAN, ANS and the investments with GFM Wealth
- It was noted that the Investment portfolio held with GFM Wealth has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but that in comparison to similar fund managers, GFM Wealth had performed well which is an overall benefit to ANS
- A summary of the Audited Financial Reports for 2021-2022 was also presented
- Profit of \$104,219 impacted by unrealised losses in investment portfolios
- The Budget for 2022-23 was discussed and Jana Vukovic reminded those present that this

had already been voted on and accepted by Council

- Completion of the 2022 ASM post-event survey, along with the upcoming member survey will inform the Council on how to proceed with state and committee-based events during the remainder of the 2022-23 Financial Year

### 6.1 Receive the Financial Report and Auditor's Report

The Society has received the Treasurer's Report.

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

Moved: Jana Vukovic

Motion: Passed

### 6.2 Appointment of auditor

Appointment of Auditors

Motion: That the Society appoints Mark Tinworth of Tinworth & Co to be the Society's Auditor for 2022/2023 Financial Year.

Moved: Anthony Hannan

Motion: Passed

## 7. 40th ASM Local Organising Committee Chairs' Report

Jess Nithianantharajah co-Chair of the LOC provided the Committee report for the 2022 ASM

Jess introduced the Melbourne LOC for the 2022 ASM.

Jess Nithianantharajah – *co-Chair*  
Zane Andrews – *co-Chair*  
Tim Bredy – *Conference Executive Chair*  
Elisa Hill – *LOC member*  
Michael Lazarou – *LOC member*  
Sarah Stephenson – *LOC member*  
Grant Dewson – *LOC member*  
Lucy Palmer – *LOC member*  
Sabrina Meikle – *LOC member*  
Hannah Vanyai – *LOC member*  
John-Paul Fuller-Jackson – *LOC member*  
Will Turner – *LOC member*

- Jess noted the positive impact having an LOC with broad representation across career stages, neuroscience disciplines, gender and universities had on the ASM scientific program
- Target registrations 450 well exceeded by 780 registrations
- As the COVID-19 pandemic has become less acute, a new phase of neuroscience was emerging in Australia and there is an opportunity to drive further advances in science and change in the community

- Changes to the structure of the scientific program, resulting in fewer concurrent streams and more opportunities to attend oral presentations from Early to Mid-Career Researchers (EMCR)
- Over 400 posters were submitted by students for this ASM, Jess shared the LOC's gratitude to all ANS members who had volunteered to judge the posters for the Sir Grafton Elliot-Smith Award
- Jess reviewed some of the additional activities and actions taken by the LOC to minimise environmental impact of the event, provide increased social opportunities for members and using the venue in ways the encouraged networking and discussion as well as interaction with the trade exhibitors
- Jess thanked event Gold Sponsor the Transport Accident Commission along with the symposia sponsors, coffee cart sponsors and trade exhibitors for their support of the 2022 ASM

## 8. ANS Awards

Peter Schofield presented the ANS Awards for 2022.

AW Campbell Award  
Mehdi Adibi – *Biomedicine Discovery Institute (BDI) and Department of Physiology of Monash University*

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Mark Rowe Award (joint recipients)  
Lauren Bleakley – *The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, University of Melbourne*  
Luca Godenzini – *The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, University of Melbourne*

Nina Kondelos Award  
Professor Clare Parish – *The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, University of Melbourne*

Paxinos-Watson Award  
Carlie Cullen – *Menzies Institute for Medical Research, University of Tasmania*  
Aurina Arnatkeviciute – *Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health, Monash*

## 9. Honorary Membership Awards

Peter Schofield presented nominations for Honorary Membership for Professor Sarah Dunlop and Professor John Bekkers.

Motion: That with the recommendation received from the ANS Council, Professor Sarah Dunlop be awarded an Honorary Membership of the ANS.

Moved: Peter Schofield

Motion: Passed unanimously

The meeting congratulated Sarah in her absence.

Motion: That with the recommendation received from the ANS Council, Professor John Bekkers be awarded an Honorary Membership of the ANS.

Moved: Peter Schofield

Motion: Passed (John Bekkers abstained)

The meeting congratulated John Bekkers.

## 10. Appointment of 2023 office bearers and Council members

The Secretary, Michael Lardelli confirmed that the 2023 ANS Council members will be appointed upon confirmation of their Director's Identification Number with the ANS Secretariat.

Michael Lardelli thanked outgoing Council members, Peter Schofield, Tim Bredy, Nicole Jones, Johanna Montgomery, Tara Walker, Cathryn Blizzard, Anthony Hannan and Ashleigh Geiger.

Special thanks were given to Ashleigh Geiger for serving an additional term as Student Body Chair to guide the committee through the most disruptive phases of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Michael announced the 2023 Executive

Janet Keast – *President*  
Jana Vukovic – *Treasurer*  
Michael Lardelli – *Secretary*  
Jason Mattingly – *Conference Executive Chair*  
Peter Schofield – *past-President (ex officio)*

Members present at the meeting welcomed the new President, Janet Keast.

Michael announced the 2023 Council

Rebecca San Gil – *Neuroscience Research Representative*  
Alastair Fortune – *Student Body Committee Chair*  
Ehsan Kheradpezhohu – *ACT Representative*  
Lezanne Ooi – *New South Wales Representative*  
Karl Iremonger – *New Zealand Representative*  
Thomas Burne – *Queensland Representative*  
Lyndsey Collins-Praino – *South Australia Representative*  
Jenna Ziebell – *Tasmania Representative*  
Nicholas Price – *Victoria Representative*  
Hamid Sohrabi – *Western Australia Representative*  
John Bekkers – *Public Officer*

Michael confirmed the Committee Chairs for 2023

Nathalie Dehorter and Marco Morsch – *Communication Committee*  
Stewart Ramsay – *Early-Mid Career Research Committee*  
Lyndsey Collins-Praino – *Gender Equity and Diversity Committee*  
Catherine Leamey – *Neuroscience Education and Outreach Committee*  
Jason Mattingly – *Scientific Program Committee*  
Alastair Fortune – *Student Body Committee Chair*  
Chris Reid – *ACAN Director*  
Greg Stuart – *ACAN Management Committee Chair*

#### 11. Incoming President and ANS 2023

The President, Janet Keast thanked past Presidents Peter Schofield and Cliff Abraham for their work and dedication during the most disruptive phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, commending them for ensuring the future of ANS during an uncertain time. Janet spoke to her aims for ANS during her tenure, stating that she wishes to continue the good work done by previous ANS Councils and Executives and will seek to build on the foundation they have provided in order to grow the ANS without making significant changes.

Janet introduced the 2023 LOC co-Chair for the Brisbane ASM, Tara Walker.

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- Tara announced that herself and Thomas Burne are co-Chairs of the 2023 LOC
- The date for the 2023 ASM was confirmed as 4-7 December 2023
- The W Hotel in Brisbane was announced at the venue for the 2023 ASM

#### 12. Other Business

Members present discussed the increased opportunities for networking with other delegates during the 2022 ASM. It was noted that there are significant cost savings when using well equipped hotels instead of dedicated conference venues such as the Melbourne Convention Centre and the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The ability to have all ASM proceedings, social events and delegate accommodation all in one location has contributed to a better experience for delegates at the ASM.

Cliff Abraham commented on the impacts the COVID-19 pandemic had to ANS membership and funds. He noted that there had been some concerns that the ANS may not be able to recover from the negative impacts of the pandemic. He thanked the ANS Council, Executive and LOC for pulling the Society back to where it should be. Cliff also encouraged members to thank themselves for bringing ANS back to life.

#### 13. Close

There being no other business, the Secretary, Michael Lardelli closed the AGM at 1805 AEDT.



March 2023

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## Communications

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**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](mailto: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](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 and monthly bulletin if appropriate. Such requests should be directed to the ANS Secretary.

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