October 2016

Australasian Neuroscience Society

# Newsletter

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October 2016

# Message from the President

This is the final column that I will write as President of the Australasian Neuroscience Society. From December, there will be a new President, Professor Linda Richards, and there will also be substantial turnover of the ANS Executive and Council. Linda will be an excellent President for the Society and has already begun to develop a strategic agenda for ANS to ensure that neuroscience research is supported and strengthened in our region.

James Vickers

*President, Australasian Neuroscience Society*

I would like to thank all current and recent past Executive and Council members for their great work over the last couple of years. It may not always be obvious how much work goes into the running of the Society, particularly through the roles of Secretary and Treasurer. In this regard, Joe Lynch, Kay Double and Andrew Allen have contributed substantially to the smooth running of the Society in recent years. Relatedly, I think one of the highlights of the development of ANS has been the establishment of an excellent website, with many areas of functionality that Members can make use of. The web site also captures very well the multitude of areas that the Society works in, as well as many aspects of our history. The newsletter has also been transformed in recent years, and is now an important instrument for communication by the Society over a range of initiatives and events.

Three other areas of substantial work by ANS and associates in recent years also require commendation. Firstly, our colleagues who put together our annual meetings – the convenors, local organizing committees and the Editor. This is a substantial exercise that takes up a large amount of time of otherwise busy scientists. What is then delivered to Members on an annual basis is an excellent meeting – the program for the Hobart meeting is very impressive, and the Sydney ANS meeting in 2017 should also be of a very high standard given the work that has already gone into its organization.

Another major area of ANS activity relates to the Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience (ACAN). ACAN has an impressive record of training junior neuroscientists in our region since 2005. A substantial number of people and organisations have supported ACAN over many years – I would like to highlight our Patron, Alan Finkel, the core funding provided by the Finkel Foundation, institutional support from the John Curtin School of Medical Research and now by the Queensland Brain Institute, the leadership by current and past Course Directors, Steve Redman, John Bekkers and Stephen Williams, and the stewardship by the Chair of the ACAN Management Committee, Sam Berkovic. ACAN management and terms of reference have been updated in recent years, and the course is set to contribute to high-level training of talented young neuroscientists for years to come.

A further focus of substantial activity by ANS is though working with multiple colleagues and organisations to deliver the Australian and New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge. This is an important outreach program for the Society and helps to build the profile of neurosciences across Australia and New Zealand.

There is a growing interest in the neurosciences across multiple spheres of education, and exposure of young people to latest in neuroscience knowledge is hopefully a formative experience that they will carry with them into future careers.

The other area of Society outreach lies in social media. ANS has a modest profile on LinkedIn and a growing following (approximately 4,000) on Facebook. Facebook, in particular, provides a means to maintain contact with colleagues and to promote success in neurosciences across our region, and also provides a current and future resource to engage with the wider public who is interested in what we are up to. What we have learnt through the Facebook page is that the follower base is particularly interested in the stories of local neuroscientists and the advances that they are associated with. This growing constituency of the Society may also be important to engage with in terms of developing national programs in the neurosciences, such as through the Australian Brain Alliance.

*(Message from the President ...continued)*

When asked what a national neuroscience initiative should look like, our Facebook followers had a number of different responses, which likely reflect the burden of brain conditions as felt in the community. Pain, gut/brain and immune/brain interactions, neuroplasticity and 'wellness' featured substantially. This emphasizes that the Society clearly has a role in public outreach and education, and that we will need to bring a sizeable proportion of the interested public along with us as we seek to convince politicians of the need for a national initiative in the neurosciences.

It has been a pleasure serving as President of the Society, and I am very grateful for all of the support from the Executive and Council over recent years. I am also grateful for the financial support of our institutional Sustaining Members, and we hope to grow this area of support over the next few years. The Society is in very good shape, and is ably served by keen colleagues who are motivated to see the success of neuroscience research across our two countries. A major challenge for the Society over the next few years is to advocate for, and support, Members (and future Members!) during an evolving environment of constrained government funding for medical research. We also need to be active and optimistic in helping to drive agendas for large-scale neuroscience initiatives, and for medical research support more broadly, that will ensure that Australia and New Zealand neuroscience research is both internationally competitive and also impactful in terms of national interests and outcomes.

# Steve Redman

Steve Redman has retired from the ACAN course management committee. Alan Finkel and John Bekkers take us back to the beginning and thank Steve for helping to start a course that is now an integral part of the Australian and New Zealand neuroscience fabric.

Back in 2004 Steve had been the neuroscience mentor-in-chief at ANU for as long as anyone could remember, pulling the levers that built young careers. News then emerged of a new mentoring scheme in which Steve was involved – the embryo that became ACAN. We heard that the course was the 'baby' of Alan Finkel (who had recently taken up new challenges after selling Axon Instruments) and that it was being planned by a committee of distinguished neuroscientists, Steve among them.

By the time I heard about ACAN a lot of important decisions had already been taken. It had been decided to run the course in a pleasant location, preferably sub-tropical, not too tightly linked to a particular institution but not too far away from civilisation, either, to help with logistics. I understand one idea had been to run it on Heron Island, which would have been lovely but quite impractical. The compromise of North Stradbroke Island turned out to be brilliant.

Another early decision was that the first two weeks of the course would be about neurophysiology, while the last week would cover cell biology and histology. Steve asked Greg Stuart and I to help him organise the neurophysiology section, while James Vickers would organise the last week.

Steve, Greg and I (as complete beginners at this kind of thing) set about approaching equipment suppliers and calling in favours from overseas colleagues to persuade them to teach at the course – something that Steve seemed remarkably adept at doing. One thing that sticks in my mind from this time was Steve's ability to take big, sensible decisions that cost a bit in the short term but paid off handsomely in the long term. Take air tables. They are heavy, unwieldy things, hard to borrow, expensive to buy, but essential kit for neurophysiology. Let's just buy our own, said Steve, and he somehow worked out a way to split the cost.

The rest, as they say, is history. The first ACAN (then called AANRI for obscure reasons) showed us that we could make this thing work and that there was a solid demand from the Australian and New Zealand neuroscience community. Inevitably, there were some adjustments. We realised that cell biology was tricky to achieve in a week (cells

*(Steve Redman ...continued)*

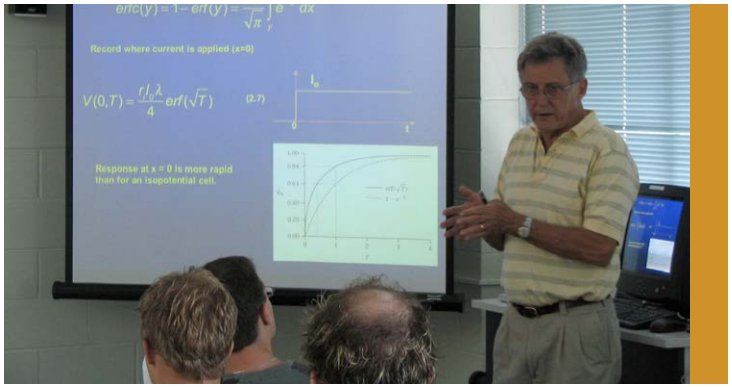
take time to grow) and so week 3 was turned over to imaging, which turned out to be remarkably prescient given its growing importance in neuroscience. However, the basic course structure grandfathered by Steve has served us well for over a decade now.

Steve's contribution to ACAN has not just been organisational. For those first few years he was on-site from start to finish, lecturing, delivering impromptu tutorials, welcoming visiting faculty and helping out in the lab. For many years he delivered a lecture on the cable properties of neurons, by turns charming and bewildering students with his intuitive insights and mathematical rigour.

Now that Steve has retired from the course management committee, one might say that an era is over for ACAN. I prefer to paraphrase Churchill and say that we are merely approaching the end of the beginning. I have every confidence that a course born of such well-adapted parents as Steve and Alan will grow and thrive into the future, just as long as there are young neuroscientists passionate about learning how to answer the hard questions.

## John Bekkers

*ACAN Director 2007-2015*




For Steve, a deeply perceptive man, it was all about describing a mathematical model of motor neuron synaptic transmission.

I've never thought too hard about what lies on the other side of the door marked "opportunity". So when I tentatively pushed open the door to the Biomedical Laboratory in the Department of Electrical Engineering at Monash University little did I anticipate the years of hard work and ultimate reward that lay ahead. In neuroscience, in electrical engineering and in the business of growing wiser.

I was amazingly lucky to find my PhD supervisor, Steve Redman, inside the lab. For the next five years I worked with Helix aspersa (the common garden snail) on the one hand and Steve Redman on the other.

The contrast, Steve will be pleased to know, was substantial. Not only did one have a simple brain and the other a sophisticated one, but they worked at different paces and with dramatically different aspirations. For Steve, a deeply perceptive man, it was all about describing a mathematical model of motor neuron synaptic transmission. I learned from Steve the importance of commitment to detail, deep analysis, the pursuit of quality and when all else fails, receptivity to serendipity.

Along with all of that, Steve was charming. But tough. He threw me into the deep end of the Australian PhD program, which in my mind is a very long swimming pool. Then for the next five years Steve coached me from the sides as I desperately swam for the distant, shallow end. As I clambered up the ladder and reached for my towel Steve offered me the gold medal – an invitation to a postdoctoral research fellowship at the John Curtin School of Medical Research where he had been invited to be the Director of Neuroscience.

After two years working closely and enjoyably with Steve, I jumped ship and swam to another distant goal, the dream of starting my own company in Silicon Valley. I formed Axon Instruments to make scientific instruments and software initially for neurosciences and eventually for genomics and drug screening too.

*(Steve Redman ...continued)*

Axon was successful, mainly because on the day that I formed it I was the world's expert on designing single-electrode and two-electrode voltage clamp amplifiers. Why? Because of the incredible support I got from Steve Redman, and also from colleagues at Monash University, the John Curtin School of Medical Research and others across the country.

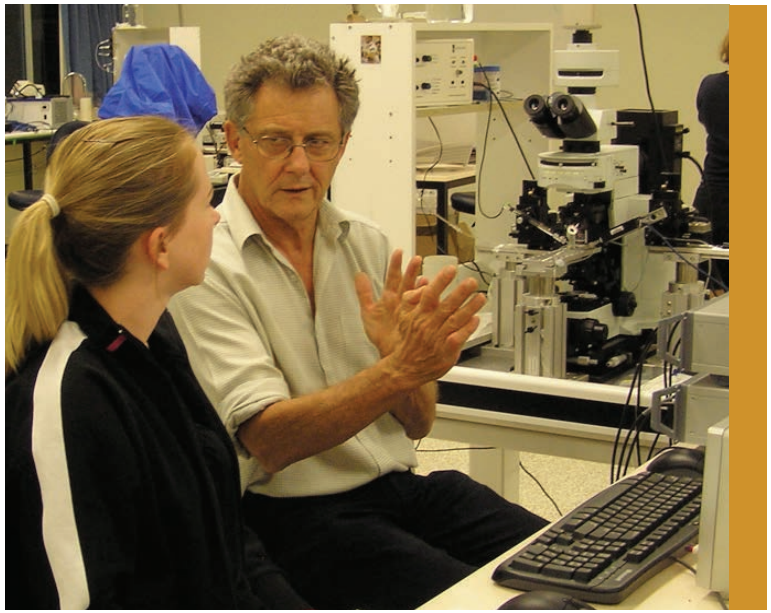
I owed everything to the Australian neuroscience community, so when I had the opportunity to turn my attention to Australia and start the third trimester of my life my very first action was to plan the establishment of the course that ultimately became known as ACAN. As the head of Axon Instruments I was familiar with the summer training courses offered at Woods Hole and Cold Spring Harbor. I mentioned this to Steve and pretty soon we were brainstorming the concept of a Woods-Hole Down Under, but instead of the unpronounceable acronym WHDU we opted for AANRI (Australian Advanced Neuroscience Research Initiative) and ultimately ACAN (Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience).

The goal then, and now, for both Steve and me, was to help train early career researchers in the difficult laboratory research techniques that are as problematic to learn from the methods section of a research publication as mastering your mum's chocolate cake from her recipe that listed most of the ingredients but omitted the secret sauce.

As I noted once before in this newsletter, Steve took on the gruelling task of being the inaugural course director. After two seminal years establishing the course and setting it admirably on its long-term path Steve handed over the reins to his protégé John Bekkers, who ran the course marvellously well for many more years to come.

The reputation of ACAN could not be higher. Steve's contribution to conceiving it, leading it then continuing to serve as a member of the governance committee is a huge part of the reason for ACAN's success. I deeply thank Steve for helping to make it so.

## Alan Finkel



# The Students of Brain Research

The Students of Brain Research (SOBR) network was formed in 2011 in an effort to connect graduate students and early career researchers in the fields of neuroscience and brain research from across the state of Victoria.

In its first year SOBR hosted a networking event, an interdisciplinary trivia night, and a student symposium. These events all provided its members with the opportunity to network, transfer knowledge, and establish collaborative partnerships with other early career researchers who, whilst from a broad range of departments, institutions, and scientific backgrounds, were all intrigued by the human brain.

Over the past five years, SOBR has grown year-on-year, holding its largest and most successful events to date in 2015 and 2016. Traditionally, SOBR now runs two events each calendar year: one networking dinner and one student symposium. Each year a new student committee also takes charge of organising and fundraising for these events, with the immediate past committee acting in an advisory capacity. In May this year, 180 guests attended SOBR's networking dinner at the State Library of Victoria. Guests included students and academics from 14 Victorian universities and research institutes, as well as a broad range of representatives from industry and government.

SOBR offers the student members of the brain research community in Victoria opportunities to network and connect with their peers, as well as more senior members of the community at universities or institutes other than their own. It also affords students the opportunity and autonomy to organise and gain experience in the running of professional and academic events. To the Victorian brain research community and its allies in industry and government, it provides a central hub for engaging with and supporting the student community as a whole - students who represent Australia's future capacity in brain research, some of whom will also one day become leaders in our community.

Tom Burns

*on behalf of the SOBR committee*

# Coordinating Global Brain Projects

## An area of significant and important contribution that Australia can make to the global brain effort is in our internationally recognised translation strengths in neuroengineering

I was fortunate to attend a meeting on September 19th, 2016 at the Rockefeller University on "Coordinating Global Brain Projects". The meeting was organised by Prof. Cori Bargmann, Rockefeller University, and Prof. Rafael Yuste, Columbia University and was funded by the US National Science Foundation.

The meeting involved scientists, government officials, industry and philanthropic foundations and the purpose was to start a dialogue about how neuroscientists across the globe can work together to understand the brain. The meeting served to identify which countries have brain projects and where they are in establishing them.

Several countries have established national "Brain Projects" and some of these (USA, European, Israel and Japan) have been funded by their respective governments. Additional countries were represented at the meeting that have developed, or are developing, their own national brain projects that await government funding (China, Canada, Korea and Australia (see below)). Several further representatives gave updates on their country's commitment to brain research (Germany, France, UK, Spain). There were 49 short talks (5-7 minutes each) from each representative with two talks on Australian initiatives, one given by myself and the other by Mr Anthony Murfett, Ministerial Counsellor for Science Industry and Innovation, Australian Embassy in Washington DC.

Mr Murfett outlined the Australian Government's commitment to industry translation and the Aus$1 billion commitment for the "National Innovation and Science Agenda", the existence of the "Medical Research Future's Fund", the "Global Innovation Linkage Fund" for medical technologies and "Industry Growth Centres". He also mentioned the joint NHMRC-US BRAIN initiative co-funding for neurotechnological-based research.

I spoke about our collective efforts to establish an "Australian Brain Initiative" through the "Australian Brain Alliance" which is being spearheaded by the Australian Academy of Science but now includes over 29 member representatives from across Australia including ANS. I spoke about some of Australia's strengths in Neurophysiology, Neurogenetic, Neuroengineering, Neuroanatomical and Comparative Sciences and our strengths in developing longitudinal cohorts of human subjects with extensive data collection across a number of technological modalities. I also mentioned our major National programs funded by the CRC, ARC and NHMRC. An area of significant and important contribution that Australia can make to the global brain effort is in our internationally recognised translation strengths in neuroengineering which includes devices such as cochlear and the bionic eye, and methods for pain control and neurostimulation, and industrial applications such as Axon instruments.

Australia is firmly on the world stage of Brain initiatives and I believe in the future Australia will play an important and leading role as global initiatives for data generation, data sharing, and new neurotechnologies emerge from the recent funding pouring into neuroscience around the globe. Our challenge is to build on our strengths and choose the right projects that will make a "step-change" in our understanding of the brain.

Want to learn more and have your say? An information session about the Australian Brain Initiative will be held at the ANS meeting in Hobart, on Tuesday 6th December at 1pm.

*Meeting Report by ...*

Prof. Linda Richards

*President-elect, FAA*

October 2016

# Helen Cooper NHMRC

Congratulations to ANS member Helen Cooper for having her project 'Delivering Australia From Neurodegeneration' recognised by the NHMRC as one of the Ten of the Best NHMRC Research Projects 2015. These were projects completed in the previous year that had achieved results of particular significance for the improvement of human health - whether through advancement of knowledge or the prevention, detection or treatment of disease.

# ANS-FENS Young Researcher Exchange Program Research Experience in LMU

On 2nd May, 2016, I was going to study in University of Munich for a six-week training task. Professor Heidrun Potschka firstly introduced the basic situation in the institute of pharmacology and toxicology as well as the potential project I would join in. She put forward the idea of "Medical Science Without Borders and international collaboration" and encouraged students and researchers to step out and communicate with national and international experts to learn from each other. She also indicated that the medical personnel should regard the laboratory training and development as career worthy of lifelong learning.

The main project I carried out in Heidrun's lab was to investigate the epileptogenic risk of one special gene in neuroinflammation. In the following weeks, I worked together with research students and assistants in the lab to do kindling, brain tissue collecting *(I learnt a quick method to separate the mouse hippocampus and parahippocampal structure)* and western-blot. I also discussed the results with senior researchers to learn more detailed information regarding the project. The experimental findings were quite promising and we found the potential gene had a pro-epileptogenic effect. However, this needs to be replicated in other animal models. This project provided me with some basic and new idea to design and perform experiments in epilepsy.

Meanwhile, I learnt some basic knowledge regarding the proteomics to investigate the biomarkers in epileptogenesis. The group used bioinformatical method to identify alterations of gene and protein expression in different time points after brain insults. Now they upgrade their research tool to focus on the neuronal circuit through a network analysis. This is quite interesting and I can also apply some bioinformatics method in my own study to link the molecular biomarker and neurodegeneration following acquired brain results.

During the weekend of my training, I spent my spare time to visit cultural sites in Munich and around cities. It was fairly enlightening to learn the history of University of Munich and have a practical experience to know the way in which German researchers perform scientific work.

*(ANS-FENS Young Researcher Exchange Program Research Experience in LMU ...continued)*

I can feel how serious, careful, diligent and hard-working they act, for example, they record their experiments very seriously and have a prudent sense of ethical policy and strikingly strict criteria of using experimental animals.

At last, I would be so grateful to the Michael Foundation and YREP support from both Australian Neuroscience Society (ANS) and Federation of European Neuroscience Society (FENS) to award me the travel grant to support my travel from Australia to Germany and the training in Prof Potschka's lab in LMU. I would also be very grateful to all staff in Potschka's lab for their kind accompany, patient teaching, lovely presents and harmony atmosphere with all of them.

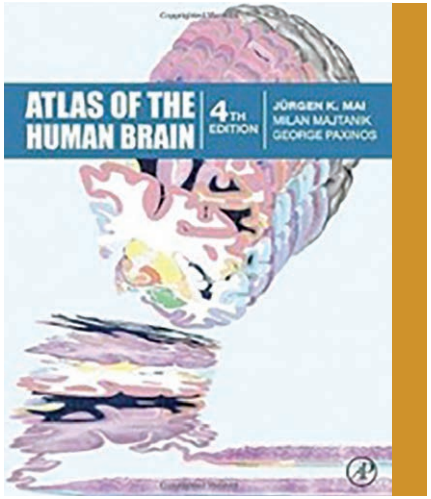
Ping Zheng

# Australian & New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge – National Finals 2016

Now that ANS is back to a regular time of the year, albeit at a different time of the year, the National Finals of the Australian and New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge will once again be hosted at our annual meeting. So, come along on Monday, December 5th, to see how these smart high school students shame us with their broad knowledge of neuroscience. Always a great competition, this year it will be run by Jenny Rodgers from UWA and her team. And a big thank you in advance to Prof Charles Watson for his continuing contributions to the competition. It is worth pointing out that this is a high-stakes competition: the Champion from Australia and New Zealand will head to Washington DC in July next year to represent our countries at the International Brain Bee.

Vaughan Macefield

*National Coordinator, Australian Brain Bee Challenge*




# The BMA Illustrated Book Award

**Atlas of the Human Brain. 4th Edition**
by Jürgen K Mai, Milan Majtanik and George Paxinos.
*Published by Elsevier/Academic Press, 2015*
*( ISBN: 9780128028001 £131.75 )*

This book presents the anatomy of the brain at macroscopic and microscopic levels, featuring different aspects of brain morphology and topography. This greatly enlarged new edition provides the most detailed and accurate delineations of brain structure available.

"It is a pleasant moment for a scientist when their peers recognise their work"

It was reviewed by Dr Alisdair McNeill, senior clinical fellow in genetics at the University of Sheffield who commented that "this is a well-presented atlas with beautiful illustrations. It is a comprehensive and very well-illustrated macroscopic and microscopic atlas of human brain."

Professor George Paxinos, AO, was President of ANS 2004/5. He completed his BA at The University of California at Berkeley, his PhD at McGill University, and spent a postdoctoral year at Yale University. He has published 47 books on the brain and spinal cord and one novel with environmental content. He is currently at Neuroscience Research Australia and the University of New South Wales in Sydney.

# 36th Annual Meeting of the Australasian Neuroscience Society

October 2016

Poster abstract Submissions open until Monday 31st October.

**We look forward to welcoming you to Hobart in December! The count-down is on for the 36th Annual Meeting of the Australasian Neuroscience Society. The meeting will open at 3pm on Sunday 4th December and close at 5pm on Wednesday 7th December. The local organizing committee would like to suggest that delegates consider booking accommodation for Wednesday 7th and flying out on Thursday the 8th – to avoid leaving the meeting early due to limited flight availability in and out of Hobart!**

So far we have 665 registrants for the conference. Registration will be open right up until the meeting, and we are accepting poster abstract submissions until Monday 31st October.

http://www.aomevents.com/ANS2016/Registration

Tickets for the welcome reception, early career researcher event and the conference dinner can be selected as part of the registration process.

**40 tickets are still available for the MONA dinner!**

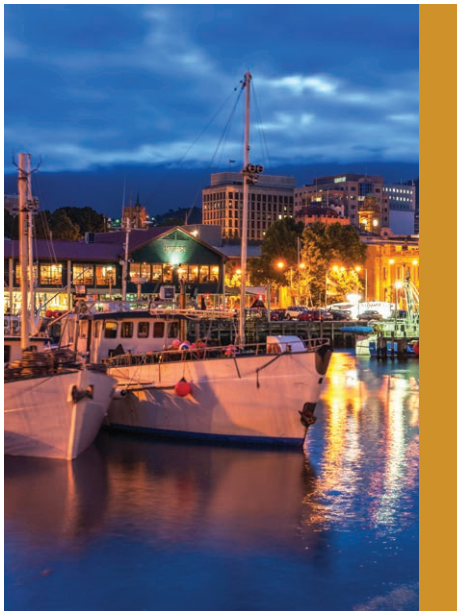
So please purchase your ticket prior to attending the meeting to avoid disappointment. The events management staff at MONA (Museum of Old and New Art – an amazing gallery, vineyard and microbrewery) have gone out of their way to make this an experience not just a dinner!

If you have already registered and wish to purchase a dinner ticket outside of the registration process, please email Kate Haralam ( kate.haralam@aomevents.com ) for assistance.

We have four outstanding plenary speakers and 22 symposia that span topics relevant to nervous system function, cognition, interactions between the immune system and the nervous system, neurons, glia, bionics, genetics, nervous system disease and regeneration. Additionally, this year's Presidential symposium will shine a spot-light on the achievements of mid-career female neuroscientists.

To check out the **conference program**, please visit:

http://www.aomevents.com/ANS2016/Program/Main_Program



Tracey & Kaylene

*On behalf of the organising committee*

# Announcement of ANS2017

The meeting Sydney ANS meeting will take place from 3rd to 6th December 2017 at the new International Convention Centre in Sydney. An extension of the deadline for submission of symposia proposals (see this edition of the newsletter) has been made. Please take this opportunity to contribute to the scientific program. Plenaries for the ANS2017 meeting will be announced shortly.

Thomas Fath

*On behalf of the organising committee*

# Sydney Symposia Call

ANS announce that the call for symposia proposals for the 2017 Sydney meeting has been extended until Friday 11th November 2016.

Symposia will normally have 4 speakers and be arranged in themes of interest to the broad membership of the society. Funding will be available to contribute to the costs of ONE invited overseas speaker per symposium. Overseas speakers (not from Australia or New Zealand) can receive free registration, social tickets and up to $2500 to cover costs of travel and accommodation. All financial support will be paid directly to the overseas speaker at the Annual Meeting. No Society funding will be available to support costs of Australian or New Zealand speakers, chairs or organisers.

The Society wishes to emphasise it is not necessary for a symposium to have an overseas speaker, as high quality proposals with all speakers coming from Australia and New Zealand are most welcome. Although proposals will be considered primarily on scientific merit, Council will take into consideration the geographic and gender diversity of the proposed speakers. In general, speakers in each symposium should come from different institutions. Symposium proposals that include early career researchers as the proposer, chair or speaker are encouraged.

Symposium proposers need to ensure that all Australasian speakers are current members of ANS, although exceptions can be made with appropriate scientific justification. Please note that for all selected symposia it is the organiser's responsibility to ensure that all speakers register and submit their abstracts by the specified deadline. The form for submission of the symposia proposals is available for download on the ANS webpage.

All symposium proposals should be submitted via email to the Secretary A/Prof Kay Double no later than COB **Friday November 11th 2016** at kay.double@sydney.edu.au

Kay Double

*ANS Administration and ANS Secretary*

October 2016

# ACAN 2016 - Call for Applications

Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows 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) 2017, which will be held from the 23rd of April to the 13th of May 2017 at the Moreton Bay Research Station, North Stradbroke Island, Queensland.

ACAN is an intensive three-week course that guides participants through the theory and practice of electrophysiological recording and optical imaging techniques using a unique balance of small group lectures and hands-on laboratory work. Lectures from experienced national and international faculty will outline in an informal atmosphere the theoretical basis of cellular and systems neuroscience, and the principles of electrophysiological and optical recording techniques.

During the course each participant will become proficient in patch-clamp recording, both *in vitro* and *in vivo*, calcium imaging, optogenetics, and many other techniques through unbridled access to state-of-the-art equipment, guided by the faculty. The course is also a lot of fun, with many ACAN students developing close friendships and collaborations during and after the course.

In order to apply for ACAN 2017, you should be a currently enrolled PhD student, a postdoctoral fellow, or junior faculty (preferably with no more than 5 years after completing your PhD).

The application deadline is **Friday the 23rd of December 2016**. For full details about the course and the online application process please visit: https://acan.qbi.uq.edu.au/

The fee for ACAN 2017 is A$4500, 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.

I look forward to receiving your application.

Stephen Williams

*Queensland Brain Institute*

*acan-admin@uq.edu.au*

# ANS Newsletter - Queensland Report

## Australian Autism Biobank

The first Australian Autism Biobank has recently been established at the ABB Wesley Tissue Bank, Wesley Hospital, Brisbane, and was officially launched on Monday 21st March by the Federal Minister for Health, Sussan Ley. The Biobank will contain the detailed phenotypic and genotypic profiles of almost 5,000 individuals, providing a valuable and unique dataset for Australian researchers. The Cooperative Research Centre for Living with Autism is a partner in this venture and will be using the facility to identify biomarkers and unravel the genetics of autism. A major goal for this fantastic resource is the development of earlier and more accurate diagnosis which is expected to lead to significantly improved outcomes for the child and their family.

Helen Cooper

**Awards**

*Queensland's outstanding young neuroscientists have recently been recognised for their important contributions to the field:*

PhD student Laura Fenlon (Queensland Brain Institute, UQ) has been named the first-ever Australian winner of the prestigious international neuroscience award, the Krieg Cortical Kudos Scholar Award for graduate students. This award is presented by the Cajal Club, one of the world's oldest neuroscience societies.

Laura was recognised for her ***"outstanding contributions to our understanding of the function of the cerebral cortex"***.

In September Laura was also awarded the Queensland Women in Technology PhD Career Start Award, an award for PhD students working in IT or life sciences. QBI's Natalie Lee was also a finalist for this award.

*Congratulations also go to:*
Assoc Prof Michael Piper *(UQ School of Biomedical Sciences)* for his recent Innovator Award from the US Hydrocephalus Association.

Dr Shyuan Ngo *(UQ School of Biomedical Sciences, Queensland Brain Institute)* for receiving the prestigious 2016 Young Tall Poppy Science Award.

Dr Marta Garrido *(Queensland Brain Institute, UQ)* who has recently been awarded The UQ Foundation Research Excellence Award.

October 2016

# ANS Membership Processes Are Changing

**Please read this carefully, so you are fully aware of the changes coming into place as of the upcoming renewal period for 2017.**

From November 2016 ANS will have two options available for payment of membership dues. Note these changes apply only to Ordinary and Retired Members; payment of dues for Student Members will remain unchanged. These changes are being introduced to simplify the process of membership and to incorporate the option of a multi-year, more economical membership option.

**Automatic membership renewal**

Instead of manually renewing your membership for 2017 as you have in the past, the process will convert to an automatic renewal process with the option of online credit card payment.

One month prior to the yearly membership expiry, you will receive an email from the ANS administration notifying you that your membership will be automatically renewed on your behalf. The email will then instruct you to click on a link to make payment for your membership for 2017. If you do not wish to renew your membership for the year, you will need to respond to ANS administration at ansadmin@hlbsa.com.au and notify them that you no longer wish to be a member of ANS and they will cancel the renewal. Please note that automatic renewal will be the default for Ordinary and Retired Memberships and you will not be able to manually renew unless you notify ANS administration each renewal period.

If you pay for your membership using a credit card, you will have the option to save your credit card details. This will save your details ONLY for membership renewal, and will not be shared for conference registration or any other payment.

**Please only check this box if you wish for your credit card to be Automatically Debited Each Renewal Period.**

If you check this box and then decide that you do not want to renew when you receive your next renewal email, you will need to notify ANS administration at ansadmin@hlbsa.com.au and notify them that you no longer wish to have your credit card debited. If your credit card is cancelled or expired, the ANS membership renewal email will include a link to make payment using another credit card or other method of payment.

Should you not make immediate payment for your automatically renewed membership you will receive 2 reminder emails. If after the two reminder emails you still do not pay for your membership, it will automatically be cancelled and a confirmation email of cancellation will follow.

Please note that automatic renewal will only be applicable to ordinary and retired members. Student members of ANS will still be required to manually renew their membership.

The benefit of having automatic renewal of your ANS membership is so you no longer have to go through the manual renewal process and you no longer have to remember to renew each year.

**3 Year membership renewal**

The second option for membership renewal, is a new multi-year membership option of 3 years. The benefit of renewing for a 3 year period is that your membership fee will be equal to three times the membership fee in the period that you renew, that is, you are not subject to the yearly CPI increase in the membership fee, thus this option is more economical.

This option will not be automatically renewed at the end of your 3 year period, and you will need to renew manually for the following period.

If you are a current member and wish to take advantage of the 3 year membership option, please email ANS administration at ansadmin@hlbsa.com.au when you receive your automatic renewal email as mentioned in option 1 to advise them of this, as this option is not subject to an auto renewal. To take advantage of this offer you will need to complete the multi-year membership option via the ANS website. Please note the 3 year membership renewal will only be applicable to Ordinary and Retired members.

*Note: ALL current and new Ordinary or Retired members will have their membership automatically renewed for 2017 onwards, unless you inform us that you no longer wish to be a member. This means you will no longer be able to manually renew your membership each year, unless you are a student member.*

*(ANS Membership Process Are Changing ...continued)*

All new Ordinary or Retired ANS members will have the option of the yearly automatic membership renewal or the 3 year membership.

Going forward, ANS membership registrations and renewals will be separate from registration for the annual ANS conference.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please email ANS administration at ansadmin@hlbsa.com.au or the Secretary Kay Double ( kay.double@sydney.edu.au ).

Kay Double

*ANS Administration and ANS Secretary*

CAJAL CLUB SOCIAL

# Invitation to attend the Cajal Club Social at SFN, San Diego

The Cajal Club is the oldest continually active neuroanatomy society. In addition to the Krieg Cortical Kudos Awards, the Cajal Club also presents the Pinckney J. Harman memorial lecture, and sponsors numerous International Symposia. This year's awards will be presented at the Cajal Club Social at SFN, San Diego.

For more information about the Club, please see www.cajalclub.org

For those attending SFN in San Diego, the Cajal Club Social will be held on: Sunday, November 13, 2016. Please note that there is no admission charge to attend the Social. However, there is a cash bar.

**When**
Sunday, November 13, 2016

**Where**
San Diego Marriott Marquis Hotel
Marriott Grand Ballroom #8
North Tower

**Time**
6.45pm to 8.45pm

October 2016

We are always interested in receiving articles or information from ANS members for the newsletter. Such material could include topics for discussion, meeting announcements, meeting reports, news about prizes and awards received by ANS members, obituaries, and any other items of potential interest to members of our Society. The copy deadline for the next newsletter is 1 December 2016.

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

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