

January 2017



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www.ans.org.au

Australasian Neuroscience Society Newsletter



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Message from the President

As scientists facing major funding challenges, it is easy for us to lose sight of the sheer joy and intellectual comfort we are afforded in our profession to pursue questions of importance. 2016 certainly presented some great uncertainty in the world of international politics with significant surprises including Britain voting to leave the EU and the spectacle of the US election.

“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.” Professor Marie Curie, awarded two Nobel prizes (Physics, 1903, and Chemistry, 1911).



Prof Linda
Richards

President, ANS

More than at any other time in history, science is now globally connected in a way that was impossible before the world wide web. Neuroscience is rising to the forefront of global science with major initiatives to understand the brain under way that are funded by Governments around the world (see *Neuron* 92, issue 3, 2016).

In early 2016 the Australian Academy of Science began to develop the Australian Brain Alliance (ABA), with the society and ANS member scientists as leading contributors. In the past year the ABA has grown to include scientists from most universities, institutes and departments where neuroscience research is being performed throughout Australia. The goal is to develop a major funding strategy to present to the Federal and State

Governments to boost funding for neuroscience in Australia. Although still in its early stages, the ABA plans to release a series of discussion papers in the coming months where ANS member feedback will be sought. All ANS members are encouraged to participate in this process so that a plan is developed that will be transformative for Australian neuroscience. The ABA effectively constitutes a Government lobbying arm of ANS, without investing in our own lobbyist.

Our recent scientific meeting in Hobart demonstrated the incredible depth and quality of neuroscience research in Australia. Outstanding international scientists also travelled to Australia to participate in our meeting. (Please see the meeting report in this issue). I would like to thank the members of the local organising committee and the Chairs, Associate Professor Tracey Dickson and Dr Kaylene Young, for their tireless efforts in preparing and running such a successful meeting. In addition to the exciting science presented, a highlight was the conference dinner held at MONA in Hobart. The event was memorable for the gallery exhibitions, the light show put on by the beautiful night sky, and the warm collegial atmosphere of the evening. Our thanks again to all those involved in organising the meeting, symposia and social events.

The ANS 2017 meeting will be held in Sydney on December 3 to 6. Plenary speakers are Professor Huda Zoghbi (Baylor College of Medicine), Professor Jürgen Götz (Queensland Brain Institute), Professor Andrew Lawrence (Florey Institute of Neurosciences and Mental Health) and Professor Kathryn North (Murdoch Childrens Research Institute).

Symposium proposals for this meeting are closing on January 27 so please consider submitting a proposal to ANS Editor, Associate Professor Helen Cooper, h.cooper@uq.edu.au. The Sydney local organising committee is chaired by Associate Professor Thomas Fath, University of Sydney.

At the ANS annual general meeting in December 2016, a number of new initiatives were approved which I would like to further outline here. In brief, these include the establishment of three new national committees, new additional members on ANS Council and new plenary lectures at our annual meeting.

Inclusion and representation of all members of our society is important for the success and longevity of ANS. At present, ANS has two named plenary lectures – named after Sir John Eccles and Professor Lawrie Austin – and it was decided at the Council meeting to include two additional plenary lectures at our annual meeting. The first will be given by the winner of the AW Campbell award which recognises a young ANS member scientist for their work within five years post-PhD. In addition, ANS will now honour a female scientist from Australia or New Zealand by naming an annual plenary lecture after her. As is the case for the other Plenary lectures, the choice of speaker for the annual lecturer is not restricted.

ANS Council is now calling for nominations for the naming of this lecture. Please send your nominations to ANS Secretary, Associate Professor Kay Double at kay.double@sydney.edu.au by March 3. Nominations should include a brief paragraph describing why your nominee should be considered for this honour.

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

The quality of Australian and New Zealand science will depend on the promotion and support of scientists from all backgrounds, providing diverse ideas and approaches to the scientific challenges and questions we strive to solve. In this regard, ANS has adopted the Science and Gender Equity Athena SWAN principles at <https://www.sciencegenderequity.org.au/athena-swan-principles/> and is establishing a national committee on Gender Equity and Diversity. This committee will be chaired by Dr Karin Nordstrom (Flinders University) with Dr Marta Garrido (QBI) as deputy chair. The remit of the committee will be to develop ANS policies for gender equity and diversity in all of our activities and to provide support and training to ANS members on these issues. **If you would like to be involved in the gender equity committee or have a comment on this topic, please email Dr Nordstrom at karin.nordstrom@flinders.edu.au.**

It has been suggested that a plenary lecture at ANS should be given by the winner of the Nina Kondelos award and ANS Council will consider this suggestion. The Nina Kondelos Prize was made possible by a donation to the Society by Professor George Paxinos, and it is named after his late sister.

Another issue facing ANS members is the growing need to advocate for the use of animals in research. ANS is establishing a new national committee on animals in research chaired by Professor Marcello

Rosa (Monash University). At the meeting in Sydney, one ANS symposium will be devoted to this topic with international experts speaking about their experience and approaches to advocacy. The remit of this committee will be to establish a strategy with other national and international organisations to advocate for the use of animals in research. **If you would like to be involved in the animals in research committee or have a comment on this topic please email Professor Rosa at marcello.rosa@monash.edu.**

In addition to research, many ANS member scientists are engaged in teaching neuroscience. A wealth of resources is available that could be shared amongst our members, as well as new materials developed for teaching and outreach. ANS is establishing a new national committee for teaching resources and education chaired by Dr Matthew Kirkcaldie (University of Tasmania). The remit for this committee will be to provide a source of information-sharing, via the ANS website, of teaching materials for ANS members to use, and to establish new ways of engaging with teachers and neuroscience-related professionals, perhaps through running courses or producing new materials on Australian and New Zealand neuroscience. **Please email Dr Kirkcaldie at matthew.kirkcaldie@utas.edu.au if you are interested in being involved in the education committee or have suggestions.**

Related to this, it is my pleasure to announce that the ANS Council has decided that the new headquarters for the Australian Brain Bee Challenge will be the ARC Centre of Excellence for Integrative

Brain Function, based at Monash University. The new Australian National Coordinator is Professor Ramesh Rajan and the new Australian National Administrator is Dr Maria del Mar Quiroga. **Please email Mar at maria.whoiroga@monash.edu if you have any questions regarding the Australian Brain Bee Challenge.** They will be working closely with the new National Coordinator for the New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge, Associate Professor Maurice Curtis (University of Auckland). The team has some wonderful new initiatives planned and we look forward to watching them build this outreach program.

The future of Australasian neuroscience is our students, and so ANS student members have established a new national ANS student body. The chair of this student body will sit on ANS Council to provide a voice for students at the highest level of the Society. I am delighted that Mr Tom Burns (Monash University) has been nominated by the student body as their inaugural representative on ANS Council. We look forward to hearing the views of students and providing support for activities that will help build the careers of ANS student members. **If you have ideas for student activities or would like to provide input please email Tom at tom.burns@monash.edu.**

The ANS Council is also seeking nominations for a representative on ANS Council from postdoctoral fellows, early career researchers or neuroscience research technicians/laboratory managers etc. The ANS Council is keen to hear how ANS can best support these members and therefore this

representative will hold a national role and will engage in the activities of the Council to help run the Society. **To nominate for this position on ANS Council please send an initial expression of interest to ANS secretary, Associate Professor Kay Double at kay.double@sydney.edu.au by March 3rd, 2017.** Only ANS members will be eligible to nominate for this position. An expression of interest should include a brief CV and statement of why you would like to be nominated and what you hope to achieve. ANS will then hold an election for this position in April with all ANS members eligible to vote.

These initiatives are to enable ANS to provide more for our members. In addition, we have been negotiating with the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) to provide member rates to attend their annual meeting for ANS members. We are also negotiating a reciprocal agreement with FENS for student/ECR travel awards to attend FENS or neuroscience courses within Europe for ANS members and similarly for FENS members to attend ANS or courses in Australia.

In closing, I wish you all a very productive year of scientific discoveries and advances in 2017.

Meeting Report for ANS 2016

We would like to thank all of the neuroscientists who took Hobart by storm in December and helped to make ANS 2016 such a success! The conference had 712 registrants and both the research and social programs were extremely full.



Tracey &
Kaylene

*On behalf of the
organising committee*

The MONA conference dinner was a definite highlight. The content of the gallery always provides talking points, and whether you were a MONA virgin or a repeat visitor, the timing couldn't have been better, with the 'Origin of Art' exhibition being a collaboration between scientists and artists. Everyone enjoyed the casual feel provided by the location, as well as the quantity and quality of the food – so a big thanks to the MONA staff who were extremely professional and worked hard to ensure our event was a success.

As this will be our final newsletter article as conference Chairs we would like to acknowledge the effort made by all members of the ANS council and members of our local organizing committee who ensured that the conference program had such a breadth of content and ran smoothly. We would like to reiterate our thanks to the plenary speakers – Michael Häusser, Jeffrey Rosenfeld, David Small and Massimo Hilliard – for their excellent presentations. Also we wish to acknowledge our sponsors, the University of Tasmania, NeuRA, Brain Research New Zealand, and the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre, as well as the ANS sustaining members and exhibitors for their support of our meeting and the Society.

ANS 2016 and the neuroscience research being presented was embraced by the media and the public, and we would like to thank Tom Keeble, Brigid O'Connell, Miranda Harman and Lila Landowski for helping us get the message out! Encouraging early career researcher participation is extremely important to the Society, and so we thank Emily Handley (University of Tasmania) for organizing our early career researcher social function at the Hobart Brewing Company, and Tom Burns (Monash University) for organizing the ANS Student Body panel Session. We would also like to acknowledge the quality of student participation in the meeting. Our special congratulations go to this year's student prizewinners.

- **Istvan Tork Student Oral Presentation Prize (\$500):** awarded to Dylan Fox (Monash University) for his talk entitled, 'The role of the inferior pulvinar in the early development of visually guided actions'.
- **Runner-up for the Istvan Tork Prize (\$250):** awarded to Wing Hei Chan (University of Melbourne) for his talk entitled 'RNA-seq of FACS-purified sympathetic neuronal progenitor cells reveals the molecular traits of cell fate decisions'.

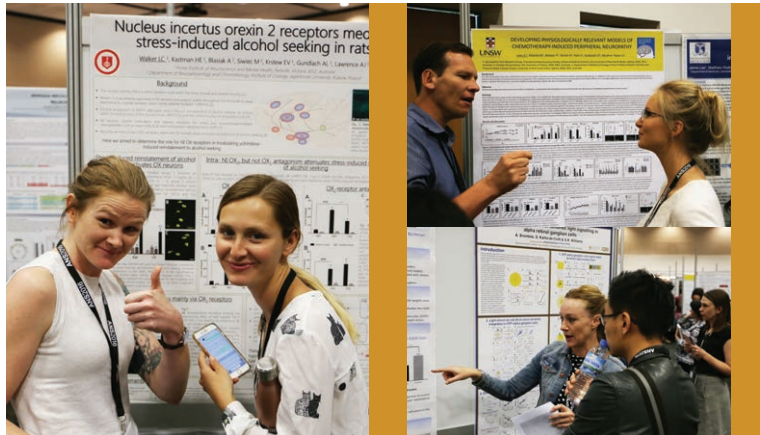
- **Sir Grafton Elliot Smith Student Poster Prize (\$300):** awarded to Paul Marshall (University of California Irvine) for his poster entitled 'ADAR1 dual function as RNA editing and potential DNA binding enzyme in the activity dependent regulation of adaptive behaviour'.
- **Runner-up for the Sir Grafton Elliot Smith Prize (\$100):** awarded to Stephanie Guiney (Florey Neuroscience) for her poster entitled 'Alpha synuclein toxicity is abolished by liopstatin1 through a ferroptosis-independent mechanism'.

We have received excellent formal and informal feedback about the meeting. We have also received the outcome of a survey of participants and have passed this information to Thomas Fath to help him with the planning of ANS 2017. Good luck with your research in 2017 and we look forward to hearing all about it in Sydney!

Happy New Year!

January 2017

(Meeting Report for ANS 2016
...continued)



Poster Sessions



James Vickers

Outgoing ANS President



Plenary Speakers

Top row: Michael Häusser (ANS International Plenary Lecturer), Jeffrey Rosenfeld (Eccles Plenary Lecturer), Massimo Hilliard (ANS Plenary Lecturer)
Bottom row: Frances Corrigan (Presidential Symposium), Jee Hyun Kim (Presidential Symposium), David Small (Lawrie Austin Plenary Lecturer)

Brain Bee Challenge National Final 2016



Brain Bee Winners

L-R: Charles Watson, Stefan Ivanov (NZ Champion), Risini Gamage (Australian Champion), Jenny Rodger.

The Australia and New Zealand Brain Bee National Finals get more exciting every year! In 2016, the National Finals were held in conjunction with the Australasian Neuroscience Society meeting in Hobart and I am very grateful to Tracey Dickson and Kaylene Young for giving us the opportunity to showcase some of the best young brains during the meeting.

I am pleased to report that Miss Risini Gamage from NSW is the 2016 Australian National Brain Bee Champion, and Mr Stefan Ivanov from New Zealand North Island is the 2016 New Zealand Brain Bee Champion.

It was a near impossible task for our panel of expert judges (Alison Canty, Louise Nicholson, Renee Turner and Charles Watson) to score the young finalists, but they did so rigorously and with careful discussion. Risini and Stefan will go on to represent Australia and New Zealand, respectively, at the International Brain Bee, to be held at the annual convention of the American Psychological Association in Washington DC this year.

As usual, coordinating the finals was a team effort. Thanks go to Jenna Ziebell and Matthew Kirkcaldie at the University of Tasmania, who made sure that we had great venues and enough food for the competitors and their families. Thanks also to Matthew Kirkcaldie for organising and marking the Brain Anatomy quiz, and Maurice Curtis from the University of Auckland who debriefed the finalists at the end of this section with great knowledge and humour. Special thanks as always go to Prof Charles Watson, who gave generously of his time to coach the finalists in a series of brilliant teleconferences, expertly designed the patient diagnosis section of the competition, and helped to develop the short answer written and live questions.

Jenny Rodger

University of Western Australia

Society Honours and Awards

2016 ANS Awards

The Society offers a number of prestigious annual awards in recognition of excellence in neuroscience research. At the AGM in Hobart I was delighted to announce the following awards for 2016.

Mark Rowe Award: *For a first or senior author publication based on research completed as a PhD student or postdoc, and published within 3 years of the award of PhD.* Awarded to Moones Heidari from the University of Newcastle for her paper: M Heidari, DM Johnstone, B Bassett, RM Graham, AC Chua, MJ House, JF Collingwood, C Bettencourt, H Houlden, M Ryten for the UK Brain Expression Consortium (UKBEC), JK Olynyk, D Trinder and EA Milward, "Brain iron accumulation affects myelin-related molecular systems implicated in a rare neurogenetic disease family with neuropsychiatric features." published in *Molecular Psychiatry*.

AW Campbell Award: *For the best contribution by a member of the Society in their first five postdoctoral years.* Awarded to Stephen Abbott, Senior Research Fellow at the Heart Research Institute and Department of Physiology, University of Sydney.

Nina Kondelos Award: *For a female neuroscientist who has made an outstanding contribution to basic or clinical neuroscience research.* This award is made possible by a donation from George Paxinos and is named after his late sister. Awarded to Naomi Wray, Institute for Molecular Bioscience and the Queensland Brain Institute, University of Queensland.

Paxinos-Watson Award: *Acknowledges the most significant neuroscience paper published by a Society member in 2015.* This award is made possible by a generous donation to the Society by Professors George Paxinos and Charles Watson, commemorating the publication of their key reference text, "The Rat Brain in Stereotaxic Coordinates". Awarded to Brent Neumann and colleagues at the Queensland Brain Institute for their paper: B Neumann, S Coakley, R Giordano-Santini, C Linton, ES Lee, A Nakagawa, D Xue, MA Hilliard, "EFF-1-mediated regenerative axonal fusion requires components of the apoptotic pathway." *Nature* 2015 Jan 8;517(7533):219-22.

Kay Double

ANS Secretary

ANS Honorary Membership to Glenda Halliday



ANS Honorary Membership is an occasional award bestowed upon distinguished neuroscientists who have rendered notable service to the Society. At the 2016 AGM the ANS President was delighted to award Honorary Membership to Professor Glenda Halliday. Glenda is a highly distinguished neuroanatomist with an international reputation in the field of neurodegenerative disorders. She is also a former President of the ANS (2006-2007).

Professor David Vaney was also elected to Honorary Membership but could not attend the 2016 AGM due to a long-standing commitment elsewhere, so he will receive his award at the 2017 meeting.



Society Business

Revitalising the ANS Logo

Our current logo has given us a few decades of service, but looks a little dated these days and lacks any neuroscience identity. For these reasons the Council has decided to update the logo in consultation with the members. This process is being organised by Matthew Kirkcaldie at matthew.kirkcaldie@utas.edu.au and will be finalised during February 2017. If any members have logo ideas or have views about the potential uses for the logo, please get in touch with Matthew.

Name the New ANS Plenary Lecture!

We have the Eccles Plenary Lecture and the Lawrie Austin Plenary Lecture. But at the 2016 AGM the membership of ANS decided that it was time we had a Plenary named after a prominent *female* neuroscientist.

We are now calling for nominations of distinguished female neuroscientists who should be honoured by having a Plenary Lecture named after them. Your nomination should include the suggested name and a brief paragraph of justification, including the nominee's relationship with ANS, if relevant.

Please send your nominations to the ANS Secretary, Kay Double at kay.double@sydney.edu.au, by COB 3 March 2017.

Working Group for ANS Educational Resources

ANS Council recently created the position of educational resources officer to coordinate a working group for ANS members with an interest in neuroscience education. This group will discuss the nature and scope of our approach to this important topic, from high schools through to postgraduate and professional education. Members with experience in schools outreach or links with professional secondary education bodies would be particularly useful contributors. If you have an interest and would like to be involved, please get in touch with Matthew Kirkcaldie at matthew.kirkcaldie@utas.edu.au.

Minutes from the 2016 AGM

The Minutes for the 2016 Annual General Meeting, together with a copy of the financial statements presented by the Treasurer at the AGM, are now available on the ANS website (requires member login). The audited financial statements for 2015-16 will be placed on the website as soon as they are available. The motion to accept these will be raised at the 2017 AGM.



Member News

Ariel Zelevnikow- Johnston

Florey Institute, Melbourne

FENS Cajal Brain Prize Course

As a recipient of the FENS-ANS Young Researcher Exchange Program (YREP) travel award, I was recently able to travel to Bordeaux to attend the Cajal Brain Prize Course – Hippocampus: From Circuits to Cognition. This three-week intensive programme for 20 graduate students and postdocs focused on hippocampal function from a synaptic to behavioural level and combined information and scientific approaches from anatomy and electrophysiology through to behaviour and imaging. The course format emphasised both theoretical and practical elements,

with lectures from the instructors and keynote speakers during the mornings and two 9-day-long experiments conducted during the afternoons. In addition, the course enabled the sharing of the attendees' own work, with several students presenting their own work each evening and receiving feedback from both instructors and their fellow students.

The Cajal course provided me with a huge amount of both general and specialised knowledge in which to better situate the context of my own work. The course both deepened my knowledge of my own area (spatial cognition in rodents) and broadened my understanding of its context by hearing about the human psychological work which prompted animal experiments and how this rodent work was feeding back to inform soon-to-be-implemented MRI studies. Some excellent keynote speakers with decades of experience, such as Howard Eichenbaum, Kim Graham and Jozsef Csicsvari, demonstrated how they could use an entire field of knowledge to target a very specific point of hypothesis formation and experimental design.

In addition, the experimental training sections of the programme exposed me to cutting-edge neurophysiological techniques. For example, my second project consisted of attempting to replicate the key findings of *Xu et al.* (2012), the first study to use optogenetics to artificially reactivate a fear memory trace in mice. The protocol consists of

using cFos-TTA mice injected with a virus carrying doxycycline-suppressed channelrhodopsin-2 into the dentate gyrus to label the granule cells active during fear encoding in one context, then reactivate the memory in a different context and hopefully observe fear behaviour (freezing). Over the course of the nine days, with no prior experience in these techniques, I became trained in stereotaxic surgery, viral injections, fibre optic implantation, contextual fear conditioning, and optogenetic stimulation protocols. Thanks to the quality of my instructor and fellow students, together with some very long days and the ANS-YREP award for enabling me to attend in the first place, we were successful (to the surprise of ourselves and our fellow attendees!).

The FENS-ANS YREP award was instrumental in allowing me to attend the course in that it covered the majority of the course fee and accommodation costs. In doing so, it enabled me to stretch my limited student travel funding.

Lastly, the intensity of the course served essentially as a boot-camp style bonding experience with my fellow students. I now have scientific friends from all across the US, Europe and Japan, I have heard about the diversity of laboratory styles and formats that exist outside of Australia, and I have taken the first steps towards establishing a community of future colleagues and collaborators.



Society for Neuroscience 2016 Award for Education



John Bekkers with Sfn
President Holly Cline

The Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience (ACAN) is well-known to many members of the ANS as an exciting and intensive course in cellular neuroscience for young researchers based in Australia and New Zealand. Now the reputation of ACAN has been recognised internationally with the award of the 2016 Award for Education in Neuroscience by the US Society for Neuroscience (SfN) to former ACAN Director, John Bekkers.

John played a crucial role in developing and delivering ACAN, including 10 years as the course Director. When presenting the award at Neuroscience 2016 in San Diego last November, SfN President Dr Hollis Cline said, "Dr Bekkers' thoughtful direction has immeasurably elevated an intensive training course that continues to change the careers of young neuroscientists."

ACAN was established in 2005 by Dr Alan Finkel, and since 2009 has been owned and managed by ANS.

SfN's Award for Education has been presented annually for the past 25 years, and recognises many distinguished neuroscience educators, including Eric Kandel, Dale Purves and Oliver Sacks. John shares the 2016 award with Dr Bruce Johnson, of Cornell University. John is the first Australian to have received this award.

Announcement of ANS 2017



BUILDING BRIDGES
3-6 DECEMBER 2017
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE | ICC SYDNEY

2017 MEETING OF THE
AUSTRALASIAN NEUROSCIENCE SOCIETY
37TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Register your interest now at
ANS2017.aomevents.com.au

The next annual scientific meeting of ANS will take place on 3-6 December 2017 at the International Convention Centre in Sydney. This will be an unmissable meeting, with an exciting line-up of plenary speakers and the opportunity to hear about the latest neuroscience research from across our region and the world.

The call for symposium proposals for ANS 2017 is still open. A symposium normally consists of four 30-minute talks by established experts (at least one from overseas) in an area of neuroscience of interest to the broad membership of the Society. Chairing a symposium is an excellent opportunity for you to contribute to the scientific content of the meeting.

For further information on how to submit a symposium proposal, please write to the ANS Editor, Associate Professor Helen Cooper at h.cooper@uq.edu.au. **Deadline is 27 January 2017.**

Thomas Fath

*On behalf of the
organising committee*



Join us in Sydney, for the 37th Annual Meeting of the Australian Neuroscience Society

ANS 2017 will be held in the fabulous new Sydney International Convention Centre (ICC), located in the heart of Darling Harbour between Sydney's famous icons, the ANZAC and Sydney Harbour Bridges.

This dynamic meeting brings together a wealth of scientists, educators, clinicians and research students from around Australia and the world.

Our goal is to build bridges between the laboratory and clinic, between different disciplines between experienced and young minds and between neuroscientists and the public to embrace the wonder of, and challenges posed by, the human brain and nervous system.

The meeting will incorporate a variety of outstanding plenary lectures, symposia, oral and poster sessions and showcase the latest technologies. While the spectacular Sydney skyline at night forms the backdrop for networking and social activities.

Plenary Speakers

Professor Huda Zoghbi
Baylor College of Medicine,
United States

Professor Jürgen Götz
The Clem Jones Centre for
Ageing Dementia Research,
Australia

Professor Andrew Lawrence
Florey Institute of
Neuroscience & Mental
Health, Australia

Professor Kathryn North
Murdoch Children's Research
Institute, Australia

Research Themes Include:

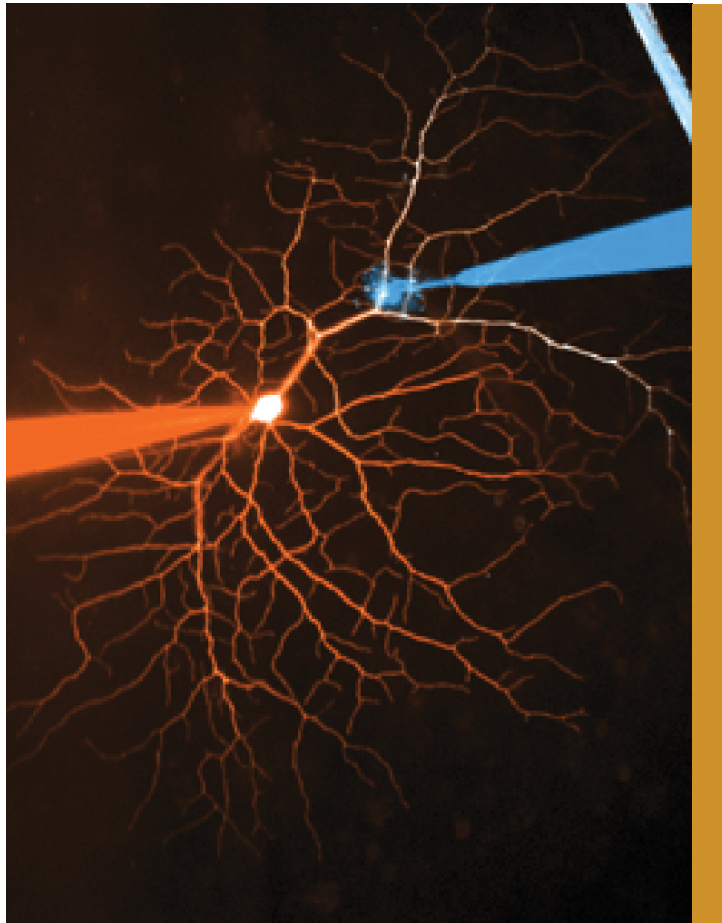
- Development and regeneration
- Neural excitability, synapses and glia
- Neural disorders and injury
- Sensory and motor systems
- Integrative systems
- Cognition, learning and behaviour
- Novel methods and technologies
- History and teaching in neuroscience

**Come to Sydney in 2017 and be part of the
future of Australasian and global neuroscience.**

For more information please contact:
All Occasions Management, 12 Stirling Street, Thebarton SA 5031
Phone: +61 8 8125 2200 • Email: conference@aomevents.com
Website: ANS2017.aomevents.com.au

Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience (ACAN)

The application deadline for ACAN 2017 has been extended to Friday 27 January 2017.



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 23 April to 13 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.

International faculty for the 2017 course include: Maarten Kole (Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience), Ede Rancz (Francis Crick Institute, London, UK), Jinny Kim (KIST, Republic of Korea), Mark Harnett (MIT, USA), Andreas Frick (University of Bordeaux, France), George Augustine (Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Singapore), and Brad Baker (KIST, Republic of Korea).

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 27 January 2017**. 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**

ACAN Director
acan-admin@uq.edu.au

IBRO Lecturer Exchange Program



ANS members now have an opportunity to nominate early- to mid-career IBRO members to be an invited speaker at the 2017 ANS meeting in Sydney. Nominations should be for IBRO members aged up to 45 years at the end of December 2017 who come from countries that are represented on the IBRO Asia-Pacific Regional Committee (excluding Australia). A list of APRC countries is available at:

<http://ibro.info/membership/affiliated-organizations-by-region/#aprc>.

Nominations should include the name and contact details of the invited speaker, a justification of how the speaker will enhance the meeting program, a current CV, and an acceptance letter or email, should they be chosen for this award. Successful nominees will receive up to US\$2000 for travel, depending on the travel distance and duration.

Please send nominations to the ANS Secretary, Kay Double at kay.double@sydney.edu.au. **Deadline is 3 March 2017.** Note that the successful nominees will be selected by the APRC, not ANS.

2017 Australian and New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge



The Brain Bee Challenge will be running again in 2017, and we are delighted to welcome a new team of national and local organisers who will be bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm to this excellent outreach program. The team is listed below. For further information, please contact Mar (Australia) or Maurice (NZ).

Australia National Coordinator: Ramesh Rajan

National Project Officer: Maria del Mar Quiroga

ACT: Greg Stuart

NSW: Gary Housley

QLD: Bruno van Swinderen

SA: Hannah Keage

TAS: Catherine Blizzard

VIC: Andrew Metha

WA: Jenny Rodger

New Zealand National Coordinator: Maurice Curtis

NZ North: Debbie Young

NZ South: Ruth Napper

2017 ANS Membership Now Due!

Membership of ANS for 2017 is now due and can be quickly and easily completed online at: <http://www.ans.org.au/membership/category/ans-membership>.

Membership of ANS ensures that you have access to all the benefits of membership of Australasia's peak body for researchers studying the brain and nervous system, including:

- Opportunities to participate in and benefit from the lobbying by ANS for federal neuroscience funding and infrastructure support.
- Eligibility for ANS awards for student researchers, as well as early-career, mid-career and senior researcher awards.
- Reduced registration for the annual ANS conference.
- Ability to nominate for ANS conference symposia and Plenary speakers.
- Quarterly newsletter.
- Free advertising of staff and student positions on the ANS website.
- Ability to organise conferences for free via the ANS website.
- Ability to open and participate in community forums.

To make the process even easier, you can save your preferred credit card details for membership in a secure manner within this page, and your subsequent membership dues for 2018 and beyond will automatically be deducted from this card. You will be notified of this transaction prior to the deduction and a tax receipt will be emailed to you each year for your records.

Alternatively, you can take advantage of our new three year membership. Selecting this option this year means you won't have to worry about membership payments until 2019! In addition, as the three year rate is calculated at three times the 2017 fee, you avoid the annual CPI fee increase so this option is also budget friendly. However, the three year membership option is not available for student members, due to the limited time of student candidatures.

If you have any questions regarding your membership, please contact the ANS Secretariat at ansadmin@hlbsa.com.au or ANS Secretary at kay.double@sydney.edu.au. And please encourage your students and colleagues to also renew their ANS membership for 2017!

2017
MEMBERSHIP
NOW DUE

January 2017



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 Monday 3 April 2017

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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