

April 2017



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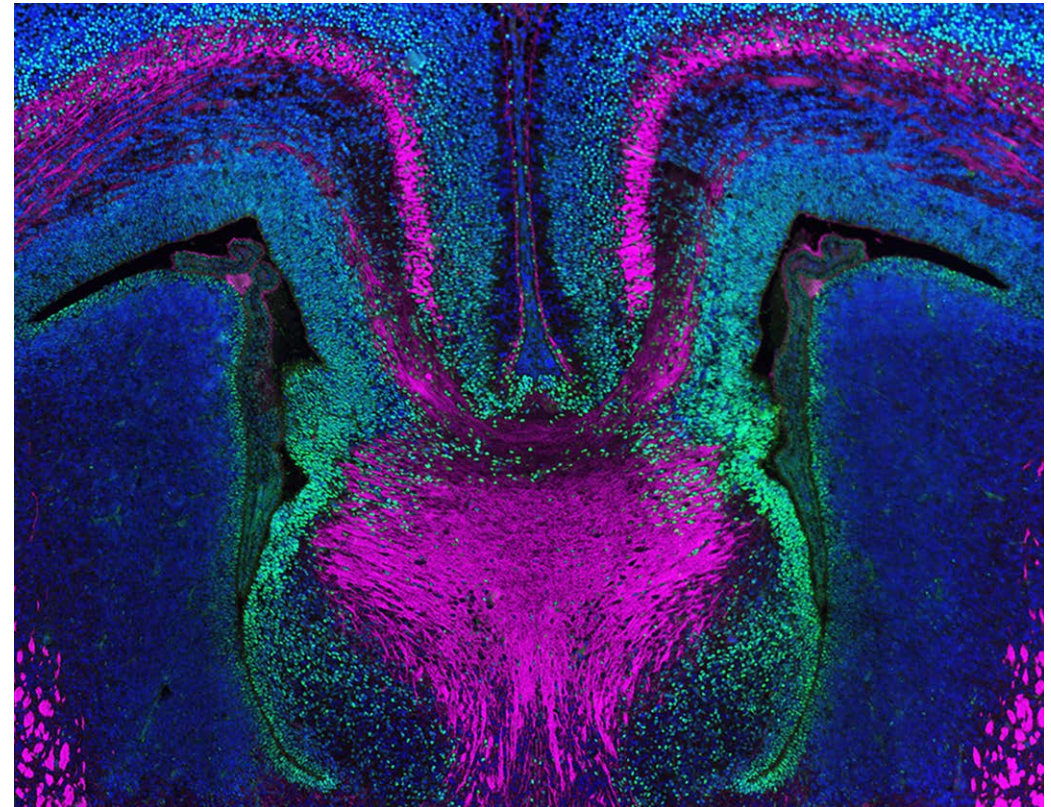
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www.ans.org.au

Australasian Neuroscience Society Newsletter



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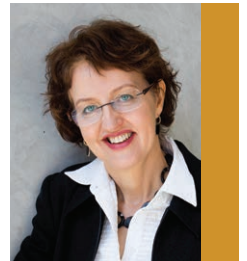
Message from the President

Our work as scientists is very occasionally celebrated by the wider community. Recently, Professor Alan Mackay-Sim was awarded the Australia Day Prime Minister's Prize for Science for his work on neural stem cells. In addition, Professor Colin Masters was awarded an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia for his work on Alzheimer's disease, and Professor Richard Faull was made a Knight Companion of the Order of New Zealand for services to brain research.

These are great honours and wonderful recognition of the important work in neuroscience being undertaken in Australia and New Zealand. Warmest congratulations from all of your ANS colleagues for your years of hard work in the pursuit of new knowledge and discovery.

"The love for and dedication to my work seems to me to be the basis for happiness. As a research worker, the unforgotten moments of my life are those rare ones which come after years of plodding work, when the veil over nature's secret seems suddenly to lift and when what was dark and chaotic appears in a clear and beautiful light and pattern." Professor Gerty Cori, Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, 1947, for understanding glycogen and energy metabolism. Source: <http://beckerexhibits.wustl.edu/mowihspwords/CoriEssay.html>

ANS Council is very pleased to announce that the new annual meeting plenary lecture to be named after a female neuroscientist will be named after Professor Elspeth McLachlan, FAA. Professor McLachlan made seminal discoveries in the autonomic nervous system (see <https://www.science.org.au/fellowship/fellows/professor-elspeth-mary-mclachlan>), was the first woman president of ANS (1996-1997), and held a number of senior management roles both at The University of Queensland and The University of New South Wales. In addition, Professor McLachlan's contributions to Australasian science endure in her mentorship of a number of highly successful neuroscientists. The inaugural Elspeth McLachlan Plenary lecture will be held at the annual ANS meeting in Brisbane in 2018. Nominations for the speaker (male or female) will be made through the usual plenary speaker nomination process.



Prof Linda
Richards

PhD, FAA, FAHMS
President, ANS

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

At the ANS AGM meeting in Hobart, ANS Council and members raised the possibility of having the AW Campbell and Nina Kondelos medal winners give talks in the meeting in the year following their award. ANS Council has now agreed that these significant awards should include a lecture by the awardee. Both medal winners from 2016, Dr Stephen Abbott (AW Campbell winner) and Professor Naomi Wray (Nina Kondelos winner) will be invited to give talks at the annual ANS meeting in Sydney in 2017.



Venue for ANS 2017

*International Convention
Centre, Sydney.*

The local organising committee (LOC) for the annual meeting in Sydney has been working extremely hard. The final program for the meeting will be available shortly. A significant issue the LOC and the ANS Executive have had to deal with are the significant cost increases arising from holding the meeting in Sydney. The LOC has managed to retain the registration cost at the same rate as the 2016 meeting in Hobart, partly by making the lunch costs optional, but also through other cost-saving measures, while retaining all the features of what will be a truly excellent meeting with an outstanding scientific program.

ANS Executive met recently for a full-day workshop to discuss strategies for maintaining the upward trajectory of the Society that will allow it to remain financially stable while providing the best possible support for our members as the peak body for neuroscience in Australia and New Zealand. This is a work in progress and the full ANS Council will meet in July to discuss developing a five-year strategic plan for the Society. Full consultation of this process with all ANS members will occur once Council has developed a draft plan. A major goal of the strategic plan will be to continue to provide an outstanding annual meeting and to develop a range of year-round benefits for the membership of the Society that will provide significant value.

Some of the ANS member benefits are detailed further in this issue of the newsletter with the new committees beginning their work to promote areas of interest to our members. In addition, the ANS Executive has negotiated some reciprocal benefits

with the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) for travel awards and conference attendance at local membership rates. These will be advertised in the ANS newsletter and on our website as they become available. In this issue, we are promoting ANS-FENS travel scholarships to attend Cajal courses in Europe for PhD students and early career researchers who are ANS members.

Your membership of the Society is crucial and ANS cannot exist without it. ANS provides your collective voice for science advocacy and the funding of neuroscience and represents your interests across a range of national and international science organisations. With so many areas of science competing for limited resources, it is imperative that the Society has a strong voice and this can only come from demonstrating our influence through membership numbers. We are grateful that many people have already renewed their membership for 2017, with the option of both 1 and 3 year memberships. The three-year membership option provides a saving of the consumer price index increase over three years.

**If you have not renewed your membership, please do so by logging into: <https://www.ans.org.au/membership/category/ans-membership>.
Don't delay, renew today!**

ANS 2017 - Sydney

The Local Organising Committee and ANS Council are busy drafting an exciting and innovative program for the ANS Sydney meeting that hinges on the theme of “Building Bridges”.

“Building Bridges” is an acknowledgement of the meeting’s proximity to the historic Sydney Harbour Bridge, as well as our overarching goal to facilitate and forge connections across research, industry, the clinic, different disciplines, methodologies and levels of experience to advance our understanding of the challenges posed by the human brain and nervous system in both health and disease.

This year we received a total of 40 eligible symposia submissions of which 20 symposia were selected, covering a wide range of neuroscience topics. As in previous years, selection of the proposals was based on the speakers’ CVs and the likely interest of the symposium to the wider audience of the Society, as well as consideration of gender balance, participation of early career researchers, and geographical spread of the speakers.

The call for abstracts and early bird registration will open on 1 June. The final program will come out in mid-August.

If you are planning a satellite meeting associated with ANS 2017, please get in touch with Thomas Fath (t.fath@unsw.edu.au) so we can advertise your meeting through the conference website.

ANS 2017 will be held in the cosmopolitan meeting hub that is Darling Harbour (a short walk from the CBD across the Pyrmont Bridge).

We have received feedback from attendees of the 2016 meeting in Hobart and appreciate that the current funding climate places constraints on expenditure. For this reason, we are trying to keep registration costs down as much as possible (i.e. similar to last year’s meeting in Hobart) while also taking into account the expense of holding a conference in Sydney. One way to achieve this is to give delegates the option of purchasing additional items (like ticketed boxed lunches) at the time of registration. In this way, registration costs can be minimised.

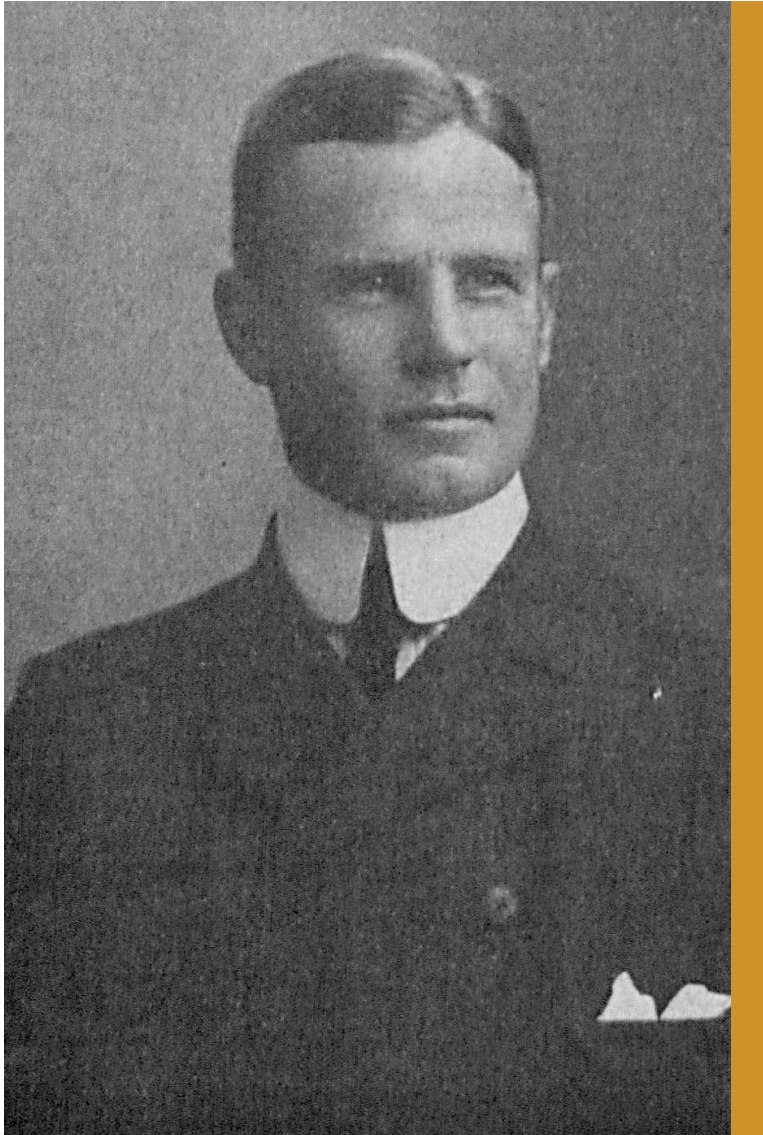
More details on registration can be found at <http://ans2017.aomevents.com.au/>

Thomas Fath

On behalf of the Local Organising Committee, ANS 2017 (Thomas Fath, Greg Sutherland and Andrew Affleck)



Society Honours and Awards



Annual ANS Awards applications close 30 June 2017

Each year the Society grants a number of prestigious awards to members at various levels for achievements in research. These include:

- **Mark Rowe Award** for the best publication by an early career researcher member of the Society in the year prior to the award
- **A.W. Campbell Award** which recognises the best contribution by a member of the Society in their first five postdoctoral years
- **Nina Kondelos Prize** which is awarded to a female neuroscientist for an outstanding contribution to basic or clinical neuroscience research
- **Paxinos-Watson Award** which recognises the most significant neuroscience paper published by any member of the Society in the year prior to the award

These prestigious awards enhance your CV, look great on your wall and are accompanied by a monetary prize, so please apply or encourage your students and mentees to apply.

The ANS website (<http://www.ans.org.au>) has all the details about these awards, including how to apply.

All applications, and any questions regarding these awards, should be directed to the Secretary, Assoc Prof Kay Double at kay.double@sydney.edu.au.

Applications close COB 30 June 2017.

Alfred W.
Campbell
(1868-1937)

Australia's first neurologist

Meeting Report

Science Meets Parliament Canberra, 4-7 December 2016

Every year Science & Technology Australia (<http://www.sta.org.au>) brings scientists from academia and industry to meet policy makers and politicians for 2 days at Science Meets Parliament (SMP) in Canberra. This year ANS sent me as a representative to SMP to represent our members.

Several organizations, including CSIRO, Aarnet, DSTG and some universities, sponsor the event and are highly visible with logos on banners, coffee mugs and lanyards, and in addition they send several representatives. Quite quickly I realized that ANS is not well known, so we should aim at sending representatives every year, to build a broad

knowledge about the amazing research done by our members. In particular, I would encourage ECRs and PhD students to attend, as it provides a unique opportunity to network, to get an insight into how media and policy-making works, to meet our elected representatives, and to find career paths outside of academia.

We learnt about how to interact with media, politicians and other policy makers. Representatives from ABC, BuzzFeed and the Australian Science Media Centre highlighted that media is about entertainment, not information, and if you really want attention, the keywords are 'sex, drugs and rock-n-roll'.

However, there are other ways to get media attention, such as providing exciting sound bites that convey your main message. The main thing is to remember who your audience is, to avoid jargon, and to practise getting your message across in less than 100 words of writing, or in no more than 15-30 seconds. The majority of Australians now get their news from Facebook, and dedicated science journalists are disappearing from 'old' media. As Twitter is used by most journalists and politicians (and farmers), this is an optimal place for spreading a message.

We were reminded again and again, by both the Shadow Minister and the Minister for Industry, Science and Innovation, that we have to be politically active, and cannot pretend that politics does not affect us. They suggested building

relationships with politicians and policymakers over time, rather than believing in quick fixes, and to form alliances with other organizations, as we are much stronger together than alone. If you ask for money, ask for an investment – do not present it as a cost.

Parliamentarians are very busy people, but I was lucky when meeting Graham Perrett, together with Sally Male (UWA, Women in STEM), Claudia Szabo (U Adelaide) and Richard Garner (Macquarie). Some people only got 2 minutes with their parliamentarian, but we got 45 minutes. We discussed equity and diversity, and all agreed that we cannot afford losing people due to (unconscious?) bias.

For those of you who want more direct tips, see the Coalition for the Life Sciences web page (<http://www.coalitionforlifesciences.org/>).

**Karin
Nordström**

*ANS Rep for SA
Chair, ANS committee for
Equity and Diversity*



Call for ANS Neuroscience Research Representative

ANS Council is pleased to call for nominations and self-nominations for the new Council member approved by the membership at the 2016 AGM - the Neuroscience Research Representative.

This position will represent on ANS Council those members who are professional neuroscience researchers but not senior group leaders. The Neuroscience Research Representative may, for example, be a neuroscientist employed in a middle to senior position within a group headed by another researcher, or they may manage a neuroscience research facility, such as a tissue bank or microscopy unit or be employed in other professional neuroscience roles.

If you are a current financial member of ANS interested in nominating for this position on Council, please prepare a short explanation of your current position and what you would

like to achieve in this role, then submit your application to the ANS Secretary by May 31st 2017. Your submission should be approximately 1-2 paragraphs in length and include a thumbnail photo of the nominee as a PDF document. Note this document may be made available to the membership for voting purposes. It is also possible to nominate another suitable person for this role but in this case evidence of the nominee's willingness to fill this role must be submitted with the application. An email is sufficient.

If there is more than one nominee, an online election will be held, with the successful nominee being the person receiving the majority of votes.

Note this position will normally hold a two year term on Council, with the option of one further two-year term. As this is a new position on Council, however, the successful nominee will be asked by Council to fill this position immediately until the December 2017 AGM, at which point the formal two year term will begin.

Funding for Student Member Activities

To support student members' professional development, networking, and involvement in ANS, the Executive has this year allocated funds designed to directly support local student activities across Australasia.

The purpose of these funds is to support student-run and student-centred events which provide opportunities for training or networking at the local and regional level.

The primary beneficiaries of all activities should be ANS student members or potential ANS student members. The ANS Student Body Committee will distribute these funds in an open process that allows all interested students or student groups to apply for financial assistance in running their event(s). It is expected that most event organisers will be seeking sponsorship or financial assistance not just from ANS but also from local university departments and research centres.

Interested students and student groups should submit an expression of interest to Tom Burns (tom.burns@monash.edu) by 1 June 2017.



SOBR

*Students of Brain Research
Symposium, RMIT, 18 Nov 2016*

Brain Awareness Week

Sydney International Grammar School, 17 March 2017

April 2017

A team of ANS members based at the University of Sydney visited Sydney International Grammar School on 17 March to promote neuroscience to high school students as part of Brain Awareness Week 2017.



During our visit we successfully explained neuroscience and physiology to Year 8 kids. To our delight, our activities also attracted unexpected participation by a group of Year 12 students.

This year's feedback score was the highest ever (96%), demonstrating that our program is well-designed and well-executed.

These fun and hands-on activities demonstrated amazing brain and body functions. The battle between their brain waves using a Mindflex Duel machine remained the all-time favourite. Next in line was how smell and taste work together, by getting the kids to taste various flavours of jelly beans. They flexed their bicep muscles to see who was stronger, using a machine that measured electromyograms. Kids also had the opportunity to exercise their fine surgical skills on lamb brains. It really was a fun and enjoyable day for us all!

Here are some of the comments from the students:

- *Thanks for teaching us more about the brains. It was an eye opener. :)*
- *We learnt a lot of things and we want to do it again and again!!*
- *Don't change. Keep everything the same!*
- *It was a really good experience but it was really short!*

The volunteers who helped me run the visit included A/Profs Kay Double and Cathy Leamey; Drs Tom Duncan, Alan Freeman, Elizabeth Hegedus, Dario Protti, Atomu Sawatari and Eryn Werry; and Sian Genoud, Xiaohui Lin, Eurwin Suryana and An Truong.

I am also a long-term partner scientist of the CSIRO 'Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools' program. For further information about this inspirational program, visit <http://www.scientistsinschools.edu.au/>

Jin Huang

*Biomedical Sciences,
University of Sydney*

New Centre for hearing and balance launched at the University of Auckland

April 2017



Prof Peter
Thorne

*Inaugural Director,
Eisdell Moore Centre*

The Eisdell Moore Centre is a multidisciplinary collaborative research centre that will bring together researchers and clinicians at the University of Auckland, University of Otago and Canterbury University in New Zealand. The new Centre was named after the late Sir Patrick Eisdell Moore, a distinguished New Zealand ENT Surgeon and founder of the Deafness Research Foundation.

Professor Peter Thorne, an eminent auditory neuroscientist from the University of Auckland, was named new Centre Director. At the launch of the Centre in February, Professor Thorne emphasised that “Hearing and balance together provide us with a sense of self within our world, allowing us to connect with and navigate through our environment and to interact and socially connect with people. Disruption of these sensory systems affects our ability to perform these critical functions, which can have profound effects on physical and mental wellness.”

The Centre will aim to develop new approaches to diagnose, treat and prevent ear diseases, tinnitus and auditory processing disorders, and to develop policy for better service delivery, early detection and interventions. By working with community groups, such as the National Foundation for the Deaf and the New Zealand Dizziness, Balance and Vertigo Society, the Centre will support community education on hearing and balance disorders.

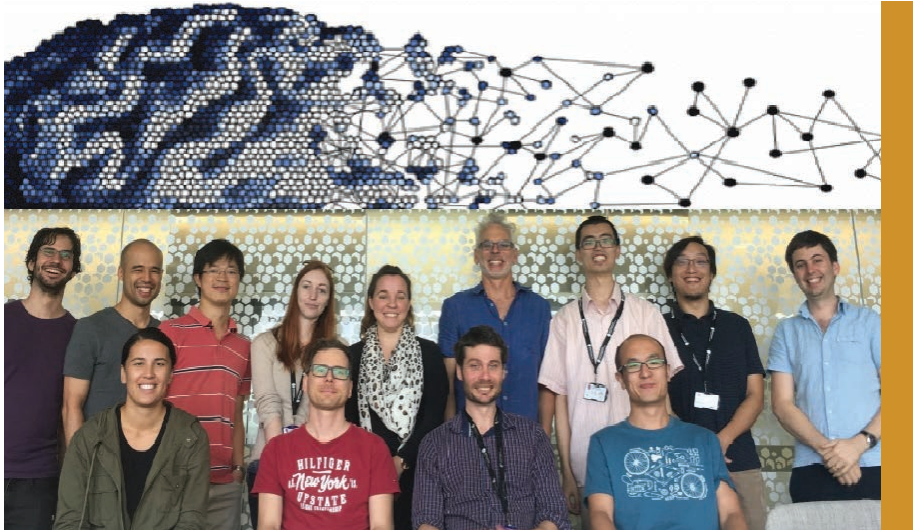
The Eisdell Moore Centre will receive core funding of \$1.75M over five years from the Hearing Research Foundation (NZ).

The full article can be found at:
<https://www.fmhs.auckland.ac.nz/en/faculty/about/news-and-events/news/2017/2/10/hearing-and-balance-disorders-focus-for-new-centre.html>

Srdjan
Vlajkovic

ANS Rep for New Zealand

FENS Visiting Scientist



Systems Neuroscience Group, QIMR Berghofer

Yuan Yang (back row, third from right) with Michael Breakspear (to his right) and other lab members.

I am a postdoctoral researcher based at Delft University of Technology (TU Delft) in The Netherlands. I recently received a FENS-ANS Young Researcher Exchange Program (YREP) travel award, jointly sponsored by the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies and the Australasian Neuroscience Society. This award allowed me to visit Professor Michael Breakspear's Systems Neuroscience Group at QIMR Berghofer, Brisbane, 13-24 March 2017.

My current research focuses on investigating the nonlinear dynamics of human brain activity during the control of movement. In previous work, I developed a general coherence framework to assess the nonlinear cross-frequency coupling and neural transmission time delay in the human nervous system (*Int. J. Neural Syst.*, 26(1): 1550031). During my visit, I discussed with Michael and colleagues at QIMR how the nonlinear dynamics arise from the neuronal architecture in the brain, as well as their functional meaning.

The joint FENS-ANS award that funded Dr Yang's visit has now been replaced by a new scheme. See 'ANS-FENS Travel Scholarships', below, for details.

Michael is a world-leading expert in the basic principles of large-scale brain dynamics. Recently he published a review paper on dynamic models of large-scale brain activity in *Nature Neuroscience* (vol 20, pp 340-352, 2017). His group uses cutting edge computational neuroscience techniques for modelling cortical dynamics.

Together with Michael and other colleagues at QIMR, I went beyond the nonlinear system identification technique developed in TU Delft, which treats the human brain as a black box, to "open the box" using neural mass/field models. This collaboration hopefully will provide us with new insights into the neural mechanisms of human motor control and contribute to the understanding of sensorimotor disorders caused by brain diseases such as stroke and cerebral palsy.

This visit comes at the end of my postdoctoral training, and is important for my future career development. During my visit I also built contacts with young investigators at QIMR. We made a plan to collaborate on some international grant applications, especially those tailored for young investigators.

I very much enjoyed my research stay in Australia. I would like to express my great thanks to the FENS-ANS YREP committee and to my host lab.

Yuan Yang

Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research, Queenstown, New Zealand

April 2017



You are warmly invited to attend the 35th Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research (AWCBR) to be held in Queenstown, New Zealand, 2-6 September 2017.

As always, AWCBR will allow you to enjoy a multidisciplinary approach to contemporary high-quality neuroscience. We are also pleased to be a member conference of Queenstown Research Week (<http://www.qmb.org.nz>), when many other biomedical research meetings and symposia are taking place.

Intensive scientific sessions are held in the morning, late afternoon and evening. The middle of the day is normally left free for the many activities available in Queenstown, such as skiing, jet boating, bungee jumping, paragliding, hiking, golfing, or just relaxing in the sun.

We are delighted to include as our invited plenary speakers for AWCBR 2017:

- **Professor Gary Housley**, UNSW Australia (Bionic array directed gene electrotransfer: neuroscience discovery to clinical applications)
- **Dr Lucy Palmer**, Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, Melbourne (In vivo imaging of dendritic function)
- **Dr Jason Berwick**, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom (Neurovascular function in health and disease)

For further information, please visit our website:

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/awcbr>

Johanna Montgomery,
Stephanie Hughes
and other members

AWCBR Organising Committee

Symposium on Brain & Technology



Two of New Zealand's Centres of Research Excellence (CoREs) – Medical Technologies (MedTech) and Brain Research New Zealand (BRNZ) – will come together on 26-27 April 2017 to showcase current research on technologies for brain research and brainstorm ideas for future collaboration and research.

The symposium is based around four primary themes: bionics, drug delivery to the brain, brain computer interfaces, and virtual reality for rehabilitation.

The meeting in Auckland will gather leading NZ research teams and international guest speakers to tackle questions on how advances in medical technology can be used to understand and treat conditions of the ageing brain.

The symposium is designed to allow discussion and planning of ideas through breakout sessions of posters and technology demonstrations alongside traditional seminars. It will be a wonderful opportunity to bring engineers and technology experts together with brain researchers as a catalyst for innovation.

The CoREs are funded by NZ's Tertiary Education Commission. BRNZ brings together 67 research groups spread all over New Zealand with the goal of unlocking the secrets of the ageing brain and producing a shift in how researchers, clinicians and community groups partner together. The MedTech CoRE is a platform for translational research, turning basic research into applications for economic growth and healthcare outcomes.

For information about the meeting please contact Assoc Prof Grant D Searchfield:
g.searchfield@auckland.ac.nz

ANS-FENS travel scholarships available to attend the Cajal Advanced Neuroscience Training Program Courses

April 2017

The Cajal Advanced Neuroscience Training Program (<http://cajal-training.org>) provides 2- or 3-week hands-on courses to a group of about 20 international students at two major European neuroscience facilities. Courses are project-based and designed by first-class neuroscientists.

Please see below for details of the 2017 courses.

ANS and FENS have entered into an agreement to provide reciprocal travel scholarships for Australian and New Zealand Early Career Researchers (ECRs) who are ANS members. This agreement will allow Australasian ECRs to attend a Cajal course in 2017, and for European ECRs to attend the Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience (ACAN).

Australian and New Zealand ECRs interested in applying for an ANS-FENS travel scholarship must first apply directly to the course coordinator. Course selection is competitive. Following acceptance of the ECR into the course, the ECR will then be eligible to apply for an ANS-FENS travel scholarship to a maximum of A\$1100, depending on the number of applicants. If more than one ANS applicant is accepted into a course, the total funding of A\$1100 per course will be divided between the applicants.

Eligibility rules: Applicants must be an ECR in a recognised institution in Australia or New Zealand and a financial member of ANS. An ECR is defined as a graduate student or a postdoctoral researcher up to 10 years post-PhD, relative to opportunity.

Note that ANS has no influence on whether an applicant will be accepted into a Cajal course; this is the decision of the course coordinator.

For further information about the 2017 courses offered by the Cajal Advanced Neuroscience Training Program 2017, and for more details on how to apply for the travel scholarships, please see the ANS website below.

<http://www.ans.org.au/awards/ans-young-researcher-awards>



The CAJAL Advanced Neuroscience Training Programme



Course Programme 2017

Bordeaux Neurocampus

Advanced Techniques in Synapse Biology 3-23 July 2017

Course directors:

- Monica Di Luca (University of Milano, Italy)
- Nathalie Sans (University of Bordeaux, France)
- Fabrizio Gardoni (University of Milano, Italy)



Ion channels in healthy and diseased brains 4-22 September 2017

Course directors:

- Florian Lesage (CNRS, Sophia Antipolis, France)
- Teresa Giraldez (University of La Laguna, Spain)
- Sven Meuth (University of Münster, Germany)
- Eric Hosy (University of Bordeaux, France)

Connectomics: from Micro- to Meso- and Macro-Scales 2-21 October 2017

Course directors:

- Andreas Frick (INSERM, Neurocentre Magendie, Bordeaux, France)
- Laurent Petit (CNRS, IMN, Bordeaux, France)
- Olaf Sporns (Indiana University, Bloomington, USA)

Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown

Interacting with neural circuits 2-22 July 2017

Course directors:

- Michael Hausser (University College London, UK)
- Menno P. Witter (Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway)
- Leopoldo Petreanu (Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown, Portugal)

CAJAL course in Computational Neuroscience 6-26 August 2017

Course directors:

- Jakob Macke (research center caesar, an associate of the Max Planck Society, Germany)
- Gilles Laurent (MPI Brain research, Germany)
- Christian Machens (Champalimaud Centre for the Unknown, Portugal)

April 2017

IBRO Kemali International Prize for Outstanding Contributions in Neuroscience



Nominations are open for the 11th IBRO Kemali International Prize.

The Prize will be awarded in 2017 by the IBRO Dargut & Milena Kemali Foundation to a scientist less than 45 years of age on 31 December 2016 who has made outstanding contributions to Basic or Clinical Neuroscience. The Prize includes an award of 25,000 Euros and a plenary lecture at the next FENS (Federation of European Neuroscience Societies) Forum, which will be held in Berlin in 2018.

The scientist can be from anywhere in the world. **Nominations in electronic format should be submitted by email to ibrokemaliprize2018@gmail.com.** Self-nominations are welcome.

The deadline for submissions is 14 May 2017 (Midnight CET).

For nomination instructions, please follow the link below.
<http://ibro.info/news/10th-ibrokemali-prize-call-for-nominations/>

Australasian Brain Bee Challenge (ABBC)

Australia and New Zealand's biggest neuroscience competition for high school students will be hosted by the ARC Centre of Excellence for Integrative Brain Function, headquartered at Monash University, from 2017 to 2020. Professor Ramesh Rajan from Monash University's Department of Physiology will be the ABBC national coordinator, and Dr Maria del Mar Quiroga from the Brain Function CoE will be the ABBC project coordinator.

As in previous years, online test provider and ABBC partner Education Perfect ran Round 1 of the competition during Brain Awareness Week (13 – 19 March 2017). Over 3700 students from 201 schools throughout Australia and New Zealand completed the online test under exam conditions in their high schools.

The finalists for each region will soon be invited to participate in a full day of activities for Round 2 of the competition, which will run between June and August 2017. Round 2 includes individual and school team challenges, as well as other educational activities such as tours, lab visits, demonstrations, museums and opportunities for the finalists to interact with brain researchers.

The website for the ABBC is now hosted within the ANS website: <https://www.ans.org.au/abbc>. Please join our Facebook community <https://www.facebook.com/AustralianBrainBee/>, and invite high schools, teachers, or students to join as well for the latest updates.

Please contact us with any queries, comments, or feedback at: abbc@cibf.edu.au.



Developing new Australasian-focused learning content for the ABBC

April 2017

We would like to take this opportunity to ask for expressions of interest from ANS members, especially early career researchers, in developing new learning materials for the ABBC.

The strength of the ABBC has been the quality of the learning materials used, derived from the European Society for Neuroscience and from the Society for Neuroscience.

quality drawings, and they can include more engaging online assessments such as crosswords and acrostics. They can also more easily be used on any smartphone, eReader, or mobile device.

We would like to engage local researchers in the content development, as well as embed in each eBook short 5-7 minute videos with an ANS researcher (especially ECRs) describing their work in the field. This will provide an opportunity to publicise Australasian neuroscience work to ABBC participants in Australia and New Zealand – likely to become some of the region's brightest neuroscientists! The ANS will be critically involved in the development of these materials through its education committee, coordinated by Matthew Kirkcaldie.

Please contact us at abbcc@cifb.edu.au if you would like to be involved.

Ramesh Rajan,
Maria del Mar
Quiroga

Monash University

We are aiming over the next few years to develop new learning materials that provide the content needed for the Australia and New Zealand finalists to perform well in the International Brain Bee Championship, while showcasing talent from the Australasian neuroscience community.

Our plan is to replace some of the learning materials, such as the static textbooks, with eBooks. These can be much more interactive, with embedded videos, practice quizzes and high



Renew Your ANS Membership!

Please show your support for YOUR neuroscience society by renewing ANS membership for 2017. Renewal ensures that you have access to all the benefits of membership of Australasia's peak body for researchers studying the brain and nervous system.

Benefits of ANS membership include:

- 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.
- Travel awards for student members.
- 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.

Renewal of membership can be quickly and easily completed online at: <http://www.ans.org.au/membership/category/ans-membership>.

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.

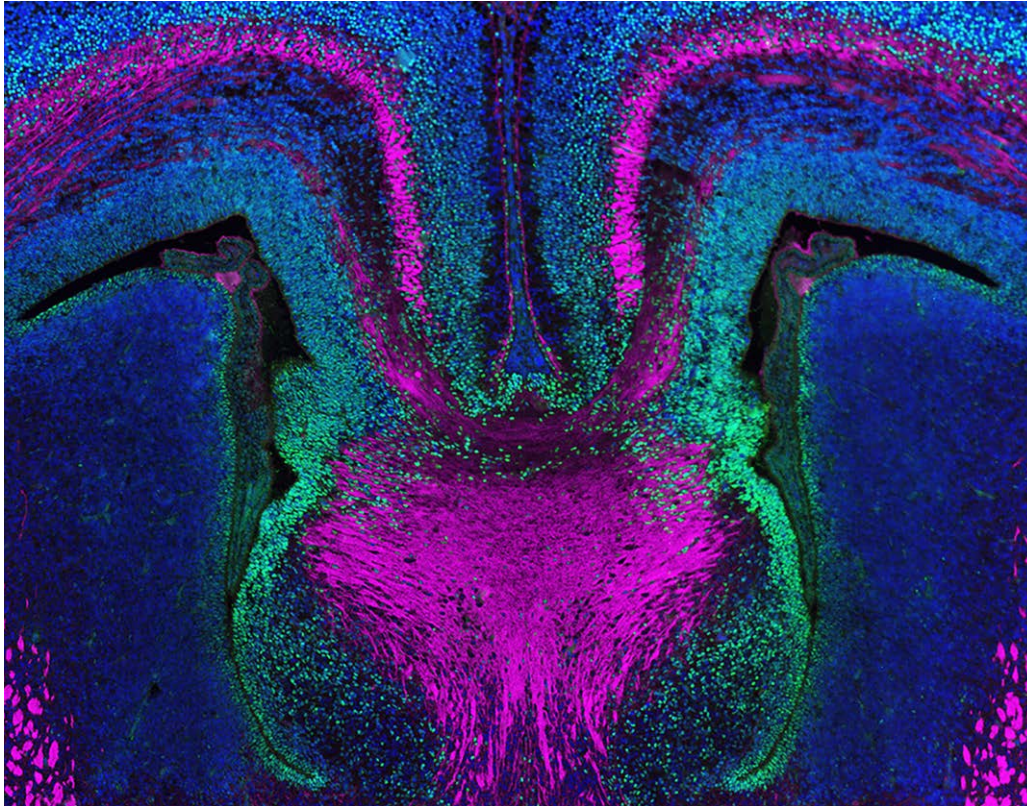
Alternatively, you can take advantage of our new three year membership. Selecting this option this year means you won't have to worry about membership payments until 2019. In addition, as the three year rate is calculated at three times the 2017 fee, you avoid the annual CPI fee increase so this option 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 (ansadmin@hlbsa.com.au) or ANS Secretary (kay.double@sydney.edu.au).

Please encourage your students and colleagues to renew their ANS membership for 2017!

ANS MEMBERSHIP

April 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 July 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.

Newsletter Editor

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