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WELCOME

We are a non-profit organisation of scientists and physicians who study the brain and nervous system and are actively involved in research and teaching.

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2014 meeting of the Australian Neuroscience Society

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ADELAIDE

Australian Neuroscience Society
34th Annual Meeting

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STA Federal Election
Science and Technology



Mark Rowe Award
6th Sep 11

ANS Adelaide
Registration Opens 13th
September
14th Feb 11

Neuroscience News

New Survey on Funding Cuts: Unlimited Potential, Vanishing Opportunity

14th Sep 13

Invite Your Legislators to Brain Awareness Event on the Hill

13th Sep 13

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President's Perspective

In April this year, President Obama announced a bold new neuroscience research project for the nation to follow in the tradition of the putting a man on the moon and sequencing the human genome. Known either as the Brain Activity Map (BAM) Project or the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative, it is intended to stimulate fundamental and applied multidisciplinary research into brain structure and function, encourage investment in technologies applicable to neuroscience and produce fundamental advances in understanding of brain function that can be harnessed for better therapies for neurological and psychiatric disorders.



John Rostas

*President, Australasian
Neuroscience Society*

This research initiative, which is intended to be driven by the development of new technologies, has prompted a lively and enlightening debate in a variety of print and electronic media (some examples are: 1-4). The critics point to the massive leap in complexity from determining the linear sequence of the human genome to understanding how the brain works. At a more fundamental level they point to out that our conceptual understanding of brain function is so underdeveloped that we do not yet know the purpose for which new technologies should be designed so that they can drive this program.

The proponents point to the history of major conceptual advances in biology being driven by development of new technology making it possible to ask questions that were previously unimaginable. They also highlight the potential for radical conceptual breakthroughs from the intersection of different discipline approaches to the same problem. Another major justification is economic. A report prepared by Batelle Technology Partnership Practice on the economic benefits of the Human Genome Project found that the government investment of \$3.8 billion returned \$796 billion to the economy in terms of genomics related employment and subsequent tax revenue. The announcement in February by the European Union of the establishment of their Human Brain Project was presumably driven by similar considerations.

Both the American and European programs will be seeking international partnerships for technology development and cutting edge basic neuroscience

projects. This provides an opportunity for the Australian Government to leverage its investment in fundamental research by attracting substantial co-funding as well as gaining access to expertise and technology.

In this period of uncertainty as the new Coalition government sets its economic agenda, we do not yet know what their policy will be for funding science and medical research. Nevertheless, they have already signalled that they will be looking to encourage greater co-investment from industry and philanthropy.

All major political parties in Australia are aware that the growing health care needs of our ageing population pose a major threat to the future Commonwealth budget unless more effective and economical therapies and preventive strategies can be found for the common diseases associated with ageing. However, shorter term priorities and pressures for fiscal restraint often dominate decision making. This is why we should all use every opportunity available to us to advocate for the importance of funding for health and medical research, particularly for neuroscience. I am not saying this just because I am a neuroscientist. The economic facts demonstrate the importance of neuroscience for the nation's health: neurological and mental disorders produce the largest overall burden of disease in Australia accounting for 25% of combined mortality and disability and 43% of disability (5). Undoubtedly, the situation is similar in New Zealand.

(President's Perspective continued)

Across the world, scientific societies interested in neuroscience are organising themselves for a more coordinated advocacy program to raise support within government and the general community about the need to support neuroscience research. A formal partnership for advocacy between the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) and the American Society for Neuroscience (SfN) has established a range of country-specific advocacy programs. The International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO) is coordinating a program to extend this approach to countries outside Europe. The next meeting of the IBRO Global Advocacy Committee, on which ANS is represented, will be at the San Diego SfN meeting in November.

The value of such international programs notwithstanding, I think it is important for neuroscientists in Australia and New Zealand to pursue advocacy at the local level through whatever opportunities arise. Investment in basic and applied neuroscience research will reap long term health and economic benefits for the nation.

1. D. Stein (2013) <http://www.livescience.com/28505-map-the-brain.html>
2. A.P. Alivisatos et al (2013) *Science* 339:1284-5
3. P. Mitra (2013) <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=whats-wrong-with-the-brain-activity-map-proposal>
4. S.C. Landis and T.R. Insel, *Neuroscience Quarterly* (Summer 2013), Society for Neuroscience
5. Access Economics (2008) *Exceptional Returns: the value of investing in health R&D in Australia II*

Invitation to ANS 2014 Adelaide

Dear Neuroscientist,

Registrations are now open for the 34th Annual Meeting of the ANS which will take place in Adelaide between Tuesday 28 and Friday 31 January 2014. We are delighted to invite you to join us!



Ours is the largest meeting of neuroscientists in the Australasian region. The program begins on Tuesday afternoon with delivery of the Overseas Plenary Lecture by Moses Chao of the Skirball Institute of Biomolecular Medicine. Perry Bartlett, Marcello Costa and Trevor Kilpatrick will deliver our other plenaries during the course of the meeting. The meeting's many oral presentations are organised into a wide variety of parallel sessions spanning most areas of neuroscience. There will be extended periods for poster presentation and discussion. More details can be found at our website, www.ans2014.org.

The conference will be held in the spacious, modern and centrally-located Adelaide Convention Centre (ACC) in Australia's most liveable city. For 2014 we have kept our registration cost at last year's level. We will provide both high-end accommodation options as well as low-end options to assist attendance by students and early-career researchers. Travel awards for students are also available.

The ACC lies next to the newly-built South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute, fine hotels and the Adelaide Casino. Within a short walk one can find our renowned restaurant culture, food courts, universities (Adelaide, Flinders, UniSA),

October 2013

(Invitation to ANS 2014 Adelaide continued)

accommodation and the National Wine Centre of Australia. You can admire the nation's most comprehensive displays of indigenous culture at the SA Museum and see the nation's finest collection of early European settlement art at the Art Gallery of SA. You can stroll along the River Torrens to our gorgeous Botanic Gardens and the Adelaide Zoo where you will find both Australian animals and our panda guests, Wang Wang and Funi.

Of course, South Australia produces most of Australia's wine so we hope that you will take the opportunity to arrive early or stay afterwards (or both) to visit nearby areas such as the Barossa Valley, McLaren Vale our beaches and the Adelaide Hills. A winery tour will be available as part of our social program on the day after the conference. There will also be numerous satellite meetings to attend before and after the ANS 2014 meeting.

The Social Program includes a Welcome Reception overlooking the River Torrens on Tuesday evening and the popular Early Career Researcher Social Mixer (for students, postdocs and guest speakers) on Wednesday. This year the renowned ANS Conference Dinner will be held with special guests in the Convention Centre's capacious hall and we will treat you to food and fine wine South Australian-style.

Don't miss it! Early bird registration and oral-preferred abstract submissions close on Friday 4 October. We look forward to welcoming you to Adelaide. Please register at our website: www.ans2014.org.

**Michael
Lardelli**

*Chair of the Local Organising
Committee for ANS 2014.*

New ANS Website

ANS has just launched its brand new website. The new site offers vastly enhanced functionality and allows us to incorporate membership database management, financial management, small events management and eventually conference management into a single site. The website automatically reconfigures for viewing on small screens.

The domain name (ans.org.au) is unchanged, so you don't need to change your bookmarks. If you have yet to log in (and more than half the membership has already successfully logged in), you should find the following link useful: http://www.ans.org.au/register/forgotten_password

By logging in as a member, you will be able to:

1. search for other members. Note that the publically-accessible 'find an expert' link changes to 'find other members' when you log in, offering you an enhanced capacity to search for members based on name, keyword, interest group or location (see screenshot).
2. join a clique community (or chat room). Contact me if you wish to set up a clique community on any particular theme or interest group.
3. check your membership status and pay your membership dues.
4. alter your details.

The new site will be a work in progress for some time. To report a bug or error or to suggest an improvement, please contact me at j.lynch@uq.edu.au. New images, news items, event advertisements or information of any kind are always welcome. I am not a website design expert and would be delighted to hand over or share management of this site with any ANS member with better web design skills and/or aesthetic sensibility than me. Please contact me if you are interested.

Joe Lynch

ANS Secretary

Proposals for the Scientific Program of the 2015 ANS meeting

The 2015 ANS meeting will be held in Cairns (August 23-27, 2015) as a major international meeting held jointly with the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN) and the Asian Pacific Society for Neurochemistry (APSN). This promises to be a most exciting scientific meeting attracting a large international cohort of participants providing an opportunity to hear and engage with the best researchers in cellular and molecular neuroscience in a stunning world heritage environment.

The scientific program for this meeting will be decided by a Program Committee comprised of international neuroscientists (including several ANS members) that will meet in Los Angeles in March 2014, coordinated by ISN. We expect that proposals for Satellite Meetings, Symposia, Workshops and Young Investigator Colloquia will be called for late this year (probably October/November) with a deadline for submission early in 2014 (probably January).

To capitalise on this opportunity to showcase Australian and New Zealand neuroscience, foster the careers of our young neuroscientists and build international research collaborations we would like to encourage ANS members to submit proposals for the scientific program of the 2015 meeting in Cairns. To assist with this task we have compiled the following comments and hints for success. These comments should be read in conjunction

with the Guidelines for Proposals that will be issued with the Call for Proposals. The Guidelines used for the 2013 ISN/ASN meeting in Cancun are attached for reference but please remember that these may change for the 2015 ANS/ISN/APSN meeting.

1. ISN and APSN are broad multidisciplinary societies interested in understanding neurobiology at a cellular and molecular level. Despite the apparently narrow meaning of "neurochemistry", the scope of these societies is very broad encompassing experimental approaches from disciplines such as physiology, pharmacology, behaviour, anatomy, histology, biochemistry, genetics and pathology applied to in vitro systems, intact animals and clinical/post mortem tissue. Therefore, even if your disciplinary title does not appear to be "neurochemical" you have every chance of success as long as the proposal fits the guidelines.
2. ISN is keen to expand its membership. Consequently, ISN has made the first year of membership free. This provides neuroscientists who previously may not have considered joining ISN an opportunity to experience for a year the range of activities and support programs offered by ISN. We would strongly encourage members of ANS to take advantage of this offer of free membership for a year.
3. Successful Symposium proposals are likely to need the following:
 - multidisciplinary approaches and/or contrasting points of view around a common theme
 - speakers from more than one country
 - at least one internationally recognised, high profile speaker
 - participants who are members of ISN and/or APSN, especially the Chair or speaking co-Chair
4. Successful Workshop proposals will need to satisfy the guidelines for a workshop which are very different from those of a symposium. However, the importance of having speakers from more than one country and some members of ISN and/or APSN will also apply.
5. Successful nominations for Young Investigators to be selected for the Young Investigator Colloquia will need to be less than 10 years post PhD, have published approximately 10 papers since their PhD at least 2 or 3 of which are in quality journals – overseas experience is a positive here. This category is demanding in terms of quality but there are a relatively large number of available slots compared to the number of young investigators who normally apply. Therefore, this represents a great opportunity for young investigators to profile themselves.
6. Successful Satellite Symposium proposals are likely to need the following:
 - an organising committee comprised of both national and international members some of who are members of ISN and/or APSN
 - a scientific focus that will complement the main meeting rather than detract from/ compete with the main meeting

(President's Perspective continued)

- a description of the full scientific content with a list of speakers (perhaps 25) of which perhaps 10 should have already agreed to attend with preliminary titles for their talks
 - a location sufficiently close to Cairns (or within a single relatively short travel connection) for attendees at the Satellite to add to the registrants at the main meeting (in practice this may mean a location in Queensland e.g. the hinterland, a barrier reef island, Brisbane or Townsville)
 - details of the venue
7. ANS members thinking of organising a program proposal should feel free to contact Phil Beart (former ISN President and former Program Committee member), one of the Australian members of ISN Council (Roberto Cappai and Caroline Rae) or APSN Council (Andrew Lawrence and David Small) or John Rostas (LOC Chair and member of Program Committee for the Cairns meeting) for advice.

John Rostas

President, ANS

Phil Beart

Past President, ISN

Mark Rowe Award

ANS Council has recently instituted a new award for early career researchers. It is named the 'Mark Rowe Award' after the late Australian Professor of Physiology whose major research contributions concerned the neural coding mechanisms and central processing mechanisms of mechanosensory sensation. Mark Rowe (pictured) worked for most of his career in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology at the University of New South Wales. This Award was established in Mark's name by his wife, Jan Rowe, in 2013. It will be awarded annually for the best publication by an early career researcher member of the Society.

The conditions of the Award are as follows:

1. The award will be made 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 (considering career disruptions)
2. Joint first or senior author publications will also be considered.
3. Applications made in 2013 must be for work published in 2012.
4. Funds should be used for travel to a conference or collaboration.



Next year the Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience will be offered for the tenth time - an important anniversary for all the students and faculty who have helped to make the course such a success. To help us celebrate, Professor Bert Sakmann, co-developer of the patch clamp technique and a winner of the 1991 Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine, will be one of the ACAN 2014 faculty, sharing his awesome expertise in cellular neuroscience.

ACAN 2014

ACAN 2014 will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the dozen young neuroscientists lucky enough to be selected to attend the course.

Next year's course will run from Sunday 23 March to Saturday 12 April 2014. The call for applications will go out in November 2013, with an application deadline in mid-December.

In order to apply, you must be either a PhD student or Postdoctoral Fellow/Junior Faculty (preferably no more than 5 years after completing your PhD). You should also be a full-time resident of Australia or New Zealand (but you do not need to be a citizen or permanent resident of those countries). However, a small number of applicants based in other countries may be accepted.

Successful applicants will be required to pay a subsidised fee of A\$4500 (including GST) to attend the course. This will cover all accommodation, meals, tuition and laboratory work. Scholarships are available for New Zealand citizens and permanent residents based in NZ.

For further information, visit the ACAN pages of the ANS website: <http://www.ans.org.au/acan>

John Bekkers

Director, ACAN

ANS Council Positions

ANS Executive calls for nominations for the following ANS Council positions which need to be filled in time for the Adelaide 2014 Conference AGM:

To nominate for a position, please send an email requesting nomination to ANS Secretary (j.lynch@uq.edu.au) by 19 November 2013. You must be a current member. In the event of more than one nomination for a position, an online ballot will be held prior to the 2014 AGM and details concerning the ballot will be provided in the December 2013 newsletter. To find out more about what each position entails, please contact the current incumbent.

Secretary

the current secretary, Joe Lynch, has served in this position for 2 years. He is eligible to renominate for a second 2 year term, but in the event that a suitable nominee comes forward he will not do so.

Treasurer

South Australian State Representative:

the current representative, Stuart Brierley, has served in this position for 2 years and he has indicated that he will renominate for a second 2 year term.

New Zealand Representative

The current representative Ruth Empson, has served in this position for 2 years and she has indicated that she will renominate for a second 2 year term.

Victorian State Representative:

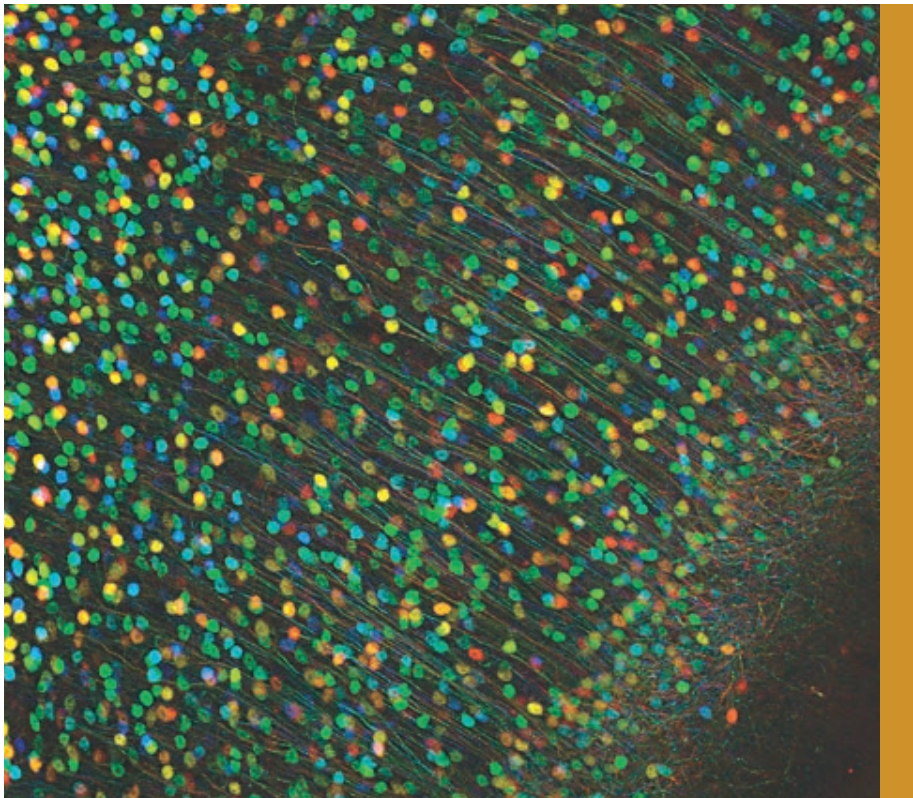
the current representative, Chris Reid, has served in this position for 2 years and he has indicated that he will renominate for a second 2 year term.

Western Australian State Representative

the current representative, Lindy Fitzgerald, has served in this position for 4 years and is ineligible to be renominated.

Call for ANS Award Nominations for 2014

See the ANS website (www.ans.org.au/awards/awards) for full details. Nominations for all 2014 Awards are due by the 25th November, 2013, and should be submitted to the ANS Secretary, Joe Lynch (j.lynch@uq.edu.au). Applicants must be Members in good standing on the 30th June in the year of nomination. The 2014 Awards will be presented at the 2014 ANS Meeting in Adelaide.



A.W. Campbell Award: for the best contribution by a member of the society in their first five postdoctoral years.

Nina Kondelos Prize: awarded to a female neuroscientist for outstanding contribution to basic or clinical neuroscience research.

Mark Rowe Award: This is a new annual award (see separate article in this newsletter) for the best publication by an early career researcher member of the Society.

Paxinos-Watson Award: for the most significant neuroscience paper published by an ordinary (full) member of the society.

Honorary Memberships: Distinguished neuroscientists who have rendered notable service to the Society shall be eligible for Honorary Membership of the Society. Nominations can be forwarded any time to the ANS Secretary (Joe Lynch j.lynch@uq.edu.au).

Distinguished Achievement Awards: These are awarded occasionally to recognise an outstanding contribution by an individual to neuroscience in Australia, and to the Australian Neuroscience Society. Nominations are most welcome and can be forwarded any time to the ANS Secretary (Joe Lynch j.lynch@uq.edu.au).

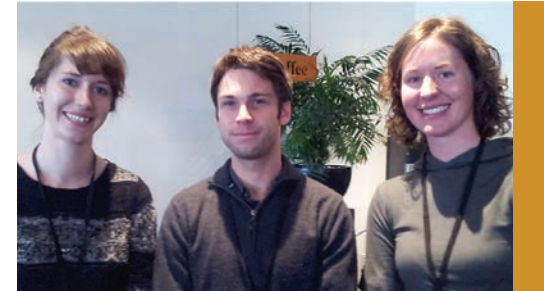
ANS News from New Zealand

AWCBBR - Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research - Possibly the most scenic conference in the world ...This year we welcomed some amazing speakers to AWCBBR. Prof Ingrid Scheffer, Chair of Paediatric Neurology Research, The University of Melbourne, Australia, Prof Anne Young, Harvard University, USA, Prof Robert Shepherd, Director, Bionics Institute and the University of Melbourne and Prof Graham Collingridge, MRC Centre for Synaptic Plasticity, Bristol, England.



Goddard Prize Winners

(L-R): Laura Boddington, Peter Bosch and Amy Smith



We also continued to be part of Queenstown Research Week (QRW) and welcomed the QRW Nobel Laureate Lecture: Prof Susumu Tonegawa, Picower Professor of Biology and Neuroscience, Director, RIKEN-MIT Centre for Neural Circuit Genetics, who spoke to a packed out venue.

As part of our continued association with QRW we held a very successful joint session with Medsci on the "Mechanisms of Signalling across the Blood/ Brain Barrier" with some fine talks from Prof William Banks, University of Washington, USA, Prof Alistair Ferguson, Queen's University, Canada, Dr Rosemary Brown, University of Otago, New Zealand and Prof Ian Tucker, University of Otago, New Zealand.

We were also delighted to announce our student winners of the Goddard Prize; unusually this year the judges decided that the Goddard Oral Prize should be jointly awarded; the winners were Amy Smith from the Centre for Brain Research in Auckland and Peter Bosch from the School of Biological Sciences, Victoria University of Wellington. The clear winner of the Goddard Oral Prize was Laura Boddington from the Brain Health Research Centre, University of Otago.

ANS News from New Zealand

Minds for Minds Campaign & the Autism Research Network NZ.

“Minds for Minds” is an initiative of the Autism Research Network New Zealand (ARNNZ), to raise awareness and funding for research into the genetic causes of Autism. The group aims to work alongside clinical experts and members of the community to ensure the best results for those living with autism, and their families.

Go to www.arinnz.org to find out more.



Minds for Minds Campaign

Left: ARNNZ lead researcher Professor Russell Snell with journalist Deborah Hill Cone.

Below (L-R) Associate Professor Karen Waldie (CBR), Dr Johanna Montgomery (CBR), Professor Ian Kirk (CBR), Dr Mike Taylor, Professor Russell Snell (CBR), Dr Jessie Jacobsen (CBR), and Dr Rosamund Hill Jiann Yeoh, Clément Menuet.

Brain Bee New Zealand - Outsmart, out-think, outlast ! News from the NZ North Island Competition. In a close final round, Auckland Grammar student Thomas Chang won the North Island Brain Bee Challenge, held at The University of Auckland's Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences this week.

The Teams final was won by Epsom Girls Grammar with Westlake Girls High second, and St Cuthberts College third.

The day's neuroscience knowledge challenge was contested by nearly 200 students from 44 North Island schools. Quizmaster for the day is a research fellow in biological sciences at The University of Auckland, Dr Jessie Jacobsen.

The day was co-ordinated by Dr Maurice Curtis and the founding organiser of the NZ Brain Bee, Professor Louise Nicholson, and hosted by the Centre for Brain Research.

During the day, students took time out to participate in tours of the research laboratories, hands-on activities, visit the MRI scanner and the Anatomy Learning Centre.

“The visit is inspiring for the students and we believe that their experiences with us here at the Brain Bee influences their choices as they move forward into tertiary study,” says the founding organiser of the New Zealand Brain Bee, Professor Louise Nicholson. The Brain Bee has been going since 2007, so many of

the winning students are now in tertiary study including past winners, George Shand, William Zhang, Rachel Wiltshire and Kate Burgess who are all studying at the Faculty for Medical and Health Sciences.

The CatWalk Spinal Cord Injury Trust is the main sponsor of both the North and South Island competitions, while the Centre for Brain Research sponsors our winners to Australia, with Freemasons (NZ) sponsoring the overall winner to the international final.

ANS News from Tasmania

On Tuesday August 6th the School of Medicine hosted the state final of the Australian and New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge. 70 of the top year 10 students from 12 schools across the state competed in individual and team rounds, being tested on their knowledge of the brain and nervous system. Researchers and students from the School of Medicine, Menzies Research Institute and Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre gave the students talks, tours and hands-on experience of neuroscience in a full day of activities.

On Thursday 6th June, the Brain Health Research Centre hosted its 7th annual conference at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery. The Centre's focus for 2013 is Alzheimer's disease and a large team at the BHRC are focusing on diagnosing and treatment of the disease. As part of the conference, and the Centre's public outreach programme, the BHRC hosted a free public seminar on Alzheimer's disease on the Thursday evening. It was great to see such a large turnout from the public, with hardly a seat to spare. The evening began with Honourable Jo Goodhew, Minister for Senior Citizens and Associate Minister of Health, officially opening the conference. The guest speaker for the evening was Wendy Fleming, who presented her talk 'Dementia: The epidemic is here'. Wendy is the Chair of Alzheimer's New Zealand Charitable Trust and the Vice-Chair of Alzheimer's Disease International. She is also an Honorary Life Member, and past Chair of Alzheimer's New Zealand. Wendy spoke about the stigma surrounding dementia and the lack of people prepared to speak out about their experiences being a factor in the lack of funding for research. On a worldwide scale, the estimated economic burden of dementia ranks higher than stroke, heart disease or cancer combined, yet the research funding allocated to dementia is only a fraction of each of these. Once again this year, the BHRC conference registrations were filled up, and 100 leading brain researchers from the Centre attended a full day conference at the Art Gallery. This year's conference included sessions on Alzheimer's disease, Blood Borne Biomarkers, Novel Therapeutics, and postgraduate student presentations. Amongst our own BHRC members

presenting on the day, we were pleased to welcome Professor Peter Schofield from Neuroscience Research Australia, and from the University of Auckland, Ju-li Lily Chang, Associate Professor Cristin Print, Professor Mike Draganow and Associate Professor Debbie Young. The South Island competition took place on 25th June at the University of Otago and this year's winner was Amelia Young, from Villa Maria College, Christchurch, who was followed closely – very closely – by Luke Gellen from Christ's College, Christchurch. Amelia will now have the opportunity to travel to Adelaide early next year to compete against the finalists from the Australian States and NZ's North Island. We wish her all the best! Villa Maria also won the team competition – well done girls, GirlPower lives!

The North Island Brain Bee competition will take place on 3rd July – watch this space for more news!

Tracey
Dickson

October 2013

The Symposium of WA Neuroscience (SWAN)

SWAN was held on July 23rd, in collaboration with the Neurotrauma Research Program of WA, and was attended by over 100 registrants from diverse backgrounds including neuroscience, allied health and community based organisations. Presentations were focussed in themes of CNS injury, neuromuscular disease and visual neuroscience and included student and early career researcher presentations.

Seminars from two interstate guests provided highlights: Dr Nigel Clarke, from The University of Sydney, spoke about the latest advances – and ongoing challenges – in diagnosing the genetic basis of neuromuscular disorders. Dr Olivia Carter, from The University of Melbourne, presented her interesting research on pupil responses and the potential to use these to communicate with non-responsive patients with Locked in Syndrome.

A particular feature of SWAN for 2013 was the communication that was enabled between neuroscientists investigating neurotrauma, patients, clinicians and representatives from community based organisations Brightwater Care Group and Headwest. The discussion was illuminating for all concerned, and helped researchers appreciate some of the challenges faced by patients and by professionals at the cutting edge of patient care.

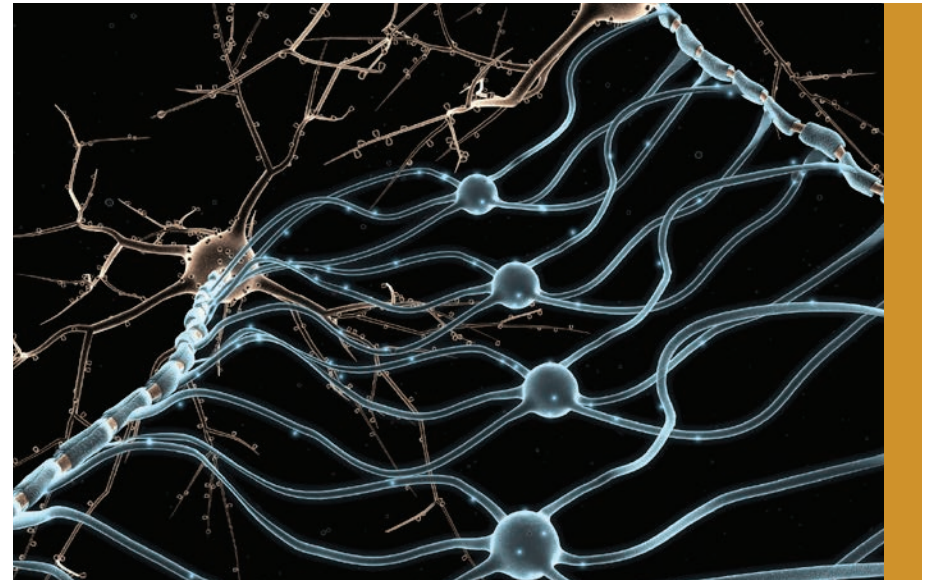
ANS News from WA

Travel Awards to ANS Adelaide 2014

It is with great pleasure that I announce a new initiative to encourage attendance of WA based students at the Australasian Neuroscience Meeting in Adelaide, 2014.

Ten bursaries of \$1,000.00 have generously been funded by the Neurotrauma Research Program of WA (NRP) to help WA Honours and PhD students conducting research in neurotrauma to attend the meeting. It is expected that successful students will present their work at the meeting in the form of a poster or oral presentation. The definition of neurotrauma is reasonably broad and includes stroke research. The application deadline has now passed. Abstracts will be ranked by a panel of three researchers including a member of the NRP Executive.

Lindy
Fitzgerald



ANZ News from Victoria

A Quick Update from ANS Victoria. The Victorian Brain Bee was held in July with students across Victoria converging on the Florey to do battle. Organised by Prof Heather Young the day was a huge success with the last contest for individual honours needing 14 tiebreaker questions, almost wearying out quiz master Jo Britto. One particular pleasing aspect was the good and very competitive participation from country Victoria. This leads to another terrific initiative during Brain Awareness Week run by Jo Britto. The outreach program sends neuroscientists to schools across Victoria to talk to classes of students.

This achieves a number of things, not least building public awareness of the importance of neuroscience research within the community. This year ANS Victoria supported the initiative by buying a range of puzzles and books to enable the visiting neuroscientists to better engage with the students. ANS Victoria also supported two initiatives by Students of Brain Research (SoBR), a body that represents neuroscience students across Victoria. Each year SoBR holds a professional development dinner with this year's theme 'Science Shaping Our World: the changing landscape of medical research'. Key note speakers were Prof Doug Hilton, Dr Graham Mitchell and Dr Elizabeth Finkel. Victoria ANS will also support a travel prize at this year's SoBR symposium which will be held at the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences facility in October. Finally, ANS Victoria will support a new initiative that is aimed at developing a Victorian based postdoctoral association. An inter-institute postdoctoral symposium will be held this year that is hoped to be the catalyst for closer postdoctoral neuroscience links across the campuses. And just a reminder to get those abstracts in for Adelaide 2014!

Chris Reid



Victorian Final Brain Bee

Top Right: Prof Trevor Kilpatrick with Malini Sivasaththivel from Mac. Robertson Girls' High School, the winner of the individual Brain Bee competition;
Bottom Right: Prof Trevor Kilpatrick and David Stewart (Zeiss) with the team from Mac. Robertson Girls' High School, the winner of the team competition;



ANZ News from Victoria

Melbourne Brain Centre abuzz with the Victorian final of Brain Bee

On 24th July, 230 Year 10 students and accompanying teachers from 37 secondary schools across Victoria participated in the Victorian final of Brain Bee, which was sponsored by Melbourne Neuroscience Institute and the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health. Local organizer, Prof Heather Young, coordinated a fantastic day. The event was officially opened by Hon Peter Hall, Victorian Minister for Higher Education and Skills and Prof Geoff Donnan from the Florey Institute. During the day, the students participated in a quiz about the brain with questions delivered by quiz master Jo Britto. The students listened to an inspirational talk by Prof Gustav Nossal, and received tours of the Anatomy museum, the DAX gallery and neuroscience laboratories. The prizes included Zeiss microscopes for the winner and runner-up schools (donated by Zeiss) and were presented by Prof Trevor Kilpatrick, Director of the Melbourne Neuroscience Institute and David Stewart from Zeiss.



Victorian Final Brain Bee

Clockwise from Top Left: students from Melbourne Grammar and Lavalla College in Traralgon in Dr Jenny Gunnersen's laboratory; Dr Jo Britto (Florey), Prof Geoff Donnan (Florey), Hon Peter Hall (Minister for Higher Education and Skills), Zeld Perri (2012 Victorian Brain Bee champion), Prof Gus Nossal and Prof Trevor Kilpatrick (MNI) at the opening of Brain Bee; students from Camberwell Grammar learning about electrophysiology from PhD student David Kaplan; a student from Reservoir High School looking at some neurons under the supervision of Dr Kay Richards



Australian Brain Bee Challenge

A Queenslander takes out the world brain competition for second year running.

Australian Brain Bee Challenge

Queenslander Jackson Huang has been named the International Brain Bee Champion.



Queenslander Jackson Huang (pictured) has been named the International Brain Bee Champion. Future neuroscientists from 18 countries around the world met at the International Neurology Congress in Vienna, Austria to compete in the fifteenth International Brain Bee Championship from September 22 to September 24.

The Brain Bee is a neuroscience competition for young students, 13 to 19 years of age, in conjunction with the World Congress of Neurology.

“The purpose of the Brain Bee is to motivate young men and women to study the brain, and to inspire them to consider careers in the basic and clinical neurosciences,” says Professor Linda Richards of the Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) who founded the Australian Brain Bee Challenge.

It is the second year running that an Australian, and indeed a Queenslander has taken out the international final.

“We hope to inspire young Australians to become scientists tackling the cause of neurological disease and mental illnesses and to learn how the brain functions. Australian students entering this competition are consistently out-performing students from other countries at the highest international level which is great news for the future of neuroscience in Australia,” she said. The competition has three tiers. Worldwide there are about 150 local competitions, each one involving many schools. The winners of local competitions in each country then compete in

their respective national championships. In Australia, around 5000 students took part in the competition that named Jackson as the Australian Brain Bee Challenge National Champion.

The national winners from each country then go on to compete in the International Championship. They are tested on their knowledge of the human brain including such topics as intelligence, emotions, memory, sleep, vision, hearing, sensation, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, schizophrenia, addictions and brain research. The competition involves oral tests, a neuroanatomy laboratory exam, a neurohistology test, a written test and a patient diagnosis component.

Sample questions include: What kind of molecules are semaphorin, ephrin, neuropilin and plexin? Sonic hedgehog is important for the development of what part of the nervous system? What is the medical term for when you start dreaming before you fall asleep? Stargazer mice are experimental models for which type of epilepsy?

Jackson receives \$3000, a trophy, and work experience in a neuroscience laboratory.

Upcoming Conference

Vision 2014: Genes to Behaviour
 “The world behind our eyes”
 Monday, 27th January 2014
 National Wine Centre of Australia, Adelaide
 A satellite meeting of the 34th Australasian Neuroscience Society meeting 2014

Invited speakers

Benjamin Reese, University of California Santa Barbara
 “Causes and consequences of the variation in retinal cell number”

David Burr, University of Florence
 “Cross-sensory integration and calibration during development”

James Bourne, Monash University
 “The pulvinar: A pillow of importance in the visual system”

Lindy Fitzgerald, University of Western Australia
 “Taking the stress out of optic nerve injury”

Ulrike Grünert, University of Sydney
 “Parallel pathways in the primate visual system”

Catherine Leamey, University of Sydney
 “Ten-m proteins control multiple aspects of binocular visual circuit formation”

Allison McKendrick, University of Melbourne
 “What can vision tell us about cortical excitability in migraine?”

David O’Carroll, University of Adelaide
 “Neurons mediating target detection and selective attention in insect vision”

Registrations (early bird registration closing 15th December 2013)
 To register, please click [here](#).
 As the number of registrants is limited to 100 due to space reasons, early registration is recommended.

Abstract submissions (open until 15th December 2013)
 We invite submissions for oral or poster presentations (1 m wide x 1.2 m high) from all registrants. We will try to accommodate all requests for oral presentations (please indicate preference in email). Abstract guidelines are the same as those used by the Australasian Neuroscience Society meeting (see <http://www.aomevents.com/ANS2014>). Please email word files to patricia.jusuf@monash.edu.

Organisers
 Patricia Jusuf (Monash University), Erica Fletcher (University of Melbourne).

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M. Bennett, Brain & Mind Research Institute, Camperdown, Australia
Virginia Woolf and Neuropsychiatry

- ▶ **A book that is suitable for a wide audience**
- ▶ **An in depth analysis of one of literature's leading and most loved individuals**
- ▶ **A unique insight into the mind**

This book, written by one of the leaders in the field of the neurosciences, provides an explanation of the symptoms and eventual untimely suicide of one of literatures greatest authors: Virginia Woolf. The sources used are letters and statements from Woolf herself, the literature she wrote and comments, letters and any other documentation that refers to her mental state and her medical status. The author uses current insights into depression, the mental consequences of child abuse and drug interactions/effects to examine her life. The book should appeal to researchers in the neurosciences, psychology and psychiatry as well as to a broader audience, mainly individuals who are interested in the life of this literary genius.

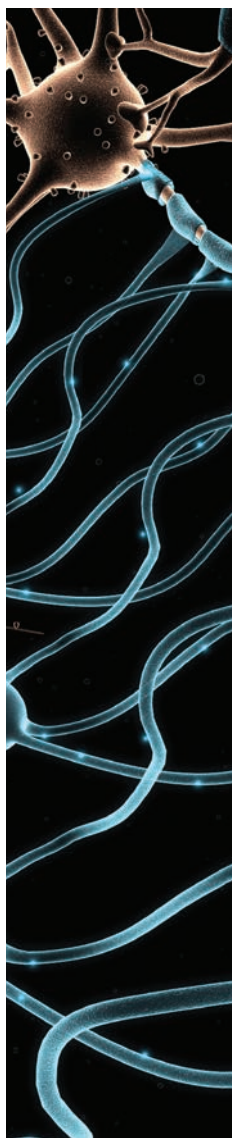
M. R. Bennett AO is Professor of Neuroscience and University Chair at the University of Sydney, Founding Director of the Brain and Mind Research Institute and Adjunct Professor of Neuropsychiatry. He is the author of many papers and books in neuroscience and neuropsychiatry, including *The Idea of Consciousness* (1997) and *History of the Synapse* (2001) as well as more recently *Philosophical Foundations of Neuroscience* (2003) and *History of Cognitive Neuroscience* (2008) with his colleague Peter Hacker. Maxwell Bennett has been President of the International Society for Autonomic Neuroscience, the Australian Neuroscience Society, as well as Chairing Brain and Mind Research Asia/Pacific. He is the recipient of numerous awards for his research in neuroscience, including the Neuroscience Medal, the Ramaciotti Medal and the Macfarlane Burnet Medal.



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Upcoming Conferences



The 3rd International Conference on Medical Bionics

Silverwater Resort, Phillip Island, Victoria, Australia, 17-20 November, 2013

This unique biannual conference attracts neural prosthesis researchers and clinicians from a broad range of disciplines. Topics include the design, development and commercialisation of neural prostheses; the electrode-tissue interface; cochlear implants; visual prostheses; cortical prostheses; and “blue sky” research. Guests of honour at this meeting include Dr David Money (first CEO of Cochlear) and Prof David Pennington (Chairman of Bionic Vision Australia). All attendees stay on-site at the Silverwater Resort in order to encourage interactions among attendees. Invited presentations and poster sessions are designed to create a collaborative, interactive environment. Student poster awards will be offered.

Website: www.medicalbionics.org.au For more information contact Rob Shepherd: rshepherd@bionicsinstitute.org

The 4th Australasian Cognitive Neuroscience Conference (ACNC)

Monash University, Melbourne, November 28 - December 1, 2013

The conference is the official annual meeting of the Australasian Cognitive Neuroscience Society, which is the major organisation dedicated to cognitive neuroscience research in both Australia and New Zealand. The conference program will feature several high profile international keynote speakers from the fields of psychology, developmental cognitive neuroscience, brain neuroscience, genetics, neurology, and

psychiatry. The work presented will cover the major methodologies used in human cognitive neuroscience research including MRI, EEG, MEG, TMS and psychophysics. The conference will provide a platform in which to highlight the most recent research findings, developments, challenges, and future opportunities.

Email: cognitiveneuroscience@monash.edu

Website: www.med.monash.edu/psych/acnc/

The annual Brain Sciences UNSW Symposium

University of New South Wales, Kensington, Sydney, 18 October 2013

The theme for the 8th annual Symposium is ‘The Interactive Brain: Translational Neuroscience’. Translational neuroscience integrates research from the basic sciences, social sciences and political sciences, with the aim of optimising patient care and developing preventive measures, whilst at the same time transforming biological discoveries into new treatments and medical devices. This year, the Brain Sciences UNSW Symposium will provide an opportunity to hear Australian and International experts explore and develop a coherent model of the interactive brain, across its many dimensions. For program, speaker details and registration please view the website.

Website: www.brainsciences.unsw.edu.au/BrainSciWeb.nsf/page/Symposium2013

31st International Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research

Capthorne Resort Hotel in Queenstown, New Zealand, 24-28 August 2013

Details concerning conference registration,

abstract submission, accommodation, and social arrangements, etc. Registration and abstract submission is available on the conference website

Website: www.awcbr.org

BrainTech Israel 2013 - Israel's 1st International Brain Technology Conference

Tel Aviv, Israel, 14-15 October 2013

By unlocking the secrets of the human brain, scientists, innovators, entrepreneurs and businesses are turning “science fiction” into “science non-fiction,” revolutionizing such critical fields as computing, robotics, gaming and medicine. Join us to discover a future that has already arrived.

Website: conference.israelbrain.org

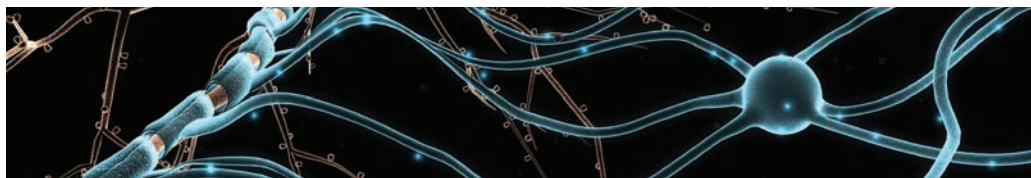
11th Annual World Congress of the Society for Brain Mapping and Therapeutics (SBMT)

Four Seasons Hotel, Sydney, 17-19 March 2014

The 11th Annual World Congress of SBMT will bring together physicians, scientists, policy makers, funding agencies and industry to further the advances and applications in brain and spinal cord mapping and image guided therapies (operative and non-operative). The conference aim is to create a critical mass by introducing synergy amongst interdisciplinary researchers to further understand the brain function and nervous system. The conference provides the opportunity to be at the forefront of brain sciences, therapeutics in general and neural stem cells interventions in particular.

Website: www.worldbrainmapping.org/general

October 2013



Upcoming Conferences

Toward a Science of Consciousness 2014

Tucson, Arizona, April 21-26, 2014

This is an interdisciplinary conference known for rigorous and leading edge approaches to all aspects of the study of conscious experience. These aspects include neuroscience, psychology, philosophy, cognitive science, artificial intelligence, molecular biology, medicine, quantum physics, and cosmology as well as art, technology, and experiential and contemplative approaches. The conference is the largest and longest-running interdisciplinary gathering probing fundamental questions related to conscious experience. An estimated 700 participants from over 60 countries are due to take part. As in previous conferences, program sessions will include plenary and keynote talks, concurrent talks, posters, art/science demos and exhibits, pre-conference workshops, side trips, and social events in the Tucson tradition.

Website: www.consciousness.arizona.edu/

The 12th International Conference on Cognitive Neuroscience - ICON 2014

Brisbane, Australia, July 27-31, 2014

The conference focuses on the study of the neural basis of human cognition, especially through brain imaging methodologies, and brings together researchers all with an interest in the relationships between the brain, mind, and behaviour.

Keynote Speakers: Stanislas Dehaene (Collège de France), Birte Forstmann (Amsterdam), Heidi Johansen-Berg (Oxford), Russell Poldrack (Texas), Daniel Wolpert (Cambridge), Olaf Sporns (Indiana). Super early registration is now available for the first 50 full-registrations, at a discount of \$200 off the standard full registration fee. So register now for this super early discount.

Call For Symposia - Now Open. Most of the scientific program will feature Symposia of 3-4 speakers on a focused topic. Submissions for Symposia are now open and will close 23rd August 2013 - see our website for submission guidelines. Standard abstract submission will open in September.

Website: <http://www.icon2014.org>

ANS Newsletter

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 17th October 2013.

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.

Authorised by

Professor Joe Lynch

Secretary - Australasian

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2013 ISN/ASN (Cancun Meeting) Guidelines for Sessions:

Young Investigator Colloquia

To increase the number of formal oral presentations from young investigators, there will be 8-12 Young Investigator Colloquia, for which we invite young scientists (members and non-members) to apply as speakers. Speakers will receive a registration fee waiver and significant financial support with respect to their expenses. The Program Committee will select four speakers for each colloquium. Thirty minutes will be available for each contribution. Preference will be given to independent young investigators. The candidates should be either below 40 years of age or less than 10 years after PhD completion. Suggested topics are listed below; outstanding speakers in other areas will be considered.

When applying on-line, candidates will be required to provide:

- A) Session title/topic (either from the list or "unassigned")
- B) The title of their contribution
- C) A one page abstract
- D) A one page Curriculum Vitae
- E) List of publications during the last three years.

Young Investigator Topics:

- 1) Mechanisms of plasticity and memory
- 2) Mechanisms of glial function, including inflammation
- 3) Brain injury mechanisms
- 4) Cell cycle and neurogenesis
- 5) Neurodegeneration
- 6) Brain ageing
- 7) Psychobiology of mental illness, stress and addiction
- 8) Neurology including virology and oncology
- 9) Therapeutic strategies in neuro degenerative conditions
- 10) Extracellular matrix
- 11) Neurovasculature, blood-brain barrier
- 12) Receptors, ion channels & protein complexes
- 13) Glial-neuronal interactions
- 14) Developmental biology
- 15) Regeneration in the CNS
- 16) Neuroimaging

Symposia

Symposia consist of 4 speakers presenting highlights of their research, and a brief overview of the topic for audience members not working in that field. Talks should encompass a common theme, and sessions presenting contrasting points of view or alternative approaches is a strength.

Workshops

A Workshop is intended to encourage discussion, often on sharply focused research issues, between the members of the Workshop and the audience. The success of this interactive format is determined by the extent to which lively discussions are generated. Organizers should facilitate this, e.g., by listing some contentious issues or discussion points at the beginning of the workshop. Each speaker should highlight an issue of importance to the discussion and should be limited to 3-4 slides. These should be highly schematic or highly conceptual slides rather than specific data slides. Formal presentations of research findings are discouraged, except as they will provoke interchange. The Organizer must take an active role in prompting interactive discussions. Do not select the "Workshop" format if you do not plan to adhere to this spirit.

Submissions for Sessions Should Include:

1. The Chairperson (and when appropriate co-chair) name, title, affiliation, address, email and phone number.
2. The title and type of session being proposed.
3. Description (up to 250 words) including a brief scientific background, the current state of the topic, and why the session would be of high interest to Neuroscientists. If the topic has been covered at a recent ISN meeting (please visit www.ISNeurochem.org for this year's program) a rationale for revisiting the topic.
4. A list of speakers, their tentative talk titles, a list of 2 or 3 recent publications, and whether they have agreed to participate. Please note that the organizer of a session is not required to present. To give you an idea of the information we like to get you may download the following sample proposal as PDF file:

Sample Proposal

If you are interested in organizing a session but are not certain about what is involved, or if you have ideas for a session that fall outside the formats listed above, please contact the program chair at the following email address: proposals@ISNeurochem.org

Satellite Symposia

Members and non-members who are interested in organizing Satellite Symposia will be required to provide on-line a detailed description of the Symposium with details of venue, full scientific content and list of speakers enabling the Program Committee to evaluate the proposal.