

April 2019



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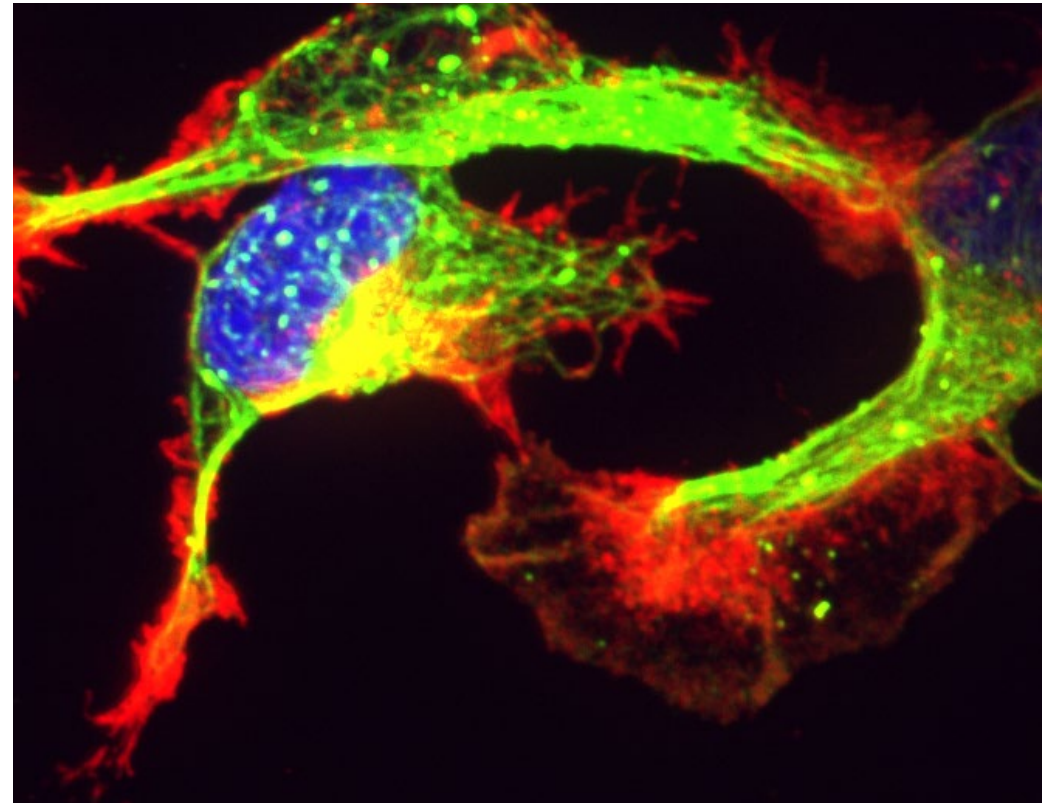


Image provided by

Ms Yilan Zhen, University of Tasmania

Notifications

Become an ANS member or student member!

Please join us by becoming a Member of ANS.

You can join online at any time!

<https://tas.currinda.com/register/organisation/172>.

Check out our new and improved website

www.ans.org.au.

We thank our Society partners



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Message from the President

Here we are in April, but already our conference is really beginning to take shape. The Local Organising Committee, chaired by A/Prof Michael Lardelli, has been pulling out all the stops to make this a top-class meeting, both academically and socially.

There are wonderful plenary speakers locked in, we are assessing the submitted symposia proposals, will have up to 10 satellite meetings or workshops, social events are being scheduled, and the committee is even doing the groundwork for possibly having an on-site local provider of child-care. Another new feature of the meeting plans this year, and going forward, has been the establishment of a Programme committee, being chaired by Prof Tony Hannan. This committee will help ensure a good spread of high-quality symposia (as well as plenary talks for future meetings) across sub-disciplines, while also keeping an eye on equity and diversity. Please do visit the conference website regularly to stay up to date with developments!

Speaking of committees, you may not be aware of the many ANS committees now up and running. Besides the Program committee, there is the Equity and Diversity committee (Chair, A/Prof Ethan Scott), Australian Brain Bee Committee, (Prof Ramesh Rajan), Teaching Resources Committee (Chairs, Dr Matthew Kirkcaldie, Dr Kristin Hillman), Animals in Research Committee (Chair, Prof Marcello Rosa), Early-Mid Career Researcher Committee (Chairs, Dr Erin McAllum, Dr Brenton Hordacre), the Student Body Committee (Chair,

Ms Barbora Fulopova), the ACAN Committee (Chair, Prof Sam Berkovic), the Communications Committee (Chairs, A/Prof Kaylene Young and Dr Brent Neumann) and the 40th Anniversary Programme committee (Chair, A/Prof Julian Heng). ANS is grateful to the members of all these committees for their dedicated service to the Society. Anyone wishing to join a committee can contact either the committee chair or a member of the ANS Executive.

At this time of year, local or state neuroscience groups may be planning events, symposia, international speakers, or student gatherings to feature in 2019. ANS can help support such events, with funding provided via the state representative on the ANS Council. The state representatives are your liaison to the ANS Executive and wider Council, so feel free to contact them with any ideas or suggestions to promote neuroscience locally, or society-wide. If you don't know your representative, you can find them listed towards the end of this newsletter or on the ANS website.

Finally, I was reflecting on the significance of ANS for neuroscience in our region. Among the many benefits that the Society aims to bring to its

members, one of its primary goals is of course to promote excellence in the scientific research that is undertaken in New Zealand and Australia. And how can excellence be promoted? One way is to provide opportunities for researchers to come together and build collaborations. For example, at its conference! So, do come along. If you're not convinced of the value of national, international and corporate collaborations, I invite you to read this 2014 Elsevier report on the neuroscience landscape: <https://www.elsevier.com/research-intelligence/research-initiatives/brain-science-report-2014>. The report focuses on brain science research output on a national level, levels of collaboration within brain research, cross-disciplinary researcher mobility, and emerging trends and themes in brain research. It's a bit of an eye-opener.



**Prof Cliff
Abraham**

PhD, President, ANS

Professor Peter Schofield is an Officer of the Order of Australia

April 2019

To our immense delight, Professor Peter Schofield (affectionately known as “Schoie”), the CEO of Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA) and Professor of Medicine at UNSW, was recognised in this year’s Australia Day Honours list as an Officer of the Order of Australia. He received this honour “for distinguished service to medical and scientific research in the field of neuroscience, and to professional institutions”.



Peter’s career has developed across three continents (US, Germany and Australia), multiple phylae (plants, bacteria and animals) and across both academia and the biotechnology industry. He started off with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science from University of Sydney in 1982, obtained his PhD in genetics from ANU in 1985, and then applied his skills in molecular biology to study the brain. As a postdoctoral fellow with Peter Seeburg at Genentech, Peter was busy learning neuroscience via “The Principles of Neural Science” while also cloning the GABAA receptor! Moving with Seeburg to the University of Heidelberg allowed his research into the diversity and function of the GABAA receptor subunits to expand and enabled collaboration with Heinrich Betz on the Glycine receptor.

Peter returned to Australia to Pacific Biotechnology before joining the Garvan Institute in 1991 and commencing his first NHMRC Research Fellowship. In 1998, a DSc from UNSW recognised his contributions to understanding receptors and his 2004 ANS Plenary focused on the structure, function and role in disease of the Glycine receptor.

At the Garvan, he applied his training in genetics to focus on diseases that affect the brain such as bipolar disorder and to Alzheimer’s disease and frontotemporal dementia. These are areas of research he continues to this day. He gave many of us, myself included, the opportunity to develop our own careers through his support and mentoring. Peter has inspired and challenged researchers to break new ground to find cures for brain disorders,

and is a talented and compelling advocate. His involvement in the NIH-funded Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network (DIAN) has resulted in critical definitions on the order of biomarker changes that are present up to 25 years prior to clinical onset; knowledge which has led to clinical trials using biomarker changes as key clinical outcomes.

Peter started his current role as CEO at NeuRA in 2004, where he has overall responsibility for developing and leading 300 neuroscientists and support staff. He has delivered a new building and an Institute which has grown 2.5-fold in headcount and 4-fold in budget since he took over the helm. He finds time to provide guidance and direction to hundreds of others through many other leadership roles including with ASMR, Research Australia, NSA, Mason Foundation, Schizophrenia Research Institute, numerous government committees, Sydney Partnership for Health Education, Research and Enterprise (SPHERE), NHMRC National Institute for Dementia Research, and most recently the Mindgardens Neuroscience Network.

Peter’s research has been recognised by awards including the Gottschalk Medal by the Australian Academy of Science and he was made a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Science in 2015. It is a testament to the scope of his influence that he has been granted this humbling and awesome honour. We congratulate and thank Peter for providing the vision to discover, conquer and cure disease and disability of the brain, and the inspiration for those who will follow.

Janice Fullerton

Senior Research Scientist and Group Leader, Janette Mary O’Neil Research Fellow, Conjoint Senior Lecturer, University of New South Wales

Professor Julie Bernhardt is a Member of the Order of Australia

April 2019

Professor Julie Bernhardt, a Deputy Director of The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health and Co-Head of the Stroke Theme, was honoured in the recent Australia Day Awards as a Member within the Order of Australia. This was a most fitting recognition of a long-standing member of the Australasian Neuroscience Society, as a global thought leader in the field of stroke research.

From a clinical science perspective, her greatest contribution to date has been to revolutionise the modus operandi for the conduct of clinical trials evaluating stroke recovery. Before she came into this field, most of these trials were relatively small, under-powered and often contained design flaws. This resulted in numerous publications with uncertain outcomes, making the translation into clinical practice with guidelines problematic. Julie completely changed this approach by introducing a mode of trial design that would provide definitive answers in a complex area of clinical research.

Julie conducted the largest clinical rehabilitation trial globally with over 2,000 patients from Australia, Asia and Europe, and subsequently published this work in *Lancet*. She tested the hypothesis that very early stroke rehabilitation would improve clinical outcomes (AVERT Trial). Her exemplary leadership meant she was able to conduct a trial of rehabilitation on a magnitude and breadth never seen before in this area. While this study was neutral, it set unparalleled benchmarks for future studies, including her follow-up study

of similar size that examined longer time windows and incorporated an innovative dose adjustment design (AVERT DOSE).

In 2016, Julie spearheaded the first Stroke Rehabilitation and Recovery Standards Roundtable held in Philadelphia, USA. This brought together an international consortium of stroke experts to set new agreed standards for recovery research with the aim of fostering breakthroughs in stroke treatment and movement towards a 'cure' mentality. The outcomes of the Roundtable were published as a series in the *International Journal of Stroke*, the recommendations provided a global benchmark for stroke rehabilitation research and established a framework within which researchers can work in the coming decades. Importantly, this forum continues with the second Roundtable to be conducted in 2019 under her stewardship.

A further passion of Julie's is to improve the retention and career advancement of women in science. She is fostering systemic change to ensure more women are able to lead and excel in



medical research. In 2013, she founded the Women in Science Parkville Precinct (WiSPP) initiative to support active change in five of Melbourne's Medical Research Institutes, which employ more than 4,000 researchers. She has established a template of activity to increase the participation of women in the research workforce, particularly in mid to late career stages when the "glass ceiling" becomes more evident. With philanthropic support, she was able to demonstrate the shortcomings of the system and start plans to implement change. While working with Government agencies, the next stage will be to use this template in other precincts to replicate its successes. Remarkably, as a result

Professor Bronwen Connor is a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit

April 2019

(Professor Julie Bernhardt is a Member of the Order of Australia... continued)

of her successful initiatives in this area, in 2016 she was invited to talk on gender equity in science at the World Economic Forum in Tianjin, China.

Julie has received numerous national and international awards and is a Board Member of key global organisations, such as the World Stroke Organization. She is a highly strategic and big picture thinker, not afraid of complex challenges and someone who revels in blue sky thinking. Instead of responding to an idea with a 'but', Julie has always had a positive and often innovative view of how to tackle a complex problem. She has boundless energy and has the skill to understand how to get the best out of others and to build a shared vision within a team.

The Australasian Neuroscience Society is proud to have Julie within our ranks and offer our congratulations!

Geoffrey Donnan AO

MBBS MD FRCP FRACP (Edin) FAHMS, Professor of Neurology, University of Melbourne, Melbourne Brain Centre, Royal Melbourne and Austin Hospitals

Professor Bronwen Connor was recently appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the New Zealand New Year's Honours, in recognition of her services to the treatment of neurological disorders. Bronwen is a neuropharmacologist whose research has developed new protective and regenerative treatments to combat neurological disease and brain injury. Bronwen has worked at the University of Auckland since 2000. She is Head of the University's Neural Reprogramming and Repair Lab and was Director of the NeuroDiscovery Facility at the Centre for Brain Research from 2011 to 2018. Her work has investigated the application of gene and stem cell therapies for conditions such as Parkinson's Disease, Huntington's Disease, stroke and depression. Bronwen also pioneered the redirected use of pharmacological agents such as anti-psychotic drugs for treatment of multiple sclerosis and identified potential new drug targets for the treatment of depression.

Bronwen's pioneering work on the treatment of neurological disorders has included the development of a direct cell reprogramming process through which adult skin cells are transformed into neural stem cells by the overexpression of two pro-neural genes, *SOX2* and *PAX6*. The reprogrammed neural stem cells can be differentiated into a range of neuronal and glial cell types. As her procedure harvested skin cells from the patient, it removed the risk of immune rejection typically associated with stem cell therapy. Furthermore, she advanced the clinical viability of her technology by using modified mRNA to deliver the reprogramming genes. Bronwen is now utilising these cells to better understand the disease processes of Huntington's

disease and Fragile X syndrome, and to identify and test new drug targets. This technology also has exciting potential for cell replacement therapy for disorders such as Parkinson's disease, Huntington's disease and spinal cord injury.

In addition to her research, Bronwen is the Director for Educational Outreach for the Centre of Brain Research. She developed and led the Being Brains programme, a platform of online learning modules on the human brain for students in Years 2 to 8. The Being Brains programme was launched in 2017 and over 200 NZ schools have registered for the programme. As part of the programme, Bronwen coordinates a group of early career researchers to undertake school visits, which allows students to directly interact with scientists and see science as an exciting option for their future education.

We warmly congratulate Bronwen on her appointment as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

Sir Richard Faull KNZM, FRSNZ

University Distinguished Professor, Director, Centre for Brain Research, University of Auckland



Register for the 39th Annual ANS Meeting in Adelaide, 2-5 December 2019

April 2019



This year's Annual Meeting of the ANS in the "Festival State" is shaping up to be a "Festival of Neuroscience"!

Five outstanding plenary speakers have agreed to share their research with us:

- **Prof Hollis Cline** (Scripps Research, California) is renowned for her contributions to understanding how experience influences brain development. She will open the conference by delivering the ANS International Plenary Lecture.
- **Prof Geoffrey Goodhill** (Queensland Brain Institute) applies computation approaches to better understand nervous system function and will deliver the Elspeth McLachlan Plenary Lecture.
- **Prof Selena Bartlett** (Queensland University of Technology) will deliver The Lawrie Austin Plenary Lecture and cover her fascinating research on addiction.
- **Prof Jose Manuel Alonso** (State University, New York) has helped us understand how the brain processes visual information and will deliver the ANS Plenary Lecture.
- **Prof Pamela McCombe** (The University of Queensland, Centre for Clinical Research) will deliver the ANS Eccles Lecture to educate us about how neurological disease is influenced by gender and pregnancy.

Program Development

During April and early May, the ANS Council will review and rank the proposals for symposia to assist the Program Committee led by Prof Tony Hannan. This will ensure not only scientific excellence but a spread of symposia across sub-disciplines. Early bird conference registration opens in May and closes in July, as does abstract submission for oral presentations. Conference registrations and poster abstract submission will continue through into November. Once the oral abstract submission deadline has passed, the Local Organising Committee (LOC) in Adelaide will work together with ANS Conference Executive Chair, Prof Helen Cooper, to assemble the oral sessions.

As Chair of the LOC, lots of people tell me what they want. Then I need to make it happen or find a motivated LOC member who will. Fortunately, there is a reason Adelaideans say our city resembles "a big country town" – it is full of relaxed (but busy), friendly, helpful people including some enthusiastic neuroscientists. For example, LOC member Kim Hemsley has been busy chasing potential organisers of satellite meetings and workshops and neuroscientists have answered her call. I am happy to tell you that up to 10 such meetings are planned so far! You will find a link to a list of these meetings with their intended dates on the ANS website. Pencil (or key) those dates into your diary now and begin planning an extended visit to our beautiful city. When registration opens for ANS 2019, we will also provide the details you need to register for the satellite meetings.

April 2019

(Register for the 39th Annual ANS Meeting in Adelaide, 2-5 December 2019... continued)

Travel

Every year, ANS provides travel scholarships to help postgraduate students attend our meeting. And this year all ANS members get travel assistance from QANTAS! Australia's most popular airline has agreed to sponsor the ANS meeting by providing discounted domestic flights to and from South Australia. You can find details on the "Flights, Venue, and Accommodation" page of the ANS website. On the topic of accommodation, discounted hotel rooms will be available very close to the Adelaide Convention Centre and we will also provide information on where to find more basic, budget accommodation such as at university colleges. And, of course, there is always Airbnb...

LOC member Tim Sergeant has been collaborating with the ANS Equity and Diversity Committee and ANS Council to investigate subsidised childcare at this year's conference. We hope that this, together with support for carers, will further increase attendance by researchers with young children and others who otherwise might find it too difficult. You can read more about this in Ethan Scott's report from the Equity and Diversity Committee in this newsletter.

Social

The LOC's Brenton Hordacre and Karissa Barthelson are the SA reps for the ANS Early & Mid-Career

Researcher Committee and the ANS Student Body Committee, respectively. They are hard at work organising a joint social event for the second evening of the conference. Meanwhile Melinda Kyloh and Renee Turner are putting together a vineyard tour for the Friday following the meeting. You could stay for that and then spend the weekend visiting Adelaide's many other attractions – our very beautiful Adelaide Botanic Garden and the Adelaide Zoo (with pandas Wang Wang and Fu Ni), the impressive Australian Indigenous and Pacific Islander cultural displays at the South Australian Museum, or possibly our nation's finest collection of Australian Colonial Painting at the Art Gallery of South Australia. These are all within easy walking distance of the Adelaide Convention Centre. Jump on a tram and visit the beach at Glenelg, or hire a car and tour the nearby Adelaide Hills and more.

I will finish by reminding ANS members that they can always contact me directly if they have a suggestion regarding the conference. I will see that your suggestion is, at least, considered by the relevant decision-maker. I look forward to seeing you at our "Festival of Neuroscience" from **2-5 December at the Adelaide Convention Centre!**

**Michael
Lardelli**

*Chair of the ANS 2019 Local
Organising Committee*



Brain Bee 2019



This year the Brain Bee Challenge has been revamped in a number of significant ways. The learning content is now developed by local neuroscientists and is converted into an online format by our partners, Education Perfect. The materials have been designed to encourage the development of metacognitive self-regulation of the learning, with the use of interactive materials and self-assessments, both easing the burden on staff to “know” the content and on students in allowing them to evaluate if they have understood it. Second, the Brain Bee Challenge Round 1 has been opened up to run for the whole month of March, instead of a single day in Brain Awareness Week. This has given schools and students considerably more flexibility in planning their study and timing the online assessment. While it is too early to evaluate the impact of these changes, the informal feedback that we have received from teachers of past Brain Bee Challenge competitors have been favourable. The new format and tools will be formally evaluated later in the year.

Finally, our 2018 national winners for Australia and NZ are preparing for their trip to Seoul in September for the International Brain Bee, and we wish them well with their studies!

Ramesh Rajan

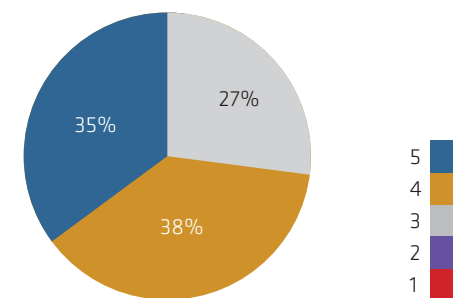
*Brain Bee Challenge
Coordinator, Monash
University*

News from the Student Body Committee

The beginning of 2019 was a busy period for the SBC, as we welcomed 6 new State Representatives. New membership means new ideas and plans for local events this year, so stay tuned for regional updates. If you have any suggestions or ideas for events you would like to see happen in your region, please do not hesitate to contact your State Representative. The list of all SBC members can be found at the ANS website: <http://ans.org.au/about-us/subcommittees/ans-student-body-committee>

Thank you to everyone who filled in the survey about the Student and ECR Networking Event held at ANS 2018 in Brisbane. The feedback was very encouraging, and you can look forward to this type of event at ANS 2019. The local student organising committee has received your feedback and are working to implement the suggestions to reflect our needs, as identified in the survey. The most frequent suggestion was to broaden the scope of discussion topics, which mostly focused on career advice to ECRs and PhD students in the final year of their candidature.

The SBC also plans to run the popular photographic competition again this year. More information will be provided closer to the date, but it is never too early to start thinking about your submissions!



On a scale 1 (low) to 5 (high), how satisfied were you with the student and ECR Networking mixer?

Barbora Fulopova

*University of Tasmania
ANS Study Body
Committee Chair*

News from the Early-Mid Career Researchers Committee



Two key goals of the ANS EMCR Committee are to provide career development opportunities and advocacy for EMCRs in neuroscience across Australasia and directly represent EMCRs on the ANS Council. To achieve these goals, we need to hear from you! Please complete the ANS EMCR member survey using the QR code to the left or at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JTB7TT9>. We will provide feedback on the survey results in mid-2019 and will commence working on an EMCR event for ANS 2019 in Adelaide.

Ann-Maree Valence

ANS Council, WA State Representative, on behalf of the EMCR Committee
Ann-Maree.Valence@murdoch.edu.au

Update from the Equity and Diversity Committee

The Equity and Diversity Committee is working on several fronts to assure broad representation and equitable access at ANS 2019 in Adelaide. We will again be offering the Carer's Grants that were rolled out for ANS 2018. These grants will provide up to \$500 to support delegates with childcare or other carer's responsibilities. We are working towards possible on-site childcare for this year's meeting. With leadership from the local organising committee and support from the ANS Council, we are hoping to arrange for subsidised professional childcare from 9:00-5:00 for all four days of the conference.

More details for both of these initiatives will be distributed in the coming months, in advance of ANS 2019 registration.

Ethan Scott

*Chair for the Equity and Diversity Committee.
With input from the ANS E&D Committee*



The 10th IBRO World Congress of Neuroscience

The 10th International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) World Congress of Neuroscience will be held in Daegu, South Korea from 21-25 September 2019 (www.ibro2019.org).

The Early Bird Registration Deadline is the 14th of April.

The IBRO World Congress has been held every four (4) years since 1982 and is a prestigious international meeting attended by over 4000 neuroscientists from around the world. The plenary and keynote lectures will include a presentation by Nobel Laureate Professor Erwin Neher and there will be over 40 symposia by nearly two hundred experts in various fields of neuroscience. Multiple satellite sessions and meetings for special topics are also included to bring rich content for all participants. Note that the Federation of Asian-Oceanian Neuroscience Societies (FAONS) will be hosting symposia in conjunction with the IBRO meeting. ANS has a significant interest in these meeting as it intends to bid to host the next FAONS meeting in 2021 and the next IBRO meeting in 2023.

Council Members



President:	Cliff Abraham
Past President:	Linda Richards
Secretary:	Thomas Fath
Treasurer:	Gary Egan (Brian Dean, Treasurer-Elect)
Conference Executive Chair (Editor):	Helen Cooper
Public Officer:	John Bekkers
ACT Representative:	John Bekkers
NSW Representative:	Yazi Ke
NZ Representative:	Kristin Hillman
Qld Representative:	Ethan Scott
SA Representative:	Michael Lardelli
Tas Representative:	Alison Canty
Vic Representative:	Anthony (Tony) Hannan
WA Representative:	Ann-Maree Vallance
Neuroscience Research Representative:	Erin McAllum
Student Representative:	Barbora Fulopova

ANS is very grateful for the enormous contributions made by council members who have stepped down in 2019: Kay Double, Srdjan Vlajkovic, Karin Nordstrom, Matthew Kirkcaldie and Rachelle Balez.

April 2019

Communications

Do you have information that you would like included in our ANS newsletter, posted on our website or Facebook page or tweeted?

ANS has a communications committee to help members disseminate information and help the Society publicise its activities to Members and the public. This committee is Co-Chaired by Dr Brent Neumann (Monash University) and A/Prof Kaylene Young (University of Tasmania), and will oversee the production of the newsletter, ensure that current content is posted on the ANS website (<http://www.ans.org.au/>), ANS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AusNeuroSoc>; maintained by Dr Nathalie Dehorter, Australian

National University), LinkedIn page (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8362021/>; maintained by Prof Thomas Fath, Macquarie University) and disseminated through the ANS Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/AusNeuroSoc>; postings by Dr Lila Landowski, University of Tasmania).

If you have content for us, please email Brent Neumann (brent.neumann@monash.edu.au) or Kaylene Young (kaylene.young@utas.edu.au).

The copy deadline for the next Newsletter is Monday 1st July 2019.

We encourage everyone to check out the ANS website.

www.ans.org.au



Policy

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.

Final Minutes

Australasian Neuroscience Society Annual General Meeting

5.45pm – 7pm, Wednesday 5th December 2018, Brisbane Convention and Events Centre, Brisbane

1. Attendance and apologies (Kay Double)

Attendance: 69 members (see attendance sheets held by Secretary). Apologies: Song Yao (Florey), Robert Rush (Flinders University), Beulah Leitch (Otago), Elspeth McLachlan (Neuroscience Research Australia), Lisa Foa (University of Tasmania), Andrew Lawrence (Florey), Andrew Gundlach (Florey), David Vaney (QBI), Peter Schofield (Neuroscience Research Australia).

The Secretary welcomed all members present and noted that as there was a quorum the meeting was declared open at 5.49pm.

2. Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting (Kay Double)

The minutes of the 2017 AGM were previously published on the ANS webpage (members section) and advised in the January 2018 ANS Newsletter.

- Motion 1: To accept the Minutes of the 2017 ANS AGM as published on the ANS webpage (members section) and indicated as such in the January 2018 ANS newsletter.

Moved: Kay Double.

Seconded: Charles Watson.

Vote: Carried.

3. President's report (Linda Richards)

The President presented her report to members:

Council Achievements in 2018

- FENS-ANS agreement – ANS has reciprocal benefits for member rates and travel scholarship awards.
- Will be submitting proposal to host 2021 FAONS symposia.
- SfN-ANS agreement through FAONS, allows ANS members to attend SfN at SfN member rates.
- IBRO-APRC: ANS is a member of the IBRO governing council and has representation on APRC supporting activities in the region. ANS therefore had significant impact in the region and also in developing countries.
- ANS-ABA partnership: political engagement arm of the society, hope to see positive achievements in neuroscience, especially in coordination of research activities, funding, advocacy and public engagement.
- ANS Sponsorship working group: consolidate how ANS Council approached supporters through sponsorship. Developed prospectuses for 1) annual scientific meeting and 2) for academic partnerships and institutions to support ANS. Greater

clarity of approach and benefits to supporters who fund ANS activities.

- ANS 40th anniversary meeting Perth 2020 – started in 1980, first meeting held in 1981. 40th meeting to be held in 2020. Special activities to commemorate this.
- ANS Member survey 2019 – Council produced a Strategic Plan last year which provides guidance for way forward over next 5 years.

The President thanked and acknowledged fellow Council members during her time as President.

Thank you to ANS working groups

- ANS Student Body Committee – active student representation in ANS through state events.
- ANS ECR Committee – emerging
- Equity and Diversity – already making an impact by awarding carer grants.
- Animals in Research – plan to have more activities over next year and a statement in support of animal research will be placed on website.
- Teaching Resources – working to develop teaching resources.
- ACAN
- ABBC/NZBBC
- Media and communications – formed new working group chaired by A/Prof Kaylene Young and Dr Brent Neumann to manage newsletters, social media and website.

- Special thank you to Dr Tom Keeble (Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health) for his leading and coordinating media coverage of the ANS annual scientific meeting.

ANS Medals

- The President presented the ANS medals to Joseph Lynch (not present) and Victor Anggono, Local Organising Committee Co-Chairs, ANS Annual Meeting 2018.

New President

- The President introduced President-elect Cliff Abraham, University of Otago, New Zealand who will take over as President of ANS at the conclusion of the 2018 conference.

4. Secretary's report (Kay Double)

The Secretary presented her report to members:

- Current membership is 823, an increase of 100 members from Dec 2017.
- The increase represented equal growth in both student and full society members and reflected the perceived value of ANS membership independent of the annual conference, and offered members and the neuroscience sector many benefits.
- The new 3-year membership available to full members, was growing in popularity and now represented a fifth of this member group.

Final Minutes

- Membership had grown steadily over the past 3 years and had almost returned to the 2015 level before the joint ANS-ISN meeting when ISN offered free membership to ISN, enabling registration at local member conference rates. As a result, this halved the ANS membership base in 2015.

Proposed changes to ANS Constitution

The Secretary outlined proposed changes to the ANS Constitution, and noted the AGM was the one time of the year when ANS had the opportunity to do so. The proposed changes to the Executive member position of "Editor" were advised via email to all members in October. The *Editor* position was responsible for the scientific content of ANS-led scientific meetings, primarily the annual conference. Unlike all other Executive positions the *Editor* position had no set term of office and was an ongoing position.

Council proposed the name of the *Editor* position change from the rather confusing term, "Editor", to *Conference Executive Chair* (CEC) with a term of office of two (2) years. This would bring the position in line with all other Executive positions on Council.

The Secretary noted that the Constitution required the motion be accepted by a majority of voting members present for it to be passed. Proposed change to the Constitution:

Change 1: 4. Executive

Current:

4.1 The Executive of the Society shall be the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Editor and, as required by the Executive, the elected positions as described in 4.2, 4.3 and 4.5.

Proposed new wording:

4.1 The Executive of the Society shall be the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Conference Executive Chair (CEC) and, as required by the Executive, the elected positions as described in 4.2, 4.3 and 4.5.

- Motion 2: *To accept the proposed change to the Constitution in clause 4.1 The Executive of the Society shall be the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Conference Executive Chair (CEC) and, as required by the Executive, the elected positions as described in 4.2, 4.3 and 4.5.*

Moved: Kay Double.

Seconded: Helen Cooper.

Motion: Carried.

Change 2:

Current:

4.4 The Secretary and Treasurer shall hold those offices for two years and shall be eligible for re-election, provided they shall not serve

for a continuous period of more than six years. A 'year' is defined as the period between two subsequent Annual General Meetings

Proposed new wording:

4.4 The Secretary, Treasurer and the Conference Executive Chair shall hold those offices for two years and shall be eligible for re-election, provided they shall not serve for a continuous period of more than six years. A 'year' is defined as the period between two subsequent Annual General Meetings.

- Motion 3: *To accept the proposed change to the Constitution in clause 4.4 The Secretary, Treasurer and the Conference Executive Chair shall hold those offices for two years and shall be eligible for re-election, provided they shall not serve for a continuous period of more than six years. A 'year' is defined as the period between two subsequent Annual General Meetings.*

Moved: Kay Double.

Seconded: Cliff Abraham.

Motion: Carried.

Change 3:

Current:

4.5 As deemed appropriate by the Executive, the election of incoming Secretary and Treasurer may take effect one year before the due date of the retirement of the incumbent

of these positions, allowing the positions of Secretary-elect and Treasurer-elect to be occupied for up to one year.

Proposed new wording:

4.5 As deemed appropriate by the Executive, the election of incoming Secretary, Treasurer and the Conference Executive Chair shall may take effect one year before the due date of the retirement of the incumbent of these positions, allowing the positions of Secretary-elect, Treasurer-elect and the Conference Executive Chair-elect to be occupied for up to one year.

- Motion 4: *To accept the proposed change to the Constitution in clause 4.5 As deemed appropriate by the Executive, the election of incoming Secretary, Treasurer and the Conference Executive Chair shall may take effect one year before the due date of the retirement of the incumbent of these positions, allowing the positions of Secretary-elect, Treasurer-elect and the Conference Executive Chair-elect to be occupied for up to one year.*

Moved: Kay Double.

Seconded: Helen Cooper.

Motion: Carried.

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Change 4: 5. Council

Current:

5.3 Regional Representatives and the Neuroscience Research Professional Representative shall hold office for two years and shall be eligible for re-election for two, but not more than two, succeeding years. The Postgraduate Student Representative shall hold office for one year and shall be eligible for re-election for a further year. The Editor shall hold office for one year but shall be eligible for re-election for any number of succeeding years. The Editor shall have the right to appoint an Associate Editor who will act in place of the Editor as necessary but who will not normally be a member of Council. As deemed appropriate by the Executive, the election of incoming Editor may take effect six months to one year before the due date of the retirement of the incumbent of this position, allowing the position of Editor-elect to be occupied for up to one year.

Proposed new wording:

5.3 Regional Representatives and the Neuroscience Research Professional Representative shall hold office for two years and shall be eligible for re-election for two, but not more than two, succeeding years. The Postgraduate Student Representative shall hold office for one year and shall be eligible for re-election for a further year.

- Motion 5: To accept the proposed change to the Constitution in clause 5.3 to remove the wording: *The Editor shall hold office for one year but shall be eligible for re-election for any number of succeeding years. The Editor shall have the right to appoint an Associate Editor who will act in place of the Editor as necessary but who will not normally be a member of Council. As deemed appropriate by the Executive, the election of incoming Editor may take effect six months to one year before the due date of the retirement of the incumbent of this position, allowing the position of Editor-elect to be occupied for up to one year.*

Moved: Kay Double.

Seconded: Gary Housley.

Motion: Carried.

Change 5: 7. Elections

Current:

7.3 An Executive or other member of the Council (other than the Editor) who ceases to hold an office or position shall not, except as expressly provided in this Constitution, be eligible for re-election to that office until the expiration of five years after ceasing to hold the office or position.

Proposed new wording:

7.3 An Executive or other member of the Council who ceases to hold an office or position shall not, except as expressly provided

in this Constitution, be eligible for re-election to that office until the expiration of five years after ceasing to hold the office or position.

- Motion 6: To accept the proposed change to the Constitution in clause 7.3 to remove the phrase: *(other than the Editor).*

Moved: Kay Double.

Seconded: Thomas Fath.

Motion: Carried.

New ANS Webpage

A new ANS website was under construction and would be launched prior to Christmas. The new website would be more functional and provide a more complete platform for the benefit of members and to archive ANS documents. The Secretary provided a preview of the new website and outlined the benefits:

- Greater functionality for members: single, online site for ANS membership, conference registration and other communication with the society, easier to navigate, linked to ANS social media accounts.
- Easier management for Council – links website to client relationship management system (Currinda) used to manage ANS membership and society management.
- Improved society documentation to record and archive all important society information in one place.

2019 Council Members

Secretary introduced the 2019 Council members:

- Cliff Abraham – President
- Linda Richards – Past-President
- Gary Egan – Treasurer
- Brian Dean – Treasurer-elect
- Thomas Fath – Secretary
- Helen Cooper – Conference Executive Chair
- Kristin Hillman – New Zealand Representative
- Ethan Scott – QLD Representative
- Yazi Ke – NSW Representative
- John Bekkers – Public Officer and ACT Representative
- Anthony Hannan – VIC Representative
- Michael Lardelli – SA Representative and 2019 LOC Chair
- Ann-Maree Vallance – WA Representative
- Alison Canty – TAS Representative
- Erin McAllum – Neuroscience Research Representative
- Barbara Fulopova – Student Body Chair

National Subcommittee Chairs

The Secretary introduced the national subcommittee chairs for 2019:

- Marcello Rosa – Animals in Research National Committee Chair
- Ethan Scott – Gender Equity and Diversity National Committee Chair
- Matthew Kirkcaldie – Teaching Resources National Committee Chair
- Kaylene Young – Newsletter Co-Editor and Communications Subcommittee Co-Chair
- Brent Neumann – Newsletter Co-Editor and Communications Subcommittee Co-Chair

Final Minutes

5. Treasurer's report (Gary Egan)

The Treasurer distributed copies of the audited financial report to members and presented as follows:

- Financial report was for a 9-month period following the move to financial year reporting.
- Commenced with The Association Specialists in 2017 for Secretariat, conference and accounting services.
- Four key revenue streams were:
 1. Investments
 2. Membership
 3. ACAN – now largely self-funded
 4. Annual conference
- Balance sheet was in a profitable position.
- Assets increased in 2018 with the Finkel Foundation donation.

Responses to member questions:

1. Increased administration costs from 2017 were partially funded from major sponsorship provided by two capital city convention centres.
 2. Outlined the spread of investments.
 3. A breakdown on whether investments were ethical had been requested and could be made available.
 4. Investments were held in a mix of equity funds, including bank deposits. This could be made available.
- Motion 7: *Accept the audited financial report for the 9-month period ending 30 June 2018.*

Moved: Gary Egan.

Seconded: Brian Dean.

Motion: Carried.

- Motion 8: *Appoint Tinworth & Co as auditors for the financial year 2018-19.*

Moved: Gary Egan.

Seconded: Phillip Janowicz .

Motion: Carried.

6. Editor's report (HC)

The Editor presented the conference report to members:

- The conference organisers were The Association Specialists which allowed for seamless interaction and would be engaged again for the 2019 Adelaide conference.
- Charges for registration in 2018 – costs for full members remained the same, student registration was reduced and resulted in a 10% increase in student attendance.
- ECR event had 350 participants with increased engagement from junior members.
- Plenary and symposia nominations were lower in 2018, however quality was high.
- Adelaide Conference 2019 Local Organising Committee Chair is Michael Lardelli.
- Thanked and acknowledged Brisbane Local Organising Committee Co-Chairs Joseph Lynch and Victor Anggono.
- New ANS website will house plenary and symposia nominations from members.

7. ANS Awards and Prizes

Kay Double (Secretary) announced the ANS awards which were presented by Linda Richards (President).

- ANS-FENS Early Career Travel Awards, post-doctoral – *Dr Malinda Tantirigama*, Eccles Institute of Neuroscience, The Australian National University.
- ANS-FENS Early Career Travel Awards, PhD Student – *Yukit Vyas*, Centre for Brain Research, University of Auckland.
- Mark Rowe Award – *Benjamin Trist*, PhD Candidate, Brain and Mind Centre, University of Sydney.
- AW Campbell Award – *Dr Wendy Imlach*, Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute and the Department of Physiology, Monash University.
- Nina Kondelos Prize – *Professor Janet Keast*, Chair of Anatomy & Neuroscience, School of Biomedical Sciences, The University of Melbourne.
- Paxinos-Watson Prize – *Professor Andrew Allen* and *Associate Professor Claude Menuet*, University of Melbourne (accepted by Andrew Allen).

8. Distinguished Achievement Award

Linda Richards (President) presented the award to Professor Charles Watson, Curtin University, Western Australia.

9. Honorary Membership Nomination (KD)

Linda Richards (President) nominated Professor Charles Watson for honorary membership.

- Motion 9: *To award Honorary membership of ANS to Professor Charles Watson.*

Moved: Kay Double.

Seconded: Linda Richardson.

Motion: Carried.

Professor Watson will receive his Honorary Membership at the 2019 AGM in Adelaide.

10. Other business

- 10.1 Julian Heng, LOC Chair for the 2020 meeting in Perth, reported that he looked forward to welcoming everyone to the 40th anniversary meeting and invited interested members to contact him.
- 10.2 Cliff Abraham thanked and acknowledged Linda Richards, President who had accomplished an enormous amount in two years, including the development of international relationships, and working to make ANS more effective and in a strong position for growth.
- Cliff Abraham thanked and acknowledged Kay Double, Secretary, and noted her behind the scenes work in upgrading the ANS website and policies.

With no other business, the Annual General Meeting was declared closed at 7.18pm