

## **ANS Plenary Policy and Guidelines**

### **1.0 Background to Plenary Lectures**

ANS Plenary Lectures have been held annually since 1981 and are viewed as significant peer recognition of scientific achievement and excellence. ANS has three named and two unnamed plenary lectures. These are all scheduled as stand-alone events (without concurrent sessions) in the program at the scientific annual meeting.

#### **ANS Plenary Lecture (began in 1981)**

#### **ANS International/Overseas Plenary Lecture (began in 1990)**

#### **Eccles Plenary Lecture (began in 1993)**

The Eccles Plenary Lecture was named after Sir John Eccles, and is jointly sponsored by ANS and the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia.

The Eccles Plenary speaker presents at both the annual ANS meeting and the annual meeting of the Neurosurgical Society, usually in the same year. The speaker is nominated by each society in an alternating manner. Nominations for the Eccles Plenary are required one year ahead of the nomination of other Plenary speakers for the same year to accommodate the timing of the Neurosurgical Society meeting which is held earlier than ANS.

#### **Lawrie Austin Plenary Lecture (began in 2002)**

Professor Lawrie Austin was the first President of ANS and the first Australian elected to the Council of the International Society for Neurochemistry, not long after its formation.

#### **Elsbeth McLachlan Plenary Lecture (began in 2018)**

Professor Elspeth McLachlan, FAA made seminal discoveries in the autonomic nervous system (see <https://www.science.org.au/fellowship/fellows/professor-elsbeth-mary-mclachlan>), was the first woman president of ANS (1996-1997), and held a number of senior management roles both at The University of Queensland and The University of New South Wales. In addition, Professor McLachlan's contributions to Australasian science endure in her mentorship of a number of highly successful neuroscientists.

### **2.0 Rules and Nomination Process for Plenary Speakers**

- 3.1 The ANS LOC and ANS Council Executive will decide if all plenary lectures are held in any given year.
- 3.2 The call and gathering of nominations will be managed by the ANS Secretariat in June of the previous year (around 18 months prior to the following year's meeting). Weekly emails will be sent throughout June to prompt members to nominate speakers.
- 3.3 Plenary Speakers may be proposed by any ANS member and nominations are sought from all members of ANS, especially students and ECRs' across all areas of neuroscience and using a wide variety of human and animal experimentation approaches and models.

- 3.4 ANS Secretariat will check eligibility of the nominator (must be a current ANS member) and proposed Australasian speakers who will need to be current member (or willing to become an ANS member).
- 3.5 (i) In the case of the ANS, Lawrie Austin and Elspeth McLachlan Plenaries, nominators ***will not be required to specify a particular Plenary***.  
(ii) Nominations will be called specifically for the International and Eccles Plenaries.
- 3.6 The LOC and ANS Council members can nominate speakers and should actively encourage plenary nominations from the entire ANS membership.
- 3.7 Each member can nominate up to five speakers in one year.
- 3.8 Members nominating speakers should consider diversity in their nominations, and, if possible, nominate Plenary speakers of different genders or from different geographical locations.
- 3.9 Diversity across the speakers will be considered by Council for the final selection in any given year.
- 3.10 The nomination should include the name and affiliation of the speaker and a 250 word paragraph in support of the nominee. In addition, the nominator should provide a list of no more than 10 papers published by the nominee that best demonstrate achievement and relevance to the ANS.
- 3.11 The Eccles plenary lecture can only be given once in a lifetime, and for all other Plenary lectures, no more than once every ten years.
- 3.12 Each speaker will typically have a total of 60 minutes for their presentation, including 15 minutes question time.

### **3.0 Selection Process for Plenary Speakers**

- 4.1 Nominations received will be collated by the ANS Secretariat.
- 4.2 Nominations will be presented to the ANS Secretary to be checked prior to being forwarded to the ANS Council for voting.
- 4.3 (i) In the case of the ANS, Lawrie Austin and Elspeth McLachlan Plenaries, nominators *will not be required to specify a particular Plenary*. The ANS Council will vote on all nominees and the top-ranked nominees will then be assigned to one of the lectures by the ANS Council.  
(ii) The ANS Council will rank the International and Eccles Plenary nominations independently.
- 4.4 A ranked list of alternates will be also be chosen.
- 4.5 The President writes to the successful nominees and determines their willingness to accept the invitation and present at the meeting.
- 4.6 If a speaker is unavailable the next highest ranked nominee will be invited.
- 4.7 If a speaker accepts and then withdraws before the meeting, the President must immediately notify the Executive. An alternative will then be sought where feasible.
- 4.8 All Plenary speakers receive a certificate, medal, full meeting registration, return economy airfares to the meeting, and accommodation.