



Australian Neuroscience Society Newsletter

No. 4

December, 2010

www.ans.org.au

ANS 2011: See you in Auckland, Jan 31 - Feb 3



President's Perspective

The New Zealand LOC, Chaired by Professor Louise Nicholson, is to be highly congratulated for an outstanding outcome regarding the number of registrations for the Auckland meeting. At the close of Early Bird Registration, there were a record total of ~714 registrations and 540 abstracts. The total number of registrations has now climbed to 789; we are running a sweepstake on reaching 800....

I am also delighted to announce that Professor John Rostas, The University of Newcastle, has been appointed as President Elect of the Australian Neuroscience Society. His nomination was unopposed. He will take up the position following the Auckland meeting in 2011 and serve as President 2012-2013. John brings a wealth of experience to the position having served on Council as Editor from 1984-1995. He has also been a staunch and visionary supporter of the Society since its inception in 1980.

I have completed my visits to the different States in Australia to discuss issues facing neuroscience as well as ANS's role as a peak body. I am also going to New Zealand a few days before the ANS meeting to visit the University of Otago on 25th & 26th January as well as the University of Auckland on the 27th. As I have mentioned previously, two major themes have emerged, namely the need for increased support and profile for our early and mid-career researchers and the necessity and importance of forging stronger and sustainable links with the clinical professions both for the benefit of the Society and to ensure a coordinated approach to advocacy for the neuroscience discipline. Once I have met with the New Zealand membership, I will summarise the discussions and many creative suggestions that you have given me to present to the Council meeting in Auckland and subsequently to the AGM. Having listened for a year, the important thing now will be to kick a few goals.

Links with other Societies continue to develop. The issue of advocacy was discussed further and very positively at SfN in San Diego with the idea that SfN would be able to provide generic advice and materials regarding advocacy and lobbying to other Neuroscience Societies. In addition, the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) has initiated a

way to build links with ANS, the Japan Neuroscience Society, the Chinese Neuroscience Society and SfN by funding representatives to sit on its Program Committee. SfN has been involved in the past and JNS will do so at the Program Committee meeting in Brussels (March 31st – April 1st 2011) to plan the 2012 FENS Congress. China and Australia will be invited to join the Program Committee for future meetings. I also attended an excellent joint meeting of the Indian Academy of Neuroscience and the Federation of Asian-Oceanian Neuroscience Societies (FAONS) in Lucknow, India, hosted by their respective Presidents Professor Rakesh Shukla and Professor PK Seth together with their wonderfully hospitable support teams. There was good representation from ANS and I thank those members who attended. The FAONS Council continued discussions regarding future meetings and settled on ANS hosting the FAONS Symposium at the 2013 meeting, i.e. a year later than originally proposed, but with a timeframe that will allow planning for a vibrant program.

The year seems to have flown by and I look forward to seeing you all in Auckland.

Sarah Dunlop, ANS President
December 2010

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ANS AUCKLAND 2011

INVITATION TO SKYCITY CONVENTION CENTRE, AUCKLAND FOR ANS 2011

New Zealand is the exciting location for the 31st Annual Meeting of the Australian Neuroscience Society. It is world renowned for its diverse landscapes, pristine wilderness and exciting outdoor activities. The conference will be held in Auckland, New Zealand's largest city which is set on the beautiful Hauraki Gulf and is home to three of New Zealand's eight major universities.

Our Plenary Lecturers for this international meeting are Tobias Bonhoeffer of the Max-Planck-Institut für Neurobiologie, Peter Dunkley of the University of Newcastle, Terence O'Brien of the Royal Melbourne Hospital and Seong Seng Tan of the University of Melbourne. The symposia, oral communications and posters will reflect the cutting edge of neuroscience in New Zealand, Australia and overseas.

Located under the landmark Sky Tower, the forthcoming venue at Sky City Convention Centre is close to major tourist attractions such as the historic Auckland Museum and bustling recreational waterfront. Dubbed 'The City of Sails', Auckland is set on a narrow volcanic isthmus of land between the Waitemata and Manukau harbours, frequently dotted with yachts and pleasure boats.

The blend of islands, Polynesian culture, glistening harbours and modern city environment creates a lifestyle ranked amongst the best in the world. Surrounded by hills and bush land, Auckland offers diverse natural beauty from the golden sands of the East Coast beaches to the black sands of the West Coast and the spectacular Hauraki Gulf with its many islands.

We invite you to come to ANS 2011 and discover why Auckland is one of the best places in the world to live - and visit.

For further details of registration and abstract submission please visit the website at: www.sallyjayconferences.com.au/ans2011

Louise Nicholson, Chair, Organising Committee ANS 2011

ANS UPDATE

ANS Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Neuroscience Society will be held at 5.30pm on Wednesday February 2nd, 2011 in room NZ1&2 of SkyCity Convention Centre, Auckland.

Proposed increase in membership fee linked to CPI

At the 2010 ANS AGM in Sydney, the motion to increase ANS membership fees for the first time in 7 years, to \$115+GST (\$126.50) for full membership and \$55+GST (\$60.50) for student membership, was approved by ANS members. This increase was slightly less than the CPI increase over that time period and better aligned ANS income to support of ANS activities. There was considerable support from the membership for an annual increase in membership fees, preferably linked to CPI, so that this issue did not need to be revisited periodically. This was therefore discussed at the mid-year ANS Council meeting and Council agreed to a yearly increase in the membership fee for all members.

This will be discussed further in the Treasurer's report at the AGM in Auckland in 2011 and there will then be a vote on the motion: *That there will be a yearly increase in the membership fee for all ANS members linked to CPI.*

Jacqueline Phillips, December 2010

ANS Council Elections

ANS called for nominations for ANS Council positions that fall vacant in 2011, for the positions of President-Elect and Council Representatives for Tasmania, Queensland and NSW. A nomination for President-Elect was received from John Rostas, University of Newcastle, who was elected unopposed. The current holders of the Tasmania (Rob Gasperini) and Qld (Elizabeth Coulson) positions nominated for a second consecutive term. No additional nominations were received and so they were elected unopposed.

Three nominations for Representative of NSW were received, from Thomas Fath, Janet Taylor and Kay Double. Accordingly, a postal ballot for NSW members will be required to fill this position. Included below are brief statements from each of the candidates to assist NSW members with their decision. Also enclosed for NSW members is a ballot paper, with instructions on how to vote and two voting envelopes. Please make sure that you read the instructions carefully so that your vote will count. Completed ballot papers are to be posted to the ANS Secretariat, Sally Jay Conferences and **MUST** be received by **Wednesday 26th January 2011**. All NSW members are encouraged to vote.

(continued next page)

NSW Representative Nominee Policy Statements

Kay Double

Kay Double is a Principal Research Fellow and NHMRC Senior Research Fellow at Neuroscience Research Australia in Sydney. I am also Associate Professor in Pharmacology at the University of New South Wales. My research focuses on neurodegenerative disorders, in particular Parkinson's disease. As a member of ANS for almost two decades I believe the ANS Committee, including the State Representatives, should maintain and develop the association's roles in developing the professional careers of Australian neuroscientists, as the acknowledged peak body for neuroscience research in Australia and a source of information and expertise in this area for government and lay organizations. As NSW representative I would be keen to organize more state-based events for members, especially to develop the skills of our younger members. As current Secretary (until 2011) for the National Association of Research Fellows of the NHMRC I believe I have the relevant skills, experience and contacts and would be pleased to represent my NSW ANS colleagues in this position.

Thomas Fath

The driving factor for my nomination as NSW State Representative for ANS is the wish to strengthen the Neuroscience Community in NSW with a particular focus on promoting joint activities between different Universities and Institutions. This would include fostering close relationships and coordinating activities with Neuroscientific bodies such as Brain Sciences UNSW and The Sydney Chapter of the American Society for Neuroscience (SfN). To facilitate and achieve this I aim to establish a local council for ANS on State Level. A further focus will be to stimulate more public outreach activities and communication with local and national representatives of the public community to enhance the awareness of the significance of Neuroscience Research in Australia. Since my move to Australia in 2005, my past involvement with ANS has been limited to the participation in the Annual Meeting of the society. I started to engage more in activities of the Australian Neuroscience Community when taking up the position as Secretary/Treasurer of the Sydney Chapter of SfN at the start of 2010 which poses an ideal and important platform to promote Australian Neuroscience internationally. To elaborate on and expand these activities I would welcome the opportunity to act as State Representative of ANS.

Janet Taylor

I am a NHMRC Senior Research Fellow at the Neuroscience Research Australia and Conjoint Associate Professor at the University of New South Wales in Sydney. My research interests are in human motor control, spinal cord plasticity and proprioception. As a member of the Australian Neuroscience Society since 1994, I have benefited from the work of former Council Members and I would like to contribute to the Society. I am committed to maintaining ANS as a growing society, and to promoting neuroscience within the scientific and broader community. As NSW state representative, I would work towards maintaining contact between members and the society, keeping medical research prominent on the state political agenda, and a higher public profile for neuroscience.

Composition of ANS Council 2011

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We thank retiring members of Council Past-President David Vaney and NSW Representative Peregrine Osborne for their contribution to the Society.

ANS NEWS

Science meets Parliament 2011 – Call for Expressions of Interest

ANS is a member society of FASTS (Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies) and for the past few years has sponsored up to two ANS members to attend FASTS Science meets Parliament (SmP) event in Canberra. SmP is held over two days and brings up to 200 scientists from all over Australia for face-to-face meetings and forums with Parliamentarians in Canberra.

The aims and objectives of SmP are:

- To provide scientists with a unique professional development opportunity to get a clear sense of the competing rationalities of science, politics and public policy.
- To stimulate and inform Parliament's discussion of scientific issues that underpin the economic, social and environmental well-being of the nation, and through them enhance the understanding of science through the wider community;
- To establish linkages between scientists, politicians and policy makers which will continue to provide exchanges of information and ideas well beyond the day of the event itself;
- To provide scientists with a broad outlook for opportunities that may require the input of scientific knowledge to further the interests of the nation.

See the FASTS website for further details (www.fastsof.org).

We are calling for expressions of interest from ANS members who would like to attend SmP in 2011. The dates have not yet been set but in the past have been around mid-March. ANS will provide registration to SmP, return economy airfare and up to 2 nights accommodation in Canberra. If you are interested in attending, please let us know by contacting the ANS Secretary Ann Turnley (turnley@unimelb.edu.au). In the event of more than 2 expressions of interest, selection of the ANS representatives for SmP will be based on the closest alignment of the science with Parliament's areas of research interest.

Australia-NZ Brain Bee Challenge National Final

The National Final of the 2010 Brain Bee Challenge will take place on Monday 31 January and Tuesday 1 February, 2010, at the ANS Meeting in Auckland. Registrants are welcome to attend the final on Tuesday 1st February at the SkyCity Convention Centre, room Epsom 2, between 12-2pm, or the Prize Giving at 5pm.

Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience (ACAN) 2011

A reminder that applications for ACAN 2011 close on Monday 13 Dec 2010. If you want to learn neurophysiology from the experts, don't delay -- apply now! ACAN 2011 will be held on North Stradbroke Island, near Brisbane, from 27 March to 16 April 2011.

In order to apply, you must:

- * be a currently-enrolled PhD student, or
- * be a postdoctoral fellow or junior faculty, preferably no more than 5 years after completing your PhD
- * preferably be a full-time resident of Australia or NZ, but a small number of applicants living in other countries may be accepted

In your application you must include:

- * a completed application form
- * your CV
- * a cover letter clearly stating what you hope to gain from the course and how it will assist your future research. This should be spelled out in detail, as if writing a mini-grant application. It is not sufficient to simply state that you wish to learn new techniques.
- * letter of recommendation from your PhD supervisor or the head of your laboratory

Scholarships are available for NZ citizens and permanent residents -- see the ACAN website for details. For full details about the course, including instructions on how to apply, visit the ACAN website: www.ans.org.au/acan

Journal information from Janet Keast and Joel Bornstein

Frontiers in Neuroscience (www.frontiersin.org) is a rapidly growing group of open-access journals, launched in 2007 and now the second largest publisher of neuroscience. It is a great way to further promote Australian neuroscience to the world. Frontiers publishes articles of the following types: Book Reviews, Clinical Case Studies, General Commentaries, Hypothesis & Theory, Methods, Mini-Reviews, Opinions, Original Research, Perspectives, Reviews and Specialty Grand Challenge articles. Two of the most recent specialty journals added to this family, Frontiers in Autonomic Neuroscience and Frontiers in Enteric Neuroscience are led by Australian neuroscientists – Associate Professor Janet Keast (janet.keast@sydney.edu.au) and Professor Joel Bornstein (j.bornstein@unimelb.edu.au). Janet and Joel welcome your submissions, and would love to hear your thoughts on Specialty Topics that could be published in thematic issues of these Journals. For more information see www.frontiersin.org/autonomic_neuroscience and www.frontiersin.org/enteric_neuroscience.

Upcoming conferences

See ANS website for further details: www.ans.org.au/upcoming-conferences

Cortical Development: Neural Stem Cells to Neural Circuits. Chania, Crete, Greece May 19-22, 2011. www.corticaldevelopment.org

XXVth International Symposium on Cerebral Blood Flow, Metabolism and Function & Xth International Conference on Quantification of Brain Function with PET (BRAIN '11 & BRAINPET'11), Barcelona, Spain May 24-28th, 2011. www2.kenes.com/brain/pages/home.aspx

IBRO World Congress, Florence, Italy, July 14-19, 2011. Call for Symposia/Workshops is now open on the Congress web site (www.ibro2011.org) and the deadline is April 30, 2010

29th International Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research (AWCBBR) 27 – 31 August, 2011, Queenstown, New Zealand. The Call for Registrations and Abstracts will be sent out in March 2011. For information, email awcbr@psy.otago.ac.nz, or visit the website, <http://www.awcbr.org>.

23rd Biennial Meeting of the ISN/ESN, 28th August-1st September 2011, Athens, Greece. For further information go to www.isn2011.org.

Biannual World Congress on Huntington's Disease, Melbourne, Australia, 11-14 September 2011. The World Congress is the peak clinical and research conference on Huntington's Disease. www.worldcongress-hd2011.org

The 20th International Visual Field and Imaging Symposium, Melbourne, Australia: 22-25 January 2012. www.ivfis.com

Authorized by Ann Turnley

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DONATIONS TO ANS RESEARCH (GIFT) FUND

Members are reminded that donations to the ANS Research (Gift) Fund are tax deductible. If you wish to make a donation, please email the ANS Treasurer, Prof Jackie Phillips at: j.k.phillips@murdoch.edu.au All donations, regardless of amount, are most welcome.

ANS POLICY ON REQUESTS FOR PUBLICITY VIA EMAIL CIRCULATION

The standing policy of the ANS is to minimize email traffic to members. This is done by bundling brief announcements or news which needs to be disseminated between print newsletters into (at most) monthly plain text email circulars. Attachments are not sent with email to members, with very few exceptions (such as our core business of an annual Society meeting). This is to reduce both the risk of virus transmission via attachments received from outside sources, and the volume (ie. cost) of email traffic through University or Institute based servers. Meetings and other significant announcements (such as job vacancies) will also receive Society publicity, via links to appropriate web pages from the ANS web site, and by subsequent inclusion into the next print ANS newsletter when appropriate. Requests for these publicity services should be directed either to the Secretary, or to Sally Jay Conferences.

ANS WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER

The ANS website is on-line at www.ans.org.au. Members are encouraged to regularly check the website for updated information on positions vacant, travel awards and national and international neuroscience meetings. While announcements and news items cannot always be broadcasted as an email to ANS members, they are promptly loaded on the ANS website and so it is always worth a regular check of the news page. Current and recent newsletters are available to be downloaded in PDF format and information about ANS, including the current list of council members, historical facts and how to apply for ANS Awards and Prizes is readily available. For further information or requests to place announcements on the ANS website, please contact Ann Turnley (email turnley@unimelb.edu.au, phone 03 8344 3981).

Similarly, we are very happy to include information or news items in the ANS newsletter. Anticipated copy deadlines are set out below. Material for inclusion can be topics for discussion, meeting announcements, meeting reports, prizes and awards received by ANS members, obituaries, and any other items of potential interest to members of our society.

DEADLINES FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

April 2011 Newsletter: 1st April 2011

Address and contact details for the ANS secretariat:

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Australian Neuroscience Society



Annual General Meeting

5:30pm, Wednesday 2nd February 2011

Room NZ1&2, SkyCity Convention Centre, Auckland, NZ

Agenda

1. Attendance and apologies
2. Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting
3. President's report
4. Secretary's report
5. Treasurer's report
 - a) Vote on motion for ANS membership fees to increase annually linked to CPI.
Motion: *That there will be a yearly increase in the membership fee for all ANS members linked to CPI.*
6. Editor's report
7. 2011 ANS Awards and Prizes
8. Award of Honorary Membership of the ANS to Robert Rush and Bruce Livett.
9. Future ANS meetings
10. Council members for 2011
11. Other business