



Australian Neuroscience Society Newsletter

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President's Perspective

Following on from talking to the ANS membership in each of the states in Australia during 2010, I continued the discussion with the New Zealand membership and visited the Brain Health & Repair Centre, University of Otago and the Centre for Brain Research, University of Auckland. The full document summarising everyone's excellent points can be found on the ANS website at <http://www.ans.org.au/issues-for-neuroscience/>. This document has formed the basis for discussion of a number of major issues within Council relating to early/mid career researchers, advocacy, building links with clinicians, the date of the meeting and the name of the Society. We will keep you informed.

Good news. **The proportion of NHMRC funding for Neuroscience and Clinical Neuroscience improved in 2010.** Total NHMRC funding / % Neuroscience and Clinical Neuroscience:— 2005: \$411m / 10.93%; 2006: \$451m / 9.47%; 2007: \$534m / 8.92%; 2008: \$626m; 2009: \$707m / 8.25%; 2010: \$710 / 10%.

Much has happened since the wonderfully successful 2011 meeting in Auckland.

With the help of John Rostas and Ann Turnley, I submitted an application to the ARC for ANS to be a **Peak Body in the Excellence Research Australia 2012 (ERA2012) Consultation process**. Thank you to the 21 senior ANS members who agreed so willingly to act on ANS's behalf. I aligned the group of 21 along the natural lines of the GRP Panels and we therefore have expertise covering a wide range of neuroscience journals. Our preliminary analysis reveals that there are substantial numbers of journals which do not have the Neuroscience FoR code but should and others, mostly low ranking, that have only the neuroscience FoR code and should have others. In addition, there are some journals which are not listed and then there are the issues regarding the rankings (A*, A, B and C) for some journals. I hope that in response to my email via the ANS Secretariat you were able to put your comments on the ARC website.

See you on the Gold Coast, 29th January - 1st February



The threat to NHMRC funding also appears to be very real, with substantive cuts mooted. <http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/brace-for-higher-medicine-costs/st>. The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute has taken the lead and set up an excellent website with details of the campaign and ways for individual researchers and members of the public to respond. **Please act.** (<http://www.discoveriesneeddollars.org/home>). On behalf of ANS, I have written to the entire Expenditure Review Committee as well as other politicians including the Opposition; the letter is on the ANS website home page (<http://www.ans.org.au>). You will have received my email urging you to write letters to Members of the Expenditure Review Committee of Federal Parliament. Hard copy personalised letters carry far more weight than electronic lobbying. **Please write your own letters and keep up the lobbying of the Government and the Coalition until the May budget.**

Sarah Dunlop, April 2011

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ANS PRESIDENT:

Professor Sarah Dunlop
School of Animal Biology
University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Hwy Crawley 6009

Tel: +61-8-6488-1403
sarah@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

ANS SECRETARY:

A/Professor Ann Turnley
Centre for Neuroscience
University of Melbourne
Victoria 3010

Tel: +61-3-8344-3981
turnley@unimelb.edu.au

ANS TREASURER:

Professor Jacqueline Phillips
Macquarie University
Macquarie Drive
Sydney NSW 2109

Tel: +61-2-9850-4000
treasurer@ans.org.au

ANS EDITOR:

Professor David Small
Menzies Research Institute
199 Macquarie Street
Hobart, Tasmania 7000

Tel: +61-3-6226-7700
d.h.small@menzies.utas.edu.au

2011 ANS Meeting Auckland

Auckland became a hotbed of scientific activity in January when 830 world-leading neuroscientists arrived in the city for the annual conference of the Australian Neuroscience Society. The event took place at the SkyCity Convention Centre; only the second time the meeting has been held in New Zealand in its 31 years. The conference was coordinated by the Centre for Brain Research in conjunction with The University of Otago, and ran from January 31st to February 3rd. The topics covered ranged from understanding brain mechanisms involved in addiction and memory, to potential new drugs for the treatment of diseases like stroke and Parkinson's disease.

Local organising Chair Professor Louise Nicholson reports that from the wonderful opening Mihi Whakatau through to the spectacular closing dinner at Orams Marine, the conference went without a hitch. The high international standard of science was supported by detailed and careful planning and delivery ensuring that the conference was both highly memorable as well as scientifically beneficial to the delegates.

"The conference was everything I had hoped for," says Louise. "There was a wide coverage of all fields of neuroscience with presentations from top scientists, emerging researchers and our own postgraduates. From symposia on neurogenesis to excitotoxic cell death, new findings were openly shared, and many offered potential pathways for the treatment of disease.

The place was a 'buzz' with conversation during the breaks where ideas were exchanged, debated and further developed. The meeting has really secured a place for New Zealand neuroscience research on the international circuit."

Running alongside the event were a number of satellite symposia that were held at The University of Auckland Business School. The symposia looked at research on stem cells, auditory neuroscience, dementia, vision and sensorimotor control.

The Director of the CBR, Professor Richard Faull, said, "Hosting the ANS Conference in Auckland provided a



A) Mihi Whakatau welcome at Opening Ceremony; B) Geoff Donnan (left) presenting Eccles Lecturer Terry O'Brien (right) with the ANS medallion; C) Seong-Seng Tan delivering ANS Plenary lecture; D) John Rostas (left) presenting Lawrie Austin Lecturer Peter Dunkley (right) with ANS medallion; E) David Vaney (right) presenting ANS Overseas Plenary Lecturer Tobias Bonhoeffer (left) with ANS medallion; F) ANS President Sarah Dunlop awarding ANS medallion to Past-President David Vaney; G) Sarah Dunlop awarding 2011 Paxinos-Watson Prize to John Reynolds; H) Sarah Dunlop and George Paxinos award 2011 Nina Kondelos Prize to Glenda Halliday; I) Sarah Dunlop with Honorary Members Bruce Livett (left) and Robert Rush (right). J) LOC Chair Louise Nicholson; K) Kapa haka performance at conference dinner.

great opportunity to showcase our CBR research to the leading Australian neuroscientists and to promote the ongoing development of trans-Tasman collaborative research. International multidisciplinary collaborative research is at the very heart of innovative translational science and is critical to achieving the CBR vision – 'Working together to improve lives'. It's hoped the success of the conference will lead to more international neuroscience collaborations both across the Tasman and more widely.

Thank you to Louise Nicholson and her LOC team and Sally Jay Conferences for organising a most successful conference.

2011 Awards and Prizes

Thank you to the judges of the 2011 ANS Awards and Prizes. This was a difficult job, as again there was a good number of highly deserving candidates. For each Award/Prize, ANS officers who do not have conflicts of interest with any of the applicants select three judges who are ANS members. The judges are then each asked to rank the applicants; their identities, rankings and comments are not made available to the applicants or the other judges.

Ehsan Arabzadeh from the University of NSW won the *AW Campbell Award* for best contribution by a member of the society in their first 5 postdoctoral years

Glenda Halliday from Neuroscience Research Australia won the *Nina Kondelos Prize*, which is for a female neuroscientist who has made an outstanding contribution to basic or clinical neuroscience research.

The *Paxinos-Watson Prize* is awarded for the most significant neuroscience paper published by a full member of the society in the year prior to submission of the nomination. This year's Prize was awarded to the 2009 paper by **Jan Schulz, Peter Redgrave, Carsten Mehring, Ad Aertsen, Koreen**

Clements, Jeff R. Wickens and John Reynolds for the paper: *Short-latency activation of striatal spiny neurons via subcortical visual pathways* published in the Journal of Neuroscience Volume 29, pages 6336-6347.

Student poster and oral prizes

The Istvan Törk Prize is for the best oral presentation by a student member of the Society at the Annual Meeting and was awarded to two students in 2011: Jonathan Hakim (University of Sydney) and Shane Liddelow (University of Melbourne).

The Sir Grafton Elliot-Smith Award is for the best poster by a student member of the Society at the Annual Meeting and was awarded to five students in 2011: Matt Fogarty (University of Queensland), Tenelle Wilks (University of Western Australia), Jo Stratton (Florey Neuroscience Institutes), Cameron Evans (University of Western Australia) and Laura Williams (University of Adelaide).

Thank you to the many members who took time at the Auckland 2011 conference to judge the student presentations. Given the large number of excellent presentations, this is a difficult but much appreciated task.

ANS 2012 Gold Coast

Planning for the ANS Gold Coast meeting from 29th January to 1st February 2012 is proceeding well. The meeting will be held at Jupiters Convention Centre. Confirmed Plenary speakers include Karl Diesseroth from Stanford University, who will give the Overseas Plenary lecture, Heather Young from the University of Melbourne will present the ANS Plenary Lecture and Janusz Lipski from the University of Auckland will present the Lawrie Austin Lecture. The Eccles Lecturer will be announced at a later date.

Call for Symposia

ANS Council would like to receive proposals for symposia for the scientific meeting which will be held on the Gold Coast, Queensland from Sunday 29th January - Wednesday 1st February, 2012. ANS symposia are chosen from submissions made to council in the year prior to the annual meeting. For the 2012 ANS meeting, symposium proposals should be submitted by email to the ANS Secretary (turnley@unimelb.edu.au). All proposals must be prepared on the proposal form (available at www.ans.org.au/ans-annual-conference/ans-symposia/) and be received **no later than 29th April, 2011**.

Symposia will normally have 4 speakers and be arranged in themes of interest to the broad membership of the society. Funding will be available to contribute to costs of one invited overseas speaker per symposium. Overseas speakers (not from Australia or New Zealand) can receive free registration, welcome mixer and cocktail reception tickets and up to \$2000 to cover costs of travel and accommodation. All financial support will be paid directly to the overseas speaker. No ANS funding will be available to support costs of Australian or New Zealand speakers, chairs or symposium organisers. ANS Council wishes to emphasize that it is not necessary for a symposium to have an overseas speaker, as high quality proposals with all speakers coming from Australia and New Zealand are most welcome. Although proposals will be considered primarily on scientific merit, Council will take

into consideration the geographic and gender diversity of the proposed speakers. In general, speakers in each symposium should come from different institutions. Symposium proposals that include early career researchers as the proposer or as speaker are encouraged.

Proposers need to either be current members of the ANS or to become new members of the ANS, prior to submitting their application. Renew your membership or join the ANS online at www.sallyjayconferences.com.au/ansmembership/

Call for Satellite Meetings

If you are planning to hold a satellite meeting in conjunction with the ANS 2012 meeting at the Gold Coast and want to be included in the program, ANS Council needs to receive proposals **by May 13th** for consideration at the mid-year council meeting. Proposals stating the name of the satellite, contact details and the proposed dates, venue and program (if known at this stage) can be sent by email to the ANS Secretary (turnley@unimelb.edu.au).

ANS 2013 Melbourne

The 2013 meeting will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, from Sunday February 3rd to Wednesday February 6th.

ANS 2014 – call for LOC chair

It is planned that the 2014 ANS meeting will be held in Adelaide. ANS Council is calling for expressions of interest from South Australian members to undertake the role of LOC chair for this meeting. Please submit your EoI to the ANS Secretary (turnley@unimelb.edu.au) **by May 13th** for consideration at the mid-year ANS Council meeting.

Obituary: MARK JOSEPH ROWE : 18.2.1943 - 1.1.2011

When Emeritus Professor Mark Rowe was killed in a cycling accident in Ku-Ring-Gai National Park on New Year's Day, Australia lost one of its finest neuroscientists. Academia, too, lost a person of rare and unshakeable integrity and his friends lost a convivial, generous and cultivated man.

One way of summarising his intellectual and personal life is to attest that it was a daily refutation of CP Snow's dogma of the schism of the two cultures. Mark Rowe was a scientist with an enormous body of achievement but also with a profound love of concert music and opera, of art and of architecture. He was also a man for whom sport and athleticism were really important - again, belying the cliché of the scholar as an inactive library-bound, almost monkish, contemplative. This is well illustrated by the "Recreations" section which he provided for Who's Who in Australia: "classical music, concerts, operas, recorded music, bushwalking, native flora and fauna, tennis, cycling, kayaking and squash".

Mark Rowe was born in Sydney on 18 February 1943, the eldest child of Merton Clyde and Dorothy Rowe. Clyde, an accountant and bank manager, had played first-grade Rugby Union for Northern Suburbs and Dorothy was a dynamo who, when securing a position as a librarian in the NSW public service, reduced her age by 20 years. Because of his father's occupation, Mark Rowe's childhood was peripatetic: primary schooling in Narrabri, secondary schooling with the Marist Brothers, first at Maitland (just behind John Bell) when his father was based in Singleton, and later in Parramatta, after Clyde was transferred to Springwood. He enrolled in the Pharmacy course at Sydney University in 1960, concluding with an "Honours" year in pharmacology with the charismatic Dr Ted Johnson who clearly saw great potential in his young student and cultivated the rigour of thought which remained Rowe's lifelong characteristic. Johnson also consistently played classical music in his laboratory which doubtless encouraged his young protégé to realise that art and science are perfectly compatible.

After a not entirely congenial MSc period in the laboratories at Callan Park Hospital, Rowe moved to the fledgling School of Physiology at the University of NSW for PhD research with the redoubtable Professor Ian Darian-Smith and in the company of fellow student, Barry Sessle (in later years, Dean of Dentistry in Ontario). Darian-Smith had worked with America's leading brain scientist, Vernon Mountcastle, at Johns Hopkins and this ensured that Rowe and Sessle had a modern, "cutting-edge" graduate education. After submitting a thesis of Proustian proportions, Rowe sailed to America with his wife Janet (née Lockhart), a research biochemist, where, supported by a Post-Doctoral Fellowship of the US Public Health Service, he spent eighteen productive months in the neurobiology laboratory of the Australian Nobel Laureate, Sir John Eccles in Buffalo. There he met the dynamic Robert Schmidt who, having earlier been an Eccles PhD student at the ANU in Canberra, had recently taken the Chair of Physiology in Kiel (Germany). Schmidt's work had been highly relevant to Rowe's own previous research and - with a close personal and scientific relationship developing - Rowe then spent a year in Kiel on a Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

Late in 1972 the Rowes returned to Sydney and a lectureship at UNSW where he began a stellar career, which led to a personal Professorship in 1988 and one of the elite Scientia chairs in 2001. Over that time, he published more than 110 research papers - mostly in such pre-eminent publications as the Journal of Physiology (UK), the Journal of Neurophysiology (USA) and Experimental Brain Research (Germany) - secured 45 very

substantial research grants from the ARC and the NH&MRC, and supervised almost 30 higher degree and "Honours" students. His international reputation was immense.

What, in simple terms, did his research involve? Fundamentally, he studied the sensory nervous system, the means by which the brain receives reliable information about the inner world of our bodies and the external world in which we live. Most of his effort was directed to the skin and the ways in which we can perceive indentation, pressure and vibration, but he also studied the electrical sensors in the bill of the Platypus and the sensors around bones. At all times he was concerned to quantify precisely the magnitudes of the stimuli which he applied to those receptors, recognising that there is no better way to understand the input-output processing of the nervous system.

He was always quick to adopt new methods -- of both discovery and analysis -- whether these were anatomical, electronic or computational. He never shirked experimental or conceptual difficulties as some others do. One such task was his determination to record simultaneously from primary nerve cells in the spinal cord and cells in the upper parts of the brain to which they were functionally linked. This is, really, an attempt to locate two needles in distinct haystacks - yet he did so, with astonishingly frequent and fruitful success. In short, what he found should revolutionise the way in which we understand the two different operations - sensory and motor - of the nervous system. Until Rowe's research, the general view - after Eccles's work on motor nerve cells - was that linkage between cells is additive. In truth, the sensory system must operate differently; it is crucial that changes in our world must not be missed. There is, therefore, a greater security and fidelity in the sensory system, and it was Mark's laboratory which established this.

Despite his formidable moral and intellectual calibre, he was in no sense a negative person. In fact, one of the commonest words used about Mark is "generosity". One clinical colleague recently recalled the amount of time that Mark took to advise him about writing his proposal for a Doctor of Science degree and then his generous editing of the drafts. He offered the same kind of support to a plethora of colleagues - on academic and personal matters, alike - as well as to innumerable students. Indeed, he did this so often and unstintingly that I and others sometimes wondered how he found the time to do so much of his own demanding research and writing.

This generosity was also reflected in his hospitality. With Janet's as the mastermind (and Mark the proud barista dispensing multiple coffees) the Rowe dinner-parties were legendary: the wines were always "masked" and great store set by accurate appraisal and, if possible, identification. And not only the wines. Whenever music was played it was - with a notable exception - also always "blind" and my mettle was invariably rigorously tested (with an appropriate admonition when I "failed"). That exception, especially when those dinners ran to the small hours, was an almost obligatory playing of Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance (No. 1) [the source of "Land of Hope and Glory"] and the closing scene of Wagner's Goetterdaemmerung - at high volume. On more recent occasions, Rowe regretted our diminished staying powers and our scurvy abandonment of Elgar and Wagner.

Mark Rowe is survived by his 99-year-old mother, by his wife Janet, his daughter Clare (a cellist with the Halle Orchestra in Manchester), his son Lachlan (a Sydney architect), his sister Alison (the former head of the Copyright Division of the ABC) and his brother Gerard (a Professor of Law in Germany).

John Carmody, UNSW

Australian and New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge 2011

**ANS
NEWS**
(cont'd)

We are proud to announce the Australian Brain Bee Champion for 2010 is Ben Thompson from Narrabundah College, ACT and our New Zealand Brain Bee Champion is Rachael Wiltshire from Samuel Marsden Collegiate School, North Island. Our Australian runner up was Wasiul Hoque from Baulkham Hills High School, NSW and Kerstin McEwan from Riccarton High School, South Island was our New Zealand runner up. The 2010 National Final was held at the ANS Conference in Auckland on January 31st – February 1st 2011 and was a nail biting contest between the 10 finalists. The students thoroughly enjoyed being active members of the ANS Conference and attended lectures, talked with a number of neuroscientists about their current research and had the opportunity to get an exciting insight into a life and career in the world of neuroscience.



LEFT:
(Left to Right) Professor Perry Bartlett, QBI, Wasiul Hoque Australian runner up, Ben Thompson Australian Champion, Rachael Wiltshire New Zealand Champion, Kerstin McEwan New Zealand runner up, Professor Sarah Dunlop ANS President



RIGHT:
(Left to Right) Ashkan Zaniani WA, Amal George SA, Kerstin McEwan NZS, Esmi Zajackowski QLD, Rachael Wiltshire NZN, Wasiul Hoque NSW, Janan Sykes TAS, Ben Thompson ACT, Sally Naughton NT, Adheeshee Sayakkara VIC

Both our Australian and New Zealand Champions have booked their flights and are excited about competing in the International Brain Bee at the IBRO Conference in Florence later this year. We wish them all the best and hope to have our first ever Australian or New Zealand Champion at the International level.

The Australian and New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge has again grown this year with 384 schools and 11,434 students registered for Round 1, an increase from 378 schools and 10,891 students in 2010. We have schools representing all Australian States and Territories and both North and South Islands in New Zealand. We are increasing our participation from remote schools and have a better spread of representation from the major urban areas as well as rural areas. For example

we have Cooktown QLD, Broome WA and Humpty Doo NT represented this year.

Our early bird registration prize was won by St Mary's College, Broome WA. They were randomly selected from all schools that had registered before December 31st 2010. St Mary's College students received a class set of 'Brain Facts' books and had press coverage in the Broome Advertiser on February 24th 2011.

As we go to print Round 1 of the Brain Bee Challenge is well under way during Brain Awareness Week (March 14th-18th). The students are savouring the experience and are all keen to find out who will successfully progress through to their respective State Finals in June/July 2011.

Book by ANS members

Imminent publication by Oxford University Press of the 2nd edition of 'Central Regulation of Autonomic Functions', edited by Associate Professors Ida Llewellyn-Smith (Flinders University) and Anthony Verberne (University of Melbourne).

Written in a clear and readable manner by an international collection of neuroscientists and physiologists, and nine chapters describe central autonomic circuits from the cerebral cortex to the periphery. Eight more chapters address specific bodily functions and their control by central autonomic circuits. Two additional chapters discuss cardio-respiratory integration and regulation of autonomic function by visceral and somatic afferents. All of the chapters are up-to-date and cover topics such as the central autonomic regulation of airways, gastrointestinal function, energy homeostasis, body temperature, and sexual function, reflecting the latest research. For more information go to: www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/Medicine/Neuroscience/?view=usa&ci=9780195306637

Faculty of 1000 Poster Repository

ANS has been asked by the Faculty of 1000 whether its members would like to present their ANS conference posters on the F1000 Posters website (<http://f1000posters.com/>). If you would like to do so, you can do so directly or via the F1000 Poster repository link on the ANS website <http://www.ans.org.au/general-interest/>.

F1000 Posters invites poster presenters from all national and



international conferences (past and present) across biology and medicine to deposit their posters into their new open access poster repository. Created by the post-publication peer-review service, Faculty of 1000 (F1000; the founders of BioMed Central,

Current Opinions journals etc), F1000 Posters provides a secure platform for all those who were unable to see the posters or attend the meeting (including those outside of the field) and provides an opportunity for them to view the work presented and provide feedback and ideas.

Posters deposited in F1000 Posters are also viewed by our expert Faculty of 10,000 world-renowned experts (including many Nobel Laureates and Lasker Award winners) who highlight those they believe to be particularly important developments for inclusion in the award-winning F1000 evaluation service. Selection of your poster for evaluation will bring the attention of a much wider audience to the novel work you are presenting than can be achieved by attending a single conference. Since their launch in June 2010, F1000 Posters already hosts posters from over 160 meetings including many of the largest meetings across biology and medicine, and top-performing posters can attract an impressive 400+ individual views in a month on the site.

If you have any questions about F1000 Posters or F1000, then please contact F1000 Posters directly. A list of the most commonly asked questions, with answers can be found on their website and a full list of responses received to-date from journals and publishers is also available.

NEWS FROM ANS STATE REPRESENTATIVES

New Zealand – Louise Nicholson

Brainy kids cheered on by rugby star and New Zealand chief scientist: The National Final of the Australia - New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge finished in a thrilling quick fire question round watched by top scientists from all over the world. Two students from New Zealand and eight students from Australia took part in the finals held as part of the Australian Neuroscience Society (ANS) Conference.

The New Zealand competitors led the way throughout the competition, which ended with a final tiebreaker between the North Island competitor Rachel Wiltshire and the South Island competitor Kerstin McEwan. Despite trailing throughout the question round, a top score on the patient diagnosis meant that Rachel, from Samuel Marsden Collegiate School in Wellington, became the overall winner. Rachel Wiltshire will now go on to compete in the international Brain Bee Challenge finals in Florence, Italy in July, alongside the Australian winner Ben Thompson.

The competition was held over two days at the CBR and SkyCity, with tests including patient diagnosis, anatomy observations and general neuroscience knowledge. It aims to encourage high school students to learn about the brain and brain diseases and encourage careers in science. Vodafone Warriors rugby player Lance Hohaia launched the nail-biting national final showing his support for brain research, to help find cures for sports players with brain and spinal injuries.

“As a professional athlete I need to take good care of my body,” Lance says. “To help me perform at my best I need to look after the computer that controls it all, my brain.

Your brain is a very powerful tool and its capabilities are staggering. Any additional knowledge we can gather will help us all understand how complex and important this organ really is. Professional sport tests you physically but it also tests your mental capacity. If there is a way to know more about how your brain functions I would definitely like to know as it would help me to improve as a person and as an athlete.”

The winners were presented with their prizes by Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor. Sir Peter discussed the importance of learning about the scientific process, and to recognise that research is a long-term venture. New Zealand competition winner Rachel Wiltshire says she was overwhelmed to take first place. “I really didn’t think I would win, as I was behind for so long,” she says. “It was a nerve-wracking final, but so exciting to think I’m now going to Italy! I would definitely recommend the Brain Bee to others, as I’ve had some amazing experiences like seeing a real brain, and learning about clinical diagnosis.”

Victoria – Joanne Britto

Brain Awareness week

This year our public speaker was Prof Brian Dean from the Mental Health Research Institute. Brian is well known for research in the molecular pathology of schizophrenia and discovering the role of muscarinic receptors in the pathology and treatment of schizophrenia. His lecture focused on recent developments, which suggest that schizophrenia may result from a brain energy deficit. The talk took us through an evolutionary perspective of the brain and how the increased complexity requires additional energy to sustain normal function. He explained how synapses are generated to a maximum number at 5 years of age followed by a decline in later years. This level of synaptic pruning is determined by energy supply, and interestingly, individuals who suffer from schizophrenia show signs of ‘over-pruning’ resulting in less functional synapses. It was pleasing to see both public lectures well attended and a lively discussion ensued after each talk.

Our School Outreach Program is gaining momentum and this year we had 27 enthusiastic researchers visit 11 schools throughout Victoria. Both the teachers and the students appreciate this opportunity as highlighted by recent feedback “... very engaging in his presentation on the functioning of the brain and was very patient in answering the deluge of questions from our very excited students. We look forward to hopefully having someone from the Australian Neuroscience Society visit us again next year.”

NEWS FROM ANS STATE REPRESENTATIVES (CONTIN.)

At the Victorian Neuroscience Network event there were exhibits from neuroscience research Universities/Institutes across Melbourne and a great evening was had by one and all. We were fortunate with the timing this year and members from the "Discoveries Needs Dollars" Campaign promoted their message. Don't forget to send letters to your local and federal member of parliament! See website www.discoveriesneeddollars.org/home.



Left to right: James Bourne, Joanne Britto and Brian Dean at the BAW public lecture at Monash University

I would like to thank the following people for making BAW 2011 a success:

ANS Victoria Committee: Richard Anderson, Nicole Bye, James Duce, Lisa Hutton, Heath Pardoe, Alan Rembach, Juliet Taylor, Richie for poster design.

BAW Speaker: Prof Brian Dean

School Outreach Program Speakers: Dasuni Alwis, Anzari Atik, Joanne Britto, Olivia Carter, Rose Chesworth, Peter Crack, Jodie Duncan, Melina Ellis, Shawna Farquharson, Rob Galinsky, David Hawkes, Sarah Hellewell, Izelle Labuschagne, Suzie Miller, Christina Mo, Karina Needham, Megan Oliva, Alan Rembach, Nigel Rogasch, Rebecca Sheean, Sarah Stephenson, Jo Strattan, Juliet Taylor, Tamara Tse, Kristi-Ann Villagonzalo, Adam Walker and Tamara Yawno.

"Stimulate the Brain" Trivia Night: Quiz Master Heath Pardoe

Victorian Neuroscience Network Exhibitors: Discoveries Need Dollars, Florey Neuroscience Institutes, Mental Health Research Institute, RMIT Health Innovations Research Institute, SfN Melbourne Chapter, Students of Brain Research and University of Melbourne.

Students of Brain Research (SOBR)

Graduate research students from across Melbourne are invited to join a new network that aims to bring together medical research students that have an interest in neuroscience and brain research.

The Students of Brain Research (SOBR) network is an inclusive social and academic network for all graduate medical research students in Melbourne with an emphasis on neuroscience and brain research. Students have commented that they "would love to have a way to connect with other medical research students. There are so many of us in Melbourne, why not meet each other!" and "meeting other students who understand the challenges of medical graduate research would be great". As such, SOBR hopes to bring these students together, facilitating new friendships, knowledge transfer, and collaborative opportunities while also strengthening Melbourne's claim as one of the world's leading medical

research centres.

A large number of research students from across Melbourne play an active role in the network, including students from:

- MDHS & Science faculties, and School of Engineering at the University of Melbourne
- Monash, Deakin, RMIT and La Trobe Universities
- Royal Melbourne, Austin & St. Vincent's hospitals
- Medical research institutes including Bio21, WEHI, Peter Mac, MCRI and the Bionic Ear



SOBR students at the Victorian Neuroscience Network event at Melbourne University.

SOBR encourages active involvement from its members, to help organise events, promote neuroscience-related events and learn more about the neuroscience that goes on around Melbourne.

Currently, SOBR hosts a Welcome Mixer and Brain Mini-conference. The Welcome Mixer is held in March and is a networking evening where students can meet each other and learn about the various medical research facilities around Melbourne. The mini-conference is held in November in conjunction with the highly acclaimed Melbourne Neuroscience Symposium, and allows students to share their latest research amongst peers and gain valuable experience in a conference environment.

If you are interested in joining the SOBR network please "like" Sobr- students of brain research page on facebook or for further information, please email sobrnetwork@gmail.com

Western Australia – Lindy Fitzgerald

To celebrate Brain Awareness Week for 2011, WA neuroscientists from The University of Western Australia and Curtin University conducted an interactive display at Scitech Discovery Centre. Organised by UWA's Associate Professor Jenny Rodger, children and their parents were involved in activities and games designed to educate them about their brains in a fun way. There was also a comparative brain display – a collection of real brains from a range of species such as a sheep, hamster, rat, mouse, fat-tailed dunnart, lizard and goldfish. A dissecting microscope and light source enabled discussion of simple evolutionary and ecological concepts.

Brain Awareness Week, 2011 was also marked by a seminar given by Professor Julian Partridge from the University of Bristol's Ecology of Vision Group, who is a UWA Distinguished Visiting Teacher. Professor Partridge spoke on colour as a property of the nervous system of the animal perceiving the light. He challenged behavioural and evolutionary ecologists who, he claims, have failed

to recognise that human colour perceptions are irrelevant for their studies. Round One of the 2011 Australian Brain Bee Challenge was also held in Brain Awareness Week and attracted WA students from 34 schools, many of them from outside the Perth metropolitan area. The 60 top ranking students from this round will be invited to compete in the second round held at UWA in June. The State coordinator, UWA's Associate Professor Jenny Rodger, said considerable efforts had been made to ensure that schools from more remote areas had an equal chance of competing at the highest levels. A further important event to celebrate Brain Awareness Week, 2011 was NeuroExpo. Organised by The Australian Neuromuscular Research Institute and the Neurological Council of WA, NeuroExpo enabled more than 1000 patients and clinicians to find out more about neurological disorders such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, MS etc and the services and assistance available for people with these conditions.



WA neuroscientists talk to members of the public at the annual Brain Awareness Week display at Scitech.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

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

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

International Behavioral Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting May 24-29, 2011. Sheraton Steamboat Resort, Steamboat Springs, Colorado, USA. www.ibnshomepage.org/annualmtg11.htm.

Neurogenesis 2011, June 2-4, 2011, Taikanso in Matsushima (Miyagi), Japan. www.abcam.com/index.html?pageconfig=re_source&rid=13216

IBRO World Congress, Florence, Italy, July 14-19, 2011. www.ibro2011.org

Computational and Cognitive Neurobiology (CCN) Summer School July 16 - 30, 2011, Cold Spring Harbor Asia, Suzhou or Hong Kong, China. www.csh-asia.org/s-cosynel1.html

Fourth Congress of the Pan-Asian Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (PACTRIMS) 25-27 August 2011 (Thur-Sat) Kyoto, Japan. www.pactrims.org

Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research. The 29th AWCBR will be held 27-31 August, in Queenstown, New Zealand. As always, it will allow you to enjoy a multidisciplinary approach to contemporary high-quality Neuroscience in a relaxed and friendly environment. We're also pleased to be a member conference of Queenstown Research Week, when many other biomedical research meetings and satellites are taking place. There will be registration reductions for those wanting to attend more than one block of meetings. In the AWCBR block, there will also be the Signal Transduction and Heart Disease satellites, which AWCBR registration will entitle you entrance to. For more details on the Research Week meetings, see www.qmb.org.nz. Registration will open 2 May, while the Early Bird Registration and Abstract deadline is 8 July. For more information on AWCBR, please contact awcbr@psy.otago.ac.nz or go to www.awcbr.org.

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

Biannual World Congress on Huntington's Disease, Melbourne, Australia, 11-14 September 2011. www.worldcongress-hd2011.org

Frontiers in Neurogenetics & Brain Imaging (a symposium following the World Congress on Huntington's Disease) **Thursday 15 September 2011, Melbourne** <http://www.med.monash.edu.au/psych/research/activities/neuroimaging-symposium.html>

7th Congress of the International Society for Autonomic Neuroscience, Buzios, Brazil, 12-16 September, 2011. www.eventus.com.br/isan2011/

Neuroscience2011, the 34th annual meeting of Japan Neuroscience Society (JNS) Yokohama, Japan, September 14-17, 2011. www.neuroscience2011.jp/english/travelAward.html

4th Protein Misfolding and Neurological Disorders Meeting will be held on Heron Island, Queensland, Australia from 16-19th September 2011. www.proteinmisfolding.org

56th Annual Conference of the German Society for Neuropathology and Neuroanatomy, 21 – 24 September 2011, University of Tübingen, Germany. www.neuropathology-tuebingen.de

Joint Meeting European Society of Microcirculation and German Society of Microcirculation and Vascular Biology (GfMVB), October 13-16, 2011, Munich, Germany. www.microcirculation2011.de

2nd International Conference on Medical Bionics: Neural interfaces for damaged nerves. Phillip Island, Victoria, 20-23 November 2011. www.iceaustralia.com/medicalbionics2011

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

10th International Conference on Brain Energy Metabolism "Bioenergetics of Neurological Disease and Aging" Monterey, California, USA April 17 - 20, 2012. www.ncire.org/ICBEM2012

2012 International Congress of Neuroethology, College Park, Maryland, USA, 5–10 August 2012. www.neuroethology.org/meetings

APSN/JSN 2012, the Joint Symposium of 11th Biennial Meeting of APSN and 55th Meeting of JSN, International Conference Center, Kobe, Japan Sept 29-Oct 2, 2012. Call for symposia and young investigator colloquia deadline July 31, 2011.

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

July 2011	12 th July 2011
October 2011	13 th October 2011
December 2011	8 th December 2011

Authorized by Ann Turnley

Secretary – Australian Neuroscience Society Inc

Centre for Neuroscience
University of Melbourne
VICTORIA 3010

Phone: 61 3 8344 3981 Fax: 61 3 9347 4432
Email: turnley@unimelb.edu.au

Address and contact details for the ANS secretariat

Sally Jay Conferences can be contacted by the following means:

Mail: PO Box 2331 KENT TOWN SA 5071

Phone: (08) 8362 0038

Fax: (08) 8362 0038 (International – Phone/fax: 618 8362 0038)

Email: ans@sallyjayconferences.com.au

Web: www.ans.org.au





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Annual General Meeting

5:30pm, Wednesday 2nd February 2011

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

MINUTES

1. Attendance and apologies

Paul Pilowsky, Mary Galea

2. Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting

The minutes were previously circulated in the April newsletter

Motion: That the minutes of the ANS General meeting held in Sydney on Feb 2nd 2010 are accurate.

Moved: Louise Nicholson; Seconded: Peregrine Osborne; Vote: unanimous: motion carried

3. President's report

Sarah Dunlop reported on the activities she had undertaken over the last 12 months, including a meeting with Sarah Caddick and some of Australia's neuroscience leaders at Stradbroke Island in April 2010. Issues discussed included neuroscience funding, the profile of neuroscience, the National Neuroscience Initiative, links with clinicians, ANS as a peak body, early career researchers, ACAN and the Brain Bee Challenge. She then reported on her discussion with the ANS membership, having travelled to all States and New Zealand to canvas members' opinions on the role of ANS. There were several key points that arose from these discussions and that will be an ongoing agenda for the ANS.

I. Early- and mid-career researchers

Enthusiastic support from the membership for a dedicated satellite to the main ANS meeting

II. ANS Meeting

Membership agreement that the main focus of ANS should be to run the best possible meetings but also that the Society should also become more involved in advocacy

III. Neuroscience funding, the profile of neuroscience and measuring research quality

IV. Advocacy & A Peak Body: Joining forces with the clinicians and the professions

Neuroscience funding and advocacy are part of the same spectrum. ANS should develop links with the clinicians and ways to be more involved in advocacy

V. New Zealand membership issues

The ANS Constitution and the name of Society should reflect New Zealand member involvement

4. Secretary's report

Ann Turnley provided membership details: In 2010 ANS had a total of 1051 members; 707 full, 311 student, 16 honorary and 17 retired. She reminded people to visit the ANS website to check for announcements, jobs, upcoming conferences etc. and that all requests to post information on the website should be sent to her.

5. Treasurer's report

Jackie Phillips presented details of the Society's finances and provided a summary of the financial statement for year end September 30th 2010, outlining assets and investments and major items of expenditure.

Motion: That the financial statement be accepted for the year ending September 30th 2010.

Moved: Clarke Raymond; Seconded: Andrew Lawrence; Vote: unanimous: motion carried.

Motion: That HLB Mann Judd SA be re-appointed as ANS auditors

Moved: John Rostas; Seconded: Mark Bellingham; Vote: unanimous: motion carried.

An annual increase in membership fees, linked to CPI was proposed by the membership at the 2010 AGM and approved by Council at the midyear Council Meeting.

Motion: That there will be a yearly increase in the membership fee for all ANS members linked to CPI.

Moved: Elizabeth Coulson; Seconded: Steve Kerr; Vote: 2 against, majority for: motion carried.

Jackie Phillips then provided a breakdown of student travel awards, noting that 181 awards were provided and that each award represented 20% of the airfare from each capital city to Auckland at the time of ANS. She acknowledged the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand for providing travel awards this year to all NZ students attending ANS.

6. Editor's report

David Small described the role of the program committee in putting together the program for the meeting. He noted that there were a large number of excellent symposium proposals and requested that even if not successful this time, that members continue to submit proposals for future meetings. He also mentioned that members who wished to take a more active role in programming could join the program committee. He finished by saying that this year, there will also be an Associate Editor, Steven Petrou, to assist with the Editorial duties.

7. 2011 ANS Awards and Prizes

AW Campbell Award for best contribution by a member of the society in their first 5 postdoctoral years was awarded to **Ehsan Arabzadeh** from the University of NSW.

Nina Kondelos Prize This is made possible by a donation from George Paxinos and named after his late sister and is for a female neuroscientist who has made an outstanding contribution to basic or clinical neuroscience research. It was awarded to **Glenda Halliday** from Neuroscience Research Australia.

Paxinos-Watson Prize for the most significant neuroscience paper published in 2009. This award has been made possible by a generous donation to the Society by Professor George Paxinos and Professor Charles Watson, commemorating the publication of their important key reference text "The Rat Brain in Stereotaxic Coordinates".

The Paxinos-Watson prize for 2011 was awarded to **Jan Schulz, Peter Redgrave, Carsten Mehring, Ad Aertsen, Koreen Clements, Jeff R. Wickens and John Reynolds** for the paper: Short-latency activation of striatal spiny neurons via subcortical visual pathways published in the Journal of Neuroscience Volume 29, pages 6336-6347.

8. Award of Honorary Membership of the ANS to Robert Rush and Bruce Livett.

At the 2010 AGM members voted to award Honorary Memberships to Bob Rush and Bruce Livett and this is now being acknowledged by awarding of the ANS medallion. Sarah Dunlop presented ANS medallions to Bob Rush and Bruce Livett

9. Future ANS meetings

The 2012 meeting will be held at the Gold Coast from Sunday 29th January - Wednesday 1st February. Karl Deisseroth from Stanford University and a pioneer in the field of optogenetics has accepted our invitation to be the Overseas Plenary Lecturer.

The 2013 meeting will be held in Melbourne from Sunday 3rd to Wednesday 6th February.

10. Council members for 2011

Office Bearers:

President	Professor Sarah Dunlop
President-Elect	Professor John Rostas
Secretary	A/Professor Ann Turnley
Treasurer	Professor Jacqueline Phillips
Editor	Professor David Small

Public Officer Dr Clarke Raymond

State and National Representatives:

ACT	Dr Clarke Raymond
NSW	A/Prof Kay Double
New Zealand	Prof Louise Nicholson
Queensland	Dr Elizabeth Coulson
SA	Dr Nicholas Spencer
Tasmania	Dr Rob Gasperini
Victoria	Dr Joanne Britto
WA	Dr Lindy Fitzgerald

Sarah then thanked departing members of Council, NSW Rep Peregrine Osborne and Past-President David Vaney and presented the ANS medallion to David Vaney

11. Other business

Timing of ANS annual meeting: Pankaj Sah raised the issue of the problem of holding the annual meeting at the end of January/early February, due to the clash with major grant funding applications and start of the school year. There was a lot of support for changing the timing but no consensus as to when this should be, with early December possibly the best option for many but not all members. This subject needs to be revisited given the groundswell for change and will be further explored and discussed by Council during 2011.

NZ membership issue: Steve Kerr asked how this could be moved forward. Sarah Dunlop replied that we need more input from the membership and that this would be further discussed at the mid-year ANS Council meeting

Increasing neuroscience advocacy: Ineke Whiteman asked what steps could be taken to increase neuroscience advocacy. This led to a general discussion regarding whether ANS should employ a permanent Secretariat to undertake just such a role. Perry Bartlett proposed we spend some of the ANS reserve to employ someone so that ANS Council is able to do more. There was support for the idea of employing a permanent secretariat but less support for using the ANS reserve to do this, with suggestions that this should come from various institutions or by raising money specifically for this purpose by setting up an advocacy fund, to raise a salary without Society burden. Peregrine Osborne suggested to set up a subcommittee to get this off the ground without costing the Society money and Andrew Lawrence queried whether this might be something for which the Research Fund could be used, if it falls within the ATO requirements. This will be further discussed at the midyear ANS Council meeting.

Close 6:45

