

January 2019



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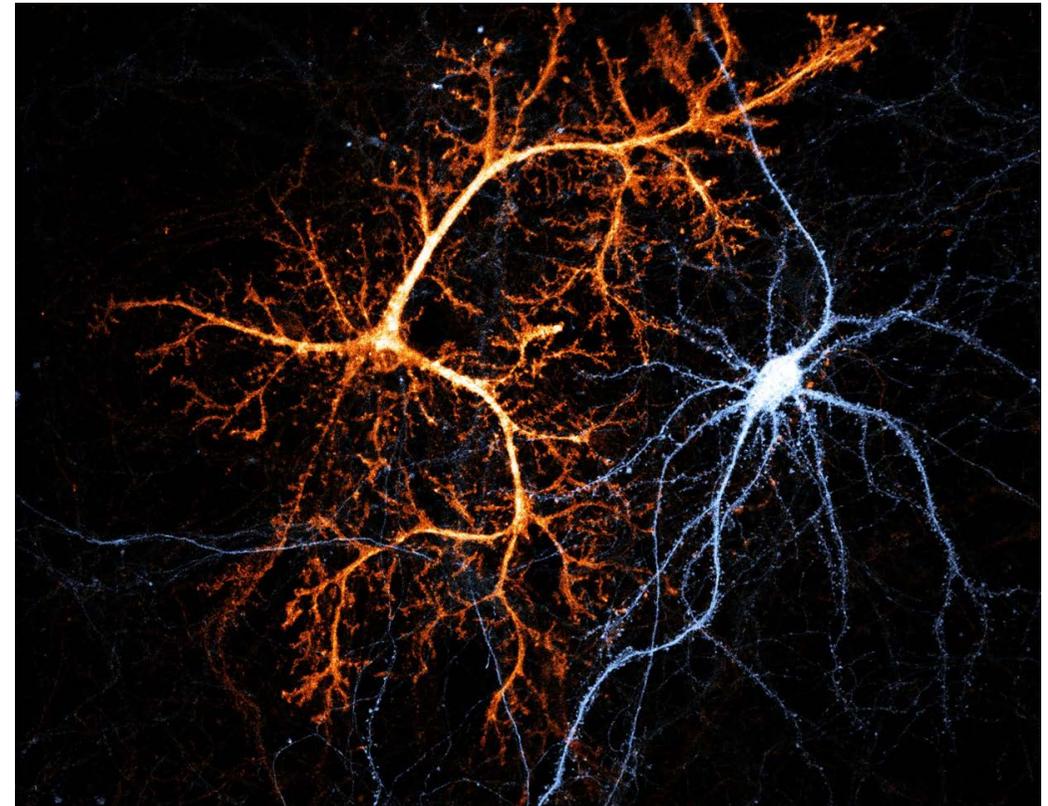
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Australasian Neuroscience Society Newsletter



Notifications

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Please join us by becoming a member of ANS.

You can join online at any time

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Check out our new and improved website

We encourage everyone to check out the new look ANS website launched in January 2019

www.ans.org.au.

We thank our Society partners



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Message from the President

It is a great pleasure to pen this first message as President of ANS. The Society is on a growth curve in terms of membership and has a momentum that we will certainly be working hard to build on.



Before looking to 2019, I'd like to pay tribute to the Executive and Council who over the past 2 years have made essential improvements to the operation and processes of the Society. Under Professor Linda Richard's leadership, ANS has become more professional in its operation through engagement of a Secretariat (i.e., The Association Specialists), as well as raising its international profile through arrangements with other international organisations such as FENS, SfN, and IBRO, along with the Japanese Neuroscience Society (JNS) and the Federation of Asian-Oceania Neuroscience Societies (FAONS). As an exciting benefit of formal relations with both FENS and JNS, ANS members are now able to register at those international meetings at the local member rates. With a similar arrangement for members of those societies attending ANS, our annual meeting should become increasingly international.

I would also like to acknowledge the outgoing ANS Secretary, Professor Kay Double, for her many contributions to the smooth running of the Society. In particular we are grateful for her superb if time-consuming efforts in getting our new website up and running. Although not 100% complete, we hope you agree that the enhanced functionality as

well as the look and feel has made all the time and effort well worthwhile. Please do send any feedback or suggestions about the website to the new Secretary, Thomas Fath.

Other notable activity has been the superb work by a number of the committees either newly established or re-invigorated, such as the Student Body Committee, the Equity and Diversity Committee, and the Brain Bee Challenge Committee. Volunteers to help with any of our committees are always welcome. Of particular note is the ACAN committee, which does much to help support the Director Stephen Williams who has been taking ACAN from strength to strength.

Looking forward into 2019, ACAN in its 14th year will be bigger and better than ever. The committees will be continuing their fine work, and the 39th annual meeting in Adelaide is shaping up to be a wonderful celebration of Australasian Neuroscience. The Local Organising Committee, led by Associate Professor Michael Lardelli and assisted by Professor Helen Cooper, has already been making big plans for the meeting and we're certain that you won't want to miss it. We will also be working on the 40th anniversary meeting in 2020 in Perth, bringing the FAONS meeting to ANS in 2021, and a joint meeting with IBRO in 2023.

In my closing remarks at the Brisbane meeting, I extended two challenges to ANS members. The first was for attendees to return to their labs, departments and institutes to share what they've learned, and to build on the knowledge, personal

ANS Annual Meeting – Brisbane 2018

(Message from the
President... continued)

connections, and ideas gained from the meeting to further their own research projects. The second challenge was to make all efforts to attend the next meeting in Adelaide, and to encourage colleagues to do the same. Australasia has an outstanding neuroscience community, and our conference is the core activity that strengthens us as a Society. In this regard, I make the call to my fellow New Zealand neuroscientists to become more engaged with the Society and the annual meeting.

I hope that you have returned to work in the new year refreshed and recharged for a successful 2019. I look forward to working with you all to make it so for ANS as well!

**Prof Cliff
Abraham**

PhD, President, ANS

Every year, the Australasian Neuroscience Society (ANS) holds an annual meeting, where the community gathers and ‘celebrates’ the achievements of neuroscience research in the past year.



In December 2018, the 38th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society was held in the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre. The conference was well attended, with 615 registrants, 203 invited speakers and more than 200 posters on display. Major highlights include excellent plenary and award lectures by Alison Goate (Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, USA), Glenda Halliday (University of Sydney), Neville Knuckey (University of Western Australia), Alan Mackay-Sim (Griffith University), Cliff Abraham (University of Otago, New Zealand), Ulrike Grünert (University of Sydney) and Susanna Park (University of Sydney), as well as the popular Zeiss-sponsored Imaging Workshop that featured talks on cutting-edge imaging techniques for neuroscience research (3D-STED imaging, *in vivo* two-photon imaging, *in vivo* super-resolution single particle tracking and whole-brain diffusion magnetic resonance imaging).

ANS2018 Award Winners

[L-R] Back Row: Professor Cliff Abraham, William Turner. Middle Row: Sonja Meier, Wei-Shern Lee, Noorya Ahmed, Sophie Mathiesen, Professor Linda Richards. Front Row: Sabrina Oisha, Chanchanok Chaichim, Bhedita Seewoo, Shruthi Sateesh. *Photo Credits to Rumelo Amor, Arnaud Gaudin and Andrew Thompson (Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland).*

Complementing these excellent scientific sessions, the ANS Student Body and Early- and Mid-Career Researcher Committees organised a highly successful “speed-dating” style Networking Event. More than 300 delegates were able to receive career advice from 16 mid-career researchers and industry partners on a wide variety of topics

(ANS Annual Meeting –
Brisbane 2019... continued)

including writing and fellowship applications, careers in industry, starting a new lab, and being an academic. We would like to express our appreciation to members of the ANS SBC and the EMCR committee who organised this event.

Active participation of students and early career researchers is extremely important to the Society. In fact, we were very proud to see many high-quality presentations (both posters and orals) by these next generation neuroscientists in the Australasian region. Our warm congratulations go to the following award winners:

1. Istvan Törk Student Oral Presentation Prize was awarded to Wei-Shern Lee (Murdoch Children's Research Institute) for his talk entitled: '*Genetic and cellular characterisation of brain malformation using patient-derived brain tissues*'.
2. Runner-up for the Istvan Törk Student Oral Presentation Prize was awarded to William Turner (University of Melbourne) for his talk entitled: '*Perceptual change-of-mind decisions are sensitive to absolute evidence magnitude*'.
3. Sir Grafton Elliot Smith Student Poster Prize was awarded to Sonja Meier (The University of Queensland) for her poster entitled: '*p75 neurotrophin receptor function in cortical neurogenesis*'.
4. Runner-up for the Sir Grafton Elliot Smith Student Poster Prize was awarded to

Shruthi Sateesh (University of Otago) for her poster entitled: '*Synapse-specific long-range heterosynaptic metaplasticity in the rat hippocampus*'.

We would like to thank all participants and all of our sponsors who helped make ANS2018 such a success. In particular, we received generous contributions from Illumina, Cyclotek, The Florey Institute of Neuroscience & Mental Health, Queensland Brain Institute (The University of Queensland), the University of South Australia and Carl Zeiss Australia. We also wish to express our appreciation for ANS sustaining members and trade exhibitors for their continued support of our meeting and Society.

Running a conference of this size involves many people, most of whom operate behind the scenes. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions made by all members of the ANS Executive, ANS Council and members of the Local Organising Committee, who put together the scientific program that reflected the breadth and depth of cutting-edge neuroscience research. We would also like to thank Tom Keeble and Brigid O'Connell who helped us inform the media and public about research being presented at ANS2018. A big shout-out to more than 70 early- and mid-career researchers who participated as session chairs and judges to poster and oral prizes. Last but not least, we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to our professional conference organisers, The Association Specialists.



ANS2018 Plenary and Awards Lectures

Far Left: Professor Alison Goate. [L-R] Top Row: Professor Alan Mackay-Sim, Professor Glenda Halliday, Associate Professor Ulrike Grünert. [L-R] Bottom Row: Professor Cliff Abraham, Professor Neville Knuckey, Dr. Susanna Park. Photo Credits to Rumelo Amor, Arnaud Gaudin and Andrew Thompson (Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland).

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(ANS Annual Meeting -
Brisbane 2018... continued)

We have received positive comments from participants and exhibitors about the meeting. However, we would like to hear more constructive feedback on how future meetings can be improved. I encourage all attendees to complete a short post-ANS2018 survey that was sent out in December 2018, which will help Michael Lardelli with the planning of ANS2019. We look forward to seeing you all in Adelaide in December 2019 for another great meeting.

Dr Victor
Anggono

Queensland Brain Institute,
On behalf of the ANS2018
Local Organising Committee

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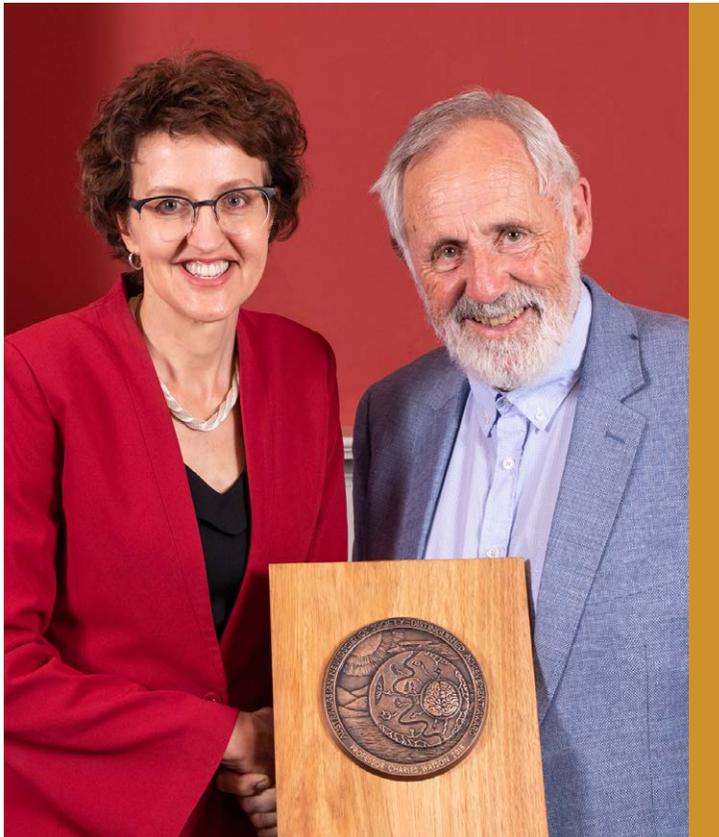
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The Australasian Neuroscience Society kindly acknowledges the sponsors for their generous support of the Annual Scientific Meeting.

Professor Charles Watson awarded ANS Distinguished Achievement Award



At the 2018 annual scientific meeting, Professor Charles Watson was awarded the ANS Distinguished Achievement Award. Professor Watson is a Distinguished Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences, Curtin University and is the Lead for the Neurosciences and the Senses Health Network, Western Australian Department of Health.

Professor Watson is one of the world's greatest neuroanatomists. His impact on neuroscience has been realized through his research on brain and spinal cord molecular development as well as his development of essential brain atlases and educational textbooks. Equally important has been his contribution to neuroanatomical education programs for students from elementary and high school to undergraduate and postgraduate students, and postdoctoral trainees to Faculty.

Professor Watson graduated in medicine from the University of Sydney in 1967 and was awarded a research doctorate (MD) by the University of New South Wales in 1974. He lectured in anatomy at the UNSW from 1970 to 1982, when he took up a career in public health in the Health Department of Western Australia, being appointed Chief Health Officer for WA in 1993. He returned to University life in 1994, holding the position of Dean of Health Sciences at the University of Wollongong and Curtin University until 2006.

He currently holds professorial positions at Neuroscience Research Australia, Curtin University, University of Western Australia, University of New South Wales, and The University of Queensland. He was made a member of the Order of Australia in 2004.

He has published, together with Professor George Paxinos, the top brain and spinal cord atlases used across neuroscience laboratories around the world. These atlases span a large variety of species, both mammalian, including human and non-human primates, and non-mammalian species such as birds. The iconic *"The Rat Brain in Stereotaxic Coordinates"* was first published in 1982 and has become an essential tool in laboratories throughout the world being cited over 70,000 times, the most cited publication in neuroscience. It is the primary source of neuroanatomical information for neuroscientists in all fields. Atlases in the series include histological, molecular expression and neuroimaging data and provide the foundations

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*(Prof. Charles Watson awarded
ANS Distinguished Achievement
Award... continued)*

on which much of brain structural neuroscience across the world is based. The atlases also critically provide a base-line for clinical studies by providing maps of the normal brain, against which abnormal brains can be compared. They also provide a cost-effective way to provide neuroanatomical support for scientists in developing countries that may have access to fewer resources and expertise. At a time when the majority of neuroscience researchers are not specialists in anatomy, the Paxinos/Watson family of brain atlases is more essential than ever and few contributions to neuroscience have had such an impact on our field.

On top of these outstanding scientific contributions Professor Watson has generously given his time to educate and inspire neuroscience students across the world. He was invited by the Allen Institute for Brain Science to co-lead (along with Spanish Neuroscientist Prof. Luis Puelles) a series of four major international workshops on brain anatomy and gene expression. He has also led a number of workshops on neuroanatomy at major Australian universities over the past 10 years. He has presented high-level workshops on forebrain, brain stem, and spinal cord anatomy at The University of Queensland, Queensland Brain Institute (8 workshops), The University of Melbourne, Monash University, The Australian National University, The University of New South Wales, and Curtin University. Professor Watson has led two similar

workshops at major institutions in Tokyo and Kyoto. In 1981, he presented a 12-session course in neuroanatomy in French to the staff of the CNRS laboratory of Dr Nicole Le Douarin in Paris.

Professor Watson is both nationally and internationally recognized for his work with the International Brain Bee (IBB) and the Australian and New Zealand Brain Bee Challenges (ABBC and NZBBC). He has helped lead the development of the material used in the competitions including animated videos about the spinal cord and brain stem and wrote the "The Brain" book which is also currently used by the IBB at the international level competition. Professor Watson is the chief judge of the national finals of the ABBC and NZBBC. He is tireless in his support of the young people involved in these competitions. For example, every year in the lead up to the national finals, to help the students prepare, Professor Watson runs multiple live coaching sessions with the students. He goes over the materials with the students and answers any questions they have. He is a most accomplished educator, being able to convey extremely complex information to young students of 15 or 16 years of age.

In 2015, Prof. Watson was the chief judge of an international panel of judges at the International Brain Bee competition in Cairns, Australia at the International Society for Neurochemistry meeting. He prepared many of the questions and provided coaching to every international student from 26 different countries - in two rounds of the same session so that he could accommodate all time-

zones. Each session was recorded so that all students had access to exactly the same coaching and sessions. Students reported in their feedback that this experience was "life-changing". His passionate care of the students learning experience is an inspiration to all.

In his spare time Charles enjoys swimming in the ocean and playing the baritone saxophone.

On behalf of all your friends and colleagues of the Australasian Neuroscience Society, congratulations Charles and thank you so much for your sustained and precious service to the field of neuroscience.

**Prof Linda
Richards**

Past-President, ANS

Nina Kondelos Award

Receiving the Nina Kondelos Award has special meaning to me as I have been a member of ANS for most of my research career, and also had the pleasure of working with George Paxinos as a colleague at the Prince of Wales MRI in Sydney. I wish to thank ANS for this honour, George for his generosity in establishing this prize in remembrance of his late sister, and the colleagues who nominated me.

Autonomic neuroscience has been the focus of my research, starting from my PhD in the dynamic group led by John Furness and Marcello Costa. This was an exciting time when the molecular anatomy of the nervous system was being revealed using the new research tool of multi-colour immunofluorescence. In applying these pioneering methods to unravel the complexity of the enteric nervous system, I became irreversibly hooked on solving puzzles of neural connectivity, while being constantly amazed by the physical beauty of neurons. Another important mentor was William ('Chet') de Groat at the University of Pittsburgh, where I did my postdoctoral training and first studied the sacral spinal and peripheral nervous systems. This wonderful experience was key in defining the neural regulation of pelvic organs and related clinical conditions as my main research focus, which I pursued after returning to Australia. Here I worked with Elspeth McLachlan only briefly before establishing my own laboratory, but Elspeth's influence on my thinking, research and career development continues to this day.

Dysfunction of the sacral nervous system pathways contributes to many clinical disorders, many of

which I have studied during my career—such as the effects of nerve injury and regeneration, inflammation and hormonal dysregulation, neurobiology of pelvic pain and urological failure involving the lower urinary tract organs. However, now is an exciting time where molecular neuroanatomy is undergoing a renaissance, and there are new opportunities to solve the many puzzles that remain in understanding sacral neural circuits. I am fortunate to be able to do this as a principal investigator in the NIH SPARC (Stimulating Peripheral Activity to Relieve Conditions) Common Fund Program, which is developing maps, models and knowledge of the nervous system controlling peripheral organ to support the growing area of bioelectronic medicine. I look forward to continuing participation in the ANS community and thank them again for this award.

Prof Janet Keast

*University of Melbourne,
Recipient of the 2018
Nina Kondelos Award*



A.W. Campbell Award

I am very happy and grateful to ANS for the 2018 A.W. Campbell Award. It means a lot to me to be recognised by the neuroscience community and I am really excited to have the opportunity to speak at this year's annual scientific meeting in Adelaide.



Since graduating from my PhD in December 2010 from the University of Otago, my research has focused on neuronal circuitry in the spinal cord and understanding how signalling within these circuits changes in disease states. To get to this point, my career followed a winding path from virus researcher to marine microbiologist. My interest in pharmacology and then neuroscience started to develop while working on a drug discovery program at NIWA in Wellington looking for novel bioactive compounds from the sea. From here I did my PhD at AgResearch investigating the role of potassium channels in a neurological disorder in grazing animals caused by fungal toxins.

After finishing my PhD, I jumped across the globe to New York where I did a postdoc in a *Drosophila* neurobiology lab at Columbia University led by Prof Brian McCabe. My research here focused on changes in spinal circuit activity in a model of motor neuron disease. This research established dysfunction in sensory-motor circuitry as the origin of the motor deficits in spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) and identified a therapeutic target for disease treatment, as well as a drug that was

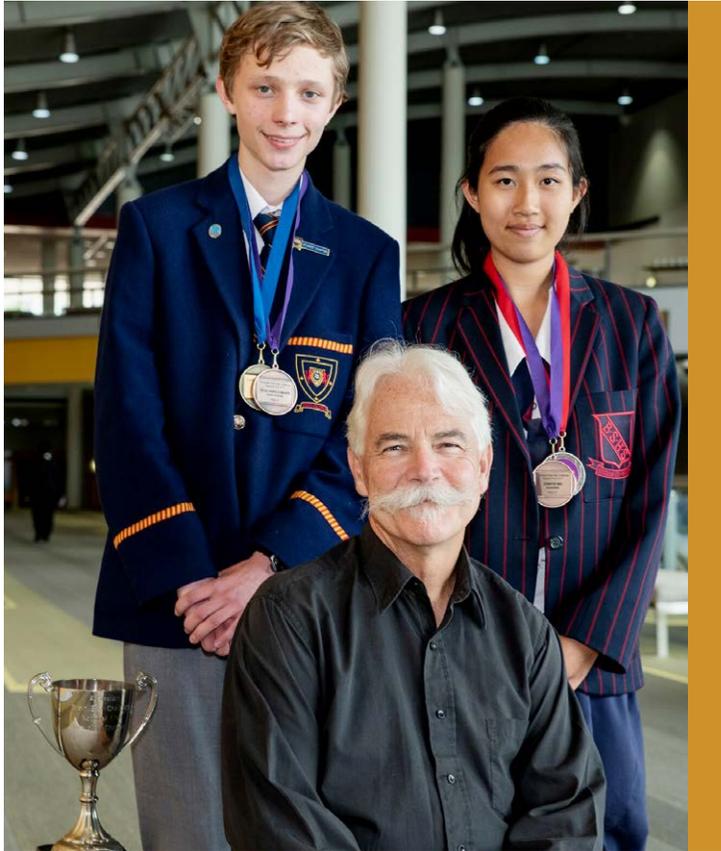
used in clinical trials. From New York I moved to Australia for a short postdoc at the Queensland Brain Institute before being awarded a fellowship at the University of Sydney where I studied chronic pain signalling and circuitry in rodent models in Prof Mac Christie's lab. Here I discovered a subset of dorsal horn interneurons that have impaired inhibitory neurotransmission in a rat model of neuropathic pain, which may play a major role in causing allodynia in chronic pain states.

In 2017, I was very lucky to have the opportunity to start a new lab at Monash University in the Department of Physiology and the Neuroscience theme of the Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute. To understand pain circuitry and to characterize potential analgesics, my teams uses patch clamp electrophysiology, behavioural assays and imaging. My lab is funded by NHMRC project grants and an ARC Discovery project grant and I hold an NHMRC Career Development Fellowship.

**Dr Wendy
Imlach**

Monash University
Recipient of the 2018
A.W. Campbell Award

Brain Bee



Prof Alan Mackay-Sim with
Silas Hansch-Maher and
Sophia Ye

In 2018, the Brain Bee Challenge continued to be very successful, with an increase in participants to over 4200 from 3500 in 2017. Round 2 of the competition, held at the state/island level, continues to be the favourite amongst the participants. Both teachers and students speak highly of their experience in the institutes/universities where state/island coordinators create a day of neuroscience-activities built around the competition. For many teachers, it is often their first experience with neuroscientists! The National Finals were held at the ANS meeting in Brisbane, with the special guest being Prof Alan Mackay-Sim. The keenly-fought finals ended with the Australian Championship going to Silas Hansch-Maher from South Australia (the 1st ever winner from South Australia!) and the NZ Championship to Sophia Ye from Auckland.

The ANS has implemented a program of developing our own learning content for the Brain Bee Challenge and, in partnership with the NZ education provider Education Perfect, these materials are being progressively rolled out as online learning content. This medium of delivery has allowed us to incorporate more engaging learning materials, like videos and animations. Critically, it also allows us to build in self-assessment materials, to allow the high school participants to develop metacognitive skills in evaluating their own learning, and to decrease the burden on teachers who often had to be the sole support resource. The beta version of these modules was tested in 2018 as learning support to the textbooks in use, but in 2019, we will be using these online modules as the learning content for the Challenge. They will be used in a staged manner,

with about 12 modules being used for Round 1 of the Challenge, and then more being added into the learning mix for Rounds 2 and 3.

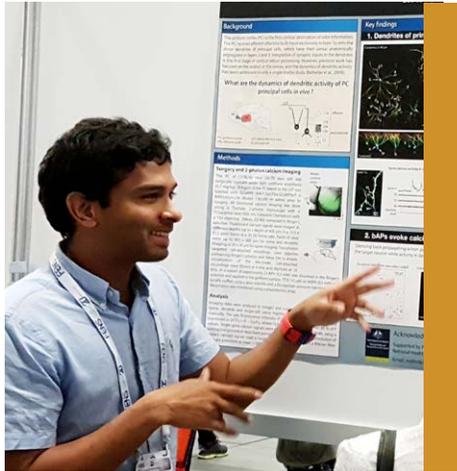
The new learning content has been developed by ANS members and we would very much like to encourage others interested in helping develop the content to engage with us. It can be in an area of your own expertise so that it may not require too much work! If you're interested in helping shape the curriculum for the Brain Bee Challenge, please contact ramesh.rajana@monash.edu - we would be delighted to have your input!

Prof Ramesh Rajan

Monash University,
Brain Bee Challenge
coordinator

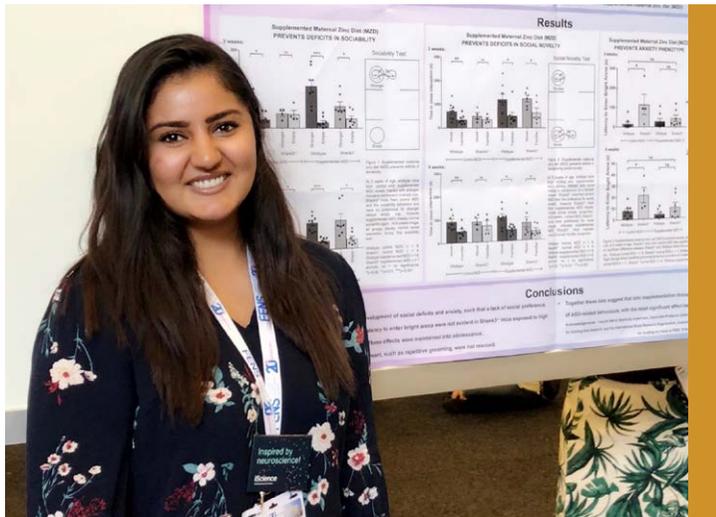


ANS-FENS Awardees



The 11th Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) Forum of Neuroscience was held in Berlin, Germany on 7th - 11th of July 2018. FENS forum is the largest neuroscience gathering in Europe and this year was attended by over 7000 neuroscientists from across the world.

Malinda Tantirigama



Yukti Vyas

The Australasian Neuroscience Society (ANS) awarded generous travel awards to Malinda Tantirigama and Yukti Vyas who both attended the meeting to present their research and explore European neuroscience research.

Malinda presented his postdoctoral research on the role of dendrites of principal neurons on olfactory coding. Attendance at the meeting also allowed him to participate in a workshop that broadened his understanding of imaging with two-photon microscopy. Furthermore, Malinda had the opportunity to engage with key figures in his research area. He attended a symposium on 'Neural circuits for odor coding' and met with the symposium chair Dr. Kevin Franks to discuss research and other work opportunities at his lab. In addition, he visited the laboratories of Prof. Matthew Larkum and Prof. Benjamin Judkewitz at the Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin. The visit was an instrumental step in securing a research position to join a collaborative project between their labs starting in January 2019.

Yukti presented her doctoral research on Autism Spectrum Disorders. In addition to being exposed

to world-class research at the conference, Yukti had the opportunity to work in Professor Volker Haucke's lab in Leibniz-Forschungsinstitut für Molekulare Pharmakologie (FMP) in Berlin for three weeks prior to the FENS meeting through the FENS-International Brain Research Organisation Young Investigator Training Programme. Yukti was one of 41 applicants selected from all over the world and the only participant from New Zealand. Under the supervision of Dr. Gaga Kochlamazashvili, Professor Haucke's postdoctoral research fellow, she was able to extend her knowledge of electrophysiology. In addition, Yukti learned super-resolution D-STORM and STED imaging from Dr Martin Lehmann, the head of the Cellular Imaging Facility at FMP. The travel award also gave her the opportunity to visit the labs of esteemed neuroscientists in the field, including Professor Craig Garner, Professor Thomas Jentsch, Professor Holger Gerhardt, Professor Christian Rosenmund, and Dr James Poulet. The experience provided an extraordinary opportunity to connect with these scholars and to visit their laboratories. Furthermore, Yukti was also accepted into the Hertie Introductory Neuroscience Course on Synaptic Transmission where she was taught by leading experts in this area and was able enhance her understanding of synaptic physiology.

In addition to scientific endeavours, the 'Jump the FENS' party held at the meeting provided an interactive avenue to meet with other scientists in a fun atmosphere. Berlin was the perfect landscape for catching up with old friends and making new ones.

News from the Student Committee

(ANS-FENS

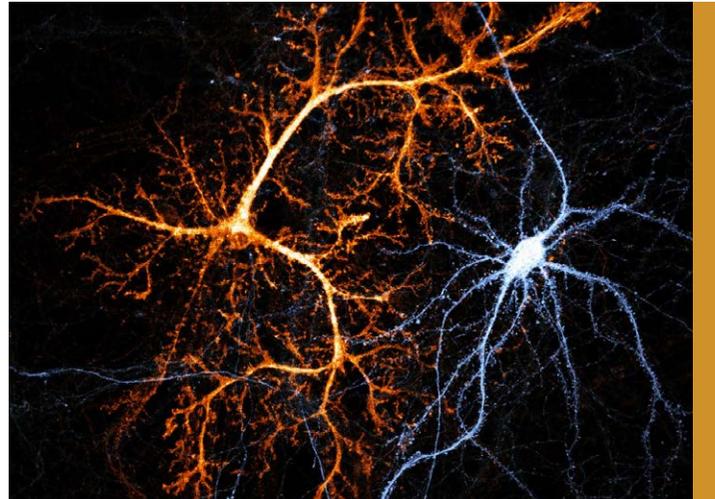
Awardees... continued)

Overall, the attendance of Malinda and Yukti at the FENS forum in Germany were extremely productive and successful. Besides learning skills that are directly applicable to their academic work, they were also able to network with world-experts in their respective research areas. For these opportunities, Malinda and Yukti are extremely grateful to the Australasian Neuroscience Society for their travel awards.

ANS-FENS Travel Scholarships are awarded annually to graduate students or postdoctoral researchers up to 10 years post-PhD. For more information please visit www.ans.org.au/awards.

Yukti Vyas and Malinda Tantirigama

*The University of Auckland
and Australian National
University*



ANS Student Body Image Competition Winners.

Top: 1st Prize, Microscopic
Dancers.

The ANS Student Body Committee (SBC) had a very successful and busy 2018, following our conception in 2017. Our committee has been heavily involved in several successful programs across Australia and New Zealand aimed to uphold our mission of supporting neuroscience students, and encouraging further student participation in ANS.

In *Western Australia*, ANS-SBC local representatives hosted the second annual student networking event aimed at boosting neuroscience communication and collaborations between the universities and institutes in the state. Over 40 students and guests gathered at Millbrook Winery for inspiring talks, networking activities, and collaborative opportunities. In *New Zealand*, ANS-SBC partnered with the Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research (AWCBBR), to help organise an ECR networking evening in the form of a Student Pub Quiz. This event was a huge success, helping to build stronger connections between the future NZ neuroscientists, and increasing visibility and exposure of the ANS in NZ. The *Tasmanian* local organising committee held its first annual ECR quiz night, bringing together students and ECRs from across the state.

On top of all the local events, the ANS-SBC was heavily involved in organising several ECR-directed events at the 2018 ANS Annual General Meeting

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(News from the Student
Committee... continued)

in Brisbane. Our popular *Images of Neuroscience Student Photography Competition* ran again this year. A fantastic collection of 24 neuroscience images was displayed throughout the conference, showcasing the amazing work of ANS students and ECRs.

Special congratulations go to the winners of the Student Imaging Competition Prizes:

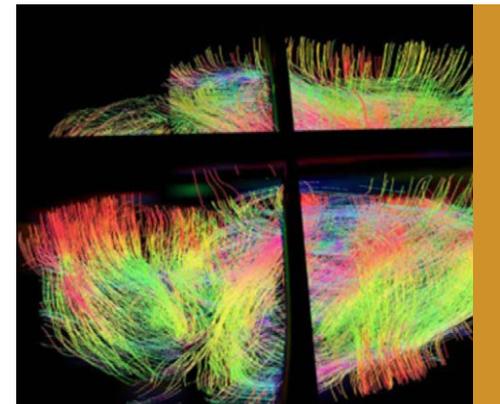
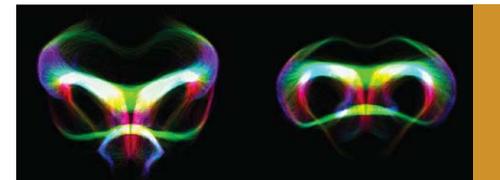
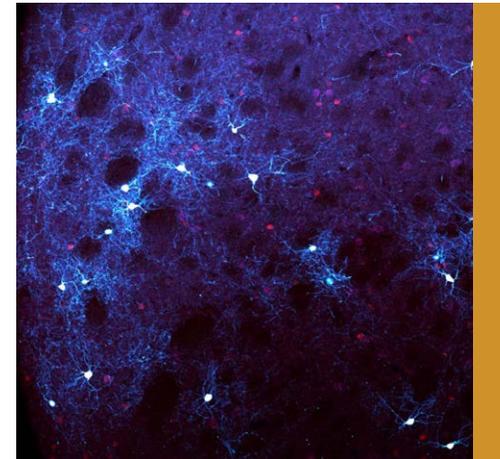
1. **1st Prize** was awarded to Chanchanok Chaichim (University of New South Wales) for her work entitled: *'Microscopic Dancers'*.
2. **2nd Prize** was awarded to Noorya Ahmed (John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU) for her work entitled: *'Thunder and lightning (oh so very frightening)'*.
3. **3rd Prize** was awarded to Sabrina Oishi (The University of Queensland) for her work entitled: *'The Three Mouseketeers'*.
4. **People's Choice Award** went to Bhedita Seewoo (University of Western Australia) for her work entitled: *'Blame it on my brain wiring'*.

The *Student and ECR Networking Night* was held in conjunction with the ACAN Alumni Evening this year. This event was a huge success with around 100 students and ECRs attending on the day. We had 18 speakers from very diverse backgrounds and career stages, who answered student questions and shared their experiences. If you attended/participated in any of these events, please let us know your thoughts. Your feedback will be used to further improve on our services and programs in the future. <https://goo.gl/forms/BguzWQB1snHvBQBB2>

For any student interested in getting involved with ANS-SBC, feel free to contact your local ANS student representative, or any of the current executives. <https://www.ans.org.au/about-us/subcommittees/ans-student-body-committee>

Ms Barбора Fulopova

University of Tasmania,
ANS Student Body
Committee Chair



ANS Student Body Image Competition Winners.

Top: 2nd Prize, Thunder and lightning – of so frightening.
Middle: 3rd Prize, The Three Mouseketeers. Bottom:
People's Choice Award,
Blame it on my brain wiring.

News from the Early-Mid Career Researchers Committee

Following the creation of a new EMCR representative position on the ANS council, the ANS EMCR sub-committee was established in 2018. The current committee has representatives from across Australia and New Zealand, from a variety of EMCR career stages and discipline backgrounds. More information about the current committee will be added to the ANS website soon.

As a committee, our central goal is to provide career development opportunities and advocacy for EMCRs in neuroscience across Australasia and directly represent EMCRs on the ANS Council. Our first step towards these goals is to establish a mailing list and to survey the ANS EMCR community to

determine how this committee can best serve the needs of EMCRs in neuroscience across Australasia. This may be EMCR-focussed events at the annual ANS scientific meeting, a forum to facilitate networking and mentoring, an EMCR-focussed newsletter, or funding opportunities to assist EMCRs attendance at the annual scientific meeting. We want to hear from you!

If you are an ANS member who identifies as an EMCR (0-10 years post-PhD, indicative), you can join our mailing list by contacting the ANS Secretariat (secretariat@ans.org.au) or keeping an eye on the ANS website for an EMCR mailing list tab, which is coming soon.

We'd like to thank the ANS Council for their financial backing and confidence in the goals that we have set out to achieve.

**Dr Ann-Maree
Valence**

*ANS Council, WA State
Representative On behalf
of the EMCR Committee
[Ann-Maree.Valence@
murdoch.edu.au](mailto:Ann-Maree.Valence@murdoch.edu.au)*

ANS-JNS Reciprocal Agreement

We are delighted to announce a 4-year agreement between ANS and the Japanese Neuroscience Society (JNS) for members to be able to attend each other's meetings at member rates. Please note that the deadline is tight for registering an interest in submitting an abstract for this year's JNS meeting, which will be held 25-29 July, in Niigata, Japan. Any ANS member who wishes to submit an abstract should email the ANS Secretary no later than **Wednesday 30 January**. We have to submit the full list by 31 January. People on this list will then be sent information on how to register as a member of JNS (for a nominal fee). Note that the abstract submission deadline is also near, **6 February**. If you have any queries about this arrangement, please contact the ANS secretary (thomas.fath@mq.edu.au).

**Prof
Thomas Fath**

ANS Secretary

Introducing the 39th Annual Scientific Meeting 2019



Preparations for the 39th annual ANS meeting in Adelaide from 2-5 December this year are already well underway. The membership of the Local Organising Committee (LOC) will soon be listed on the new ANS website but I can tell you that it includes a considerable number of students, postdocs and more senior researchers from Adelaide's three universities and the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI). The conference will be held in the recently expanded Adelaide Convention Centre that is centrally located, is adjacent to SAHMRI and university facilities, and is within easy walking distance of many of Adelaide's excellent museums, galleries, gardens, nightlife and other attractions. We are particularly keen to encourage satellite meetings and workshops to be held in the many nearby venues before or after the ANS meeting. If you are interested in organising a satellite meeting or workshop we can arrange assistance in registration/abstract collection and in locating and booking suitable venues so please contact me at michael.lardelli@adelaide.edu.au to make this happen.

The LOC, together with a number of the ANS subcommittees (including the newly constituted Program Committee, the ANS Student Body Committee and the Equity and Diversity Committee), are busy arranging the conference program. So far, I can tell you that all the intended plenary speakers have accepted their invitations and will soon be listed on the ANS website. In a few weeks, ANS will be sending out a call for conference symposium bids. Successful symposium suggestions will receive funding to assist the participation of one international speaker (if needed), so if there is a researcher whom you would really like to visit Australia, here is your chance to make that happen. As you know, our conference program spans the entire breadth of neuroscience and is a wonderful way to learn about research areas outside one's own focus. We are also planning a session on peoples' experience with the new NHMRC grant schemes to assist your future funding success!

As an ANS member, you can help make our 39th meeting a great success by encouraging your fellow

students, postdocs and other colleagues to attend. Word-of-mouth is definitely the most effective way to bring in new members and meeting attendees! So please send your colleagues in Australia, NZ and elsewhere, a quick email telling them to visit the ANS website, <https://www.ans.org.au> to sign up for information about the developing program and for reminders about registration deadlines. There, you can also sign up for the ANS Facebook and Twitter feeds. If you send me a quick email, I can provide you with an image advertising our conference for use in your email signature. Email me also if there is something you would like the Adelaide LOC to consider. The 11 months until the Adelaide meeting are sure to fly by during the busy year ahead, so we look forward to seeing you – and your research – soon!

A/Prof Michael
Lardelli

*On behalf of the ANS2019
Local Organising Committee*

Call for 2019 Symposium proposals
opens February 11th, 2019

The outstanding success of the 2018 Brisbane ANS annual meeting can be attributed to the high quality of symposia across the scientific program. The ANS Council now invites our members to consider submitting a symposium proposal for the 2019 Adelaide meeting. We welcome proposals from all fields of neuroscience and encourage the participation of early career researchers. Also keep in mind the requirement for gender balance and geographical distribution.

The ANS Council call for symposium proposals for the 2019 Adelaide meeting will **open February 11th and close March 20th**. All information, including the symposium submission policy and guidelines can be found on the ANS website.

Prof Helen
Cooper

*Conference Executive
Chair (Editor)*

ACAN 2019 – Application deadline – 1st February 2019



Graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and junior faculty interested in using electrophysiological and optical techniques in their research are encouraged to apply for a place on the Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience (ACAN) 2019, which will be held from the **5th to the 25th of May 2019** at the Moreton Bay Research Station, North Stradbroke Island, Queensland.

ACAN is an intensive three-week course that teaches the theory and practice of electrophysiological recording and optical imaging techniques. Our Australasian and International faculty will guide each participant in the latest research methods in cellular and systems neuroscience. For 2019 confirmed international faculty include: Maarten Kole, Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience; Ede Rancz, The Francis Crick Institute, London, UK; Skyler Jackman, Vollum

Institute, Portland, USA and Matthew Larkum, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany.

During the course, each participant will become proficient in patch-clamp recording, calcium imaging, optogenetics, and many other techniques through unbridled access to state-of-the-art equipment. Thanks to the generous support of *The Finkel Foundation*, ACAN 2019 will feature a dedicated 2-photon imaging / electrophysiology setup, which will complement an array of *in vitro* and *in vivo* recording techniques.

ACAN is also a lot of fun with students forming enduring collaborative networks and friendships with each other and members of the visiting faculty. The course also offers, at least some, time to enjoy the magnificent beaches and bushland of North Stradbroke Island.

The application **deadline is Friday 1st of February 2019** and successful applicants will be notified by the 15th of February 2019. For full details about the course and the online application process please visit: <https://acan.qbi.uq.edu.au/>

The fee for ACAN 2019 is A\$5250, which covers all meals, accommodation, laboratory supplies and teaching materials. Scholarships from the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand are available for NZ citizens/permanent residents.

I look forward to receiving your application.

Prof Stephen Williams

Queensland Brain Institute,
ACAN Director
acan-admin@uq.edu.au

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), and an Early Bird Registration Deadline of 14 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 Vallence
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 Rachele Balez.

January 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 now 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) 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 April 2019.

We encourage everyone to check out the new-look ANS website launched in January 2019.

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.