

July 2025



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The 43rd ANS Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM)

to be held in Hobart on 30 November – 3 December 2025

www.ans.org.au

Notifications

Become an ANS member or student member!

Please join us by becoming a Member of ANS.

You can join online at any time!

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

**Check out our website and follow updates
on the ANS Twitter, Bluesky and LinkedIn accounts.**



<https://www.ans.org.au>



<https://twitter.com/AusNeuroSoc>



<https://bsky.app/profile/ausneurosoc.bsky.social>



<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8362021/>

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Message from the President

I hope this missive finds you well, and that you are busily engaged in pushing back the frontiers of neuroscience knowledge!



Professor
Jason
Mattingley

President, ANS

j.mattingley@uq.edu.au

I am pleased to report that planning for the 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting, to be held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart from 30 November to 2 December, is well underway. To quote from the conference website: "If you have not previously visited Tasmania or it has been some time since your last visit, you will find Hobart to be a charming city with rich history, unique wildlife, and breathtaking landscapes."

A dedicated team, led by Conference Executive Chair Jenna Ziebell and Local Organising Committee Chair Brad Sutherland, is working tirelessly to deliver an exciting program of plenary lectures, symposia, open talks, posters and workshops. The theme of this year's meeting is "Diversifying the Network". In the spirit of that rallying call I hope everyone in the Society, but particularly students and early career researchers, will make every effort to attend the meeting. Early-bird registration ends on 12 September, so please make a note of this date in your calendar. Those of you who have visited the conference website recently will already be familiar with the fantastic line-up of speakers, which includes International Plenary Lecturer Professor Marina Mikhaylova, Lawrie Austin Plenary Lecturer Professor Alex Fornito, ANS Plenary Lecturer Dr Miriam Matamalas, Elspeth McLachlan Plenary Lecturer Professor Peter Crack, and Eccles Plenary Lecturer Professor Melinda Fitzgerald.

In other exciting news, the ANS Executive and Council have been in discussions with the Australasian Cognitive Neuroscience Society and Biological Psychiatry Australia about holding a combined scientific meeting in 2026. Such combined meetings offer an opportunity for members with closely allied interests to come together and share their discoveries, in addition to affording valuable networking opportunities. I hope to be able to make a formal announcement about this initiative shortly. On that note, we have recently called for nominations for 2026 plenary speakers. Nominations close on 8 August, so please give some thought to appropriate local and international colleagues who could deliver an engaging talk to our broad membership.

A particular highlight of the annual scientific meeting is the recognition of the achievements of our colleagues in the form of the annual ANS Awards. There are several awards, including the A.W. Campbell Award, the Nina Kondelos Award, the Mark Rowe Award, the Paxinos-Watson Award, the Education Excellence Award, and the Marcello Costa Award for best publication on neural regulation of organs by an early-career researcher member of the Society. Further information and detailed eligibility criteria can be found on the ANS website.

I am also delighted to announce that we will again be offering Indigenous Travel Awards for eligible individuals to attend the annual scientific meeting. In further good news, the ANS Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee recently secured a generous donation to support this scheme, with matching funds from the society, which will enable us to continue to support this important initiative for several years to come.

July 2025

(Message from the President ... continued)

Finally, you will recall that thanks to a generous donation from the A&E Finkel Foundation in 2024, we are able to offer up to four Finkel Foundation Travelling Fellowships annually. These Fellowships, valued at up to \$50,000 each, aim to provide career development opportunities to early and mid-career ANS Members based in Australia or New Zealand by supporting a “mini-sabbatical” to a host laboratory with world-leading expertise relevant to development of brain-computer interfaces or related areas of innovative neurotechnology. Applications for 2025 closed recently, and we hope to be able to announce the lucky recipients in the next few weeks. If you missed the deadline this year, please consider applying in 2026.

Very best wishes to you all, and I look forward to seeing you in Hobart!



Wineglass Bay, Tasmania.

Annual Scientific Meeting to be held in Hobart from 30 November – 3 December 2025

ANS 2025 Conference



Planning is well underway for the 43rd ANS Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM), and we are thrilled to welcome you to Hobart from November 30th to December 3rd.

Held in Tasmania for the first time in nearly a decade, the theme for this year's meeting is 'Diversifying the Network'. This reflects our commitment to fostering inclusion and diversity among researchers across Australia, bridging diverse fields of neuroscience, and expanding the horizons of our collective knowledge. Please join us to discuss cutting edge neuroscience discoveries and technologies and foster future generations of neuroscientists.

The ASM will be held at the Grand Chancellor Hotel in Hobart's CBD. Its central location offers convenient access to the picturesque waterfront, hotels and the best of Hobart's dining and entertainment. Whether it's your first visit to Tasmania or your first in a while, you will find Hobart to be a charming city with rich history, unique wildlife, and breathtaking landscapes.

The Local Organising Committee, chaired by A/Prof Brad Sutherland, is planning an exciting program. We are delighted to announce the following distinguished speakers:

International Plenary Lecturer

Professor Marina Mikhaylova

Lawrie Austin Plenary Lecturer

Professor Alex Fornito

ANS Plenary Lecturer

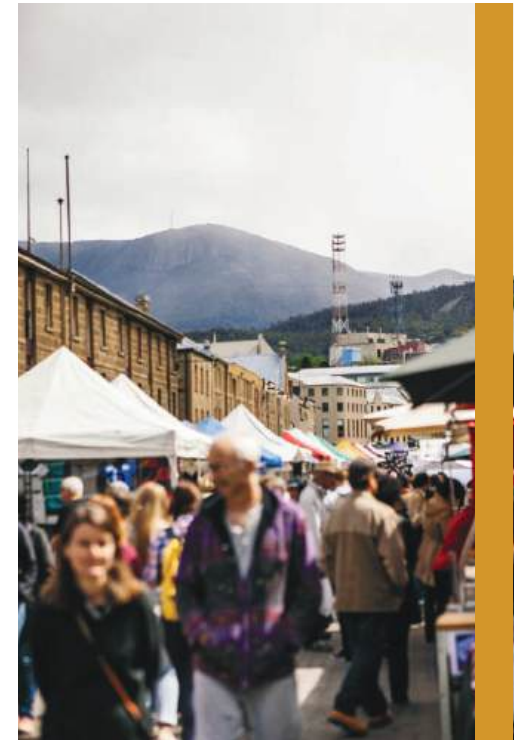
Dr Miriam Matamalas

Elsbeth McLachlan Plenary Lecturer

Professor Peter Crack

Eccles Plenary Lecturer

Professor Melinda Fitzgerald



2025 Australasian Neuroscience Society (ANS) Awards

Applications are currently open for the 2025 Australasian Neuroscience Society (ANS) Awards, which celebrate outstanding achievements in neuroscience research and education across all career stages.



This year's award categories include:

- **A.W. Campbell Award** – For the best research contribution by a member within five years post-PhD.
- **Education Excellence Award** – For individuals or teams who have significantly advanced neuroscience education in Australasia.
- **Marcello Costa Award** – For the best publication on neural regulation of organs by a PhD student or early postdoctoral researcher (up to 3 years post-PhD). *
- **Mark Rowe Award** – For the best publication by a PhD student or early postdoctoral researcher (up to 3 years post-PhD). *
- **Nina Kondelos Award** – Awarded to a female neuroscientist for an outstanding contribution to basic or clinical neuroscience.
- **Paxinos-Watson Award** – For the most significant neuroscience publication by any Society member. *

* Please note: A publication may only be submitted for one of the three publication-based awards.

These prestigious awards come with a monetary prize and national recognition. Winners of the A.W. Campbell and Nina Kondelos Awards will also be invited to deliver plenary lectures at the 2025 ANS Conference. Other awardees may be offered the opportunity to present their work in oral sessions.

Application Deadline:

Friday, 8 August 2025 (deadline extended)

How to Apply:

Submit your application to secretariat@ans.org.au (The application form is available on the webpage associated with each award.)

More Information:

<https://www.ans.org.au/awards/ans-awards-2>

For questions regarding the awards or your application, please contact the ANS Secretary, Matilde Balbi at m.balbi@uq.edu.au.

We encourage all eligible members, as well as supervisors and mentors, to consider applying or nominating deserving colleagues and trainees.

ANS Newsletter 2024 Indigenous Travel Award

In 2024 the ANS Indigenous travel awards were supported by ANS, an International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) Diversity Grant, the Queensland Brain Institute Equity and Diversity Committee and the Florey. We had high quality applications from across Australia and New Zealand, with 3 successful candidates supported to attend the ANS meeting in Perth.

Following the ANS meeting all three awardees also visited The Kids Research Institute Australia hosted by Dr Jessica Buck, and the Perron Institute hosted by Dr Alex Tang and Professor Jennifer Rodger. We would like to thank Dr Buck, Dr Tang and Professor Rodger for organising and hosting that visit, which was highly appreciated by the awardees.

"... the last day where we were able to visit the Perron Institute and the Kids Institute was also greatly helpful where we met and shared experiences with other Indigenous researchers, I think this was a great opportunity to bond in smaller groups compared to the larger conference and feel a sense of fellowship through recognizing shared challenges among Indigenous groups across both Australia and Aotearoa."

– Loren Skudder-Hill

Loren Skudder-Hill is originally from Aotearoa New Zealand and whakapapa to Ngāi Tahu iwi. Loren's interest in neuroscience began during medical school, particularly the courses in neurology, neurosurgery, and psychiatry, which she thoroughly enjoyed. Loren's interest in neuroscience extended throughout her postgraduate studies in neurosurgery and neuro-oncology, as well as one year of clinical experience based in neurosurgical wards. Loren's Masters degree research topic focused on using magnetic resonance spectroscopy for the differential diagnosis of paediatric intracranial tumours. Loren commenced a PhD at the National University of Singapore in 2024 in the field of neuro-oncology. Engaging with researchers and increasing neuroscience knowledge were highlights of the ANS meeting for Loren.

"... the conference itself was thoroughly enjoyable and I greatly enjoyed meeting other researchers in neuro-oncology. Through these discussions I was able to make some new connections and discuss the opportunity for future positions working with them after I finish my PhD. Also, I feel that the conference has improved my knowledge and understanding of different neuroscience concepts, which has increased my interest in continuing to engage with the neuroscience community and collaborate." – Loren Skudder-Hill

Monique MacLaine was a third year undergraduate student in the Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Tasmania in 2024. Monique is a proud Palawa woman with strong connections to community and culture. Monique is interested in neuroscience as it encompasses many different

areas of research, and she is particularly interested in the microbiome and interactions with the brain and mental health. Monique's future plans are to continue her education and share her knowledge and benefits with her community.

Jade Neho was a third year undergraduate Māori student at the University of Otago, New Zealand studying a Bachelor of Science in 2024. Jade's interest in neuroscience developed during her undergraduate studies, and she has a keen interest in linking Māori health and Neurophysiology. Connecting with researchers and students at the ANS meeting was a highlight for Jade.

"I enjoyed listening to many researchers talk and present their research and the next steps for Neuroscience. I also enjoyed talking to PhD students from different universities talk about their academic journey and where they want to take their next step in their career.... I enjoyed having the opportunity to speak with researchers/ developers with a Māori background. I also had the greatest opportunity of meeting and discussing cultural difference between Māori and Aborigines." – Jade Neho

Jade is now planning further postgraduate studies.

"I already wanted to pursue a career in Neuroscience. However, this travel award has showed me which direction I would like to take Neuroscience as a career." – Jade Neho

(ANS Newsletter 2024 Indigenous Travel Award ... continued)

The ANS Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee would like to thank the ANS Council and Executive Committee for their support of this program to support the neuroscience careers of Indigenous researchers in Australia and New Zealand. We are looking forward to hosting the successful 2025 Indigenous travel awardees at the upcoming ANS meeting in Hobart.

"Thank you so much for your hard work in organizing the travel awards! I think the program is very impactful and really makes a difference in encouraging Indigenous students to pursue a career in neuroscience or even science in general. Sometimes young people just need one positive experience where they are shown that people believe in them to push them into a STEM career."

– Loren Skudder-Hill



The three Indigenous travel awardees at the Kids Research Institute, L-R: Loren Skudder-Hill, Jade Noho, Monique Maclaime



At the Perron Institute. Back, L-R: Aleksandra Miljevic, Alex Tang, Wendy Mohi, Jade Noho, Jamie Beres Front, L-R: Monique Maclaime, Leigh Potter, Loren Skudder-Hill

ANS Distinguished Achievement Award

The ANS Distinguished Achievement Award is the highest honour bestowed by the Australasian Neuroscience Society, recognising an exceptional contribution to neuroscience in Australia or New Zealand and dedicated service to the Society. Established in 1992 and first awarded in 1993 to ANS founding President Lawrie Austin, this prestigious accolade celebrates individuals who have shaped the field of neuroscience through groundbreaking discoveries, international recognition, mentorship, and leadership within the ANS community.

Awardees are selected directly by the ANS Council and are typically scientists of international distinction who have made transformative contributions to understanding the nervous system. Their achievements are recognised with a striking bronze medallion, crafted by acclaimed Melbourne sculptor Michael Meszaros, symbolising the profound connection between the brain, the body, and the external world.

Notable recipients include Glenda Halliday (2024), Marcello Costa (2023), Alan Mackay-Sim (2017), and Perry Bartlett (2014), among other leading neuroscientists whose legacies continue to inspire the next generation.

Nominations can be submitted by any ANS member and are considered on a rolling basis, with supporting documentation outlining the nominee's scientific excellence, service to the Society, international impact, and commitment to mentoring.



Brain Bee Finals

2025 WA Brain Bee Final

The 2025 WA Brain Bee finals were held at The [University of Western Australia](#) on Friday 27th June sponsored by [The Glow Circuit](#) and [Perron Institute](#).

We were again impressed by how much year 10 students know about the brain, and how generously the neuroscience community in Perth came together to volunteer their time to make this event happen. Invited speakers included [Dr Yuval Gurfinke](#) from Murdoch University and the Perron Institute and [Ekaterina Khakimullina](#), the 2024 WA Brain Bee Champion. Congratulations to all of the students who participated, the 2025 WA Brain Bee Champion is Rhea Kewalram from Perth Modern School. St Hildas Anglican School for Girls won the team competition.



2025 WA Brain Bee
Champion is Rhea Kewalram
from Perth Modern School.

NZ South Island Brain Bee Final 2025

A massive thank you to everyone who helped make the South Island Brain Bee Final, held on Friday, such a fantastic event!

We're incredibly grateful to the University of Canterbury – School of Psychology, Speech and Hearing for hosting the event, and to our amazing sponsors, the [Neurological Foundation of NZ](#) and [The CatWalk Trust](#), for their ongoing support of neuroscience education and youth engagement. A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers, teachers, parents, and of course the students who participated and made the day so memorable.

Congratulations to our 2025 South Island Brain Bee winners:

1st Place:

Sam O'Hagan
Lincoln High School

Runner-Up:

Cicy Chen
St Andrew's College

Winning Team:

Lincoln High School
Matilda Myers, Ovia M,
and Georgie Browning



2025 South Island Brain Bee winners:
Sam O'Hagan, Lincoln High School and
Cicy Chen, St Andrew's College

Students of Brain Research (SOBR)

ANS supports the Students of Brain Research (SOBR), an academic and social network dedicated to fostering collaboration across all branches of neuroscience.

In 2025, their mission is “Connecting Minds, Inspiring the Future” and they will host two flagship events in Melbourne.

- **The SOBR Professional Development Dinner**
(August 29th, 2025)
A high-profile networking event connecting students with leading researchers and industry professionals across Victoria.
- **The SOBR Student Symposium**
(November 5th, 2025)
An annual national gathering showcasing student research and featuring keynote talks, presentations, and an industry meet-and-greet.

Upcoming Conference



Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research

31 August – 4 September, Christchurch, New Zealand

<https://www.awcbr.org/>

Neuroscience in The News

Studying anxiety in the mind and body

Neuroscientist wins Prime Ministers Macdiarmid Science Prize

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/nights/audio/2018986370/studying-anxiety-in-the-mind-and-body>



Dr Olivia Harrison received the Prime Minister's Macdiarmid Emerging Scientist Prize for 2025

Consortium for Preclinical Psychiatric Research (CPPR)

The Consortium for Preclinical Psychiatric Research (CPPR) aims to foster collaborative research across psychiatry, neuroscience, and molecular biology to advance the understanding and management of complex mental disorders. The CPPR operates by employing a non-exclusive collaborative approach involving researchers from over 14 different Australian and international organisations.

As part of the Australian Consortium for Preclinical Psychiatric Research we encourage you to share resources in our Preclinical Psychiatric Research Knowledge database at the following link:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/103gTsgimztghDF9Azz7epa01b0wAMPF/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=104465106610754841919&rtopof=true&sd=true>

This resource is a knowledge bank of current as well as archived data sets and tissue banks from animal and cellular models relevant to psychiatric disorders, clinical biospecimens and imaging data from people with a psychiatric disorder, as well as post-mortem tissue data sets. The goal of this resource is to facilitate improved collaboration across research groups, reduce replication of data sets, and enable identification of common data sets across research programs to be identified and further explored.

The reference and link are below:
[Consortium for Preclinical Psychiatric Research](#)

If you have any questions or want to learn more please contact:

Susannah Tye, s.tye@uq.edu.au
James Kesby, j.kesby@uq.edu.au
Xiaoying Cui, x.cui@uq.edu.au

Alternatively with the chairs of the ACPPR at Monash University.

Rachel Hill, rachel.hill@monash.edu
Suresh Sundram, suresh.sundram@monash.edu

CPPR

Facilitating improved
collaboration across
research groups.

Neuroepigenetics & Neuroepitranscriptomics series

Upcoming Neuroepigenetics and Neuroepitranscriptomics series which we hope will be of interest to you and your colleagues. This meeting will take place in St. Julian's, Malta from 1-4 October 2025.

It is being chaired by Hongjun Song (University of Pennsylvania) and Li-Huei Tsai (MIT), who have confirmed the following plenary speakers at the conference: Angel Barco, Anne Brunet, Gonçalo Castelo-Branco, Chuan He, Anne Schaefer, Barbara Treutlein and Guo-li Ming.

Key sessions included:

- Epigenetic mechanisms regulating brain development and stem cells
- Transcriptional and translational regulation
- Neuronal specific splicing
- Brain developmental disorders, aging and neurodegeneration
- Single-cell transcriptome, epigenomic, epitranscriptomic, and multi-omics analysis
- Spatial transcriptomic analysis
- 3D epigenome and chromatin topology
- Diverse roles of various RNA modifications in basic neurobiology and clinical translation
- Brain cancer

4th Neuroepigenetics & Neuroepitranscriptomics Conference

01 – 04 October 2025 | St. Julians, Malta



Synopsis

Epigenetic mechanisms, including chemical modifications of DNA and histones as well as regulation by non-coding RNAs, are fundamental mechanism regulating gene expression. Various epigenetic mechanisms have pivotal roles in the nervous system and aberrant epigenetic regulation contributes to pathogenesis in many brain disorders. This meeting will bring together pioneers, experts and junior investigator in studying neuroepigenetics and epitranscriptomics to provide an up-to-date and comprehensive picture of epigenetic and epitranscriptomic mechanisms in neural development, reprogramming and cell identity, plasticity, neuronal function and dysfunction, and discuss future directions of the field. The meeting will offer opportunity and platform for graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, clinical fellows and junior investigator to present their work and interact with leaders in the field and for interdisciplinary collaborations.

Key Sessions

- Epigenetic mechanisms regulating brain development and stem cells
- Transcriptional and translational regulation
- Neuronal specific splicing
- Brain developmental disorders, aging and neurodegeneration
- Single-cell transcriptome, epigenomic, epitranscriptomic, and multi-omics analysis
- Spatial transcriptomic analysis
- 3D epigenome and chromatin topology
- Diverse roles of various RNA modifications in basic neurobiology and clinical translation
- Brain cancer

Important Dates



Early Bird & Talk Deadline – EXPIRED

Poster & Registration Deadline – 07 Aug 2025

FUSION
CONFERENCES

(Neuroepigenetics & Neuroepitranscriptomics
series ... continued)

4th Neuroepigenetics & Neuroepitranscriptomics Conference

01 – 04 October 2025 | St. Julians, Malta



Chaired by Hongjun Song
University of Pennsylvania



Chaired by Li-Huei Tsai
MIT

Confirmed Plenary Speakers

Angel Barco

European Neuroscience Institute

Anne Brunet

Stanford Medicine

Goncalo Castelo-Branco

Karolinska Institutet

Chuan He

University of Chicago

Guo-li Ming

University of Pennsylvania

Anne Schaefer

ICahn School of Medicine

Barbara Treutlein

ETH Zürich

Confirmed Invited Speakers

Timothy Bredy

University of Queensland

Yanxiang Deng

University of Pennsylvania

André Fischer

Georg-August-Universität Göttingen

Johannes Gräff

EPFL

Ankur Jain

MIT

Daniel Lim

UCSF

Ram Madabhushi

UT Southwestern Medical Center

Kate Meyer

Duke University

Alexi Nott

Imperial College London

Richard Phillips

University of Pennsylvania

Jelena Radulovic

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Ravikiran Raju

MIT

Yin Shen

University of California, San Francisco

Yanhong Shi

City of Hope

Na Sun

MIT

Xiao Wang

MIT

Xiaoqun Wang

Institute of Biophysics

Anne West

Duke University

Congratulations Dr. Ramon Martinez-Marmol

July 2025

Dr. Ramon Martinez-Marmol, a neuroscientist at the Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland, has been awarded the prestigious 2025 I. Peter Farrell SpinalCure Fellowship.



*Dr. Ramon Martinez-Marmol,
Queensland Brain Institute*

This five-year Fellowship (AUD\$1.5 million), represents a major investment in one of the brightest minds in neuroscience today—and in the future of people living with spinal cord and peripheral nerve injuries.

Ramon's Fellowship project, Fusion of Axons Innovative THERapy (FAITH), seeks to do what no current therapy can: physically rejoin severed spinal cord nerves after injury using a molecular "glue"

known as a fusogen. These naturally occurring proteins have the potential to reconnect axons, restore function, and change the trajectory of nerve injury recovery.

More information:

<https://www.spinalcure.org.au/research/introducing-our-2025-i-peter-farrell-spinalcure-fellow/>

Exhibit at the Art Gallery of Western Australia (AGWA)

Cerebral organoids are exhibited in a world first exhibit at the Art Gallery of Western Australia (AGWA) – running until August 2025.

It involves the development of cerebral organoids from the legendary composer Alvin Lucier who many decades ago pioneered the use of brain waves to produce resonance and sounds. Lucier was unable to work with us when COVID appeared and although he died in 2020 we had already obtained (with his full permission) his blood cells to generate iPSCs which we have since been growing into cerebral organoids. This piece has allowed Lucier's surrogate performer (his organoids) to continue to compose new material long after his death.

A recent article in the Guardian describing our work can be found here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2025/apr/09/alvin-lucier-dead-composer-making-music-ai-artificial-intelligence-brain>

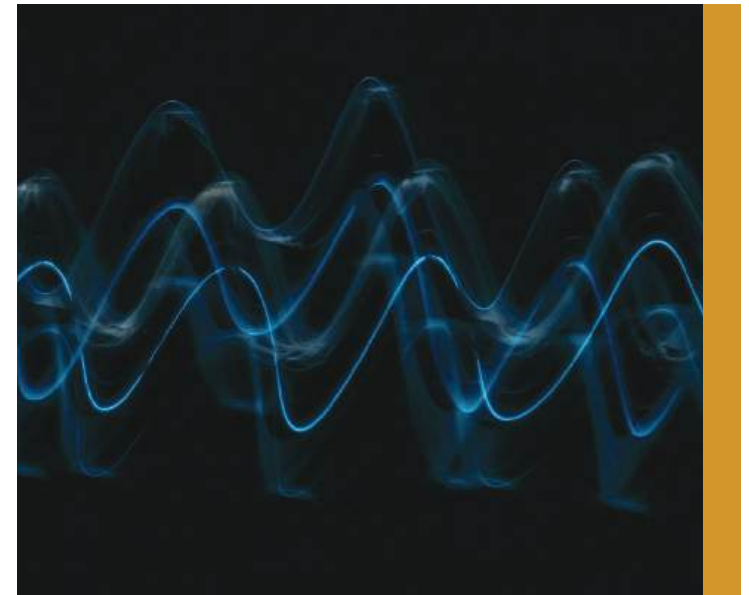
A book showcasing the cultural, ethical, scientific and artistic aspects of this work is due for release, and we also have the crowdfunding page for the book that surrounding Revivification:

<https://cpaus.my.site.com/artists/s/project/a2EMn00000JodOLMAZ/revivification-the-publication>

This will also be showcased in the Politics of the Machines “Synthetic Sentience” POM conference in July (in Perth, WA) where the book will be launched <https://www.pomconference.org/pom-perth-2025/> Both of these being supported in part by the Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Science.

Stuart Hodgetts, Ph.D.

*Director, Spinal Cord Repair
Laboratory
Senior Research Fellow,
Perron Institute for
Neurological and
Translational Science
School of Human Sciences
Anatomy, Physiology and
Human Biology (M309)*



Call for ANS Student State Representatives

The Student Committee is looking for student state representatives to join our team! This is a fantastic opportunity to get involved in the neuroscience community, help organize local events, and represent students in your state. If you're passionate about neuroscience and keen to contribute, we'd love to hear from you!

Interested?

Contact the ANS Student Committee Chair at anli3670@uni.sydney.edu.au for more details. We look forward to working with you!



Call for ANS Communications Representative!

We are seeking an enthusiastic Communications Representative to join the Australian Neuroscience Society (ANS) team. This role offers an exciting opportunity to enhance your science communication skills, broaden your professional network, and play a key role in connecting and informing our vibrant neuroscience community. Responsibilities include managing social media channels, drafting engaging communications, and promoting ANS activities and initiatives. Ideal candidates will have strong written communication skills, creativity, and a keen interest in neuroscience outreach.

Join us in shaping effective communication strategies and showcasing neuroscience excellence across Australia!

Expressions of interest can be submitted via email to marco.morsch@mq.edu.au



Researcher Profile:

Cindy Maurel, Macquarie University



Cindy Maurel

Post doctoral research fellow
MND research center,
Macquarie University,
Macquarie Medical School

PhD received (year and place):

2018, iBrain, University of Tours, France

Previous workplaces (Phd and/or Postdoc):

iBrain, Inserm, Tours in France and current MND research center

Email: cindy.maurel@mq.edu.au

1) **How did you get into science and your current position?**

I knew I was meant to pursue science since I was 10. When I discovered chemistry at 14, I thought it would be my path into the field. Later, I was introduced to biochemistry, which led me to shift my interest toward biology, and eventually toward neurobiology, during my PhD. I then wanted to discover research outside of France, mainly in Europe, but, following a friend advice, I ended up applying for a position in Australia that turned out to be a perfect match for my interests.

2) **Please outline the goal of your research in three short sentences.**

I aim to study the molecular mechanisms behind TDP-43 aggregation. This process is a hallmark of several neurodegenerative diseases, including Motor Neuron Disease and Alzheimer's Disease. Uncovering how and why TDP-43 aggregates could contribute to advance the understanding behind neurodegeneration.

3) **What do you love about your job?**

I love that every day is different and that we have the freedom to think creatively. I also love the idea that, even on a small scale, my work can contribute to advancing science and expanding knowledge in our field.

4) **What project(s) are you currently working on?**

I currently work with a zebrafish model to study how specific protein modifications affect TDP-43 aggregation and function. I am also interested in a cellular mechanism called liquid-liquid phase separation (similar to what happen in a lava lamp) which, when disrupted, may lead to the formation of these harmful "solid" aggregates.

5) **Do you have any advice for anyone considering a career in science? What advice would you give your 5-year younger self?**

Research can be mentally challenging at times, sometimes not highly rewarding but it's incredibly intellectually stimulating. Which means for me, it's crucial to be part of a supportive and communicative environment where you feel safe to express yourself. I would tell my younger self not to be afraid to ask questions or share concerns, this helps to improve and enjoy what truly matters, the excitement of discovery and doing good science you care about.

6) **What do you do when you are not working?**

When I'm not working, I enjoy climbing, running, and cycling to stay active. I also love spending time with friends, going to the cinema, reading books, and travelling as much as possible.

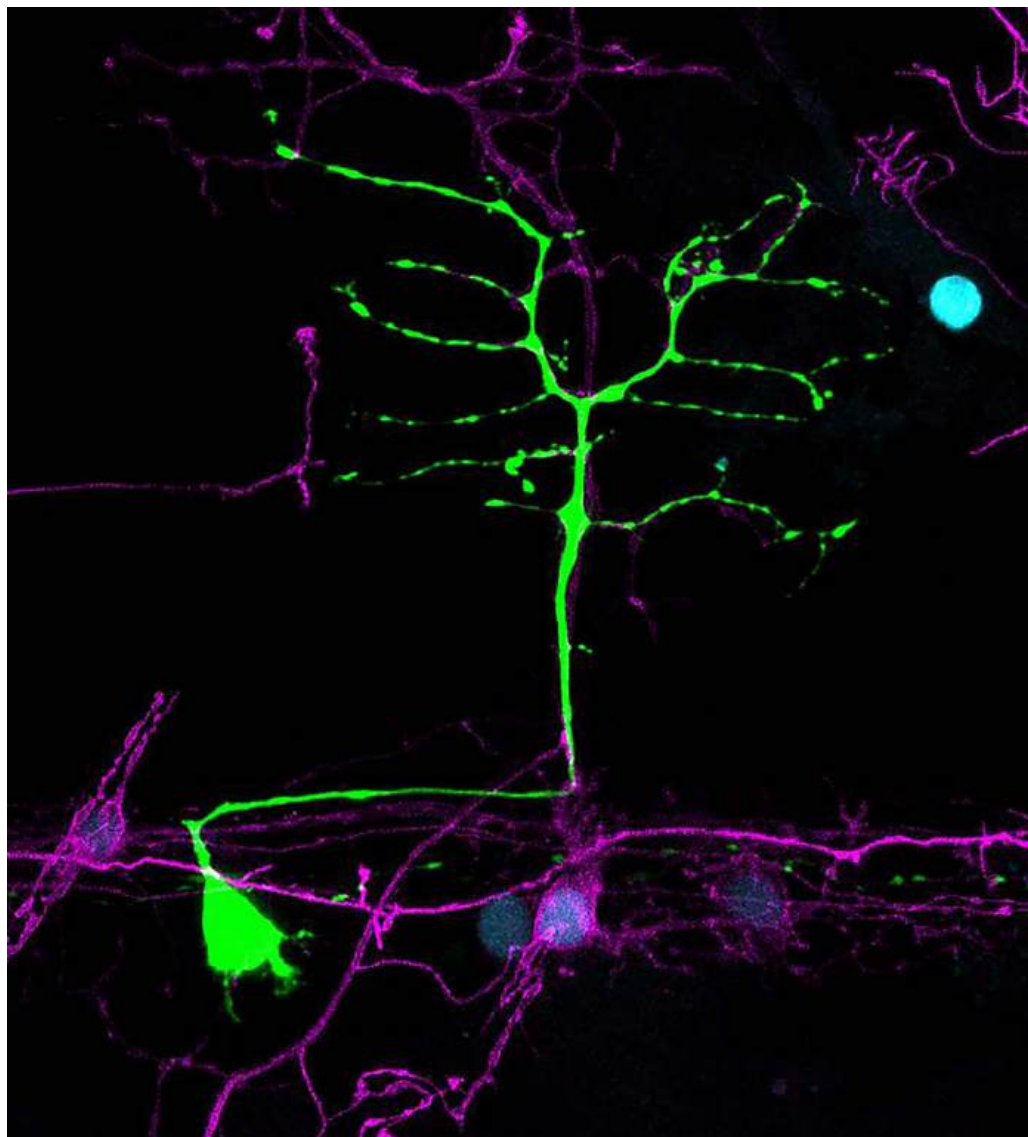
7) **What are your future plans?**

In the future, I hope to continue contributing to research on neurodegenerative diseases by deepening my understanding of disease mechanisms. I'm especially interested in working on collaborative projects that bring together different areas of expertise. I'd like to keep learning, developing new skills, and being part of a research environment that values teamwork and shared scientific goals.

Links to my research:

- <https://researchers.mq.edu.au/en/persons/cindy-maurel>
- <https://www.mq.edu.au/research/research-centres-groups-and-facilities/centres/motor-neuron-disease/our-research>

(Researcher Profile: Cindy Maurel ... continued)







July 2025

Communications

Is there information you would like included in our ANS Newsletter, published in our monthly online Bulletin, posted on our website, or tweeted?

ANS has a Communications Committee to help members disseminate information and assist the Society in publicising its activities to Members and the public. This committee is Co-chaired by Dr Nathalie Dehorter (Australian National University) and A/Prof Marco Morsch (Macquarie University). It oversees the production of the newsletter and ensures that current content is posted on the ANS website, published in our monthly online Bulletin prepared by the ANS Secretariat, posted on outlets such as the ANS Twitter account (by Dr Lila Landowski, University of Tasmania), Bluesky (by Dr Sean Coakley, University of Queensland), and LinkedIn (curated by Prof Thomas Fath, Macquarie University).

-  <http://www.ans.org.au>
-  <https://twitter.com/AusNeuroSoc>
-  <https://bsky.app/profile/ausneurosoc.bsky.social>
-  <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8362021/>

If you have content for us, please email Marco Morsch (marco.morsch@mq.edu.au).

Become an ANS member or student member!

Please join with your colleagues in Australia and New Zealand by becoming a Member of ANS. You can join online at any time!
<https://tas.currinda.com/register/organisation/172>

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 and monthly bulletin if appropriate. Such requests should be directed to the ANS Secretary.

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