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# Acknowledgements

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## Notification

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Check out our website  
[www.ans.org.au](http://www.ans.org.au)

and follow updates on the  
ANS Twitter account  
[twitter.com/AusNeuroSoc](https://twitter.com/AusNeuroSoc)

or via our Bluesky account  
[bsky.app/profile/ausneurosoc.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/ausneurosoc.bsky.social)

[in linkedin.com/groups/8362021/](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8362021/)

## ANS Executive

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# Message from the President

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I cannot believe it's March already. There are new experiments to set up in the lab, the campus is buzzing with students, and the long queues for coffee at the refectory are infuriating. Still, it's great to see so much activity on campus.

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Professor  
Jason Mattingley

President, ANS  
[j.mattingley@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.mattingley@uq.edu.au)

Although it seems like a long time ago now, I still have vivid memories of the 2025 ANS Annual Scientific Meeting in Hobart. Among the many highlights were the excellent plenary lectures by Marina Mikhaylova (Humboldt University), Alex Fornito (Monash University), Miriam Matamales (University of New South Wales), Peter Crack (University of Melbourne), and Melinda Fitzgerald (Curtin University). I also enjoyed the many symposia, open talks and posters, and I was particularly impressed by the quality and variety of work presented by students and early career researchers. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jenna Ziebell (Conference Executive Chair), Brad Sutherland (Chair of the Local Organising Committee), and the entire Hobart conference team for hosting such an engaging and successful meeting.

On that note, I am excited to announce that ANS will hold its 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting jointly with the Australasian Cognitive Neuroscience Society (ACNS) and Biological Psychiatry Australia (BPA). The combined meeting, which we have badged as the "Australasian Neuroscience Alliance", will take place at the Hilton Hotel in Sydney from 29 November – 2 December. It will offer an opportunity for members with closely aligned interests to come together and share their discoveries, in addition to affording valuable networking opportunities. Lezanne Ooi (University of Wollongong) has been appointed as the Conference Executive Chair for the 2026 meeting, and Natalie Matosin (University of Sydney) is the Chair of the Local Organising Committee. Please make a note of the dates in your diary, as this promises to be a very special meeting. Also, look out for the call for symposium proposals, which should appear in your inbox by the end of March.

I would also like to remind everyone that we will soon be calling for nominations for the ANS Annual Awards. These include the A.W. Campbell, Nina Kondelos, Paxinos-Watson, Mark Rowe, Marcello Costa, and Education Excellence Awards. In addition, I am pleased to announce that Council has approved a new award to commence in 2026 called the "ANS Mid-Career Research Excellence Award". As the name suggests, this accolade is aimed at recognising a published paper by a researcher who is currently 5-10 years post-PhD. Further information about the award will be available shortly on the ANS website.

We will also soon be calling for nominations for the 2026 round of the ANS Finkel Foundation Travelling Fellowships. 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. Congratulations to the 2025 recipients of Finkel Foundation Travelling Fellowships, Dr Christina Mo (Florey Institute, University of Melbourne), Dr Barbora Fulopova (Queensland Brain Institute, University of Queensland) and Dr Jingjing You (University of Sydney).

Finally, a reminder that applications are now open for the Australasian Course in Advanced Neuroscience (ACAN), which will be held at the University of New South Wales from 10-30th May. To apply, and for further information, please visit the ACAN website [ans.org.au/acan](https://ans.org.au/acan).

Best wishes for the busy months ahead, and I look forward to seeing you at the Australasian Neuroscience Alliance Conference in Sydney.

# Secretary's Message



Dr Matilde Balbi

Secretary

Dear ANS members,

I hope the year has started smoothly and productively for all, and that 2026 brings exciting progress in your research, teaching, and scientific collaborations. As we move into the first part of the year, the Society has begun preparations for several major activities, including planning for future meetings.

I am pleased to announce that the call for nominations for invited speakers for the 2027 ANS Conference has now been circulated. This is always an important stage in shaping the scientific program and I warmly encourage you to put forward nominations for outstanding researchers whose work represents the breadth and excellence of neuroscience across Australia, New Zealand, and beyond.

Your contributions help us build a diverse and forward-looking program, and I look forward to receiving many strong nominations. Thank you in advance for taking the time to be involved in this process.

Wishing you all the best for the months ahead,

*Matilde Balbi*

## **Please nominate speakers for plenary lectures at the 2027 ANS Annual Scientific Meeting**

Download Form on the ANS Website: [www.ans.org.au](http://www.ans.org.au)  
Deadline: 30 June 2026

## **Illumina Neurogenomics Research Award**

Apply now: [www.ans.org.au/awards/ans-illumina-research-award](http://www.ans.org.au/awards/ans-illumina-research-award)  
Applications close: 1 May 2026 5pm AEST



# Australasian Neuroscience Alliance 2026



## From a Stellar 2025 to a landmark 2026 meeting

The ANS Meeting 2025 in Hobart was a tremendous success. Neuroscientists from across Australasia and beyond gathered to share their latest discoveries, engage in lively discussions, and celebrate excellence in both research and education. The program showcased outstanding scientific presentations spanning diverse areas of neuroscience, alongside vibrant poster sessions that sparked new ideas and collaborations. We were also delighted to host industry partners who displayed the latest equipment, tools, and reagents, providing valuable insights into emerging technologies that support and advance research. The strong sense of community and enthusiasm throughout the meeting truly highlighted the vitality of our field.



We are delighted to share that the 2026 Australasian Neuroscience Society (ANS) Annual Scientific Meeting will be a landmark joint conference with the Australian Cognitive Neuroscience Society (ACNS) and Biological Psychiatry Australia (BPA).

This combined meeting will bring together researchers across neuroscience, cognitive science, and biological psychiatry to strengthen collaborations, expand professional networks, and foster new cross-disciplinary partnerships. With a broader scientific community under one roof, attendees will have enhanced opportunities to connect with leaders in related fields, exchange ideas, and build valuable relationships that support future research and career development.

We look forward to welcoming you to Sydney in 2026 for this milestone event!

*The Australasian Neuroscience Society (ANS), Biological Psychiatry Australia (BPA) and the Australian Cognitive Neuroscience Society (ACNS) have partnered together to co-host the 2026 Australasian Neuroscience Alliance conference (#NeuroAlliance2026) at The Hilton, Sydney 29 November - 2 December.*



# ACAN 2026: Expanding International Partnerships and Strengthening Regional Training

The Australasian Course in Advanced Neuroscience (ACAN) continues to grow as the flagship intensive training program for early career neuroscientists across Australasia, and the 2026 edition is shaping up to be one of the most internationally connected and technically rich courses to date.

This year, ACAN is delighted to receive international support from the IBRO Schools Program, strengthening our long-standing relationship with the global neuroscience community. This support expands opportunities for trainees across Australia, New Zealand, and the broader Asia Pacific region to access world class training in electrophysiology, imaging, systems neuroscience, and behaviour.

We are equally pleased to acknowledge generous support from the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand, whose commitment to advancing neuroscience training continues to elevate ACAN's reach and impact across Aotearoa.

## A standout international faculty

The 2026 program brings an exceptional roster of speakers and workshop leaders spanning three themes – *Neurons to Networks*, *Networks to Systems*, and *Systems to Behaviour*. Alongside our superb local researchers, we are thrilled to welcome several outstanding special lectures, including:

- **Christine Grienberger** (Brandeis University, USA) – Synaptic plasticity and in vivo imaging.
- **Hiroki Wake** (NIPS Japan) – Holographic manipulation of neuron-glia interactions.
- **Maarten Kole** (Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience) – Overview on axonal physiology and signal transmission.
- **David Simpson** (University of Melbourne) – Diamond voltage imaging.
- **Mihaela Iordanova** (Concordia University, Canada) – Associative learning and behaviour.
- **Carmen Falcone** (Towson University, USA) – Astrocyte evolution.
- **John Reynolds** (University of Otago, NZ) – Neuromodulation and plasticity

These contributions ensure the 2026 cohort engages directly with global leaders across cellular, circuit, and behavioural neuroscience.

## Strengthening industry partnerships

ACAN's hands on philosophy is only possible through the strong support of our industry partners. We are pleased to confirm **continuing and expanded sponsorship** from:

- **Scitech**
- **Molecular Devices**
- **3Brain (running a dedicated multi electrode array workshop)**
- **Scientifica**
- **Doric**
- **Stoelting**

These partners not only support the course financially but play an active teaching role through equipment demonstrations, technical training, and integrated practical sessions.



## All spaces and logistics locked in

Course venues for 2026 are now fully secured across UNSW's **Wallace Wurth Building**, including all electrophysiology suites, imaging labs, teaching spaces, behavioural labs (UNSW Animal Services), and seminar rooms. Student accommodation has been confirmed at **Sydney Lodges (Perouse Road)**, keeping the cohort within walking distance of campus and Coogee Beach.

These logistical foundations allow the ACAN faculty to focus entirely on delivering the most immersive and cohesive training experience possible – one that bridges disciplinary boundaries from molecules to behaviour.

### Thinking about applying?

Here are some important dates to note:

ACAN 2026 - **Sunday 10th May 2026 to Saturday 30th May 2026**

Applications Open - **Monday 2nd February 2026**

Applications Close - **11:59pm, Wednesday 18 March 2026**

**[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)**

First-round offer letters to successful applicants will be sent in the last week of March to give you time to prepare for the start of the course. The course fee for 2026 is unchanged at AUD\$5250 + GST. The course fee covers the whole course, accommodation, and meals.

ACAN accommodation for 2026 will be at Sydney Lodges.

The program for this year's course is available **[HERE](#)**



**ACAN2026**

Australasian course in advanced **NEUROSCIENCE**  
10-30 May 2026

**Theme 1 |** Building neurons & circuits

**Theme 2 |** Desciphering neurons & networks

**Theme 3 |** Exploring systems & behaviour

**Join over 50 faculty from around the world to learn advanced neuroscience theory and a range of techniques hands on:**

- Advanced patch-clamp ephys:**  
paired recordings | dendritic patch | in vivo | optogenetics
- Advanced functional imaging:**  
in vitro & in vivo calcium imaging | functional circuit dissection
- Advanced systems neuroscience:**  
conditioning | fibre photometry & electroporation | 3D pose analysis

**And MUCH more!**

2026 Program QR Code

10-30 May 2026  
UNSW SYDNEY

Applications open:  
February 2026

Theme 3 Systems & Behaviour · ACAN2K26 · Theme 1 Electrophysiology fundamentals · Theme 2 Cortical processing and networks

UNSW SYDNEY | IBRO RESEARCH ORGANIZATION | Neurological Foundation A pathway to hope | Australasian Neuroscience Society

# Listening to Lived Experience: A Call to Neuroscience Researchers

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In neuroscience, progress is often measured in data points, biomarkers, and clinical trials. Yet, behind every clinical dataset lies a person living with the daily realities of neurological dysfunction.

At the December Annual Conference in Hobart last year, the Neuroscience Education and Outreach Committee of ANS hosted a panel discussion with six community members - each with a unique lived experience of conditions including Parkinson's, Motor Neuron disease, Alzheimer's disease, and younger onset dementia. They reminded us that listening to their voices is not optional but is essential in order to improve how we do our research, how we teach our students and how we care for our people.

## Understanding the realities of disease

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In addition to the 4 cardinal motor signs of Parkinson's, we were reminded that there are more than 30 non-motor symptoms that can accompany a diagnosis of Parkinson's, some of which are more disruptive to quality of life than the motor symptoms, and with that comes the juggle of working with different healthcare providers for different symptoms. We learned about the relentless fatigue of MND, and the constant logistics of caregiving and the potential of wearable technology to ease that burden. We also heard about the trauma of psychosis associated with dementia. When caring for a partner or loved one, all panel members reminded us that people living with a diagnosis remain whole individuals, deserving kindness, respect and compassion.

*"my advice to you is treat the illness, but look after the person, right to the end."*

*"I need to manage life around the fatigue"*

*"if you could come up with a phone App based on wearables that could tell me what her fatigue level is at this moment, that would be really handy."*

## What would make the biggest difference?

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The panel called for better teamwork across disciplines, honesty about the pace of research, and systemic reforms. More effective collaboration among medical professionals and better systems for younger dementia patients is also needed. We were cautioned against exaggerated "breakthroughs" in the media, that raise false hopes, told of the need for a national dataset for MND to unify fragmented research efforts and reminded that change often comes from outside the mainstream - if researchers are willing to listen.

*"I think there is a lot of wonder, humility, and courage in this conversation today"*

## Resilience and positivity

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Despite immense challenges, panellists described strategies for sustaining hope: poetry, singing, pets, neighbours, yoga, walking, gratitude, and cultural practices including religion and connecting with Country. These coping mechanisms reveal the resilience and creativity of those living with neurological conditions - insights that can inform more holistic approaches to care and research.

*"When we first had the diagnosis, I didn't really know what to make it, but I thought it was very inconvenient. It wasn't how I wanted to spend my years at that stage in my life"*



## Collaboration with communities

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All panellists were clear in their message to researchers - they need to step outside the lab and "walk the walk" with communities. Go out and visit, spend some time, and really understand what life is like. If you don't have access to right people in community, look for lived experience and advocacy networks that already exist. For neuroscience researchers, the challenge is to integrate lived experience into every stage of inquiry - from finding out what matters most, to framing research questions and then interpreting findings. Listening is not just an act of empathy; it is a pathway to more relevant, impactful science.

*"Find us, maybe sometimes you can walk with us, you know? Until you've walked it, you have no idea"*

## The wider team matters

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Finally, the panel highlighted the vital role of allied health professionals: physiotherapists, nurses, GPs, continence specialists, and community groups. These relationships often provide the most practical and empathetic support, reminding us that care is multidisciplinary and deeply human.

*Associate Professor Alison Canty, Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre, University of Tasmania*

*Associate Professor Catherine Leamey, University of Sydney.*

**Link to all MOOCs at the University of Tasmania: [mooc.utas.edu.au](https://mooc.utas.edu.au)**

# Brain Bee Updates

## Australian and New Zealand Brain Bee Competition 2026 - registrations open!

This free competition is open to all students in Year 10 in Australia, and Year 11 in New Zealand. Learn about the brain and get the opportunity to meet Neuroscience experts in your region.

**REGISTER HERE:**  
<https://hsl.educationperfect.com/brain-bee-2026>

**MORE INFORMATION IS HERE:**  
<https://ans.org.au/meetings-events/australia-brain-bee-challenge>

or contact one of your friendly regional coordinators listed below and right

<https://ans.org.au/meetings-events/australia-brain-bee-challenge/about-the-brain-bee-challenge>



## National Coordinators for Australia and New Zealand

**Prof Jennifer Rodger**  
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**Prof Bruno van Swinderen**  
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**Dr Matt Kirkcaldie**  
[Matthew.Kirkcaldie@utas.edu.au](mailto:Matthew.Kirkcaldie@utas.edu.au)

**Prof Charles Watson**  
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## Making it happen

The ABBC is coordinated by a dedicated network of regional organisers who ensure the competition remains accessible, inclusive, and inspiring. Importantly, the program fosters not only scientific knowledge but also teamwork, critical thinking, and communication skills. Many alumni report that their participation influenced their decision to study neuroscience-related fields at university.

## National Coordinators



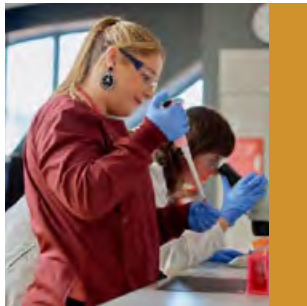
## New Zealand



## Australia



# Researcher Profile: Dr. Hannah Coombe



## Dr. Hannah Coombe

PhD received 2025,  
University of Tasmania

[Hannah.coombe@utas.edu.au](mailto:Hannah.coombe@utas.edu.au)

### How did you get into science and your current position?

My interest in science began at age 5 when my cousin was born with an illness that had no cure. I remember asking my mum why he could not be given medicine to make him better. I was shocked to hear that not every illness has a medicine. With my 5-year-old determination, I told her one day I will make the medicine he needed. That moment ignited a spark in me as I realised that science is full of unknowns and possibilities, some which can potentially change people's lives. That spark never faded, instead it grew and led me to the career I am pursuing today.

### Please outline the goal of your research in three short sentences.

My research is investigating the roles of pericytes in ischaemic stroke recovery, primarily in vivo using mouse stroke models. I am particularly interested in the relationships between pericytes and the vasculature and blood flow within the ischaemic core. By exploring this, we hope to uncover new ways of improving brain recovery after ischaemic stroke.

### What do you love about your job?

I love doing experiments in the lab! I especially enjoy in vivo experiments (we mainly use mouse models) where I can see how the whole body responds to different conditions. Recently, I learned how to perform a difficult stroke model

called the middle cerebral artery occlusion. It is an intricate technique, but it lets us temporarily block blood flow to the brain and study what happens in real time with live blood flow imaging. Watching the blood flow changes unfold under different conditions in this model has been fascinating. Learning and mastering new techniques like this, especially when they lead to new questions and discoveries, gives me a sense of curiosity and purpose that makes me excited to come to work every day.

### What project(s) are you currently working on?

I am currently taking key aspects of my recently completed PhD work further to build on several exciting findings about pericytes and stroke recovery. I am also now starting to expand beyond my own work by contributing my skills to several other projects about the neurovascular unit, particularly in Alzheimer's disease. I also have a fascinating ongoing side project that came out of my Honour's work several years ago, which investigates how vascular dysfunction in human placentas may be involved in fetal growth restriction.

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

Science, particularly research, can be incredibly challenging. We investigate research questions because we do

not know what the answer is going to be, otherwise it would not be called research! Sometimes the answer is what you hoped for, other times it is not. It is important to be resilient. Experiments will not always work the first time, and results may be surprising or even disappointing, but a negative result is still valuable. Research often feels like a rollercoaster, with dramatic highs and lows, and it is important to not let a single setback derail your momentum. Often you learn more from failures than you do from success. This is the advice I wish I could give my younger self, 5 years ago, before starting my PhD.

### What do you do when you are not working?

Outside of work, I like to play a mixture of sports, spend time with my dog, and be around my friends and family. I am particularly passionate about table tennis, tennis and inline hockey, and my competitive side definitely comes out when I play these sports!

### What are your future plans?

Looking ahead, I am excited to continue building my career, developing my skills and taking on new challenges. At age 5, I predicted where I would be now, and surprisingly, I was right. I am not convinced my forecasting abilities will continue, but I am excited to see what unfolds next by following my curiosity and determination.



Hannah Coombe  
Junior Research Fellow in Neurovascular Biology  
University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

#### **LINKS TO MY RESEARCH:**

<https://discover.utas.edu.au/Hannah.Coombe/about>

<http://www.perivascular.org/>

# Celebrating our Members

## Westpac Scholar advancing stroke recovery using brain stimulation



Dr Matilde Balbi and Chantelle Jackson

UQ's Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) PhD candidate Chantelle Jackson has received a 2026 Westpac Future Leaders Scholarship to advance effective, accessible stroke-recovery treatments to benefit Australians in regional and remote communities.

Based in the **Balbi Lab**, Chantelle's research focuses on a novel therapy using targeted brain stimulation to boost blood flow and enhance the brain's natural ability to clear toxic waste after stroke.

**Dr Matilde Balbi** said the scholarship is an excellent opportunity for Chantelle to build skills that complement what she will learn in the lab during her PhD.

*"Through the program, Chantelle will learn the foundations of leadership and receive funding for international lab placements, giving her the broad skills she needs for a successful scientific career,"* Dr Balbi said.

*"With Westpac's support, Chantelle can attend conferences, build collaborations, and share her research globally."*

*"Chantelle's project is part of our lab's broader investigation into brain oscillations as a treatment option for stroke, emphasising the collective effort behind this emerging approach."*

Chantelle Jackson received a 2026 Westpac Future Leaders Scholarship

Chantelle's PhD path began during the second year of her science undergraduate,

when Chantelle completed a Winter Research Project at QBI.

*"Apart from being fascinated by the brain, I was drawn to the Balbi Lab because of its values. I liked what I saw of the working environment, so I reached out to Matilde about the opportunity,"* Chantelle said.

Inspired by her Winter Research Program project, Chantelle continued working one day a week with the lab before starting her Honours.

*"My vision is to help create a more inclusive Australia, where stroke treatment access and outcomes are not governed by postcode or privilege,"* Chantelle said.

*"We hope our research will lead to a portable treatment device for use in any hospital or ambulance, reducing the secondary damage from toxic metabolites after a stroke."*

*"I have always loved science and became interested in research in Year 7 when I saw its potential to address complex health challenges and improve people's lives."*

Chantelle is one of 16 postgraduates nationally to share in Westpac's \$1.9million scholarship program, which supports emerging leaders working on major global challenges - from AI enabled healthcare to climate resilience and sustainable systems.

Read the UQ News story [HERE](#).

## Prof Chris Vaughn

We extend our warmest wishes to leading pain specialist and long-standing ANS member Professor Chris Vaughn on his retirement from the Kolling Institute at the University of Sydney. Throughout his distinguished career, Professor Vaughn has made significant contributions to our understanding of the role of cannabinoids in pain. He is also widely respected as an exceptional supervisor and mentor, with many of his trainees going on to successful careers in academia and medicine. He leaves a lasting legacy of scholarship, leadership, and generosity to the field.

## A/Prof Melissa Sharpe

Congratulations to ANS member Melissa Sharpe, University of Sydney, for her recent promotion to Associate Professor.



## Latest News *Pānui Kawepūrongo*

He aha te kai o te rangatira? He kōrero, he kōrero, he kōrero

What is the food of the leader? It is knowledge, it is communication

<https://www.aotearoabrainproject.nz/news>



**Aotearoa  
Brain  
Project**

**Kaupapa  
Roro o  
Aotearoa**

# Upcoming Events

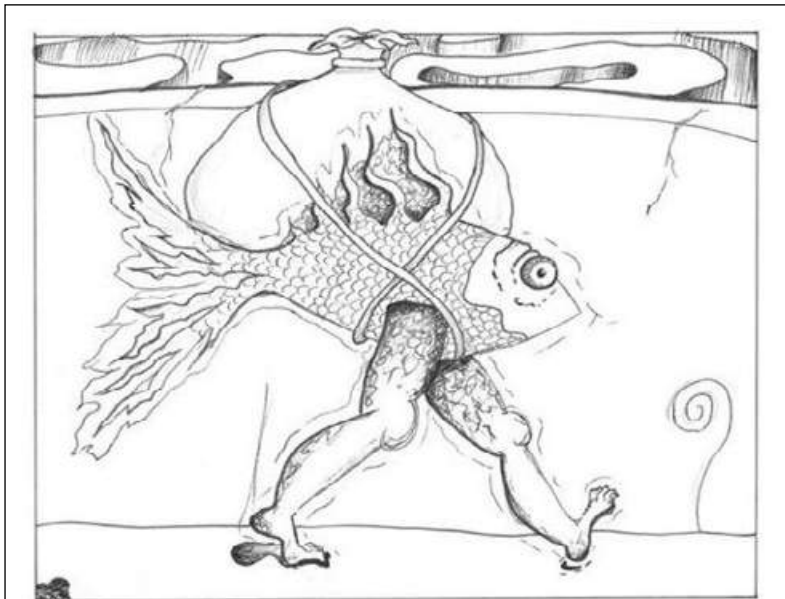
## Brain Awareness week in Perth:

Neuro Nouveau, the exhibition of student artworks from NEUR1001 Neuroscience in Society, a first year unit in the Neuroscience Major at The University of Western Australia is back in 2026.

NEUR1001 breaks down the boundaries between art and science in a major assignment where students explore neuroscience mechanisms through creative expression. We show selected creative pieces accompanied by edited text detailing the neuroscience

mechanism that is represented and the inspiration behind the work. The exhibition highlights the power of creative and scientific thinking, demonstrating how art can illuminate the workings of the brain while maintaining scientific rigor.

The exhibition will be at Forrest Hall on 21 and 22 March during Brain Awareness Week and is sponsored by Perron Institute and Forrest Research Foundation.



"Getting from A to B: How Kinesin Functions in Axonal Transport" by Isla Madson

## RNA Technologies and Therapeutics for Neuroscience

May 30-June 6, 2026

<https://www.neurosas.org/advanced-courses-venice/advanced-courses/rna-technologies-and-therapeutics-for-neuroscience/>

neuroscience school of advanced studies

Venice  
Isola di San Servolo

Advanced Course  
May 30-June 7, 2026

**RNA Technologies and Therapeutics for Neuroscience**

Director: **Timothy Bredy**

Faculty:

- Gene Yeo**, University of California, San Diego, USA
- Eric Wang**, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA
- Piero Carninci**, Human Technopole, Milan, Italy
- John Mattick**, University of New South Wales, Australia
- André Fischer**, University Medical Center, Göttingen, Germany
- Bryan Dickinson**, University of Chicago, USA
- Timothy Bredy**, University of Queensland, Australia

Advanced Neuroscience Courses  
Isola di San Servolo, Venice

Neuroscience School of Advanced Studies

[www.neurosas.org](http://www.neurosas.org)  
[info@neurosas.org](mailto:info@neurosas.org)

## 2026 ALG Midyear Conference

The **2026 ALG Midyear Conference** will be held on 29-31 July at the Carrington Hotel in Katoomba, NSW. Come along for all things associative learning, cognitive psychology, neuroscience, and more.

Keynote speaker will be Professor Bronwyn Graham from UNSW, Sydney.

Early bird registration is \$450 (incl GST) for staff and \$250 (incl GST) for students. Closes Wednesday 1 July. Standard registration rate is \$500 for staff and \$300 for students. Final registration closes on Wednesday 15 July. The deadline for abstract submission is Wednesday 1 July.

**You can register for the conference and submit your abstract here:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/2026-alg-annual-midyear-conference-tickets-1982319778821?aff=oddtcreator>



Australian Learning Group

**Conference of the International Society for Autonomic Neuroscience (ISAN)**

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2-5 September 2026 in Bologna, Italy

<https://autonomicneuroscience.info/>

**14th CONGRESS of the INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR AUTONOMIC NEUROSCIENCE**  
*Joint Meeting with EFAS - European Federation of Autonomic Societies*  
**BOLOGNA - ITALY, 2-5 SEPTEMBER 2026**

**14th CONGRESS of the INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR AUTONOMIC NEUROSCIENCE**  
*Joint Meeting with EFAS - European Federation of Autonomic Societies*  
**Bologna - Italy, 2-5 September 2026**

**CONFERENCE CHAIR**  
Prof. **Davide Martelli**, PhD  
*Associate Professor of Physiology*  
*Department of Biomedical and Neuromotor Sciences*  
*Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna*  
*ISAN Member*

**CONFERENCE CO-CHAIR**  
Prof. **Chiara Bertecotti**, PhD  
*Associate Professor of Physiology*  
*Department of Biomedical and Neuromotor Sciences*  
*Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna*

**TOPICS**

- Autonomic Nervous System (ANS) function & dysfunction
- Neurophysiology of autonomic control
- Cardiovascular autonomic control
- Pharmacological interventions for autonomic disorders
- Dysautonomia and neurodegenerative diseases
- Stress & autonomic responses
- Interaction between the ANS and immune system
- Development & plasticity of the ANS
- Vagal nerve stimulation for treatment of different diseases
- Stimulating peripheral nerves to relieve conditions

Organizing Secretariat: [info@isaneuroscience.it](mailto:info@isaneuroscience.it) | +39 051 5364300 | [www.isaneuroscience.it](http://www.isaneuroscience.it)

**International Basal Ganglia Society (IBAGS) meeting**

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6-10th December 2025, Dunedin, New Zealand

<https://ibags.global/conferences/>

**IBAGS 2026**  
**International Basal Ganglia Society DUNEDIN**

**Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research (AWCBR)**

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31 Aug- 04 Sep 2026, Christchurch NZ

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

## Call for ANS Communications Representative!

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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 [n.dehorter@uq.edu.au](mailto:n.dehorter@uq.edu.au)

## Call for ANS Education and Outreach Representative!

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Some hard-working members of the ANS Education and Outreach Committee (NEO) are approaching their maximum term and so we are soliciting for Eols from new members. Being part of the NEO is a great opportunity to contribute to the Society. We are interested in hearing from ANS members, with an interest in education and outreach, who would like to help support our activities at all career stages.

Please submit an Eol to the NEO Committee Chair A/Prof Catherine Leamey at [catherine.leamey@sydney.edu.au](mailto:catherine.leamey@sydney.edu.au) by 31 March.

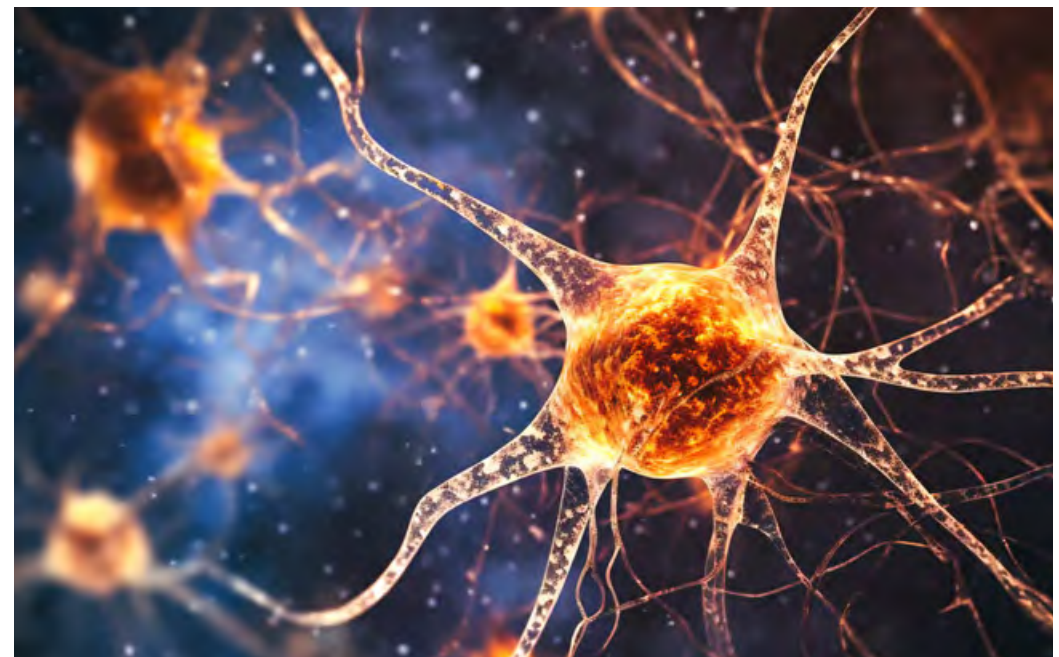
## Call for Student Body Committee Member

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If you're a PhD student who's passionate about student engagement, networking, and strengthening our research community, we'd love to have you consider joining the **Australasian Neuroscience Society (ANS) Student Body Committee**.

Our committee works to support and connect neuroscience students across Australia and New Zealand. We organise events throughout the year to foster collaboration, build professional networks, and create opportunities for students to engage with peers and

leaders in the field. It's a great way to develop leadership skills, expand your network, and play a meaningful role in shaping the student experience within ANS. We have multiple roles available currently to suit a wide range of skill sets. If this sounds like something you'd like to be part of, please get in touch with the Committee Chair Tessa Onraet ([t.onraet@uq.edu.au](mailto:t.onraet@uq.edu.au)) and provide a short description of your current research and interests and any relevant previous leadership and Committee experience.



# ANS Communications

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

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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 A/Prof Nathalie Dehorter The University of Queensland; 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 [www.ans.org.au/](http://www.ans.org.au/) published in our monthly online Bulletin prepared by the ANS Secretariat, and disseminated through postings on the ANS Twitter account [twitter.com/AusNeuroSoc](https://twitter.com/AusNeuroSoc)

Bluesky Account by Dr Lila Landowski, University of Tasmania and Dr Sean Coakley, University of QLD [bsky.app/profile/ausneurosoc.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/ausneurosoc.bsky.social)

LinkedIn Curated by Prof Thomas Fath, Macquarie University [linkedin.com/groups/8362021/](https://linkedin.com/groups/8362021/)

If you have content for us, please email Nathalie Dehorter [marco.morsch@mq.edu.au](mailto:marco.morsch@mq.edu.au).

## Become an ANS member or student member!

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



## Newsletter Editor

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A/Prof Nathalie Dehorter

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