

Australian Neuroscience Society Annual Meeting

Hobart Tasmania
27-30 January 2008

Overseas Plenary Speaker: Carla Shatz

Local Committee: lisa.foa@utas.edu.au
Registration: <http://www.sallyjayconferences.com.au/ans>

Photo: Tourism Tas & G. Moore



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ANS Newsletter

No. 3

October, 2007

ANS HOBART 2008 . . .

ANS heads to beautiful Tasmania for the next ANS meeting from 27-30th January 2008.

There are four outstanding plenary speakers: Carla Shatz, Phil Robinson, Gary Egan and Mac Christie and 11 exciting concurrent symposia, covering a wide range of topics from consciousness to mathematical modeling and how the hypothalamus controls our hunger. The inaugural Presidential Symposium will be held in a plenary session and will feature four stellar early career researchers to come out of Australian Neuroscience, including the winner of the 2007 AW Campbell Award, Sam Solomon.

The registration fees for the Hobart meeting have been kept at the same price as the Sydney meeting in 2006 and by now you will have received the registration brochure.

You can obtain fly-drive packages at very reasonable rates to get you "on-the-road" before or after the Meeting to visit the majestic, world-heritage listed Southern Forests or a leisurely day trip to nearby Bruny Island.

For more information visit the Tourism Tasmania website at www.discovertasmania.com.au.

We hope you'll come to Hobart and join in what is bound to be a fantastic meeting in one of the most beautiful locations in Australia.

**Deadline for abstracts and early registration:
13th November 2007**

For more detailed information on the conference program go to <http://www.sallyjayconferences.com.au/ans2008/>

The meeting venue is the Hotel Grand Chancellor, which is situated on the waterfront in downtown Hobart. From the hotel you merely have to cross the road to see the fishing boats docked in Victoria Wharf, or the racing yachts from the Sydney-Hobart blue water classic in Constitution Dock. There are many restaurants and art galleries within easy strolling distance and if you come a day early you can enjoy the famous Salamanca market, held every Saturday, rain, hail or shine.

Other activities you might enjoy include a trip up Mt Wellington from where you can see Southern Tasmania stretched out before you; a Ferry ride on the Derwent River, a fast catamaran ride down the picturesque D'Entrecasteaux Channel to the award-winning Peppermint Bay Resort, or to the historic site of the Port Arthur convict colony; a tour of the Cadbury chocolate factory or the oldest brewery in Australia.

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Carla Shatz

Carla Shatz

2008 ANS Overseas Plenary Lecturer

Carla Shatz will present the 2008 ANS overseas plenary lecture in Hobart. Carla is renowned for her studies of how the orderly sets of connections present in the adult brain are wired up during development. She received a Ph.D. in neurobiology from Harvard Medical School in 1976, where she studied with the Nobel Laureates David Hubel and Torsten Wiesel. She subsequently held Professorial positions in neurobiology at Stanford (from 1978-1992), Berkeley (1992-2000) and Harvard (2000-2007), and has recently returned to Stanford to head the Bio-X program, which promotes interdisciplinary collaborations between life scientists, medical scientists, engineers, physicists and computer scientists.

ANS 2008 PLENARY LECTURES

Overseas Plenary Lecture: Carla Shatz, Stanford University.

ANS Plenary Lecture: Phil Robinson, Children's Medical Research Institute, NSW.

Lawrie Austin Lecture: Macdonald Christie, University of Sydney - *sponsored by Menzies Research Institute*

Eccles Lecture: Gary Egan, The Howard Florey Institute, Melbourne

ANS 2008 SYMPOSIA

Presidential Symposium

Chairs: ANS President, Glenda Halliday and ANS President-Elect David Vaney.

Sam Solomon, University of Sydney - Dynamic neural codes early in the visual pathway

Troy Margrie, University College London - Motion encoding at a central synapse

Gila Moalem-Taylor, University of New South Wales - Immune mechanisms of neuropathic pain

Graham Knott, University of Lausanne, Switzerland - Title to be announced

From circuits to maps: How synaptic activity shapes functional circuitry

Organiser: Lisa Foa, University of Tasmania (lisa.foa@utas.edu.au)

Chair: Mike Calford, University of Newcastle.

Morphogens in the regulation of neuronal polarity

Organiser and Chair: Helen Cooper, Queensland Brain Institute, (h.cooper@uq.edu.au)

Hypothalamic peptides: eat, drink & be merry

Organiser: Andrew Lawrence, Howard Florey Institute, (Andrew.Lawrence@florey.edu.au)

Chairs: Andrew Lawrence & Gavan McNally

Consciousness

Organiser and Chair: Seong Seng Tan, Howard Florey Institute (stan@hfi.unimelb.edu.au)

Mathematical modelling of neural development

Organisers: Heather Young, University of Melbourne (h.young@unimelb.edu.au), Don Newgreen, Murdoch Children's Research Institute and Geoff Goodhill, Uni of Queensland.

Chairs: Don Newgreen, and Geoff Goodhill

Perinatal brain injury: Targeting mechanisms to achieve functional improvement.

Organizer and Chair: Phil Beart, Howard Florey Institute (phil.beart@florey.edu.au).

Localisation of cerebral function

Organizer and Chair: James Bourne, Monash University (james.bourne@med.monash.edu.au)

Neuropathic pain

Organizer and Chair: Vaughan Macefield, University of Western Sydney, (v.macefield@uws.edu.au)

Changing views on the behaviour of motoneurons

Organizer and Chair: Simon Gandevia, Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute, (s.gandevia@unsw.edu.au)

Lipids as regulators of Alzheimer's disease

Organizers and Chairs: Brett Garner and Dora Kovacs (brett.garner@unsw.edu.au)

Neurobiology of ALS

Organizer: James Vickers (james.vickers@utas.edu.au)

Chairs: Tracey Dickson and David Small, Menzies Research Institute, University of Tasmania

NEWS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

Tissue Remodelling: Current Understanding and Future Therapeutic Targets, 11-13 November 2007, Carrington Hotel, Blue Mountains, Australia. Top scientists from across Australia have been invited to be part of the symposia the 2007. AWT Edwards Oration will be given by Professor Julie H. Campbell AO FAA (Centre for Research in Vascular Biology, Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, University of Queensland) and the 2007 Firkin Oration by Professor Mina J. Bissell (Life Sciences Division, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley). Further information: <http://www.asmr-nsc.org.au>

13th Conference of the International Graphonomics Society (IGS) Melbourne, Australia, 11-14 November 2007. The conference is multidisciplinary in nature and will consider papers from many disciplines including Computer Science, Pattern Recognition, Forensic Science, Artificial Intelligence, Motor Control and Neuroscience. See: <http://www.graphonomics.org/igs2007/>

4th National Symposium on Advances in Urogenital Research, 23 November 2007, Victorian College of Pharmacy, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville. Registration and abstract submission deadline: 12 November 2007. For registration and abstract submission forms contact Liz Burcher (e.burcher@unsw.edu.au) or Sab Ventura (sab.ventura@vcp.monash.edu.au).

World Psychiatry Association Congress 2007, Melbourne, Australia, November 28 – December 2, 2007. Abstract submission: 30 April 2007.

See: <http://www.wpa2007melbourne.com/>

2007 Australian Physiological Society Meeting - a joint meeting with the Australian Society for Biophysics, Newcastle, Australia, 2-5 December 2007, See: <http://www.aups.org.au>

Mt Lofty 2007, incorporating the **2nd Neural Stem Cells & Frontier Technologies for Brain Repair Workshop** and the **2nd Australian Workshop on Computational Neuroscience**. The workshop will be held at Mt Lofty House, Adelaide Hills, 9 am Friday 7th December 2007 to 2 pm Sunday 9th December 2007. Register online at www.adelaide.edu.au/cnrc/events. Enquiries to cnrc@adelaide.edu.au.

National Forum on Education in Biomedical Sciences, Monash University, 11 December 2007. The School of Biomedical Sciences at Monash University is hosting this forum, which will deal with some key issues of Biomedical Science Education in its broadest context. The topics covered will be relevant not only to education in degree courses in biomedical science, as such, but will also encompass tertiary education in science, biotechnology and other areas where the biomedical sciences play a central role. There is no registration fee for the Forum. See: <http://www.med.monash.edu.au/sobs/>

Australian Postgraduate Neuropathology Course, University of Sydney, Thursday 17th to Saturday 19th January 2008. The course will consist of lectures on trauma to the central nervous system (CNS), diseases of nerve and muscle, neurodegenerative diseases, CNS tumours and current research in neuropathology. The course also involves slide sessions, brain dissections and CPCs. For further information and registration forms contact Professor Clive Harper (02) 9351 3663 (<mailto:cliveh@med.usyd.edu>).

aucliveh@med.usyd.edu.au) or Dr Roger Stankovic (02) 9351 4159 (<mailto:rogers@med.usyd.edu>), Department of Neuropathology, Blackburn Bld. DO6, The University of Sydney NSW 2006, fax (02) 9351 3429. Cost of the course is \$990 and participation is limited to 36. See: http://www.pathology.usyd.edu.au/Neuropathology_Courses/Neuropath_Index.html

5th Australasian Auditory Neuroscience Workshop, Thursday 31st January 2008, 8:30 am – 6:30 pm, Theatre Royal Hotel, Hobart. For further details and to register please contact Bryony Coleman: bcoleman@bionicear.org

3rd Annual Conference Happiness & Its Causes, 8-9 May 2008, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour. What can we learn from science in the quest for happiness? A faculty of world leaders in science, psychology, philosophy and religion will explore new developments in the science of happiness. Bookings and information +61 2 9021 8810 or visit www.happinessanditscauses.com.au

Annual meeting of the International Behavioral Neuroscience Society, June 17-22, 2008, Frenchman's Reef & Morning Star Marriott Beach Resort, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. For more information see: <http://www.ibnshomepage.org/meetings.htm>

ComBio2008 – 21-25 September 2008, National Convention Centre, CANBERRA.

Website www.asbmb.org.au/combio

ANS WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER

See the ANS website: www.ans.org.au for up-to-date listings of forthcoming conferences, job advertisements and information about neuroscience in Australia. If you have any information you want posted on the website, please email Heather Young – h.young@unimelb.edu.au. Similarly, we are very happy to include information or news items in the ANS newsletter which is now available on-line as well as in hard copy. Anticipated copy deadlines are set out below. Material for inclusion can be topics for discussion, meeting announcements, meeting reports, prizes and awards received by ANS members, obituaries, and any other items of potential interest to members of our society.

DEADLINES FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

December 2007 Newsletter 3rd December 2007

Address and contact details for the ANS secretariat
Sally Jay Conferences can be contacted by the following means:-

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Web: www.ans.org.au



Prizes and Awards

Congratulations to the following:

Professor Mandyam Srinivasan, Queensland Brain Institute, for being awarded a Queensland Smart State Premier's Fellowship from the Queensland State Government. The fellowship is worth \$250,000 a year for 5 years, with the University of Queensland to provide matching funding

Professor Colin Masters, Executive Director of the Mental Health Research Institute of Victoria for winning the \$50,000 Victoria Prize, Victoria's most prestigious science award.

Dr Bryony Coleman was recently awarded a Victoria Fellowship, a Victorian Government prize given to emerging leaders in engineering, science or technology. Victoria Fellows receive a travel grant of \$18,000 to undertake a short-term overseas study mission to assist in developing a commercial idea, undertaking specialist training or career development. Bryony will use her Fellowship to develop techniques to restore the function of the auditory nerve A which transmits sound information to the brain – by replacing the specialised cells that comprise it, the auditory neurons. The Fellowship will see her complete an advanced training course at the Burnham Institute, La Jolla, before spending two months at Harvard University, Boston. Bryony also received a supplementary Fellowship from the Australian French Association for Science and Technology (Vic) and the Embassy of France, to facilitate science and technology to mutually benefit Victoria and France. Dr Coleman is a Wagstaff Fellow in Otolaryngology at the University of Melbourne.

Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience (ACAN) 2008

The Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience (ACAN) is Australia's answer to the renowned neuroscience training program at Woods Hole in the US. Founded in 2005, ACAN is an intensive 3-week laboratory-based course held on North Stradbroke Island, near Brisbane. During the course leading Australian and overseas scientists work with small groups of trainee neuroscientists to help them master the theory and practice of cellular neuroscience. A report on ACAN 2007, including impressions of some of the students, can be found in the August 2007 ANS Newsletter.

ACAN 2008 will be held from Sunday 20 April to Saturday 10 May 2008.

Applications for ACAN 2008 are now open. Application deadline: 10 Dec 2007

For more information, see <http://acan.jcs.anu.edu.au>, or contact the Director of ACAN, Dr John Bekkers (John.Bekkers@anu.edu.au).

Janet Keast is new President of International Society of Autonomic Neuroscience

At the recent International Society of Autonomic Neuroscience (ISAN) meeting held in Kyoto, Japan, Janet Keast, Pain Management Research Institute, University of Sydney, was elected the new President of ISAN. She will replace William Talman from the USA.

The next ISAN meeting will be held in Sydney from Sept 1-4, 2009. The head of the organizing committee is Vaughan

Macefield, from the University of Western Sydney. If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive further information about the ISAN2009 meeting, please contact Vaughan: v.macefield@uws.edu.au

New Jack Pettigrew PhD Scholarship in Neuroscience, Queensland Brain Institute

The Queensland Brain Institute (QBI) has announced its inaugural Jack Pettigrew PhD Scholarship in Neuroscience (\$25,000 p.a. tax-free and indexed annually for up to 3.5 years). Shortlisted applicants will be flown to Brisbane for interviews, and to meet with QBI researchers.

Specialised fields: QBI is dedicated to discovering the fundamental mechanisms that underpin human brain function. The Institute is seeking postgraduate students to undertake research in one of several specialised fields. These include neural plasticity, synaptic plasticity, neural stem cells, neural cell migration, neural cell survival, computational neuroscience, cortical development, visual neuroscience, cognitive and behavioural studies, and ageing and brain disorders. New research facility: In October 2007, QBI will move into a new purpose-built research facility designed for neuroscience, incorporating a unique range of equipment and cutting-edge technologies.

Successful applicants will join a stimulating interdisciplinary team of researchers which includes molecular biologists, stem cell biologists, electro-physiologists, neuro-psychologists and mathematicians.

Applications are now invited. To find out more contact Dr Sylvie Pichelin by email s.pichelin@uq.edu.au or telephone (07) 3346 9980.

FUTURE ANS MEETINGS

ANS 2008 will be held from Sun 27th - Wed 30th January 2008 inclusive at the Grand Chancellor in **Hobart**. Lisa Foa is Chair of the LOC. January is a fantastic time to visit Tasmania, so please start planning your trip to Tasmania in January 2008 now! See article at front of newsletter for more details.

ANS 2009 will be held at the National Convention Centre in **Canberra** from Tues 27th - Fri 30th January 2009 inclusive. Michael Ibbotson is Chair of the LOC.

ANS 2010 will be held in **Sydney** from 31 Jan – 03 Feb 2010 as a joint meeting with the Australian Physiological Society. Roger Dampney and Sam Solomon are Chairs of the LOC.

ANS 2011 will be held in **Auckland, New Zealand**. Steve Kerr is head of the LOC.

TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS AND COURSES OF INTEREST TO ANS MEMBERS

3rd International Conference on Mind and Its Potential 3-4 Nov 2007, Sydney Masonic Centre. See: www.mindanditspotential.com.au

5th Anniversary Congress of International Drug Discovery Science and Technology (IDDST)-2007.

Serial II: Advances and Challenges Toward Major Diseases, 7-13 November, 2007, Xi'an and Beijing, China. See: <http://www.iddst.com>

ANS MEMBERSHIP TOPS 1,000 FOR FIRST TIME!

In 2007, ANS membership has exceeded 1,000 for the first time! The new total of 1,007 represents a 10% increase over the 2006 membership total (952).

Thank you to all ANS members for your continued support and participation in the society. Please feel free to contact any member of ANS Council and give us your opinions and suggestions about the Society.

2008 ANS PRIZES, AWARDS AND FUNDS

The Society calls for nominations/applications for the following 2008 ANS Prizes, Awards and Funds:

AW Campbell Award - for the best contribution by a member of the society in their first five postdoctoral years

Nina Kondelos Prize - for outstanding contribution to basic or clinical neuroscience research by a female neuroscientist

Paxinos-Watson Prize - for the most significant neuroscience paper published by a full member of the society. In 2008, the Paxinos-Watson prize will be for papers published in 2006.

Sir Grafton Elliot-Smith Award - for the best essay on a neuroscience topic by a student member of the society who has not yet submitted a thesis for a doctorate.

ANS Neurochemistry Funds - The Fund was established using profits from the 1991 International Society for Neurochemistry meeting in Sydney. Investment income from the fund (typically \$1000-\$1500 per year) is available to support several types of activity. (1) To provide a contribution towards supporting an overseas neurochemistry speaker to visit departments in several locations and give seminars/workshops (not necessarily to attend the ANS meeting), (2) to provide a contribution towards travel expenses of a late-stage PhD student or junior postdoc to attend an overseas neurochemistry conference, (3) to help sponsor a neurochemistry-related symposium at the annual ANS meeting, or (4) for other neurochemistry-related purposes. Full details of all ANS prizes and awards and the ANS Neurochemistry funds are on the ANS website (www.ans.org.au).

The deadline for nominations/applications for 2008 ANS prizes and awards and the ANS Neurochemistry Funds is 16 November 2007.

Nominations/applications should be submitted to the ANS secretariat (see contact details at end of newsletter). The 2008 ANS prizes will be awarded at the 2008 ANS meeting in Hobart.

Judging of Prizes and Awards: For each Prize/Award, members of the ANS Executive* who do not have conflicts of interest with any of the applicants select three judges who are ANS members. The three judges are each asked to rank the applicants. The judges' identities, rankings and comments are confidential to members of ANS Executive and are not made available to the applicants, to the other judges or to any other person. The Prize/Award is made to the applicant with the highest mean ranking from the judges.

*The ANS Executive consists of the President, President-Elect or Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor.

ANS COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Nominations are called for ANS Council positions that fall vacant in 2008. Council positions falling vacant are:

(a) **Treasurer, Secretary, Editor.** We urge suitably qualified members to consider standing for these positions. The current Treasurer, Andrew Lawrence, is not eligible to re-nominate as he has served as Treasurer for 6 years. The current Secretary, Heather Young, is not re-nominating. If you would like more information about what the positions entail, feel free to contact the incumbents, Andrew Lawrence (andrew.lawrence@florey.edu.au), Heather Young (h.young@unimelb.edu.au) or Paul Martin (prmartin@unimelb.edu.au).

(b) **Council Representatives for ACT, South Australia, Victoria, WA and New Zealand.** The current ACT, South Australia and New Zealand representatives, Michael Ibbotson, Eugene Nalivaiko and Steve Kerr, are not eligible to re-nominate. The current Victorian and WA State Representatives, Jenny Callaway and Giles Plant, have only served one term as State Representative and are eligible to be re-nominated for a second consecutive term.

Nomination forms are available on the ANS web site, and **must be received by the ANS Secretariat** by November 16th, 2007. In the event of more than one nomination for a position, a postal ballot must be held prior to the 2008 AGM. The Society strongly encourages multiple nominations for each Council position in order to ensure the best possible representation of ANS members' interests and service to the ANS neuroscience community. The address and contact details of the ANS secretariat can be found at the end of the newsletter.

ANS RESEARCH FUND

Members are reminded that donations to the ANS Research (Gift) Fund are now tax deductible. If you wish to make a donation, please email the ANS Treasurer, Dr Andrew Lawrence at: andrew.lawrence@florey.edu.au All donations, regardless of amount, are welcome.

ANS POLICY ON REQUESTS FOR PUBLICITY VIA EMAIL CIRCULATION

The standing policy of the ANS is to minimize email traffic to members. This is done by bundling brief announcements or news which needs to be disseminated between print newsletters into (at most) monthly plain text email circulars. Attachments are not sent with email to members, with very few exceptions (such as our core business of an annual Society meeting). This is to reduce both the risk of virus transmission via attachments received from outside sources, and the volume (ie. cost) of email traffic through University or Institute based servers.

Meetings and other significant announcements (such as job vacancies) will also receive Society publicity, via links to appropriate web pages from the ANS web site, and by subsequent inclusion into the next print ANS newsletter when appropriate. Requests for these publicity services should be directed either to the Secretary, or to Sally Jay Conferences.