



# Australian Neuroscience Society Newsletter

No. 1

April, 2012

[www.ans.org.au](http://www.ans.org.au)

## President's Perspective

I feel very honoured to be taking over as President of ANS and rather daunted at the prospect of following on from Sarah Dunlop who has been such an energetic and proactive President. More than any other President, Sarah has travelled widely to gauge personally the mood of the Society's members (particularly the early career researchers), represented their views and championed their interests to government bodies and the Council.



Internationally, Sarah has been our ambassador to FAONS (Federation of Asian and Oceanic Neuroscience Societies), FENS (Federation of European Neuroscience Societies), SfN (Society for Neuroscience), JSN (Japanese Society for Neuroscience), and IBRO (International Brain Research Organisation) and kept ANS "at the table" for discussions about global advocacy and major issues facing neuroscience in different countries. On the national front Sarah drove the extensive feedback provided by ANS and its members on errors in the first round of ERA (Excellence in Research for Australia) assessments. She also drove the tender bid by ANS to be a Peak Body in the second round of ERA assessments (the tender process was cancelled at the last minute, to the relief of all those who had volunteered to participate). Sarah also joined a user group that gave feedback to the NHMRC about improving the RGMS system and was recruited to an advisory panel of the Australian Academy of Science. I think we have been extraordinarily lucky to have such a committed and creative President for the last two years and I am very glad that she will be staying on for another year as Past President.

So much has changed since I was Editor, that I was grateful to have a year with training wheels on as President-Elect learning from an experienced and wonderfully helpful Executive - Ann Turnley (Secretary), Jackie Phillips (Treasurer), David Small (Editor) and Sarah Dunlop (President) - and getting to grips with the organisational details through Sally and Chris Jay. The Executive positions of Secretary, Treasurer and Editor have also changed this year with the new officers being Joe Lynch, Andrew Allen and Steve Petrou, respectively. I look forward very much to working with this energetic new team.

## Closer Ties with Clinicians

Last year Sarah and I started a dialogue with clinicians to find ways of enhancing communication and collaboration between laboratory based scientists and clinicians in neuroscience. A teleconference and a face to face meeting at the Gold Coast meeting identified a number of strategies to enhance interactions across the clinical-basic science divide. I believe that this is a critical area for development in health and medical research generally. Neuroscience, which is routinely multidisciplinary, should be an area in which basic scientists and clinicians should find it particularly productive to collaborate. One immediate response from the Society is to especially encourage submission of proposals for Symposia at the Melbourne meeting which focus on the interface between clinical and basic neuroscience.

## Changes on the Horizon

I believe that the research environment in Australia is in a period of significant change, particularly with respect to government funding. The results from the second round of ERA assessments of the quality of research outputs will, for the first time, see the roll out of a significant new wave of research infrastructure funding to universities. This will initiate new levels of competition between universities for students, external funding and international partnerships. The Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research in Australia,

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## Change to the Constitution and Name of the Society

During the decade before the establishment of ANS in 1981, Australian neuroscientists held annual, one day meetings alternately associated with the Australian Biochemical or Australian Physiological and Pharmacological Societies. New Zealand neuroscientists, mainly from Otago, were regular participants in these meetings.

When ANS was established as a formal Society in 1981, there was a proposal to make it a Society representing Australian and New Zealand neuroscientists. However, the New Zealanders argued against it on practical grounds: at the time travel money was scarce and most New Zealand neuroscientists could not afford more than one trip per year outside the country. Consequently, we became the Australian Neuroscience Society and our constitution reflected the Australian focus in the Council membership. Nevertheless, ANS retained an unofficial New Zealand representative on Council and we have held two of our annual conferences in New Zealand.

In recent years, trans-Tasman collaborations have greatly increased as a result of advances in electronic communication and greater affordability of international travel. Following the highly successful Auckland meeting in 2011, strongly attended by both Australian and New Zealand neuroscientists, Council thought it was timely to reconsider the constitution and name of the Society. Council felt that the change from a national to an international peak body will enhance the Society's influence in Australia and internationally. This move would also provide neuroscientists in New Zealand, for the first time, a formal society to represent their interests.

Two motions were proposed at the Gold Coast AGM:

1. That the ANS constitution be changed to formally include New Zealand.
2. That the name of the Australian Neuroscience Society be changed to the Neuroscience Society of Australia and New Zealand

The first motion was carried by an overwhelming (>95%) majority. After some spirited debate the second motion was carried by 56 votes for to 36 votes against.

However, at the time, Council was unaware (and therefore did not inform the AGM) that special resolutions to change the constitution or name of the Society must be passed by a majority of 75% of those present at the AGM (according to the Commonwealth's Associations Incorporation Act). Therefore, the change to the constitution to formally include New Zealand will go ahead but the motion to change the name of the Society will be put again to the AGM at the ANS 2013 meeting in Melbourne.

ANS Council strongly supports changing the name of the Society to the Neuroscience Society of Australia and New Zealand. We feel this would clearly reflect the new constitution, provide the Society with a new identity as an international peak body, helping to give it a greater advocacy voice in Australia and New Zealand, and enhance its influence as a regional voice internationally.

Retaining the current name would fail to recognise the situation in 2012, would not overtly give us the standing of an international society and would not give New Zealand neuroscientists an obvious society with which they can identify.

An alternative suggestion to change the name to the Australasian Neuroscience Society is not supported by Council because: Australasia is an imprecise term (variably including neighbouring South Pacific islands and New Guinea in addition to Australia and New Zealand); it is not a term with which New Zealanders identify strongly; and, at a time when we are trying to build diplomatic and scientific links with Asia, the term may not be welcomed in some parts of Asia.

Council would welcome comments from members about the proposed change of name for the Society.

**John Rostas**, President, ANS

## President's Perspective (contin.)

chaired by Mr Simon McKeon, may set the parameters for the next decade of government support for health and medical research in much the same way as the Wills Review did in 1998. I have made a submission to this review on behalf of the Society (<http://www.ans.org.au/issues-for-neuroscience/>) and I know that many of you have also made submissions as individuals.

In this changing policy landscape there are bound to be many issues that will impact on our membership. If you think that the Society might be able to help, please contact us through your State Representative or directly to one of the members of the Executive. Similarly, if you have suggestions for how to improve our conferences, or other activities or services that we provide, please let us know. I am certainly happy to be contacted directly by groups or individuals.

**John Rostas**, President, ANSFAONS 2013

## IBRO/APRC 2013

### Workshop on Advanced Brain Imaging

IBRO/APRC is running a 2-day workshop on Advanced Brain Imaging at Monash Biomedical Imaging <http://www.mbi.monash.edu>

The workshop will host 24 students from the Asia-Pacific region and will involve lectures from outstanding leaders in the field, hand-on practical sessions, and site tours of the clinical and clinical and preclinical research MRI and molecular imaging scanners. The workshop will also include a tour of the Australian Synchrotron Imaging and Biomedical Beam Line as well as brainstorming discussion groups and a 3-minute thesis competition.

#### Convenors:

Professor Sarah Dunlop, FAONS President, The University of Western Australia  
Professor Gary Egan, Director, Monash Biomedical Imaging  
Dr James Bourne, Chair, Local Organising Committee, ANS2013, Monash University.

# ANS 2012 GOLD COAST

This year the ANS conference was held at Jupiter's Casino at the Gold Coast in Queensland, with major sponsorship from the University of Queensland and the Queensland Brain Institute. There were ~800 registrants, 10% of which were attending from countries other than Australia and New Zealand. Almost 600 presentations including 346 posters, 176 orals, 53 symposia and 4 plenary presentations, on par with the Auckland meeting in 2011, covered a diverse array of topics, and robust discussion could be heard from dawn til dusk around the posters. The disappointment of the late cancellation of ANS Overseas plenary lecturer Karl Deisseroth was more than made up for by the scale and imagination of the work to manipulate gene function presented and being pioneered by replacement ex-Deisseroth lab member A/Prof Feng Zhang.

Rain at the beginning of the conference kept attendance at sessions especially high, and while the pool-side BBQ conference dinner had to be held inside due to this, many, both older and younger, nonetheless let their hair down in the more formal environment and took to the dance floor to let loose to the tunes of Havana.

Most attendees also enjoyed the other social events, in particular early career researchers took advantage of a

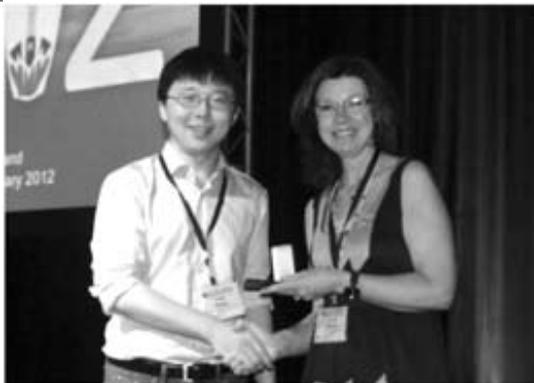
night designed just for them with guest speaker David Gearing, (though it seemed "networking" was the key agenda of the night). In a conference first, the society also trialled an ANS Conference program mobile phone application. With some minor adjustments it will be in use again in 2013, so look out for it!

Congratulations to both student and established ANS Award winners (see list below), and to those members who organised the high quality of symposia. Thanks again to Sally and Chris Jay for their dedication to ensuring the conference is as smooth and well oiled as can be. Also thanks to LOC members: Bruno Van Swinderen (QBI), Ethan Scott (SBMS, UQ), Katherine Buller (UQCCR), Helen Copper (QBI), James St John (Griffith University) and François Windels (QBI). Dee McGrath, Earlene Ashton and Dusan Matusica, of QBI, gave additional support generously.

The reins of the 2013 ANS conference are now firmly in the hands of Melbourne local organising committee chair, James Bourne: Enjoy!

**Lizzie Coulson**  
LOC2012 Chair

Top left: Sarah Dunlop presenting ANS Overseas Plenary Lecturer Feng Zhang with ANS medallion.



Top right: ANS President John Rostas presenting ANS Plenary Lecturer Heather Young with ANS medallion.



Centre left: Sarah Dunlop presenting Nina Kondelos Award to Margaret Morris.



Centre right: Jackie Phillips presenting Eccles Lecturer Marcus Stoodley with ANS medallion.



Bottom left: Louise Nicholson presenting ANS Plenary Lecturer Janusz Lipski with ANS medallion.



Bottom right: Sarah Dunlop presenting AW Campbell Award to Ben Emery.



## 2012 AWARDS AND PRIZES

Thank you to the judges of the 2012 ANS Awards and Prizes. This was a difficult job, as again there was a good number of highly deserving candidates. For each Award/Prize, Council members who do not have conflicts of interest with any of the applicants select three judges who are Society members. The judges are then each asked to rank the applicants; their identities, rankings and comments are not made available to the applicants or the other judges.

Ben Emery from the University of Melbourne and Florey Neuroscience Institutes won the **AW Campbell Award** for best contribution by a member of the Society in their first 5 postdoctoral years

Margaret Morris from the University of New South Wales won the **Nina Kondelos Prize**, which is for a female neuroscientist who has made an outstanding contribution to basic or clinical neuroscience research.

The **Paxinos-Watson Prize** is awarded for the most significant neuroscience paper published by a full member of the society in the year prior to submission of the nomination. The Paxinos-Watson prize for 2012 is awarded to Lars Ittner, Yazı Ke, Fabien Delerue, Mian Bi, Amadeus Gladbach, Janet van Eersel, Heidrun Wolfing,

Billy Chieng, MacDonald Christie, Ian Napier, Anne Eckert, Matthias Staufenbiel, Edna Hardeman and Jurgen Gotz for their paper *Dendritic Function of Tau Mediates Amyloid- $\beta$  Toxicity in Alzheimer's Disease Mouse Models*, published in Cell, volume 142, pages 387-397.

### Student poster and oral prizes

The **Istvan Törk Prize** is for the best oral presentation by a student member of the Society at the Annual Meeting and was awarded to two students in 2012: Karly Turner (QLD Brain Institute) and Myles Minter (University of Melbourne).

The **Sir Grafton Elliot-Smith Award** is for the best poster by a student member of the Society at the Annual Meeting and was awarded to five students in 2012: Helen Gooch (QLD Brain Institute), Patrick Atkinson (Bionics Institute) and Anita Ferner (University of Melbourne).

Thank you to the many members who took time at the Gold Coast 2012 conference to judge the student presentations. Given the large number of excellent presentations, this is a difficult but much appreciated task.

## ANS 2013 Melbourne

Planning for the Melbourne meeting from Sunday, 3rd February to Wednesday, 6th February, 2013 is progressing well. The meeting will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. James Bourne is Chair of the Local Organising Committee. Confirmed Plenary speakers include Nancy Ip, from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, who will give the Overseas Plenary lecture and Paul Martin, from the University of Sydney, who will present the Lawrie Austin Lecture. The ANS Plenary and the Eccles Lecturers will be announced at a later date.

### Call for Symposia

ANS Council would like to receive proposals for symposia for its annual scientific meeting which will be held at the Melbourne Convention Centre, from Sunday, 3rd February – Wednesday, 6th February, 2013. Symposia are chosen from submissions made to council in the year prior to the annual meeting. Symposium proposals should be submitted by email to the Society Secretary, Prof. Joe Lynch (j.lynch@uq.edu.au). All proposals must be received by him no later than 27th April, 2012.

Symposia will normally have 4 speakers and be arranged in themes of interest to the broad membership of the society. Funding will be available to contribute to costs of one invited overseas speaker per symposium. Overseas speakers (not from Australia or New Zealand) can receive free registration, social tickets and up to \$2000 to cover costs of travel and accommodation. All financial support will be paid directly to the overseas speaker. No Society funding will be available to support costs of Australian or New Zealand speakers, chairs or symposium organisers. The Society wishes to emphasize it is not necessary for a symposium to have an overseas speaker, as high quality proposals with all speakers coming from Australia and New Zealand are most welcome. Although proposals will be considered primarily on scientific merit, Council will take into consideration the geographic and gender diversity of the proposed speakers. In general, speakers in each symposium should come from different institutions. Symposium proposals that include early career researchers as the proposer or as speaker are encouraged.

The Society wishes to particularly encourage symposium topics that focus on the interface between basic and clinical neuroscience.

Proposers need to either be current members of the ANS or to become new members prior to submitting their application. Membership can be renewed online at [www.sallyjayconferences.com.au/ansmembership/](http://www.sallyjayconferences.com.au/ansmembership/)

### Call for Satellite Meetings

If you are planning to hold a satellite meeting in conjunction with the ANS 2013 meeting in Melbourne and want to be included in the program, ANS Council needs to receive proposals by 13th May, 2012 for consideration at the mid-year council meeting. Proposals stating the name of the satellite, contact details and the proposed dates, venue and program (if known at this stage) can be sent by email to the ANS Secretary (j.lynch@uq.edu.au).

## Greg Stuart elected to The Australian Academy of Science

Professor Greg Stuart, from the Eccles Institute of Neuroscience at ANU, has recently been elected to the Australian Academy of Sciences for 'making seminal contributions to understanding how information is processed by individual nerve cells within the brain'.

Greg is a long-time active member of ANS/NSANZ and was the ANS Plenary Lecturer in 2009. This recognition is well deserved I am sure I speak for all Society members in congratulating him on this award.



## Neuroscientist and poet

Long-standing ANS/NSANZ member, Ian Gibbins, Professor of Anatomy & Histology at Flinders University, is also gaining a national reputation as a poet. His work has appeared in the Best Australian Poems 2008 anthology and has been performed on ABC Radio National. In March 2012, Ian's first book of poetry was released at Adelaide Festival Writers' Week. Entitled *Urban Biology* and featuring cover illustrations by Judy Morris, the book contains 45 poems. The poems cover a wide range of themes, often reflecting Ian's background and interests in zoology, the history of human anatomy, and, of course, neuroscience. Titles include *Lessons in Neuroscience*, *Home Pharmacy*, and *Dr Korsakoff and Colleagues Report*. The book is accompanied by a CD with a selection of poems from *Urban Biology* set to music composed and performed by Ian. For more information and samples of Ian's poetry and music, visit [www.iangibbins.com.au](http://www.iangibbins.com.au).

## The 2011 Australia- New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge

On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2012, ten enthusiastic future neuroscientists from across Australia and New Zealand, flew into Queensland to be part of The Australia- New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge National Final.

These ten outstanding 15 and 16 year olds began their journey in March 2011, when they participated in Round 1 of The Australia- New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge, an online neuroscience quiz. After progressing to Round 2, the State/Region Final in each of their respective areas, these students then became the Champion for their State/Region and were invited to be part of the National Final. Over 3 days in Queensland the students displayed an amazing understanding and knowledge of all aspects of neuroscience theory, brain anatomy and neurological disorders. They also had the opportunity to attend the ANS scientific sessions and mingle with the world-renowned scientists attending the ANS.



*Australian Brain Bee Champion, Teresa Tang from Qld, being congratulated by Perry Bartlett and Sarah Dunlop.*

After a fantastic 3 days, Teresa Tang from Queensland, became the 2011 Australian Brain Bee Challenge Champion and Byung Cheol Cho of New Zealand North Island became the 2011 New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge Champion.

Thank you to ANS, Carl Zeiss, AD Instruments and the Queensland Brain Institute for their ongoing support of the Australia- New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge. Thank you also to the Brain Bee Coordinators who allow the Brain Bee to be a success- ACT- Prof Greg Stuart from Australian National University, NSW- Prof Vaughan Macefield from the University of Western Sydney, NT-Ass Prof Lizzie Coulson from The University of Queensland, QLD-Prof Linda Richards from the University of Queensland, SA-Dr Gabrielle Todd from the University of South Australia, TAS-Dr Rob Gasperini from the University of Tasmania, VIC- Ass Prof Heather Young from the University of Melbourne, WA- Ass Prof Jenny Rodger from The University of Western Australia, NZ NI- Prof Louise Nicholson from the University of Auckland and NZ SI- Dr Stephen Bunn University of Otago.

We wish Teresa and Byung all the best as they prepare to attend the International Brain Bee in Cape Town South Africa in July 2012, and look forward to seeing all ten of the 2011 Brain Bee National Finalists involved in neuroscience in the near future.

## The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience

ACAN 2012 will soon be underway at the University of Queensland Marine Station on Stradbroke Island, near Brisbane. Students, lecturers and laboratory instructors will be arriving on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> April, for the three-week course. During the course, participants will:

- attend lectures about the fundamentals of cellular neuroscience
- receive extensive hands-on laboratory training in patch clamping and live cell imaging using the latest equipment
- undertake a research project of their own choosing.

The twelve students attending the 2012 course will be: Lama Bou Farah (Macquarie University), Simona Carbone (Flinders University), Simon de Croft (University of Otago), Mary Ann Go (ANU), Robert Hatch (Florey Neuroscience Institutes), Helena Huang (ANU), Kevin Lee (University of Auckland), Kumiko Percival (University of Sydney), Michelle Rank (University of Newcastle), Lisa Smith (University of Otago), Amy Wolff (University of Otago) and Andrew Yee (University of Auckland). A total of around 21 lecturers and lab demonstrators will also be attending for various periods of time. The 'Hot Topics' lectures will be given by Janet Keast and Sam Berkovic, both from the University of Melbourne.

## ANS 2014 Adelaide

NSANZ 2014 will be held in Adelaide from Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January through to Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2014. Michael Lardelli is the Chair of the LOC.

## ANS/ISN/APSN 2015 Cairns

NSANZ 2015 will be held in Cairns from August 23-28 as a joint meeting with the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN) and the Asian-Pacific Society for Neurochemistry (APSN).



## The Annual Mt Lofty House Workshop

Dates: 30<sup>th</sup> of November - 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, 2012.  
Venue: Mt Lofty House, Adelaide, South Australia

### Session Topics

- Innovation in Sensing Technologies
- Novel Interventions in Neurotrauma
- New Approaches to Understanding Psychiatric Disorders

For additional information please contact:  
Dr Frances Corrigan, University of Adelaide  
[frances.corrigan@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:frances.corrigan@adelaide.edu.au)

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

See ANS website [www.ans.org.au/upcoming-conferences](http://www.ans.org.au/upcoming-conferences) for more details

**7th World Congress for Neurorehabilitation 2012 (WCNR 2012), Melbourne, 16 - 19 May 2012.**  
[www.dconferences.net.au/wcwr2012/](http://www.dconferences.net.au/wcwr2012/)

**The Joint 12<sup>th</sup> International Child Neurology Congress and 11<sup>th</sup> Asian and Oceanian Congress of Child Neurology, May 27- June 1, 2012, Brisbane, Australia.** [www.icnc2012.com](http://www.icnc2012.com)

**11<sup>th</sup> International Meeting on Cholinesterases, June 3-11, 2012, Kazan, Russia.** [www.11che.ru](http://www.11che.ru)

**21<sup>st</sup> Annual meeting of International Behavioral Neuroscience Society (IBNS), June 5-10, 2012, Hawaii, USA.**  
[www.ibnshomepage.org/annualmtg12.htm](http://www.ibnshomepage.org/annualmtg12.htm)

**2012 Serotonin Club Meeting, July 10-12 2012, Montpellier, France.** <http://www.serotoninclub.org/Montpellier2012.asp>

**AREADNE 2012 Research in Encoding and Decoding of Neural Ensembles Nomikos Conference Centre, Santorini, Greece 21-24 June 2012** <http://areadne.org>; [info@areadne.org](mailto:info@areadne.org)

**2012 International Motoneuron Meeting – Motoneurons and Beyond, Sydney 23-27 July 2012**  
<http://www.motoneuronmeeting.org/>

**2012 International Congress of Neuroethology, College Park, Maryland, USA, 5–10 August 2012. The Program Committee is soliciting proposals for symposia, due May 1, 2011.** <http://www.neuroethology.org/meetings/> or contact Justin Marshall [justin.marshall@uq.edu.au](mailto:justin.marshall@uq.edu.au)

**30th International Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research, Copthorne Resort Hotel, Queenstown, New Zealand, Aug 25 - Aug 29, 2012.** [www.awcbr.org](http://www.awcbr.org). or contact Dr. Johanna Montgomery, email: [awcbr@psy.otago.ac.nz](mailto:awcbr@psy.otago.ac.nz)

**40th Annual Meeting of the International Society for Paediatric Neurosurgery (ISPN), The Four Seasons Hotel, The Rocks, Sydney, Australia, September 9th to 13th, 2012.**

**2nd International Neural Regeneration Symposium, Shenyang, China, September 22-26, 2012.** [www.nrronline.org/conference](http://www.nrronline.org/conference)

**APSN/JSN 2012, the Joint Symposium of 11th Biennial Meeting of APSN and 55th Meeting of JSN, International Conference Center, Kobe, Japan Sept 29-Oct 2, 2012.** [www.apsneurochem.org](http://www.apsneurochem.org)

**World Muscle Society Annual Congress, Perth Australia 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> October.** [www.wms2012.com](http://www.wms2012.com)

**Society for Neuroscience 2012 Meeting, New Orleans, USA 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> October. Abstract submission is now open, closing 10<sup>th</sup> May.** <http://www.sfn.org/AM2012/>

## Brain Awareness Week - New Zealand

(<http://www.brainweek.co.nz/>)

Events all around New Zealand, from Whangarei in the far North to Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin in the South, during the period of 10<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> March helped raise the awareness of Brain and Neuroscience research in the country.

The events were all generously supported by the Neuro-logical Foundation of New Zealand, this also being the Foundation's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Neurological Foundation of New Zealand has been an official Brain Awareness Week partner for six years. From modest beginnings, the Foundation has developed Brain Awareness Week into a significant public education event with a robust national programme of 'Brain Days'. Brain Awareness week 2012 started down South in Dunedin (making Dunedin's day the first Brain Awareness week event in the world this year !) where a few hundred members of the public came to see talks from Assoc Prof John Reynolds (Otago), Assoc Prof Bronwen Connor (who kindly came down from the Centre for Brain Research, Auckland) and Dr Margaret Ryan (Otago). Many members of the public also enjoyed our plastinated brain displays and were fascinated to



*Volunteer Student Helpers on Brain Day in Dunedin with plastinated brain displays, top left and right, and Assoc Prof Bronwen Connor debunks some stem cell myths (lower right).*



## Brain Awareness Week – Western Australia

Brain Awareness Week activities aim to provide a basic overview of what the brain is and why it is important. Staff and students at The University of Western Australia organised activities at the Perth Science museum Scitech on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2012. By targeting children, we hoped to stimulate discussion at home by using simple language and fun concepts.

We had four main activities:

- A 'brain chatterbox' in which children created an origami chatterbox. The outside squares had neuroscience questions and the inside squares had the answers and provided further material for discussion. We also printed out a brain hat that kids could colour in, cut out and put together.
- In the 'memory game', children looked at up to 20 objects on a tray for one minute and then had five minutes to write down as many as they could recall. This year we taught techniques like "chaining" (making up a story including all of the objects) to help improve recall.
- We also tested the rubber hand illusion on kids and their parents to illustrate how it is possible to trick the brain: we placed a rubber right hand next to the subject's left hand and hid their real right hand behind a partition. We then stroked the rubber hand and the real right hand simultaneously with two paintbrushes. The subjects (even children) reported that the rubber hand felt like it belonged to them!
- A comparative brain display – a collection of real brains from a range of species such as a sheep, hamster, rat, mouse, fat-tailed dunnart, lizard and goldfish. Fact sheets encouraged discussion of simple evolutionary and ecological contexts.

*Two photos from the event...*



*At Auckland Centre for Brain Research – both young and old – left, enjoyed a variety of talks and workshops (middle) including the Mind Reading MRI event – right.*

see their own brain waves on our EEG stand. Two shorter presentations from community field officers from Stroke Otago and Alzheimer's Otago were also very well received. Several other community groups were also there offering help and advice to the public. This year in Dunedin, Brain Week had additional significance as the Neurological Foundation's funding drive to support a Chair in Neurosurgery at Dunedin Hospital is also in full swing (for more info see <http://www.chairofneurosurgery.org.nz/>). Several events in Auckland at the Centre for Brain Research attracted over 3000 people on 17<sup>th</sup> March. Held at The University of Auckland Business School in the Owen G Glenn Building, the day was packed out from start to finish. The large capacity at the venue meant that over 1000 people attended lectures every hour, on topics ranging from drug use in pregnancy to internet use and our brains. Key speakers, Dr Johanna Montgomery on Brain Chatter, Profs Richard Faull, Mike Corballis and Louise Nicholson attempting to myth-bust the brain, Dr Cathy Steinar on the changing brain, Dr Rosamund Hill on autism spectrum disorders and talks on sleep and alcohol and "P" from Dr Antonio Fernando and Dr Trecia Wouldes respectively. During the day there were also panel discussions on stroke recovery, memory, noise and movement disorders (Parkinson's, tremor and dystonia). Several workshops through the day included brain exercise and activity events such as singing CeleBRation choirs and a demonstration from an awesome team of mobility dogs. School children from across Auckland also showed off their science fair experiments to collect data from the public, as part of a LENSscience collaboration with the Liggins Institute. Later in the week a fascinating live analysis of a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) brain scan, 'Mind Reading?' was a first for New Zealand. The event was organised by the Centre for Brain Research and the Centre for Advanced Magnetic Resonance Imaging (CAMRI) at The University of Auckland. Imaging scientists Associate Professor Brett Cowan and Dr Donna Rose Addis from The University of Auckland were asked to spot which pattern of brain activity looked most like a true memory.

## Neuroscientist and poet

Long-standing ANS member, Ian Gibbins, Professor of Anatomy & Histology at Flinders University, is also gaining a national reputation as a poet. His work has appeared in the Best Australian Poems 2008 anthology and has been performed on ABC Radio National. In March 2012, Ian's first book of poetry was released at Adelaide Festival Writers' Week.

Entitled **Urban Biology** and featuring cover illustrations by Judy Morris, the book contains 45 poems. The poems cover a wide range of themes, often reflecting Ian's background and interests in zoology, the history of human anatomy, and, of course, neuroscience. Titles include Lessons in Neuroscience, Home Pharmacy, and Dr Korsakoff and Colleagues Report.

The book is accompanied by a CD with a selection of poems from Urban Biology set to music composed and performed by Ian. For more information and samples of Ian's poetry and music, visit [www.iangibbins.com.au](http://www.iangibbins.com.au).

### FAONS 2013

#### FAONS (Federation of Asian Oceanian Neuroscience Societies)

is running two Symposia (for details see <http://www.faons.org/news/11/61/FAONS-Symposia-2013/>) within the ANS2013 Melbourne meeting, February 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>.

Convenor: Professor Sarah Dunlop, FAONS President, The University of Western Australia  
"Development of Cortical Circuits"

**Speakers:** Professor Xiang Yu, Institute of Neuroscience, Shanghai, China; Professor Orly Reiner, Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel; Dr Tomomi Shimogori, RIKEN, Tokyo, Japan and A/Professor Vidita Vaidya, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, India.

**Chairs:** Professor Lind Richards, Queensland Brain Institute and Professor Seong-Seng Tan, Florey Neuroscience Institutes.

"Stress and Drug Addiction"

**Speakers:** Professor Alon Chen, Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel; Professor Gavan McNally, School of Psychology, University of New South Wales, Australia; Professor Lin Lu, National Institute on Drug Dependence, Peking University, Beijing, China; Professor Sung-Gon Kim, Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, Pusan National University.

**Chairs:** Professor Peter Dodd, Queensland Brain Institute and Professor Andrew Lawrence, Florey Neuroscience Institutes.

#### Address and contact details for the ANS secretariat

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## ANS WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER

The ANS website is on-line at [www.ans.org.au](http://www.ans.org.au). Members are encouraged to regularly check the website for updated information on positions vacant, travel awards and national and international neuroscience meetings. While announcements and news items cannot always be broadcasted as an email to ANS members, they are promptly loaded on the ANS website and so it is always worth a regular check of the news page. Current and recent newsletters are available to be downloaded in PDF format and information about ANS, including the current list of council members, historical facts and how to apply for ANS Awards and Prizes is readily available. For further information or requests to place announcements on the ANS website, please contact Joe Lynch (email [j.lynch@uq.edu.au](mailto:j.lynch@uq.edu.au), phone 07 3346 6375).

Similarly, we are very happy to include information or news items in the ANS newsletter. Anticipated copy deadlines are set out below. Material for inclusion can be topics for discussion, meeting announcements, meeting reports, prizes and awards received by ANS members, obituaries, and any other items of potential interest to members of our society.

### 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.

### DEADLINES FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

July 2012

11th July 2012

October 2012

17th October 2012

December 2012

28th November 2012

Authorised by Joe Lynch

Secretary – Australian Neuroscience Society Inc

Queensland Brain Institute

University of Queensland

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Phone: 61 7 3346 6375

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# **Annual General Meeting**

**5.05pm, Tuesday 31st January 2012**

**Surfers Paradise Rooms 2 & 3, Jupiters Hotel. Gold Coast**

## **Minutes**

1. Attendance and apologies

Apologies: Paul Pilowsky, David Small, Mary Galea

2. Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting

The minutes were previously circulated in the April newsletter

*Motion: That the minutes of the ANS General meeting held in Auckland on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011 are accurate.*

Moved: Louise Nicholson; Seconded: Kay Double; Vote: unanimous

3. President's report

Sarah Dunlop reported on major activities of the Society over the last 12 months. The poll to change the date of the ANS annual conference to December was very close and so although there was no mandate to change the date an ANS council subgroup will map out the academic year and the dates of other major meetings as well as review the comments from the survey and suggest a date for the 2016 meeting to Council at its 2012 mid-year meeting.

The format of the Melbourne 2013 will be slightly different to previous meetings. The scientific program will start on the first evening, which will be the ANS Overseas Lecture to be followed by a mixer. She noted there is also the potential to run events on Sunday because the venue booked regardless due to exhibitor bump-in.

The Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience (ACAN) was again successful but was running at a loss, so in addition to the ACAN management committee raising sponsorship and an increase in course fees, ANS Council agreed to support ACAN up to \$10k pa from 2013 as needed. The Australian & New Zealand Brain Bee Competition has also been very successful and has gone from 240 students in 2006 to 5,629 in 2012 for Round 1. ANS has hosted the Brain Bee final which costs ~\$16,000 pa; Council has agreed to provide half of that cost (in effect \$40,000) over the next 5 years to help leverage other funding.

There has also been a move to strengthening ties with clinicians & clinician researchers. A teleconference and formal meeting of members of ANS exec and clinical researchers has been held and the process will include calling specifically for Symposium proposals in clinical/basic/translational topics for a symposium at the 2013 ANS meeting. ANS will approach other Societies e.g. ANZAN and consider workshops along the SfN model to increase interaction between clinicians and basic researchers. Sarah then noted she had also represented ANS in various activities such as Discoveries needs Dollars, Review of Health and Medical Research, ERA 2012, Public consultation on proposed revision of the Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes, Australian Academy of Science, National Committee on Biomedical Sciences and meeting with Warwick Anderson regarding RGMS.

In terms of interactions with other Societies, ANS will host a FAONS meeting at the 2013 conference, which will involve 2x4 speaker symposia, embedded within the ANS meeting itself rather than as a stand-alone meeting, and an imaging workshop for students. FAONS and IBRO will provide funding to support the activities and ANS will provide \$25,000 for registration and social tickets for FAONS symposia speakers, students & some FAONS Council members.

ANS, JNS, FENS, IBRO and SfN have had discussions regarding a Global Advocacy Committee, which was discussed by Council and agreed that ANS should do its own advocacy and not contribute funds to the global committee. SfN is also about to launch BrainFacts.org which will be an online repository of authoritative neuroscience based information written by leading scientists for the public.

Sarah is an Editorial Board member and will from time to time call upon senior ANS membership for contributions to the website.

### 1. **Vote on motions to formally include New Zealand in the Constitution and name of the Society**

There was robust discussion from many members, both for and against the proposed changes. Opinion was divided, particularly regarding the proposed change of name, including whether it should be changed at all and, if so, whether Neuroscience Society of Australia and New Zealand was the most appropriate name. Both motions needed a simple majority of members present to agree to the proposed changes.

*Motion: that the ANS constitution be changed to formally include New Zealand*

Moved: Marcello Costa; Seconded: Norman Saunders; Vote: 3 against, remainder for, motion carried.

*Motion: that the name of the Australian Neuroscience Society be changed to the Neuroscience Society of Australia and New Zealand*

Moved: Geoff Donnan; Seconded: Phil Nagley; Vote: 56 for, 36 against, 12 abstained, motion carried.

### 2. **Secretary's report**

Ann Turnley reported that in 2011 ANS had a total of 1078 members; 710 full, 334 student, 17 honorary and 17 retired. She reminded people to visit the ANS website to check for announcements, jobs, upcoming conferences and news of general interest to ANS members. She thanked previous and current Council members and in particular David Vaney, Sarah Dunlop, Jackie Phillips and David Small, as well as Sally and Chris Jay, who were all a pleasure to work with and who made her time on Council enjoyable. She finished by reporting that Joe Lynch will be the new Secretary.

### 3. **Treasurer's report**

Jackie Phillips presented details of the Society's finances and provided a summary of the financial statement for year end September 30th 2011, outlining assets and investments and major items of expenditure, showing that overall ANS made a profit of \$6,510 in 2011. She also thanked Sally and Chris Jay, the ANS executive, the ANS Council and the Steve Ireland from HLB Mann & Judd SA, for their support and collective wisdom and wished Andrew Allen all the best in his new role as Treasurer.

*Motion: That the financial statement be accepted for the year ending September 30<sup>th</sup> 2011.*

Moved: John Furness; Seconded: Andrew Lawrence; Vote: unanimous

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

Moved: George Paxinos; Seconded: Joanne Britto; Vote: unanimous

Sarah thanked Ann and Jackie for all their work and mentioned there would be a celebration at the farewell mixer.

### 4. **Vote on motion to update payment options for the Society**

Jackie Phillips noted that the use of cheques signed by at least 2 authorised members was a limitation on Treasurer's activities and that with modern banking methods, alternative for authorised electronic payments are available and requested that the ANS Constitution be updated to reflect this.

*Motion: that item 9.4 of the constitution be changed to read "payments by the society shall be authorised by any two of four from amongst the President, Treasurer, Secretary and a nominated State Representative.*

Moved: Elizabeth Coulson; Seconded: James Bourne; Vote: unanimous

### 5. **Editor's report**

Sarah Dunlop noted that David Small was an apology for the AGM but that he wanted to pass on

his thanks to the previous ANS Editor, Paul Martin for helping him get started, members of SPAG for their work on plenary and symposium proposals, all past and present members of ANS Council (but with special thanks to David Vaney, Sarah Dunlop, John Rostas, Andrew Lawrence, Ann Turnley and Jackie Phillips) for their advice and assistance, all LOC Chairs (Michael Ibbotson and Clarke Raymond, Sam Solomon, Louise Nicholson, Lizzie Coulson) and members of the program committees, and the incoming Editor (Steve Petrou) for his help in taking on the role of Associate Editor. He also thanked the conference organisers, Sally and Chris Jay both for their professionalism and assistance and ANS for the opportunity to serve as Editor, wishing the society the very best for the future.

## 1. 2012 ANS Awards and Prizes (SD)

**AW Campbell Award** for best contribution by a member of the society in their first 5 postdoctoral years is awarded to Ben Emery from the University of Melbourne and Florey Neuroscience Institutes.

**Nina Kondelos Prize** This is made possible by a donation from George Paxinos and named after his late sister and is for a female neuroscientist who has made an outstanding contribution to basic or clinical neuroscience research is awarded to Professor Margaret Morris from The University of NSW.

Paxinos-Watson Prize for the most significant neuroscience paper published in 2010. This award has been made possible by a generous donation to the Society by Professor George Paxinos and Professor Charles Watson, commemorating the publication of their important key reference text "The Rat Brain in Stereotaxic Coordinates".

**The Paxinos-Watson prize** for 2012 is awarded to Lars Ittner, Yazhi Ke, Fabien Delerue, Mian Bi, Amadeus Gladbach, Janet van Eersel, Heidrun Wolfing, Billy Chieng, MacDonald Christie, Ian Napier, Anne Eckert, Matthias Staufenbiel, Edna Hardeman and Jurgen Gotz for their paper Dendritic Function of Tau Mediates Amyloid- $\beta$  Toxicity in Alzheimer's Disease Mouse Models, published in Cell, volume 142, pages 387-397.

## 2. Vote on Council nominations for award of Honorary ANS membership to Perry Bartlett and Fred Mendelsohn

Perry Bartlett

*Motion: that Council recommends the award of Honorary Membership of the Australian Neuroscience Society to Perry Bartlett in appreciation of both his outstanding service to the Society, including as ANS President-Elect, President and Past-President from 1999-2002, and his sustained contributions to the development and promotion of neuroscience in Australia. The research in Perry's laboratory encompasses molecular and cellular neuroscience, with a particular focus on neural stem cells, his group being one of the first to show the presence of neural stem cells in the adult brain.*

Moved: John Furness; Seconded: Charles Watson; Vote: unanimous

Fred Mendelsohn

*Motion: that Council recommends the award of Honorary Membership of the Australian Neuroscience Society to Fred Mendelsohn in appreciation of both his outstanding service to the Society, including as ANS President-Elect, President and Past-President from 2001-2004 and his sustained contributions to the development and promotion of neuroscience in Australia. The central focus of Fred's research interest is the renin-angiotensin system, showing that in addition to the systemic humoral renin-angiotensin system, there are local renin-angiotensin systems that function in many tissues such as the kidney and brain.*

Moved: James Bourne; Seconded: Phil Beart; Vote: unanimous

### 1. **Future ANS/NSANZ meetings**

ANS 2013 will be held in Melbourne from Sunday 3rd February to Wednesday 6th February. NSANZ 2014 will be held in Adelaide from Tuesday, 28 January through to Friday 31 January 2014. NSANZ 2015 will be held in Cairns from August 23-28 as a joint meeting with the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN) and the Asian-Pacific Society for Neurochemistry (APSN).

### 2. **Council members for 2012**

#### *Office Bearers:*

President	Professor John Rostas
Past President	Professor Sarah Dunlop
Secretary	Professor Joe Lynch
Treasurer	A/Professor Andrew Allen
Editor	A/Professor Steve Petrou

#### *State and National Representatives:*

ACT	Dr Ricardo Natoli
NSW	A/Professor Kay Double
New Zealand	Dr Ruth Empson
Queensland	A/Professor Elizabeth Coulson
SA	Dr Stuart Brierley
Tasmania	Dr Rob Gasperini
Victoria	Dr Chris Reid
WA	Dr Lindy Fitzgerald

Public Officer A/Professor John Bekkers

### 3. **Other business**

David Vaney acknowledged Sarah Dunlop for her contribution as President

Close 6:30pm

