



Australian Neuroscience Society Newsletter

No. 2

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www.ans.org.au

President's Perspective



Recent events appear to support my April prediction that the research environment in Australia is in a period of significant change. The federal government committee chaired by Mr Simon McKeon, that is conducting the Strategic Review of Health and Medical Research in Australia, has been very active. They have received many formal submissions and collected an enormous amount of data through private and public consultations across Australia.

It is pleasing to see that they have heeded the call from the research sector and announced that they plan to release a draft report in September for further comment. Case studies demonstrating the benefits of health and medical research (social or economic, long and short term) are clearly going to be important to convince government to enhance funding for health and medical research. In this context it is interesting that a group of Australian universities are conducting a formal trial of methodology to measure the impact of research, as opposed to the excellence of research output which is measured by the ERA assessments.

Research Collaboration with Israel

An exciting opportunity has arisen to develop long term research collaborations between Australian and Israeli neuroscientists. As a result of a recently established bilateral scientific research agreement between the Australian and Israeli governments, a delegation of Australian neuroscientists will visit Israel and an Israeli delegation of marine biologists will visit Australia.

The Australian delegation will be led by Alan Finkel (President-Elect, Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering) and comprise up to 15 people. The membership includes Geoff Donnan (Florey Neuroscience Institutes), Peter Schofield (Neuroscience Research Australia), Julio Licinio (John Curtin School of Medical Research), Sam Berkovic (Epilepsy Research Centre), Colin Masters (Mental Health Research Institute), Michael Nilsson (Hunter Medical Research Institute), Sarah Dunlop (University of Western Australia), Linda Richards (Queensland Brain Institute), Cindy Shannon-

Wieckart (Neuroscience Research Australia) and me as President of ANS. Discussions are still in progress to secure 2 to 4 additional members for the delegation. The visit will take place on December 11-18, 2012 to coincide with the annual meeting of the Israeli Society for Neuroscience. At this meeting the Israelis have made available 15 speaking slots for members of the Australian delegation and round table discussions will be organised. The delegation will also visit 5 universities with significant neuroscience research activity and the Israeli Academy of Sciences. I hope that this initiative will yield several long term collaborations that will enhance the capacity and scope of Australian neuroscience.

Potential Change to the Name of the Society

At the mid-year Council meeting, the question of a new name for the Society was discussed. Council resolved to engage the membership in the choice of name to be put to the AGM at the Melbourne meeting. Details of the process and the potential choices of name will be in the next ANS Newsletter. ANS members are encouraged to write to me, or any other member of Council, to express views on this matter or to suggest alternative names for the Society.

John Rostas
President, ANS

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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, Paul Martin, from the University of Sydney, who will present the Lawrie Austin Lecture, Margaret Morris from University of New South Wales, who will present the ANS Plenary Lecture and Ingrid Scheffer who will present the Eccles Lecturer.

This meeting promises to be a wonderful experience and all members are encouraged to be in Melbourne in the first week of February 2013. Apart from the prospect of world class science the highlight will be the conference dinner which is to be held in the Melbourne Town Hall and will be a spectacular affair.

Details of Symposia are listed below:

PTEN in the brain

Organiser: Seong-Seng Tan, Florey Neuroscience Institutes

Chair: Dr. Jason Howitt, Florey Neuroscience Institutes

Invited Speakers:

Britta Eickholt, Charité – Universitätsmedizin, Berlin, Germany

Seong-Seng Tan Florey Neuroscience Institutes, University of Melbourne, VIC

Kevin Morris The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA, USA

Christina Mitchell Monash University, VIC

Development of therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases

Organiser & Chair: Ashley Bush, Mental Health Research Institute, University of Melbourne

Invited Speakers:

Rudy Tanzi, Massachusetts General Hospital-East, Charlestown, MA, USA

Kevin Barnham, Mental Health Research Institute, University of Melbourne, VIC

Jose Varghese, CSIRO, VIC

Stephanie Rainey Smith, Edith Cowan University, WA

One Gene Closer - Understanding the Neurobiology of Intellectual Disability

Organiser: Julian Heng, Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute, Monash University, VIC

Co-Chairs:

Richard Leventer, Murdoch Children's Research Institute VIC
Matilda Haas Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute (ARMI) VIC

Invited Speakers:

Jozef Geacz, Women's and Children's Hospital, Adelaide, SA
TBA

David Keays, Research Institute of Molecular Pathology, Vienna, Austria

Julian Heng, Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute (ARMI), VIC

Novel therapies for the treatment of epilepsy

Organiser: Kim Powell, University of Melbourne, VIC

Co-Chairs:

Kim Powell, University of Melbourne, VIC
Chris Reid, Florey Neurosciences Institutes, University of Melbourne, VIC

Invited Speakers:

Terry Snutch, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Steven Petrou, Florey Neuroscience Institutes, University of Melbourne, VIC

Nigel Jones, University of Melbourne, VIC

Chris Hovens, University of Melbourne, VIC

The Neuronal Cytoskeleton in Health and Disease

Organiser: Thomas Fath, University of New South Wales, NSW

Chair: Frederic A. Meunier, Queensland Brain Institute, QLD

Invited Speakers:

Roland Brandt, Neurobiologie der Universität Osnabrück, Germany

Adam Cole, Garvan Institute for Medical Research, NSW

Tracey Dickson, Menzies Research Institute, Tasmania

Thomas Fath, University of New South Wales, NSW

Perinatal Brain Injury: cause and cure

Organiser & Chair: Mary Tolcos, Monash Institute for Medical Research, VIC

Invited Speakers:

Sandra Juul, University of Washington, Washington, USA

Tracey Björkman, The University of Queensland, QLD

Laura Bennet, The University of Auckland, New Zealand,

Suzie Miller, Monash Institute for Medical Research, VIC

Stress and the brain: Comparative approaches to understanding plasticity

Co-organisers:

Kate Buchanan, Deakin University, Geelong

Trevor Day, Deakin University, Geelong Vic

Chair: Trevor Day, Deakin University, Geelong Vic

Invited Speakers:

Judith Reinhard, Queensland Brain Institute, QLD

Kate Buchanan, Deakin University, Geelong Vic

Rohan Walker, University of Newcastle, NSW

Manfred Gahr, Max Planck Institute for Ornithology, Seewiesen, Germany

Neuro-immune crosstalk in nervous system disorders

Organiser: Gila Moalem-Taylor, University of New South Wales, NSW

Chair: Gilles Guillemin, University of New South Wales, NSW

Invited Speakers:

Gila Moalem-Taylor, University of New South Wales, NSW

Mark Hutchinson, University of Adelaide, SA

Jonathan Kipnis, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, USA

Trevor Kilpatrick, Florey Neurosciences Institutes, University of Melbourne, VIC

Novel approaches to understanding the brain's connectome

Organiser & Chair: Andrew Allen, University of Melbourne, VIC

Invited Speakers:

A.F. Sved, University of Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

Simon McMullen, Macquarie University, Sydney, NSW

C. Sevigny, University of Melbourne, VIC

Murat Yucel, University of Melbourne, VIC

Neural basis of visual cortical orientation selectivity, 50 years after Hubel & Wiesel's hypothesis

Organiser: Trichur Vidyasagar, University of Melbourne, VIC

Co-Chairs:

Bogdan Dreher, University of Sydney, NSW

Michael Ibbotson, National Vision Research Institute & University of Melbourne VIC

Invited Speakers:

David Ferster, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA

Nicholas Priebe, University of Texas, Austin, TX, USA.

Ulf Eysel, Ruhr-University-Bochum, Germany

Trichur Vidyasagar, University of Melbourne, VIC

Molecular pathology of motor neurodegenerative disorders

Organiser: Bradley Turner, Florey Neuroscience Institutes, University of Melbourne

Chair: Philip Beart, Florey Neuroscience Institutes, University of Melbourne

Invited Speakers:

Kevin Talbot, University of Oxford, UK

Ian Blair, University of Sydney, NSW

Julie Atkin, La Trobe University, Bundoora, VIC

Bradley Turner, Florey Neuroscience Institutes University of Melbourne VIC

Stem-Cell Derived Neurons: from Disease Models to Therapies

Co-Organisers & Co-Chairs:

Jenny Gunnarsen, University of Melbourne, VIC

Mirella Dottori, University of Melbourne, VIC

Invited Speakers:

Ricardo Dolmetsch, Stanford University, CA, USA

Ashkan Javaherian, iPierion Inc.

Bryony Nayagam, University of Melbourne, VIC

Jun Takahashi, Kyoto University, Japan

Translational Neuroscience Symposium – A special symposium of the ANS 2013 LOC

Organiser & Chair: James Bourne, Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute, Monash University, VIC

Invited Speakers:

Glenda Halliday, Neuroscience Research Australia, NSW

Mark Cook, Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne

Phil Robinson, Children's Medical Research Institute, Sydney, NSW

Mark Bellgrove, Monash University, Clayton, VIC

Neuroinflammation

Organiser & Chair: Louise Nicholson, University of Auckland, New Zealand

Invited Speakers:

Claire Shepherd, Neuroscience Research Australia, NSW

Michele Binder, Florey Neuroscience Institutes, University of Melbourne, VIC.

Henri C. van der Heyde, La Jolla Infectious Disease Institute, San Diego, CA, USA

Colin Green, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

Neural Mechanisms of Cognitive Brain Training

Organiser & Chair: Michael Valenzuela, University of Sydney, NSW

Invited Speakers:

Sharon Naismith, University of Sydney, NSW

Paul E. Dux, University of Queensland, QLD

Andreas Engvig, University of Oslo (UiO), Oslo, Norway

Amit Lampit, University of Sydney, NSW

Early intervention in psychosis: what happens in the brain before, during and after the development of psychosis and can we stop it?

Organiser & Chair: Maarten van den Buuse, Mental Health Research Institute, University of Melbourne

Invited Speakers:

Rhoshel Lenroot, NeuRA, Sydney, NSW

Christos Pantelis, Melbourne Neuropsychiatry Centre, University of Melbourne

Ina Weiner, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv

Patrick McGorry, Orygen Youth Health, Melbourne, VIC

Neural Plasticity and the Gut

Co-organisers:

Heather Young, University of Melbourne, VIC

Nicholas Spencer, Flinders University, SA

Co-Chairs:

Nicholas Spencer, Flinders University, SA

Simon Brookes, Flinders University, SA

Invited Speakers:

Michael Gershon, Columbia University, New York, USA.

Keith Sharkey, University of Calgary, Canada

Stuart Brierley, University of Adelaide, SA

Kulmira Nurgali, Victoria University, VIC



AUSTRALIAN COURSE IN ADVANCED NEUROSCIENCE (ACAN) 2012

ACAN is a 3-week research training course in cellular neurophysiology for PhD students, postdocs and junior faculty, held in April/May each year on North Stradbroke Island, near Brisbane. This year's ACAN again brought together 12 young scientists from Australia and New Zealand and placed them under the tutelage of about 25 national and international faculty. Although the course is intensive (we want our students to get their money's worth), it is also designed to be informal and fun, with plenty of opportunity to make contacts and form friendships. Below are the impressions of three of this year's students.

ACAN has now been running for 8 years, but the organisers work hard to keep it fresh and up-to-date. For example, this year's program included new cell culture experiments and the construction of a "home-made" 2-photon microscope. One thing that never changes, however, is a rigorous training in the fundamentals of cellular neuroscience – both the theory and the practice.

The course owes its success to the generous support of the following companies and institutions. For equipment: Zeiss (microscopes), Olympus Australia (microscopes), Sutter Instruments (manipulators, shutters), Axon/Molecular Devices (amplifiers, digitizers, software), Diagnostic Instruments (cameras), Coherent (laser). For financial support: Australian National University, Florey Neuroscience Institutes, Monash University, Neurological Foundation of New Zealand, Melbourne Neuroscience Institute, Mental Health Research Institute, Queensland Brain Institute, University of Otago, University of Queensland (DVCR), University of Queensland (Faculty of Science), University of Western Australia.

Next year's ACAN will run from 14 April to 4 May 2013, with the call for applications going out in late 2012. If you are a beginning neuroscientist interested in learning cellular neurophysiology from world-leading experts, I strongly encourage you to apply.

John Bekkers
ACAN Director



After discovering I had been accepted into ACAN, to say I was excited would be an understatement! I had talked to students who had attended the course in previous years, and thought I had a reasonably good idea of what to expect. I had been told the course was demanding and involved long hours and hard work. However, I had also gathered that ACAN would be one of the most rewarding experiences of my early scientific career.

I arrived at Stradbroke Island with very little experience of *in vitro* electrophysiology and no practical experience of patch-clamping. I hoped that by the end of the course I would be able to patch cells like a pro! My excitement quickly turned to nervousness, however, when I discovered that the majority of attendees had done some patch clamping already. I was immediately worried my lack of experience would leave me struggling to keep up. This initial concern quickly abated when I realised that the course was designed to cater to a full range of experience levels and research interests. During the first week, students were paired and allocated a demonstrator to assist with mastering patch-clamp techniques, and thanks

to the help of our demonstrator's amazing tuition and saint-like patience, my partner and I (both without prior experience) had successfully patched cells within the first 2 days of the course! I never would have thought I could learn to patch so quickly, or that I would later conduct paired dendritic and somatic recordings!

Each day we were treated to morning lectures by leading neuroscientists, while the afternoons and evenings were spent in the lab, getting practical experience of techniques and theories covered during morning lectures. This approach was particularly useful for highlighting the practical benefits and pitfalls of certain approaches. It was a real bonus that lecturers stayed for several days, giving us the opportunity to ask questions about the lecture material, experiments, and their research. It was also great to have experts rotating through the lab, advising us on improving our techniques. A definite highlight was watching Matthew Larkum patch a dendrite with such skill and (apparent) ease. A close second was the impromptu violin performance he treated us to, a surreal late night lab experience.

ACAN provided me with much more than practical skill. I also came out of the course having met leading electrophysiologists, and an *awesome* group of new friends whom I am certain will be names to watch out for in neuroscience in the very near future.

Amy Wolff
Postdoctoral Fellow
Psychology Department and Brain Health Research Centre, University of Otago



How does one describe the whirl-wind experience that is ACAN? Our days were jam-packed with lectures, experiments, analysis and presentations. For three weeks, this intense cycle of learning left little opportunity for catching one's breath. This hardly sounds like the 'amazing time' which we students profess it to be, but ACAN is a brilliant experience and I encourage all young potential electrophysiologists to apply for the course.

The lecture series covered a wide breadth of topics: from understanding the electrical circuit of a basic cell model, to the complexities of synaptic transmission, to an appreciation of autonomic and visual neuroscience. Who better to impart this knowledge than national and international experts from the range of fields covered? These presenters generously donated their time and knowledge, encouraged questions and renewed our enthusiasm for neuroscience research. We were taught the basics of electrophysiology, fluorescence microscopy and calcium imaging, shown how these techniques had already been applied in neuroscience, and given perspectives on how they may be useful and developed for future research.

The labs provided an opportunity to apply what was learnt in the lectures. The patience of our demonstrators in the first week of the course was an integral part of our experience. This one-on-one tutoring, combined with world class facilities and the occasional prize for completing tasks, certainly accelerated our learning. By the end of ACAN we could make patch recordings from cortical neurons and dendrites, image calcium in single



The Australian Association of Computational Neuroscientists and Neuromorphic Engineers

We would like to invite researchers and students based in Australia and New Zealand to join the newly established Australian Association of Computational Neuroscientists and Neuromorphic Engineers.

The aim of the Association is to bring together Australasian researchers with an interest in:

- notification of relevant conferences, events, and opportunities in computational neuroscience and neuromorphic engineering;
- networking with researchers working at the intersection of neuroscience, engineering, mathematics and physics;
- promoting the advancement of computational neuroscience and neuromorphic engineering as broadly recognised fields of research within Australasia.

If you would like to get involved, please visit neuroeng.org.au. It is free to join and is intended to represent a 'meeting place' for researchers and students within

this community. Please spread the word to colleagues and students and if you have any questions about the Association, membership or registration for the newsletter, you can contact us at admin@neuroeng.org.au

De-mystifying the NHMRC: How Project Grant and Training/CDF processes really work.

NSW ANS Seminar

3.30pm to 5pm

Wednesday 22nd August 2012

Neuroscience Research Australia
Barker St, Randwick, NSW 2031

Have you every wondered what happens to a Project grant application after you press "Certify" in RGMS? Who reviews the application and what are they looking for? Who are the mysterious NHMRC Academy and what do they do? Who reviews Fellowship applications and how does this process work? What really happens at grant panels?

Come along to this special ANS seminar and hear the answers to these and many other questions about NHMRC processes from our expert speakers.

Professor Stephen Lord
Neuroscience Research Australia

"NHMRC project grants: Submission advice and the roles of the NHMRC Academy and Grant Review Panels"
and

Professor Peter Gunning
UNSW

"NHMRC Training Awards and Career Development Fellowships"

Following the seminar there will be PIZZA and BEER.

The seminar is FREE BUT YOU MUST REGISTER AT: ANS2012@neura.edu.au. Please email your name, your affiliation and position and if you are a current ANS member or not to this address. You may also nominate your favourite pizza type.

We thank our sponsors of this event: ANS and Neuroscience Research Australia

Call for Proposals for the 6th ISN Special Neurochemistry Conference

Submission deadline: November 20, 2012-07

Location: The conference will be held within the Asian-Pacific region but cannot coincide in time with other major neuroscience meetings

Duration: 3 days with no parallel sessions

Delegate numbers: not to exceed 300 people

Funding: ISN will provide \$150,000 USD to the organisers

Decision Process: Proposals will be reviewed by the ISN Council. Selection decisions will be made based on the quality of the scientific program, diversity of speakers as well as the suitability of the proposed venue.

Submissions addressing topical and emerging areas are encouraged, and the proposed area may relate to neurochemistry in its broader context within neuroscience. Focus on an important and timely neurochemical topic would be ideal. Please note that proposals from ISN members will be given priority.

Proposals should include:

- Name and address of organizer(s)
- A statement on the importance of the topic
- An outline of the program and list of speakers
- Details about the location, facilities and dates
- Information on composition and role of the Local Organizing Committee
- A preliminary budget

The ISN Council reserves the right to suggest changes to the scientific program.

Proposals are to be submitted by email to the ISN Secretary (monica.carson@microglia.org)

DEADLINES FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

October 2012 17th October 2012
December 2012 28th November 2012

Inaugural Neurological Foundation Professor of Neurosurgery appointed

Down in Dunedin in New Zealand's South Island, an ongoing campaign led by the Neurological Foundation Of New Zealand has raised 2.36 million of the 3 million target in order to fund a Chair in Neurosurgery in perpetuity. In addition to this amazing fund raising, the University of Otago and the Southern District Health Board have recently announced the early appointment of Professor Dirk De Ridder, currently a Professor of Neuromodulation and Neurosurgery at Antwerp University, as the inaugural Neurological Foundation Professor of Neurosurgery.

Professor De Ridder's neurosurgical interests include skull base surgery, pituitary surgery, acoustic neuroma surgery, microvascular decompression surgery, surgery for tinnitus, and electrical and magnetic brain stimulation. Professor De Ridder will take up his joint University of Otago-Southern District Health Board roles in February 2013. He will be based within the University's Department of Surgical Sciences as head of New Zealand's first academic neurosurgery unit. Fifty percent of his time will be spent as a neurosurgeon at Dunedin Hospital serving Otago and Southland residents, as well as patients referred from elsewhere, and 50% on research and teaching.

In February 2013 Professor Dirk De Ridder will take up his role as the University of Otago's inaugural Neurological Foundation Professor of Neurosurgery. Professor De Ridder is a Leading Belgian neurosurgeon and brain researcher. He has been on the neurosurgical staff at Antwerp University Hospital, one of Belgium's leading hospitals, since 2000. Photo: Sharron Bennett.



North Island

On Wednesday 27th June, the Centre for Brain Research, Auckland hosted approximately 200 eager and talented year-9 high school students from all over the North Island, and their teachers. They had come here to take part in the New Zealand finals of the Australia/NZ Brain Bee – a neuroscience quiz for high school students which leads the finalists to compete in the International Brain Bee.

196 students from 40 high schools took part in this year's event, most of them competing both as individuals and on a school team. All those who attended had gained high marks in a previous, online test.

Students spent a whole day at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, and in between high-intensity competition rounds, were given the opportunity to do some hands-on lab work, and to interrogate current students and staff from the Centre for Brain Research about their work and their passions, and what brought them to CBR. This year's winner was Shen Jianto, from Mt Roskill Grammar School, who was followed closely – very closely – by Claire Wang from Westlake Girls' High School, and Sang Ho Kim, from Palmerston North Boys' High School. Shen will now have the opportunity to travel to Melbourne early next year to compete against the finalists from the Australian States and the South Island. We wish him all the best!

South Island

Outsmart, out-think, outlast was the motto for this year's South Island Brain Bee Challenge and this is exactly what Riccarton High School, from Christchurch, did! The school won the team section and the individual section of this year's final, held at the Otago Museum in Dunedin on 27th June. Riccarton pupil Jawon Kim (15) excelled, beating 97 other year 11 pupils from 19 high schools from around the South Island to become the individual champion. Jawon will head to Melbourne next year to compete at the Australia-New Zealand Brain Bee final. If successful he could earn a spot at the International Brain Bee later in 2013.

Brain Bee New Zealand Finals 2012



Shen Jianto, 2012 winner for the North Island, pictured with (l-r), his science teacher, Professor Richard Faull, CBR Director, Professor Louise Nicholson, NZ Brain Bee Challenge Co-ordinator.

Photo from <http://centreforbrainresearch.wordpress.com/2012/07/10/cbr-hosts-2012-brain-bee-competition/>

Jawon Kim, winner of the South Island individual Brain Bee with Prof Cliff Abraham, director of the Brain Health Research Centre at Otago.

Photo: Simran Maggo.



Mike Fleete and Chew-Ling Tan, PhD students at Otago help prepare the test questions for Brain Bee.

Photo: Simran Maggo.

ANS news from Victoria

I have to start by thanking Jo Britto for her help in teaching me the ins and outs of the Vic ANS representative role. It has certainly been a steep learning curve. The ANS meeting will be held in Melbourne in 2013 and it promises to be a fantastic event. The scientific program is amazingly strong and a more 'formal' take on the dinner theme will see it held at the town hall. Along with a variety of great satellite meetings and all Melbourne has to offer it will be the place to be in early 2013!! Local initiatives that have run this year include the outreach program that occurs during brain awareness week. I personally visited a school and found the experience very rewarding. Again thanks to Jo for organising this.

The Victorian Brain Bee was held at the Melbourne Brain Centre and was a huge success. Heather Young did an amazing job putting the day together. We are confident of fielding a very competitive team at the national finals. ANS Vic also provided financial support for an initiative organised by Victoria's neuroscience student body, SOBR. The night was held at Rydges in Carlton and involved a sit down dinner. The theme of the night was "Bridging The Gap: Science & The Public", with Nobel Laureate Peter Doherty, Prof. Ingrid Scheffer (winner of the L'Oreal-UNESCO Women in Science Award) and Sophie Scott (national medical reporter for the ABC) all giving great talks on the subject. ANS Victoria will also support the SOBR symposium which is held later this year.

See you all at ANS 2013!!!

Chris Reid

ANS news from WA

The WA finals of the Brain Bee were held on 26th June, 2012 at the University of WA and involved over 100 students and their teachers from 23 schools across WA. Participants travelled from as far as Broome and Kalgoorlie to compete in the state finals. The competition was opened by the acting coordinator of Neuroscience

at UWA, Dr Helmy Mulders and Dr Andrew Garrett gave a highly entertaining presentation on neuroscience methodology. The students participated in games and tours throughout the day, visiting research labs in Experimental and Regenerative Neurosciences and the UWA Anatomy Museum to conduct basic immunohistochemistry, electrophysiology and visual ecology experiments.

The winning school (St Mary's Anglican girls college, Perth) was thrilled to be receiving the Zeiss microscope and the WA state winner Abbey Ford, who travelled all the way from St Mary's college in Broome, is looking forward to competing in the national finals at ANS 2013. Prizes were awarded by Prof Charles Watson.

Lindy Fitzgerald



Winner of the WA state final of the brain bee, Miss Abbey Ford (centre), pictured with Professor Charles Watson and Ms Louise Goodes from the Neurotrauma Research Program of WA.

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.

ANS WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER

The ANS website is on-line at 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, 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.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND COURSES

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. See website for more details <http://www.neuroethology.org/meetings/> or contact Justin Marshall justin.marshall@uq.edu.au

“Connections 2012: from research to community”, Monday 13 August, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre.

This event brings together researchers, clinicians, allied health professionals, decision makers and the community in a single interactive forum to discuss the future of spinal cord injury research in Australia/New Zealand. Featuring international speakers: Matthew Reeve, James Guest, Volker Dietz. Please see www.connections2012.org.au for more details on the event, including travel awards.

30th International Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research, Copthorne Resort Hotel, Queenstown, New Zealand, Aug 25 - Aug 29, 2012.

This conference aims to promote interaction between academic & clinical brain research disciplines including anatomy, kinesiology, neural modelling, neurology, neurochemistry, molecular biology, pharmacology, physiology, and psychology. Intensive morning, late afternoon and evening sessions with free time mid-day for interactions and activities. To view the range of topics covered in recent years or to register, visit our website at www.awcbr.org. CONTACT: Dr. Johanna Montgomery, e-mail: awcbr@psy.otago.ac.nz

The Annual Brain Sciences UNSW Symposium.

7 September 2012 in Leighton Hall, The John Niland Scientia Building, University of New South Wales, Kensington, Sydney. The theme is ‘Networks and Neuroscience: The Connected Brain’. For program, speaker details and registration please go to: <http://www.brainsciences.unsw.edu.au/BrainSciWeb.nsf/page/Symposium2012>

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. For more details go to: www.nrronline.org/conference

13th International Conference on Alzheimer’s Drug Discovery, September 10-11, 2012; Hyatt Regency Jersey City, New Jersey.

This annual Alzheimer’s Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF) global conference brings together leading academic, industry and government scientists intent on accelerating the development of innovative treatments for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. The ADDF’s funded investigators and top level scientists in the field will present on their current research progress and stimulate discussion. The conference offers ample opportunities for collaboration and partnering. <http://www.worldeventsforum.com/addf/addrugdiscovery/>

2nd International Neural Regeneration Symposium, Shenyang, China, 21-25 Sept 2012.

Special efforts have been made by the Organizing Committee to recruit international participants. For those participants from outside mainland China, the following benefits will be provided:

- 1) Waiver of the meeting registration fee;
- 2) Free meals during the meeting period;
- 3) Free 2 days post-meeting tour (including meals, transportation, tickets and one night hotel staying) to two spectacular sightseeing places: Benxi Water Cave, and Mount Guanmen Reservoir. Meeting website: <http://www.inrs-nrr.org>

ComBio2012

Adelaide Convention Centre, ADELAIDE.

23 to 27 September 2012

Combined ASBMB, ASPS, ANZSCDB, NZSBMB, NZSPB, AMATA and APPS/MPPP combined annual meetings.

www.asbmb.org.au/combio2012

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.

The meeting will address major topics of latest developments in basic and clinical neuroscience research with an emphasis on ‘Brain chemistry: Integrating the Mind’. The purpose of the meeting is to offer an international forum of scientific exchange for researchers and clinician neuroscientists by a series of sessions on distinguished scientific developments. The meeting will partially overlap with the meeting of Japanese Society of Biological Psychiatry, which will offer an exceptional and international platform for neurochemists all over the world, especially those from the Asia-Pacific region. For more details go to: www.apsneurochem.org

World Muscle Society Annual Congress, Perth Australia 9th - 13th October.

This is the first time this meeting has been held in Australasia. This meeting annually brings together world leaders in clinical, pathological and scientific research into these disorders. This is an exciting time in the neuromuscular disorders field, with next generation sequencing techniques starting to have a huge impact in novel disease gene discovery and approaching use in molecular diagnostics and potential therapies for these conditions, based on understanding the pathobiology of the diseases, in clinical trials. For more details go to: www.wms2012.com

Epilepsy Society of Australia 26th Annual Scientific Meeting. 31st October - 2nd November 2012, Hobart Function and Conference Centre, Tasmania.

Conference website: <http://sapmea.asn.au/conventions/esa2012/index.html>

First Asia-Pacific Molecular Cell and Cognition Society Meeting. 1st - 2nd February 2013, Melbourne Brain Center, Parkville, Melbourne.

Plenary speaker: Prof Mu-Ming Poo from ION Shanghai and Berkeley. All information on how to register and for students to send their abstracts will become available at the following website: www.mol-cellcog.org. For more details contact Stephanie Bissiere: sbissiere@gmail.com



Address and contact details for the ANS secretariat

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