

ANS Policies and Procedures

ANS Awards and Prizes

Purpose

This document describes the policy and procedures for awarding the ANS Medallion, the Paxinos-Watson Prize, the Mark Rowe Award, and Student Oral and Poster Prizes at the ANS Annual Meeting.

Scope

The policy applies to the ANS Council, Past-President or President-Elect, Local Organising Committee (LOC), ANS Secretariat and ANS membership.

Background

The ANS Medallion was established by the ANS Council in 2008. The medallion was created by Michael Meszaros, an acclaimed Melbourne sculptor, and depicts the artist's view of the chain of connections between the brain, the organism and the outside world. The Medallion is a struck medal of 60 mm diameter that follows the central design of the large cast-bronze medallion presented to recipients of the Distinguished Achievement Award.

The Paxinos-Watson Award has been made possible by a generous donation to the Society by Professor George Paxinos and Professor Charles Watson, commemorating their important key reference text, "The Rat Brain in Stereotaxic Coordinates", published by Academic Press.

The Mark Rowe Award commemorates the late Australian Professor of Physiology whose major research contributions concerned the neural coding and central processing mechanisms of mechanosensory sensation. This Award was established in Mark's name by his wife, Jan Rowe, in 2013.

Student oral and poster awards at the Annual Meeting are a key means of recognising the achievements of student members of the Society and of encouraging student participation in the Annual Meeting.

Policy Statement

1. ANS Medallion

- 1.1 The ANS Medallion is awarded to plenary lecturers at the Society's Annual Meeting and to other individuals who have provided outstanding service to the Society.
- 1.2 The recipients of the ANS Medallion being recognised for outstanding service are chosen by the President and the Past-President or President-Elect of the Society.
- 1.3 Where possible, the ANS Medallion is presented to the recipient at the ANS Annual Meeting.

2. Paxinos-Watson Prize

- 2.1 The prize is for the most significant neuroscience paper published by any member of the Society in the year preceding the award.
- 2.2 Any member of ANS may nominate one of their papers in the field of neuroscience. Other authors on the paper may be members or non-members of the Society.
- 2.3 Each member may nominate only one paper per year, but may be a co-author on a paper nominated by another member.
- 2.4 The research in the paper must have been substantially undertaken within Australia or New Zealand.
- 2.5 Where possible, the Paxinos-Watson Prize is presented to the winner(s) at the next ANS Annual Meeting.
- 2.6 Further details are in *Procedures* below.

3. Mark Rowe Award

- 3.1 The Mark Rowe Award is presented annually for the best publication in the field of neuroscience by an early career researcher member of the Society. The publication must be a first- or senior-author paper based on research

completed by the applicant as a doctoral student or postdoctoral fellow, published within three years of the award of doctorate (considering career disruptions). Joint first or senior author publications will also be considered.

3.2 The application must refer to a publication with an electronic or hard publication date (whichever is the earliest) in the calendar year prior to the year of the meeting as indicated on the published manuscript.

3.3 Where possible, the Mark Rowe Award is presented to the winner at the next ANS Annual Meeting. The successful applicant will receive a certificate and prize money of A\$1000. The awarded funds should be used for travel for either a conference or collaboration.

3.4 Further details are in *Procedures* below.

4. Student Oral and Poster Presentation Awards

4.1 Students register their presentation for consideration for a student poster or oral award when they submit their abstract to the ANS Annual Meeting. Applicants must be a current student member of ANS.

4.2 Prior to the meeting, the LOC assembles a panel to judge the nominated presentations. The judging procedure must ensure the following:

- Orals and posters are judged separately according to criteria previously agreed by the judging panel.
- All conflicts of interests for the judges are declared prior to judging and mitigated where possible.
- Judging and selection of winners occurs in a timely manner during the meeting.

4.3 The LOC Chair or delegate is responsible for checking the eligibility of winners with the ANS Secretariat prior to the presentation of the award.

4.4 After all nominated presentations have been judged and the winners selected, the winners' names are added to the awards list and approved by the President.

4.5 The LOC is responsible for preparing the award certificates and organising the award prize money.

4.6 The award certificates are presented to the winners by a nominated person (typically the LOC Chair) at the closing ceremony. If the awardee is not present, the certificate will be posted to the winner by the LOC Chair or delegate.

4.7 Apportionment of prize money and other details are in *Procedures* below.

Procedures

1. General procedures – Paxinos-Watson and Mark Rowe Awards

1.1 The Paxinos-Watson Award and Mark Rowe Award are presented to eligible ANS members who may be nominated or self-nominated. Eligibility may depend on career stage or gender. See the relevant policies (above) for the description of awards and eligibility criteria.

1.2 The call for nominations for the awards is made by the Secretary via the April newsletter, on the webpage and directly to the membership via a direct email. (See template call for nominations in ANS Documents Dropbox folder). The closing date for nominations is set by the Secretary and is normally in early July. Between the opening and closing date the Secretary may send reminder emails to the membership to ensure that applications are received in a timely manner.

1.3 Applications for each award are made via a written application. There is no application form for the awards but applications need to adhere to the guidelines for each award published on the webpage and detailed in this policy document. All applicants must be confirmed as current financial members of ANS.

1.4 Applications for both the Mark Rowe and Paxinos-Watson Awards must nominate a research work published (in hard copy or online) in the year prior to the year of award.

1.5 All applications should be received by the Secretariat, which will collate them and prepare a summary table of applications for tracking applications and contact with nominees.

(See template for the table in ANS Documents Dropbox.)

- 1.6 The Secretary recruits two or more judges for each award, traditionally selected from the Council members, but external judges can be recruited if required.
- 1.7 Upon receiving applications (by sharing the relevant Dropbox folder or by email), judges for each award will: 1, Declare any conflict of interest to the Secretary, who may replace judges with high conflicts of interest; 2, Ensure that all nominees are eligible for the nominated award; 3, Determine if the quality of each application is sufficiently high to be considered for the award. (Note that it is at the discretion of the award judges and ANS Executive to withhold an award in any given year if the quality of applications is judged to be insufficiently high.); 4, Independently rank each nomination. The primary criterion for ranking is scientific quality but consideration must be given to career disruptions or other consideration of achievements relative to opportunity; 5, Compare ranking list with all other judges for that award and agree on a single final ranking list with the top ranked nomination as the winner; and 6, Provide a list to the Secretary by the date requested by the Secretary.
- 1.8 On occasion, there may be dual winners of these awards but if possible this should be avoided. In the case of dual winners, the prize money is divided between the winners.
- 1.9 The Secretary advises the winner of each award that they were successful and invites them to attend the AGM during the annual conference for the presentation of the award. The names of the winners are kept confidential until the award presentation.
- 1.10 The Secretary is responsible for preparing the award certificates and obtaining bank details from the winners. Following the AGM, the Treasurer or Secretariat will arrange direct transfer of the prize money.
- 1.11 Unsuccessful applicants are contacted by email following the AGM and advised that their application was unsuccessful and thanked for applying.

2. Paxinos-Watson Award – Specific procedures

- 2.1 The application must refer to a publication with an electronic or hard publication date (whichever is the earliest) in the calendar year prior to the year of the meeting as indicated on the published manuscript.
- 2.2 The application may be supported by up to two short submissions (maximum of 500 words each) from other neuroscientists explaining the significance of the paper.
- 2.3 A prize of \$500 will be awarded for the paper. Where possible, the Paxinos-Watson Prize is presented to the winner(s) at the next ANS Annual Meeting. The first and senior authors will receive a certificate, and the prize money (A\$500) will be sent to the nominating author.
- 2.4 Applicants must be members in good standing on the 30th June in the year of nomination.

3. Mark Rowe Award – Specific procedures

- 3.1 The application should be submitted to the ANS Secretariat by the advertised deadline. There is no application form. Applications should include:
 - Evidence of date of award of doctorate
 - PDF of publication
 - Short statement (maximum two pages) about the significance of the publication and the nominee's contribution to the work
- 3.2 The application must refer to a publication with an electronic or hard publication date (whichever is the earliest) in the calendar year prior to the year of nomination, as indicated on the published manuscript.
- 3.3 Applicants must be Members in good standing on the 30th June in the year of nomination.

4. ANS student presentation awards – Specific procedures

- 4.1 The ANS meeting LOC is responsible for the judging, preparing the award certificates and organising the award prize money. (See the template judging criteria and forms in the ANS Documents Dropbox.) These awards are tra-

ditionally presented during the closing ceremony of the meeting, or later posted to winners not present at the ceremony.

- 4.2 In advance of the annual meeting, the LOC should choose a judging panel for the nominated abstracts and ensure that the judging and selection of the winners occurs in a timely manner during the meeting. Oral presentations and posters are judged separately according to criteria previously agreed by the judging panel. (See example judging criteria and forms in ANS Documents Dropbox.) All conflicts of interest from the judges must be declared at the time of judging and where possible judges should not judge presentations where they have a high conflict of interest.
- 4.3 After all nominated abstracts are judged and winners selected, the winners' names are added to the awards list (previously signed by the President). The awards are presented to the winners by a nominated person (typically the LOC Chair) at the closing ceremony.
- 4.4 The prize money is normally deposited directly into a nominated bank account by the ANS Secretariat. The amount of prize money may vary between meetings, depending on the budget, but typical amounts might be: 1st prize, \$200; 2nd prize, \$150; 3rd prize, \$100.
- 4.5 The LOC Chair must provide a list of the winners' names, institutions and presentation titles (and bank account details for transfer of prize money) of all winners to the ANS Secretary and Secretariat following the meeting so winners can be acknowledged on the ANS website and in the next ANS newsletter.

Related Material

- Policy and Procedures on Campbell and Kondelos Awards and Award Lectures

Version Information

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