

May 2020



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Australasian Neuroscience Society Newsletter



ANS 39th Annual Scientific Meeting of 2019

Notifications

Become an ANS member or student member!

Please join us by becoming a Member of ANS.

You can join online at any time!

<https://tas.currinda.com/register/organisation/172>

Check out our website

www.ans.org.au and follow updates on the ANS Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/AusNeuroSoc>) or via our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AusNeuroSoc>).

Acknowledgements

Sponsors *(we thank our Society partners)*

- Melbourne Neuroscience Institute, The University of Melbourne
- Neurological Foundation of New Zealand
- Otago Division of Sciences, University of Otago
- University of Tasmania
- The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health
- Eccles Institute of Neuroscience, Australian National University
- The John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University
- Centre for Neuroscience, Flinders University
- Centre of Excellence for Integrative Brain Function, ARC Centre of Excellence
- South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute
- Hopwood Centre for Neurobiology, South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute
- Queensland Brain Institute, The University of Queensland

ANS Executive

ANS President

Prof Wickliffe Abraham,
FRSNZ
*Department of Psychology
and Brain Health Research
Centre, Brain Research New
Zealand - Rangahau Roro
Aotearoa, University of Otago
Dunedin, New Zealand, 9054
T: +64-3-479-7648
cabraham@psy.otago.ac.nz*

ANS Secretary

Prof Thomas Fath
*Department of Biomedical
Sciences, Faculty of Medicine
and Health Sciences,
Macquarie University
Sydney, NSW 2109, Australia
T: +61-4-2457-8120
thomas.fath@mq.edu.au*

ANS Treasurer

Prof Brian Dean
*The Florey Institute of
Neuroscience and Mental
Health, The University
of Melbourne
Parkville, VIC 3052, Australia
T: +61-3-8344-3786
brian.dean@florey.edu.au*

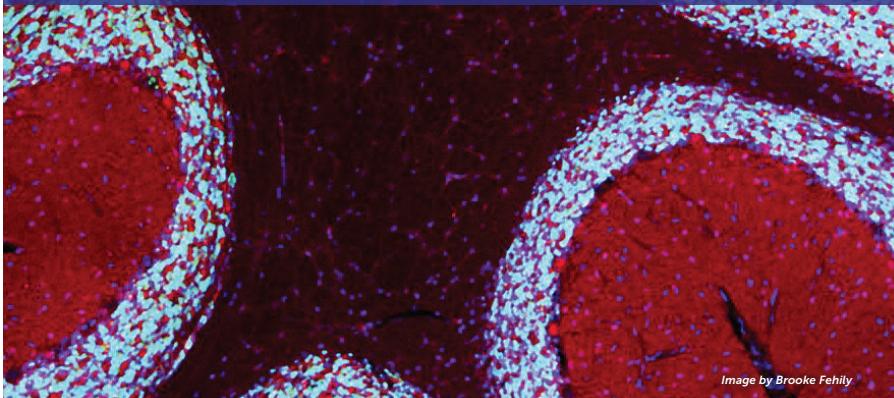
ANS Conference Executive Chair

A/Prof Kaylene Young
*Menzies Institute for Medical
Research, The University
of Tasmania
Hobart, TAS 7000, Australia
T: +61-3-6226-7700
kaylene.young@utas.edu.au*

Become an ANS member

Australasian Neuroscience Society Why be a member?

The Australasian Neuroscience Society (ANS) is the largest network of neuroscientists and the peak neuroscience body in Australia and New Zealand. ANS leads and fosters excellence in neuroscience research and teaching, as well as the application of neuroscience discovery for the benefit of society. Membership of ANS provides a multitude of career-enhancing benefits at all levels of seniority.



www.ans.org.au



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Benefits of ANS membership

- Enhance your career with education and networking opportunities
- Apply for ANS Research Awards available at all career levels
- Reduced registration rates to support your participation in the annual ANS conference
- Organise national conference symposia and nominate Plenary speakers
- Access State-based funding for local neuroscience events
- Global partner benefits including special registration rates at sister society conferences, such as FENS and SfN
- Be part of the Australian Brain Alliance, supporting neuroscience nationally and internationally
- Professional training opportunities locally and special access to courses offered internationally
- Participate in awareness activities in the public and political arenas
- Access resources and training for neuroscience teaching
- Support diversity in neuroscience
- Post and access free job and PhD position ads on our website
- Quarterly newsletter
- Career development opportunities for your research students



To become a member or find out more
visit: www.ans.org.au

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Image by Dennis Cheung

Message from the President

Writing the President's message from home is not a new experience for me, but being forced to do so certainly is. And so it is for all of us, as we adapt to the exigencies that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought upon us.

I sincerely hope that each and every one of our members, their families, friends and work colleagues are coping as well as possible. I particularly feel for those with young families, juggling work and home-based child-minding/schooling, not to mention of course those who have actually had the disease, or know people who have. It's certainly a worrying time even as the number of new cases is dropping thankfully across New Zealand and Australia. I note with interest that there are increasing calls on at least on this side of the ditch for an "Australian-NZ bubble" as Covid-19 is eliminated (hopefully!) in our two countries. This would of course suit ANS well, as it is perfectly consistent with the ethos of our binational relationship, even as we expand our international reach and partnerships. Unlocking the work and economies of our two countries has much merit to consider as our next steps are taken. Neuroscience will benefit as well.

From an ANS perspective, we entered 2020 with high hopes and ambitions, with a big focus on ANS2020 in Perth which was to be combined with 40th anniversary celebration events. It is extremely disappointing then that the conference has had to be cancelled. Fortunately, our plenary lecturers have

all agreed to the postponement of their talks to the 2021 conference in Melbourne, currently scheduled for 6-9 December. We fervently hope that travel and budget restrictions will have been lifted by the middle of next year so that we can plan to have a big reunion at this event. Meanwhile, ANS carries on in 2020, shifting to delivery of a significant amount of online content and webinars that will appear regularly during the year. Stayed tuned for regular notices about this, including for our online AGM. Many thanks to our Conference Executive Chair Kaylene Young for chairing a working party to plan and launch this initiative. If successful, it could be a model that continues in future years. We will also of course continue with our award selection processes for this year and next. And regardless of our circumstances, it's still our 40th anniversary year, and we will celebrate this as best we can. Already Laurie Geffen and Julian Heng have contacted past Presidents to put together a journal article detailing the history, past achievements and future prospects of ANS. It should be a great read. We're open to any other ideas for celebrating 40 years of ANS success.

Financially, universities and institutes around the world are suffering from enforced lock-downs and student withdrawals. ANS and its membership are not immune from the economics of these effects and the impacts on scientific studies that have had to be put on hold or even cancelled as studies down-size at least temporarily. I urge you to keep supporting each other, and hold to the faith that things will get better. And do keep the faith with ANS. We will continue to support our membership and undertake as many of our normal activities as we can. And for this we need in return your

membership support. So do please renew your membership, or even return to the fold if your membership has lapsed. We welcome you all with open arms.

Kia kaha, stay strong, and keep supporting each other.



**Prof Cliff
Abraham**

PhD, President, ANS
cabraham@psy.otago.ac.nz

ANS2020 Online

Although we are unable to come together in Perth for ANS2020, the ANS membership will still be able to share their research through our new initiative, ANS2020 Online - a series of online neuroscience focused events that we will host throughout the year.

This exciting new initiative includes presentations from long-standing members and new student members alike, and will allow time for your questions!

ANS2020 Online will commence at 12pm (Australian eastern standard time) on Monday 15th June 2020 and will comprise a series of research seminars and mini-symposia. ANS2020 Online will conclude on Wednesday 9th December with an extended event that will include the Eccles Plenary Lecture (Prof Kate Drummond), the A.W Campbell Plenary Lecture (Dr Philip Ryan), the Nina Kondelos Award Lecture (Prof Erica Fletcher) and the ANS Annual General Meeting.

The program for ANS2020 Online has been finalised and posted on the ANS website (<https://www.ans.org.au/ans-2020-asm/ans-online>). Log into the ANSmembers only site to get the link and password for each session.

ANS2020 Online

2nd June (12pm Australian EST)

NS EMCR Webinar

Host: Rebecca San Gil

Speakers:

Dr Joanna Yau. Basolateral amygdala parvalbumin neurons in aversive prediction error.

Mr Paul Marshall. Dynamic regulation of Z-DNA in the mouse prefrontal cortex is required for fear extinction.

Dr Iris Wang. New Approaches to Study Axon Injury and Degeneration in CNS.

15th June (12-1:30pm Australian EST)

New insights into the nature of pain mechanisms and potential clinical and translational advances

13th July (12-1:30pm Australian EST)

Brain injury in vulnerable populations

3rd August (12pm Australian EST)

NS EMCR Webinar

10th August (12pm Australian EST)

Perth LOC Symposium

14th September (12-1:30pm Australian EST)

Digital approaches to neuroscience education

5th October (12pm Australian EST)

ANS EMCR Webinar

12th October (12-1:30pm Australian EDST)

Molecular insights into neuropsychiatric disorders

9th November (12-1:30pm Australian EDST)

Rethinking energy balance: Neural circuits, peptides and mechanisms

7th December (12pm Australian EST)

ANS EMCR Webinar

9th December (12pm Australian EDST)

End of Year Meeting

ANS Call for Nominations

We are now calling for nominations for this year's ANS Awards. Each year ANS grants several prestigious Awards to members at various levels for achievements in research.

Each year ANS grants several prestigious Awards to members at various levels for achievements in research. Do not miss out on the opportunity to submit a nomination (self-nomination or nomination of peers with their approval). All nominees must be a current financial member of ANS. All winners will be awarded the Prize at this year's ANS2020 Online meeting in December. The awards include:

The Mark Rowe Award

For the best publication published in 2019 by an early career researcher member of the Society (PhD student or up to 3 years postdoc). The award is accompanied by a prize of \$1000.

The A.W. Campbell Award

Recognises the best contribution by a member of the Society in their first five postdoctoral years and is accompanied by a prize of \$500. The winner will be awarded the Prize at this year's ANS2020 Online meeting and will be invited to present the A.W. Campbell Award Lecture in a format that will be announced later this year.

The Nina Kondelos Prize

Is awarded to a female neuroscientist for an outstanding contribution to basic or clinical neuroscience research and is accompanied by a prize of \$500. The winner will be awarded the Prize at this year's ANS meeting in Adelaide and will be invited to present the Nina Kondelos Award Lecture in a format that will be announced later this year.

The Paxinos-Watson Award

Recognises the most significant neuroscience paper published by any Member of the Society during 2019 and is accompanied by a prize of \$500 to the nominating author.

For further details of these awards, and how to apply, please see the ANS website (<https://www.ans.org.au/awards>). The deadline for all submission will be Friday, 26th June 2020. Any questions regarding these Awards, should be directed to the Secretary, Prof Thomas Fath at thomas.fath@mq.edu.au

Call for Nominations for the ANS2021 Eccles Plenary Lecturer

Nominations for the ANS2021 Eccles Plenary Lecturer open on Wednesday May 6th.

The Eccles Plenary Lecture was named for Sir John Eccles and is jointly sponsored by ANS and the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia. The speaker must be an ANS member who has made a significant contribution to neuroscience research and/or research translation and the nominee must also be an ANS member. The speaker presents at both the annual ANS meeting and the annual meeting of the Neurosurgical Society, usually in the same year. The speaker is nominated by each society in alternating years and will be nominated by ANS for 2021. The speaker receives a certificate, medal, full meeting registration, return economy airfares to the meeting, and accommodation.

Nominations need to include the name of the nominee, and the name of the proposed lecturer, their research affiliations and contact information. Please also address the following:

1. Explain how this nominee is a suitable choice to give the Eccles Plenary Lecture.
2. List their key achievements / publications relevant to the nomination.

Nominations can be made through the ANS website and must be lodged by Friday May 29th.
<https://www.ans.org.au/ans-2020-asm/2021-eccles-lecturer-nominations>



Photo credits:
Dennis Fang and Esmeralda Paric of Finc Pictures.
Contact: fb.me/FincPics.

FENS 2020 Virtual Forum Platform

In light of the global health crisis, the FENS Forum 2020 as a virtual meeting on the same dates: 11-15 July 2020.

The FENS 2020 Virtual Forum platform will allow you to access and participate in all Forum events, including Plenary and Special Lectures, symposia, poster sessions, exhibition, networking and educational events and much more! All pre-recorded presentations and posters will be available for online viewing and provide interactive options for participants to engage with. A virtual exhibition hall will allow you to visit our vast array of excellent exhibitors and partner organisations, while exploring new opportunities for your research.

[Find out more about the new platform in the demo video.](#)

In the unprecedented situation that we are currently experiencing, research and collaboration are more valuable than ever! Therefore, we also opened Exceptional Abstract Submission. Gain the ultimate exposure for your research in 2020 and reach the international neuroscientist community in our new virtual poster sessions & e-Poster library.

All ANS members wishing to register for the FENS 2020 Virtual Forum can also benefit from the cheaper FENS member rates.

To take advantage of this opportunity please email your name, affiliation, email address and status (student or non-student) to the ANS Secretariat at secretariat@ans.org.au and thomas.fath@mq.edu.au by COB Thursday, 11 June 2020 (for the late registration deadline). We will then organise an email to you from FENS with instructions on how to register for the meeting, paying the same rates as FENS members.

ANS Developmental Neurobiology Forum

Hello, do you self-identify as a developmental neuroscience researcher? If YES, then we welcome you to sign up for virtual event in the upcoming ANS Developmental Neurobiology Forum (ADNF)! If YES, then we welcome you to sign up for virtual event in the upcoming ANS Developmental Neurobiology Forum (ADNF)!

Who we are: The ADNF is an initiative of a founding committee comprising Julian Heng (WA), Michael Piper (QLD), Nathalie Dehorter (ACT) and Kelly Glendining (NZ). Members commit to 1 year of service to program seminars and activities, with equity targets observed.

What we do: We (i) present regular virtual symposia (4 speakers over a 2h per session) comprising national and international speakers; (ii) hold regular morning/afternoon teas, depending on where you are in Australasia/the World; (iii) provide peer-to-peer exchange of ideas and panel discussions.

How to participate: our inaugural event will be confirmed within the next 8 weeks, so please (i) write to julian.heng@curtin.edu.au if you are interested to join the mailing list; and (ii) stay tuned to the ANS email broadcasts for our offerings! Best wishes, the ADNF committee.

Georgina Sweet Award for Women in Quantitative Biomedical Science

Four awards of \$25,000 each will be made to Australian female researchers who demonstrate excellence in the area of quantitative biomedical science.

Diversity is an essential part of the Award mission, so applications are welcome from women of culturally diverse backgrounds.

In 2020, an additional two awards of \$25,000 each will be made for Excellence in Inclusivity, recognizing Women in Biomedical Science who have a strong track record in research and who have demonstrated the importance of inclusion and diversity.

[Applications for this year's award open on May 1st and will close on May 31st, 2020](#)

- **Georgina Sweet Travel Support for a Female Keynote Speaker in Quantitative Biomedical Science:** Up to three awards of \$3,000 are available each year to support attendance of a female keynote speaker at an Australian quantitative biomedical science* conference. Applications are open at any time until awards have been allocated for the year.

* *Definition: Quantitative Biomedical Science is biological/biomedical research that employs a quantitative approach, particularly in areas such as computational biology, biophysics, bioinformatics, biochemistry, genomics, structural biology, cell biology etc.*

Both awards were created as part of Professor Tilley's Laureate Fellowship commitment to foster, support and promote female researchers in quantitative biomedical sciences. Applications are open to researchers within Australia.

For more information, guidelines and how to apply please visit: <http://mdhs.unimelb.edu.au/equity-and-diversity/georgina-sweet-laureate-fellowship>
Or contact: gslf-tilleyadmin@unimelb.edu.au

Newsletter Submissions

Recruitment for ANS EMCR Webinar Series.
Present your research at the ANS EMCR Webinar Series 2020!

ANS is committed to providing early to mid-career researchers (EMCRs) with genuine opportunities to present their research despite the unfortunate cancellation of ANS 2020 in Perth. We recognise that for many EMCRs, speaking at conferences, such as ANS 2020, is necessary to raise their researcher profile among colleagues (both established and up-and-coming) and discuss advancements in their neuroscience research. We seek to take advantage of this period of time where researchers are experiencing an increased incidence of working from home to initiate a limited webinar series, which will be integrated into the ANS Online 2020 program.

We are looking for EMCR speakers (0-10 years post-PhD) who are motivated to conduct a 15 min presentation for the ANS membership on the following dates August 3, October 5, and December 7, 2020.

If you have questions or would like to present please get in touch with the ANS EMCR Committee Chair (Rebecca San Gil, r.sangil@uq.edu.au).



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Communications

Do you have information that you would like included in our ANS newsletter, posted on our website or Facebook page or tweeted?

ANS has a communications committee to help members disseminate information and help the Society publicise its activities to Members and the public. This committee is Co-chaired by Dr Nathalie Dehorter (Australian National University) and Dr Marco Morsch (Macquarie University), and will oversee the production of the newsletter and ensure that current content is posted on the ANS website (<http://www.ans.org.au/>), ANS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AusNeuroSoc>; curated by Dr Nathalie Dehorter) and disseminated

through the ANS Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/AusNeuroSoc>; postings by Dr Lila Landowski, University of Tasmania) and LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8362021/>; curated by Prof Thomas Fath).

If you have content for us, please email Omar Ibrahim (oe.abdelrahman@qut.edu.au) or Marco Morsch (marco.morsch@mq.edu.au).

The copy deadline for the next Newsletter is Monday 15th July 2020.

We encourage everyone to check out the ANS website.

Policy

ANS Policy on Requests for Publicity via Email Circulation

The policy of ANS is to minimise email traffic to members. Advertisements for meetings and other significant announcements such as job vacancies can be added to the website and included in the newsletter if appropriate. Such requests should be directed to the ANS Secretary.

Newsletter Editors

Omar Ibrahim
Institute of Health and Biomechanical Innovation, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, QLD 4059, Australia
omar.abdelrahman@hdr.qut.edu.au

Marco Morsch
Department of Biomechanical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Macquarie University, Sydney, NSW 2109, Australia
marco.morsch@mq.edu.au

Authorised by
Prof Thomas Fath
Department of Biomechanical Sciences and Dementia Research Centre, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Macquarie University, Sydney, NSW 2109, Australia
thomas.fath@mq.edu.au