

Minutes for ANS AGM 2021

Australasian Neuroscience Society

Held at Zoom

06/12/2021 @ 14:30

Approved by Peter Schofield on 08 February 2022

No. Minutes

1. Meeting Welcome

The Secretary, Michael Lardelli opened the meeting at 3:01pm AEDT.

Michael read the Acknowledgment of Country for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Maori peoples of New Zealand.

2. ANS Distinguished Achievement Award

A video of Emeritus Professor Perry Bartlett, presenting Emeritus Professor Laurie Geffen with the ANS Distinguished Achievement Award was played.

3. Australasian Neuroscience Pioneers presentation

A video presentation was played, detailing the history of Australasian Neuroscience Pioneers.

Michael Lardelli congratulated Laurie Geffen on his award and thanked him for the video history of Australasian Neuroscience Pioneers, noting that the video will be made available to members on the ANS website.

4. ANS Awards 2021

Michael Lardelli thanked the ANS Award Assessment panels and passed on the gratitude of the Council and Executive for their time.

Peter Schofield congratulated Laurie Geffen on his outstanding achievements, and thanked him for his history of Australasian Neuroscience Pioneers

The winners the ANS Awards for 2021 were announced by the President

Name	Award
Jana Vukovic	Paxinos-Watson
Christina Mo	AW Campbell
Emily Willis	Mark Rowe
Ye Tian	Mark Rowe
Elizabeth Coulson	Nina Kondelos

Peter Schofield thanked Ashleigh Geiger for chairing the Student Body committee and invited her to announce the winners of the 3 Minute Thesis competition.

Name	Prize
Adam Hines	3MT 1st
Frankie (Frances) Theunissen	3MT 2nd
Fariha Kabir	3MT 2nd

The Secretary, Michael Lardelli congratulated the winners and commenced the formal AGM proceedings.

5. Quorum , Attendance and Apologies

Quorum was noted as 115 participants at 3:46pm (see attendance sheet held by the Secretariat)

Apologies – Marc Russo, Helen Cooper, Alexander Burton, Steven Petrou

6. Confirm the minutes of the 2020 ANS AGM

Motion: That the minutes of the 2020 ANS AGM are a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved : Michael Lardelli

Motion passed.

7. President's Report

The President spoke to his report, highlighting the success of online events during a year impacted by a pandemic. The online symposia would continue during the first half of 2022.

Special thanks to sponsors Illumina, TAC, Compumedics and Miltenyi Biotech were given for their support of ANS.

Peter thanked ANS2021 speakers, award recipients and all committee chairs and offered special thanks to Ashleigh Geiger for their combined efforts supporting ANS and advancing the field of neuroscience.

Efforts undertaken to save the Eccles Institute at the Australian National University (ANU) were reviewed. Peter expressed his gratitude to all members who wrote submissions supporting the institute and highlighted the need for a varied approach to neuroscience.

ACAN continues to be important to ANS and has moved from its original site in Queensland to a new home in Melbourne, owing to the complexity of course requirements. ACAN Directors, Christopher Reid, Karl Iremonger, Ian Forster, Lucy Palmer and Jay Bertran-Gonzalez were able to convene a virtual ACAN, hosted by the Florey Institute. Peter congratulated the ACAN Directors for their execution of the course despite the many disruptions the pandemic has caused.

The President congratulated Peter Susanto, who placed third in the International Brain Bee Competition, who, at 15 was the youngest ever winner of the Australian Brain Bee Competition and the first from the Northern Territory. ABBC Coordinator Ramesh Rajan along with committee members Matthew Kirkaldie and Dan Binks were thanked for the mentoring and support of Peter.

Peter thanked all members for their ongoing support of ANS during challenging times for the Society, universities, and research organisations.

8. Secretary's Report

The Secretary spoke to his report, updating current membership numbers and outlining the impact not being able to hold an in-person annual conference has had.

Michael thanked all members who contributed archival material to help preserve the history of the ANS. Special thanks were given to Elspeth McLachlan for her work collating and cataloguing submitted material.

9. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer spoke to her report and presented the Independent Audit Report to the Members of the ANS.

Jana Vukovic thanked her predecessor Brian Dean for making the transition to a new Treasurer as smooth as possible and for his work making some difficult decisions with the ANS Council to protect the financial stability of the Society.

Cancelled conferences has the biggest impact on the Society's finances, Jana acknowledged the efforts of the Conference committee even though that can't be reflected in the auditor's report.

9.1 The Society has received the Treasurer's report

Motion: That the Society receives the annual Financial Report and accompanying Auditor's report

Moved: Jana Vukovic

Motion passed

9.2 Appointment of Auditors

Motion: That the Society appoints Mark Tinworth of Tinworth & Co to be the Society's Auditor for Financial Year 2021/2022

Moved: Jana Vukovic

Motion Passed

10. Conference Chair's Report

The Conference Chair spoke to her report, reiterating the President's thanks to sponsors for their support of ANS2021 Online.

Kaylene confirmed that 390 members had registered to attend ANS2021 Online and expressed her gratitude for the support from membership of the event. She also extended thanks to The Association Specialists for their conference management and to each of the ANS2021 Online Plenary speakers for their presentations.

Members were encouraged to apply for the ANS/Illumina Neurogenetics competition that was launched during ANS2021 Online.

The dates and location for ANS 2022 were announced by Kaylene as 5-7 December 2022 at the Pullman Hotel in Melbourne. The conference will be co-chaired by Jess Nithianantharajah and Zane Andrews.

The ANS Plenary Lecture would be given by Professor Helen Cooper.

The Lawrie Austin Plenary Lecture would be given by Professor John Bekkers.

The Elspeth McLachlan Plenary Lecture would be given by Tony Hannan.

The International Plenary would be given by Tara Spires-Jones.

11. Appointment of 2022 Office Bearers and Council Members

Peter Schofield acknowledged and thanked outgoing Council members Johanna Montgomery, Tony Hannan, Ashleigh Geiger. He also thanked outgoing committee members Sam Berkovic, Omar Abdelrahman and outgoing ANS Executive member Kaylene Young.

Peter Announced the 2022 Executive

Peter Schofield - President

Jana Vukovic – Treasurer

Michael Lardelli - Secretary

Tim Bredy - Conference Executive Chair

Janet Keast – ANS President Elect

Peter announced the 2022 Council

Tara Walker - QLD

TBA – NZ (Candidate needs to ensure they are funded)

Nicole Jones – NSW

Nathalie Dehorter - ACT

Tony Hannan – VIC

Lyndsey Collins – Praino – SA and Gender Equity and Diversity Committee

Hamid Sorhabu - WA

Cathryn Blizzard - TAS

John Bekkers - Public Officer

Rebecca San Gil – Neuroscience Research Representative and EMCR Chair

Alison Canty – Chair, Teaching Resources and Outreach National Committee

Jason Mattingly – Scientific Program National Committee Chair

Ryan Doig – Animals in Research National Committee Chair

Ramesh Rajan – Australian Brain Bee Coordination

Chris Reid – ACAN Director

Greg Stuart – ACAN Management Committee Chair

12. Other Business

Nick Spencer thanked Marcello Costa for his contributions to Neuroscience and Australian science in general. Invited members to Optogenetics Australia

Elizabeth Coulson asked about ANS' advocacy activities with regards to funding via NHMRC and ARC

Paul Pilowsky commented that there's a failure of Government to understand research infrastructure and how that impacts education as well

Cliff Abraham updated members present that Brain Research New Zealand will become the Aotearoa Brain Project. Similar to the Australian Brain Alliance.

13. Close

There being no further business, the President closed the AGM at 4.45pm AEDT.

Actions #13

(Complete) Review minutes for meeting ANS AGM 2021 **Peter Schofield**

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