



Australian Neuroscience Society Newsletter

No. 4

December, 2008

www.ans.org.au



President's Perspective

Richard Anderson, Dept of Anatomy & Cell Biology, The University of Melbourne, has won the Herrick Award from the American Association of Anatomists, which recognizes "young investigators who have made important contributions to the field of comparative neuroanatomy and have demonstrated remarkable promise of future accomplishments." Richard will be flown to New Orleans to present a talk at the Experimental Biology Meeting in New Orleans next April. Previous winners of the Herrick Award include Cory Goodman, Mriganka Sur, David Anderson, Larry Katz, Mark Tessier-Lavigne and Linda Richards, so Richard is in very good company indeed. Our congratulations to Richard on this prestigious award.

ANS Awards & Prizes. The ANS Council held a teleconference at the end of August to consider items that had been held over from the Council Meeting in June. The main item of discussion was the Society's Awards & Prizes and Council considered a number of proposals put forward by the President and the Past-President. Because each of the Society's honours has been established independently, there is both overlap and gaps in their coverage. For example, Honorary Membership is awarded to "Distinguished neuroscientists who have rendered notable service to the Society", while the Distinguished Achievement Award is "an occasional award for an outstanding contribution by an individual to neuroscience in Australia, and to the Australian Neuroscience Society". The recently established Nina Kondelos Prize is awarded "to a female neuroscientist for outstanding contribution to basic or clinical neuroscience research... who has not have received other major national or international prizes". Unlike many scientific societies, ANS has no annual award that recognises outstanding scientific achievement independent of gender and independent of service to the Society. In practice, the list of the ANS Plenary Lecturers reads like a Who's Who of Australian neuroscience, but our national and overseas plenary lecturers have not received any memento to mark this honour.

The ANS Medallion. Council concluded that the knot of Awards & Prizes was too complex to untangle at the present time but resolved to cover the gaps by establishing a new Award, to be called The Australian Neuroscience Society Medallion. The ANS medallion is to be awarded both to plenary lecturers at the Society's Annual Meeting and to other individuals who have provided outstanding service to the Society. The recipients of the ANS Medallion are to be chosen by the President and the Past-President or President-Elect of the Society. The ANS 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 design by Michael Meszaros, an acclaimed Melbourne sculptor, depicts the artist's view of the chain of connections between the brain, the organism and the outside world.

Ying-Shing Chan. Glenda Halliday and I were delighted to award the first ANS Medallion to Professor Ying-Shing Chan of the University of Hong Kong in recognition of all that "YS" has done to promote and foster neuroscience in our region of the world over a period of many years. In particular, YS has made seminal contribu-

tions to the Asia-Pacific Regional Committee (APRC) of the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO), both as an Inaugural Member since 1999 and as the Chair since 2002. YS has also provided long service to the Executive Committee of the Federation of Asian-Oceanian Neuroscience Societies (FAONS), serving as President from 2004-2006.

Ann Turnley and I presented YS Chan with his ANS Medallion at the Neuroscience Downunder Reception, held during the Society for Neuroscience Meeting in Washington DC. This enjoyable reception, which was organised by the Brisbane and Melbourne Chapters of SfN and hosted by Shaun Collin, provided a fitting venue to honour a great friend of Australasian neuroscience. Further ANS Medallions will be awarded at the ANS Meeting in Canberra and the first round of recipients will be listed in the next ANS Newsletter.



Presentation of The ANS Medallion to Professor Ying-Shing Chan by David Vaney and Ann Turnley in Washington DC.

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President's Perspective cont..

David Curtis. During the Awards & Prizes teleconference, Council agreed unanimously to confer the Distinguished Achievement Award on Emeritus Professor David R Curtis FAA FRS FRACP, who is an Honorary Member of the Society. Coincidentally, I received a short note from David a week before asking if he may attend a few of the lectures at the Canberra Meeting. I was delighted to inform David that not only was he welcome to attend the Meeting in his hometown but that Council wanted him to be a guest of honour. David Curtis is a giant in Australian neuroscience but he will not be well known to younger members of the Society, as he retired as Director of the John Curtin School of Medical Research in 1992. A short biography elsewhere in this newsletter outlines David's stellar career and considerable scientific accomplishments. The Distinguished Achievement Award has been awarded five times in the last 16 years: to Lawrie Austin (1993), Stephen Redman (2000), Max Bennett (2001), John Furness (2003) and Elspeth McLachlan (2006).

APRC-IBRO. I attended my first meeting of the IBRO Governing Council during the SfN Meeting and was pleased to learn from the IBRO President, Professor Carlos Belmonte of Spain, that IBRO particularly wants to facilitate the advancement of neuroscience in the Asia-Pacific Region over the next few years. This dovetails well with the Society's present focus on enhancing the links between ANS and our colleagues in Asia. Carlos also announced that the Governing Council had elected members for three of IBRO's Regional Committees and I congratulate Glenda Halliday on being elected to APRC for a four-year term from 2009-2012. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Paul Pilowsky for his outstanding service to APRC over the last four years and for representing ANS on FAONS during this period. The Society will acknowledge Paul's contributions more formally during the Annual General Meeting in Canberra.

Presidential Elections. The need for the Society's President to hit the ground running is brought home by the fact that the Society chooses its next President even before the existing President has presided over his first Annual Meeting. The election of the Society's Officers provides Members with their greatest opportunity to influence the future of the Society. This year we have three outstanding candidates for President-Elect and I urge all ANS Members to take part in the election.

I wish all our Members the compliments of the Season and look forward to seeing you in January at the Canberra Meeting, which promises to be an outstanding occasion.

David Vaney
19th November 2008

ANS 2009 – CANBERRA

ANS 2009 is to be held at the refurbished National Convention Centre in Canberra ACT, Tuesday 27 to Friday 30 January 2009. The LOC, chaired by Michael Ibbotson, has put together exciting scientific and social programs for what promises to be a rewarding and enlightening meeting. Members are reminded that quite apart from its many historic and cultural attractions there are excellent Australia Day activities in Canberra (Australia Day being the day before ANS2009 starts).

The Social program will include a Welcome Reception on the Tuesday night, Cocktail Party on the Wednesday night, followed by a Student Mixer and the newly introduced Post-Doctoral Social which is becoming a popular event at ANS meetings. On Thursday night the Conference Dinner will be held at the prestigious New Parliament House. Pre-dinner drinks will be served in the beautiful Marble Foyer and delegates will then move to the spectacular Great Hall for dinner. This will be a memorable evening with an opportunity for you to experience a unique part of Australia's heritage.

We anticipate this being a very successful meeting both scientifically as well as socially with four plenary speakers and thirteen symposia (including the Presidential Symposium, introduced last year). Our Plenary Lecturers include Matthew Wilson, Philip Beart, Peter Reilly and Greg Stuart. The oral communications and posters will reflect the cutting edge of neuroscience in Australia and overseas.

The meeting will conclude with Farewell Drinks on the Friday afternoon, which will be combined with the presentation of poster and oral prizes. Make sure you lock in the last week in January for Australia Day in Canberra and ANS 2009.

ANS COUNCIL ELECTIONS

President, 2010-2011. Nominations for the position of President for 2010 and 2011 were received from **Sarah Dunlop, Trevor Kilpatrick and Paul Pilowsky** and accordingly a postal ballot will be required to fill this position. Included below are brief statements from each of the candidates to assist members with their decisions and enclosed you will find a voting form along with instructions on how to register your vote and two voting envelopes. Please make sure that you read the instructions carefully so that your vote will count.

Nominations for State Representative positions were received for Representative for New South Wales from Peregrine Osborne, for Queensland from Elizabeth Coulson and for Tasmania from Rob Gasperini who will all be elected un-opposed.

**Ballot Papers are enclosed with this Newsletter.
Completed ballot papers are to be posted to the
Secretariat, Sally Jay Conferences -
and MUST be received by
THURSDAY 22ND JANUARY 2009.
All members are encouraged to vote.**

POLICY STATEMENTS- ANS PRESIDENT



SARAH DUNLOP

**Professor Sarah Dunlop, BSc(Hons)
PhD Professorial Fellow (Research)/
Senior Research Fellow,
NHMRC School of Animal Biology,
University of Western Australia.**

My past involvement with ANS includes:

- 1981- present: Membership and attendance at meetings
- 1987-1993: WA State Representative
- 1991-1993: International Publicity Officer
- 1994-1997: National Treasurer
- 1986, 1995: Local Organising Committees, 2 Perth meetings
- 1995: Chair, Marcus Singer Symposium ANS Satellite, Perth
- 2005: Chair, ANS Symposium, Chair "Brain Training"
- 2006: ANS Plenary Lecture
- 2007: Chair, IBRO/ANS Symposium "Get up & go: growth cones in health & disease"

My vision for ANS is as follows:

The Society has grown substantially and must secure a strong financial position to maintain its core business of running annual meetings for the advancement of the Neurosciences.

I also envisage increasing international recognition by holding joint meetings with other Societies as appropriate. In addition, I see exciting opportunities and propose to "Build on our strengths" with Council considering several initiatives and a more prominent role for State Representatives.

Initiatives would include opening a dialogue with NHMRC to instigate mini-internships for early career researchers from each State to attend and learn about the Grant Review Panel process, setting up an ANS Mentorship Scheme to encourage local and inter-state mentorship and establishing an ANS PhD Excellence Award to support outstanding students.

Policy Statements - ANS President cont...



TREVOR KILPATRICK

Professor Trevor Kilpatrick, MBBS FRACP PhD.
Director, Centre for Neuroscience, University of Melbourne
Head, Ms Research Unit, Howard Florey Institute.
Neurologist and Head, MS Unit, Royal Melbourne Hospital.

My major reason for nominating is because I believe ANS needs dedicated promotion as the principal representative body of Australian Neuroscience at a time when other organizations are developing targeted Neuroscience-based agendas.

In this environment, it is important to continue to develop a State-based structure to facilitate dialogue between Council and members, so that ANS is responsive to need. This should include engagement of younger members to establish networks to optimise career opportunity. ANS also needs to lobby government to enhance NHMRC/ARC funding of Neuroscience research and provide support to the National Association of Research Fellows to secure career structure.

Links with other learned societies such as the ANZ Association of Neurologists should be fostered to provide, when appropriate, a coordinated community voice. We should enhance Asian links through the Asia-Pacific Regional Committee of IBRO and FAONS, including a bid to host the 4th FAONS symposium in 2012. The pre-eminence of the Annual scientific meeting must continue and could be enhanced by development of satellite workshops/Summer schools. Finally, I feel well prepared for this important role, having developed an excellent understanding of the workings/philosophy of ANS as treasurer of the ANS Local Organising Committee for the 2007 IBRO meeting.



PAUL M PILOWSKY

Professor Paul M Pilowsky
BMedSci(Hons), BMBS, PhD
Principle Research Fellow (NHMRC),
Foundation Professor of Medical
Physiology, Macquarie University,
Associate Dean at the Macquarie U.
Australian School of Advanced Medicine.

As an active member since the ANS was first formed in 1978, I have attended and presented data at almost every meeting since. I was the Editor, and Chair of the Programming Committee for 7 years.

I have worked and trained as a neuroscientist in South Australia, New Zealand and New South Wales; I believe that I have the personal and scientific qualities to represent you effectively, and to steer our Society through any difficult times that may lie ahead. The skills that I have acquired as Head of a large research group and now as an Associate Dean equip me well for the general administrative and management tasks that face our Society.

I am placing myself in nomination for the position of President at a time when the world faces major impediments to growth. At such times, research and education can be seen as expendable luxuries to be ditched in order to maintain economic activity; such an approach destroys the house to fuel the fire. If elected I will lobby all Australian Governments to support neuroscience.

I have a strong commitment to the principle that Australia is part of Asia. I served for 10 years on the Federation of Asian and Oceanian Neuroscience Societies and was recently a member of the International Brain Research Organisation's Asia Pacific Regional Committee. If elected I will seek to expand the role of ANS in Asia by developing exchange programs at all academic levels, with all countries in our region.

Composition of ANS Council 2009

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We thank retiring members of Council: Glenda Halliday Lisa Foa and Helen Cooper for their contributions to the society.

NEWS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

Distinguished Achievement Award to be presented to David Curtis at Annual General Meeting in Canberra

David Curtis graduated MB BS from the University of Melbourne in 1950, and after three year's Hospital clinical experience with a special interest in neurology/neurosurgery, moved to the ANU John Curtin School in Canberra to take up a Research Scholarship, under the supervision of J C Eccles in the new Department of Physiology. Gaining experience in extra- and intra-cellular recording techniques from single spinal neurones he graduated PhD in 1957, having been appointed a Research Fellow in 1956. Promotion to a tenured Fellowship followed in 1957, and he was appointed to a Personal Chair of Pharmacology in 1962, and as Professor and Head of the newly established Department of Pharmacology in 1973.

Elected to Fellowship of the Australian Academy of Science in 1965, the Royal Society of London in 1974 and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 1987, he was Howard Florey Professor of Medical Research and Director of the John Curtin School 1989-1992. President of the Academy 1980-1990, in January 1992 he was appointed a Companion in the Order of Australia. Retiring in December of that year he continued laboratory investigation until 2005 as a University Fellow.

From May 1957 he pioneered microelectrophoretic techniques to examine the effects of potential transmitters and other compounds on electrical potentials recorded extra- or intra-cellularly from single identified neurones in various regions of the feline central nervous system *in-vivo*. This type of research required the development of multi-barrel glass microelectrodes, one barrel being used to record extra or intracellularly from a neurone, the other barrels containing aqueous solutions of compounds of interest from which active ions could be retained or ejected by electric currents. Of special interest was the examination of compounds which mimicked, blocked or enhanced synaptic



transmission of particular excitatory or inhibitory pathways. Such knowledge would facilitate the rational development of therapeutic agents with specific effects where defects of transmission resulted in human neurological disorders, as well as providing an explanation of the mode of action of known drugs and toxins on the central nervous system.

He and his colleagues, particularly the chemists J C Watkins, G A R Johnston and P Krogsgaard-Larsen who developed numerous new compounds, contributed to the identification of a number of central amino acid transmitters, in particular glycine, gamma-amino-butyric acid and glutamic acid.

New book by Max Bennett:

ANS Distinguished Achievement Award holder Prof. Max Bennett AO, Scientific Director of the Brain and Mind Research Institute in Sydney, has, together with philosopher P.M.S. Hacker of St. John's College, Cambridge, recently published his 7th book, "History of Cognitive Neuroscience". It examines the relationship between brain function and psychological attributes and includes the history of perception and sensation, attention and awareness, memory, emotion and linguistic powers. According to Professor Mandyam Srinivasan of the University of Queensland "This is a broad, intellectually stimulating and provocative *tour de force* that not only provides a critical account of our current understanding of consciousness, but also offers a rare glimpse into how theories of consciousness have evolved over the years"

Travel Awards for Neuroscience2009

Neuroscience2009, the 32nd annual meeting of Japan Neuroscience Society (JNSS), will be held at Nagoya Congress Center, in Nagoya, Japan, from September 16th to 18th, 2009. It is the largest neuroscience meeting in Japan (about 3,500 participants) covering a broad range of areas of this field: molecular, cellular, systems, behavioral and computational neuroscience, and neurochemistry including both basic and clinical studies. The meeting includes 3 Plenary Lectures, 3 Special Lectures, 40 symposia, and about 1,400 platform and poster presentations. Neuroscience2009 offers Travel Awards to the non-Japanese students and post-docs traveling from abroad to present high quality papers at the meeting. The funding for travel will be between 50,000-150,000 JPY per award depending on the travel distance, up to 30 awardees. The awardees will also be exempt from the registration fee of the meeting. Those from Asian countries are particularly encouraged. The submission of Travel Award applications should be made between January 15th (Thu), 2009 and February 28th (Mon), 2009.

For more information, please access the meeting website. <http://www.jnss.org/neurosci2009/>

NSW state committee

After a call for volunteers we now have a ANS state committee in NSW comprising Aaron Camp (Physiology, Uni of Sydney), Antony Cooper (Garvan), Alan Freeman (Biomed Sci, Uni of Sydney), Teri Furlong (Psychology, UNSW), Nicole Jones (Pharmacology, UNSW) and Gila Moalem-Taylor (Med Sci, UNSW). The purpose for establishing a state committee is to provide opportunities for members to initiate and participate in ANS activities that fall outside of the scope of the Annual Meeting.

In the coming year we aim to put on events for Brain Research Week, establish an ACT/NSW chapter of the Society for Neuroscience, and explore holding a mid-year "Winter Brain" meeting for students and early career investigators.

I would like to thank the new committee for volunteering their help, and of course any suggestions or further offers of assistance from NSW members are always welcome (send emails to p.osborne@usyd.edu.au).

Peregrine Osborne,
ANS Council, Member Representing NSW

ACAN

The closing date for ACAN 2009 is 10th December 2009. See ACAN website for details <http://acan.jcs.anu.edu.au/>

ANS AGM

The AGM will be held at 12.10pm on Thursday 29th January 2009 in the Royal Theatre, National Convention Centre, during the Canberra 2009 annual conference. Note: unlike previous years, the AGM will be held *during* rather than at the end of the meeting

News of Interest cont...

TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

5th International Meeting "Steroids and Nervous System"
February 13-18, 2009, Torino, Italy. <http://www.dafml.unito.it/anatomy/panzica/neurosteroids/SNS09/HOME.html>

5th Annual Update Symposium Series on Clinical Neurology and Neurophysiology, Feb 16-17th 2009 Tel Aviv, Israel.
Abstract deadline November 15th. Further information:
www.neurophysiology-symposium.com

3rd International Cerebral Palsy Conference, Feb 19-21, Sydney, Australia. Early registration closes 10 December 2008. For further information: www.cp2009.com.au

Restauracion Neurologica 2009. Havana Cuba, 9-13 March 2009. Topics will cover the spectrum of Restorative Neurology from Basic Neuroscience, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Nursing, Rehabilitation. Further information: <http://192.168.1.2./ciren/home.htm>

9th International Conference on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases. Prague, Czech Republic, March 11-15, 2009. For more information and to receive the latest updates about the congress please visit www.kenes.com/adpd/2009

11th International Neuroscience Winter Conference Sölden, Austria, March 31st – April 4th, 2009 – Central Spa Hotel (<http://inwc.sambax.com>)

The Curtin Conference on Ion Channels and Transporters, in honour of Peter Gage.
Canberra Boys Grammar School, ACT, 15-17th April 2009.
Further information: <http://channelsandtransporters.florey.edu.au>.
email: brett.cromer@florey.edu.au

IV Neurotoxicity Society Meeting: Neurochemical mechanisms of neurodegenerative disorders. 24-26 April 2009, Arica, Chile. [Download conference announcement.](#)

14th International Conference of the Association of Psychology & Psychiatry for Adults & Children (A.P.P.A.C.), May 5 -8, 2009 at the Athens Hilton Hotel, in Greece. The theme of the Conference is: "Neuropsychiatric, Psychological and Social Developments in a Globalised World". For more information contact The A.P.P.A.C. Secretariat appachellas@yahoo.gr

10th European Congress of Stereology and Image Analysis, Università Degli Studi Di Milan, Italy, 22-29 June 2009. Further information: <http://ecs10.mat.unimi.it/>

XXIVth International Symposium on Cerebral Blood Flow, Metabolism and Function & IXth International Conference on Quantification of Brain Function with PET, Chicago, U.S. June 29- July 3, 2009. - <http://www.kenes.com/brain>

International Society for Autonomic Neuroscience (ISAN), Sydney, Australia, 1-4 September 2009. Further information: [Vaughan Macefield v.macefield@uws.edu.au](mailto:Vaughan.Macefield@uws.edu.au)
mailto:v.macefield@uws.edu.au

Neuroscience2009, the 32nd annual meeting of Japan Neuroscience Society (JNSS) Nagoya Congress Center, in Nagoya, Japan, September 18, 2009. <http://www.jnss.org/neurosci2009/>

DONATIONS TO ANS RESEARCH (GIFT) FUND

Members are reminded that donations to the ANS Research (Gift) Fund are tax deductible. If you wish to make a donation, please email the ANS Treasurer, Prof Jackie Phillips at: j.k.phillips@murdoch.edu.au All donations, regardless of amount, are most welcome.

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 <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 Ann Turnley (email turnley@unimelb.edu.au, phone 03 8344 3981). 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.

DEADLINES FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

April 2009 Newsletter 10th April 2009

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Annual General Meeting

Thursday 29 January 2009 at 12.10pm

Royal Theatre, National Convention Centre

CANBERRA, ACT

Agenda

1. Attendance and apologies
2. Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting
3. President's report
4. Secretary's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Editor's report
7. Presentation of Distinguished Achievement Award to David Curtis
8. 2009 ANS Awards and Prizes
9. Vote on Council nominations for Honorary ANS membership
10. Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between The Australian Neuroscience Society and Australian Course in Advanced Neuroscience Ltd and The A. & E. Finkel Foundation
11. Future ANS meetings
12. Council members for 2009
13. Other business

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