

Dear ANZCNS Members,

## **WELCOME TO THE ANZCNS E-NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 2024**

### **ANZCNS 12th ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING (ASM)**

Please save the date in your schedule for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australia and New Zealand Child Neurology Society.

Date: **Wednesday 4th to Friday 6th September 2024**

Location: **The Heritage Queenstown Hotel, New Zealand**

The international speaker is Prof. Sameer Zuberi from the Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow, who will share his expertise in the management of severe epilepsy in childhood. Further details on the session themes and conference program will be shared soon by the organising committee, chaired by Dr Gina O'Grady.

Please see updated info. Please share the attached flyer with your departments and networks, if appropriate. Please consider using the attached slide in your presentations if you are speaking at national or international events.

A/Prof Manoj Menezes  
President and Director, ANZCNS

### **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2023/2024**

Please ensure that your membership fees are up-to-dated. Payments can still be made for the 2023/2024 membership cycle [here](#).

Any outstanding fees will be automatically added to the fee for the next membership cycle.

For any questions about the membership, please contact the ANZCNS office at [admin@anzcns.org.au](mailto:admin@anzcns.org.au).

### **JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **PRIVATE PRACTICE**

I am looking for a Full time Paediatric neurologist to join my private practice (Queensland paediatric specialist) in South East Queensland. Please contact Dr Harry Singh on mobile or via email to discuss options and expression of interest.

Email: [drsinghharry@icloud.com](mailto:drsinghharry@icloud.com)  
Mobile: 0403411811

Regards  
Dr Harry Singh, Paediatric Neurologist, Associate Professor and Clinical Lead Bond University Gold Coast

### **RACP ANNOUNCEMENTS**

NIL

## RESEARCH

### **NEW: ESTABLISHING EXPERT OPINION TO REACH A CONSENSUS ON HOW TO BEST DEFINE AND INVESTIGATE DEVELOPMENTAL REGRESSION IN CHILDREN**

The study aims to gather information from parents and caregivers with lived experience and clinicians to achieve a consensus for definitions, assessments and investigations for children presenting with developmental regression.

Your participation will ensure a patient and family-centred approach to clinical practice in this field and/or expert clinical perspectives. The way you answer each question will tailor the questions that follow so they are suited to your experience.

Specifically, we would like your opinion for this and one to two more surveys sent via email using Qualtrics. Each survey should take up to 20 minutes to complete.

Thank you for considering participation. Please click on the link below or use the QR code to view our participant information sheet and, if you wish, commence the first survey. Please direct any questions about this research to Prof Michael Fahey. Ethics approval has been granted by Human Research and Ethics Committee (HREC) of Monash Health.

[https://monashred.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9LkhNuBo0GbPtsO](https://monashred.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9LkhNuBo0GbPtsO)



### **CLINICIAN SURVEY FOR COL4A1/2 GENE VARIANTS**

Doctors who diagnose and/or manage individuals with *COL4A1/2* gene variants are invited to take part in a study exploring the variable expressivity and reduced penetrance of these variants. To participate, please notify your patients who have a *COL4A1/2* variant and ask if they are happy for you to share their clinical information with the research team.

If they are happy to participate, and with their permission, please send the research team their contact information (phone number and email address). This will allow the research team to contact them directly for consent. Once consent from your patient is received, you will be sent a link to an online survey which should take 10-15 minutes to complete.

This study is facilitated by Genetic Counsellor Chaya Goldman ([chaya.goldman@monashhealth.org](mailto:chaya.goldman@monashhealth.org)), under the supervision of Paediatric Neurologist Professor Michael Fahey. Ethics approval has been granted by Human Research and Ethics Committee (HREC) of Monash Health.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES for 2024

### **NEW: GENOMICS IN FOCUS: NEUROLOGY**

The Centre for Genetics Education is delighted to present the speciality webinar series "[Genomics in Focus](#)" commencing with a webinar on **genetic testing in Neurology**.

Dr Michelle Lorentzos (Paediatric Neurologist and Clinical Trials Medical Lead at The Children's Hospital at Westmead) will present this webinar on **8 Feb 2024 from 1-2pm**. Register for free [here](#).

Please circulate the below flyer to your paediatrics colleagues and email [contact@genetics.edu.au](mailto:contact@genetics.edu.au) for further information. Further information about the upcoming webinars can be found on our [website](#).

### **NEW: ICNC 2024 WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The Research Methodology Project in Child Neurology, initiated by the International Child Neurology Association (ICNA), represents a groundbreaking endeavor aimed at advancing the understanding and treatment of neurological disorders in children. This project underscores the significance of robust research methodologies in unraveling the complexities of pediatric neurological conditions. By fostering collaboration among international experts in the field, the initiative seeks to establish standardized research protocols, enhance data collection methodologies, and promote the adoption of innovative technologies for studying child neurology. The Research Methodology Project in Child Neurology reflects the ICNA's commitment to driving scientific advancements that will have a lasting impact on the well-being of children with neurological disorders globally. [Click here](#) for more information. Note: application for ICNA members only.

[ICNApedia - Research Methodology Workshop](#)

Deadline for application: 28th Feb 2024.

### **EPILEPSY SOCIETY AUSTRALIA CLINICAL EPILEPSY COURSE AND ANZAN EEG COURSE**

VENUE: Mercure North Melbourne and Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne

DATE: 9-11th February 2024

### **INTERNATIONAL PAEDIATRIC STROKE ORGANISATION CONFERENCE**

VENUE: SICKKIDS, Toronto, Canada

DATE: 22-24th March 2024

### **18th INTERNATIONAL CHILD NEUROLOGY CONGRESS INTERNATIONAL CHILD NEUROLOGY ASSOCIATION**

VENUE: Cape Town, South Africa

DATE: 6-10th May 2024

Please consider joining membership. Lifetime membership is free. Membership application can be accessed at the following link:

[Join the ICNA \(icnapedia.org\)](http://icnapedia.org)

### **AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF NEUROLOGISTS (ANZAN) ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING**

VENUE: Adelaide Convention Centre

DATE: 22-24th May 2024

### **12TH ANZCNS ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING**

VENUE: The Heritage Hotel Queenstown, NZ

DATE: September, 2024

**ESA 37th ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING**

VENUE: Hotel Grand Chancellor Hobart

DATE: 6-8th November 2024

**53rd CHILD NEUROLOGY SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING**

VENUE: San Diego, California, USA

DATE: 11-14th November 2024

**EUROPEAN PAEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY SOCIETY CONGRESS**

VENUE: Munich, Germany

DATE: 8-12th July 2025

**THE ASIAN AND OCEANIAN CHILD NEUROLOGY ASSOCIATION MEETING**

VENUE: TBA

DATE: 5-7th September 2025

**AOCNA GRAND ROUND**

There are Paediatric Grand rounds hosted (in turn) by the countries in our region. PCH Perth, WA, on behalf of Australia has presented the last two years. It would be good for other centres to be involved and present. The cases are interesting and the discussions good. The National delegate(ND) from Australia can solicit presentations from the different children's hospitals. The AOCNA communicates the timing of the webinar/topic to the ND, who is then expected to disseminate the information to the child neurologists in their country. The dates of the grand rounds are predetermined, the countries have volunteered for different months and that is also known well in advance, the time and topic is broadcasted closer to the date of the webinar. Dr Jithangi Wanigasinghe ([jithangi@gmail.com](mailto:jithangi@gmail.com)) is the new coordinator of the Grand Rounds.

**If anyone is interested in presenting at the AOCNA grand round in 2024, please get in touch with** Stephen Malone: [stephen.malone@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:stephen.malone@health.qld.gov.au)

Please also consider joining membership to AOCNA. Very few Australian Child Neurologists are members of AOCNA. We are part of this region and it is important for us to be engaged with AOCNA. The cost of lifetime membership is a one-off fee of US\$100. All ANZCNS members are encouraged to apply. Membership application can be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.gevme.com/aocnamembership>.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

**PAEDIATRIC BRAIN SCHOOL - AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND**

I'm delighted that Paediatric Brain School is running again for 2024 - this will be again on monthly Tuesday afternoons from 1-4pm AEST.

Talks will be available online on the RACP website soon after the date as usual.

The program dates are below - these could change depending on speaker availability.

20th Feb 2024 - Development / behaviour / psychiatry

12th March - Headache

9th April - Neurocutaneous

21st May - Neurosurgery

11th June - CNS infections

23rd July - Neuro-ophthalmology

13th August - Neuro-otology

10th September - Medications  
22nd October - CNS Demyelination  
12th November - Neuro-oncology

Thank you again to those who volunteered (or were volunteered!) for speaking at Brainschool in 2023. You have been an invaluable teacher for our future paediatric neurologists!

I will be contacting people in the next little while to see if they might be interested for 2024. If you have a great talk in any of the above areas I'd be delighted if you can let me know - or if you have a friendly colleague from one of these areas, I'd also be delighted to know if they might be persuaded to speak!

The Events Team at RACP was going to send out a link in **January 2024** to those registered in 2023 - it's important to **RE-REGISTER for 2024**, even if you were previously registered.

Many thanks!  
Dr Alexandra Johnson

For those not on mailing list already, please contact the college ([Neurology@racp.edu.au](mailto:Neurology@racp.edu.au)) to be added to the list. NB: You will need to re-register for this series for the year.

### **BRITISH PAEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY ASSOCIATION PAEDIATRIC EPILEPSY TRAINING (BPNA PET) COURSES IN 2023-TENTATIVE DATES**

Please advertise the dates to your departments for paediatricians, trainees (PET1 and PET3), selected GPs, Emergency physicians, and Neurology/Epilepsy nurses (PET1):

- PET1; Monday 12th August (Location TBC)
- PET3; Tuesday 13 – Wednesday 14th August (Location TBC)
- Instructor Training Day (for new faculty); 15th August (Locations TBC)

For those interested in joining the faculty, please contact Simone Ardern-Holmes ([simone.ardernholmes@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:simone.ardernholmes@health.nsw.gov.au)), and diarise course dates to observe before attending Instructor Training Day on 15th August 2024.

### **ANZCNS CLINICAL CASE FORUM 2024**

Tuesday, February 20th	The Children's Hospital at Westmead
Tuesday, March 19th	Starship Children's Hospital, Auckland
Tuesday, April 16th	Sydney Children's Hospital
Tuesday, May 21st	Queensland Children's Hospital, Brisbane
Tuesday, June 25th	Perth Children's Hospital
Tuesday, July 23rd	Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne
Tuesday, August 20th	John Hunter Children's Hospital, Newcastle
Tuesday, September 24th	The Children's Hospital at Westmead (2)
Tuesday, October 22nd	Queensland Children's Hospital, Brisbane (2)
Tuesday, November 26th	Monash Medical Centre

*Site Training Co-ordinators:*

Gold Coast University Hospital: **Harry Singh**

John Hunter Children's Hospital, Newcastle: **Christina Miteff**

Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne: **Michael Fahey/Shabeed Chelakkadan**

Perth Children's Hospital: **Mohd (Najm) Khan and Bhanu Bommegowda**  
Queensland Children's Hospital, Brisbane: **Anita Cairns/Sophie Calvert/Rebecca Leung**  
Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne: **Elizabeth Cole**  
Royal Hobart Hospital: **Tyson Ware**  
Starship Children's Hospital, Auckland: **Cynthia Sharpe/Gina O'Grady**  
Sydney Children's Hospital, Sydney: **Janette Lee**  
Westmead Children's Hospital, Sydney: **Joanne Davidson**  
Wellington Hospital /University of Otago: **Erik Andersen/Lynette Sadleir**

I will endeavour to send out a newsletter every 2 months; the next will be in March. If there are any urgent announcements, I'll be more than happy to accommodate and alter the schedule. So if any members have brief paragraphs of news, stories or items of interest please forward them to Lejla ([admin@anzcns.org.au](mailto:admin@anzcns.org.au)) or Hooi Ling Teoh ([hooling.teoh@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:hooling.teoh@health.nsw.gov.au)).

Thank you very much for reading and hope everyone is keeping well.

Kind regards,  
Hooi Ling and Lejla

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