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ABSS Newsletter - January 2026

On behalf of the ABSS executive committee we hope you all had a Merry Christmas and nice start to the new year! We look forward to sharing important brain stimulation news, events, opportunities and initiatives with you all again this year as the ABSS continues to grow.

ABSS 2025 conference summary

In November 2025 we held the fourth official ABSS conference in Melbourne, following the inaugural meeting in 2018 (Melbourne), the online event in 2021, and our most recent gathering in 2023 (Sydney). The meeting was a success, attracting more than 80 attendees and 6 sponsors who attended across the two days. We heard fascinating keynote talks from Professor Paul Fitzgerald and Professor Jennifer Rodger supported by oral and poster presentations spanning clinical neurology and psychiatry, cognitive neuroscience, and motor control from many emerging and established Australasian brain stimulation researchers.

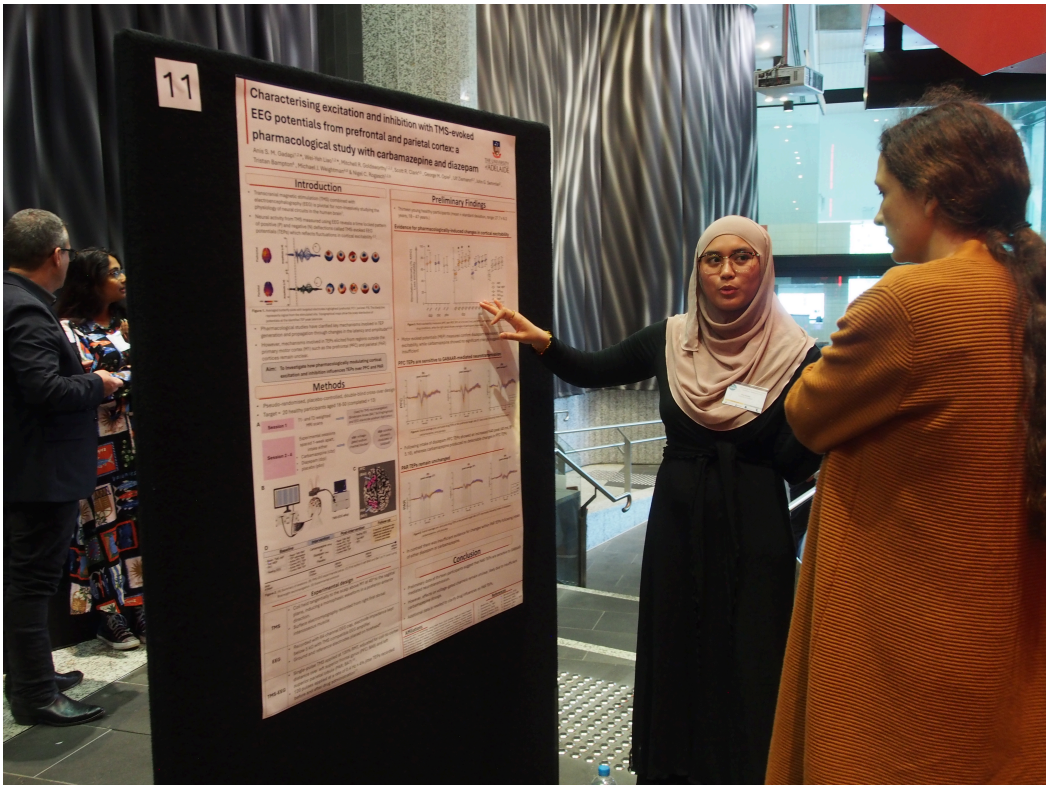
During the conference, we also held our Annual General Meeting (AGM). This provided an opportunity for the committee to receive feedback from the ABSS membership, and to discuss future opportunities and the overall direction for the society moving into 2026 and beyond.

Further, the ABSS would like to extend its gratitude to the conference sponsors for their generous support, namely: **Symbiotic Devices, Aerobe, Sonoray, AIMedical, ANZ Medical, and Medilink.**

Thank you to all our attendees, sponsors and presenters!

Conference snaps









A full list of conference photos can be accessed below for you to view and share on socials.

View Conference Photos

Want to become an ABSS executive commitee member?

Several executive committee members have completed their term and are stepping off the committee. As such, several ABSS executive committee positions are available in 2026, including a student representative position. If you are interested in joining please submit an expression of interest to **info@abssociety.com** by **Wed 31st Jan, 2026.** Thereafter, ABSS members will be have the opportunity to vote for new executive committee members based on the information provided. As per the ABSS constitution, new committee members will also be considered based on gender balance, location, and career status. Information required:

- Full name
- Gender
- Location (e.g., Perth, Western Australia)
- Current affiliation
- Current position (e.g., postgraduate student, ECR, MCR etc.)
- 150 word max. biographical statement on your experience and reasons for wanting to join the ABSS executive committee.

Get to know your ABSS committee!

Saurabh Sonkusare,
Postdoctoral Research Associate at University of Newcastle

Are you a student or early career, mid-career, or late-stage career researcher?
Early-career researcher

What is your role on the executive committee?
Treasurer



What is your research about and how does it relate to brain stimulation?
My research focuses on understanding how human brain circuits dynamically generate cognition, emotion, and behaviour, with a particular emphasis on affective and clinical neuroscience. I use a multimodal approach that integrates intracranial

EEG, fMRI, TMS and computational modelling to characterise neural activity and connectivity at both local and large-scale network levels. Brain stimulation plays a central role in my work as both a mechanistic probe and a translational tool, providing convergent evidence for causal circuit–behaviour relationships. I have contributed to the design and execution of clinical trials using brain stimulation for the treatment of obsessive–compulsive disorder, and more recently for addiction. I have also used deep-brain stimulation to probe how it can shift emotional behaviour. Overall, my use of brain stimulation is directed toward the broader goal of informing circuit-based, personalised neuromodulation therapies for neuropsychiatric disorders.

What is your favourite activity outside of work?
Badminton, scuba diving, movies.

Save the date - 2026 Australian Epilepsy Neurostimulation workshop

To be held on the 13th-14th March, 2026. Theme: Network guided neurostimulation. Please see flyer for more information.

Workshop Flyer

Recent papers from Australasian brain stimulation researchers!

Aging Cell Open Access ANATOMICAL SOCIETY

RESEARCH ARTICLE | Open Access

Normal Ageing Impacts the Extent and Diversity of Neural Plasticity Induced in the Mouse Brain With Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation

Rebecca C. S. Ong, Alexander D. Tang

Article link: https://doi.org/10.1111/acel.70206

Pediatric Neurology
Available online 26 November 2025
In Press, Journal Pre-proof What's this?



Original Article

Repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation in adolescents with persistent post-concussion symptoms after mild traumatic brain injury: An open label safety and feasibility study

Jacob Thorstensen [1 #], Heather Godfrey [2 3 4 5 #], Regan King [2 3 4 5], Ephrem Zewdie [2 3 4 5], Adam Kirton [2 3 4 5], Keith Owen Yeates [2 3 4 5 6], Frank MacMaster [2 7 8 9], Karen Barlow [1 10]

Article link: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pediatrneurol.2025.11.015

Neuropsychologia
Volume 211, 3 May 2025, 109130



The influence of tDCS on the speed-accuracy tradeoff and metacognitive decision making

Joshua Sabio, Timothy Ballard, Hannah L. Filmer, Paul E. Dux

Article link: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuropsychologia.2025.109130

If you, or any of your students/colleagues in Australia or New Zealand have recently published a paper related to brain stimulation, then please reach out to get it featured in our next newsletter! Contact: jthorste@bond.edu.au

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ABSS on socials

Reminder that the ABSS has LinkedIn and Bluesky pages, as well as our Twitter (X) and YouTube pages. Make sure you follow us across all social media platforms to avoid missing out on posts and society updates! Simply click the icons at the bottom of this newsletter or enter the details below.

LinkedIn:

https://www.linkedin.com/company/australasian-brain-stimulation-society-abss

or search “Australasian Brain Stimulation Society (ABSS)” in LinkedIn

Bluesky:

https://bsky.app/profile/ausbrainstimsoc.bsky.social

@ausbrainstimsoc.bsky.social

Twitter (X):

https://x.com/abs_society

@abs_society

YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/@australasianbrainstimulati6329

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