



AUSTRALASIAN COGNITIVE NEUROLOGY ASSOCIATION

FINAL SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

3rd Annual Scientific Meeting | 5–6 September 2026

Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Darlinghurst, Sydney

Annual Cognitive Neurology Training Day

4 September 2026 | St Vincent's Clinic, Darlinghurst





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Training Day

Friday 4 September 2026 | St Vincent's Clinic, Darlinghurst

The Annual Cognitive Neurology Training Day is designed for Advanced Trainees and allied health specialists across all disciplines of cognitive health and dementia. Leading practitioners present a clinically focused day of learnings and updates on new and emerging areas of practice.

9:00 – 11:00

Morning Sessions · 30 minutes each

Neuropsych 101 – A Case-Based Approach

A/Prof David Darby · Melbourne

FTD vs AD Biomarkers – Practical Interpretation

Dr Colin Mahoney · Sydney

Neuroradiology for Cognitive Neurologists

Dr Kirsti Lee · Sydney

FTD Therapeutics – What's Emerging?

Prof Rebekah Ahmed · Sydney

11:00 – 11:30

Morning Coffee

11:30 – 12:30

Late Morning Sessions · 20 minutes each

Leukodystrophies in Adult Practice

Dr David Manser · Sydney

Rapidly Progressive & Reversible Dementias

Dr Carolyn Orr · Perth

Genetic Dementias including Huntington's Disease

Prof Clement Loy · Sydney

12:30 – 1:15

Lunch · 45 minutes



Venue: St Vincent's Clinic, 438 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst NSW 2010



Training Day · continued

Friday 4 September 2026 | St Vincent's Clinic, Darlinghurst

1:15 – 3:15

Afternoon Sessions · 30 minutes each

Parkinson's Disease Dementia & DLB – A Clinical Approach

A/Prof Elie Matar · Sydney

Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE)

Dr Rowena Mobbs · Sydney

Neuropsychiatric Symptoms of Dementia – Management Strategies

A/Prof Emma Devenney · Sydney

Primary Progressive Aphasia – A Practical Clinical Approach

Prof James Burrell · Sydney

3:15 – 3:45

Afternoon Tea

3:45 – 4:45

Late Afternoon Sessions · 30 minutes each

Biomarkers Masterclass: What You Need to Know in Clinical Practice

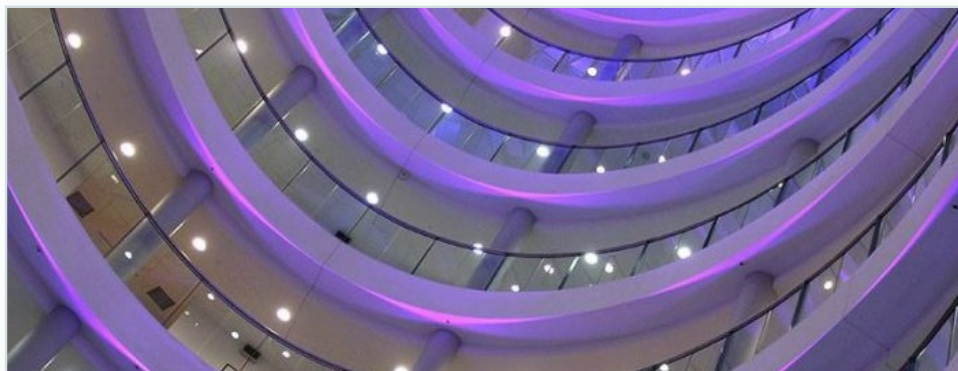
A/Prof Emma Devenney · Sydney

Neuropsychology: What is MCI and How to Assess for It in the Clinic

Dr Adam Bentvelzen · Sydney

4:45 PM

Feedback & Close



The Garvan Institute of Medical Research – home of the 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting



Day 1 – Annual Scientific Meeting

Saturday 5 September 2026 | Garvan Institute of Medical Research

The Annual Scientific Meeting features emerging and hot topics across the spectrum of cognitive neurology, dementia and memory disorders, with expert plenary lectures, case-based presentations and interactive debate.

9:00 AM

Introduction & Welcome

Prof Bruce Brew & A/Prof David Darby

Chair: A/Prof David Darby, Melbourne

9:05 – 9:45

Keynote Address

Co-pathologies Across the Spectrum of Neurodegenerative Dementias

Prof Glenda Halliday · Sydney

9:45 – 10:45

Theme: Risk & Resilience – Life Course and Brain Health

Updates on Dementia Prevention and Resilience

Dr Alice Powell (Sydney), Dr Antonia Clarke (Melbourne) & Dr Maja Christensen (Melbourne)

Viruses and Dementia

Prof Bruce Brew · Sydney

10:45 – 11:15

Morning Coffee

11:15 – 12:45

Theme: Cardiometabolic Health and Dementia

Chair: Dr Natasha Krishnadas, Melbourne

Vascular Cognitive Impairment Update: Disease Mechanisms and Diagnosis

Prof Perminder Sachdev · Sydney

VCI: An Update on Biomarkers

Prof Amy Brodtmann · Melbourne

Metabolic Dysfunction & Potential Therapeutic Targets Across the Dementias

Prof Rebekah Ahmed · Sydney

12:45 – 1:30

Lunch



Day 1 · continued

Saturday 5 September 2026 | Garvan Institute of Medical Research

1:30 – 3:00

Theme: Research & Trainee Presentations

Chair: Dr Kiri Brickell, Auckland

1. Not Just Another TIA: A Case of Adult Onset Leukoencephalopathy

Dr Edward Chang · Sydney

2. A Case of Acalculia and Short-Term Memory Loss

Dr Andrew Strong · Melbourne

3. Visuoception Impairment is an Early Cognitive Feature in Lewy Body Disorders

Dr Tanya Davidson · Brisbane

4. When Cognition Meets Uncertainty

Dr Oliver Bogdanovski · Sydney

5. An Informant Behavioural Questionnaire (IBQ) to Capture the Symptoms of Primary Dementia Syndromes

Mr Ben Wang · Melbourne

6. A Case of Memory Loss and Obsessive Word Search

Dr Adrianus Thio · Tasmania

3:00 – 3:30

Afternoon Coffee

3:30 – 4:30

Theme: The Next Decade of Alzheimer's Disease

Chair: A/Prof Raymond Schwartz, Sydney

Emerging Themes and Controversies – A Round-Up from ADPD and AAIC

Dr Colin Mahoney · Sydney

Alzheimer's Disease Therapeutics – Trial Updates and Future Directions

Dr David Jakabek · Sydney

4:30 – 5:30

Theme: Practical Approaches to Problems in the Clinic

Chair: Dr Catriona Ireland, Sydney

Driving Assessment: Who Needs It and How to Do It?

Ms Christine Frost · Sydney

Speech and Language Disorders: An Update on Clinical Assessment

Dr Cathleen Taylor-Rubin · Sydney

5:30 PM

Close · Conference Dinner from 6:00 PM – see overleaf

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2026

Conference Dinner

The Academy · 25hours Hotel The Olympia

1 Oxford Street, Paddington, Sydney



The heritage-listed Olympia theatre, reimagined as Sydney's 25hours Hotel



The Academy – our private dining space for the evening

6:00 – 7:00 PM

Welcome cocktails

7:00 PM

Dinner commences

Kindly supported by our Platinum Sponsor, Lilly

Pre-registration for the Conference Dinner is required.



Day 2 – Annual Scientific Meeting

Sunday 6 September 2026 | Garvan Institute of Medical Research

8:30 – 9:00

ACNA Annual General Meeting (AGM) · Members Only

9:00 – 10:00

Theme: Genes and Synuclein – At the Cross-Roads of Dementia

Chair: A/Prof Trevor Chong, Melbourne

Lewy Body Disorders: Biomarkers, New Criteria & Staging Controversies

A/Prof Elie Matar · Sydney

Huntingtin Lowering Strategy for People with Huntington Disease

Prof Clement Loy · Sydney

10:00 – 11:15

Complexities & Controversies: Case-Based Discussions

Chair: Dr Cameron Venus, Melbourne

1. "A Dancing Jack of All Trades"

Dr Nick Bradfield · Melbourne

2. A 72-Year-Old with Memory Loss

Prof Peter K Panegyres · Perth

3. Which Cortex Is It Anyway?

Dr Michael Li & Dr Serge Geara · Sydney

11:15 – 11:45

Morning Coffee

11:45 – 12:45

Theme: Integrating Brain, Mind & Behaviour Across Cognitive Health

Chair: Dr Colin Mahoney, Sydney

The Neuropsychiatry Interface – Diagnostic Complexities and Neuropsychiatric Phenotypes

Dr Kerry Loftus · Sydney

An Old Age Psychiatry Perspective – The Interface of Ageing, Dementia and Mental Health

Dr Jamie Tan

12:45 – 1:15

Panel Debate

Pre-Clinical Alzheimer's Disease: Should We Be Screening for It in the Era of Biomarkers?

Facilitator: Prof Peter Nestor, Brisbane

Panellists: Dr Chris Belder (Adelaide), A/Prof David Darby (Melbourne) & Dr Imogene Scott (Auckland)

1:15 PM

Closing Remarks & Awards

A photograph of a woman with dark, curly hair seen from the back, wearing a light blue ribbed tank top. A young child with curly hair is embracing her from behind, with their arms wrapped around her shoulders. The background is a bright, clear sky with some pink flowers visible on the left side.

WE'LL
NEVER
STOP
GETTING
BETTER
UNTIL
YOU DO

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Stay Connected with ACNA

Conference Recordings & Resources

Recordings from previous ACNA meetings are available now, and recordings of this year's meeting will be added shortly after the conference.

acogna.org.au/site/conference

Cognitive Fellowship – Applications Open

Applications are now open for the ACNA Short-Term Cognitive Fellowship — an outstanding opportunity for trainees to develop expertise in cognitive neurology.

acogna.org.au/fellowships

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acogna.org.au/register

Sponsorship & general enquiries: colin.mahoney@health.nsw.gov.au

[**acogna.org.au**](https://acogna.org.au)



For Your Diary

Key educational meetings for cognitive neurologists

Monthly Behavioural Neurology Meeting via Zoom — contact ddarby@unimelb.edu.au to be added to the mailing list, or if you wish to present a case.

2026 – 2027

Upcoming National & International Meetings

8–11 Oct 2026	International Conference on Frontotemporal Dementias (ISFTD 2026) — Philadelphia, USA
27–29 Oct 2026	Alzheimer Europe Conference — Dublin, Ireland
10–13 Nov 2026	Australian Association of Gerontology Conference — Melbourne, Australia
16–19 Nov 2026	Clinical Trials on Alzheimer's Disease (CTAD 2026) — Boston, USA
29 Nov – 2 Dec 2026	Australasian Neuroscience Alliance Conference — Sydney, Australia
16–20 Mar 2027	AD/PD 2027 International Conference on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases — Barcelona, Spain and online
1–5 May 2027	American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting — Washington, DC, USA
28–30 May 2027	International Psychogeriatric Association Congress — Padua, Italy
12–15 Jun 2027	European Academy of Neurology Congress — Gothenburg, Sweden
18–21 Jul 2027	Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC 2027) — Chicago, USA and online



ACNA 2027

Where To Next?

We are calling for expressions of interest to host next year's Annual Scientific Meeting. Could it be...

Adelaide?

Hobart?

Perth?

Auckland?

*Share your suggestions with the ACNA committee
at the meeting, or via acogna.org.au*