Neurotrauma Symposium Program
Hobart - October 16-17
Speaker Biographies

Prof. Denes V. Agoston
Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Genetics,
Uniformed Services University

Denes V. Agoston, M.D., Ph.D. is tenured Professor at the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Genetics, USU, Bethesda Maryland, U.S.A and Guest Scientist at the Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden. Professor Agoston spent most of his early scientific carrier at the Max-Planck-Institute in Germany and at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), USA. After obtaining his M.D. degree at the University Medical School, Szeged, Hungary he won a Max-Planck-Fellowship and made his Ph.D. in neuroscience in Gottingen, Germany. He won a DGF Fellowship and he worked as Visiting Scientist before becoming the Head of Neurodifferentiation Unit at the NICHD, NIH. Current research in the Agoston Laboratory focuses on the relationship between early pathobiology and long-term consequences in TBI using proteomics approaches. The Agoston Laboratory has been collaborating with research groups and hospitals worldwide on various aspects of TBI including identification of predictive biochemical markers for post-TBI seizures.

Prof. Roger Byard
Chair of Pathology
University of Adelaide

Professor Roger Byard AO PSM holds the George Richard Marks Chair of Pathology at The University of Adelaide and is a Senior Specialist Forensic Pathologist at Forensic Science SA in Adelaide, Australia. He has published, or has in press, over 700 papers in peer-reviewed journals, over 100 chapters and a number of texts. He is the Editor-in-Chief/Managing Editor of Forensic Science Medicine and Pathology (Springer NYC). He is a Professorial Fellow at The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health in Melbourne, Australia, and received Distinguished Alumni Awards from The University of Adelaide in 2013 and the University of Tasmania in 2016. In 2016 he was also the recipient of the Distinguished Researcher Award from the International Society for the Study and Prevention of Perinatal and Infant Death (ISPID) and was elected a fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences.

Dr. Catherine Corrie
School of Life Sciences
University of Technology, Sydney

Dr. Catherine Gorrie completed her PhD in 2006 at UNSW while undertaking studies of the brains of people who died in motor vehicle crashes. Her research expertise is in the neuropathology of traumatic injury and she has extensively investigated brain and spinal cord injury in both human and animal models. In particular, she has conducted pre-clinical experiments showing the suitability of olfactory ensheathing cell transplants for spinal cord repair, and successfully shown that the modulation of connexin43 hemichannels by a mimetic peptide improves outcomes following spinal cord injury. Her most recent research examines age related changes and the temporal and spacial responses of spinal cord neural progenitor cells to spinal cord injury. Dr. Gorrie joined the University of Technology Sydney in 2011 and is now Program Director for the B. Biomedical Science degree and Deputy Chair of the UTS Animal Care and Ethics committee. She has published 29 papers, 2 government reports and 60 conference abstracts on findings from these studies.
Dr. Sharn Perry
Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre
University of Tasmania

Dr. Sharn Perry began her scientific career at the University of Adelaide under the mentorship of Dr Karin Nordstrom, where she worked as a research assistant in the Vision Laboratory in the Department of Physiology. After graduating with Bachelor of Biomedical Science, she completed her Honours project in motion vision processing working in conjunction with the University of Adelaide and the Motion Physiology Laboratory, Uppsala University, Sweden. Dr. Perry continued working at Uppsala University as a research assistant before commencing her PhD studies in the Developmental Genetics Laboratory at the Department of Neuroscience (also within Uppsala University, Sweden). Her PhD research focused on characterising the functional role of defined spinal cord interneuron populations and their individual contributions to the locomotor central pattern generator. Following her PhD, Dr. Perry continued her research work in spinal cord interneuron populations working as a postdoctoral researcher and part time laboratory manager in the Developmental Genetics Laboratory, before accepting a postdoctoral position at the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre, University of Tasmania.

Prof. Jonathan Godbout
Wexner Medical Center, The Ohio State University

Dr. Jonathan Godbout is a Professor of Neuroscience at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. He is also appointed in the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research and Center for Brain and Spinal Cord Repair. In addition, Dr. Godbout is the Co-Director of the Neuroscience Graduate Program. Dr. Godbout has a B.S. (1996) and a Ph.D. (2001) from the University of Illinois-Urbana and was a NRSA-supported postdoctoral fellow (2001-2005). As a Principal Investigator, Dr. Godbout’s research has been concentrated in neuroimmunology and neurotrauma. Overall, his research aim is to determine the degree to which the bi-directional communication between the brain and immune system is affected by age, psychological stress, and traumatic brain injury. Dr. Godbout is a dedicated and active member of the neuroscience community. Dr. Godbout is an author on 71 publications and his research is/has been supported by grants from the NIH, AFAR, Abbott Nutrition, and OSUMC. Dr. Godbout has received several awards including the PNIRS Ader New Investigator Award (2009), the James M. Siddens Award for Distinguished Faculty Advising (2012), and the Department of Neuroscience Faculty Research Award (2013).

Dr. Lindsay Parker
ARC Centre of Excellence for Nanoscale BioPhotonics
Macquarie University

Dr. Lindsay Parker obtained a BSc in Psychology from Michigan State University in 2006, focusing on behavioural neuroscience. She then worked in the field of molecular neurochemistry at Michigan State University and Macquarie University for 9 years, primarily researching central autonomic neuron pathways activated following severe physiological stressors. Dr. Parker completed a PhD in Advanced Medicine in 2014 at Macquarie University. Since 2015 she has been a Research Fellow at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Nanoscale BioPhotonics at Macquarie University. Her multidisciplinary research is focused on using nanobiotechnology and advanced microscopy techniques to target and image cellular mRNA, protein and glycans. Dr. Parker has extensive expertise in widefield/confocal microscopy for biomedical applications and cell/tissue sample preparation. She is currently a Chief Investigator on ~$900k in funding, which she has used to purchase a microscope for live cell time-resolved nanoparticle imaging and to bring correlative light and electron microscopy technologies to Macquarie.
Prof. Robert Medcalf  
**Australian Centre for Blood Diseases**  
**Monash University**

Prof Robert Medcalf is a NHMRC Principal Research Fellow working at the Australian Centre for Blood Diseases at Monash University. His major research focus has been on the role of the fibrinolytic system in the brain, including the influence of this system on the blood-brain barrier and the innate immune response. His laboratory is also interested in devising novel approaches to treat patients with ischaemic stroke and traumatic brain injury. Prof Medcalf was the recipient of the 2016 Prize of the International Society on Fibrinolysis and Proteolysis (ISFP) and is currently Chairman of the Brain Foundation of Victoria.

Dr. Jana Vukovic  
**School of Biomedical Sciences, QBI, University of Queensland**

Jana Vukovic graduated from The University of Western Australia in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science (Honours), majoring in both neuroscience and genetics. She was awarded her PhD from the same institution in 2008. She then relocated to the University of Queensland to join Professor Perry Bartlett’s laboratory at the Queensland Brain Institute as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow. She was awarded a Queensland Government Smart Futures Fellowship in 2010. In 2015, Jana established her independent laboratory in a joint appointment between the School of Biomedical Sciences and the Queensland Brain Institute. Her laboratory investigates how microglia, the brain’s resident immune cells, influence the process of learning and memory in ageing and disease. Jana has been the recipient of an Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Early Career Research Award, and her work on microglia is further supported by a Project Grant from the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Dr. Leon Parker  
**Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute**  
**Monash University**

Leon is an early-career researcher who joined A/prof James Bourne’s Lab at the Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute as a PhD student in 2011 and has since continued on as a post-doc in the group. Leon’s current work focuses on using the nonhuman primate model to better understand the cellular and molecular consequences of stroke and other CNS injuries. In particular, how the infant brain retain a greater capacity for functional recovery, compared to adults and the involvement of reactive astrocytes and glial scarring in this process. Leon’s work with James Bourne has resulted in the development of strategies for improving outcomes by re-activating endogenous processes, present during early-life, in order to tip the balance in favour of functional recovery after CNS injuries during adult-life.