Dear Colleague

We warmly invite you to attend the 28th International AWCBR, to be held in Queenstown, New Zealand from 28 August to 1 September 2010. The 2010 meeting will once again be held at the Copthorne Resort Hotel in Queenstown and, as always, will allow you to enjoy a multidisciplinary approach to contemporary high-quality Neuroscience.

**FORMAT**

Intensive scientific sessions are held in the morning, late afternoon and evening, with a light breakfast and afternoon tea for those who have just rolled out of bed or off the ski field. To achieve maximal interdisciplinary interaction, there will be no parallel sessions. The middle of the day is normally left free for the many activities available at Queenstown, such as skiing, jet boating, bungy jumping, paragliding, hiking, golfing, or just relaxing in the sun. The conference concludes each evening in sufficient time to allow sampling from the selection of excellent restaurants.

Each year the conference attracts participants from Australia, Europe, Japan, New Zealand and North America. All participants are encouraged to present a paper and we will create symposia to accommodate papers as necessary. Our purpose is to encourage interaction between a wide range of academic and clinical brain research disciplines including anatomy, kinesiology, molecular biology, neural modelling, neurochemistry, neurology, pharmacology, physiology, and psychology. To view the range of topics covered in recent years, visit our website at [www.awcbr.org](http://www.awcbr.org).

**Our invited speakers for the 2010 conference are:**

Professor Andrew Lawrence, NHMRC Senior Research Fellow, Howard Florey Institute, Centre for Neuroscience, University of Melbourne

*Animal models of drug-seeking: genetics and pharmacology*

Professor Pankaj Sah, The Queensland Brain Institute, University of Queensland

*Synaptic transmission in the central and basolateral amygdala: role and subunit composition of NMDA receptors*

**LOCATION AND ACCOMMODATION**

The conference will be held at the Copthorne Resort Hotel in Queenstown, a major ski resort in the Southern Alps of New Zealand. The nearby Coronet Peak, Cardrona and Remarkables ski fields offer excellent conditions for beginning and intermediate skiers and include areas to interest the expert. There is also a wide range of activities available to the non-sker.

Transport to Queenstown from outside New Zealand normally involves an international flight to Auckland or Christchurch and then an internal flight or bus to Queenstown. Some direct flights to Queenstown from Australia may be available.

The conference has pre-booked accommodation at the Copthorne hotel and the nearby Earnslaw motel. However, **please note that you will be responsible for directly booking your own accommodation** at these or other venues of your choice, rather than through the conference secretariat.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINES AND STUDENT GRANTS**

The deadline for abstracts, accommodation bookings and Early Bird registration fees is 14 May 2010. The Early Bird standard registration fee is NZ$315, while the Early Bird student registration fee is NZ$135. After 14 May, the fees increase to NZ$450 and NZ$180, respectively.
As usual, postgraduate students are encouraged to present their research at the meeting. Travel grants will be available for the students from New Zealand universities who present papers at the conference. Application forms will be available on the website. Successful applicants will receive a refund of their registration fee plus a travel grant related to the distance travelled. The outcome of applications will be emailed to applicants by the end of July, while payments will be made at the conference. This travel award scheme is subject to final confirmation by our long-time sponsor, the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand. The Goddard Prize ($200) will be awarded to the student giving the best oral presentation. The AWCBR poster prize ($100) will also be awarded to the student giving the best poster presentation.

**PAPERS**

*We strongly encourage everyone, including students, to present a paper.* Most papers will be given as 10 min oral presentations, plus 5 min for discussion. In addition, there will be one or more poster sessions, depending on numbers registering. You are also encouraged to organise a symposium on a topic of specific interest. If you do so, **please notify AWCBR** of the title as soon as possible so details can be included with the Call for Abstracts. You should then contact your participants and send us their names and addresses. AWCBR reserves the right to include additional papers within a symposium, but will consult with the organiser should this prove necessary. The abstracts will be published as the Proceeding of the International Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research (ISSN 1176-3183), as posted on our website. The abstracts will be refereed and unacceptable abstracts will be returned to the authors for modification and resubmission.

**AUSTRALIAN NEUROSCIENCE SOCIETY annual meeting**

Also on the New Zealand neuroscience calendar is the upcoming annual meeting of the Australian Neuroscience meeting, which will be held in Auckland from 31 January to 3 February 2011. This will be an exciting event, and we invite all AWCBR devotees to also attend this excellent meeting. ([http://www.ans.org.au/ans-annual-conference/](http://www.ans.org.au/ans-annual-conference/))

**CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence about AWCBR should be addressed to: AWCBR, Department of Psychology, University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand (email: awcbr@psy.otago.ac.nz). You can also visit us at our website: www.awcbr.org. We look forward to seeing you in Queenstown and hope you will pass this information on to anyone you think might be interested in the conference. It's going to be a great one!

Yours sincerely

Prof. Cliff Abraham
Chair, AWCBR