

PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** Annual Committee Report

June 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020

PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** Committee Members, 2019-2020

Keith W. Kelley, Co-chair; kwkelley@illinois.edu

Chris Coe, Co-chair, ccoe@wisc.edu

Yu-Ping Peng, yppeng@ntu.edu.cn

Qiang Liu, liuq9@mail.sysu.edu.cn

Ning Quan, nquan@health.fau.edu

Sarah Spencer, sarah.spencer@rmit.edu.au

Atsuyoshi Shimada, ats7@ks.kyorin-u.ac.jp

Ebrahim Haroon, eharoon@emory.edu

Hui-Chih Chang, huichih.chang@gmail.com

Kuan-Pin Su, cobolsu@gmail.com

We welcome two new and important colleagues to membership in the PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** committee: Hui-Chih Chang, Ph.D. and Kuan-Pin Su, M.D., Ph.D. Hui-Chih is a faculty member at China Medical University Hospital in Taichung, the Taiwan region. Kuan-Pin recently moved from China Medical University to become the Deputy Superintendent at a large university-affiliated hospital in Tainan, the Taiwan region. Kuan-Pin is also an Associate Editor of *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity*.

International growth and dissemination of information about PNIRS in the Asia-Pacific rim continues unabated with the partnership between *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity* and PNIRS that began in 2012. In 2016, the PNIRS**China** committee was installed as a standing PNIRS committee, expanded and renamed as the PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** committee. Its goal is to continue to extend the global outreach that was initiated by PNIRS**China** to all Eastern countries in addition to China, including Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Viet Nam and India. During the past year, the PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** committee developed themes, wrote proposals and recruited expert lecturers for BBI/PNIRS-sanctioned symposia in four different countries: Japan, South Korea, Republic of China and New Zealand, as highlighted

below. Four formal peer-reviewed articles were published in *Clinical and Experimental Neuroimmunology* that summarized the PNIRSA_{Asia-Pacific} symposia in Japan.

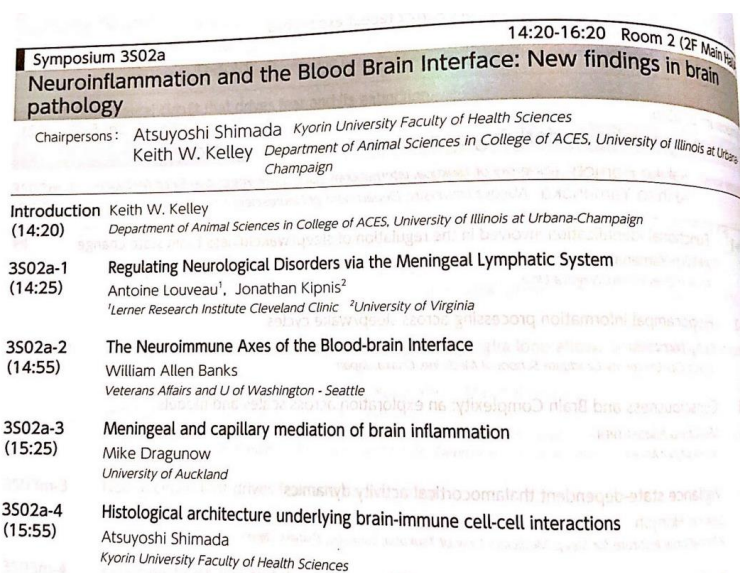
Kiwis Welcome PNIRSA_{Asia-Pacific} to Queenstown, New Zealand

The Australasian Winter Conference on Brain Research (<https://www.otago.ac.nz/awcbr/index.html>) accepted a proposal from the PNIRSA_{Asia-Pacific} committee to present a symposium at their annual meeting in Queenstown from August 31 to September 4, 2019. This is the leading neuroscience meeting in New Zealand. Associate Professor Sarah Spencer organized the symposium proposal that featured speakers from three countries. It was entitled, “PsychoNeuroImmunology Across the Lifespan.” Featured speakers included Sarah Spencer (Melbourne, Australia), Suzi Hong (San Diego, USA) and Atsuyoshi Shimada (Tokyo, Japan). The AWCBR, held as part of Queenstown Research Week, is New Zealand's annual international neuroscience conference. The meeting highlights a multidisciplinary approach to contemporary neuroscience, with participants from around the world, including Australia, Europe, Japan, New Zealand and North America. There is a range of presentations, from Nobel Laureates to early career researchers. The conference encourages interactions between a wide range of academic and clinical brain research disciplines including anatomy, biochemistry, kinesiology, neural modelling, neurology, pharmacology, physiology, and psychology, being sure to leave ample free time to fit in some Queenstown skiing.



Japanese Neuroscience Society Welcomes PNIRSA_{Asia-Pacific} to Niigata

After a few years of planning for the right meeting in Japan, long-time PNIRS member Professor Atsuyoshi Shimada from Tokyo recommended that the PNIRSA^{Asia-Pacific} committee submit a symposium proposal to the largest annual neuroscience meeting in Japan. We submitted a symposium proposal entitled, “Neuroinflammation and the Blood Brain Interface: New findings in brain pathology.” More than 90 program committee members reviewed all the proposals, recommending that the final Program Core Committee accept our proposal for the 42nd annual meeting of the Japan Neuroscience Society that was held in Niigata, Japan from July 25-28, 2019 (NEURO2019; <https://www.jnss.org/en/>). There were 3,900 scientists who attended the meeting. Our symposium was held on July 26. PNIRS was represented by chair Keith W. Kelley (U. Illinois) and four speakers: Jasmin Herz (U. Virginia), Bill Banks (VA and U. Washington), Mike Dragunow (U. Auckland) and Atsuyoshi Shimada (Kyorin University). A special thank you is offered to Professor Shimada for co-organizing this symposium. Afterwards, a traditional cuisine of Niigata was enjoyed by speakers and their guests. For the first time, speakers in this PNIRSA^{Asia-Pacific}-sponsored symposium published a Special Issue that summarized the major results of this symposium. Four papers were published in *Clinical and Experimental Neuroimmunology*. The first was by Professors Shimada and Yokota in which they provided a brief history of PNIRS, the subsequent development of the PNIRSA^{Asia-Pacific} affiliate and a brief overview of psychoneuroimmunology research in Japan (doi: [10.1111/cen3.12561](https://doi.org/10.1111/cen3.12561)). The other papers were by Kelley and Shimada (doi: [10.1111/cen3.12558](https://doi.org/10.1111/cen3.12558)), Shimada (doi: [10.1111/cen3.12559](https://doi.org/10.1111/cen3.12559)) and Pal, Rao and Louveau (doi: [10.1111/cen3.12559](https://doi.org/10.1111/cen3.12559)).





PNIRSAfrica-Pacific is Welcomed to the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) in Daegu, Korea

Once every four years, the IBRO invites only members from the Federation of Asian-Oceanian Neuroscience Societies (FAONS; <https://faons.org/About-FAONS/>). No American, European or Canadian societies are allowed to submit symposia proposals. But, thanks to the membership of our Australian colleagues Sarah Spencer (Melbourne), Elisa Hill-Yardin (Melbourne) and Mark Hutchinson (Adelaide) as well as Keith Kelley in the Australasian Neuroscience Society, and Korean born Suzi Hong (UCSD), the PNIRSAfrica-Pacific committee submitted a symposium proposal that was accepted for presentation at this meeting. These scientists presented a 2 h symposium entitled, "Dialing in the Dialogue Between Inflammation and the Brain" on September 25, 2019 (<http://www.ibro2019.org/>). This was the 10th World Congress of Neuroscience, and it attracted 3,400 registrants.

Our symposium was well attended, attracting 250 scientists. As usual, the growing influence of PNI generated lots of good questions by the audience, and the expert speakers represented PNIRS incredibly well. Elsevier provided 100 hard copies of various recent issues of *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity* and Keith Kelley donated 200 ballpoint pens with the PNIRS logo and website. Suzi organized a wonderful traditional Korean dinner the evening prior to the symposium.

Mind-Body Interface International Meeting in China's Taiwan Region

On October 7-8, 2019, scientists participated in the 9th Annual Mind-Body Interface Symposium (MBI) held in Taichung, the Taiwan region. This was the third consecutive year that the PNIRSA**Asia-Pacific** committee has participated in this symposium, and its presence is continuing to grow. This year, the meeting organizers kindly extended the opportunity to invite two PNIRSA**Asia-Pacific** nominees to present plenary lectures. The PNIRS past-president, Deborah Hodgson (Australia), and Rex Gaskins (USA) were invited to present the honorific lectures. The other speakers included Dan McKim (USA), Li Tian (Estonia and Finland), Longjun Wu (USA), Teresa Reyes (USA), Adam Walker (Australia), Annabelle Reaux Le Goazigo (France), Steve Kent (Australia), Jan-Pieter Konsman (France), Cai Song (the mainland of China), Jane Pei-Chen Chang, (the Taiwan region, China) and George C.C. Hong (Australia). The meeting was once again very well organized, thanks to Kuan-Pin Su, M.D., Ph.D., Hui-Chih Chang, Ph.D. and graduate students. The excellent scientific program in which PNIRS was represented can be found at <http://www.tsnpr.org.tw/programme.php>. Plans are in progress to participate in the 2020 MBI meeting from October 30 to November 1. The theme is “The Mind Maze: Early Life Experiences That Shape Adult Health of Mind and Body.” Plenary speakers are Michael Irwin (USA) and Andre Sourander (Finland).



A New Venture: PNIRSA**Asia-Pacific** Global Research Connections

<u>Date</u>	<u>Visiting Laboratory</u>	<u>Host Laboratory</u>
Fall, 2019	Yu-Ping Peng, China	Christopher Coe, USA
Fall, 2019	Sarah Spencer, Australia	Christoph Rummel, Germany
Fall, 2019	Yu-Ping Peng, China	Quentin Liu, China

A new initiative by the PNIRSA**Asia-Pacific** committee seeks to connect professors, post-docs, graduate students and even undergraduates interested in brain, behavior and immunity research in the Asia-Pacific region with other laboratories throughout the world. This goal is facilitated by creation of an easy-to-use website for registration that was formally launched in November, 2019 (<https://pnirs.ansc.illinois.edu>). This publically-available site allows researchers interested in hosting scientists from the Asia-Pacific region to have contact information and scientific links to Asia-Pacific scientists. And if a scientist in the Asia-Pacific region would like to host scientists outside their country, this website provides the same information of numerous potential investigators. With an investment of only 3 minutes to complete the application, scientists are connected with research laboratories all over the world who are conducting research in brain, behavior, and immunity.

Three scientific collaborative trips were facilitated by this new PNIRSA**Asia-Pacific** initiative.

(a) Soniya Xavier, a graduate student in Sarah Spencer's in Melbourne, traveled to Germany to collaborate Christoph Rummel.

(b) Four scientists from Dr. Yu-Ping Peng's laboratory at the Nantong University School of Medicine, Drs. Y-H Qui, S-H Ma, Z.Liu and X-X Fang, traveled to the University of Wisconsin in Madison. They shared their discoveries about neuroinflammatory processes associated with glia and IL17A in mediating MPTP neurotoxicity in the rodent model of Parkinson's disease. In turn, this scholarly exchange provided an opportunity to hear from Chris Coe and colleagues in Madison about their ongoing investigations with nonhuman primate models. The visit also enabled some other cultural and culinary insights: cold deli sandwiches were not a big hit, whereas local Asian cuisine, including a nearby noodle restaurant, were definitely rated as better fare for lunch breaks.



(c) PNIRSA**Asia-Pacific** Global Connections is also being used to promote exchanges of scientists with labs on the mainland. Two of the original founders of the PNIRSA**Asia-Pacific** initiative met on the mainland in early December, 2019. Yu-Ping Peng, M.D., Ph.D. at Nantong University welcomed Quentin Liu, M.D., Ph.D. from Dalian Medical University to present a research seminar and interact with faculty and students on campus. Professors Peng and Liu are seated in the center of the table in the photo below.

