

PNIRS **Asia-Pacific** Annual Committee Report

June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022

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We have all missed in-person interactions and sharing at the annual PNIRS meetings, the last one beginning on June 3, 2019. Many of us are looking forward to gathering in Zurich for the next PNIRS meeting that begins on June 15. Please invite your colleagues and students to join us on Thursday, June 16 from noon to 1 pm for our annual gathering of scientists interested in learning more about the work of our committee. I am delighted that Professor Ebrahim Haroon at Emory University will be our featured speaker. Dr. Haroon earned his medical degree from Madurai University Medical College in India. He will share his perspective on the value of global research collaborations, particularly as viewed as an academic physician originally trained in the East.

Since we last met, PNIRS **Asia-Pacific** has showcased several conference presentations across the Asia-Pacific region, providing key interfacing and networking opportunities to our Society members.

JULIE BOWER REPRESENTS PNIRS **Asia-Pacific AT THE JAPANESE SOCIETY FOR NEUROIMMUNOLOGY IN FUKUOKA**

PNIRS **Asia-Pacific** organized its first symposium in Japan in 2019 at the annual meeting of the Japanese Society for Neuroscience held in Niigata. During that meeting, Professor Atsuyoshi Shimada was asked by the leaders of the Japanese Society for Neuroimmunology (JSNI) to submit a summary of the PNIRS **Asia-Pacific** symposium in their peer-reviewed journal, *Clinical and Experimental Immunology*. This invitation led to three publications emanating our PNIRS **Asia-Pacific** symposium.

Shimada, A. and T. Yokota. Physiological and pathological brain-immune system interactions. *Clinical and Experimental Neuroimmunology*. 2020. 11. 1. 3-4.

Kelley KW and Shimada A. Neuroinflammation and the blood–brain–interface: new findings in brain pathology. *Clinical and Experimental Neuroimmunology*. 2020. 11. 16-20.

Shimada, A. Principles of neuroanatomical architecture supporting brain–immune cell–cell interactions. *Clinical and Experimental Neuroimmunology*. 2020. 11. 5-15.

Leaders of the JSNI subsequently requested another PNIRS **Asia-Pacific** session that would provide an overview of PNIRS. Past-President Julie Bower was selected by our committee to represent PNIRS. In response to this invitation, she presented a virtual lecture at the 2021 hybrid meeting of the JSNI that was held in Fukuoka, Japan on October 21 and 22, 2021. The title of her lecture was, “Neuroimmune interactions in breast cancer: Relevance for health and well-being”. The clinically relevant talk was very well received.

KEITH W. KELLEY PRESENTS SEMINAR IN GREAT BAY AREA AROUND CHINA

On October 7, 2021, Keith presented a virtual seminar entitled, “Persuasive Scientific Writing” at the Postgraduate Forum on Psychological Science to major universities in the Great Bay Area. The Great Bay Area includes the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), University of Macau, Shenzhen University and Sun Yet-sen University. Following this lecture, Keith was appointed as a Visiting Scholar at Shenzhen University.

PNIRSA^{Asia-Pacific} Speakers at the 2021 Mind-Body Interface Symposium

<https://mbisymposium.org/20210201/2021/index.php>



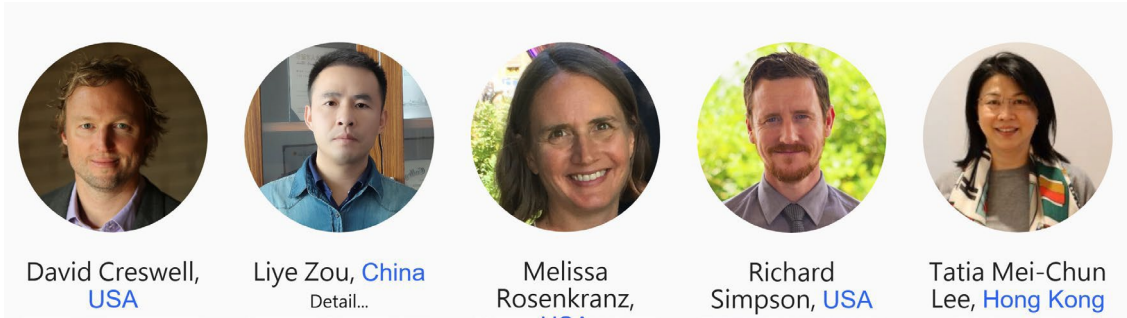
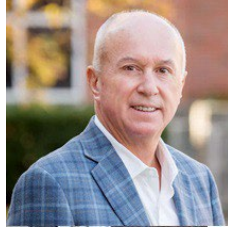
Our committee organized two virtual symposia at the 11th Mind-Body-Interface meeting that was held in Taichung, Taiwan on October 30 and 31, 2021. Professor Julie Bower was honored with presenting a keynote lecture. Keith organized and chaired a session entitled, “Non-pharmaceutical Interventions to Improve Mental Health, featuring one speaker from Hong Kong, another from Shenzhen and three from the USA. Professor Sarah Spencer at RMIT University in Melbourne organized the second symposium entitled, “The Immune System is a Conduit That Links Environmental Stimuli to Brain Function.” This symposium featured four Early Career scientists from Australia and Taiwan who described their most recent discoveries about immune-to-brain communication.

Keynote Speaker



Julienne E.
Bower, USA

Keith W. Kelley, Chair



David Creswell,
[USA](#)

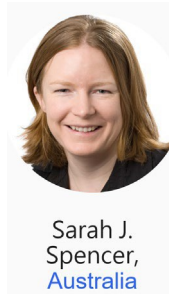
Liye Zou, [China](#)
[Detail...](#)

Melissa
Rosenkranz,
[USA](#)

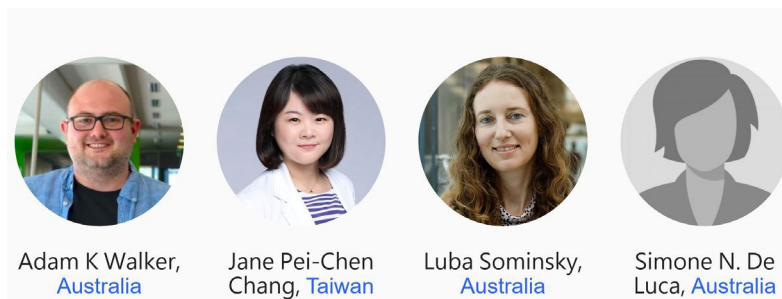
Richard
Simpson, [USA](#)

Tatia Mei-Chun
Lee, [Hong Kong](#)

Sarah Spencer, Chair



Sarah J.
Spencer,
[Australia](#)



Adam K Walker,
[Australia](#)

Jane Pei-Chen
Chang, [Taiwan](#)

Luba Sominsky,
[Australia](#)

Simone N. De
Luca, [Australia](#)

TEACHING AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS FOR PNIRS **Asia-Pacific** DEVELOPED AND RELEASED

The PNIRS **Asia-Pacific** committee promotes PNI/mind-body research in Eastern and Western countries by organizing symposia at major meetings throughout Asia-Oceania. Since 2012, we have organized 15 symposia in China, Taiwan, Australia, Japan and South Korea. In order to expand these efforts and build more bridges among countries in the East and West, the committee developed a set of teaching and marketing materials to be shared globally. The files contain a short, 60 sec, video that highlights this new initiative, a two-page brochure that describes the aims and goals of PNIRS **Asia-Pacific** (written in both English and Mandarin), as well as a 13 min podcast (including the written text for the podcast) that provides more specific information about PNI research in the East and West. We hope that these materials will attract scientists interested in mind-body research throughout Asia-Oceania to serve as speakers at these symposia by joining us at the PNIRS **Asia-Pacific** Global Research Connections website (<https://pnirs.ansc.illinois.edu/>). These promotional materials are free to all. They can be used in venues ranging from the classroom to scientific conferences. The committee encourages our members to distribute these materials widely to other scientists who want to learn and become more involved in promoting biomedical research dialogue between the East and the West. These materials are available permanently at: <https://pnirs.memberclicks.net/pnirsasia-pacific>. The podcast is also available on top podcast platforms such as Apple iTunes, Google Podcasts, and many more by simply searching for “ResearchPod” as one word. Finally, please note also that the print publication of a two-page brochure written in English is now published by Research Outreach. The reference is as follows: Research Outreach. 2021. PNIRS **Asia-Pacific**: Building bridges between East and West. Health and Medicine. Pages 94-97. <https://cdn.researchoutreach.org/Flipbooks/RO126/index.html>.

Video in English: https://www.pnirs.org/assets/docs/PNIRSAsia-Pacific/pnirs_asia-pacific%20English.mp4

Video in Chinese: <https://www.pnirs.org/assets/docs/PNIRSAsia-Pacific/MandarinVideo.mp4>

Podcast in English: <https://uofi.box.com/s/jkihii5tztd8gl7bt35tngimo9zjeh0c>

Written Text of Podcast: <https://uofi.box.com/s/xwsy7p14ossjjk3j2f7boj545hkc7tz3>

Brochure in English: <https://uofi.box.com/s/gut9juxysr3zpw9p9qf0907u60sykq0t>

Brochure in Chinese: <https://uofi.box.com/s/fwv0irspo4sue2xcl9ny4rpsuud5kg0a>

PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** GLOBAL CONNECTIONS WEBSITE

Despite being launched in November 2021 at the beginning of the COVID pandemic, registration at this website continues to grow (<https://pnirs.ansc.illinois.edu/#>). There are now 113 registered scientists across the globe who have provided their email address, web link to their lab and a broad indication of their research interests. This website makes it easy to identify potential collaborators in the East and West who are interested in collaborative research in PNI.

ARCHIVING OF ALL PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** ANNUAL REPORTS AT WWW.PNIRS.ORG

President Neil Harrison supported our request to post all the previous annual reports of the PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** online at <https://www.pnirs.org/pnirs-asia-pacific-annual-reports>. These files are now all stored in the Cloud, as will be those for annual reports in the future. The links since the first annual report was filed in 2013 are given below:

PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** Annual Report 2021 <https://uofi.box.com/s/47o3rc82hi54oong2jxqgcuil3hwx1z5>

PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** Annual Report 2020 <https://uofi.box.com/s/v14luq5wo0bjcr5mox5yma7b84i6wpy8>

PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** Annual Report 2019 <https://uofi.box.com/s/bsb38xhn1tnqjcgvdqkuy2dc07p60lx3>

PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** Annual Report 2018 <https://uofi.box.com/s/40texu735aaywhsj9rnv91a44tlay00s>

PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** Annual Report. 2017 <https://uofi.box.com/s/jnfc254scw5dxkixhtrs4s3swmvp7ll>

PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** Annual Report 2016 <https://uofi.box.com/s/uzwzghb9zuccg4kps80b42g7llcjf8xw>

PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** Annual Report 2015 <https://uofi.box.com/s/ivbpxqowfma672t2gaz5rl68hs0mpnt6>

PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** Annual Report 2014 <https://uofi.box.com/s/zvularrs72y4yu695banlyolt80o7zg9>

PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** Annual Report 2013 <https://uofi.box.com/s/9sk4vxxb2d3tvkze0uws72xcf3q9r7zr>

PLANS FOR 2022-2023

Communications of the PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** committee have been challenged by the ongoing COVID pandemic, which is now in its third year. Meetings in Asia have been unavailable to Western scientists, while others have been cancelled or were able to accommodate only virtual presentations. As of this writing, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan remain closed to international travelers without quarantine. Given these health concerns and travel restrictions, limited plans have been made for 2022-2023. Keith Kelley has accepted an invitation to represent PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** by presenting a virtual lecture at the 2nd Beijing Brain Conference (BBC) to be held on August 13-15, 2022. Our committee has also been invited to organize and submit full symposia proposals to both the 2022 Mind-Body-Interface (MBI) meeting in Taichung, Taiwan and the Japanese Society for Neuroimmunology (JSNI) in Nagasaki. The MBI meeting will be focused on pain this year and will be held on a date coinciding with US Halloween holiday festivities, while the JSNI meeting will be held on October 20 or 21. Possibilities for PNIRS**Asia-Pacific** symposia at other major meetings will be discussed at the annual PNIRS meeting that will be held in person in Zurich in June 2022.