

CALL FOR SYMPOSIA

BPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



MELBOURNE 27-29TH October 2019

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) of Biological Psychiatry Australia (BPA) would like to invite members to submit nominations for a symposium for BPA 2019 conference. The conference will be held from Sunday evening 27th October – Tuesday evening 29th October at the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health/University of Melbourne in Melbourne.

BPA GENERAL SYMPOSIA GUIDELINES

At BPA we aim to ensure symposia fulfill an educational function. We aim to facilitate this by providing a conducive environment in which presenters are encouraged to communicate and share their ideas with the audience. We recognise the roles of a chair and a discussant as being critical to facilitate this and to empower the presenters to communicate with all members of the audience regardless of their seniority. Each symposium will be 90 minutes long. It will include a chair, 3-4 presenters and a discussant. The nominator of the symposium is required to nominate a chair, 3-4 speakers and a discussant. The chair can elect to be a presenter. The discussant needs to be a different person than the chair and the presenters. The discussant role is important to facilitate the scientific discussion in the last part of the symposium.

Symposia Structure

In the first 5 minutes we require the chair to briefly introduce the field of research and possibly the individual contributions made by the speakers in this arena i.e. 'setting the stage'. Each presenter is allotted 15-20 minutes for each seminar. Ideally within this timeframe the speaker will allow a few minutes for points of clarification. The chair will facilitate this. However, if a speaker elects to take up the entire allotted minutes the chair will move onto the next presenter. At the conclusion of the last speaker, all presenters will be required to return to the podium where in the last 25 minutes the discussant will first summarise the overall findings of the 3 speakers and begin to invite debate, discussion and responses to pre-submitted questions (if any). The LOC actively encourages members to draft concise questions to each symposium topic prior to the conference. These will be passed onto the chair as they arrive. In the case of too many questions, it will be at the discretion of the moderator to prioritise questions. Upon ending the discussion after no more than 25 minutes, the chair will close the session. Adherence to this structure is a mandatory precondition for any nomination. Failure to adhere to this structure will render the symposia non-competitive.

Symposia Proposal Format

The BPA scientific committee will also look favourably upon proposals from a mix of genders, seniority and institute balance. This year we are seeking 3 symposia to include in our programme. We generally receive twice as many proposals that we could host. Therefore the BPA scientific committee will rank symposia based on those that are novel (i.e not presented in previous meetings), can adhere to the above criteria and their ability to stimulate debate. To propose a symposium we will need to receive the abstracts of the 3 presenters, as well as an overview of the importance of the symposium (up to 250 words from the organiser). For abstract instructions please follow the guidelines on the website:

<http://www.biopsychaustralia.com.au/annual-conferences/submissions/>

KEY DATES

Symposium proposal – **open Thursday 9th May – close TBA**