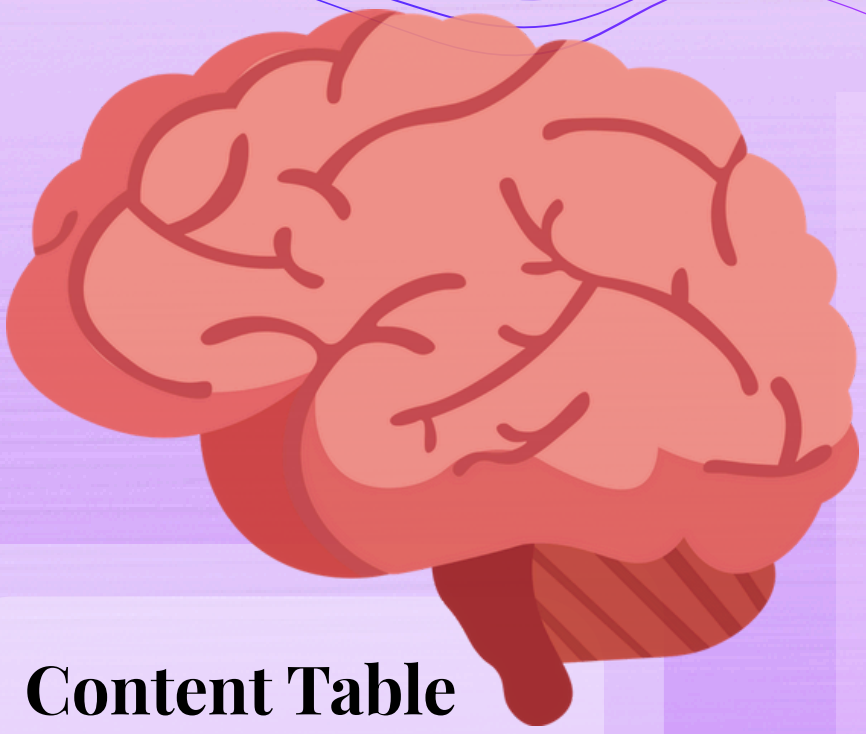
The National Undergraduate Neuroanatomy Competition Newsletter 2026

NEURO transmissions



Content Table

Editor's Note

Dear Neuro enthusiast,

As we step into another exciting chapter of the NUNC journey, 2026 brings us closer to what promises to be our most inspiring and intellectually charged competition yet. In this issue, we dive into a beautifully intricate region of neuroanatomy, explore a high-yield surgical approach, and challenge your understanding with a carefully curated practice question.

We're thrilled to welcome both returning competitors and newcomers to a year filled with learning, collaboration, and discovery.

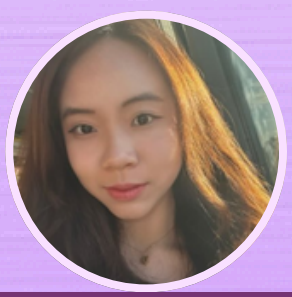
Yours faithfully,
Varunikha & Milly
~Editors

Are you ready for the next edition of NUNC?

About NUNC

The National Undergraduate Neuroanatomy Competition (NUNC) is one of the UK's most respected student-led neuroscience events, now celebrating its 14th year. Founded in 2013 to push neuroanatomy education beyond the standard curriculum, NUNC has grown into a national hub for aspiring neurosurgeons, neurologists, and neuroscientists. Hosted this year at the University of Glasgow, the competition blends high-intensity spotters, clinically focused MCQs, expert talks, and hands-on workshops that challenge delegates at every level. What makes NUNC special is the atmosphere, when students come together to test their limits, learn from leading clinicians, and geek out over anatomy that most people never even get to see. Fourteen years on, NUNC continues to champion excellence, curiosity, and the future leaders of neuroscience.

Meet the Committee



Isabelle Choong
President

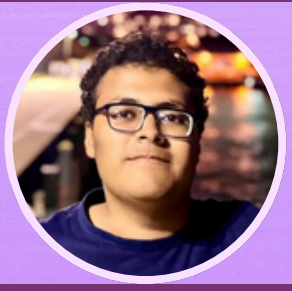
Lewis O'Brien
Vice President

Thea Naresh Mahubabi
Secretary

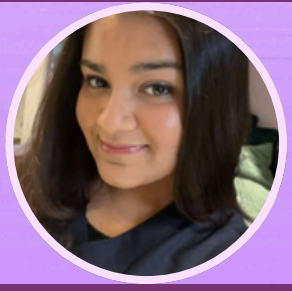
Ellie Chen
Treasurer

Sarah Gilhooley
Marketing Lead

Amelia Lawrence
Conference Lead

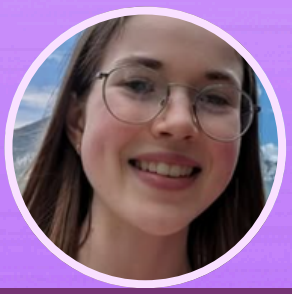


Aditya Pandey
Dissection Lead



Anushri Bhattacharya
Education Lead

Varunikha Anandan Sangeetha
Welfare Lead & Editor



Amelia Dickson
General Committee Member & Editor

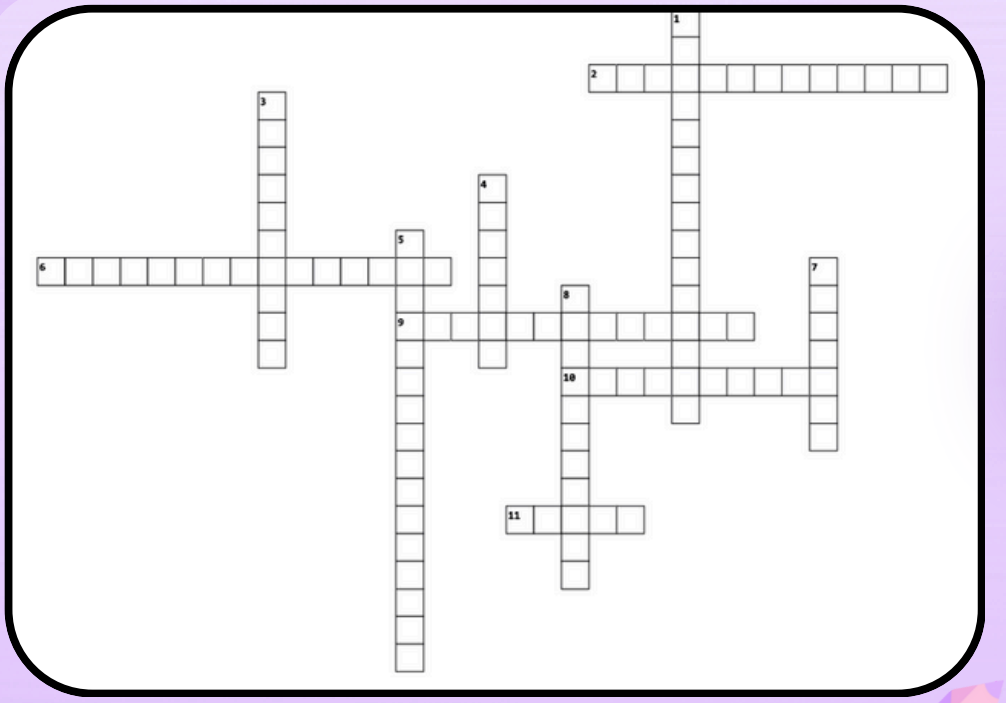
Test Yourself!

MCQ

Which of the following best describes forceps major?

a. White matter fibre bundle which connects the occipital lobes via the splenium of corpus callosum
b. White matter fibre bundle which connects the two cerebral hemispheres and lies anterior to the third ventricle and columns of the fornix
c. White matter fibre bundle which connects the medial and lateral surfaces of the frontal lobes via the genu of corpus callosum
d. White matter fibre bundle which connects the two habenular nuclei and lies in the superior lamina of the stalk of the pineal gland

WORD CROSS



Across

2. Movement disorder caused by subthalamic nucleus lesion

6. Cerebellar lobe involved in balance and eye movements

9. Proprioceptive nucleus of the trigeminal nerve

10. Tumour arising from peripheral myelin-forming cells

11. Site of optic nerve fibre decussation

Down

1. Tract conveying unconscious proprioception

3. Dopaminergic nucleus degenerating in Parkinson disease

4. Parasympathetic nucleus of CN III

5. Tract disrupted in Wernicke–Korsakoff syndrome

7. Language pathway linking Broca and Wernicke areas

8. Collective term for caudate and putamen

Answers

MCQ

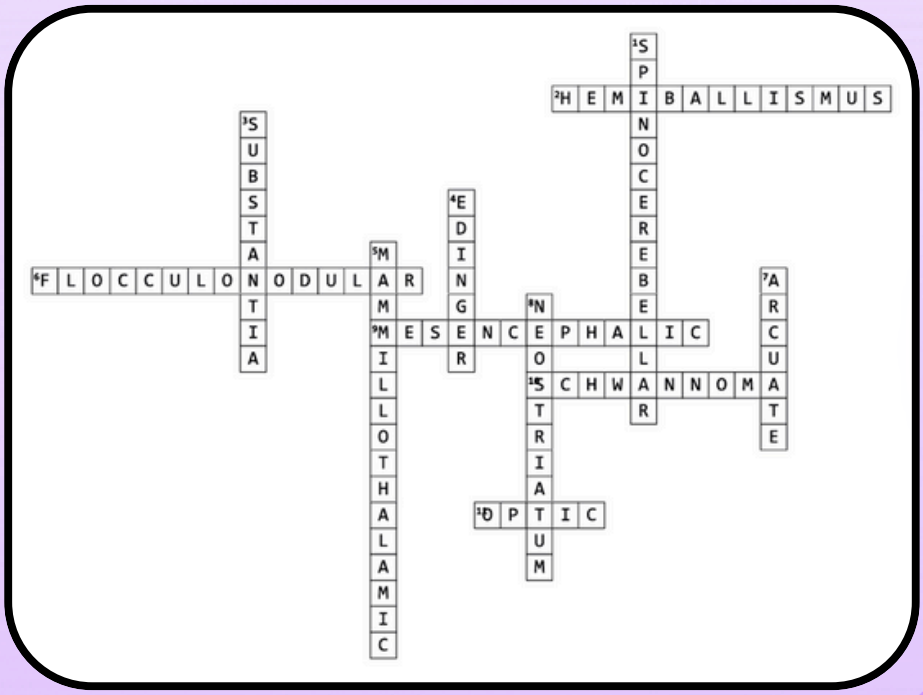
A - Correct. Corpus callosum is the largest white matter tract in the brain and connects the two cerebral hemispheres. It is divided into the rostrum (connecting the inferior medial/orbital frontal cortices), genu (connecting the frontal lobes and whose fibres form forceps minor), body (connecting areas of the frontal/parietal lobes) and splenium (connecting the occipital lobes and whose fibres form forceps major)

B - This describes the anterior commissure

C - This describes forceps minor

D - This describes the habenular commissure

CROSSWORD



Across

2. Movement disorder caused by subthalamic nucleus lesion

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10. Tumour arising from peripheral myelin-forming cells

11. CHIASM Site of optic nerve fibre decussation

Down

1. Tract conveying unconscious proprioception

3. NIGRA Dopaminergic nucleus degenerating in Parkinson disease

4. WESTPHAL Parasympathetic nucleus of CN III

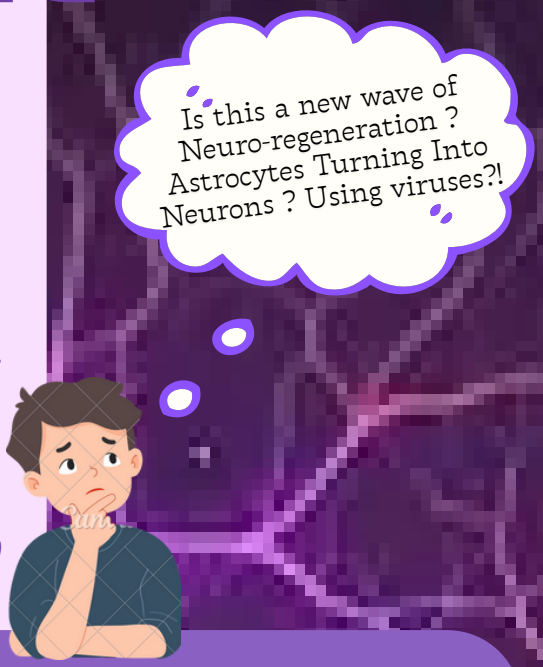
5. Tract disrupted in Wernicke–Korsakoff syndrome

7. FASCICULUS Language pathway linking Broca and Wernicke areas

8. Collective term for caudate and putamen

Research CORNER

The recent advancements in neuro-regeneration have brought astrocytes into the spotlight as a potential source for new neurons. NeuExcell Therapeutics has developed a neuro-regenerative gene therapy platform that reprograms glial cells, specifically astrocytes, into functional new neurons. This method, which utilizes adeno-associated viruses (AAVs) to deliver transcription factors, allows for the regeneration of neural tissue at the site of injury or neurodegeneration. This approach represents a significant shift in the understanding of neurodegenerative diseases, as it offers a renewable source for generating new neurons, which are typically non-regenerative in mature mammals.



Astrocytes, the most abundant and functionally complex glial cells in the CNS, have been shown to play vital roles in the brain's development and function. Their dysfunction contributes to various psychiatric disorders and neurodegenerative diseases. Recent studies have highlighted the dynamic diversity of astrocytes across space, time, and species, emphasizing the importance of understanding these non-neuronal cells in health and disease.

The potential of astrocytes in neuronal regeneration is a promising area of research, with ongoing studies exploring their role in treating neurological disorders and improving recovery outcomes.

To find out more:

https://www.nature.com/articles/d43747-021-00136-5

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0014299924006198

https://www.the-scientist.com/reprogramming-astrocytes-unlocking-dlx2-s-potential-to-mend-the-brain-70882

Interested in submitting your own research ?
Contact us at natneurocomp@gmail.com or
@natneurocompuk on instagram

Event Calendar

January

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
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September

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October

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November

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December

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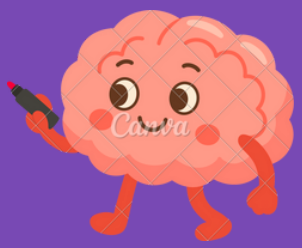
Key Dates:

January:

27th BIASP Medical Student Short Essay Prize Deadline

February:

7th-8th NANSIG Annual Conference 2026 (Imperial College London)



May:

30th NUNC Competition Date (University of Glasgow)

NB, even if you are subscribed to the newsletter, you will still need to secure a ticket for the competition once released

Interested in promoting your own Neuro-related event?
Contact us at natneurocomp@gmail.com or
@natneurocompuk on instagram