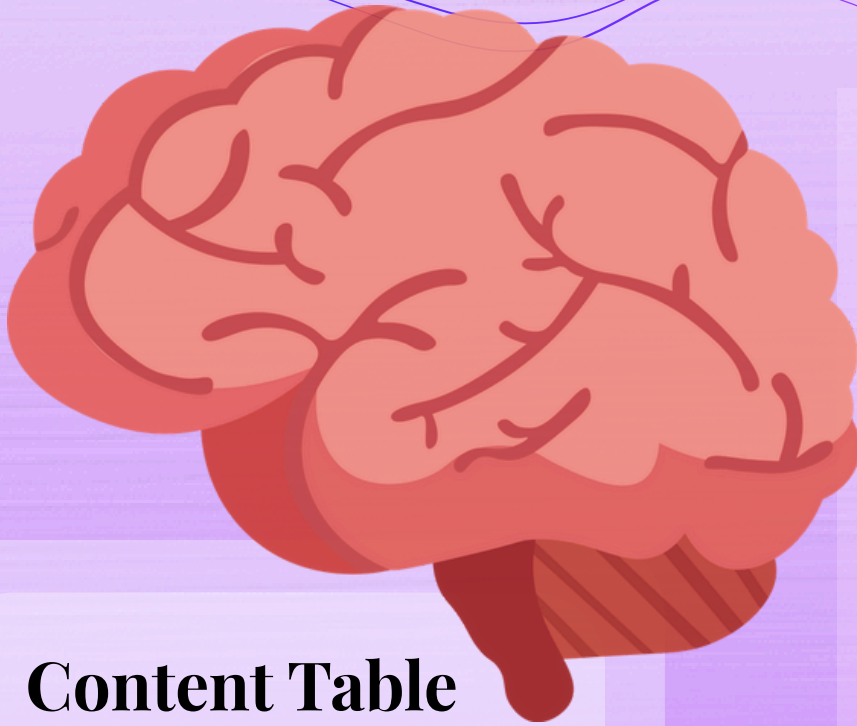


The National Undergraduate Neuroanatomy Competition Newsletter

2026

NEURO transmissions



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Editor's Note

Dear Neuro enthusiast,

With the foundations laid in our first issue, this edition of neuroTRANSMISSIONS turns its focus toward consolidation, application, and competition readiness. As our competition approaches, success will depend not only on recognising structures, but on understanding their relationships, pathways, and clinical significance. In this issue, we introduce a clinically orientated practice question, spotlight a high-yield anatomical structure, and explore contemporary research that reflects how neuroanatomy is applied in modern neurological practice. We look forward to continuing this journey with you as preparation intensifies in the coming months.

Yours faithfully,
Varunika Anandan
-Editor & Welfare Lead

**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 neuroanatomy events, now celebrating its 14th year. Founded in 2012 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

NUNC 2026 Tickets Now Available!!!



Secure your place at the 14th National Undergraduate Neuroanatomy Competition!

 **Location: University of Glasgow**

 **Date: 30 May 2026**

Our website can be accessed in our Linktree
linktr.ee/natneurocompuk

or on our website
www.natneurocomp.com

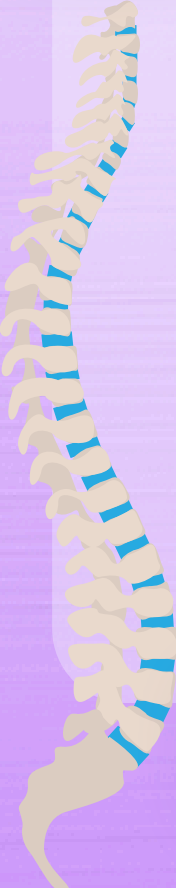
OUR SPONSORS

We are grateful to our sponsors for their continued support of the National Undergraduate Neuroanatomy Competition. Their contributions help deliver high-quality educational opportunities and support the development of future leaders in neuroscience.



Preparing for NUNC

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



The National Undergraduate Neuroanatomy Competition assesses neuroanatomy at a level that extends well beyond standard undergraduate teaching. Many competitors underestimate the depth required and rely on surface-level revision - this is rarely sufficient.

Success at NUNC demands a detailed understanding of three-dimensional anatomy, white matter organization, and structure–function relationships. Competitors are expected to recognize subtle anatomical distinctions, interpret cross-sectional views with confidence, and apply anatomical knowledge to clinically relevant scenarios under time pressure.

WHAT THIS MEANS IS...



- Knowing a structure's name is not enough ; you must understand its connections, relations, and functional significance
- Revision should prioritize white matter tracts, brainstem anatomy, cranial nerve nuclei, and vascular correlations
- Familiarity with MRI and CT cross-sections is essential
- Speed and accuracy matter equally

Preparation should be deliberate, structured, and challenging. If your revision feels comfortable, it is likely not sufficient...

How well do you know your anatomy?

MCQ



Which region of the brain occupies the posterior inferior region of the parietal lobe and is bound by the intraparietal sulcus superiorly and the parieto-occipital sulcus caudally?

- a. Angular gyrus
- b. Heschl's gyrus
- c. Supramarginal gyrus
- d. Wernicke's area

FIND THE WORD: NEUROANATOMY EDITION

Instructions: Read each clue, identify the neuroanatomical structure, then find the word hidden in the grid below. Words may run horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

Clues

1. White matter tract connecting the two occipital lobes via the corpus callosum
2. Compact white matter structure transmitting motor and sensory fibres between cortex and subcortex
3. Limbic structure involved in emotion and fear processing
4. Paired nuclei forming the lateral walls of the third ventricle
5. Artery supplying the anterior two-thirds of the spinal cord
6. Spinal cord tract conveying pain and temperature sensation
7. Embryological remnant connecting the hypothalamus to the pituitary gland
8. Brainstem level containing the trochlear nerve nucleus
9. Fibre bundle connecting mammillary bodies to the anterior thalamic nuclei

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RESEARCH CORNER

The Artery of Adamkiewicz

The spinal cord has a uniquely vulnerable blood supply, relying on a small number of critical vessels to maintain perfusion. Among these, the artery of Adamkiewicz plays a central role in supplying the lower thoracic and lumbar spinal cord through its contribution to the anterior spinal artery.



Anatomically, the artery of Adamkiewicz most commonly arises from a left-sided posterior intercostal or lumbar artery, typically between T9 and T12, though significant anatomical variation exists. This variability makes the vessel particularly important in surgical planning, as unrecognised injury or occlusion can result in devastating neurological consequences, including anterior spinal cord syndrome

Recent advances in imaging, particularly high-resolution CT angiography and MR angiography, have improved pre-operative identification of the artery of Adamkiewicz. These techniques allow surgeons to tailor operative approaches in thoracic and thoracoabdominal procedures, reducing the risk of spinal cord ischaemia and postoperative paraplegia.

Why this matters for MRMC...

Understanding the vascular anatomy of the spinal cord reinforces the principle that neurological function is inseparable from blood supply. Knowledge of the artery of Adamkiewicz highlights the clinical relevance of segmental anatomy and explains why small anatomical structures can have disproportionately large functional impact. A strong grasp of spinal vascular anatomy strengthens lesion localisation skills and deepens anatomical reasoning; both essential for high-level neuroanatomy assessment.

Reference: [Wikipedia Contributors (2025). Artery of Adamkiewicz. Wikipedia.]

Interested in submitting your own research?
Contact us at natneurocomp@gmail.com or
[@natneurocompuk](https://www.instagram.com/natneurocompuk) on instagram

Event Calendar

January

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

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August

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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)

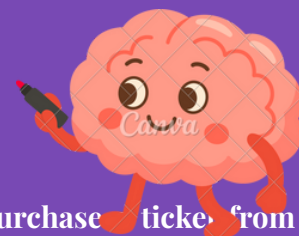
April:

20th -21st Royal College of Surgeons Future of Surgery Festival

May:

30th NUNC Competition Date (University of Glasgow)

- NB, even if you are subscribed to the newsletter, you will still need to purchase tickets from our website here <https://natneurocomp.com/tickets/>



Interested in promoting your own Neuro-related event?

Contact us at natneurocomp@gmail.com or

[@natneurocompuk](https://www.instagram.com/natneurocompuk) on instagram