



0809

annual report



NNF

NATIONAL
NEUROSCIENCE
FACILITY

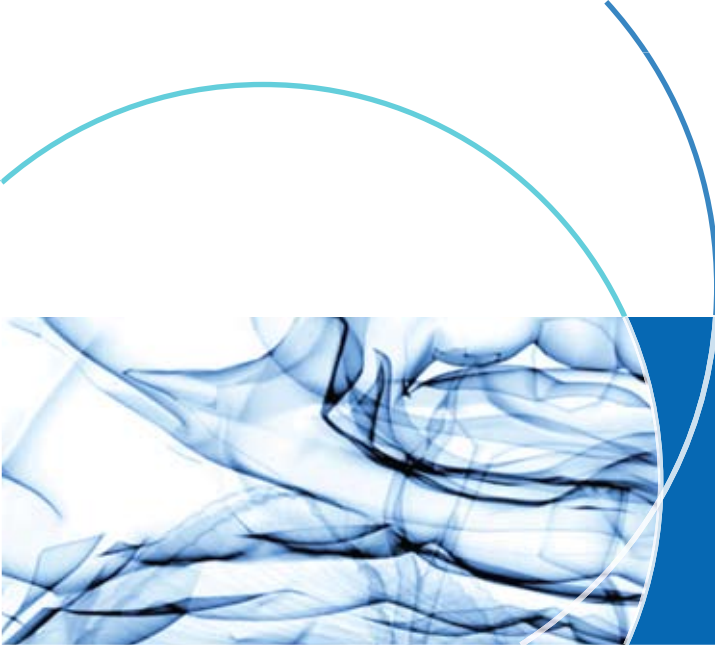


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report from the chairman & ceo

Neurosciences Australia (NSA) is a national network of collaborators in neuroscience research with five members including the States of Western Australia, Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria as well as the New South Wales Hunter Valley region. James Cook University is a Queensland representative and is an Associate Member of NSA. NSA administers the National Neuroscience Facility (NNF) and its technology Platforms. The NNF was established in 2002 as part of the Commonwealth Government's Major National Research Facilities (MNRF) Programme.

NSA's strategy is to play an important role in addressing the burden of diseases of the brain and mind that are continuing to grow with the ageing population and the stressful life that many Australians lead. In line with our strategic plan, 2008-09 has been a year of intense activity as we work closely with Australia's neuroscience community to develop the National Neuroscience Initiative (NNI). The NNI is a major funding proposal for the Commonwealth Government which dovetails with existing Government policies and directions to make a major societal and economic impact in diseases of the brain and mind. We have been extremely pleased by the commitment of basic and clinical researchers from around Australia in generating this proposal.

On a financial note, the Company believes that it has sufficient funds available to finalise the NNI proposal for the 2010 Commonwealth budget. However additional funding will be required to ensure that the Company is able to continue its operations in 2010-11 and develop further opportunities for the Australian neuroscience community.

We would like to thank the Directors of NSA for their leadership and support. We look forward to 2009-10 being a productive year for the Company, its members and the Australian neuroscience community.



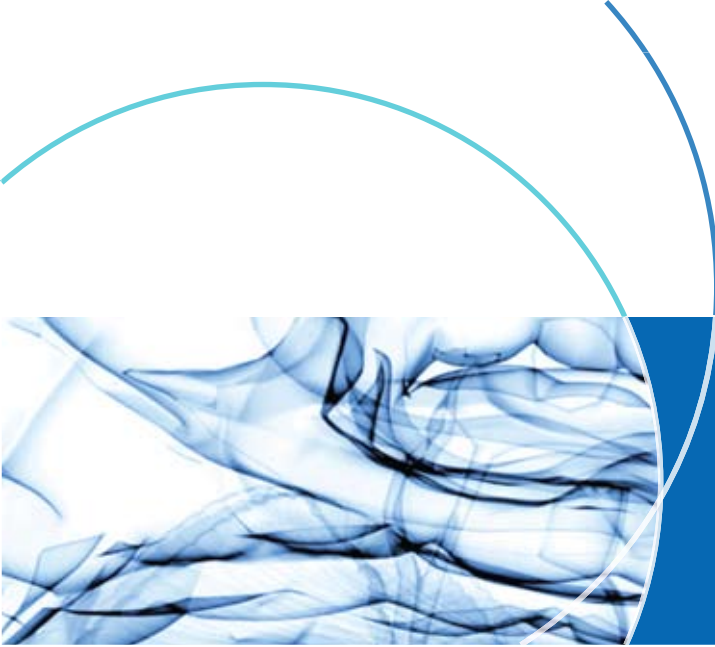
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Wooldridge".

The Hon. Dr Michael Wooldridge
CHAIRMAN



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Milner".

Dr Andrew Milner
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



governance

The Neurosciences Australia Board is charged with governing the National Neuroscience Facility for the development and co-ordination of national collaborations in the field of neuroscience.

The National Neuroscience Facility was formed by a stakeholder consortium comprising Neurosciences Victoria, the Howard Florey Institute, the National Muscular Dystrophy Research Centre, the Mental Health Research Institute and the Genomic Disorders Research Centre.

These institutions entered into an agreement for the National Neuroscience Facility to be governed by Neurosciences Australia, a not-for-profit public company limited by guarantee.

the board of directors



The Hon Dr Michael Wooldridge
BSc, MBBS, MBA, Hon LL.D, Hon DSc
CHAIRMAN

Dr Michael Wooldridge is a medical graduate who served as a Member of Parliament from 1987 to 2001 and as

Commonwealth Minister for Health from 1996 to 2001. While Minister for Health, he was directly responsible for increasing the NHMRC's base funding by 300%. He has an intimate understanding of the impacts that research and development and the creation of new technologies can have on the health and well-being of the community.

Dr Wooldridge has chaired a number of international committees including the United Nations AIDS Organisation and the World Health Organisation (East/Asia Pacific Region) and brings critical knowledge of public policy administration and significant international linkages to Neurosciences Australia.



Professor Lyn Beazley AO
MA, PhD

Professor Lyn Beazley graduated from Oxford University and undertook her doctorate at Edinburgh University. She transferred to Perth in 1976 and has built up an internationally renowned research team, focused on recovery from brain damage. Her research has changed clinical practice in the treatment of infants at risk of pre-term delivery.

A Fellow of the Institute of Biologists, Professor Beazley has served on numerous peak bodies advising State and Federal Governments. Internationally, she recently served on a panel assessing research performance for the Swedish Research Council and is a member of the Education Committee of the International Brain Research Organisation. She also researches colour vision in Australian native animals, especially marsupials. Professor Beazley was a Trustee of the Western Australian Museum from 1999 until 2007, was appointed Chief Scientist of WA in December 2006 and reappointed in January 2009. Professor Beazley was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia in January 2009.

the board of directors



Dr Andrew Milner
BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD, FASM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dr Milner is the CEO of Neurosciences Australia. He is also the CEO of Neurosciences Victoria and a non-executive director of STC Ltd., a micro and nano technology consortium. Dr Milner obtained a BSc (Hons) at the University of Melbourne in 1976, a MSc degree at the University of Melbourne in 1980 and a PhD at the John Curtin School of Medical Research at the Australian National University in 1983.

Dr Milner is a Fellow of the Australian Society for Microbiology and has worked in animal health and agriculture as Head of Molecular Biology at the Victorian Institute of Animal Science and subsequently as Operations Manager at Daratech Pty Ltd. In the medical arena, he has worked as Pricing Manager for Zeneca and AstraZeneca in Australia, as Director of Development and Commercialisation for Kendle (Australia) and as Managing Director of Mimotopes Pty Ltd.



Professor Robert Rush
BSc, PhD

Robert Rush is Emeritus Professor in the Department of Physiology, School of Medicine, Flinders University. Professor Rush studied chemistry and biochemistry at Monash University and in 1973 undertook his PhD in Physiology, also at Monash University. After graduating, Professor Rush went on to work for a number of prestigious universities and institutes including the Roche Institute of Molecular Biology, Nutley, NJ, the University of California, San Diego and McGill University, Montreal.

Professor Rush has been an invited speaker to numerous conferences and symposia and organiser and Chair of the successful International Conferences on Nerve Growth Factor and Related Substances. Since 1968, he has published over 140 manuscripts in leading scientific journals including Nature, PNAS, Developmental Biology, the Journal of Neuroscience and the Journal of Physiology. He has written numerous chapters in specialised texts and edited two books.

In 1998 Professor Rush helped found a private company, Neubody Pty Ltd, focused on antibody technologies. Professor Rush has a Graduate Certificate in Business Management, is Chairman of Neubody Pty Ltd and Biosensis Pty Ltd, has served as an independent director of the CRC for Diagnostics and is a foundation member of BioAngels Inc.

the board of directors



Professor Peter R Schofield
BScAgr (Hons), PhD, DSc

In 2004, Professor Peter Schofield was appointed Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute, one of Australia's leading centres for neuroscience research. He is also a conjoint Professor of Medicine at the University of NSW.

Professor Schofield studied genetics in the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Sydney and graduated with First Class Honours and the University Medal. He obtained a PhD in genetics from the Australian National University. He has worked in the biotechnology industry and in academic medical research institutes in the US, Germany and Australia. In 1998, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science by the University of NSW. His research interests focus on understanding how signalling in the brain occurs, through studies of neurotransmitter receptors and identifying genes that lead to disorders such as manic depressive illness and Alzheimer's disease. He has published 216 publications in peer-reviewed journals and books, has 11 patents granted or pending and is the recipient of several prestigious awards.

Professor Schofield has provided community service to a number of professional organisations and committees. This includes being a Director of The Australian Society of Medical Research (1997-2002) and President (2001-02); Foundation Director of Research Australia Ltd (2002-04); Member of the Federal Minister for Ageing's Legislation Review Committee on "Prohibition of Human Cloning Act 2002 and Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2002" (2005); and Member of the NHMRC Reference Group on Biobanks and Genetic Registers (2008-09).



Professor Bruce Tonge
MBBS, MD, DPM, MRC Psych, FRANZCP,
Cert Child Psych RANZCP

Professor Tonge is the Head, School of Psychology, Psychiatry & Psychological Medicine, the Head, Discipline of Psychological Medicine, and the Director, Clinical & Professional Services Division (School of Psychology, Psychiatry & Psychological Medicine), Monash University. He is also Clinical Advisor of the Mental Health Program, Monash Medical Centre.

Professor Tonge established and directs the internationally recognised Monash University Centre for Developmental Psychiatry and Psychology with a \$15m program of clinical research in the areas of Autism Spectrum, intellectual disability and treatment of childhood anxiety and depression. He is a Director of Neurosciences Victoria Ltd. He has produced over 180 publications in the past ten years including the Handbook of Studies on Child Psychiatry (Elsevier) and is co-author of the Developmental Behaviour Checklist, which assesses psychopathology in people with intellectual disability.



Marion Thompson
COMPANY SECRETARY

Ms Thompson has an extensive background in providing executive support at the senior level having spent twenty years in the Victorian public sector in positions at the Land Conservation Council and Museum Victoria.



collaborations

National Neuroscience Initiative

Brain and mind disorders collectively are now the largest and fastest growing disease burden Australians face, driven by ageing populations and the stress of modern lifestyles. According to data produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2008, almost half of all Australians aged 16 to 85 (approximately 10.8 million) experience a mental illness at some point in their lives and one in five (approximately 4.3 million) experience a mental condition in any given year.

Neurosciences Australia has been working with the Australian neuroscience community over the past year to develop a unique, world leading national strategy – the National Neuroscience Initiative. The Initiative addresses the major causes of societal and economic burdens arising from diseases of the brain and mind and utilises the expertise of the Australian neuroscience community to improve the health, lives and prosperity of Australians.

The strategy involves better use of existing knowledge and treatments to:

- improve the evidence base
- deliver immediate improvements in clinical practice
- introduce earlier diagnosis and interventions.

Concurrently, new data on the causes of disease will pave the way for new treatments.

Neurosciences Australia is seeking Commonwealth Government funding of \$100m over five years for the National Neuroscience Initiative. This funding will allow platforms to proceed in Mental Health, Brain Damage and Recovery, Brain Degeneration and Brain Diseases of Children and Adolescents.

Australian Imaging Biomarkers and Lifestyle Study

The Australian Imaging, Biomarker and Lifestyle (AIBL) Cluster Study is a collaboration between a multidisciplinary, internationally respected team of clinicians and researchers. It was initiated by the CSIRO Preventative Health National Research Flagship through an agreement with Neurosciences Australia, the University of Melbourne, Edith Cowan University and the Mental Health Research Institute.

AIBL is one of the largest studies into Alzheimer's disease in the world and brings together Australia's principal researchers from a variety of disciplines, linking leading-edge science on Alzheimer's disease with human population studies and data. AIBL is a prospective longitudinal study of ageing which has recruited volunteers from a cross-section of Australia's population for a 'cohort' study.

AIBL's outcomes have been significant, with the primary outcome being the co-ordination of a multidisciplinary research team which has successfully recruited over 1,100 participants. Results from data collected have validated that the neuro-imaging scan, PiB PET, can be used to identify individuals who will develop Alzheimer's disease up to 18 months earlier than currently available diagnostics. This has the potential to enable clinicians to distinguish patients with early and late stage Alzheimer's disease from those without the disease, even before clear symptoms of memory loss are present. Early diagnosis would allow preventive therapeutics and lifestyle interventions to be introduced to delay onset of the disease.

The AIBL study is now focussed on developing and confirming a set of diagnostic markers and psychometric tools that can be used to objectively monitor disease progression and to develop hypotheses about diet and lifestyle factors that might delay the onset of this disease.



the nnf platforms

Accessible Networks of Infrastructure

The National Neuroscience Facility constitutes a major R&D cluster, built around synergistic sets of research infrastructure, skills and expertise, enabling a network of collaborators in neuroscience. The National Neuroscience Facility was formed with the following Platforms:

- **Australian Brain Bank Network**
<http://www.nnf.com.au/platforms/abbn>
- **Cell Physiology, Histology and Imaging**
<http://www.nnf.com.au/platforms/cellneuro>
- **Clinical Neurobiology of Psychiatry**
<http://www.nnf.com.au/platforms/neuropsychiatry>
- **Integrative Neuroscience Facility**
<http://www.nnf.com.au/platforms/inf> or
<http://www.hfi.unimelb.edu.au/inf/>
- **Neuroimaging**
<http://www.nnf.com.au/platforms/imaging>
- **Neuroproteomics and Neurogenomics**
<http://www.nnf.com.au/platforms/genprot>
- **Neuroscience Informatics**
<http://www.nnf.com.au/platforms/informatics>
- **Neuroscience Trials Australia**
<http://www.nnf.com.au/platforms/nta>

The Platforms provide facilities where researchers can access cutting-edge technologies appropriate for every stage of research from concept phase through to clinical trials.

Accessing the Platforms

Access to the individual platforms of the NNF is managed through the Platform Leader and the Platform Management Committee. Given the diversity of people, assets and consumable costs that are required across the different platforms a set of pricing principles has been developed.

Type of Activity	Type of User	NNF Objective
Fee-for-service	Industry	Cover direct operating costs, depreciation costs and a margin
	Public-funded	Cover direct operating costs and depreciation
Fee-for-service + equity	Industry/ Public Funded Researcher	Cover direct operating costs and take an agreed share of any commercial returns from discovery
In-kind + equity	Host Institution	Take an agreed share of any commercial returns from discovery

members



In partnership with our community



Hunter Medical Research Institute

The Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) is a partnership between Hunter New England Health, the University of Newcastle and the community. HMRI researchers work collaboratively across several University of Newcastle and Hunter New England Area Health Service campuses.

HMRI has established research programs in seven key areas:

- Brain and Mental Health
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular Health
- Information Based Medicine (Bio-informatics)
- Public Health
- Pregnancy and Reproduction
- VIVA (Viruses, Infection/Immunity, Vaccines and Asthma).

Each of HMRI's research programs span multiple sites and involve long-term collaborations between hospital and university based researchers. Within each program, researchers are working at multiple levels; basic biological mechanisms, developing better methods for treatment and diagnosis of disease, investigating strategies for disease prevention and health promotion, and translating discoveries into commercial products and health policy.

The Brain and Mental Health Research Program is one of the largest research programs. It represents a multi-disciplinary group of approximately 126 members who are affiliated with the University Priority Research Centre for Brain and Mental Health Research, which incorporates the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health in Orange and the Centre for Mental Health Studies in Newcastle. Members of the HMRI Brain and Mental Health Program have attracted more than \$7.9m in peer reviewed research funding and published more than 65 peer reviewed articles in 2008.

The Program brings together clinicians and academics with interests in mental health, neurology and basic neuroscience research. This results in increased research collaboration, particularly at the interface between the clinical and pre-clinical neurosciences. Research is focused on four key health areas:

- Schizophrenia
- Stroke
- Affective and Addictive Disorders
- Chronic Pain Syndromes.

Using humans and laboratory models, researchers are investigating how the nervous system functions at molecular, cellular and systems levels in health and disease. The overarching interest of the group is the biological basis for susceptibility and identifying people most at risk, with the aim of enabling early detection and prevention of morbidity in these four key areas. It also hopes to produce more interventions that directly target the health problem.



neurosciencesvictoria

Neurosciences Victoria

Neurosciences Victoria (NSV) is the marketing organisation for an Australian world-class neuroscience cluster. NSV offers a single access point to a series of neuroscience technology based platforms and disease specialisations, backed by leading neurology and psychiatry resources and clinical expertise.

One of NSV's main aims is to facilitate seamless contractual relationships between industry, Government and the neuroscience cluster of universities, medical research institutes and major hospitals. To date, NSV has generated in excess of \$50m in revenues for the Victorian neuroscience cluster. The principal products and services of NSV relate to the preclinical and clinical neuroscience expertise in pharmaceuticals, diagnostics and medical devices relevant to the global marketplace which reside within its member organisations. The major product opportunities relate to contract services in which revenue is generated from external customers who access the skills and infrastructure within the member organisations. NSV typically acts as a conduit for external customers for large scale, multi-institute programs.

NSV also provides advice and leadership to other business activities within its membership such as providing high-level management and assistance in financing activities to spin out companies. NSV operates as a self sustaining business, growing revenues and controlling costs to ensure its viability for the foreseeable future.

NSV is comprised of the following Member Institutes:

- Brain Research Institute
- Centre for Eye Research Australia
- Howard Florey Institute
- Mental Health Research Institute
- Monash University
- National Stroke Research Institute
- Swinburne University of Technology
- University of Melbourne.



South Australian Neuroscience Institute

The South Australian Neuroscience Institute (SANI) represents the majority of neuroscientists in South Australia (SA). Many members of SANI are internationally recognised neuroscience researchers who have maintained a record of success in securing funds from peer-reviewed national and international granting bodies and from industry. SANI includes 45 neuroscience laboratories and more than 100 members and almost 200 research students. Collectively the SANI laboratories attract research funding totalling more than \$10m annually. Most laboratories involve multidisciplinary collaborations within SA and most also have multiple state, national and international collaborations.

SANI is recognised and supported by the three Universities in SA and, through Flinders University, became a member of Neurosciences Australia in 2004. Its interim structure includes a broad membership, an interim Steering Committee and an Executive composed of two Co-Chairs (Professors Marcello Costa and Robert Vink), a Secretary (Professor Simon Brookes) and a Treasurer (Professor Robert Rush). The Steering Committee representing all Institutions and most sub-disciplines has provided the necessary guidance in establishing a functional SANI organisation.

The major aims of SANI include fostering research and education of neuroscientists in SA. The main activities in pursuit of these aims have been the organisation of lectures and scientific symposia. SANI was involved in the visit by one of the Adelaide Thinkers in Residence, Professor Fraser Mustard, in developing a combined program for child brain development.

In the field of education, SANI has continued its Graduate Certificate in Neuroscience (Learning) for teachers and other professionals in SA, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Children's Services. The course commenced in 2006 and reflects collaboration between neuroscientists from Flinders University, the University of South Australia and the University of Adelaide. Public education has been fostered through SANI's participation in Science Week activities, the SA Government-sponsored "Science outside the Square" program and by public events organised by SANI. SANI organised, in collaboration with the Australian Neuroscience Society, a national research day in Adelaide on an interdisciplinary area of enteric neurobiology.

A quadrennial report on SANI activities to date has recently been completed.



University of Tasmania

Neuroscience researchers at the University of Tasmania (UTAS) have programs that are focused on a range of diseases and conditions that affect the nervous system. Research spans from fundamental studies of nerve cell biology to the development of new therapeutic drugs and other interventions for human disease. Research covers the major forms of human brain degeneration, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, motor neuron disease, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, stroke and brain/spinal cord injury.

Most UTAS neuroscience research occurs within the Menzies Research Institute, School of Medicine and School of Psychology. At the end of 2009, many of these neuroscience groups will be brought together in the new Medical Sciences Building in the city centre of Hobart, as part of the co-location plan for the School of Medicine and Menzies Research Institute. Recent funding for an additional building for the Menzies Institute has been announced and this will include areas for clinical trials as well as capacity to develop new research infrastructure.

The Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre, a centre of the Menzies Research Institute, has been in operation for just over a year and has significant programs spanning from basic biomedical research through to programs on health services, education and carer support. The Wicking Centre also recently established a longitudinal, non-pharmacological intervention study focusing on brain plasticity and cognitive reserve to prevent ageing-related cognitive decline. Neuroscience research has also been boosted by the establishment of a Zeiss 2-photon/laser confocal system for live imaging studies of the brains of experimental animals. This instrument will be used for a range of research groups studying neuronal plasticity, neurodegenerative disease and brain injury in a range of transgenic models.



THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Western Australian Neurosciences

Western Australian Neurosciences (WANS) evolved from discussions between members of Western Australia's Neurotrauma Research Program, the McCusker Foundation and the Centre of Excellence for Alzheimer's Disease Research and Care. Having observed the success of these highly collaborative state-based initiatives, it was agreed that the establishment of a broader, more comprehensive network would be of great benefit to the neuroscience community, both in terms of fostering communication and enhancing research capability. In 2004, discussions culminated in the launch of WANS, which is recognised and endorsed by the Western Australian Department of Health and comprised of the following Member Institutes:

- The University of Western Australia
- Murdoch University
- Curtin University of Technology
- Edith Cowan University
- Telethon Institute for Child Health Research
- The University of Notre Dame Australia.

The University of Western Australia currently represents WANS as a Member of Neurosciences Australia.

According to feedback from Western Australian basic science and clinical researchers, the scope of neuroscience research in this State is very broad, with areas of strength identified under the following WANS sub-structures:

- Neurotrauma, including stroke
- Neural repair and rehabilitation
- Developmental neuroscience, neurogenetics and plasticity
- Neurodegenerative and neuromuscular diseases
- Neural systems: sensory, motor and autonomic processing
- Neuroepidemiology
- Neuropsychiatry, neuropsychology and addictions
- Cognitive sciences, including psychophysics
- Neuro-imaging.

Throughout the past year and in response to an invitation from Neurosciences Australia, a large group representing the above sub-structures and the WANS Board participated in the development of the National Neuroscience Initiative. Preliminary meetings as well as the subsequent working party meetings were attended by these WANS representatives. In this way, WANS contributed to the creation of an overarching research plan that, as will be communicated with the Commonwealth Government, aims to significantly reduce the human and economic burden of mental and neurological disease in Australia.

financials

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
CONTINUING OPERATIONS		
Revenue	200,954	215,617
Depreciation, amortisation and impairments	(1,037)	(1,037)
NNF outgoings expenses	(9,127)	(2,910)
Consultancy expenses	(73,093)	(78,633)
Administration fees expenses	(209,004)	(200,000)
Professional fees expenses	(19,340)	(20,755)
Program consulting expenses	(85,522)	(41,600)
Conference expenses	(23,438)	-
Other expenses	(55,618)	(37,632)
NET PROFIT/(LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	(275,225)	(166,950)
NET PROFIT/(LOSS) ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE ENTITY	(275,225)	(166,950)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	605,686	1,096,540
Trade and other receivables	682,000	801,180
Other assets	-	13,059
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	1,287,686	1,910,779
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	1,341	2,378
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS	1,341	2,378
TOTAL ASSETS	1,289,027	1,913,157
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	717,435	1,066,340
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	717,435	1,066,340
TOTAL LIABILITIES	717,435	1,066,340
NET ASSETS	571,592	846,817
EQUITY		
Retained earnings	571,592	846,817
TOTAL EQUITY	571,592	846,817

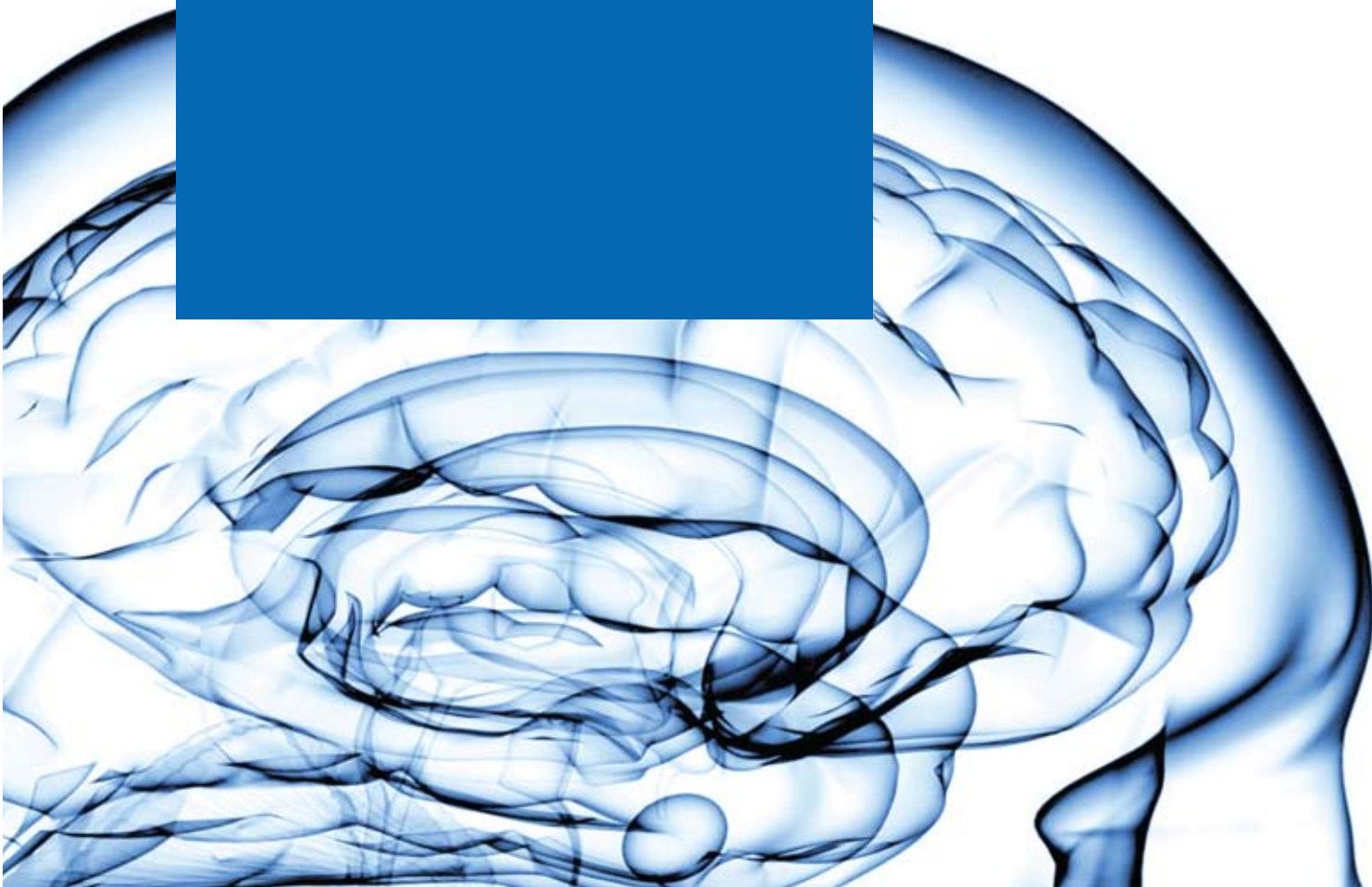
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