

CENTRE FOR THE MIND



Director

Professor Allan Snyder

Millennium Fellow

Nelson Mandela

Foundation Fellow

Dr Oliver Sacks

Executive Board

Chair: Prof Gavin Brown
Andrew Banks
The Hon. Prof Peter Baume
Prof Peter Doherty
Prof Peter Karmel (1997-1999)
Janine Kirk
Baz Luhrmann
Rod McGeoch (1997-2003)
Lachlan Murdoch (1997-2001)
Prof Allan Snyder

"The research being undertaken by Professor Snyder... has the potential to benefit future generations by assisting them to harness their full creative capacity."

Prime Minister Mr John Howard

Who we are

A powerful joint venture of the Australian National University and University of Sydney. Nelson Mandela is our Millennium Fellow and Dr Oliver Sacks our Foundation Fellow.

We have been continuously mentored by Australia's most creative and influential minds, including Nobel Laureate Peter Doherty, film icon Baz Luhrmann, corporate genius Lachlan Murdoch, national treasure Phillip Adams and corporate giants Andrew Banks and Paul Batchelor. The Centre's Director, Allan Snyder, is profiled in the media as "a wizard" - "epitomising the creative mind".



Inaugural Board (left to right): Lachlan Murdoch, Professor Peter Karmel, Professor Allan Snyder, Professor Gavin Brown, Baz Luhrmann.



Press Conference: Professor Allan Snyder and Nelson Mandela

What we do

We explore what it is to be uniquely human. We do this by investing in challenging research, by orchestrating spectacular intellectual events, and acting as a global nexus for great minds. Our mind laboratories focus on scientific ways to enhance creativity and to instill championship.

Advisory Council

Chair: Phillip Adams
David Armstrong
Paul Batchelor
Deeta Colvin
Marcus St John-Dawe
Fiona Hall
The Hon. Barry Jones
Poppy King
Dr Karl Kruszelnicki
Tan Le
Sam Lipski
Janne Ryan

Ground Breaking Discoveries

Our shock finding that everyone possesses nonconscious skills, and that these skills can be switched on with magnetic brain stimulation, challenges conventional views about creativity. Hailed by the prestigious scientific journal Nature as offering "startling insights", this pioneering research into creativity has captured worldwide attention. Our Penguin book 'What Makes A Champion!' distills the universals of success.

Spectacular Events

Nelson Mandela led champions from all walks of life at our unique event What Makes A Champion? on the eve of the 2000 Olympic Games. Richard Branson presented the 2003 Fellow Address on 'Creativity and Championship'. The Dalai Lama engaged elite scientists at the exhilarating Mind Science 2002 Forum. David Helfgott, immortalised in the movie Shine, joined a cast of extraordinary talent at the Geniuses, Prodigies and Savants event.



Mind Science Forum: Professor Allan Snyder, Chancellor Peter Baume and the Dalai Lama.

Distinguished Fellows

Prof Daniel Dennett
Prof Vilayanur Ramachandran
Prof Horace Barlow
Sir Richard Branson

Visiting Fellows

Prof Terry Bossomaier
Dr Martin Brune
Dr Michael Djordjevic
Mr Andrew Meikle
Dr John Merson

Chief Theoretician

Prof John D Mitchell

Global Impact

The Centre for the Mind is a recognised brand internationally! We attract unparalleled media attention: features in The New York Times, The Times of London, Financial Times, popular magazines, plus cover stories in the major dailies; dedicated television and radio profiles and network documentaries including Fragments of Genius by the BBC, and a special on Savants by Discovery Channel. Visit the What's Hot section of our website for more: www.centreforthemind.com

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DIRECTOR: PROFESSOR ALLAN SNYDER



"Agile, playful, audacious, inventive, [he] leaps across boundaries, making unexpected connections, juggling a dozen trains of thought at once."

Dr Oliver Sacks

Allan Snyder received the world's "foremost prize in communication and information technology", the Marconi International Prize, in New York city on 4 December 2001.

He featured as one of Australia's 10 most creative minds in the Bulletin/Newsweek magazine and is named as one of the 13 outstanding Australian scientists of the 20th Century. Allan conceived the Nelson Mandela led event What makes a Champion?™ on the eve of the 2000 Sydney Olympics. He writes for the popular press and appears on radio and television.

His discoveries in vision are hailed in Nature as "breaking a 19th century mindset", while his advances in physics are described in Science magazine as a "giant step forward" and featured in the Economist.

His controversial hypothesis that everyone possesses the extraordinary skills of savants (like Dustin Hoffman in Rainman), is featured in The New York Times, The Times of London, Nature, the BBC documentary Fragments of Genius and is declared "brave and original", New Scientist cover story 2004.

Allan holds the Peter Karmel Chair of Science and the Mind at The Australian National University, where he is also Head of the Optical Science Centre and Professor of Visual Science and Optical Physics. At the University of Sydney he holds the 150th Anniversary Chair of Science and the Mind.

Previously he was with the Yale University School of Medicine. He has degrees from Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and University College, London. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of London and the society's 2001 Clifford Paterson Prize Lecturer.

