

Associate Professor Anna S Mitchell, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

Short bio: Anna Mitchell was awarded her PhD in Psychology studying behavioural neuroscience from University of Canterbury, New Zealand in 2004 (supervisor: Professor John Dalrymple-Alford). She completed her postdoctoral training in the Department of Experimental Psychology at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom with Professor David Gaffan (2004-2008). From 2009, Anna was a Principal Investigator at the University of Oxford running her own primate behavioural neuroscience research lab with funding support from the Medical Research Council (MRC) UK (2009-2015) and the Wellcome Trust (2016-2022) to investigate the neural basis of cognition in primates. Anna also had Royal Society and MRC UK funding to support rat behavioural neuroscience research (2017-2022). In 2022, Anna returned to the University of Canterbury, New Zealand as an Associate Professor of Behavioural Neuroscience.

Anna studies the neurobiology of learning, memory, and decision-making in health and disease using animal models (monkeys and rats). Her laboratory uses neurophysiology, neuroimaging, neuroanatomy, brain manipulations, and cognitive and behavioral assessments to investigate how interactions between the thalamus and cortex support learning, memory, decision-making, and navigational processes.

Anna is also an advocate for the continued use of animal models in biomedical research. She was a member of the Animal Welfare Ethical Board at the UK Centre for Macaques from 2012-2022, and a member for the UK Understanding Animal Research Board, 2018-2022. Anna is now a member of the Understanding Animal Research Oceania Board since 2022. Anna was a previous member of Federation of European Neuroscience Societies Committee on Animals in Research (FENS CARE: 2020-2022) and is a current member of the Society for Neuroscience Committee on Animals in Research (SfN CAR: 2023-2026).