

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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Students compete to be the best at neuroscience comp

Studying something as complex as the human brain is a daunting task but around 30 Tasmanian year 10 students are giving it a go, by competing in the Australasian Brain Bee Challenge Tasmanian State Final.

The students will test their knowledge of the brain and its functions to win prizes and prestige for themselves and for their schools.

In the morning students will answer a series of neuroscience questions and take part in practical activities in the lab. In the afternoon the Bee's final rounds of questions will determine the state individual champion and the winning school team.

The afternoon session also includes a range of talks on neuroscience from key researchers in the University's School of Medicine, the Menzies Research Institute and the Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre.

Dr Matthew Kirkcaldie, lecturer in neuroscience at the University, said the institution's research is internationally recognised in several key fields relating to brain development, trauma and brain diseases.

"This is an upcoming health care challenge for Australia and the world, and an exciting field which offers the chance to make significant discoveries.

"The students in the Brain Bee will learn how researchers pose and answer research questions about the brain, and about study pathways for becoming a neuroscientist; we hope these events foster a real interest in students for medicine and science."

The afternoon session is also open to the public.

The Brain Bee is part of the University's 2014 Research Week. To see the whole program, please visit: <http://www.utas.edu.au/research/researchweek>

Information released by:

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