



N E W S L E T T E R

## Australasian Society for Immunology Incorporated

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### William B. Coley Award to Mark Smyth

Peter MacCallum research scientist Mark Smyth shared the 2002 William B. Coley Award for Distinguished Research in Basic and Tumor Immunology with Lewis Lanier and David Raulet. This award, presented at a glamorous ceremony in New York, is made by the Cancer Research Institute annually to scientists who have made outstanding achievements in the fields of basic and cancer immunology. Previous winners include well-known immunologists such as Rolf M. Zinkernagel, John Kappler, Philippa Marrack, Don Wiley, Robert L. Coffman, Tim R. Mosmann, Klas Kärre, Ralph M. Steinman and Mark M. Davis. This is heady but deserved company for Mark and a very notable achievement. The award recognises the contribution of Mark's lab to confirming the importance of numerous innate and adaptive arms of the immune response in tumour immune surveillance.



Bob Schreiber (far left), the previous recipient, presents David Raulet, Lewis Lanier and Mark Smyth with the 2002 William Coley award.

### ASI Prize Winners

Congratulations to all winners of prizes at the ASI meeting:

#### **New investigator award**

Mark Chong from WEHI for presentation: SOCS-1 regulates IL-7-dependent CD8+ T cell differentiation of selected thymocytes

#### **Today's Life Science Student Poster Prize**

Scott Mueller from the University of Melbourne for presentation: Suppression of the CTL response to HSV-1 infection by effector CD8+ T cells.

#### **BD science communication prize**

Jodie Barnes from Department of Microbiology & Immunology, School of

Biomedical Sciences, James Cook University, Townsville for presentation: Burky: How do we stop him?

#### **Graham Jackson Memorial Poster Prize** *(for best poster in the mucosal immunology field)*

Duangkamol Kunthalert, GADI Research Centre, Division of Science and Design, University of Canberra

**The Bursa of Fabricus award** was finally released from AQIS. It was won posthumously by David Nelson. As such it passed to second place getter Lynn Corcoran of the WEHI.

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### Website

The ASI web site ([www.wehi.edu.au/collegiate/ASI/](http://www.wehi.edu.au/collegiate/ASI/)) has been fully remodelled and updated. New services include:

- Downloadable forms for ASI awards,
- Positions vacant pages,
- Jobs wanted pages,
- Upcoming conferences listings,

as well as a plethora of links to sites of immunological interest at home and abroad. If you'd like your lab home pages linked to the site, would like to advertise a job or conference, or have a favourite immunology-related site that doesn't currently appear on the ASI site, please e-mail Judy Greer at [j.greer@medicine.uq.edu.au](mailto:j.greer@medicine.uq.edu.au)

### Email bulletin board

To subscribe to the ASI bulletin board, send an email to [majordomo@explode.unsw.edu.au](mailto:majordomo@explode.unsw.edu.au) with the message: subscribe anz-imm.

## EDITORIAL

The start of this ASI year sees new president Chris Parish take over the reigns from Jim McCluskey. Jim has been a wonderful president and was enthusiastically and appreciatively thanked by ASI members at the Brisbane meeting for his considerable effort. New President Chris Parish is a long time ASI member and has done a great job in recent times promoting our journal *Immunology and Cell Biology* to new levels of exposure and respectability. We look forward to his ideas and guidance on council. As a reminder/refreshers on Chris's career we have included some biographical details in this issue of the newsletter.

Our lead story is one in which we can all take pride. Mark Smyth's receipt of the William Coley award is international recognition for his work in tumour immunity. It's encouraging for all of us to see that it is possible to make a substantial contribution from Australia. Well done Mark, your success is an inspiration to all of us.

Members who attended the Brisbane meeting in December will have fond memories of great science, catching up with old and new colleagues, balmy evenings, warm days and cool breezes while riding the ferry along the river. My own memories are centred on the annual dinner and learning the *merengue*. I think many of us were amazed at how quickly the 'randomly' chosen dance partner Norbert Kienzle got the hang of these difficult moves. Later we learned the demonstrator was Norbert's teacher of 12 months and we didn't feel so bad. Just as I felt I was getting the hang of walking like a duck in the name of latin grace our teachers showed us how it really went. Suddenly I felt acutely self conscious

and realised it must be time to organise the limerick contest. I noticed lots of my colleagues realised they also had other things to do. Inspired by the pulsing latin drum beat, the limerick contest had the best and highest quality response in years. You can read about that, and the surprise winner, in this issue as well. I'm sure all members of ASI thank the chair of the organising committee, Bob Ashman, and his very active team of committee members for their great effort.

In Brisbane I had the pleasant task of participating in the inaugural debate to honour the memory of Kevin Lafferty and his contribution to vigorous discussion at ASI meetings over many years. The topic of debate at this meeting - 'That Melbourne used to be the centre of Australian immunology' - would have appealed to Kevin who greatly enjoyed the friendly banter and competition between the JCSMR in Canberra and the WEHI in Melbourne. I don't think the central tenet was seriously in doubt, and Ian Mackay's claim that in the '60s and '70s Melbourne wasn't just the centre of Australian immunology but was the centre of world immunology, had a very high degree of credibility. Ian Frazer bolstered this argument with his experience of Melbourne while Barbara Fazekas took a different course and doctored a perfectly respectable BBC video to illustrate the search for the lost immunologists of Melbourne within the archaeological record. This was, to be blunt, hysterically funny and a treasure for the ASI. I hope we can capture a copy for the archives and replay it periodically. Tony Basten in the mean time will be receiving offers from the BBC to do voice overs.

The arguments against the proposition were more stretched perhaps. I took my argument from Lafferty's view - which was that WEHI did a much better job at promoting itself, while the JCSMR was busy making substantive contributions such as MHC restriction and two-signal theories to the immunological firmament leading eventually to a Nobel Prize to Doherty and Zinkernagel. Andreas Suhrbier took the position that the real measure of success was in benefit to society and commercial patents and that, by this criteria, the esoteric analysis of mouse lymphocytes in particular never helped anyone (ouch!!). While David Hume, who obviously had been waiting for this moment for years, pointed out that Melbourne used to be the centre of many things but no longer was - for example football (Brisbane just won the premiership from Collingwood). David also made a rather compelling case that the great Australian immunologist diaspora to Oxford and many other areas had meant that the centre of Australian immunology had never even been in Australia at all.

Anne Kelso the moderator did well to avoid a riot at the end. By an extremely narrow margin based on fairly arbitrary criteria a winner was declared (against) and a promise to reconvene with new teams and new topic at the next meeting was made. Kevin would have been pleased with both outcomes.

Phil Hodgkin

## AWARDS OF THE AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY FOR IMMUNOLOGY INC. 2003

(Changes from last year's awards are in bold)

### ASI POSTGRADUATE / POSTDOCTORAL INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL PRIZES

**Purpose:** To support travel to overseas conferences

**Eligibility:** Full-time PhD students (who have completed at least one full year of their PhD at the time of application) and postdoctoral investigators (**with up to 6 years' research experience after award of PhD at the time of application**) who have been ASI members for the preceding year and the year of the award and have paid their subscription for the current year by the time of application. Students who have previously received a Postgraduate International Travel Prize and postdoctoral scientists who have previously received a Postdoctoral International Travel Prize are ineligible to receive a further prize of the same type. **In 2003, preference will be given to students applying to travel to the FIMSA meeting in Beijing.**

**Application procedure:** Application forms are available to download or can be obtained from the ASI Secretariat. Completed forms and the submitted or proposed abstract must be submitted to Ms Judi Anderson at the ASI Secretariat Office by **31 May 2003 (for meetings in the second half of the year) or by 30 November, 2003 (for meetings in the first half of 2004).** Applicants must also submit a budget for their travel, and preference will be given to those who have some financial commitment from elsewhere.

**Assessment criteria:** Scientific excellence and clarity of abstract, publication record, recommendation of supervisor, and likely professional benefits of the proposed travel, as judged by the ASI Executive Committee or their nominees. Postgraduate and Postdoctoral candidates will be considered separately. The committee reserves the right not to make an award.

**Value:** Four travel prizes will be awarded per annum. Each prize will be worth up to \$2,500.

### IMMUNOLOGY AND CELL BIOLOGY PUBLICATION OF THE YEAR

**Purpose:** To reward the best original research article published in *Immunology and Cell Biology* in that year with an ASI member as first author.

**Eligibility:** Financial members of ASI who have paid their subscription by April 1.

**Assessment criteria:** Scientific excellence, originality and clarity of presentation of the paper, as judged by a panel comprising the *Immunology and Cell Biology Editor*, ASI Vice/Past President and chair of the Awards Subcommittee.

**Value:** Books and/or journal subscriptions from Blackwell Science to the value of \$800.

### STUDENT TRAVEL PRIZES

**Purpose:** To enable student members to attend the ASI Annual Scientific Meeting.

**Eligibility:** Postgraduate students who have been members of ASI for the year of the meeting, have paid their subscription by April 1, and live outside the city where the meeting is being held.

**Application procedure:** Send a brief CV, a copy of the submitted first-author abstract, and a statement from your supervisor confirming student status to your State Councillor by 30 September. Regional branches should provide a short list of up to 3 recommendations, together with copies of the applicants' abstracts and CVs to the Honorary Secretary by 15 October.

**Assessment criteria:** Primarily the scientific excellence and clarity of abstract and, to a lesser extent, the distance from the site of the meeting, as judged by ASI Executive assisted by rankings provided by State Councillors.

**Value:** The full cost of a 14 day APEX airfare between the student's home city and site of the meeting.

### ASI NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARD

**Purpose:** To reward the best presentation by a new investigator selected to speak in the New Investigators Symposium at the ASI Annual Scientific Meeting.

**Eligibility:** Postgraduate students and postdoctoral investigators (with up to 3 years' research experience after award of PhD) who have been ASI members for the preceding year and the year of the award and have paid their subscription by April 1 of the current year.

**Application procedure:** Send a brief CV, a copy of the submitted first-author abstract and a letter of support from your supervisor to the meeting organising committee by the due date for abstract submission. Four to six presenters will be selected by the meeting organising committee.

**Assessment criteria:** Excellence and originality of scientific content, clarity and organisation of oral and audiovisual presentation, as judged by a panel comprising an ASI Councillor, an overseas visiting speaker and a member of the meeting organising committee, none of whom is a past or present supervisor of any speaker.

**Value:** \$500 sponsored by ASI and presented at the meeting.

### TODAY'S LIFE SCIENCE STUDENT POSTER PRIZE

**Purpose:** To reward the best student poster at the ASI Annual Scientific Meeting.

**Eligibility:** Students who are ASI members for the year of the meeting. The student must be first author on the poster.

**Application procedure:** Apply by writing "Student" on the submitted abstract and by placing a sticker on the poster (stickers supplied at meeting).

**Assessment criteria:** Excellence and originality of scientific content, clarity of presentation and visual impact, as judged by



a panel comprising an ASI Councillor, overseas visiting speaker and a member of the meeting organizing committee.

**Value** : \$300 sponsored by "Today's Life Science" and presented at the meeting.

**BECTON-DICKINSON SCIENCE COMMUNICATION PRIZE**

**Purpose**: To foster clear communication of exciting science to the media and the public.

**Eligibility**: Postgraduate students and postdoctoral investigators (with up to 3 years' research experience after award of PhD) who have been ASI members for the preceding year and the year of the meeting and have paid their subscription by April 1 of the current year.

**Application procedure**: A "non-scientific language" abstract will be submitted and the committee will short-list abstracts for oral presentation. Selected applicants will make an oral presentation at the annual scientific conference in the Becton-Dickinson Science Communication Award session.

**Assessment criteria**: The award will be made to the presentation judged to best combine good science with clear communication by a panel consisting of immunologists, a science journalist and a lay person.

**Value** : \$500 sponsored by Becton-Dickinson and presented at the meeting.

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Society for Immunology

*Held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2002, Innes Room, Union Complex, the University of Queensland. Meeting commenced at 12:45 pm with 44 members in attendance.*

1. **Apologies**  
Nik Petrovsky, Lindsay Dent, Geeta Chaudhri, Senga Whittingham
2. **Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting**  
Proposed Jim McCluskey and seconded Margaret Cooley that the minutes be accepted.
3. **Membership report**  
The membership numbers currently stand at 636 full members and 35 honorary/complementary memberships, giving a total of 671 members. The membership has been stable at around this number for the last couple of years.
4. **President's Report**  
Jim McCluskey reported that 2002 has been a successful year for the society and thanked the Secretariat, executive, and councillors for their support over the term of his presidency.

Several notable immunological events occurred in 2002:

On a sad note were the deaths of members of the immunological community, including Tom Mandel from WEHI, and Caesar Milstein and Don Wylie. On a happier note, Ian Mackay turned 80, and there was a meeting held in his honour to mark this milestone, with tributes from many in the field. Ian McKenzie retired as director of the Austin Research Institute – the President proposed a vote of thanks to Ian for his contributions to immunology and the ASI over many years. The meeting in Canberra in 2001 was fantastic and a financial success and the President congratulated Jennelle Kyd and her team. The regional branches have been displaying remarkable vigour and success and can be proud of themselves! Peter Doherty has relocated to Australia – he is now a Laureate Professor at University of Melbourne, Burnet Fellow of NHMRC and a Victorian State government scholar.

The discipline of Immunology is in a healthy state, with 5 NHMRC program grants related to immunology being

funded. The success rate of NHMRC project grants in the field of immunology was also higher than the overall success rate (>25% for immunology vs 17-18% overall). The impact factor of *Immunology & Cell Biology* has increased to 2.67, a 20% increase in 1 year, which now places *ICB* at #35 in the immunology journal listing, and in the top 25% of non-review immunology journals. Chris Parish can be proud of his achievement in improving the standing of the journal.

The President noted that the visiting speaker program was a little disappointing in number, but great in quality, in 2002, with visits by Nilabh Shastry and Howard Petrie to many centres. The funding for the visiting speaker program will be increased to \$12,000 for 2003. Regions not getting speakers need to take the lead in inviting speakers, and people should notify their state councillors or the Visiting Speaker Coordinator, Bernadette Scott, if they are having visitors who might also be able to visit other sites.

In 2002, the President wrote to about 100 senior immunologists who are not ASI members; however, this strategy has not resulted in a large increase in membership. In addition, he wrote a submission on behalf of the society to the Commonwealth Government National Research Priorities Taskforce. This letter was published in the September newsletter, and the President would like to thank those who provided suggestions and feedback. In addition, he corresponded with the organising committees of the 2003 FIMSA meeting in Beijing and the 2004 IUIS meeting in Montreal to recommend Australian immunology "stars" as potential invited speakers and session chairs for these meetings. The IUIS meeting after Montreal will be in Rio de Janeiro.

### Sustaining Membership

ASI Inc acknowledges the support of the following sustaining members:

- Bioquest Limited
- Dynal Pty Ltd

The 2003 meeting will be in Perth, with Rolf Zinkernagel as Burnet Orator. The 2004 meeting will be held in Adelaide conjointly with the HLDA8 Workshop and will be chaired by Heddy Zola. The meeting is therefore expected to have approximately 300 extra delegates. The 2005 meeting in Melbourne (Jim McCluskey chair) will be held just after the 14<sup>th</sup> international HLA and immunogenetics workshop, and it is expected that approximately 200 delegates from that meeting may stay on for the ASI meeting.

In summary, Jim thinks that the society is in good shape and that its members are making an impact internationally. Finally, Jim welcomed Chris Parish as the incoming president.

#### **5. Budget**

In the absence of the Treasurer, the President presented the budget. Income was higher this year, due largely to income from ICB royalties, the success of the Canberra meeting and investment interest. In the coming year, extra expenditure will include an increase in the funding for the Visiting Speaker Program (up \$2,000 to \$12,000) and increased funding for travel prizes (increased to \$10,000 from \$4,000). The budget was accepted (proposed Alan Baxter, seconded Bernadette Scott).

#### **6. Scholarships and Awards of the Society**

Several changes have been made to the awards of the society. For Student Travel Prizes, eligibility has been changed to: Postgraduate students who have been members of ASI for the year of the meeting, have paid their subscription by April 1, and live outside the city where the meeting is being held. For the Immunology & Cell Biology prize, only original research articles will now be considered for the award (not review articles). For ASI Postgraduate / Postdoctoral International Travel Prizes, Four travel prizes will be awarded per annum. Each prize will be worth up to \$2,500. Full-time PhD students (who have completed at least one full year of their PhD at the time of application) and postdoctoral investigators (with up to 6 years'

research experience after award of PhD at the time of application) who have been ASI members for the preceding year and the year of the award and have paid their subscription for the current year by the time of application will be eligible to apply. In 2003, preference will be given to students applying to travel to the FIMSA meeting in Beijing. Applications will now be considered twice yearly. Completed forms and the submitted or proposed abstract must be submitted to the ASI Secretariat Office by 31 May 2003 (for meetings in the second half of the year) or by 30 November, 2003 (for meetings in the first half of 2004). Applicants must also submit a budget for their travel, and preference will be given to those who have some financial commitment from elsewhere.

#### **7. Council Membership**

The President thanked all councillors for their work throughout the year, in particular Glenn Buchan, Jennelle Kyd, Tony Scalzo and Chris Jolly who retire at this meeting. The council for 2003 will consist of:

President – Chris Parish  
Past-President – Jim McCluskey  
Treasurer – Nik Petrovsky  
Secretary – Geeta Chaudhri

Qld councillor – Norbert Kienzle  
Vic. councillor – Mark Smyth  
SA councillor – Su Heinzle  
ACT councillor – Mark Hulett  
WA councillor – Chris Andoniou  
NZ councillor – Sarah Hook  
NSW councillor – Helen Briscoe

Newsletter Editor – Phil Hodgkin  
ICB Editor – Chris Parish  
IUIS Councillor – Lindsay Dent  
FIMSA Councillor – Nick King  
Mucosal Immunology SIG – Allan Cripps  
Education SIG – Margaret Cooley  
Vet Immunology SIG – Wayne Hein  
Honorary Archivist – Judy Greer  
Visiting Speaker Co-ordinator – Bernadette Scott

#### **8. Other business**

Norbert Kienzle raised the question of whether the student travel bursaries will in future cover both travel to and registration at the conference, as they did this year. This item will need to be clarified

with the Council at the mid-year teleconference.

It was asked if the cost of the annual dinner could be cheaper or subsidized for students. This issue is a matter for the organising committee for each conference to decide. The next meeting in WA will have a cash bar, which will reduce the cost of the dinner from \$90 to about \$60. Supervisors are encouraged to help defray the cost of the dinner for their students.

Ian Mackay asked about ASI's relationship with ASCIA. It was felt that the societies have diverged, and when back-to-back meetings have been proposed, the allergists have not been interested in recombining with ASI for several reasons – firstly the timing of the ASI meeting is inconvenient for them (their meeting is usually in September); the format of the meeting doesn't suit them; and the meeting would have to be longer than 3 days in order to combine both societies' interests.

Meeting closed at 1:45 pm.

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## The return of the Bursa: David Nelson wins again!

The limerick contest for the Bursa of Fabricius Award, abandoned after years of domination by David Nelson the great Sydney limerick laureate, was reinstated at the Brisbane meeting and easily won again, incredibly, by David Nelson. This significant posthumous achievement rates as one of his most amazing performances.

To fill in some background details for those of you who have missed out so far. In 2002 long standing ASI member John Wells reminded/educated us through correspondence with the Newsletter, of the old Bursa of Fabricius Award for the best limerick at the ASI meeting. The award was constructed from a chicken bursa mounted in perspex by Pat Holt and helpers before a Perth ASI meeting in the '70s. The sharp wit and immaculate metre of David Nelson of Sydney macrophage lab fame led him to win it many years in a row, prompting him to 'donate' it as a new prize for a Trans-Tasman debate, apparently so that he did not have to look at the thing any more. It's still not clear whether the prize was for the winner or loser of the debate, however, our NZ councillor Glenn Buchan heroically tracked it down to an office in Dunedin and re-donated it, with Margaret Baird's permission, for the limerick contest in Brisbane. The Bursa wasn't actually in Brisbane and we expect to publish details of the problems with clearing it through customs, incidentally, once Glenn is released from prison.



The bursa

As is traditional, tables at the annual dinner, perched this time atop a mountain with spectacular views, were primed and warned of the limerick contest. The response was incredible and there was no opportunity to read them all out with the extensive dance program underway. How to decide on the best? I elected to post them on a board at the meeting amongst the posters and have delegates read and vote for their favourite over the last day and a half of the meeting. This went well and lots of people read, and even added to, our list of rhymes and managed to vote for their favourites.

In choosing a selection of limericks for printing here (eliminating the crude, the libellous, and the not particularly good) it is interesting to note the number of categories they fell into. A particularly strong theme was that of the dendritic cell, which has clearly taken over from the T cell as our 'wittiest' and most intriguing cell. The first of these contributions was a Trans-Tasman collaboration by Margaret Baird and Nick King.

*There once was a cheeky wee DC  
Who flaunted her wares to a Tc  
He rose to the challenge  
As she presented her phalange  
Said she – "inducing a Tc is easy"*

The next one's from Bernie Scott:

*Every DC-ologist agree s  
On the most professional of all APCs:  
B cells are out  
While T cells don't count  
And macrophage are just wannabes*

The next DC verse from Neil O'Brien-Simpson and Aude Fahrer was a rare two-part limerick that took a swipe at a few other issues along its way:

*There was a naïve young DC  
To mature he departed from Sydney  
For Melbourne, behold  
(or so he'd been told)  
Was the centre of Immunology*

*Once there, expecting action aplenty  
Shock, horror, he couldn't find any  
He started to cry  
Do you want to know why?  
They were at ASI dancing Merengue*

A number of limericks made reference to the meeting being in Queensland, either its famous advertisement "beautiful one day, perfect the next", or its infamous ex-premier and scone baking ex-senator. Regrettably I don't have the author of the first, and the second was a collaboration that included Bill Sewell.

*When we came to the Brisbane  
meeting  
We got an umbrella as greeting  
This came as a blow  
As we did not know  
That in Queensland "beautiful" and  
"perfect" is fleeting*

*A premier Peter once said  
Sugar is now in the red  
The peanuts have gone  
There's no pumpkin scone  
So we'd better be cloned or be dead*

The most traditional targets for these endeavours are the guests or talks in recent memory. The next two are strong examples of this art. Both are from Lynn Corcoran.

*My Italian accent is strong  
And I'm sure all your models are  
wrong  
When I'm relaxin  
I work on pentraxin  
And my pentraxin is 12 inches long*

*We heard of some new cell  
suppressors  
Some kind of T cell cross-dressers  
They turn off responses  
Then behave like right ponces  
As long as they're G1TR expressors*

Our excellent Burnet oration from Suzanne Cory on cell death genes drew an outstanding contribution from Sarah Hook:

*Some hair is straight, some curly  
And some of us grey prematurely  
Why me? What's my sin?  
Oh! My genes: Bax and Bim  
Suzanne, do you think you can cure  
me?*

*Continued next page*

Another favourite topic is the general trends in immunology. The following examples came from Bernie Scott's table.

*Suppressors were once up the creek  
But were recently given a tweak  
They were here once before  
And passed into lore  
But now they are très, très, Chic*

*What is it about inflammation  
That causes such consternation?  
TOLLS are the crux  
They'll bring in the bucks  
But lead you to ultimate damnation*

Which brings us to the final category and the revealing of our entry that received the most votes. These were limericks with, as their theme, ASI members of some

notoriety. The first from Carolyn Geczy recalls an earlier time when Kevin Lafferty and Ian Mackay managed to evoke much nervousness in the younger presenters.

*There was Kevin and Ian Mackay  
We had to come up with an answer –  
or die!  
Now one's 80 and mellow  
And we've lost this other good fellow  
So now, who will stir ASI?*

Now this final limerick, and winner, was sent to me by John Wells before the ASI meeting to read out at the contest. It was found by Peggy Nelson among David Nelson's notes. Rather than reveal the author, I simply slipped it into the mix as another contribution. As it received the most votes it meant David had triumphed again. Here is the winning entry:

*He trained them in B cells and follicles  
Forsaking the T cells and mollicles  
So without any fuss  
They biopsied Gus  
To clone the great oracles bollicles*

To enable us to continue the tradition, we have forwarded the Bursa to the second placegetter, which was Lynn Corcoran's contribution concerning the length of pentraxin. Lynn has the great good fortune of keeping the prize for one year and trying to explain to visitors to her lab what it is.

Good luck next year!

Phil Hodgkin

discussion on this topic.



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# ASI Councillors' News

## A.C.T. News

This year will see a change in councillor for the ACT, with Mark Hulett from the John Curtin School of Medical Research taking over from Jenelle Kyd. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jenelle on behalf of all ACT members for the great job she has done as ACT councillor over the past few years. As well as initiating many great local events, the 2001 annual conference in Canberra was a fantastic meeting in no small part due to the wonderful effort of Jenelle who chaired the organising committee.

The major events planned for 2003 include a techniques workshop along the lines of the very successful workshop run by IgV, and a local meeting where the ACT members will have the chance to showcase their research. Information and dates for these events will be forwarded to ACT members when details are finalised. In addition, a program of visiting speakers is being organised. To date we have confirmed Andreas Radbruch from the German Arthritis Research Centre in Berlin who will be visiting in late August/early September. Details to be announced.

Mark Hulett  
Councillor

## N.S.W. News

Chris Jolly has retired. After four years as ASI NSW Councillor, he has passed the buck to me and my first pleasant 'job' as the new incumbent is to say, on behalf of all ASI members, a huge 'THANK YOU, CHRIS, for all the hard work you have done. It is very much appreciated.'

Since I have only just taken on the task, my plans for the branch are sketchy. However several individuals have suggested that we reinstate the ASI NSW branch mini-conference meeting. I am happy to organise this. My first thoughts are that we hold a 2-day, 1-night event, at a mutually convenient (inexpensive) location, sometime in the AVCC common week (29 September - 3 October 2003), to give particular, though not exclusive, opportunity for PhD and Honours students to present their work. I invite your comments and suggestions please to [hbriscoe@med.usyd.edu.au](mailto:hbriscoe@med.usyd.edu.au).

Finally a request: Please encourage the young scientists in your lab to join ASI. If you need a carrot, remind them that membership includes a subscription to our journal, *Immunology and Cell Biology*, and also allows the opportunity to apply for Travel Bursaries and other awards.

Helen Briscoe  
Councillor

## W.A. News

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Tony Scalzo for his efforts over the last two years as the WA ASI councillor. During this time Tony has organised an outstanding scientific program which I am sure all members have greatly appreciated.

Over the Christmas/New Year period the WA branch of the ASI hosted a number of outstanding immunologists. On December 2<sup>nd</sup> Professor Andreas Strasser from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute presented an excellent seminar on the molecular control of apoptosis in the immune system. December also saw a visit from Dr Graham Rook from the Royal Free and University College Medical School who spoke about mycobacteria, regulatory T cells, and the hygiene hypothesis. Professor Jim McCluskey from the University of Melbourne visited Perth in January and presented a seminar on Mechanisms of TCR bias. Jim also took some time to meet with local researchers which was greatly appreciated.

ASI 2003 to be held in Perth (December 7-11) promises to be a fantastic event. A list of confirmed speakers can be found at: <http://www.congresswest.com.au/ASI2003/> Information regarding registration and accommodation will also be posted shortly. Hope to see you all in Perth!

Christopher Andoniou  
Councillor

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## Queensland News

Queensland members had a great time in hosting the ASI conference in Brisbane last December. Judging from the (so far) positive feedback, the work of the dedicated organization committee payed well off, and everybody enjoyed a scientifically and socially stimulating meeting. In particular, it was enlightening to discover the multifaceted personalities of immunologists, for example when confronted by challenges like debating, movie-making, late-night-networking or controlled moves on the dance floor.

Ms Jodie Barnes from James Cook University had double reasons to celebrate at the ASI meeting as she won both a student travel bursary and the BD Science Communication Prize. Well done, Jodie!

Otherwise, we are gearing up for the annual BIG retreat, which will be held this year at the Rydges in Caloundra from 21-22 August; so please, mark this date in the calendar.

Norbert Kienzle  
Councillor

**Contributions  
sought for the  
ASI Newsletter**

**Deadline for the  
next issue**

**1st May**

Please email your contributions  
to the Secretariat by the above  
date.

[asi@21century.com.au](mailto:asi@21century.com.au)

## ASI annual meeting



SA councillor Su Heinzl and Anja Richter enjoy the view from Mt Cootha during the ASI dinner.



Australian expatriate Prof. Wayne Hancock at work 'down under'. After his Olympic-norm contribution to the last ASI meeting including three talks and a Sunday spent for the Immunology Training Workshop, Wayne can finally focus on his 'real' work.

## UPCOMING LECTURES & CONFERENCES

- October 22–26, 2003      **Third Congress of the Federation of Immunology Societies of Asia-Oceania (FIMSA 2003).** Hangzhou, China. Abstract submission deadline: 1 July 2003. Email: Linjiayou@imicams.ac.cn Website: www.cams.ac.cn/csi
- December 7–11, 2003      **ASI 33rd Annual Scientific Meeting. Perth, WA.** Burnet Orator: Rolf Zinkernagel, Zurich, Switzerland. Meeting enquiries to: ASI 2003 Meeting Secretariat, Congress West, PO Box 1248, West Perth WA 6872, Australia. Tel: +61 8 9322 6906, Fax: +61 8 9322 1734. Email: conwes@congresswest.com.au

### THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH – SEMINARS

- Postgraduate Teaching Course** – 12 noon, WEHI Lecture Theatre (7th floor, Parkville)
- April 7      Warren Alexander (Cancer and Haematology Division) – Manipulating the mouse genome: Gene targeting and transgenesis
- April 14      Jerry Adams (Molecular Genetics of Cancer Division) – RNA interference: A novel tool for genetic analysis
- April 28      Richard Simpson (Joint Proteomics Laboratory) – Proteomics
- May 5      Dave Kemp (Queensland Institute of Medical Research) – Genomic analysis of parasites
- May 12      Frank Battye (Cytometry) – Identifying, characterising and selecting individual cells with flow cytometry and confocal microscopy
- May 19      Gabrielle Belz (Immunology Division) – Techniques for immunological exploration: From whole animal to single cell
- May 26      Ian Street (Cancer and Haematology Division) – High throughput chemical screening – finding the needle in the haystack
- June 2      Keith Satterley (Genetics and Bioinformatics Division) – Tools for maximising the value of genomic data
- June 16      Hamsa Puthalakath (Molecular Genetics of Cancer Division) – Useful applications of the yeast 2-hybrid system and its advanced modifications
- June 23      Terry Speed (Genetics and Bioinformatics Division) – Experiments with microarrays: Generalities and some local experiences
- Special Seminars** (4pm, WEHI Lecture Theatre)
- April 3: Genetic diversity endowed in a unique HIV vaccine candidate – Professor Girish Vyas, Dept of Laboratory Medicine, University of California San Francisco, USA
- Wednesday Seminars** (1pm, WEHI Lecture Theatre)
- April 2: Functional & immunological insights into the malaria vaccine candidate MSP-I<sub>19</sub> – Rebecca O'Donnell (Infection & Immunity Division)
- April 9: On the TRAIL of cell death – Andrew Kraft (Molecular Genetics of Cancer Division)
- April 16: Membrane fusion by viral membrane glycoproteins – Peter Colman (Structural Biology Division)
- April 23: Mucosa-mediated immunoregulation of type 1 diabetes by extrathymic-derived CD8  $\gamma\delta$  T cells – Natasha Solly (Autoimmunity & Transplantation Division)
- April 30: An inducible gene knock-out system for the study of pancreas development and function – Andrew Holland (Autoimmunity & Transplantation Division)
- May 7: SOCS-1, homeostasis and autoimmunity: Is there a link? – Gayle Davey (Immunology Division)
- May 14: Conditional deletion of SOCS3 alters responses to cytokines – Ben Croker (Cancer & Haematology Division)
- May 21: FORS, a novel phosphoprotein implicated in breast cancer – Monilola Olayioye (Victorian Breast Cancer Research Consortium)
- May 28: Evidence that SOCS-2 is a regulator of growth hormone action – Chris Greenhalgh (Cancer & Haematology Division)

#### An invitation and a request to all ASI members

to contribute copy that they think might be interesting, useful, historical, humorous or thought provoking.

- Our Student Page is specifically designed for our student membership to voice their views on issues that interest or directly concern them.
- It's our newsletter, so let's support it and strive to make it even better.
- The ASI newsletter comes out 4 times a year and we welcome your contributions.

The Editors

## ASI's New President: Chris Parish

ASI has a new President this year, Chris Parish, who has taken over from Jim McCluskey. ASI members may be interested in a short biographical sketch of their new President.

Chris received his undergraduate training in agricultural science at the University of Melbourne but was then attracted to the immunology research in Gordon Ada's laboratory at the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute. Following completion of his PhD degree in 1969, Chris was recruited by Gordon Ada to the Department of Microbiology at the John Curtin School of Medical Research where he spent the next three years. He then took up a Nuffield Foundation Travelling Fellowship in Jim Gowan's laboratory at the Sir William Dunn School of Pathology, University of Oxford. He subsequently returned to the John Curtin School and is currently Head of the Division of Immunology and Genetics.

During the last 35 years, Chris has investigated various aspects of the immune system. During the early 1970s he was the first person to demonstrate that cell-mediated immunity and antibody formation are mutually antagonistic responses. This phenomenon, termed immune deviation, provided an experimental and theoretical basis for the development of the Th1/Th2 paradigm by Mosman and colleagues in the late 1980s. The phenomenon of immune deviation has implications for many disease situations, notably resistance or susceptibility to pathogens, destructive versus non-destructive autoimmunity, allergy, and cancer immunity. Based on this research, Chris was awarded the inaugural Gottschalk Medal by the Australian Academy of Science in 1979.

Since the late 1970s Chris has been particularly interested in the role that complex carbohydrates play in cell adhesion and cell migration. His studies have revealed that the extracellular polysaccharide, heparan sulfate, plays an important role in regulating cell adhesion and migration, with the heparan sulfate degrading enzyme, heparanase, playing a critical role. This work has formed the theoretical basis for the development of a number of carbohydrate-based drugs that inhibit inflammation, tumour metastasis and angiogenesis. The most notable drug is PI-88, a sulfated oligosaccharide that has entered Phase II clinical trials in cancer patients as an inhibitor of tumour growth and metastasis. Chris has also interacted extensively with the biotechnology industry during the last 15 years, with his research findings underpinning several Australian biotechnology companies, e.g. Progen Industries, Biotron and Lipotek.

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