



2006 Renewal  
Inside!

N E W S L E T T E R

## Australasian Society for Immunology Incorporated

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### The Human Herpesvirus Program at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research

Authored by Dr Scott Burrows

A report from the NH&MRC program grant, Immunobiology of Human Herpesvirus Infections

Chief Investigators: Rajiv Khanna (rajivK@qimr.edu.au), Scott Burrows (scottB@qimr.edu.au) and Denis Moss (denisM@qimr.edu.au)

The immunobiology of Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) has been a major research interest at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR) for nearly 30 years, and the recent renewal of the NHMRC program grant on the subject ensures the continuation of this tradition. The three chief investigators Scott Burrows, Rajiv Khanna and Denis Moss head individual laboratories located on a single floor at QIMR and have collaborated very successfully for 15 years, with joint funding on two earlier NHMRC program grants as

well as several NIH grants. Dr Burrows, Khanna and Moss have also received joint funding from the Queensland Cancer Fund and Cooperative Research Centre for Vaccine Technology. They also hold a number of international patents which have been licensed to national and international biotech companies.

Chief investigator Denis Moss joined QIMR as a cadet scientist in 1964 and in the period 1975-1979 developed the concept of T cell

control of persistent EBV infection. He is now focussed towards translating his many years of basic research into therapies for EBV-associated diseases. Scott Burrows joined QIMR in 1981 and has risen from RA to a point where he is now an NH&MRC R Douglas Wright Fellow and Head of the Cellular Immunology Laboratory at QIMR, with more basic research interests using EBV to study generic issues relating to the T cell control of viral infection. Rajiv Khanna is an NH&MRC Principal Research Fellow who arrived at QIMR in 1991 and has made very important observations particularly in relation to EBV-associated malignancies, as well initiating human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) research at QIMR.

*cont. p4*



**EBV and HCMV Program Team members:** First row (L to R): Pauline Crooks, Maher Gandhi, Rebekah Brennan, Melissa Bell. Second row: John Miles, Michael Rist, Joanne Davis, Jaikumar Duraiswamy, Back row: Scott Burrows, Denis Moss, Rajiv Khanna, Corey Smith, Katherine Wynn, Leanne Cooper and Natasha Webb. Other team members: Jacqueline Burrows, Judy Tellam, Geoff Connolly, Sharon Silinis, Leanne Morrison, Mark Smith, Kristina Harej, Monika Corban, David Tschärke, Rebecca Moor, Tania Crough, Melinda Burgess, Susan Walker, Ujwall Dua, Lea Heslop and Rajiv Tyagi

### Contents

Human Herpesvirus Program at QIMR	1
Honorary Secretary's News	3
AIR 2005	5
Visiting Speaker Program	5
ASI Student Page	7
Councillors' News	8
Editorial	3
2005 Newsletter Prize	12
Upcoming Lectures & Conferences	12

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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.

## HONORARY SECRETARY'S NEWS

### Peoplesupport

ASI has a commitment to help its younger members to expand their scientific talents by contributing to fund their travel expenses to assist national and international meetings, and to seek new opportunities for career development. The number and quality of applications for Student Bursaries and International Travel Awards continues to grow. This represents more work for the ASI Council and the judges who evaluate the applications, but it is a gratifying experience that allows us to appreciate the high standard of our more junior scientists. I would like to thank all judges for their time, excellent advice and help in making decisions during the selection process.

I would like to request all our members to encourage new students and post-docs in their laboratories to join ASI as early as possible: this not only will allow us to continue funding these initiatives, it is also a requirement of the application process. Every year we have to reject high-quality applications for Student Bursaries or International Travel Awards that do not conform to the requirement of ASI membership. A full description of the application process and conditions of the Awards can be found in the "ASI Directory" distributed to all members, and on the ASI website (<http://www.wehi.edu.au/collegiate/ASI/>).

### Changes to Council

The following members will leave their positions on Council at the end of the year.

Past-President	Chris Parish
NSW Councillor	Helen Briscoe
SA/NT Councillor	Sue Heinzl
Qld Councillor	Jose Alejandro Lopez
Vic/Tas Councillor	Frank Alderuccio

We thank you for your contribution to ASI, and hope we will be able to continue relying on your expertise and advise as valued members of the Society.

**The Editorial will be found on page 11 this issue**

### Student Travel Bursaries

The following students were awarded bursaries to attend the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of ASI in Melbourne:

Meagan Livingston	NZ	University of Otago
Philippa Mackay	NZ	University of Otago
Nicholas van Panhuys	NZ	Malaghan Institute of Medical Research
Rachel Perret	NZ	Malaghan Institute of Medical Research
Lena Ostrovsky	NZ	University of Auckland
Rachel Wilson	NZ	University of Otago
Vanessa Bryant	NSW	Centenary Institute
Margaret A. Jordan	QLD	James Cook University
Edward S. Morris	QLD	Queensland Institute of Medical Research
Katherine K. Wynn	QLD	Queensland Institute of Medical Research
Fang Zhou	QLD	Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research
Michelle L. Knott	SA/NT	The University of Adelaide
Damon J. Tumes	SA/NT	The University of Adelaide
Biljana Koloska	WA	West Australian Biomedical Research Institute

Congratulations to all the winners! We hope you will enjoy your participation in the meeting.

### Postgraduate International Travel Awards

The following students have been awarded prizes for travel in the first half of 2006:

Anthony A. Ryan	NSW	Centenary Institute
Julie E. Wheway	NSW	Garvan Institute of Medical Research
Teresa Wozniak	ACT	John Curtin School of Medical Research

### Postdoctoral International Travel Awards

The following post-docs have been awarded prizes for travel in the first half of 2006:

Claudine Bonder	SA	Institute for Medical and Veterinary Science
Katherine Kedzierska	VIC	University of Melbourne

Congratulations to all the awardees! We look forward to read your impressions about your travels in the ASI newsletter.

A new round of applications for International Travel Awards for the second half of 2006 will be announced in March.

The following members have been elected to Council.

Vice-President	Alan Baxter
NSW Councillor	Bernadette Saunders
SA/NT Councillor	Claudine Bonder
Qld Councillor	Christopher Schmidt
Vic/Tas Councillor	Phillip Darcy

We look forward to working together with you for the benefit of our membership.

Jose A. Villadangos

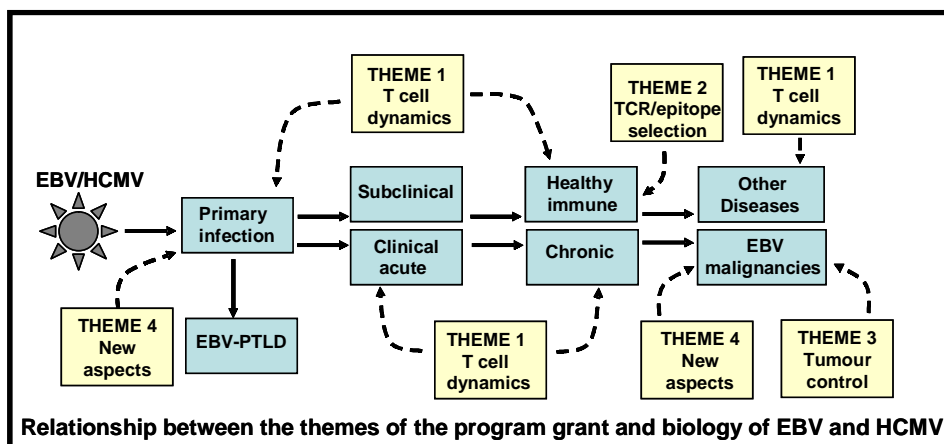
### Sustaining Membership

ASI Inc acknowledges the support of the following sustaining members:

- Jomar Diagnostics
- Dynal Biotech Pty Ltd

**The Human Herpesvirus Program at QIMR (cont).**

As with earlier Program Grants, the newly funded research program is designed to focus on basic research, with outcomes likely to find application in clinical practice relating to both immunotherapy/vaccine development and patient management. The research proposal encompasses four inter-related themes (see Figure). The first theme is designed to provide an understanding of the T cell dynamics during primary and persistent herpesvirus infection. Studies are included to examine T cell homeostasis following primary infection, and the stability of “memory” T cell responses in healthy virus carriers. The potential role of CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells in controlling EBV-associated malignancies will also be assessed in mouse models. Novel methods will also be developed to expand HCMV-specific T cells for use in adoptive immunotherapies. The second theme is aimed at understanding the mechanisms controlling epitope selection and anti-viral T cell repertoire selection which may help in the rational design of prophylactic vaccines to prevent HCMV and EBV disease. This work will follow up our recent demonstration that unusually long viral peptides (11-13 residues) can be highly immunogenic targets for class-I-restricted CTL recognition. We will also investigate why the T cell response to some viral epitopes is highly focussed with regards to TCR usage. Theme 3 is designed to delineate the mechanisms of immune dysfunction in EBV-associated malignancies to facilitate the development of targeted therapies. These studies will provide a better understanding of T cell dynamics during primary and persistent herpesvirus infection and delineate the mechanisms governing memory T cell homeostasis and the role of these fluctuations in T cell numbers in controlling virus infection. This information can be exploited to develop novel strategies for expanding virus-specific T cells as immunotherapeutic tools. The final theme develops three new areas of research designed to understand the pathogenesis and immunobiology of herpesvirus infection. Projects included under this theme will provide an opportunity to understand (a) the role of EBV genetic variants in the pathogenesis of EBV-associated malignancies, (b) the role of



innate immunity in modulating adaptive immunity against EBV, and (c) the effect of B cell phenotype on the primary EBV infection. One of the benefits of an NHMRC Program grant is that it accommodates projects with high risk and far-reaching implications that would be difficult within the project grant system.

PhD positions and other research opportunities exist for scientists wishing to join these groups. More information on individual groups can be found at:

Scott's Lab web page:

<http://www.qimr.edu.au/research/labs/scottb/index.html>

Rajiv's Lab web page:

<http://www.qimr.edu.au/research/labs/rajivk/index.html>

Denis's Lab web page

<http://www.qimr.edu.au/research/labs/denism/index.html>

**Recent key publications**

1. Sherritt, M.A., Bharadwaj, M., Burrows, S. R., Morrison, L. M., Elliott, S. L., Davis, J. E., Kear, L. M., Slaughter, R. E., Bell, S. C., Gailbraith, A. J., Khanna, R., Moss, D. J. 2003. Reconstitution of the latent T lymphocyte responses to Epstein-Barr virus is coincident with long-term recovery from post transplant lymphoma following adoptive immunotherapy. *Transplantation*. 75:1556-1560.
2. Davis, J. E., Sherritt, M. A., Bharadwaj, M., Morrison, L. E., Elliott, S. L. Kear, L. M., Maddicks-Law, J., Kotsimbos, T., Gill, D., Malouf, M., Falk, M., Khanna, R. and Moss, D. J. 2004. Determining virological, serological and immunological parameters of EBV infection in the development of PTLT. *Intern. Immunol.* 16: 983-989.

3. Tellam, J., Connolly, G., Green, K.J., Miles, J.J., Moss, D.J., Burrows, S.R., and Khanna, R. 2004. Endogenous presentation of CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell epitopes from Epstein-Barr virus encoded nuclear antigen 1. *J. Exp. Med.* 199:1421-1431.
4. Elkington, R. and Khanna, R. 2005. Cross-recognition of human alloantigen by cytomegalovirus glycoprotein-specific CD4<sup>+</sup> cytotoxic T lymphocytes: Implications for graft-versus-host diseases. *Blood* 105: 1362-1364.
5. Gandhi, M. and Khanna, R., 2004. Human Cytomegalovirus: Clinical aspects, immune regulation, and emerging treatments. *The Lancet Infect. Dis.* 4: 725-738.
6. Tynan, F. E., Burrows, S. R., Buckle, A. M., Clements, C. S., Borg, N. A., Miles, J. J., Beddoe, T., Whisstock, J. C., Wilce, M. C., Silins, S. L., Burrows, J. M., Kjer-Nielsen, L., Kostenko, L., Purcell, A. W., McCluskey, J., Rossjohn, J. (2005) T cell receptor recognition of a 'super-bulged' major histocompatibility complex class I-bound peptide. *Nat. Immunol.* 11:1114-22.
7. Tynan, F., Elhassen, D., Purcell, A.W., Burrows, J.M., Borg, N.A., Miles, J.J., Williamson, N.A., Green, K.J., Tellam, J., Kjer-Nielsen, L., McCluskey, J., Rossjohn J., and Burrows, S.R. 2006. The immunogenicity of a viral cytotoxic T cell epitope is controlled by its MHC-bound conformation. *J. Exp. Med.* (In press).
8. Miles, J.J., Silins, S.L., Brooks, A.G., Davis, J.E., Misko, I., and Burrows, S.R. 2005. T cell grit: large clonal expansions of virus-specific CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells can dominate in the peripheral circulation for at least 18 years. *Blood* (in press: 15. Dec. issue).
9. Burrows, S.R., Rossjohn, J. and McCluskey, J. 2006. Have we cut ourselves too short in mapping CTL epitopes? *Trends Immunol.* (In press: January issue).

## AIR 2005

The First Adelaide Immunology Retreat (AIR) 2005 was held in the town of Tanunda in the beautiful Barossa Valley, on September 2 & 3, 2005.

AIR was organised by the local ASI state branch and was designed for students, as well as young and established scientists to get to know each other and the science being undertaken in Adelaide. We had a mixture of great science and social activities. The Friday morning started early with the drive to the Barossa and Prof Nik Petrovsky (Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide), our first invited speaker, opened the scientific sessions, followed by presentations from the delegates. The science was excellent and discussions lively. Peter Mirtschin from Venom Supplies was our last speaker for day one, preparing us for what was to be expected later in the afternoon.

After lunch the social part of the retreat began and what else would it be in the Barossa but a winery tour, and many bottles of Barossa wines began to fill the empty seats of the bus. To the organisers' delight, people who had not known each other before were chatting away, and the invited speakers mixed happily with the students, giving their treasured advice on many things (although I hear at the later stages it was a two way discussion on how to choose the right wine ...). The tour lightened our spirits for our next stop, a visit at Venom Supplies, kindly arranged for us by Peter Mirtschin who runs Australia's only snake venom producing company. The very knowledgeable staff showed us all sorts of native and exotic snakes, including (my favourite) a rattlesnake that is afraid of the dark (as demonstrated by heavy rattling after being put in a dark space). The visit was a great success and we had the feeling that the staff at Venom Supplies had just as much fun showing off their skills as we did watching them.

We all needed food after this long day and although dinner closed off the official activities for that day, most delegates were busy 'networking' for much longer that night.

The next morning was kicked off with a presentation by our second invited speaker, Dr Eugene Maraskovsky (CSL and the Ludwig



Institute, Melbourne). He gave food for thought on the career choices after a PhD, talking about his experiences as a Postdoc in both industry and academia. A lively discussion then followed wherein the young researchers spoke openly to the more senior delegates about career opportunities and highlights. The Saturday morning was then completed by more high quality presentations from our students on their own research projects.

Over the two days, we heard about a broad range of amazing science and without a doubt we all went home with more knowledge of local expertise, techniques, projects as well as new friends and bottles of great Barossa wines.

The positive feedback and enquiries after the event have supported our plans to make this an annual event. Overall, it was a great success, and although, as organiser, one can only hope that everything goes to plan, there are things that we cannot influence and are largely dependent on the delegates. We had a tremendous group of enthusiastic delegates as well as invited speakers and we would like to thank the sponsors (BD Biosciences, Beckman Coulter, Jomar Diagnostics, Chemicon, Dako Cytomation, Adela Scientific and ASI) for their support. Thanks to everyone who participated and get ready, AIR 2006 is in the planning!

Susanne Heinzl and Claudine Bonder  
Convenors of AIR 2005

## ASI Visiting Speaker Program

### Planned visit

Dr Sem Saeland from the INSERM unit 503 at the Institut Fédératif de Recherche 128 (IFR128) "BioSciences Lyon-Gerland" Lyon, France, completed his PhD in Lyon and worked for over 20 years at the Schering-Plough Laboratory for Immunological Research in Dardilly. His main area of research has been the biology of B-lymphocytes and dendritic cells (DC) and their precursors. Amongst his various contributions to the field (over 60 publications) he described Langerin (CD207) a Type C lectin, exclusively expressed in Langerhans cells and responsible for the induction of Birbeck granules. The availability of reagents generated from his research has allowed a leap advance in the field of DC function.



Dr Sem Saeland

### Selected publications in the last 5 years

Valladeau J, Ravel O, Dezutter-Dambuyant C, Moore K, Kleijmeer M, Liu Y, Duvert-Francès V, Vincent C, Schmitt D, Davoust J, Caux C, Lebecque S, **Saeland S**: Langerin, a novel C-type lectin specific to Langerhans cells, is an endocytic receptor that induces the formation of Birbeck granules. *Immunity*, 12 : 71-81, 2000.

Valladeau J, Duvert-Frances V, Pin J.J., Kleijmeer M.J., Ait-Yahia S, Ravel O, Vincent C, Vega Jr F, Helms A, Gorman D, Zurawski S.M., Zurawski G, Ford J, **Saeland S**: Immature human dendritic cells express asialoglycoprotein receptor isoforms for efficient receptor-mediated endocytosis. *J. Immunol*, 167 : 5767-5774, 2001.

cont. next page

Valladeau J, Clair-Moninot V, Dezutter-Dambuyant C, Pin J.J, Kissenpfennig A, Mattéi M.G, Ait-Yahia S, Bates E.E.M, Malissen B, Koch F, Fossiez F, Romani N, Lebecque S, **Saeland S** : Identification of mouse Langerin/ CD207 in Langerhans cells and some dendritic cells of lymphoid tissues. *J. Immunol*, 168 : 782-792, 2002.

Geissmann F, Dieu-Nosjean M.C, Dezutter C, Valladeau J, Kayal S, Leborgne M, Brousse N, **Saeland S**, Davoust J : Accumulation of immature Langerhans cells in human lymph nodes draining chronically inflamed skin. *J. Exp. Med.*, 196: 417-430, 2002.

Stoitzner P, Tripp CH, Douillard P, **Saeland S**, Romani N: Migratory Langerhans cells in mouse lymph nodes in steady-state and inflammation. *J. Invest. Dermatol.* 125: 116-125, 2005.

**Dr Sem Saeland's itinerary**

Date	City	Seminar	Contact
Dec 2	Melbourne	WEHI	José Villadangos (villadangos@wehi.edu.au)
Dec 9	Brisbane	QIMR, MMRI	J. Alejandro López (alej@qimr.edu.au)
Dec 12	Townsville	JCU	Heinrich Korner (heinrich.korner@jcu.edu.au)
Dec 14	Wellington	Malaghan Inst.	Franca Ronchese (fronchese@malaghan.org.nz)
Dec 15	Dunedin	U. of Otago	Alex McLellan (alex.mclellan@stonebow.otago.ac.nz)

Douillard P, Stoitzner P, Tripp CH, Clair-Moninot V, Ait-Yahia S, McLellan AD, Eggert A, Romani N, **Saeland S**: Mouse lymphoid tissue contains distinct subsets of Langerin/CD207+ dendritic cells, only one of which represents epidermal-derived Langerhans cells. *J. Invest. Dermatol.*, in press.

**Call for Suggestions**

If you would like to propose overseas immunologists willing to visit the ASI branches, please visit our website for details (<http://www.wehi.edu.au/collegiate/ASIVsp.html>).



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# ASI STUDENT PAGE

## Dumb happens

Lately it's dawned on me that during my PhD I've done a lot of really, really silly things. Stop press! So this is a slightly self-serving attempt to address dumb moments and build a chummy, shoulder-biffing "we're all in this together" type of student bond.

At the risk of scuttling my career (someone, somewhere is tearing up my resume – I can tell), I've always figured the best thing about being an apprentice scientist is occasionally being allowed to screw up.

I know plenty of other students who have the odd blonde moment and I can understand why normally you don't go around telling everyone ('Hey I just spilt hypochlorite on my second pair of jeans this week!' 'Yeah? Well I just made up a sterile solution, then dropped a lid in there'), but I wanted to find out whether it really was normal, or if we were just a zone of cheerful incompetents (or possibly both!).

I figured the best way to find out would be to see what other people would own up to. But to start the ball rolling, here are a couple of examples that have stuck in my memory.

I still remember the moment when I realised there was no sudden halt to dumb, and that I would probably be slapping my head once or twice a year for the rest of my life.

I was in honours, working hard and idly hoping that after a really long time (like 3 or 4 months) the knack of flawless science would simply rub off on me. Like pink glitter. Suddenly, a student in the final throes of his PhD started swearing and throwing chairs about. I cowered in the corner for a while thinking 'It really is like tertiary syphilis' before he sat me down and said earnestly, 'I've done a really dumb thing. I'm going to tell you what it is so you don't ever, ever do it.'

It was his last experiment, using rare mice, and he'd spent six weeks setting it up. He carefully plated out both his proliferation assay and his facs experiment, then – it hurts! – accidentally put his FACS plate in

the incubator and stained the proliferation plate with his FACS antibodies.

He laughed in a scary way that made me want to call his mum, then threw some more chairs and settled in for a bit longer.

If you thought that was silly, let's get this over with (just read it quickly, OK?):

a) Once I badly stuffed up a 1:10 dilution. Don't ask! I don't know how either.

b) Once I got locked in our animal house at 3am and had to escape by elegantly slithering head-first through some shelves into a corridor.

c) Once I quit my PhD, *then* took a good holiday (I bet you can see a better order for those events), and then, ahem, unquit it. Unquit is a neologism coined for the occasion:

**Unquit.** *Verb.* To annul or dissolve a resignation; to righteously assert that a resignation never actually took place; to remove any proof (or person who insists) that it ever occurred. From Old French *Unqueyte* meaning "now I have slept".

Are you feeling good yet, or have I just humiliated myself out of habit? Well, if you're not, here are some silly PhD moments from people who have gone on to do wonderful things.

**Chris Parish:** I can recount an embarrassing experience soon after I started my PhD at the WEHI. I was measuring the phosphate content of samples using a colorimetric assay but was puzzled why my standard curve always gave off-scale optical density values. Then, after a week or two of frustration, it dawned on me that I was diluting all my samples in a phosphate buffer!!

**Helen Briscoe:** In the 1970s I was doing my PhD on the recently discovered mouse mutant nude (nu/nu). I had managed to breed one homozygote from the two heterozygous breeding pairs given to me. Needless to say the mouse (Garibaldi) was very precious. He had been skin grafted, immunised and I forget what else and I had taken a supposedly small blood sample to test for antibodies. Sadly the mutation causes reduced clotting capacity and I could not stop him bleeding. Euthanasia was required, indeed was inevitable. To maximise the information I could gain from my

one mouse I fixed the spleen and every lymph node, plus the thoracic cavity for future histology, and I extracted bone marrow to make chimaeras the next day, took all the blood I could get etc etc etc. Finally around midnight I looked at what remained, essentially a pinned out skin – then I cried and cried for my pet, my first mutant mouse Garibaldi!

**Richard Boyd:** The scariest moment in my PhD was the day I rode the animal freight lift. It was like cramming yourself into a dark little casket. Someone shut you in and pressed the button, and you had to go from the ground floor to the fifth floor. It rattled and stank like animals and took a lifetime to get there. I've never been so scared in my life.

It seems that dumb happens. Yay! I like twisting Marie Curie's modest assertion that "One never notices what has been done, one can only see what remains to be done", and imagining that she had a couple of blonde moments too.

The last motivational message is that old adage:

**"Remember, if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the precipitate"**

I wouldn't like to be classed as flotsam too often, but on an occasional basis, at least it amuses the staff.

My term as the ASI student rep is over, and the 2006 rep is Amanda Taylor. Thanks for the opportunity to vent – my therapist says I've made real headway this year.

*Anne 'occasionally flotsam' Fletcher*

PS In my own defence, like to think I've had one or two bright moments to make up for the flotsam ones!

## ASI Councillors' News

### S.A./N.T. News

The second half of this year saw the visit of Prof Georges Grau. Prof Grau toured the country as an ASI-sponsored speaker and his visit was initiated by Tony Ferrante at the WCH. His talk on 'Pathophysiology of cerebral malaria: study of cell-cell interactions, magnetic resonance imaging and assessment of microvesiculation' was well received and many local members took the opportunity to speak to Georges and learn a bit more about the immune involvement in cerebral malaria.

The other major event happening here in SA was the Adelaide Immunology Retreat (AIR), a 1½ day student retreat in the Barossa Valley. This was the first time AIR was held and we were very pleased by the positive feedback we got. We were almost booked out with a total of 27 delegates. Students had the chance to present and discuss their work, do some wine tasting and snake watching (a more detailed report on AIR is published elsewhere in this newsletter). Our two invited speakers Eugene Maraskovsky (CSL) and Nik Petrovsky (FMC) not only gave great presentations but also mixed well with the students and gave lots of much appreciated advice. We are hoping to establish AIR as a fixed event in the annual scientific agenda in SA. We also want to take this opportunity to thank all the sponsors who made AIR possible.

The other annual event, the SA state branch student meeting will be held on November 29, again before the ASI meeting in Melbourne, to give those keen to attend the big scientific meeting a chance to practise their presentation. The top two presentations will be rewarded with generous prizes, including cash, a book voucher (kindly sponsored by Unibooks) and ASI membership. As every year, we are expecting a great number of high quality presentations.

On a more personal note: At the end of the year, I'll hand this job over to our incoming State Councillor, Claudine Bonder. The past four years have been a great experience and I have gained a lot and made many new friends. I thank everybody here in SA, but also in ASI central for their

support. A lot of the activities have been initiated from or organised with the help of the local membership. Please keep your support up for Claudine, get involved, let her know about events coming up, people visiting, etc. I wish Claudine all the best for her term as State Councillor.

All the best,

Susanne Heinzl  
Councillor

### Queensland News

Once again, the BIG (Brisbane Immunology Group) on August 18–19 at the Sea World Nara Resort was a great success. This year, the unusual welcome was delivered by a couple of waking-up polar bears that set the pace for the amusement to come. ASI was able to provide financial support for its participating members and delivered a 10% discount on the total expense cost. Certainly, this made a difference on the level of attendance; furthermore, the attractive cash, ASI membership and medal prizes for the scientific presentations prompted an increase on the abstracts submitted, reflecting an overall higher participation. This year again, the participation of ASI members in Townsville increased and we enjoyed the company of a good dozen immunologists from the James Cook University. We had distinguished interstate immunologists who helped us in motivating the younger and more senior scientists. We listened to a historical and inspirational account of his research career by Prof. Jacques Miller (WEHI, Melbourne); the latest cutting edge report on the work by the groups of Mark Smyth (Peter McCallum Cancer Institute, Melbourne), Frank Carbone (University of Melbourne) and Maria Degli Esposti (Lyons Eye Institute, Perth). This group of interstate visitors had the difficult task to choose the winners of the ASI/BIG Awards from the oral and poster presentations. For the oral presentation the award went to Dodie Pouniotis from the Austin Research Institute in Melbourne with the work "*Delivery of Tumour Associated Antigens to Antigen Presenting Cells using Penetratin Induces Potent Immune Responses*"; two poster prizes were given – to Katherine Wynn from the QIMR with the work "*Modulation of Host Cell Phenotype*

*by Epstein-Barr Virus Encoded BARF1 Protein: Implication for the Pathogenesis of EBV-Associated Malignancies*" and Sharmal Narayan from the Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research "*A Role for CD4+ Cells in Maintaining Peripheral Tolerance to Skin Antigens*".

On the BIG media coverage of the prize to Dodie Pouniotis, some headlines were offered:

*The Herald Sun:*

"Penetration Makes Cancer Fly Away"

*Wall Street Journal:*

"Fruit-Fly Heralds the New Cancer Vaccine Era"

*The Courier Mail:*

"Smart State, Smart Flies"

*Catalyst:*

"Fearless Fly Attacks Cancer"

Congratulations to all winners (see the pictures).

Closing the meeting, Ann Kelso (BIG Icon 2005) provided us with an insightful and inspirational view of her career, particularly her experience at the CRC for Vaccine Technology as an example of the paths open to young immunologists and about the decision making processes they may face.

Next year meeting has been scheduled for August 17-18; keep your diaries free.



Dodie Pouniotis with her ASI/BIG Oral Presentation Award and Prof Jacques Miller



**ASI/BIG Poster Award winners**



*Sharmal Narayan*



*Katherine Wynn*

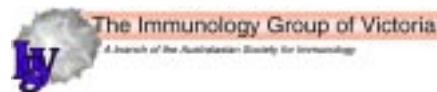
An interstate jury selected the Queensland recipients of the ASI Student Bursaries to attend the conference in Melbourne: Edward Morris, QIMR; Margaret Jordan, JCU; Katherine Wynn, QIMR; Fang (Joe) Zhou, CICR. Congratulations to all. Please note that this year a number of applicants missed their opportunity to be awarded a bursary because they were late renewing their membership (which must be paid by April 1st, as stated in the rules on the website). Keep this in mind for next year when applying to attend the meeting in New Zealand and make sure your membership is renewed before the due date.

We are closing the year with a very unique balance on the public eye for Immunology in Queensland. Very deservedly, wide coverage was given to two prominent members of the ASI for their scientific achievements and their contribution to society. Ian Fraser, awarded with the Eureka and John Curtin prizes, was featured extensively in the major press outlets in Queensland and interstate with the definitive success of the prophylactic HPV vaccine he and his team developed for the prevention of cervical carcinoma. Geoff Hill was awarded Queenslander of the Year, again with wide press coverage. His scientific research was recently highlighted by the Minister of Health in the publication "Ten of the Best", showcasing outstanding NH&MRC-funded Australian research projects ([http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/\\_files/thebest.pdf](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/_files/thebest.pdf)). This opportunity to reach the public with substantial scientific and public health achievements facilitates our function of raising support from the wider community for medical research. With the planning of the Immunology Day in the coming years, we hope we will be able to maintain the presence in the local and national press that should ultimately translate into further financial support from the Federal Government. However, we should all participate and it is our job to reach out to our local communities in sharing the value of our discipline. Congratulations again to Ian and Geoff.

This is the last newsletter in which I act as Queensland Councillor. It has been a great learning experience and privilege for me meeting a very enthusiastic and friendly group within the Council. Certainly, it is a job that I highly recommend to any immunologist who is willing to help the discipline behind the scenes while enjoying the inspirational teamwork of enthusiasts. I want to thank you all for your support and for having given me this opportunity. Hopefully, we have helped fulfil your expectations from the ASI; if so, let us work together in spreading the word and increasing our local membership in this period of steady growth for immunology in Queensland. Chris Schmidt from the QIMR has been elected unopposed as the new Queensland Councillor for the next two years. All the best on your new appointment and enjoy the ride, Chris.

*J Alejandro Lopez  
Councillor*

**Victorian News**



The main activities of the committee over the past few months have been focused on the annual ASI meeting to be held in Melbourne in December. Indications to date suggest this will be a successful and popular meeting with registrations having to be closed early due to demand. I hope that no ASI member missed out on attending the meeting. The IgV techniques workshop continues to be successful and popular. This has been a great initiative each year, popular with new and old members of IgV as well as post-graduate and honours students. The ASI Visiting Speaker Program has finally gained some structure and the past couple of years have seen some outstanding scientists visit our States, with more lined up. Members should realise that this program is open to anyone, it just requires a bit of effort.

The Victorian branch is maintaining its activity and always looking at new ways to engage its members. We have recently appointed some student representatives to the IgV council to bring a younger influence to the committee as we aim to attract and lock-in the younger members of the immunological community. With over 260 local members, of which 81 are students, it is a sign that the Society is healthy and will continue to grow. Again, the success of any society is through the effort of the volunteers that oversee its activities. IgV is fortunate to have a fine group of people who are genuinely committed to promoting immunology as a discipline and enhancing the interaction of its members. If you know of someone who should be an ASI member – nag them.

It is with a little bit of sadness to say that this will be my final contribution as the Victorian/Tasmanian State Councillor. I have enjoyed my 2-year period serving as your representative on the Council. The ASI is looking stronger than ever, a direct result of the great leadership and efforts of past Presidents and Councillors that, I am sure, will be maintained with the new members. The fact that we have Victorian members who are vying for the position

of State Councillor for the next two years is a healthy sign and reflects commitment to the Society and its members. We wish Rose Ffrench (Burnet Institute) and Phil Darcy (Peter Mac Cancer Institute) all the best with the latest election for Victorian State Councillor. Finally, I would like to extend my warmest appreciation to all the past and present members of the ASI Council with who I have had some association during my term as State Councillor.

*Frank Alderuccio  
Councillor*

## **N.S.W. News**

This has been an active year for the NSW branch. We have been delighted to welcome three international visiting speakers: Professor Redwan Moqbel, Professor Georges Grau and Professor Harald von Boehmer. We renewed our acquaintance with The Retreat at Wiseman's Ferry for our branch meeting. As in previous years, it was an excellent meeting, though fewer delegates attended than last year. We heard very interesting formal talks and had most useful informal discussions with our two invited speakers, Dr Sham Nair (Macquarie

University) and Dr Guna Karupiah (ANU). We enjoyed the fine food and wine supplied by the establishment at dinner. Sadly post dinner karaoke was 'off', but we entertained ourselves instead with table tennis, pool and darts (as shown in the photographs). I would like to thank the support team who made this meeting possible, particularly Alex Spencer who 'sorted' out the computers, Cindy Ma and Vanessa Bryant, who encouraged others to attend and our treasurer, Chris Jolly, who approved expenditure and paid the bills.

Vanessa Bryant is to be congratulated. She is awarded a bursary to attend the Melbourne meeting.

This is my last news report, as I am handing over the State Councillor position to Bernadette Saunders. I'd like to thank everyone in NSW branch and the members of ASI council for their support, and to especially thank Judi Anderson for her unfailing and good humoured assistance. Good luck Bernie, I know from my experience that you will enjoy the next couple of years on Council.

*Helen Briscoe  
Councillor*



*Our new Councillor Bernie Saunders with Teresa Wozniak at post dinner table tennis*



*Lauren Holz (PhD student with Patrick Bertolino) addressing the meeting*



*Ben Roediger and Nina van Sorge enjoying 'pool' after dinner*



*The audience 'taking it all in'*

## A.C.T. News

The 2005 calendar of events for the ACT branch is now drawing to a close. The ACT ASI committee, comprised of Edward Bertram, Carola Vinuesa and myself, put together a program with the theme of "Historical Perspectives in Immunology". This was particularly useful for the younger immunologists and gratifying reminiscing for the older ones. For those in between, there were aspects of both!

In April, Gordon Ada set the stage with a talk on the "History of Immunology in Australia". This was followed by another great seminar in July, which was delivered by Jacques Miller. Jacques' talk entitled "Against the Odds" was a revelation to many in the audience who were not aware of the difficulties he had faced in convincing other immunologists of his major discovery on the role of the thymus. The last 2005 activity planned for the ACT branch will be a talk by Frank Fenner on November 23. Frank's presentation will be "Reflections on the Life of Macfarlane Burnet".

In addition to the historical perspectives, we have also had great talks on more contemporary issues. In August, the ACT branch hosted visits of two immunologists to Canberra. Georges Grau came here as part of the ASI Visiting Speaker Program. His presentation was on "Importance of microvesiculation in the immunopathology of cerebral malaria". Frank Carbone came as an invited speaker of the ACT branch and he talked about "Dendritic cell subsets and immune memory in the cytotoxic T cell response to localized infection with herpes simplex virus".

We also had the inaugural joint NSW/ACT ASI Inc Retreat on September 22-23 at Wiseman's Ferry, Hawkesbury River. All in all, it was an exciting meeting and the presentations were of high calibre.

We look forward to another busy year ahead and welcome comments and suggestions from all ACT members for future programs.

*Guna Karupiah  
Councillor*

## EDITORIAL

This issue of the newsletter includes reports from Regional Councillors on the many exciting local meetings around Australia in the last few months. These meetings and many of the speakers are sponsored by ASI, and with names like 'IgV', 'BIG', and 'AIR' they have us gasping for more (sorry NSW, but the 'Wise-man's ferry retreat' has a ring to it, but not quite the same).

Fortunately, there is more on the way in early December in the form of the ASI Annual Conference, which this year has proved so popular that it was sold out months in advance! This is perhaps a timely warning to us all to plan early for the 2006 conference in Auckland (December 3-7 2006, <http://www.asi2006.auckland.ac.nz>). I look forward to meeting up with many of you at the conference, and I hope you will feel free to make suggestions/offer articles to support the newsletter so it includes the type of stories and information you would like to read.

Finally, the news everyone has been waiting for – the winner of the 2005 ASI Newsletter article prize is announced on page 12.

*Miles Davenport*

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8.30am – 4.30pm

### ICB Online Manuscript Submission

Online manuscript submission for Immunology and Cell Biology now available via:

<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/icb>

All manuscript submissions to ICB should in future be made online via this web site to speed up the reviewing and acceptance of manuscripts.

Chris Parish, Editor-in-Chief  
Immunology and Cell Biology

**Contributions sought  
for the ASI  
Newsletter**

**You could win \$100 !!**

**Deadline for the next  
issue :**

**1st February 2006**

Please email your contributions to the  
Secretariat by the above date.  
[asi@21century.com.au](mailto:asi@21century.com.au)

## 2005 Newsletter Prize

The ASI newsletter prize was instigated in 2004 by Phil Hodgkin and the ASI Council as a means to encourage submissions for the Newsletter. As you will recall, it was won in 2004 by Gordon Ada, for his three articles reflecting on his long career in immunology. This year's second annual ASI Newsletter prize was again a tough decision. Chris Parish's article on *Theoretical Immunology* in the March issue was a close contender. This was written as a reflection as the outgoing President of ASI, and reviewed the historical role of theoretical immunology in Australia and its current place. In his role as *Immunology and Cell Biology* editor, Chris has done much to promote theoretical immunology, not least by creating a section for theoretical articles in *ICB*.

However, in the end, it was reflections by a younger immunologist that won the day: Anne Fletcher was the inaugural 2005 ASI student rep, and wrote four reports/articles during the year. Her first

reviewed the 2004 ASI Annual Conference in Adelaide from a student's perspective "*Christmas Goodwill meets Petty Violence in Adelaide – A day in the life of a student rep*" (March, p14). Her second article (June, p15) reflected on the valuable mentoring and nurturing role of supervisors in supporting the studies of PhD students (at least I think that's what it was about ...). Anne's September contribution reflected on "*Poverty*" and the life of the PhD student (her 'position description' of a PhD student is reproduced below). Her final article in this issue (p7) covers some of the more self-induced hardships of being a PhD student – "*Dumb happens*". It seemed most fitting that the award be made for the September article on *Poverty*. Anne will receive a cheque for \$100 for the best Newsletter article for 2005, which she will no doubt spend on lentils and chorizo.

Deadline for the March issue is 1 February, so get writing now for your chance to win the 2006 ASI Newsletter prize!!!

Miles Davenport  
Editor



Anne Fletcher (2005 ASI student representative): Anne completed undergraduate degrees in Science and Arts at Monash University, followed by honours in the Department of Immunology under the supervision of Richard Boyd. She is in her third year of a PhD in the Boyd lab at the new Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories, studying the relationship between sex steroids, autoimmunity and thymic stroma. She likes sunshine, fine wines, and men who aren't afraid to cry. Writing about herself in the third person makes her feel psychotic. [Anne]

Position description:  
This is a 4 year fixed-term position, but salary will only be provided for 3 years (may be extended by 6 months if you mail us a limb or other proof of hardship). The successful applicant will be intelligent with a thirst for knowledge, will possess a strong work ethic, and should be available to work days, nights and some weekends. A sense of humour is essential. Training will be provided for the right applicant. Base salary is \$18,000. Only super-keen masochists and the mentally infirm need apply.

### Hold that date!

The 2006 ASI annual conference will be held in Auckland, New Zealand from December 3–7, 2006.

Invited speakers include Richard Flavell, Marco Colonna, Ian Orme, Bob Coffman and Pam Bjorkman.

More information on the 2006 conference can be found at:

[www.asi2006.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.asi2006.auckland.ac.nz)

## UPCOMING LECTURES & CONFERENCES

5th Australasian Viral Hepatitis Conference  
Sydney, Australia  
20–22 February 2006  
Website: [www.ashm.org.au/conference](http://www.ashm.org.au/conference)

5th International Symposium on  
Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases  
2–6 April 2006  
Alice Springs, Australia  
Website: [www.isppd5.com](http://www.isppd5.com)  
Email: [isppd5@tourhosts.com.au](mailto:isppd5@tourhosts.com.au)

International Conference of  
Immunogenomics and Immunomics  
October 8–12, 2006  
Budapest, Hungary  
Website: [www.bci2006.org](http://www.bci2006.org)

18th Annual Australasian Society for HIV  
Medicine  
11–14 October 2006  
In conjunction with 3rd ACH2 Workshop  
(Australian Centre for HIV and Hepatitis  
Virology Research)  
8–11 October 2006  
Melbourne, Australia  
Web: [www.ashm.org.au/conference](http://www.ashm.org.au/conference)

**The Walter and Eliza Hall  
Institute of Medical Research**  
WEHI Seminars on the Web:  
[www.wehi.edu/seminars/](http://www.wehi.edu/seminars/)