



N E W S L E T T E R

Australasian Society for Immunology Incorporated

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IAIS Women in Inflammation Science Award: Professor Carolyn Geczy

Department of Pathology, University of New South Wales

The World Congress of Inflammation is held every two years under the banner of the International Association of Inflammation Societies, an umbrella organisation linking Inflammation scientists in the US, UK, France, Australia, Japan and Canada. It brings together investigators from academia and industry and is truly an international meeting. The IAIS Women in Inflammation Science Award presented at this meeting aims to “recognise and honour an individual female or male scientist who has demonstrated excellence in the field of inflammation research and has, either through leadership or by example, promoted the advancement and development of women in this field”. Professor Geczy won this accolade against a truly international field and was presented with the award at the recent 7th World Congress in Inflammation held in Melbourne. As part of this award, Professor Geczy gave an oration summarising the highlights of her career.

The award recognizes Professor Geczy’s sustained record of outstanding scientific achievement in the field of inflammation research which is arguably unequalled in Australia, by woman or man. Focusing on the biochemistry of various inflammatory mediators, she has made seminal contributions in many areas of inflammation, particularly in the study of inflammatory cytokines, proteins of the coagulation cascade, cell-mediated immunity, and chemotactic mediators.

Carolyn’s contributions to the scientific discipline in general have been enormous. She has assumed a number of important

leadership roles in Australian science, such as being the first woman President of the Australian Society for Immunology (1987-88), initial Treasurer of the Australian Vascular Biology Society (1992-94), first woman on the NH&MRC Research Fellowships Committee (1988-1990) and Associate Dean of Research at the University of New South Wales. She is currently head of the Inflammatory Diseases Research Unit at UNSW, which comprises over 45 research staff and students.

Professor Geczy has over 130 publications including 118 primary research articles and 19 review articles and chapters. Some of the highlights of this work include:

1. Generation of the first neutralising antibody against a cytokine – macrophage migration inhibitory factor (1975). This antibody enabled Carolyn to provide the first description of the function of macrophage migration inhibitory factor in delayed-type hypersensitivity reactions, as well as in various aspects of cell-mediated immunity.
2. Examination of the role of fibrin in cell-mediated immune diseases. In the early 1980s, Carolyn’s work was the first to demonstrate that macrophages in DTH reactions were associated with large amounts of fibrin and generated procoagulant activity (Tissue



LtoR (standing): Professor Carolyn Geczy, Owen Huynh, Dr Yasumi Endoh, Jesse Goyette, Dr Farid Rahimi, Dr Ken Hsu; (seated) Dr Ikuko Endoh, Dr Nicodemus Tedla, Dr Wei-Xing Yan

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ASI Inc. COUNCIL

President

Dr Philip Hodgkin
Walter & Eliza Hall Institute
1G Royal Parade
Parkville Vic 3050
Ph: 03 9345 2609 Fax: 03 9347 0852
Email: hodgkin@wehi.edu.au

Honorary Secretary

Dr Jose Villadangos
Walter & Eliza Hall Institute
1G Royal Parade
Parkville Vic 3050
Ph: 03 9345 2532 Fax: 03 9347 0852
Email: villadangos@wehi.edu.au

Past President

Professor Chris Parish
Div. of Immunology & Genetics
JCSMR, ANU
PO Box 334
Canberra ACT 2601
Ph: 02 6125 2604 Fax: 02 6125 2595
Email: christopher.parish@anu.edu.au

Honorary Treasurer

Dr Norbert Kienzle
Queensland Institute of Medical Research
300 Herston Road
Brisbane Qld 4006
Ph: 07 3362 0379 Fax: 07 3362 0105
Email: norbertK@qimr.edu.au

Non-Voting Councillors:

Newsletter Editor

Dr Miles Davenport
Ph: 02 9385 2762 Fax: 02 9385 1389
Email: m.davenport@unsw.edu.au

Journal Editor

Professor Chris Parish
Ph: 02 6125 2604 Fax: 02 6125 2595
Email: christopher.parish@anu.edu.au

Visiting Speakers Co-ordinator

A/Prof J. Alejandro Lopez
Queensland Institute of Medical Research
CBCRC/I, Post Office
Royal Brisbane Hospital Qld 4029
Ph: 07 3845 3794 Fax: 07 3845 3510
Email: alejl@qimr.edu.au

Council Member of IUIS

Professor Chris Parish
Ph: 02 6125 2604 Fax: 02 6125 2595
Email: christopher.parish@anu.edu.au

Honorary Archivist & Webmaster:

Dr Judith Greer
Ph: 07 3365 5133 Fax: 07 3365 5462
Email: j.greer@medicine.herston.uq.edu.au

Administrative Correspondence

Ms Judi Anderson
ASI Inc. Secretariat
PO Box 7108
Upper Ferntree Gully Vic 3156
Ph: 03 9756 0128 Fax: 03 9753 6372
Email: asi@21century.com.au

State Councillors

New South Wales

Dr Helen Briscoe
Ph: 02 9351 7308 Fax: 02 9351 3968
Email: hbriscoe@med.usyd.edu.au

Queensland

A/Prof J. Alejandro Lopez
Ph: 07 3845 3794 Fax: 07 3845 3510
Email: alejl@qimr.edu.au

Western Australia

Dr Chris Andoniou
Ph: 08 9381 0799 Fax: 08 9381 0700
Email: cadoniou@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

New Zealand

Prof John Fraser
Ph: +64 9 373 7599 ext 86036 Fax: +64 9 373 8774
Email: jd.fraser@auckland.ac.nz

Victoria & Tasmania

Dr Frank Alderuccio
Ph: 03 9903 0281 Fax: 03 9903 0731
Email: frank.alderuccio@med.monash.edu.au

South Australia & Northern Territory

Dr Su Heinzl
Ph: 08 8222 2854 Fax: 08 8222 5896
Email: susanne.heinzl@adelaide.edu.au

Australian Capital Territory

Dr Guna Karupiah
Ph: 02 6125 4562 Fax: 02 6125 2595
Email: guna.karupiah@anu.edu.au

FIMSA Councillor

Professor Nicholas King
Ph: 02 9351 4553 Fax: 02 9351 3429
Email: nickk@med.su.oz.au

Contact for Tasmania

Dr Greg Woods
Tel: 03 6226 4830 Fax: 03 6226 4833
Email: g.m.woods@utas.edu.au

Website

The ASI web site (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

Email bulletin board

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

EDITORIAL

This issue of the ASI Newsletter provides some highlights of members' achievements over the year, from post-graduate student / post-doc awards (pp 6–8) to awards for scientific leadership for two senior immunologists (p 11 and p 12). One of the perks of being the editor is reviewing these articles and being inspired by the type of teamwork and scientific excellence that is covered in these stories. Please keep them coming.

This issue is the second last newsletter of the year, so only one more opportunity to enter the competition for the best newsletter article of 2005! I look forward to your contributions on any topic that interests you. It's your newsletter, so please send us your thoughts, whether they be of scientific achievement or student starvation (see student page, p 6).

Hope to see you all at the ASI annual conference.

Miles Davenport

**Contributions
sought for the
ASI Newsletter**

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

**Deadline for the
next issue :
1st November
2005**

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

asi@21century.com.au

HONORARY SECRETARY'S NEWS

From the outgoing Secretary

Colleagues, this is my last report as Honorary Secretary as I have handed over this fun job to Jose Villadangos, WEHI. So this time we have a break-from-tradition, a two-part Secretary's Report!

First let me go through some housekeeping issues. You should find the 2005 ASI Membership Directory enclosed with this newsletter. To remind everyone, for a member to be included in the Membership Directory, the person must have agreed to have his or her details included. This is to conform to Privacy Laws.

Hopefully most of you have already registered for the Annual Scientific Meeting to be held in Melbourne from 4-8 December. The theme is "Genetics and the Immune Response" and it promises to be an excellent meeting. For further details please check the conference website at www.asi2005.org.au. As usual, students and postdoctoral fellows are eligible for a range of prizes. Details, eligibility criteria and application process can be found at the conference website and at www.wehi.edu.au/collegiate/ASI/awards.html. In addition, there are Student Travel Bursaries to enable members to attend the meeting (details as above).

The current term for a number of positions on Council comes to an end in 2005. These include Vice-President and State Councillors for Qld, NSW, SA/NT and Vic/Tas. A nomination form for 2006-2007 is enclosed with this issue of the newsletter. Please think seriously about putting your hand up. I can tell you from personal experience that, although it adds to your workload, it is rewarding to serve on Council and contribute to the running of our Society.

As I retire after three and a half years (yes, it has been that long), I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of Council and the membership for making my job mostly enjoyable and not excessively taxing (most of the time). I would particularly like to acknowledge the Executive, Judi Anderson at the Secretariat, the Newsletter Editors (first Phil and now Miles) and Judy Greer (our Webmaster) for their assistance in issues big and small. I end on a note of appreciation for the tireless work of the Editor of *Immunology*

and *Cell Biology*, Chris Parish, who continues to take our Society journal from strength to strength.

Hope to see you in Melbourne

*Kind regards
Geeta Chaudhri*

From the incoming Secretary

It is a pleasure to take my position as Secretary of the Australasian Society for Immunology. When I first arrived to Australia in 1998, I knew very few scientists in the area, but since then I have had the opportunity to work together, collaborate, or simply exchange information, technical expertise or advice with an ever larger circle of immunologists. This personal experience reflects the ethos of our Society as a community of scientists scattered over a large portion of the globe, but closely related through our common fascination for the Immune System.

As Secretary of the Society, my job is to work together with the President and the rest of the Council to facilitate the communication and exchange of ideas among our members, and ensure your active participation in the decision-making. Keeping up to the standard maintained by Geeta Chaudhri over the past three years will not be easy, but I hope with the help and advice of the President and the other members of the Council (and the occasional call to Geeta!), I will be able to provide you with the same level of service that you have come to expect.

My first major assignment as Secretary is the organisation of the Annual General Meeting to be held later in the year in Melbourne in conjunction with the 35th Annual Scientific Meeting. As in previous years, the quality of the international speakers who will join us for this conference speaks of the attraction that Australasian Immunology elicits overseas. There will be important matters to discuss as members of the Society, and a lot to learn from our colleagues. I look forward to seeing you there!

Jose Villadangos

IAIS Women in Inflammation Science Award: Professor Carolyn Geczy (cont)

Factor – TF). Moreover, she showed that this procoagulant activity was correlated with disease activity in various inflammatory models, and human diseases. This work also included the demonstration that a product of activated T cells induced the production of TF by monocytes. Professor Geczy also demonstrated that monocytes from patients with cardiovascular disease were more sensitive to activating stimuli than those from non-diseased people. This work demonstrated the importance of coagulant molecules such as monocyte TF in the inflammatory response.

3. Description of the ability of cytotoxic drugs used in the treatment of cancer to upregulate monocyte TF activity. This work established a mechanism whereby some chemotherapeutic agents induced thrombotic events in patients undergoing treatment for cancer or other conditions.

4. S100 proteins in inflammation. Since the early 1990s, Carolyn's research group has generated an enormous body of work examining the roles of S100 proteins in inflammatory diseases. Her group was the first to demonstrate that these proteins controlled leukocyte migration. She has extensively characterized the biochemistry of these proteins, reporting on their in vivo activity, regulation of their expression and biochemical structure. She is unquestionably the world's leading expert on the biology of S100 proteins.

Professor Geczy's contribution to the promotion and advancement of women in inflammation science has first and foremost been one of example. Carolyn has worked continuously in medical research since receiving her PhD in 1969. From her years as a postdoctoral fellow at the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology in the early 1970s, where she examined the development of immunoglobulins, to the present day, she has worked continuously in the area of inflammation/immunology. In addition, her record of leadership in Australian science is exemplary. Overall her achievements demonstrate her enormous dedication, talent and passion for science and her ongoing willingness to contribute to the discipline. In summary, Professor Geczy has set a standard of sustained scientific excellence that is a wonderful example for all scientists.

*Dr Michael Hickey
Monash University Department of
Medicine,
Monash Medical Centre*



MONASH University

**PROFESSOR AND HEAD, DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY
FACULTY OF MEDICINE, NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES
MONASH UNIVERSITY, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

Monash University will shortly be advertising the position of Professor and Head of the Department of Immunology, with the intention of making an appointment to commence early in 2006. An outstanding appointee is sought to provide leadership in research and teaching in immunology.

The Department is located at the Alfred Hospital campus within the Alfred Medical Research and Education Precinct. It is well placed to provide excellent opportunities for fundamental and bench-to-bedside translational research. A large number of undergraduate teaching programs in immunology, cell biology and pathology are coordinated by the Department within the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. The Department also hosts a vibrant pool of graduate students. Excellent research facilities are available within the Department with animal, flow cytometry and imaging facilities centrally managed by the precinct.

The advertisement will be placed in the Higher Education Supplement of a Wednesday Australian within the next few weeks.

Further details of the position will be published at: <http://www.adm.monash.edu/sss/employment/senior>

Confidential enquiries about the position can be made to the Head of the Central and Eastern Clinical School of Monash University, Professor Napier Thomson, Napier.Thomson@med.monash.edu.au, phone +61 3 9903 0460.

Associate Professor Jennifer Rolland
Email: jennifer.rolland@med.monash.edu.au
Phone +61 3 9903 0480
September, 2005



An Equal Opportunity Employer

Immunologists Given Enough Rope

The trials and tribulations of a career in science – immunology in particular – has recently been in the spotlight with the release of a new book by Professor Peter Doherty from the University of Melbourne and his subsequent appearance on Andrew Denton's *Enough Rope* on ABC TV in early September. The book, titled *The Beginner's Guide to Winning the Nobel Prize*, follows the life story of the home-grown Australian Nobel laureate from his humble beginnings in

Brisbane through to receiving the phone call announcing the 1996 Nobel Prize. However, more than just review the achievements of one of the most spectacular careers in Australian immunology, the book also discusses the process of science and gives a historical overview of the development of modern immunology (using the various Nobel Prizes won by immunologists to provide the flow). Professor Doherty also tackles different approaches to funding science, and how this

shapes our collective futures. The final chapter, entitled *How to win a Nobel Prize*, provides some advice for young (or perhaps all) scientists, including: "your time is precious", "avoid prestigious administrative roles", and "try to solve problems and make really big discoveries".

The book is published by Miegunyah press (Melbourne University Publishing) and retails for \$34.95.

Strip in
Doherty book cover
pdf file

Peter Doherty being interviewed by Andrew Denton on ABC's "Enough Rope"

(Courtesy ABC TV Publicity)



Report on the ASI-Visiting Speaker Program

Professor Redwan Moqbel from Alberta, Canada completed a very successful visit to various branches during the month of July. His visit was ahead of his sabbatical period early next year in the laboratories of Prof. Pat Holt (Perth) and Prof. Anne Kelso (Brisbane). With various presentations on the subject of *Human eosinophils as potential partners in immune regulation of T helper cell bias in allergic inflammation*, Prof. Moqbel toured Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth. Very positive feedback was received from the branches and his visits resulted in high interest and prospective collaborations. We would like to thank Prof. Moqbel for a very fruitful tour.

Prof. Georges Grau from Marseille, France undertook a very busy schedule of visits during August. Very well-known to malariologists, Prof. Grau has made seminal

contributions to the understanding of cerebral malaria and the immuno-pathology of microvascular lesions. His research interests include cerebral and pulmonary complications of infectious and auto-immune diseases, septic shock and multiple sclerosis. He analyses the cellular and molecular mechanisms of the interactions between

microvascular endothelial cells and cells of the immune system. More recently, he focuses on the neurovascular lesion of murine and human cerebral malaria, using co-culture model systems involving brain endothelium, *P. falciparum* infected erythrocytes, as well as circulating cells, particularly platelets and monocytes.



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/ASI/vsp.html>). Candidates should be proposed by May 15 or November 15 every year.

J Alejandro Lopez

Prof. George Grau

Poverty

This isn't meant to be whiney, so hopefully it won't come across as a 'strings section required' type of spiel ... but after all, it's an important student issue!

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.

If you aren't fortunate enough to sup from the golden spoon of parental providence, you've probably experienced some less-than-flattering moments in the supermarket wondering if normal people classify unsliced cheese as a luxury item.

I was inspired to write this because I'm gripped by extreme Mother Hubbard-style poverty at the moment, which has put me in a contrarily good mood (I'm of English extraction so I think it's leftover rationing queue cheer) but it got me thinking about our long hours and low pay. I mean, overall I genuinely like the work and the lifestyle, but it has its challenges (especially a few days before payday).

I'm no expert, but I've had my fair share of times when everything starts to look a bit too much like a Dickens novel. One that springs to mind – are you eating? – involved two skint, hungry friends, a block of hard cheese, and some dubious bread ... and we made toasted sandwiches. He scraped off the blooms of mould on the crusts, and I mined the cheese for soft bits and brandished them like opals. It was actually a lot of fun. At one point, I'm pretty sure Tiny Tim hobbled in out of the snow and treated us to a rousing carol.

Anyway, that was when I was an amateur. These days I've got two strategies I use to keep body and soul together. They are for hardcore poverty moments. You're not allowed to snicker.

First, my sister's housemate invented a brilliant recipe that's twice saved me from the inconvenience of starvation:

EMMA ESTRADA'S POVERTY STEW

Lots of lentils – all kinds

Chorizo, lots of tomatoes, onions, water, salt and pepper

Whatever else you can afford.

You just cook it all up. The beauty of this dish is that it is quite edible, sustaining, long-lived, and can cost under \$10. It's not exactly haute cuisine, but it certainly keeps body and soul together till payday.

My only other tip is psychological so I've got no idea if it'll work for anyone else. On the odd occasion that my poverty-embracing optimism wears off (usually while misting up shoe shop windows), I take real comfort in assuming a Scarlett O'Hara stance (clenched

fists, earnestly upturned eyes, general shop assistant-scaring demeanour) and saying, a-tremble with emotion:

**TODAY I MAY PLOT AND BUDGET
AND SCRIMP, BUT THE SECOND I
FINISH MY PHD I'LL NEVER EAT
KRAFT SINGLES AGAIN**

Anyway, I just wanted to publicly acknowledge student poverty. If any supervisors are reading this, I hope you are looking fondly back on your own Dickens experiences (rather than, say, twitching in a corner) and hope you'll give your workhorses a kindly pat and an apple from time to time.

All donations can be sent to the Anne Fletcher Fund, c/- Strings Section, Melbourne Sympathy Orchestra, and will be used to buy nice cheese and maybe some custard. And if any cheese company wishes to sponsor this column, I have plenty more dairy-rich experiences to relate.

DON'T FORGET ASI STUDENT BURSARIES

Money makes the PhD mare run, usually to prestigious conferences

Motivational Message #3, 2005: (from Jessica Reiseger) (it's not really motivational but I like it anyway)

...what if the Hokey Pokey really is what it's all about?

*Anne Fletcher
Stalwart student rep
Will write for cash*

Medical researcher Lauren Ely is a step closer to explaining the mystery of why and how the body sometimes rejects organ transplants

Lauren Ely is currently working at the Monash Protein Crystallography Unit lead by Dr Jamie Rossjohn (located within the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, School of Biomedical Sciences, Monash University).

She has investigated the interaction between T cell receptors and MHC class I proteins presenting Epstein-Barr virus derived peptides. Her study is part of a

large collaborative program of research between Monash University, the University of Melbourne and the Queensland Institute for Medical Research.

On June 9, Ms Ely received a high commendation in the prestigious 2005 Premier's Award for Medical Research. She receives \$8,000 and a certificate. "We now know what the structure of these proteins is. This is an important step in understanding how they function; such knowledge can help

clarify the basis for disease and potentially help with drug design," she said. Her work at Monash has been assisted by regular travel to the synchrotron based in Chicago. Ms Ely is looking forward to using the Australian National Synchrotron after her period of post-doctoral training overseas.

Ms Ely lives in Port Melbourne, and completed her Bachelor of Science (Honours) at the University of Melbourne. She is currently completing her PhD studies for which she



Lauren Ely

was awarded an NHMRC 'Dora Lush' biomedical postgraduate scholarship. Her work has been published in recent *Journal of Immunology* (Ely *et al.*, (2005) JI 174, 5593-5601) and *Nature Immunology* (Borg, Ely *et al.*, (2005) NI 6, 171-180) papers, and during her PhD she has also contributed to several other papers including two *Journal of Experimental Medicine*, and one *PNAS*.

The Premier's Award for Medical Research is a joint initiative of the Victorian Government and the Australian Society for Medical Research. It recognises the contributions made by early career researchers and is available on an annual basis to postgraduate research scholars.

Breaking down organ transplant rejection

Medical researcher Dr Whitney Macdonald is on a mission to discover more about why the body rejects organ transplants.

While Australia has one of the highest transplant success rates in the world – since 1965, more than 30,000 Australians have received life-saving or life-preserving transplants of organs – many problems still exist.

“Organ transplants are an important treatment for otherwise life-threatening diseases. They are a routine medical procedure nowadays. Although we have come a long way in managing the problem of organ rejection, there is still room for improvement in the way that we prevent transplant rejection,” said Dr Macdonald.

Dr Macdonald is part of The Protein Crystallography Unit, headed by Dr Jamie Rossjohn, at Monash University. She leads a research project that investigates T cell recognition of MHC class I molecules in allorecognition. This work is part of a collaboration with a laboratory at The University of Melbourne, led by Professor James McCluskey.

Her work within The Protein Crystallography Unit involves learning more about the 3-dimensional structure of MHC class I molecules to better understand the mechanism of allorecognition.

The 29-year-old scientist has won a 2005 Victoria Fellowship, which she hopes to use to travel to the United States of America to work at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Colorado to be trained in a new way of identifying proteins on the surface of a cell to which an immune response is directed. The Victoria Fellowships, worth \$18,000 each, were established eight years ago by the Victorian Government to recognise young researchers with leadership potential and to enhance their future careers, while developing new ideas which could offer commercial benefit to Victoria.



Whitney Macdonald

Dr Macdonald said: “The training that I will receive through the Victoria Fellowship will address a significant bottle neck in our research.

“I am optimistic that this training will help to close many of the gaps that remain in our work and will aid in developing new treatments for transplant recipients in the future.”

Her work at Monash has been assisted by using an international synchrotron facility. Dr Macdonald is looking forward to using the Australian National Synchrotron when it opens.

Dr Macdonald is currently a NHMRC Peter Doherty research fellow at Monash University. Her publications include papers in *Nature Immunology* and *Journal of Experimental Medicine* (two).

Dr Macdonald lives in Mt Martha. She completed her postgraduate studies at the University of Melbourne in 2004.

Dr Erika Cretney is on the TRAIL of a cancer treatment

Based at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Dr Cretney is working out how to suppress and prevent cancer tumours from spreading by investigating a smart molecule, TRAIL.

TRAIL has a unique ability to hone in and kill cancerous cells, without harming normal healthy cells, a problem with many cancer treatments.

Dr Cretney was the first researcher worldwide to show how TRAIL, placed on the surface of ‘killer’ cells in mice, was able to prevent cancerous tumours from growing and spreading.

Dr Cretney has been working closely with Seattle based company Immunex (now Amgen) that produced mice lacking TRAIL and San Francisco based company, Genentech Incorporated, which is undertaking clinical trials on people involving synthetic TRAIL as a cancer therapeutic. Clinical trials on people are not yet underway in Australia.

Dr Cretney has won a 2005 Victoria Fellowship that will allow her to travel to the United States of America to discuss these clinical trials, and to visit the National Cancer Institute to discuss the use of agents that cut off tumour blood supply, in combination with agents that stimulate TRAIL or ‘killer’ cell function.

She will also use the Victoria Fellowship to promote the developing facilities and

clinical trial capability that is available at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, as well as to bring back experimental ideas and strategies that can enhance research at the Peter Mac.

“When I began my research, it was well known that TRAIL could selectively kill off cancer cells. What I have been able to do is to show how that happens in a natural way. By manipulating the TRAIL function, we believe we can develop a more effective and less toxic treatment course for people with cancer.”

Dr Cretney is a Cancer Council of Victoria Post-doctoral Cancer Research Fellow at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and has an impressive publication record: Five

first author papers during her PhD, including one in *Journal of Experimental Medicine* and one in *Journal of Immunology*, and twenty other publications, including seven in *JEM*, three in *Blood*, and two in *Journal of Immunology*. She recently received a high commendation (\$8,000) in the Victoria Premier’s Award for Medical Research and was also a member of ScyAntics which won the Victorian Government’s Biotechnology Entrepreneurship Produce of the Year Award in 2004.

Dr Cretney lives in North Balwyn and completed her Bachelor of Science and postgraduate studies at the University of Melbourne.



Erika Cretney
(Photo: MediaWise Pty Ltd)



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Vale David Ogilvie White

AO, MB BS, PhD, MSc, FRCPA, MD, FASM

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By Michael J. Studdert and Roy Robins-Browne

Professor Emeritus David Ogilvie White died 7 November 2004 after an 11-year battle with an autoimmune liver disease. He was Professor of Microbiology, University of Melbourne, 1967–1994.

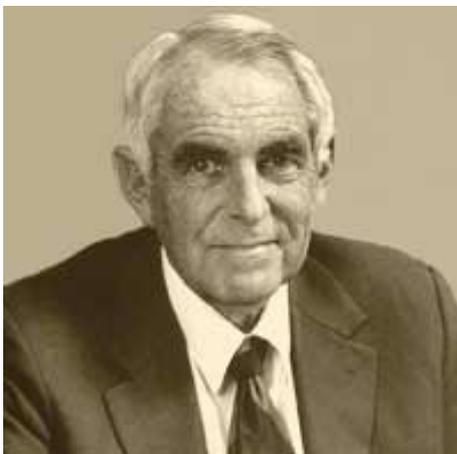
David White filled various high-level appointments at the University, including Head of the Department of Microbiology, Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, 1974–75; Chairman, Academic Board, 1977–78; and Pro Vice-Chancellor, 1975–78. In 1994 the University of Melbourne awarded him an honorary MD.

David graduated in medicine from the University of Sydney in 1954 and completed a PhD in virology at the Australian National University. For his PhD, he devised new ways to work with influenza virus in the laboratory, and influenza remained the focus of his lifelong research. David was an outstanding teacher of undergraduate students, and was recognised by the University of Melbourne and by the Australian Society for Microbiology, each of which named an annual excellence in teaching award in his honour.

As a mentor for research students and staff he was also exemplary. He supervised 37 BSc Honours and 20 PhD students and attracted a series of outstanding postdoctoral fellows and visitors to his laboratory, with whom he published more than 100 original research papers. David authored six major books on virology including co-authorship with Frank Fenner of Medical Virology, through four editions, each of which was widely used in medical schools around the world.

With Frank Fenner and veterinary colleagues David co-authored two editions of Veterinary Virology, another classic text. He was an editor of the international journal Archives of Virology and served on the editorial boards of several other international journals.

David served on many national and international committees including Foundation President of the Cell Biology Society of Australia; President, Australian



Society for Microbiology; and foundation member of the Commonwealth AIDS Research Grants Committee.

He had lifelong interests in ornithology, exploration and wilderness and was Life Member Australian Conservation Foundation and the Bird Observers Club of Australia. He was Grand Master Australian Bridge Federation, several times Victorian bridge champion, and an Australian pairs champion.

Despite his extraordinary achievements, David was humble and self-effacing. Throughout his professional life, he voluntarily took on an enormous workload, not for self-aggrandisement or personal gain but in the firm belief that he could make a difference. Those who were privileged to know him shall remember his warm, constant and lively friendship.

He is survived by his wife Marjorie, by daughters Alison, Merran and Rosalind and their families, including two grandchildren, and by siblings Judith, Katharine and John.

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

ASI Secretariat
PO Box 7108, Upper Ferntree
Gully, Vic. 3156
Australia

Tel: +61 3 9756 0128

Fax: +61 3 9753 6372

Email: asi@21century.com.au

Office hours:

8.30am – 4.30pm

An invitation and a request to all ASI members

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

- We invite 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.
- **AND NOW YOU COULD WIN \$100 FOR THE BEST ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSLETTER!**

ASI Councillors' News

Victorian News



Dear all,

ASI2005

Preparations for ASI2005 (Dec. 4-8) are well underway with an extensive and full program planned to keep you busy. This year will see two outstanding plenary speakers on the Sunday afternoon – we are going to hit the ground running this year so don't miss out. If you haven't registered as yet, further details and instructions can be found on the ASI2005 conference web site, <http://www.asi2005.org.au/>. A reminder that because of ASI2005, the annual IgV meeting at Beechworth will not be held in 2005. However it will be back bigger and better in 2006.

IgV tumour/techniques workshop

Once again, the annual IgV techniques workshop (July 8) was a resounding success. The day was divided between a series of tumour immunology based talks and a series of technique talks. The venue was packed with a predominant audience of students. As a general observation, the IgV techniques workshop is an excellent opportunity for the wider and young audiences to hear from leading and local experts on a varied array of topics and interests. This often only happens at major conferences and to be able to do this each year on a low budget is a great achievement to the organising committee, support of sponsors and the generosity of the speakers to commit their time.

A special thank you to the speakers: Joe Trapani, Mark Smyth, Weisan Chan, Dominic Wall, Eugene Maraskovsky, Jon Cebon, Ken Field, Nigel Waterhouse, Andrew Holloway, Mike Kershaw and Theo Mantamadiotis.

Thank you to Peter Collins and Bob Ashcroft from Dakocytomation and to the Cancer Research Institute Postgraduate Tumour Immunology teaching program for sponsorship.

A big thanks to Mary and Steve's catering for another excellent lunch and finally to the extra efforts of IgV committee members, in particular; Ian Barr, Lori Brown, Phil Darcy, David Tarlinton and Steve Turner, for organising another great day.

ASI Visiting Speaker Program

Victoria had the pleasure of hosting Professor Redwan Moqbel between July 12-14 as part of the ASI Visiting Speaker Program. Prof Moqbel is director of the pulmonary research group, in the Department of Medicine, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. His interests centre on the role of the immune response in allergies and asthma. During his visit, Prof Moqbel delivered two seminars on his recent research findings. These were hosted at the Monash University, Dept of Immunology and the WEHI. Apart from his talks, Prof Moqbel had many informal discussions with various groups and a chance to sample our beautiful city. Once again, a thank you to Prof Moqbel for this time in visiting our state. I understand he will in Australia for a number of months on sabbatical and we may get another chance to talk with him at ASI2005.

Our next scheduled speaker on the ASI Visiting Speaker Program is Prof Georges Grau (France) who will be presenting a talk at the WEHI.

If you are interested in knowing more about the ASI Visiting Speaker Program, please visit the ASI home page (<http://www.wehi.edu.au/collegiate/ASI>) or contact your local State Councillor. I encourage all members to support this program.

*Frank Alderuccio
Councillor*

S.A./N.T. News

The second part of this promises to be stimulating with some exciting events coming up.

Firstly, we are looking forward to another outstanding international guest visiting Adelaide in August as part of the ASI Visiting Speaker Program. Georges Grau from the Université de la Méditerranée in Marseille will visit us as part of his tour through the country. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Alejandro for his fantastic work as ASI Visiting Speaker Program Co-ordinator.

Secondly, 2005 is the first year where the ASI SA State Branch is putting on a local immunology retreat. The Adelaide Immunology Retreat (AIR) focuses mainly on students, but we are delighted to see some of the more senior names out of the local immunology community on the delegate list as well. AIR is a 1½ day, live-in retreat on September 2 & 3 at the Barossa Valley with lots of scientific and social activities. Students will be able to present their work, meet and talk to their peers and high profile immunologists and enjoy the local attractions like a winery tour and a visit at Venom Supplies, a production facility of snake venom. This year, we were able to get such renowned immunologists like Eugene Maraskovsky from CSL in Melbourne and Nik Petrovsky, FMC, Adelaide as our invited speakers. AIR will hopefully establish itself as an annual event.

Later in the year (December), we will have our normal annual student meeting, where local students can present aspects of their work. The best presentation will be rewarded with a prize. This is usually a good practise run for the annual scientific meeting.

*Su Heinzl
Councillor*

Sustaining Membership

ASI Inc acknowledges the support of the following sustaining members:

- Jomar Diagnostics
- Dynal Biotech Pty Ltd

Queensland News

The immunologists in Queensland were thrilled and proud as one of our most successful researchers was honoured as the Queenslander of the Year. This highly prestigious award was conferred on Geoff Hill from the QIMR in recognition of his substantial contributions on bone marrow transplantation research. His continuous clinical involvement was also highlighted as demonstrating the importance of basic research and its contribution on health improvement. The award was presented by Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, AC and Governor of Queensland (see picture).



The performance of our young immunologists during the last ASMR Medical Research Week was astonishing. We witnessed a complete sweep of the floor during the ASMR student conference by QIMR immunologists:

Michelle Neller – First Prize Oral

“*Ex-vivo* anti-tumour Immunity Directly Correlates with Clinical Response to DC Immunotherapy in Stage IV Melanoma patients”

Alberto Pinzón-Charry – Second Prize Oral

“Accumulation of Immature Cells in the Blood Dendritic Cell Compartment of Cancer Patients: A Mechanism for Immunosuppression”

Katherine Wynn – First Prize Poster

“Modulation of Host Cell Phenotype by Epstein-Barr Virus-Encoded BARTF1 Protein: Implication for the Pathogenesis of EBV-Associated Malignancies”

Congratulations for such an outstanding achievement.

With the support of ASI and/or organised by various local ASI members, we have had the opportunity to enjoy the visit of various

distinguished interstate and international immunologists. They include Jamie Rossjohn, from Monash University, who presented his latest crystallographic work performed as part of an ongoing collaboration with the group of Scott Borrows at the QIMR. Ian Hermans from the Malaghan Institute in Wellington, discussed his research interest on NKT application for immunotherapy; his visit was the result of the ongoing collaboration with the group of Chris Schmidt at the QIMR. Bill Heath from the WEHI presented new and exciting data on dendritic cell and cross presentation. Rodwan Moqbel, from University of Alberta, a ASI sponsored visitor, had a very active schedule in Brisbane; while presenting his data on the function of eosinophiles in allergic reactions, Prof. Moqbel advanced discussions on collaborative work he intends to undertake during his sabbatical period early next year.

The BIG (Brisbane Immunology Group) meeting is happening (August 18-19) at the Sea World Nara Resort and we will report in the next issue.

*J. Alejandro Lopez
Councillor*

3rd Australian B Cell Dialogue (ABCD)

Centenary Institute, August 16-17, 2005

The ABCD concept was initiated by the combined efforts of Lynn Corcoran, Phil Hodgkin, Stephen Nutt and Dave Tarlinton who convened the first two meetings at the WEHI in 2003 and 2004. This year the ABCD ship sailed north of the Murray and a group of nearly 60 delegates from NSW, Vic, ACT, Qld and SA came together at The Centenary Institute for two days of food, drink and learned discourse on our favourite cell type. Sessions ranged from the discussions of the intricacies of somatic hypermutation mechanisms to dissertations on the sorts of diseases that can strike when B cells go feral. After then swinging from the extremes of “B Cell Responses I” to “B Cell Responses II”, there was clearly something for everyone with even a passing interest in B cells.

But seriously ... as convenors we were very impressed by the uniformly high standard of the work presented at the meeting. The critical mass of excellent Australian labs working in the area of B cell biology was the original

stimulus for the ABCD concept and clearly the local B cell research community continues to prosper. ABCD has established an important role within this community as a fertile environment for the exchange of ideas, reagents and support. The continued success of ABCD as a short annual meeting means that it will be back again in 2006 – stay tuned for the time and place. We would encourage anyone with an interest in B cells to make time to attend future meetings (this year only \$80 for students and \$120 for others) even if just to get help with the inevitable B cell phenotype

in your favourite knock-out mouse. Dr Tangye even promises to make the trivia questions easier next time!

Thank you to everyone who helped make ABCD3 a success. We would also like to thank the sponsors of the meeting – Becton Dickenson, Jomar Diagnostics, Miltenyi Biotec, and the Centenary and Walter & Eliza Hall Institutes.

*Robert Brink
Chris Jolly
Stuart Tangye*



Phil Hodgkin (ASI President) and Stu Tangye (conference organiser), with enthusiastic barman in the background

CSIRO Eureka Prize for Leadership in Science

Professor Ian Frazer was awarded the inaugural CSIRO Eureka Prize for Leadership in Science for his leadership and scientific innovation. This award is worth \$10,000 dollars, and is sponsored by CSIRO. It will be awarded each year to an Australian individual who has demonstrated an outstanding role and impact in science leadership. Working at the Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research in Queensland, Frazer's research team has developed a preventative vaccine shown to be effective in three international clinical trials. This vaccine is expected to be on the market within the year.

Human papilloma virus (HPV) is associated with cervical cancer, which is responsible for an estimated, 288,000 deaths each year. The World Health Organisation has said that HPV is the second biggest cause of cancer mortality worldwide and it is especially devastating in developing countries where its victims are often women in their childbearing years. Ian Frazer, along with the late Dr Jian Zhou, has created a preventive vaccine against HPV infection. However, as Professor Frazer says, "Five million women living today will develop cervical cancers from HPV infections they already carry, so we also need a vaccine that will treat women who are already infected." Therefore his team is also developing a therapeutic vaccine. In combination, these two vaccines would have the potential to virtually eradicate cervical cancer in one generation.

"Ian Frazer and his team are on track to effectively eliminate cervical cancer," says Brian Sherman, President of the Australian Museum Trust. "It's a remarkable scientific and leadership achievement, which is reflected in his roles advising the World Health Organisation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Queensland Cancer Fund on cancer immunology."



*Dr Geoff Garrett presenting Professor Ian Frazer with the 2005 CSIRO Eureka Prize for Leadership in Science.
Photo: Stuart Humpreys © Australian Museum*

Dr Frazer still teaches immunology to undergraduate students of the University of Queensland. He has also supervised 24 PhD students and has wide collaborations both in Australia and overseas. He has published over 200 articles and is on the board of, and chairs the Medical and Scientific advisory committee of, the Queensland Cancer Fund. He is vice president of the Cancer Council Australia. He also advises the WHO and the Bill and Melissa Gates Foundation on papillomavirus vaccines. The Eureka Prize has helped bring public attention to his work and to HPV vaccination, with a recent ABC television *Catalyst* segment covering its impact.

Professor Frazer is director of the Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research, a research centre of the University of Queensland at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane. He was trained as a renal physician and clinical immunologist in Edinburgh, Scotland before emigrating in 1981 to Melbourne to continue his clinical training and to pursue studies in viral immunology and autoimmunity at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research with Prof Ian Mackay. In 1985 he moved to Brisbane to take up a teaching post with the University of Queensland, and he now holds a personal chair as head of the Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research. Professor Frazer has held continuous research funding from the NHMRC since 1985, mostly relating to papillomaviruses or to tumour immunology. His current research interests include immunoregulation, and immunotherapeutic vaccines for Papillomavirus associated cancers, for which he has held research funding from several Australian and overseas funding bodies, including the NIH and Wellcome Trust.

UPCOMING LECTURES & CONFERENCES

The International Cytokine Society Conference 2005

Theme: Cytokines, Immunity, Immunotherapy and Vaccine
October 27–31, 2005
Seoul, Korea
Website: <http://www.ics2005.org>

Genetics and the Immune Response
35th ASI Conference in conjunction with 14th IHIWS
December 4–8, 2005
Melbourne, Australia
Email: mp@asnevents.net.au
Website: www.asi2005.org.au

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