



N E W S L E T T E R

Australasian Society for Immunology Incorporated

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Australian Centre for Vaccine Development

Late last year Queensland Institute of Medical Research announced the establishment of Australian Centre for Vaccine Development (ACVD) with an aim to continue the excellent work carried by the CRC for Vaccine Technology (CRC-VT). CRC-VT completed its tenure in July, 2006 under the esteemed leadership of Prof. Anne Kelso. Over the 14 years, CRC-VT provided an excellent platform for cutting edge research in immunology/infectious diseases/vaccine technologies. Most importantly, it provided an opportunity to establish collaborative links between research institutes, universities and biotech industry. ACVD aims to establish itself as an internationally reputed vaccine research centre which provides opportunities for its members to develop collaborative links with national/international academic institutions and the biotech industry and also provide a platform for young Australian/international scientists to learn/develop new techniques in the field of vaccine research. It also to develop novel technology platforms to enhance the efficacy of existing vaccines and to formulate the next generation of vaccines primarily aimed towards infectious diseases and human malignancies.



*Assoc. Prof. Rajiv Khanna
Director, ACVD*

ACVD research priorities include:

- (a) Education and Training
- (b) Vaccine Delivery Platform Technologies
- (c) Novel Vaccines for Infectious Diseases
- (d) Novel Vaccines for Human Malignancies

Under the Education and Training, ACVD is actively seeking collaborative links with international and national institutions and then utilise these links for providing advanced training for ACVD scientists in the area of vaccine research. ACVD will offer multiple training fellowships each year to postgraduate and post-doctoral

scientists working within the ACVD laboratories (and its collaborating partners) for advanced training, field studies and/or industry sabbaticals. Another important objective of the ACVD is to provide opportunities for clinical researchers for advanced training in vaccine research and clinical trials of vaccines developed by the ACVD scientists. ACVD will also sponsor vaccine-related seminar programs and/or immunology meetings (including annual Brisbane Immunology Group (BIG) and Australasian Vaccines and Immunotherapeutics Development (AVID) meetings.

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ASI Inc. COUNCIL

President

Professor Alan Baxter
CGC, James Cook University
Townsville Qld 4811
Ph: 07 4781 6265 Fax: 07 4781 6078
Email: Alan.Baxter@jcu.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

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 Treasurer

Dr Chris Andoniou
Centre for Experimental Immunology
The Lions Eye Institute
2 Verdun Street
Nedlands WA 6009
Ph: 08 9381 0799 Fax: 08 9381 0700
Email: cadoniou@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

State Councillors

New South Wales

Dr Bernadette Saunders
Ph: 02 9565 6114 Fax: 02 9565 6101
Email: b.saunders@centenary.usyd.edu.au

Queensland

Dr Christopher Schmidt
Ph: 07 3362 0313 Fax: 07 3362 3510
Email: chriss@qimr.edu.au

Western Australia

Dr Delia Nelson
Ph: 08 9346 3510 Fax: 08 9346 2816
Email: Delia.Nelson@curtin.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

FIMSA Councillor

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

Victoria & Tasmania

Dr Phillip Darcy
Ph: 03 9656 3769 Fax: 03 9656 1411
Email: phil.darcy@petermac.org

South Australia & Northern Territory

Dr Claudine Bonder
Ph: 08 8222 3852 Fax: 08 8232 4092
Email: claudine.bonder@imvs.sa.gov.au

Australian Capital Territory

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

Contact for Tasmania

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

Website

The ASI web site (www.immunology.org.au) 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 email 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 newsletter reviews the activities of the recent annual meeting in Auckland, including both the formal (Minutes of AGM, p13) and informal (photos back page) aspects. To those who attended it will be a fond reminder of a very successful and enjoyable meeting, and to those who missed out it will serve as a reminder not to miss what promises to be an even bigger and better event in Sydney this December!

Although not always the highlight of the newsletter, the AGM Minutes remind us of the great financial shape the Society is in, as well as the large number of activities it has supported over the year. These activities include travel awards, and in this newsletter we include two reports of recent travel supported by the Society (p11).

New to the Newsletter is the President's column (p5), in which the incoming President Alan Baxter overviews the role and activities of the Society. Finally, the World Day of Immunology is nearly upon us, and contact details of your local co-ordinator are on page 9.

*Miles Davenport
Editor*



Australasian Society for Immunology (ASI) Annual Scientific Meeting

2nd - 6th December 2007
Manly Pacific Resort, SYDNEY, NSW

Confirmed invited speakers include:

- Ullrich von Andrian, Harvard University • Eugene Butcher, Stanford University
- Anne O'Garra, NIMR • Pamela Schwartzberg, NIH
- Maria Grazia Roncarolo, San Raffaele Institute for Gene Therapy
- Yong-Jun Liu, MD Anderson Cancer Centre • Ulrich Schaible, University of London
- Facundo Batista, Cancer Research UK • Kristin Hogquist, University of Minnesota
- Louis Staudt, National Cancer Institute • Max Cooper, University of Alabama
- Mark Shlomchik, Yale University • Bodo Grimbacher, University of Freiburg
- Paulo Viera, Institut Pasteur

Organising Committee:

- Bernadette Saunders (convenor) • Chris Jolly • Stuart Tangye • Miles Davenport
- Michael Rolph • Charles MacKay • Fabienne MacKay • Lisa Sedger • Nicholas King

Call for abstracts and registrations will open in February 2007
Abstract and Early Bird Deadlines: 3rd September 2007

Join us on Sydney's scenic, lively and famous Manly beach!



Web address: www.asi2007.org



ImmunoRIO2007

13th International Congress of Immunology
Rio de Janeiro - Brazil - August 21-25, 2007

<http://www.immunorio2007.org.br/>

ACVD, cont.

ACVD includes 14 different research laboratories at QIMR and the primary areas of research involve infectious diseases (Malaria, Leishmania, Scabies, Epstein-Barr virus, Cytomegalovirus, Hookworm, Group A streptococcus and Schistosomiasis), human cancers (Melanoma, Breast Cancer, Hodgkin's lymphoma, nasopharyngeal carcinoma) and transplantation.

ACVD and the Biotech Industry

Another important objective of the ACVD will be to promote the development of new immunotherapeutic technologies through establishment of collaborative links between its member laboratories and the national/international biotech industry.

ACVD member laboratories have extensive experience in infectious diseases, cancer therapies, organ transplantation and vaccine testing and are equipped with world-class technologies which can provide facilities for both preclinical and clinical testing of novel vaccine formulations. ACVD group leaders are internationally recognised scientists in their fields and are able to provide expert advice on various aspects of vaccine related research and development.

Specific Expertise available at ACVD

- Ex vivo analysis of human and murine immune response
- Preclinical models for infectious diseases (malaria, Leishmania, EBV, CMV, hookworm, schistosomiasis, scabies, Group A streptococcus, Giardia, Trichomonas and Entamoeba), cancer (Hodgkin's lymphoma,

melanoma, nasopharyngeal carcinoma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma) and transplantation (stem cell transplant)

- Bioinformatics and T cell epitope mapping
- Production of preclinical/clinical grade immunotherapies for infectious diseases and human cancers
- Expression and production of recombinant proteins and monoclonal antibodies
- Clinical immune monitoring for vaccine studies
- Phase I/II/III clinical trial design

ACVD members will have access to the GMP facility (Q-GEN) at QIMR for the production of clinical grade material for vaccine trials. In addition, ACVD is also aiming to link with QIMR based clinical trial company, Q-Pharm which has extensive expertise in conducting clinical trials.

Select Members of the ACVD



*Dr James McCarthy
Head, Clinical Tropical
Medicine Lab*



*Dr Geoff Hill
Head, Bone Marrow
Transplantation Lab*



*Prof. Denis Moss
Head, EBV Biology Lab*



*Assoc. Prof. Scott Burrows
Head, Cellular
Immunology Lab*



*Dr Alex Loukas
Head, Helminth Biology
Lab*



*Dr Christian Engwerda
Head, Immunology and
Infection Lab*



*Dr Andreas Suhrbier
Head, Immunovirology
Lab*



*Prof. Don McManus
Head, Molecular
Parasitology Lab*



*Dr Chris Schmidt
Head, Cancer
Immunotherapy Lab*

President's Column

Benefits of Membership of ASI

The Australasian Society for Immunology (ASI) is the professional organization for immunologists – both clinical and scientific – in the Asia-Pacific region. In my opinion, the greatest benefit offered by the Society is that of mentorship. The membership list and the activities supported by the Society and its Regional Branches provide wonderful opportunities for networking and collaborating with some of the best workers in the field.

Other benefits of membership of ASI include:

- Free on-line access to Immunology & Cell Biology, Nature Immunology, and Nature Reviews Immunology through the Society's website www.immunology.org.au;
- Eligibility for societal bursaries and awards;
- Reduced registration rates at the ASI Annual Scientific Meeting;
- Regional branch activities, including student training courses, advanced technical training courses and regional scientific meetings;
- Support for sub-disciplines through the ASI Special Interest Groups;
- Financial support for meeting organization and speaker sponsorship
- Financial support for international visiting speakers;
- Quarterly newsletter;
- Membership of the Federation of Immunological Societies of Asia-Oceania and the International Union of Immunological Societies;
- Affiliation with the Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy, Australasian Society for Medical Research, the Australian Academy of Science, and the Committee of Australian Biomedical Societies on Animal Experimentation.

How to Become President and Change the World

At the 2007 Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society in Auckland, New Zealand, our Past President Phil Hodgkin passed the mantle of the presidency over to me. The last few years have seen a significant strengthening in the support the Society offers its members and it is with delight that I take this opportunity to continue the wonderful work of Council.

This raises the issue of how I rose from the obscurity of a rural academic backwater to captain the board of our Society. I am happy to share the secret of my success.

The position of President is a four-year commitment to the Society. It is an elected position, and every two years the Honorary Secretary seeks nominations by members, and co-ordinates a ballot. For the first year of service, the President Elect takes the role of Vice President – an apprenticeship under the tutelage of the current President. At the end of that year, the President Elect is sworn into the Presidency, with the approval of Council, at the Annual Scientific Meeting. The handover formally occurs every two years at the completion of the President's Address. The new President holds the position for two years, before passing it on to the new Vice President, when s/he assumes the role of the Past President for the fourth year of service.

In the second half of 2007, José Villadangos, the current Honorary Secretary, will once again announce the position of Vice President vacant and seek nominations. I encourage you to nominate your colleagues.

The Importance of a Strong Constitution

ASI activities are numerous and complex and a series of excellent honorary secretaries have kept track of the formal and informal administrative and cultural aspects of the Society. Geeta Chaudhri and Jane Allen before her have gone to great lengths to formalise and annotate the resolutions passed by Council and at the Annual General Meetings (AGM) since the 1970s. José Villadangos and the rest of the Council plan to complete the work this year. Not surprisingly, some of the resolutions (particularly those passed over 35 years ago) are no longer relevant to the large, vibrant and economically secure Society that ASI has become. Over the next five months, Council will revisit each resolution and amend those that are within its remit, where appropriate. Those that affect Constitutional issues will be posted on the website, together with a proposed revision of the Constitution, for consideration by the members of the Society. A vote will be held in December 2007 at the AGM in Sydney to determine if the Constitutional amendments that have been previously made by the Society and



approved by a vote at previous AGM should be formally integrated into the Society's Constitution.

Special Interest Groups

Over the last six months, Council has revisited the issue of Special Interest Groups (SIGs). SIGs were originally established to allow the development of sub disciplines, and offered workshops at the Annual Scientific Meeting and financial support in return for an annual report of activities undertaken. Concerns about the scheme centred on the failure of some SIGs to submit annual reports, and the difficulties and costs imposed on the organising committees of the Annual Scientific Meeting in trying to make available rooms for workshops that were frequently poorly attended, or not even held.

During the period of review, it became clear that at least one SIG was very successful indeed. The SIG in Mucosal Immunology holds its own workshops, provides funding for the Graham Jackson Memorial Poster Prize at the Annual Scientific Meeting and often contributes towards the cost for an invited speaker. It does this from its own funds and has never received any direct support for activities from ASI.

Council has resolved to retain, but alter the status of SIGs. While this is still a subject under discussion, we currently plan to vote in the mid-year Council meeting on dissolving the existing SIGs, with the exception of the successful Mucosal Immunology group, and invite resubmissions. We anticipate that a

number of subdisciplines may wish to rejuvenate or initiate SIGs and these moves are welcomed. SIGs will no longer necessarily have the right to a venue at the Annual Scientific Meeting, but can propose sessions to the local programme committee, and if accepted, help organise them with the local organising team. We also strongly encourage such groups to coordinate satellite meetings with the meeting organisers. The Tumour Immunology Workshop is an outstanding example of the success of this model. In addition, SIGs and other groups of Society members with shared interests are encouraged to involve themselves in the Visiting Speaker Program by contacting Alejandro Lopez to nominate a visiting speaker and to apply to Council through José for one or other of the financial support packages for small meetings being introduced this year.

Financial Support for Small Meetings

An important aim of the Society is to support professional exchanges relevant to the interests of the members. In order to further this aim, Council has developed two new schemes: Meeting Seed Funding and ASI-Sponsored Speaker Support.

Meeting Seed Funding aims to provide a short-term loan of up to \$10,000 (\$6-8,000 being a typical figure) to SIGs or groups of members with a shared interest to cover the costs of holding a small meeting that are payable prior to registration. A typical example of such a cost is the holding deposit on a venue. Application for funding must be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary and include:

- Place, date and purpose of meeting;
- Expected number of participants;
- Relevance to immunology;
- Expected interest to ASI members;
- Presence or absence of registration discounts for ASI members;
- Amount requested and indicative itemised budget of meeting;
- Dates of requirement of funds and when loan will be refunded.

The decision to fund will be made by the Executive of Council. Conditions of funding include:

- The funds will be repaid;
- The Society will be acknowledged in correspondence, programs and sessions as a sponsor of the

meeting;

- An organiser or participant will submit a scientific meeting report for publication in the Society Newsletter.

Liability to the Society for this program will not exceed \$30,000 at any time.

The ASI-Sponsored Speaker Support aims to provide up to \$3,000 (\$2,000 being a typical figure) to SIGs or groups of members with a shared interest to cover the costs of inviting an international speaker to contribute to a small meeting. Application for funding must be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary and include:

- Place, date and purpose of meeting;
- Expected number of participants;
- Relevance to immunology;
- Expected interest to ASI members;
- Presence or absence of registration discounts for ASI members;
- The curriculum vitae of the proposed speaker;
- Dates of requirement of funds.

The decision to fund will be made by the Executive of Council and conditions of funding include:

- The Society will be given the opportunity to consider the suitability of the visitor to visit Regional Branches funded through the Sponsored Speaker Program.
- The Society will be acknowledged in correspondence, programs and sessions as a sponsor of the meeting.
- An organiser or participant will submit a scientific meeting report for publication in the Society Newsletter

In addition to these financial forms of support, the Society may also be able to publish an advertisement of the meeting in its website, newsletter and journal (Immunology and Cell Biology). If you are interested in doing this, please contact Judith Greer (webmaster, j.greer@uq.edu.au), Miles Davenport (Newsletter Editor, m.davenport@unsw.edu.au) and Chris Parish (ICB Editor, christopher.parish@anu.edu.au) for formatting guidelines.

As always, the Council is keen to hear from members regarding ways in which the Society can help foster the interests of members. Please do not hesitate to contact myself, or your State representative, if there is anything we can do to help.

Alan G Baxter

UPCOMING LECTURES & CONFERENCES

2nd World Congress on Work-Related & Environmental Allergy/6th International Symposium on Irritant Contact Dermatitis
June 13–16, 2007

Weimar, Germany

Email: woreal@conventus.de

Website: www.conventus.de/woreal

GLYCO 19 – 19th International Symposium on Glycoconjugates
July 15–20, 2007

Cairns, Queensland

Email: pgleeson@unimelb.edu.au

Website: www.glyco19.org

4th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment & Prevention
July 22–25, 2007

Sydney, NSW

Email: cammi.webb@ashm.org.au

Website: www.ias2007.org

For your diary
This year's ASI conference will be held at the Manly Pacific Hotel which overlooks Manly Beach, Sydney, NSW, December 2–6, 2007

The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research

WEHI Seminars on the Web:

www.wehi.edu/seminars/

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

Report on 2006 ASI Annual Conference

John Fraser, Convenor

The annual meeting is *the* event on the ASI calendar and it was Auckland's turn in 2006 after an absence of 14 years. Roger Booth did the business back in '92 so no surprises to his response when asked if he would help again: "Sure – just don't ask me to convene it!" Now I really enjoy the ASI. It's a big friendly family. But organising the annual meeting is a different story and really tests one's intestinal fortitude. The high standards expected means that delivering a comparable flop is always on the cards. To paraphrase a line from Tom Wolfe's *The Right Stuff* – "What (I) feared most wasn't death – it was screwing up!" We had a small but highly effective group – Rod Dunbar, Roger Booth, Greg Murison, Paul Tan, Margot Skinner and Amanda Taylor, our 2006 student rep who provided the idea for the graduate student BBQ.

The meeting began with a shade under 400 registrants. Sunday was the Postgraduate workshop, attended by 52 Postgraduate students. First up, there were engaging and inspirational presentations from Richard Flavell and Jim Watson on how to make it in science. Here were two different careers but both cited inspirational mentors as the most important factor in their enjoyment and success in science. The workshop split into rotating classes run by three outstanding facilitators – Roger Booth challenged students to think about how the immune and nervous systems might be interrelated. He had the class singing some of his memorable ditties by the end of the day. Phil Hodgkin was keen for students to test some of his immune modelling, and Lindsay Dent split the group even further to discuss their favourite effector cells. It was a fun day, not too demanding and only a few papers needed to be read before. At the same time, Rod Dunbar ran a superb Tumour Immunology Workshop – a fantastic event that owed as much to Rod's ability as an effective chair, as to the 15 superb talks lead off by Caetano Reis e Sousa and Thomas Blankentein just after morning break. The workshop finished with the Gordon Ada Oration which was given this year by Franca Ronchese (Malaghan Institute). Although absent, I heard that the open discussion following the oration was excellent!

The opening lecture on Sunday from Richard Flavell (Yale) was preceded by a traditional Maori whakataua from Cyril

Talbot a Kaumatua (Tribal Elder) from the Auckland tribe Ngati Whatua o Orakei. It was a wonderful way to start. His warm and sincere blessings seemed to pervade the entire meeting. In a packed lecture theatre with uncooperative air-conditioning, Richard delivered a tour-de-force lecture across many different areas of his research, which relies heavily on knock-out mouse phenotypes to examine the role of individual cytokines in regulation of inflammation and autoimmunity.

Caetano Reis e Souza quelling a riotous audience



Talks by Ari Theofilopoulos (Scripps), Caetano Reis e Souza (London) and Chris Parish (JCSMR) started off Monday morning proper. Chris kindly stood in at the last minute for Ian Frazer who was in Scotland for a sudden family bereavement. Chris impressed everyone with a superb presentation on the role of heparin sulphate in basement membrane activities and describing a small molecule inhibitor of heparinase, PI-88 that suppresses tumour angiogenesis and metastasis.

The Burnett Orator for 2006 was Marc Feldman from Imperial College London and an ex-graduate student of Gus Nossal. Marc gave a typically unpretentious yet utterly compelling reflection of his extraordinary research career in inflammation research that has led to his developing anti-TNF antibody treatment as a therapy for rheumatoid arthritis – complete with a powerful video of a previously chair bound patient running up and down stairs following treatment.

Tuesday morning was a morning of contrast with Alan Aderem (Seattle) on systems biology and immunity, Ian Orme (Colorado) on tuberculosis and Thomas Blankenstein (Berlin) on surveillance of immunogenic tumours. To me, the standout talk of



Allen Aderem

the entire meeting was Alan Aderem (Institute for Systems Biology, Seattle) who gave a spell binding presentation on his computational approach to model the regulatory points in the immune response. This was an impressive talk, backed up by some even more impressive

data sets. Alan, I also discovered, has an interesting history having spent three years in a South African prison as an outspoken advocate and member of the African National Congress prior to Nelson Mandela's release.

The Graduate BBQ on Tuesday evening was a new event. Suggested by Amanda Taylor, this was designed to get the invited speakers and graduate students together without supervisors – who we all know monopolise the conversation. This was hugely successful and, I have to say, owed as much to the engaging guest speakers as it did to the food, the lovely location in the Fale Pacifica and the copious amounts of alcohol. I'm sure one or two postdoc positions were secured that night



A smile is worth a thousand words – at the Grad BBQ

or maybe at the karaoke bar afterwards. The only message we got back from the students was it could have gone on for longer and I totally agree. I suspect this will be a regular fixture at the ASI. It's a great way for students to feel they have their own special function to look forward to.

Wednesday had another mix of plenary speakers with Bob Coffman (Dynavax) who gave an excellent summary of the impressive therapeutics being developed for regulating TLR signalling, Fabienne MacKay (Garvan) who talked about the TNF-like ligand BAFF and the President's Address from Phil Hodgkin (WEHI) who gave a splendid presentation on the use of probabilistic theory to model how immune cells respond.

But what we all looked forward to was the Lafferty debate! This continued its proud reputation as one hour of meaningless discourse; replete with rapacious egos, pretence, carelessly flung insults, half-truths, misinformation and complete irrelevance. This year the topic, "The mouse is no longer an appropriate model of the human immune system", was superb and really challenged the dim-witted among us to comprehend all the lucid arguments. Now everyone knows that the mouse sucks at being a human, but it's still enjoyable to hear more shonky reasons from the likes of Dave Tarlington and Fabienne MacKay and their respective teams Stu Tangye, Edwin Hawkins, Norbert Kienzle and Gabrielle Belz. It was just a great way to loosen up for dinner, held in the beautiful New Zealand Yacht Squadron (sans America's Cup) down under the Auckland Harbour Bridge set amongst all the marine hardware we poorly paid scientists can only dream about.



Cath Bolland – Opera singer turned clinical immunologist

A sunny evening, good music, good food, a memorable song from ex-opera singer turned Clinical Immunologist, Cath Bolland. A memorable haka from several virile Kiwis ultimately stole the plastic phallus, the Bursa of Fabricius, out from under the noses of those frustrated limerickicians; to spend yet another year in Godzone—oh such sweet victory!

Another first at the dinner was the inaugural New Zealand Immunology award named in honour of Jim Watson to recognise and promote immunology in New Zealand. This was presented by Jim to Franca Ronchese and Bryce Buddle. Most agreed that the trophy design needs a bit more work



James Watson about to present the inaugural James Watson award for New Zealand immunologists

Thursday morning was well attended (always a challenge after the dinner) with Marco Colonna (St Louis) who talked about TLR sensing of viral infection by detection of dsRNA, Steve Henry (Auckland) on the development of novel lipid tagged syn compounds used to paint cell surfaces with a variety of antigenic and non-antigen molecules and John Trowsdale (Cambridge) who presented on MHC disease linkages.

The Graham Jackson Memorial Prize in Mucosal Immunology went to Kelly Cunningham from Newcastle University.

The two poster events on Monday and Tuesday evening were well supported and student poster prizes were awarded to Marthe D'Ombain from WEHI who won the *Nature Review's* Immunology Student poster prize and Helen Simkins from the Malaghan Institute who won the ASI Poster Prize. The BD Science Communicator Award was won by Catherine Lloyd for her presentation "Super size my liver" and the ASI New Investigator Award went to Di Yu from WEHI for his presentation on ICOS regulation by Roquin gene. As a final award and an acknowledgement for service to the Society, the Rowley Medal was presented *in absentia* to Dr Judith Greer for her untiring work as ASI archivist over many years.

Now I may be fooling myself as the convenor, but I thought this was a really warm and friendly meeting with lots of great immunology, fun and laughter in a relaxed setting. Thanks again to all those who helped out, whether it was organising, judging, chairing sessions or offering moral support. Thanks to Lynda, John and Jude from Auckland University CCE who did a superb job as conference organisers. We could not run these meetings without our sponsors and I thank BD Biosciences, CSL, Merck, Peptech, Nature Asia Pacific, ICP Bio, Uniservices, Genesis, Maurice Wilkins Centre, Medsaic and Alexis Biochemicals for their generous support. I for one was very happy with the result, and the really nice thing is, I won't have to think about doing it again for at least another 14 years! Over to Sydney for 2007.



Anne Kelso receives her Burnett Orators medal at the dinner

World Day of Immunology

April 29th is World Day of Immunology. Co-ordinated by Prof Dr Stefan Kaufmann, Director of the Max-Planck-Institute for Infection-Biology in Berlin, the first Day of Immunology (DoI) was held April 29, 2005 in more than 30 European countries with great success. Last year, the European Federation of Immunological Societies (EFIS) fostered Partnerships in Immunology and Education ("Food for Thought - PIE") and focused on educational activities by:

- Offering to provide lessons on Immunology in schools,
- Offering sponsorships to schools and teachers,
- Inviting classes to visit labs,
- Preparing a special website for school use, with quizzes and prizes for the best entries.

An impressive variety of activities with broad media coverage reached large numbers of people all over Europe, and strengthened public awareness of immunology as a basis for individual health and well-being. You can read more about the European Day of Immunology on (<http://www.dayofimmunology.org/initiative/index.html>).

This year is the first that ASI has planned to take part in the World Day of Immunology. We hope to:

- 1) Broadcast a short talk on Radio National of immunological relevance.
- 2) Provide, through institutional public relations offices, media releases announcing World Day of Immunology and providing a single news story, per co-operating institution, of a recent successful scientific outcome.
- 3) Host a public lecture of general interest with an immunological theme in at least three of our Regional Branches.

Below, I have listed the contact details of volunteer regional co-ordinators from each regional branch that has nominated to take part. We are now seeking help from members to:

- Identify co-operating institutions in their Region prepared to use their Public Relations Offices as a conduit/moderator of news.

- Provide to their Institutional Public Relations Officers a story of immunological relevance (recent findings, publications etc) and present the story in the context of the Day of Immunology.
- Identify possible speakers to present public lectures and identify venues for these talks, such as institutional lecture theatres.
- Initiate and organise other activities such as lab visits, institutional open days, quizzes - anything.

I wish to stress that our goal is not to compete with the public relations aims of the individual institutions; the goal is to facilitate their aims by providing central support for their activities, wherever possible.

Anyone wishing to take part should contact their regional co-ordinator. This is an opportunity to show some flair and present immunology in its appropriate light – as one of the most successful scientific ventures our nations have invested in. It should also be an opportunity to let our hair down and have a bit of fun.

Alan G Baxter

Volunteer Regional Co-ordinators for the World Day of Immunology

VICTORIA:
 Dr Stuart Berzins
 Department of Microbiology and Immunology
 The University of Melbourne
 Parkville Vic 3010
 Ph: 61-3-8344-5704
 Fax: 61-3-9347-1540
 Email: berzins@unimelb.edu.au

NEW SOUTH WALES:
 Dr Bernadette Saunders
 Centenary Institute
 Locked bag #6
 Newtown, NSW 2042
 Ph: 61 2 95656114
 Fax: 61 2 95656101
 Email: b.saunders@centenary.usyd.edu.au

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
 Dr Guna Karupiah
 Division of Immunology & Genetics
 The John Curtin School of Medical Research
 Australian National University
 Bldg 54, Mills Road
 PO Box 334
 Canberra ACT 2601
 Tel: 61 2 6125 4562
 Fax : 61 2 6125 2595
 email: guna.karupiah@anu.edu.au

QUEENSLAND:
 Dr Georgina Clark
 Mater Medical Research Institute
 Aubigny Place, Raymond Terrace
 South Brisbane, Qld 4101
 Ph: 61 7 3840 2561
 Fax: 61 7 3840 2550
 Email: gclark@mmri.mater.org.au

SOUTH AUSTRALIA/NORTHERN TERRITORY
 Dr Claudine Bonder
 Dept Human Immunology
 IMVS, Hanson Institute
 PO Box 14
 Rundle Mall SA 5000
 Ph: 61 8 8222 3852
 Fax: 61 8 8232 4092
 Email: claudine.bonder@imvs.sa.gov.au

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
 Dr Delia Nelson
 Research Fellow
 School of Biomedical Sciences
 Curtin University
 Kent Street
 Bentley WA 6102
 Tel: 61 8 9346 3510
 Fax: 61 8 9346 2816
 Email: delian@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

ASI Councillors' News

Victorian News



The Immunology Group of Victoria
A branch of the Australasian Society for Immunology

Welcome to the start of another exciting year for the Society. I would first like to take this opportunity to congratulate John Fraser and the rest of the organising committee for their tremendous effort in organising the program for the annual scientific meeting held at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. The Tumour Immunology Workshop held prior to the ASI meeting was also a tremendous success and continues to attract many high profile national and international speakers.

The ASI conference will be held this year in Sydney from December 2-6. Students and postdocs are reminded that to be eligible for some of the awards at the meeting they must renew their membership before April 1. More details about this year's conference will become available on the ASI website <http://www.vehi.edu.au/collegiate/ASI/>

As a reminder, the local IgV council will be organising other worthwhile events this year which include the tumor immunology and techniques workshop and the annual IgV meeting at Beechworth. More information about these upcoming events will soon be available on the IgV website.

As part of the ASI program, the IgV branch will host both Ron Germain and Jacques Banchereau who have made tremendous contributions to the immunology field. Details regarding their schedules will be emailed to members as it becomes available.

Finally, I would like to remind everybody about the benefits of being an ASI member. This includes eligibility for a variety of bursaries and awards, reduced registration rates at the annual scientific meeting and subscription to *Immunology and Cell Biology*. It is also an excellent opportunity for members (particularly new members) to mix and work with other immunologists in Australia and New Zealand. Membership details can be found on the ASI website.

Phillip Darcy
Councillor

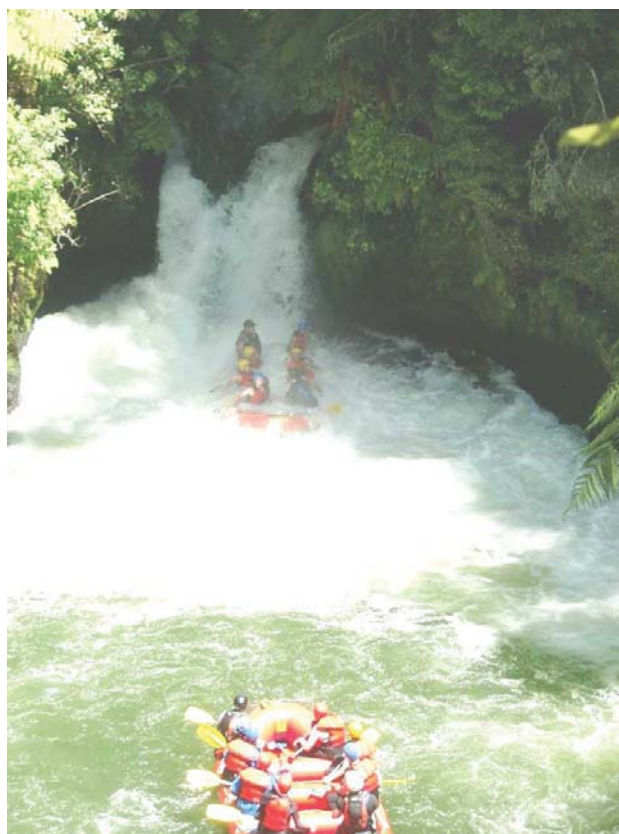
Queensland News

The highlight of the ASI calendar, the December meeting in Auckland, was well attended by Queensland delegates. ASI helped student bursary winners Michelle Neller (Queensland Institute of Medical Research), Annelie Vulink and Jennifer Freeman (both Mater Medical Research Institute) attend the meeting by paying for their airfare and registration. As expected, attendees took full advantage of the tourism possibilities in New Zealand, but the meeting itself had many highlights, from the science to the social events.

This year we say farewell to our erstwhile Treasurer, Norbert Kienzle (QIMR), who has by universal agreement done a wonderful job during his tenure. But as one Queenslander

(honorary) goes, another (honorary) arrives: Alan Baxter (Comparative Genomics Centre, James Cook University) is, of course, our new President.

The 9th Annual DC symposium will be held at MMRI on June 21-22, 2007. Entitled *Dendritic Cell Immunotherapy*, the symposium is a satellite meeting to the 2007 ISCT Meeting in Sydney. Among others, the symposium will feature leading international scientists Dr Jim Young, Dr Miriam Merad, Dr Karolina Palucka, Professor Carl Figdor and Professor Eckhart Kaempgen. For more information or to join the mailing list for updates, please contact Marnie Nichols at MMRI on 07 3840 2433 or via email mnichols@mmri.mater.org.au.



Looking for something to do after the ASI meeting in New Zealand, Norbert Kienzle took the plunge 7m down the highest commercially rafted waterfall in the world on the Kaitunu River – a class 5 rapid. It was this kind of fiscal restraint that made Norbert so popular as ASI Treasurer.

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

Travel Award Conference Reports

Postdoctoral Travel Grant Report Dr Dodie Stephanie Pouniotis

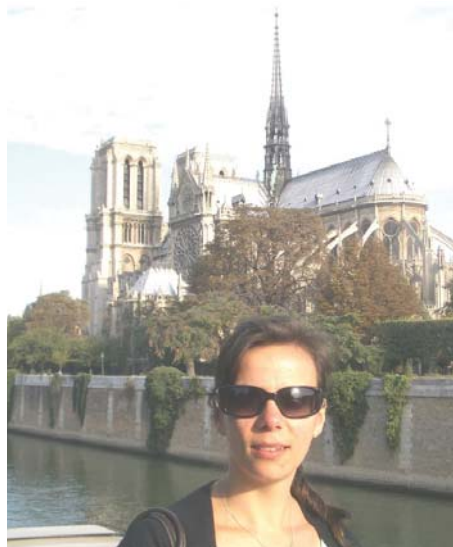
I was fortunate to receive an ASI Postdoctoral Travel Grant and be able to attend the 16th European Congress of Immunology at the Palais des Congrès in Paris from September 7-9. Paris was an amazing city. The history, culture and architecture, not to mention the food, lived up to all expectations. The conference covered diverse areas of immunology which made it even more interesting and rewarding to attend. Keynote speakers included Cornelis Melief and Ira Mellman who have lead the way in tumour biology and dendritic cell research and to hear them speak was an exciting experience for a young researcher. Cornelis Melief emphasised the importance of CD4 help for persistent tumour-specific CD8 T cells after antigen stimulation. This was particularly interesting for me as I am currently working on the role of CD4 help on induction of antigen-specific CD8 T cells using cell-penetrating peptide immunisation.

There was major focus on T regulatory cells (T regs) throughout the conference and I think this area of research is very relevant for all vaccine research. The discussion about T regs emphasised to me their significant role during tumour growth and the potential ways in which to manipulate these cells in combination with cancer immunotherapy. The conference also gave me the opportunity to listen to different varieties of immunological research. Guy Gorochov from the Université Pierre et Marie Curie gave an interesting presentation on the role T regs in sarcoidosis and their ability to inhibit proliferation and IL-2 secretion but their inability to inhibit TNF- α secretion – an immune paradox. There was only one presentation on the use of cell-penetrating peptides for vaccination. The group used a TAT fusion protein to assess immune responses against murine cutaneous Leishmaniasis. I presented a poster on the use of cell-penetrating peptides for cancer immunotherapy and had positive feedback about my work.

I also travelled to London to attend the Modern Vaccines, Adjuvants and Delivery Systems Conference at The Royal Society of Medicine, London, UK, from 12-14 September 2006. I was chosen to give an oral presentation and received a very enthusiastic

response by my peers. What was most exciting about this conference was the ease of being able to talk to most of the conference delegates and the discussion about possible synergies and collaborations between research groups. I also visited Professor Peter Barnes' laboratory at the Imperial College of Medicine to discuss my work on alveolar macrophages in lung cancer. He is the most published respiratory scientist in the world and I was very fortunate to be able to visit with him. We spoke about collaborative work between our laboratories including co-supervising a student between London and Melbourne. London was fantastic – especially for women who love to shop!

The 16th European Congress of Immunology, the MVADS Conference and laboratory visits provided me such a wonderful opportunity to attend productive scientific meetings but more importantly, provide me with a magnitude of resources that I have been able to bring to Australia and directly apply it to my own research. The opportunity to be able to speak with overseas researchers also enabled me to discuss and set-up collaborations and further enhance my research career. I would like to thank the ASI once again for its financial contribution to my travels.



Dodie in Paris

3rd International Conference on Gene Regulation in Lymphocyte Development Adrian Liston

The existence of the mythical work-life balance is often speculated upon by scientists, experiments or grant applications invariably resulting in late nights and stressful weekends. Conferences are no exception; in order to hear the latest research on gene regulation in lymphocyte development one had to selflessly give up the time required to head to Corfu in late September, a sunny Greek island in the Ionian Sea. An idyllic setting to watch the sun rise over nearby Albania, or sit by the beach in the evening with the best of company and a bottle of wine (under a gum tree actually, which are disturbingly ubiquitous in Corfu). Actually, in honesty it rained for three days solid and half the hotel rooms flooded, but that doesn't work nearly so well for trying to make people jealous.

The conference was divided into three main sessions, early haematopoiesis, B cell development, and T cell development. Too many excellent talks to mention them all, so just a few highlights:

JC Zuniga-Pflucker updated us on cell culture models of early T cell development. He showed earlier that the OP9 cell line, unlike the NIH3T3, is capable of supporting thymocyte development if it expresses Notch ligands, at the conference he presented data showing that even the NIH3T3 cell line can support thymocyte development if transfected with both Notch and Wnt ligands, with the Notch signalling preventing development of precursors into B cells (a fate they would be most grateful to avoid) and the Wnt signal directing the cells into the T cell lineage.

Steven Reiner raised the intriguing possibility that asymmetric cell division gives rise to functionally different daughter cells. Interaction of T cells with dendritic cells results in the polarisation of the T cell. Interestingly, division during DC interaction occurs along the axis parallel to the immunological synapse, such that one daughter cell

contains the majority of the signalling components, while the other contains the negative regulators. Still early days to know if this has physiological relevance, but perhaps this process is involved in the divergence between effector/memory populations?

Klaus Rajewsky gave a talk dissecting the role of microRNAs in that excellent model of T cells, the B cell. Ablation of Dicer is known to distort the differentiation of both T cells and B cells, however the mechanism has been sadly lacking. Klaus demonstrated that a functional role of microRNAs in B cells is to regulate c-Myb levels. mirML directly binds to and downregulates c-Myb, and the expression of mirML in resting B cells controls proliferation while the rapid reduction of mirML upon activation allows c-Myb to increase and proliferation to occur.

But it wasn't just science in Corfu. Richard Flavell (when not telling us that cytokine alleles are found in clusters in the nucleus which differentially influence the expression in naïve, Th1 and Th2 cells) kept up the entertainment with his songs, only after, of course, the tacky Greek dancers were finished. And we got to see Corfu Town, and the famous St Spyridon. Or more precisely, the body claimed to be that of St Spyridon

by a travelling monk who managed to make a tidy profit selling it to Corfu. Despite the dubious authenticity, the town has no buyer's remorse, visiting every day to kiss his petrified face, and buying him a new pair of shiny red shoes which he wears out every year as he roams around town performing minor miracles (like getting genotyping PCR to work).



Vlachernes Monastery, and in the background the appropriately named Pontikonissi (Mouse Island)



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Minutes of ASI 2006 Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 6th December 2006

Auckland, New Zealand

Attendance and Apologies

46 members were present.

Confirmation of Minutes of 2005 AGM

Proposed by A. Baxter and seconded by C. Parish.

Carried unanimously.

Business Arising

Covered under other items below

President's Report

Phil Hodgkin described 2006 as a very successful year for the Society. Phil made the following points:

1. ASI has a healthy bank account: ASI has increased branch funding in addition to increasing the funding for bursaries and other activities.
2. Immunology and Cell Biology: Publisher will change from Blackwell to NPG in 2007. Congratulations to Chris and Bhama Parish who worked hard to make the transition.
3. Changes to the ASI website: Thanks to Alejandro Lopez and Judith Greer who moved the website from WEHI to QIMR.
4. Seed money for conferences: Council has decided to provide seed money for immunology related conferences. It is hoped this pool of money will aid the organisation of smaller specialized meetings. Full details on the ASI website.
5. Bid for ICI: Noted that ASI had been approached to make a bid for 2013 ICI. This was rejected by Council due to the time constraints in submitting the bid. Instead ASI will investigate the possibility of submitting a bid for 2016. Needed to explore possible locations and nominate possible conveners.
6. Singapore has formed an immunology society
7. Changes in Council positions:
Phil Hodgkin retires as President, Alan Baxter to fill position
Norbert Kienzle retires as Treasurer, Chris Andoniou to fill position
Chris Andoniou retires as WACouncillor, Delia Nelson to fill position
Amanda Taylor retires as student

representative, Helen McGuire to fill position

8. Thank-you to Amanda Taylor for the organisation of the students' BBQ at the annual meeting. This event was a great success.
9. Melbourne had hosted a very successful annual meeting, thanks to Andrew Lew and Mike Pickford.

President's report moved by J. Fraser and seconded by G. Karupiah

Secretary's Report – Presented by Phil Hodgkin on behalf of Jose Villadangos

ASI had 837 members, an increase of 14 from last year. Noted over \$40,000 had been awarded in bursaries and travel awards. Elections had been held for the position of Treasurer and WA Councillor with Chris Andoniou (Treasurer) and Delia Nelson (WA Councillor) elected.

The composition of the Council for 2007 is:

President – Alan Baxter
Past President – Phil Hodgkin
Secretary – Jose Villadangos
Treasurer – Chris Andoniou

ACT Councillor – Guna Karupiah
NSW Councillor – Bernadette Saunders
NZ Councillor – John Fraser
Qld Councillor – Chris Schmidt
SA/NT Councillor – Claudine Bonder
WA Councillor – Delia Nelson
Vic/Tas Councillor – Philip Darcy

Student Representative – Helen McGuire
Newsletter Editor – Miles Davenport
IUIS – Chris Parish
ICB Editor – Chris Parish
FIMSA Councillor – Nicholas King
Visiting Speaker Program – Alejandro Lopez
Honorary Archivist – Judith Greer

Secretary's report moved by D. Tarlinton and seconded by S. Heinzl

Treasurer's Report

Norbert Kienzle presented the accounts for the year ending 31st October 2006 and

noted that they had been subjected to and passed an audit inspection performed by WHK Day Neilson. Due to the growth in the size of the ASI budget, an audit on the accounts will now be conducted each year. Norbert noted that \$80,000 had been spent on branch funding for the year and increased amounts had been spent on bursaries and travel awards. Despite the funding increases, ASI recorded a surplus of \$79,105 for the year. The budget is predicted to be in deficit in the next year since Council has resolved to again increase the amounts paid to State branches and the amounts spent on bursaries. Norbert also noted that due to the change in publisher of ICB, the royalty payments should increase in the coming years.

Treasurer's report moved by A. Baxter and seconded by S. Heinzl

Immunology and Cell Biology editor's report – Chris Parish

ICB will now be published by Nature Publishing Group. News and commentaries section will be edited by Carola Vinuesa. Selected articles will be made available free of charge. Special feature additions will be continued and a series of landmark articles will be republished. Chris noted the impact factor for ICB had fallen in 2003 but there was not an obvious reason for this. Preliminary calculations suggest impact factor will rebound in the next year.

Editor's report moved by B. Saunders and seconded by K. Shortman

Visiting Speakers Program – Alejandro Lopez

Confirmed invited speakers are Ronald Germain and Jacques Bancherau while confirmed sponsored speaker is Hans Schreiber.

Newsletter – Miles Davenport

Miles reminded everyone that the newsletter could always do with more articles.

FIMSA – Guna Karupiah

Workshop held in New Delhi was a success and had three ASI representatives. In February 2007 a workshop will be held in South Korea.

Future Meetings

2007 – Sydney

Other Business

Andrew Lew suggested the head of the organising committee for the annual meeting be given an airfare and free registration to the annual meeting to recognise the time and effort in organising the annual meeting. Phil Hodgkin indicated the Council had considered the proposal but felt it was not appropriate to give personal reward, but that Council may revisit the proposal.

Phil Hodgkin thanked Geeta Chaudhri for her efforts in getting the Burnet and Rowley medals struck.

Meeting closed at 2.00 pm

Travel Award Applications

The next round of applications for International Travel Awards (for conferences taking place in the second half of 2007) will be announced around March 15, and the deadline for receipt of applications will be around mid-April. The application forms will be distributed at the time of the announcement.

José A. Villadangos
Honorary Secretary

**Contributions sought for the
ASI Newsletter**

You could win \$100 !!

**Deadline for the next issue :
1st May 2007**

Please email your contributions to the Secretariat
by the above date.
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ASI Visiting Speakers Program

Confirmed Visitors in 2007

Professor Ronald N. Germain

Lymphocyte Biology Section, Laboratory of Immunology, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA

Melbourne, April 10-11
 Canberra, April 12
 Sydney, April 3, 14
 Brisbane, April 16, 17
 Auckland, April 18
 Wellington, April 19-20



Professor Hans Schreiber

Department of Pathology, University of Chicago, Illinois, USA

Townsville, August 11-13
 Canberra, August 14
 Melbourne, August 15 and 16
 Adelaide, August 17
 Perth, August 18-22
 BIG meeting in the Sunshine Coast, August 23, 24



Doctor Jacques Banchereau

Baylor Institute for Immunology Research, Dallas, TX, USA

Brisbane, October 10-13
 Perth, October 13-17
 Melbourne, October 17-21
 Adelaide, October 20-23
 Sydney, October 23-26



Please contact the local ASI Councillor for further details on the seminars planned.

Sustaining Membership

ASI Inc acknowledges the support of the following sustaining members:

- Jomar Diagnostics
- Dynal Biotech Pty Ltd

An invitation and a request to all ASI members

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

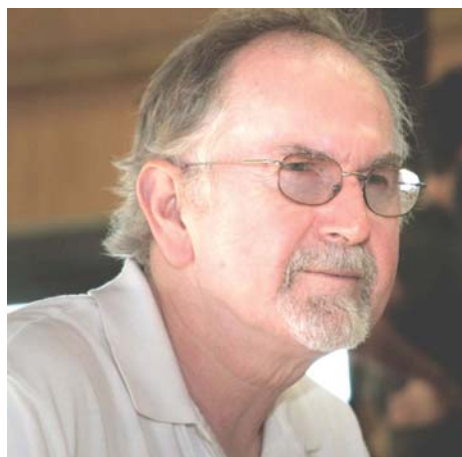
- We invite our student membership to voice their views on issues that interest or directly concern them.
- It's our newsletter, so let's support it and strive to make it even better.
- The ASI newsletter comes out 4 times a year and we welcome your contributions.
- **AND NOW YOU COULD WIN \$100 FOR THE BEST ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE NEWSLETTER!**

Submission of photos with articles

When submitting articles, reports, etc. to the newsletter, please do not embed the photos in the Word article, but always send as separate jpeg files - preferably no larger than around 200kb. Embedded photos/graphics cannot be imported into the desktop publishing program nor edited if required and delays occur in requesting photographs to be re-sent. High resolution jpeg files are not necessary and only take extra time to download.

Thank you for your co-operation.

2006 ASI Conference Photos



Richard Flavell plans his next experiment at the Grad BBQ



A typical scene from between symposia



*Thomas Blankenstein –
“I have 3 postdoc positions – when can you start?”*



*Marco Collona –
“That job Thomas just offered sounds really good – I wonder if I should apply”*



*Ken Shortman –
“Hmm I wonder what’s for lunch.”*



Fabienne McKay explains to grad students why the French make the best scientists



El Presidenté in a typical friendly repose