



N E W S L E T T E R

Australasian Society for Immunology Incorporated

PP 341403100035

ISSN 1442-8725

March 2004

How to win a Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

Gordon Ada, John Curtin School of Medical Research

When one thinks of winners of Nobel Prizes in these disciplines, there is a tendency to visualize mature scientists who after many years of laboratory work have accumulated lots of evidence to prove a particular concept or theory. This certainly happens, but there are many other situations. For example, one recipient has provided the concept which a co-recipient has independently proven it to be correct. (e.g. Immunological tolerance, Burnet and Medawar, 1960). In contrast, the 1996 Prize resulted from a rather unusual series of events, many occurring by chance. The recipients were two young scientists: Peter Doherty and Rolf Zinkernagel. Robert (Bob) Blanden, a crucial colleague at that time, turned 65 in 2003 and the 11th Frank and Bobbie Fenner Conference was held in late

November to celebrate his contributions and achievements. Peter and Rolf were present as well as many of his past students (from 1972 to 2003) and others who worked in the Department, mainly in the 1970s. The contributions, especially by past students, were remarkable for the variety of topics presented.

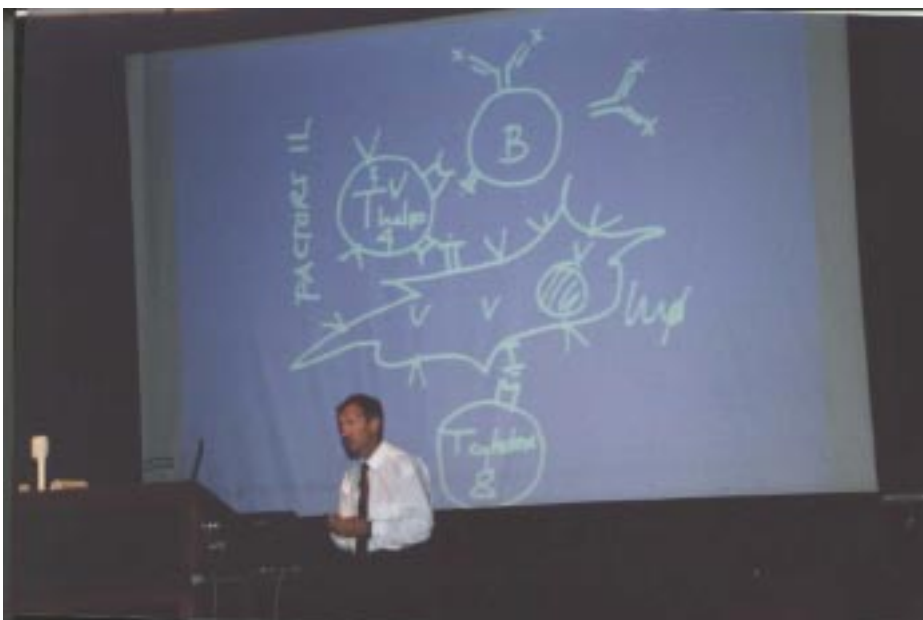
In the late 1960s I was happily working at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute (WEHI) with Gus Nossal as a close colleague. And we were about to start writing a book. I had visited Frank Fenner's Department at the ANU several times in the 1950s giving talks about my virus work, especially with the influenza virus. But these visits had ceased when I became an immunologist. I had been

at the Institute for 19 years when Frank came to visit me in 1967. He told me he had relinquished the Headship of the Department of Microbiology to become the Director of the John Curtin School. He asked whether I would let my name go forward as a candidate to succeed him as Head of the Microbiology Department? I decided yes, because under Frank Fenner, the Microbiology Department had reached international status and if I went there, I could bring virology and immunology together as a unique combination – something that might have, but did not happen earlier at the WEHI.

Once appointed in early 1968, I attended Faculty Board meetings at the School during that year until I moved to Canberra in December. *Inter alia*, I found out that a bright

Rolf Zinkernagel was busy during his flying visit to Australia last year. He presented the prestigious Burnet oration at the Annual ASI meeting (seen here) as well as talks at the Fenner conference and the retirement dinner held for JCSMR Professor Bob Blanden. Rolf also features in our first caption contest on the back page of this issue.

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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

What a fantastic annual meeting we just had in Perth. The organising committee received spontaneous warm applause at the end of the meeting, reflecting what everyone felt – that a remarkable result had been achieved. Here's a reminder of the committee who did all the hard work: Tony Scalzo (Chair), Jane Allan, Chris Andoniou, Mariapia Degli-Esposito, Thelma Koppi, Susanna Lindsey-Temple, Delia Nelson, Tricia Price and Phil Stumbles.

Please thank them again if you see them.

Among many highlights of the Annual Meeting for me were the two sessions presented by younger members of the Society in pursuit of the Young Investigator Award and The Science Communication Award. Both sessions achieved a very high standard, and brought grins of approval from many of the old timers who could see the future of Immunology and the ASI passing along into great hands. I particularly enjoyed the Science Communication Award this year. The talks were educational while being entertaining and showcased significant creative thought in explaining complex subjects. It is worth noting that both competitions were won by the same young investigator - Adrian Liston of the John Curtin School. This 'double crown'

was a first for the Society and a very significant achievement by Adrian.

This issue of the Newsletter contains a sampling of pictures from the annual meeting as well as reports on the second Lafferty debate and the limerick contest. These items will bring back fond memories for those who attended the meeting and should encourage those who didn't make it to Perth to ensure they don't miss out next time.

While on the subject of the next meeting, preliminary notices of the next annual meeting in Adelaide can be found inside. The dates are 12-16th December. Also note this meeting will be held in conjunction with the 8th International Conference on Human Leucocyte Differentiation Antigens (HLDA8) as well as the Annual Meeting of the Australasian Flow Cytometry Group (AFCG).

The traditional one day advanced training course preceding the meeting has been expanded this year into a full course from 7-10th December to be held under the combined patronage of FIMSA and ASI. Further information can be found on the notice inside.

Finally the Tumour Workshop is again to be held on the Sunday preceding the ASI meeting, 12th December.

This combination of meetings promises to be another memorable and unique event, so mark it in your diaries and start saving for the airfares. Who knows, you may end up with your picture in the Newsletter!

Our cover has an interesting story from Gordon Ada exploring some of his early history, that of the JCSMR and the discovery of MHC restriction. Gordon has adopted the theme of how a series of fortuitous events brought Rolf Zinkernagel and Peter Doherty together to do their famous experiments. His final message is one that is not emphasised enough these days. It was possible then, and it is still possible today, for young and bright scientists to make a major discovery. What are the elements that lead to this? As Gordon describes, it requires some luck, but we shouldn't ignore, or underestimate, the sequence of planned elements including the selection of people and the choice of problems that help propel scientific understanding in the right direction.

Phil Hodgkin

HONORARY SECRETARY'S NEWS

ASI continues to strongly support travel awards to enable our student and early postdoctoral members to attend International meetings. The winners of the second round of the 2003 ASI International Travel Prizes were Dr Adrian Grech, Centenary Institute, who won the award in the Postdoctoral category and Lisa Miosge, John Curtin School of Medical Research, who won it in the Postgraduate category. Both awardees attended the Keystone Symposia on Lymphocyte activation and signalling and hopefully found it useful and productive. Congratulations to both the recipients.

You may be aware that one of the conditions of these awards is that the recipient provides a written account of their travel funded by the award that may be published in the ASI Newsletter (of course, at the discretion of the Editor).

For this year's awards, preference will be given to those applying to travel to the 12th International Congress of Immunology, Montreal, Canada and all the awards will be awarded one round. Further information on other ASI awards may be obtained from <http://www.wehi.edu.au/collegiate/ASI/awards.html>.

Finally, please renew your membership for 2004 and ignore this reminder if you have already done it!

Cheers,
Geeta Chaudhri

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Sustaining Membership

ASI Inc acknowledges the support of the following sustaining members:

- Jomar Diagnostics
- Dynal Biotech Pty Ltd

How to win a Nobel Prize ... (cont.)

young veterinary science graduate, Peter Doherty, had applied for a PhD scholarship to work with Cedric Mims in the Department. But this was refused because Cedric already had a student and he never supervised two students at once. So Peter went overseas to obtain his PhD degree. In 1972, Dr Peter Doherty returned from overseas and applied for a Post-doctoral Scholarship to work with Cedric Mims. Cedric agreed but when he shortly left to return to the UK, I promoted Peter to become an independent researcher and gave him his own laboratory.

On taking up the position in Canberra, one task I immediately faced was to recommend on the success or failure of applicants to receive a PhD Scholarship. One was a Dr Rolf Zinkernagel, a recent medical graduate in Switzerland who had considered becoming a surgeon, but decided to operate on mice instead of humans. The ANU Scholarships were particularly attractive as the salary was generous and fares to and from Australia were paid for the applicant and family. So there was strong competition and (fortunately?) Rolf missed out.

In 1971, Bob Blanden, who had earlier come to the Microbiology Department in Canberra after several years working at the Trudeau Institute (upstate New York), gained his PhD degree. He rapidly received invitations to participate in several overseas meetings. In 1972, at a teaching course at Lausanne, he met Rolf Zinkernagel. The same year at a meeting in Hamburg, two papers described methods to measure the cell-mediated killing of target cells infected with Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis virus. This killing was mediated by a new kind of T cell, the cytotoxic T lymphocyte (CTL). This type of cell had been shown some years earlier to recognise and destroy grafted allogeneic cells. It seemed likely from this result that in some way, these T cells recognised the different MHC antigens on the grafted compared to the host cells. So Bob infected some mice of the strain he was using with ectromelia virus, and at different times thereafter, tested the ability of



A happy group reminiscing the halcyon days of viral immunity and MHC restriction at the JCSMR. They came together for the recent 11th Frank and Bobbie Fenner conference. From left: Tikki Pang, Peter Doherty, Bob Blanden, Rolf Zinkernagel, Gordon Ada, Judith Whitworth, Frank Fenner.

lymphocytes from the infected mice to kill ectromelia-infected target cells from the same mouse strain. With Narelle Bowern and Ian Gardner, a quantitative technique for measuring cytotoxicity was developed. Using this test, the answer was a clear cut yes; the lymphocytes killed the infected cells. Bob was appointed to a recently available tenured position.

In 1972, I received an invitation to become a member of a committee of the WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer, in Lyon, France. Committee members interviewed applicants in many countries who applied for scholarships to do cancer research, and then met in Lyon to decide the winners. In Lyon, I met another new member, Professor Henri Isliker from Lausanne, and it soon became apparent that he was Rolf's boss (chance!!). He said Rolf still wanted to come to Australia, so I travelled from Lyon to meet Rolf. I was impressed with his enthusiasm and directness. In order to expedite his visit, I suggested that Henri get him a one year Swiss Fellowship, and we would pay the fares for him and his family. They arrived in Canberra in February 1973, and were greeted at the airport by Bob who told Rolf about his experiments on the role of CTLs in controlling ectromelia infections in mice. Rolf immediately said he wanted to work with these cells so he

spent some weeks in Bob's laboratory learning the relevant techniques. Bob then asked me to shift him, so I asked Peter to accept him in his laboratory.

Although it had taken nearly five years from first contact to finally have Peter and Rolf sharing a laboratory in the Department, once together the partnership flourished (despite Rolf's opera singing). The subsequent experiments led to the discovery of MHC restriction which defines the specificity of T lymphocytes. Two articles with experimental findings were published in *Nature*, and a prediction of what the T cell receptor recognised on the infected cell surface was published in *The Lancet*. The years 2003-4 represent the 30th anniversary of the publication of those three papers. Their review published in 1979 showed how rapidly the field was expanding.

At the Nobel Prize dinner in Stockholm, Rolf said he and Peter had to accept that others could have made the same findings. But by taking full advantage of chance events and in the right environment, Peter and Rolf had an unbeatable lead. Their Australian and Swiss colleagues shared the excitement when they received the Prize. It is yet another example that young scientists can make very important scientific discoveries.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Australasian Society for Immunology

Held on Tuesday December 9, 2003, Alexander Lecture Theatre, University of Western Australia. Meeting commenced at 12.45pm with 30 members in attendance.

1. Apologies

Geeta Chaudhri

2. Confirmation of minutes of last meeting

Proposed Phil Hodgkin and seconded Geoff Shellam that the minutes be accepted.

3. Business arising

Chris Parish reported that attempts to bring ASCIA and ASI closer together were difficult to coordinate, especially with established differences in meeting times. However, ASI will cosponsor a session at the ASCIA meeting and ASCIA will sponsor a session at the annual ASI meetings. Ian Mackay noted that the two societies were originally integrated and there had been a divergence about 10 years ago. He was glad to hear there was to be some coming together of the two groups.

4. President's Report

Chris Parish reported that 2003 has been another successful year for the Society at a number of levels. He also thanked the Secretariat, the Executive and all Council members for their support during 2003 and especially thanked the retiring members of the Executive and Council for their contributions to the Society.

There were several important immunological events during 2003:

- On a sad note was the death of Charlie Janeway, an outstanding immunologist who has had a major impact on the field.
- Unfortunately the 3rd FIMSA meeting in Hongzhou, China, scheduled for October 2003, had to be cancelled due to the SARS outbreak. The meeting has been rescheduled for April 2005.
- On a positive note, the ASI Annual Scientific meeting held in Brisbane in December 2002 was a great success, both scientifically and financially, with a substantial profit being generated by the conference. During 2003 a number of very successful branch meetings were also held, the most notable being the BIG meeting at Caloundra and the IgV meeting at Beechworth.

• The Independent Review of Health and Medical Research is underway. The aim of the review is to assess research outcomes resulting from the \$614m increase in NHMRC funding during the last 5 years. This is an extremely important review as it will determine future NHMRC funding levels with submissions being due by 1st December, 2003.

Chris raised the issue of ASI membership. Currently the Society has 700 members and in previous years drives to recruit new members have concentrated on more senior scientists. Chris suggested that the Society should also target students as potential members, particularly as there is considerable variation between branches in the percentage of ASI members that are students. For example, almost 50% of the membership is students in the ACT whereas other branches have a much lower student membership. Highlighting the benefits of ASI membership to students, such as eligibility for travel grants, was important.

Chris reported that the Visiting Speaker Program was disappointing with only one international visitor, Andreas Radbruch, participating in the Program in 2003. The Program was clearly being under utilised by ASI members and branches. The reason for the lack of interest may be due to there being concerns about the ASI funds provided not fully covering the cost of a visitor and the

perception that there is considerable effort involved in organising the itinerary of a visiting speaker. Bernadette Scott had been asked to develop better guidelines for handling visiting speakers but, unfortunately, Bernadette was unable to attend the Council meeting. Developing ways of encouraging participation in the visiting speaker program is a matter of some urgency.

Chris also reported that CSL has agreed to fund the Burnet Oration for another 3 years from 2004-2006 with an annual donation of \$3500. The Burnet Oration for the Adelaide meeting in 2004 will be Anne Kelso.

Chris discussed the importance of ASI raising its scientific profile by more actively interacting with other professional societies. ASCIA is a sister organisation that has overlapping scientific interests. Unfortunately, currently it is impossible to have joint meetings of the two societies. To encourage interaction between the two Societies it is planned to have a joint ASI/ASCIA symposium at the Adelaide ASI meeting in December, 2004, and a similar joint symposium at the Gold Coast ASCIA meeting in September, 2004. Hopefully such joint meetings will become a feature of future ASI and ASCIA conferences. Chris also suggested that ASI should

ASI President Chris Parish with Tony Scalzo in Perth



participate more actively in the ASMR National Scientific Conferences by sponsoring 1-2 immunology symposia. Unfortunately, the program for the 2004 ASMR conference is already finalised but the ASI should aim to participate in the 2006 meeting.

Chris reported that Council is developing procedures for having student representation on Council. Hopefully the first student representative will join the ASICouncil in 2004.

An update of future ASI meetings was provided by Chris. The 2004 meeting will be held in Adelaide as a joint meeting with the 8th HLDA workshop from 12-16 December. The 2005 meeting will be held in Melbourne conjointly with the HLA workshop and the 2006 meeting is planned for Auckland.

Finally, Chris welcomed Phil Hodgkin as the new Vice-President and President-elect of the Society and looks forward to working with him and all members of the Executive and Council during 2004.

5. Secretary's report (delivered by CP)

The Secretary passed on thanks to the outgoing members of Council:
President – Jim McCluskey
Treasurer – Nik Petrovsky
Vic. councillor – Mark Smyth
Qld councillor – Norbert Keinzle

and welcomed the new members:
Vice President – Phil Hodgkin
Treasurer – Norbert Keinzle
Vic. councillor – Frank Alderuccio
Qld councillor – Alejandro Lopez

The Secretary also reported that 16 bursaries had been awarded for travel to the Perth ASI meeting, and that the awards were relatively evenly distributed around the states. A reminder was issued that applications for bursaries for travel to the Immunology Congress in Montreal were due by 30th January.

The membership directory will continue to be distributed as a printed document, however, a read-only pdf file will also be available.

6. Treasurer's report

The ASI finances were reported to be 'in good shape'. Income from subscriptions were similar to last year. There was an excellent \$20,754 profit from the 2002 Brisbane annual meeting, \$2,000 of which is to be returned to the branch. The journal ICB costs and returns were approximately at break even point for the Society. There was increased receipts from interest (~\$6,000) and a small amount of revenue from advertising.

The major differences in expenditure budgeted for next year were additional administrative costs allocated to the Secretary, an increase in the visiting speakers fund, additional travel bursaries available for the international meeting and for travel to annual ASI meeting, a new subscription to ANZCART, an allocation to support the development of the FIMSA training course and \$800 for the teleconference. As a consequence, approximately \$5,000 was expected as net surplus.



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Andrew Lew suggested more money should be returned to the state branch after a successful meeting. Nik Petrovsky pointed out the amount was currently relatively meagre to avoid state branches raising fees to achieve a 'windfall' payment. Andrew Lew suggested a fund for inviting internal visiting speakers as an alternative. Nic Petrovsky proposed 30% of profit over \$10,000 from the annual meeting be assigned to such a fund.

A motion was prepared to this effect. Proposed by Ian Mackay and seconded by Nick King, the motion was carried. Jim McCluskey suggested we utilise some current monies for such a fund and see what response is obtained. Nik Petrovsky suggested \$4000 as appropriate. Chris Parish would try to have it in place by the mid year teleconference.

The budget and accounts were accepted and approved.

7. Newsletter

A Newsletter subscription will be offered for individuals not working as professional scientists. Cost \$10/year.

8. Immunology and Cell Biology

Chris Parish reported that the impact factor of the journal has been maintained at 2.5. There has been little increase in manuscript submissions.

9. FIMSA/IUIS

Lindsay Dent reported that IUIS has a modest budget but money is available for supporting education and vet immunology. IUIS is contributing US\$12,500 to the FIMSA training course to be held in Adelaide in 2004 before the annual ASI meeting. FIMSA is putting in US\$15,000. Lindsay reported that 70 of 90 places were set for ASI student members and that the course would run for 4 days. Fliers have been circulated.

10. HonLife Memberships

Ian Mackenzie was elected an Honorary Life Member of the Society. Proposed Ian Mackay, seconded Mark Hulett.

It was also noted that life members would not be required to pay registration when attending the annual ASI meeting in future.

11. Other Business

Ian Mackay noted that 1 hour at lunch time was short changing the AGM and could future meetings schedule more time and prominence.

Meeting ended 1.35pm.



**Federation of Immunological Societies
of Asia-Oceania and the Australasian
Society for Immunology**

**7th FIMSA/ASI Advanced Training
Course in Immunology**

Adelaide, Australia, 7–10 December 2004



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- Two days on practical issues in cytomics – flow cytometry, confocal, ELISpot & other related issues in advanced immunology. To include equipment workshops and demonstrations.
- Another two days of seminars and break-out sessions on other major topics in immunology.
- A teaching faculty of national and international immunologists.
- International guest speakers for both parts of the course include Mario Roederer, Hiromitsu Nakauchi, Marina Botto, Masayuki Miyasaka, Nicholas Ahlborg, Masaru Taniguchi, Yasmine Belkaid, Tsuneyasu Kaisho.
- Beachside accommodation in a holiday resort, with faculty and students working and socializing together.
- A range of interesting social activities.
- All course fees, accommodation, meals and local transport costs included (estimated \$500).
- Course coordinated with a major international meeting, the HLDA8/ASI Conference, Adelaide Convention Centre, 12–16 December, 2004 (for more details see www.plevin.com.au/hlda8asi).
- Two days of free-time before the HLDA8/ASI Conference begins (extend your low-cost accommodation if you wish and make the Adelaide beaches your base for further exploration).
- See www.fimsa.org for further details and updates on the course.

Stochastic interactions in Perth

The following random shots were provided by Mariapia Degli-Esposito. Most were taken at the opening mixer of the Annual ASI meeting in Perth



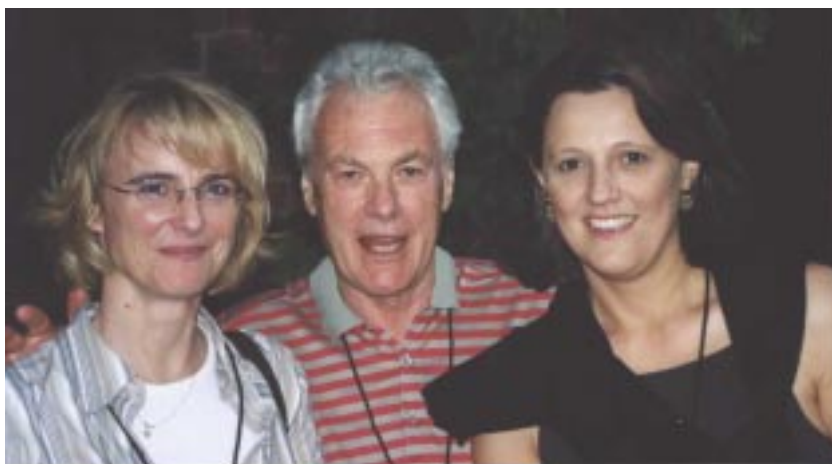
Wayne Yokohama, David Cosman, Muriel Moser, Chris Parish, Georgio Trinchieri

Georgio Trinchieri, Ruslan Medzhitov and Jason Cyster



Stephen Gerondakis, Wally Langdon, Ian Frazer

Muriel Moser, Ken Shortman, Mariapia Degli-Esposti



Frank Alderuccio, Alan Baxter, Ian van Driel,
Dale Godfrey, Tony Purcell



Jane Allan, Dave Willenborg,
Barbara Fazekas de St Groth

Bruce Robinson, Carol Hill, Ken
Shortman, Michael Good and son



Nick King, Helen Briscoe, Rob Raison
and Warwick Britten

“Two signals are not enough”: The second Annual Kevin Lafferty Debate

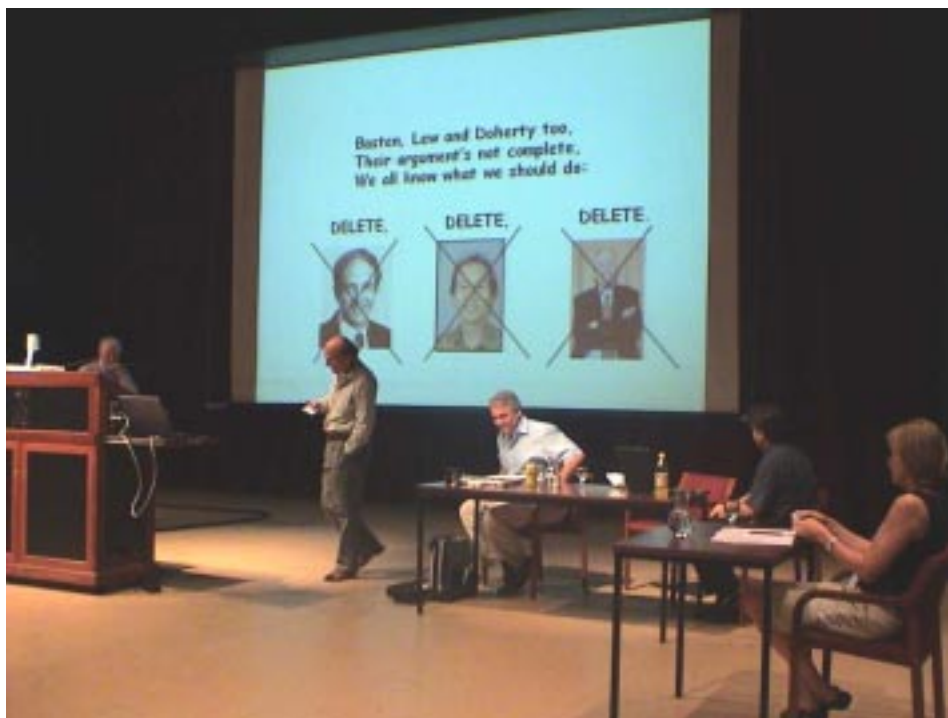
Report: Phil Hodgkin

Combatants:

For—Andrew Lew, Tony Basten and Peter Doherty

Against—Alan Baxter, Peter Bretscher and Phil Hodgkin

This year's debate topic was a reference to the influential, but somewhat embattled, two signal theories that Kevin Lafferty, Peter Bretscher and Mel Cohn pioneered in the early 1970s. The proceedings were admirably moderated by Lynn Corcoran. The first salvos for the proposition were fired by Andrew Lew summarising the proliferation of 'second signals' that are burying the two signal theory. Al Baxter parried, leaving to last his trump card, a tape recording of Kevin Lafferty explaining how his second signal was not to be taken literally as a single molecule. Tony Basten eloquently pulled apart our argument, by taking (out of context-ed) articles Al Baxter and I had written on the subject. Peter Bretscher was able to explain from first hand how the theory came about in response to the problem of distinguishing self from non-self. These preparatory musings set the scene for Peter Doherty to ascend the stage and give his arguments. What were the arguments? I remember Peter's opening was along the lines of: "I've only just got off the plane, I have many more important things to worry about than winning this debate. Which side am I on?". He then proceeded to tell a story of Wellington's horse. Peter worked the audience like the true professional and eventually sat down to thunderous applause. A tough act to follow indeed. My argument wandered around Uluru, emus, rocks and Dr Lew's hair before ending with a plea for genuine quantitation in science. I would like to say the vote was close, but regrettably when put to the people, the verdict was clear; the proposition was carried and Andrew Lew, Tony Basten and Peter Doherty were victorious.



Peter Bretscher presents his version of tolerance induction as a debating tactic



Peter Doherty prepares his brilliant, and ultimately telling, argument based on Napoleonic history

UPCOMING LECTURES & CONFERENCES

18–23 July 2004
12th International Congress of Immunology 2004
and 4th Annual Conference of FOCIS (ICI-FOCIS 2004)
Montreal, Canada
Website: www.immuno2004.org

31 August – 2 September 2004
4th Australasian Hepatitis C Conference
Canberra, Australia
Website: www.ashm.org.au/conference2004 Email: conferenceinfo@ashm.org.au

2–4 September 2004
16th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM)
Canberra, Australia
The ASHM Conference is Australia's premier HIV Conference and brings together the range of disciplines including basic science, clinical medicine, epidemiology, nursing, public health, prevention, social research, education, community programs and allied health, involved in HIV management and the ever-evolving role of primary care in HIV
Website: www.ashm.org.au/conference2004 Email: conferenceinfo@ashm.org.au

3–7 October 2004
1st International Conference on Basic and Clinical Immunogenomics (BCI'2004)
Budapest, Hungary, organised by Hungarian Society for Immunology
Website: <http://www.diamond-congress.hu/bci2004/>

6–10 December 2004
FIMSA/ASI Immunology Workshop
Adelaide, Australia
Website: www.fimsa.org Email: lindsay.dent@adelaide.edu.au

12–16 December 2004
HLDA8/ASI34 Conference, AFCG27 Conference
Adelaide, Australia
Website: www.plevin.com.au/hlda8asi

The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research

*Postgraduate Teaching Course
Mondays, 12 noon, WEHI Lecture
Theatre, 7th Floor, Parkville.*

5 April

Breast cancer: perspectives from a clinician-scientist – Dr Geoff Lindeman, Victorian Breast Cancer Research Consortium

19 April

Cell immortalisation and telomeres – Prof. Roger Reddel, Children's Medical Research Institute at Westmead Hospital

26 April

Familial cancer syndromes – Prof. Joe Sambrook, Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute

3 May

Cell cycle control and cancer – Dr Pat Humbert, Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute

10 May

Cell surface receptors and cancer – Prof. Tony Burgess, Ludwig Institute of Cancer Research

17 May

Tumour immunology – Dr Joe Trapani, Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute

24 May

Mouse models for cancer research – Dr Alan Harris, Molecular Genetics of Cancer Division

31 May

Current protocols for cancer therapy: perspectives from a clinician-scientist – Dr Andrew Roberts, Cancer and Haematology Division

7 June

Design and discovery of new anticancer drugs – Dr Jonathan Baell, Structural Biology Division

21 June

From epidemiology to prevention of cancer – Prof. David Hill, Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria

28 June

Gene expression in profiling in cancer – Prof. Rob Sutherland, Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Contributions sought for the
ASI Newsletter

Deadline for the next issue:
1st May 2004

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

asi@21century.com.au

WEHI Seminars on the Web:
www.wehi.edu/seminars/

The Bursa of Fabricius Award

There are few more popular awards at ASI than the famous bird organ encased in Perspex – The Bursa of Fabricius. The trophy has served a number of purposes, but is now the prize for the best limerick presented at the annual meeting. This year composition began in earnest at the annual dinner overlooking the beach with last year's winner proudly showing the Bursa off before the big contest (see photo at right). Host for the evening was DJ Rev who, according to his business card, is the best DJ in the world. Mr Rev invited delegates to take up the challenge and write a limerick. He must have been very persuasive as the quantity of contributions was a record. Here is a sampling.

First, the winner

*Cytochrome C from the moth
DCs in an immuno-broth
Create an illusion*

*That causes confusion
Invoking the wrath of St Groth*

**Aude Fahrer, Nick King, Lynn Corcoran
and Bernadette Saunders**

This means the prize will be circulated between Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney this year. Congratulations to Lynn Corcoran for backing up successfully from last year.

As always, a number of themes attracted the attention of our poet laureates. The most popular was the musings of our Burnet orator Rolf Zinkernagel. Rolf's more controversial points – that antibodies and memory are only important to breeding age, and that cross presentation is somewhat 'academic' – were noted.

*Antibodies are completely misleading
Only useful to those who are breeding
For those who are not
Or whose bolt has been shot
Immunity no longer has meaning*
Nick King and Aude Fahrer

*As I sat in the Burnet oration
I saw Rolf bag cross presentation
Immune surveillance debunked
T cell memory junked
And half the rest pure fabrication*
Nick Van de Velde



*A craze was sweeping the nation
By the name of cross-presentation
Zinkernagel bared teeth
Against poor Bill Heath
Outraging a devout congregation*
Aude Fahrer and Bernadette Saunders

On regulatory cells:

*There once was a yank named McHugh
Who was studying cells that are few
She claims they're suppressive
In a way that's impressive
But she hasn't yet shown what they do*
Malaghan team

*T regs are the subset to flag
To get published in Nature (the mag)
The givers of grants
See T regs as the pants
But they're just T suppressors in drag*
Anon.

NK cells received some publicity:

*The Immunologists had gathered in Perth
To learn what NK cells were worth
They discussed it all day
In every possible way
And decided not much*
Bernadette Saunders and Phil Hodgkin

*There's some people who believe in innate
But what are they thinking? Struth mate!
You can stick your NK
We'd prefer any day
To adapt with Bs, CD4s and CD8*
Malaghan team

Bernadette Saunders and Aude Fahrer deep in thought composing winning entries for the limerick contest.

The prize itself:

*I do want the B. of Fabricius
I can taste it and it is delicious
My best friend agrees
It needs batteries
But that might make my husband suspicious*
Nick King and Lynn Corcoran

And 12 month incubated ripostes:

*Last year ENU had poor representation
But look at the Nussy mutation
With novel transcripts in mice
It's even in rice
And sure beats cross-presentation*
Lydia and Ed

And the meeting in general:

*There once was a meeting in Perth
The second best place on earth
Adelaide is next in the queue
We hope we can keep up with you
In filling the meeting with mirth*
Su Heinzl and Claudine Bonder

*The ASI conference is cool
I've been trotting around like a mule
The sessions are hot
I love it a lot
If you don't come next year you're a fool!*
Hubertus Jersmann



ASI Councillors' News

A.C.T. News

ACT ASI members will enjoy a number of special events in 2004. A highlight will be an "Immunology in the ACT" day meeting, which is being organised for early May this year. The aim of this day is for ACT ASI members to showcase their research to the local immunology community, with a particular focus on students, who will be given an opportunity to talk about their work. Details of the event will be forwarded to members in the next month.

In addition, an outstanding seminar series of leading immunologists from around Australia has been organised in conjunction with the JCSMR. Confirmed speakers include: March 3, Sarah Russell "*PDZ proteins in the regulation of T cell polarity*"; 17 March, Nik Petrovsky "*Signalling pathways involved in the pathogenesis of Type-1 diabetes*"; April 14, Andreas Strasser "*The molecular control of programmed cell death in the immune system*"; 28 April, David Hume "*Global analysis of transcriptional control in cells of the macrophage lineage*"; 12 May, Phil Thompson "*What is asthma - the role of dendritic cells and the epithelium*"; 23 June, Warren Alexander "*New hematopoietic mutations through random mutagenesis in mice*"; 8 September, Wallace Langdon "*The c-Cbl RING finger determines thymocyte fate by regulating TCR signalling threshold*". Members will be reminded of these seminars and any additional events throughout the year.

Finally I would like to congratulate ACT ASI student member Adrian Liston who achieved an "ASI-first" by winning both the New Investigator and Science Communication Prizes at last year's meeting in Perth.

Mark Hulett
Councillor

N.S.W. News

Many NSW members enjoyed the splendid hospitality and the excellent science at Perth meeting in December. Congratulations and many thanks to Tony Scalzo and his team. Three student members were awarded Travel prizes to attend the meeting: congratulations to Alexandra Spencer, Cindy Ma and Marilyn Thien. Congratulations also to Dr Scott Byrne who was awarded an ASI Postdoctoral International Travel Award. He presented a poster at the European Macrophage and Dendritic Society meeting and gave a talk at the European Society for Photobiology conference, both in September 2003.

Although I am still 'recovering' from annual leave I have made some preliminary plans for 2004 activities including a branch meeting at the Retreat, Wisemans Ferry, and a visiting speaker to coincide with the Autoimmune Diseases meeting in Sydney. Details will be announced later in the year.

Helen Briscoe
Councillor

Victorian News

Happy New Year to all as we embark on another busy year. As your new Victorian/Tasmanian ASI councillor, I would like to thank the Victorian/Tasmanian members for giving me the opportunity to represent them over the next couple of years. I would also like to thank Mark Smyth on behalf of all ASI members and the local IgV committee, for his contributions as the retiring Victorian councillor. Mark has put much effort into the position and I hope to continue his fine example.

As a round up to 2003, the year saw the local IgV members enjoy another year of successful and well attended events, with the popular techniques workshop in July and our Flagship IgV annual scientific meeting at Beechworth in October. This annual scientific meeting has really established itself as a meeting to attend and proves to be a very popular platform for students and younger scientists to present their studies and interact with more established identities in a friendly and productive environment. Beechworth is proving itself, as was Mt Buffalo, to be an excellent and suitable venue for these meetings. The IgV committee is always striving to improve this meeting by representation from all immunological research in Victoria and Tasmania. If you have never been to the annual IgV, pencil in early October for the 2004 meeting.

I would also like to remind all Victorian members about the visiting speakers scheme. There are funds available from the ASI to sponsor international or national speakers to visit research institutes. This could also be used to nominate interstate speakers to our annual IgV scientific meeting. If anyone has any suggestions please forward it to me and I will present it to the local committee for consideration.

With the annual ASI scientific meeting scheduled for Melbourne in 2005, 2004 will see the IgV committee continue working towards delivering an exciting and successful meeting. Many preparations are already underway with the appointment of a conference organiser, the booking of the conference venue and invitations to plenary speakers. We will keep all ASI members informed as we head towards this meeting.

Once again, I look forward to working with you and representing you as the new state councillor. I urge you all to support your local ASI community by participating in local events and conveying the benefits of being an ASI member to colleagues and students.

Frank Alderuccio
Councillor

Correction

Norbert Keinzle's article in the December 2003 issue of the Newsletter regarding the 2003 BIG meeting quoted Sir Gus Nossal as describing Jonathon Sprent as his former student. Please note that Jonathon Sprent was a Walter and Eliza Hall Institute student under the supervision of Professor Jacques Miller during the period that Sir Gus Nossal was Director of the Institute and Professor of Medical Biology.

S.A./N.T. News

Activities in the second half of last year included the annual student meeting, held in December. We had five students presenting and the jury was stunned at the quality of all presentations. The prize went to Darren Miller, Adelaide University, for his presentation on: 'A novel whole-cell DNA vaccine expressing duck hepatitis B virus core antigen elicits an anti-viral immune response that prevents persistent infection.' Congratulations Darren and welcome to ASI!

Claudine Bonder, who is currently doing a Postdoc at the University of Calgary, Canada, was on a home visit in Adelaide and gave us a brilliant talk in our visiting speakers program. She gave us some insight on "Leukocyte trafficking in Inflammation: the Canadian in vivo way".

Plans for the visiting speakers program for this year are underway. I am delighted that Chris Parish has agreed to come to Adelaide to share his knowledge with us. He'll be here on 26 February and the title of his talk will be "New Approaches to Cancer Immunotherapy".

Our next guest will be Norbert Kienzle. Norbert will be here in late May. We are looking forward to hear what he has to say about his latest findings and to show him the Adelaide lifestyle, including some of the finest wineries ...

But most of this year will be very much in the grip of preparing the annual scientific meeting that will be held in conjunction with the 8th Human Leucocyte Differentiation Antigen Workshop (HLDA8). The preparations are all going to plan so far. We have an exciting list of international speakers. Please visit the conference website for more information: (<http://www.plevin.com.au/hlda8asi/>).

I wish everybody a very successful and happy New Year.

Susanne Heinzl
Councillor

Queensland News

Taking over the job as a Queensland councilor from Norbert Kienzle is a challenging task. The two years of his work have injected fresh enthusiasm and vitality to the branch and to the activities of the ASI; we will be seeing his energy now translated into the management of the finances as new ASI treasurer.

Certainly, the highlight of the end of the year was the meeting in Perth and we all came back with renewed vigor transmitted from the very friendly, highly motivating and successful meeting. The branch sponsored three student travel awards to the meeting and, this time, they were all bright female scientists: Dianne Muller (University of Queensland), Judy Peng (Centre for Immunology & Cancer Research, CICR) and Lynette Beattie (QIMR).

In a separate bidding, Judy Peng from the CICR was awarded one of the prestigious **Travel Assistance Awards** to attend the 12th International Congress of Immunology in Montreal in July.

This year we are gearing up for a number of interesting Immunology meetings in Queensland that may make it to your calendar planning:

Organised by the Australian Rheumatology Association, the Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research (CICR) and the CRC for Chronic Inflammatory Diseases, the Symposium "**From Antibody to Pathology and back again**" will be held in Palm Cove (the dreamy Great Barrier Reef location) on May 26-28. The list of international speakers

includes Dianne Matis, Peter Lipsky and Ed Keystone. For further information, visit the website www.araconference.com or contact A/Prof. Ranjeny Thomas at rthomas@cicr.uq.edu.au.

The regular **BIG (Brisbane Immunology Group) Annual Retreat** will take place this year on August 19-20 at the Twin Water Resort, Noosa. Further information will be made available at the website <http://www.qimr.edu.au/big/>

This year, the **15th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy** will take place in the Gold Coast on September 8-12; further information from the organiser Dr Jane Peake at j.peake@mailbox.uq.edu.au or ascia2004@wcp1.com or the ASCIA website <http://www.allergy.org.au>.

Coinciding with this meeting, "**NKTOZ**" – **the 3rd International NKT Cell and CD1 Workshop** will take place in Heron Island, between September 8 and 13. Organizers include Dale Godfrey, Dept. Microbiology and Immunology, University of Melbourne, Vic; Mark Smyth, Peter Macallum Cancer Institute, Vic; Alan Baxter, Comparative Genomics Centre, James Cook University, Qld; and Mitch Kronenberg, La Jolla Institute for Allergy & Immunology, CA, USA. Further information available from Assoc Prof Dale Godfrey at godfrey@unimelb.edu.au.

Jose Alejandro Lopez
Councillor

An invitation and a request to all ASI members
to contribute copy that they think might be interesting, useful, historical, humorous or thought provoking.

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



ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE

HLDA8/ASI34 Conference 12th–16th December

AFCG27 Conference: 12th–14th December

WORKSHOPS

FIMSA/ASI Immunology Workshop: 6th–10th December

TI Workshop: Sunday 12th December

This year, the 34th annual scientific meeting of ASI Inc. will be held in the Adelaide Convention Centre. This meeting will be held as a joint meeting with the 8th International Conference on Human Leucocyte Differentiation Antigens (HLDA8) and in conjunction with the 27th Annual meeting of the Australasian Flow Cytometry Group (AFCG).

Accordingly, the HLDA8/ASI Organising Committee invites all members to join international colleagues for this exciting meeting in Adelaide, South Australia 12-16 December 2004.

The list of invited international speakers for the HLDA8/ASI meeting include: Andrew McMichael, Antonio Lanzavecchia, Armand Bensussan, Armin Saalmueller, Betty Diamond, Chris Buckley, Hans-Georg Rammensee, Hiromitsu Nakauchi, Jim Morrissey, Laurence Bousmell, Marina Botto, Mariagrazia Uguccioni, Masaru Taniguchi, Masayuki Miyasaka, Nicholas Restifo, Nils Lycke, Pablo Engel, Sanna Goyert, Simon Davis, Tsuneyasu Kaisho, Vaclav Horejsi and Yasmine Belkaid.

As this is a joint meeting, we anticipate over 300 international registrants and an unusually large and varied trade display.

The Tumour Immunology Workshop will be held on Sunday 12th December and includes International speaker Vincenzo Cerundolo. For further TI Workshop queries contact John Hayball at john.hayball@imvs.sa.gov.au

In addition, the 7th FIMSA/ASI Advanced Immunology Training Course will be held in Adelaide 7-10 December 2004. For further information see the advertisement in this issue or contact Lindsay Dent at lindsay.dent@adelaide.edu.au or see the website at www.fimsa.org

We look forward to seeing you in Adelaide, December 2004.

Note: Information on each of these events may be found at www.plevin.com.au/hlda8asi

Caption Competition



Nobel Laureate, Rolf Zinkernagel, in a compromising position! It has been suggested that this photograph would be ideal for an ASI caption competition. Here is a golden opportunity for the cross-presenters out there to make a statement. The prize will be a bottle of wine, and entries should be received by 1st May. The results of the competition will be announced in the next Newsletter.

To start the ball rolling, Chris Parish has suggested a couple of captions:

“Dr Zinkernagel, are you sure this is where you want the thymus graft?”

OR

“Don’t worry. All applicants for an Australian overseas student visa have to go through this.”

The origin of the photo: The photograph was taken some time during 1974–75 when Rolf Zinkernagel was a PhD student in the Department of Microbiology, John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU. At the time Graeme Laver, a well known influenza virologist, was pursuing the hypothesis that migrating birds may be a reservoir of influenza virus and may contribute to the generation and spread of new influenza virus recombinants. In order to test this hypothesis, Laver organised field trips to various nesting sites around Australia for migrating birds. The Great Barrier Reef was one area Laver frequently visited and he usually called for “volunteers” to help him collect throat swabs from the birds. As you can imagine such trips were very popular and Rolf Zinkernagel was one of the volunteers. The fact that Heron Island was a popular site for these expeditions suggests that they may have been motivated more by scuba diving than by science. When the volunteers returned they were throat swabbed to see whether they had picked up any influenza viruses during the trip. The “throat swabber” in the photo is Jean Downie, a Research Fellow in the Laver laboratory at the time. The utensils she is using were usually used to throat swab pelicans not people!