



N E W S L E T T E R

## Australasian Society for Immunology Incorporated

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### A Report from the NH&MRC Program Grant on “Antigen Presentation, Recognition and the Immune Response”

This program began in January 2002 to cement the strong personal relationships and successful collaborations between the laboratories of the 4 CIs, Jim McCluskey, Frank Carbone, Andrew Brooks (all from University of Melbourne) and Bill Heath (Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research). Its focus has been to develop an understanding of the molecular and cellular basis of antigen recognition within the immune system. The group has studied interactions between cellular elements of both adaptive and innate immunity, including T and B lymphocytes, dendritic cells, macrophages and natural killer cells and tried to elucidate the ligands which provide important immunological signals during infection or those which lead to autoimmune disease.

The program effectively brings together the four different laboratories, consisting of around 50 scientists, support staff and students, allowing free exchange of knowledge, expertise and reagents. The program meets every second week at the WEHI in what are known as the “OVA Group” meetings. Of course not everyone works on chicken ovalbumin and so for some of the Melbourne University people ‘OVA’ means ‘OVA there’. The program also gathers for random pizza evenings and meets once a year for a 2-day retreat, usually at some place more interesting than the University or WEHI. The success of this team effort can be gauged from the high number of individual and collaborative publications that have arisen from the program, published in high-ranking journals such as *Science*, *J. Exp. Med.*,

*Immunity* and *Nature Immunology*.

Although the programs are considerably intertwined, here we describe for simplicity the focus of the individual research groups rather than detailing all the areas of cooperation.

Research in the McCluskey lab studies the basic issues surrounding the structural basis of T cell recognition (Lars Kjer-Nielsen), the biochemistry and cell biology of Ag presentation (Jim McCluskey), aspects of autoimmunity (Kate Keech and Zhenjun Chen) and the correlates of protective immunity in Hepatitis C infection (Mandvi Bharadwaj). In particular we are interested in understanding the 3-dimensional X-ray crystallographic structure of HLA molecules,

*cont. p4*

### Australian (immunologist) of the Year!



Professor Ian Frazer from the Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research in Queensland was awarded the 2006 Australia of the year for his work on a Human Papilloma Virus vaccine. Ian was the subject of an article back in September 2005, highlighting his receipt of the Eureka Prize for Leadership in Science (Sept 2005, p12). In accepting the 2006 Australian of the Year Award he highlighted the importance of medical research in improving human health and happiness and urged Australians to “catch my disease . . . I want people to be infected by the same process of doing good for others as I feel I’m infected by.”

(Photo by Horizon Communications)

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### Website

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

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

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

### Email bulletin board

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

## EDITORIAL

This edition of the newsletter features reports on the December ASI Conference in Melbourne. It was truly impressive to hear of all the exciting science being performed by members around Australasia. The level of organisation and professionalism with which such a large conference came together was a tribute to the efforts of the organisers. Those who were unable to attend will have to content themselves with the conference report, minutes of AGM, and the numerous photos scattered throughout the newsletter. An important change to note for those who weren't present was the decision to change the publisher of *Immunology and Cell Biology* from Blackwells to Nature Publishing Group as of 2007. This reflects on the high quality of the journal which has been built up over a number of years through the dedicated stewardship of Chris Parish.

Meanwhile, the profile of immunology in the broader Australian community continues to rise in leaps and bounds. Just as we were recovering from the Conference came news of Ian Frazer's winning of the Australian of the Year award (photo p1). This would usually call for an article on his achievements in the newsletter. However, ASI is obviously ahead of the curve, having already published a profile of Ian after winning the Eureka prize back in the September issue (back page). This achievement will no doubt raise the profile of immunology and remind the public of the enormous potential for improving human health through the rational application of immunology to human disease.

This newsletter also includes a report from the NHMRC Program grant on 'Antigen presentation, recognition and the immune

response'. This is another instalment in a series of articles the newsletter has solicited aimed at raising the profile and promoting collaboration between different groups. This team, based in Melbourne, has successfully integrated a number of areas of immunology, and their achievements and publications are truly impressive. I hope other readers will feel free to volunteer similar articles to let us know about their work.

Finally, the end of 2005 marked a 'changing of the guard' for many members of the ASI Council, with several new State Councillors, and Honorary Secretary. Of particular note to student members is the new student representative Amanda Taylor (see photo below and article on page 6). In addition, Alan Baxter (newly elected Vice-President of ASI) gives us a brief overview of his background and visions for ASI (back page).

*Miles Davenport*



Amanda Taylor, new Student Representative

## HONORARY SECRETARY'S NEWS

### Membership renewal

The activities of ASI are supported by the annual contributions of its members. Please renew your membership and encourage new arrivals in your departments to join. All ASI members benefit from reduced registration rates to the Annual Scientific Meeting and other events organised by the ASI, a free subscription to *Immunology and Cell Biology*, and the quarterly Newsletter. Eligibility to apply to the substantial bursaries and travel awards offered by ASI requires payment of the annual fees by April 1st. Subscribe now! For more information, please visit <http://www.wehi.edu.au/collegiate/ASI/index.html>.

### International Travel Awards

A new round of applications for Postgraduate and Postdoctoral Travel Awards to attend international meetings in the second half of 2006 will be called mid-March. Details of the evaluation process, dates for submission and application forms will be provided by email and posted on the ASI website (<http://www.wehi.edu.au/collegiate/ASI/awards.html>).

Applicants for travel awards must have been ASI members during the year preceding the year of the award, so if you think you will apply for an award to travel in 2007, do not leave it for later, become a member before April 1st.

*José A. Villadangos*

### 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

### Sustaining Membership

ASI Inc acknowledges the support of the following sustaining members:

- Jomar Diagnostics
- Dynal Biotech Pty Ltd

T cell receptors and co-complexes of these molecules to determine the rules of T cell recognition, T cell signaling and T cell allorecognition. This interest has cemented a very close relationship with Jamie Rossjohn's structural biology group at Monash University. Other strong collaborations outside the program include the Hep C studies with Campbell Aitken and Margaret Hellard at The Burnet Institute. Recent findings suggest that spontaneous responders and recurrently exposed but HCV seronegative intravenous drug users generate a T cell response to many CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell epitopes which might confer protection/resistance to disease. Efforts are underway to further characterise these HCV specific T cells. The autoimmunity work has led to the development of a transgenic model of Celiac disease known to be strongly associated with HLA-DQ2 and HLA-DQ3. Transgenic mice that independently express the HLA-DR3 and DR4 haplotypes are being used to develop the

Celiac model with Bob Anderson from WEHI. The plan is to use these models to facilitate trials of immunotherapy that might be translated to humans. Other HLA projects include studies of HLA-B27 and Ankylosing Spondylitis in collaboration with Lionel Schachna at the Austin Repatriation Hospital Rheumatology Unit. There are also studies with Simon Mallal from Perth attempting to unravel the basis of hypersensitivity to the HIV reverse transcriptase inhibitor, abacavir that is strongly associated with HLA-B57.

Work coming primarily from the Carbone laboratory has examined the immune response to localised infection using a model of cutaneous herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) infection in mice. Using this model we have been able to identify the antigen presenting cell involved in the priming of HSV-specific cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTL) as CD8<sup>+</sup> dendritic cells (DC) resident in the draining lymph node (Allan et al., 2003). Contrary to common belief, epidermal-derived Langerhans cells, which are capable of

acquiring antigen following skin infection and migrating to the draining lymph node, do not directly prime the HSV-specific CTL. However we have recent evidence to argue that antigen transported from the skin by Langerhans cells is transferred to the lymphoid resident CD8<sup>+</sup> DC for cross-presentation and CTL priming, allowing more efficient T cell activation. Once activated, HSV-specific CTL are able to clear replicating virus after the infection is well established rather than limiting the initial spread of virus from the site of infection (Van Lint et al., 2004). Consequently, the CTL are unable to prevent HSV from establishing a latent infection in the ganglia. However, HSV-specific CTL infiltrate and persist within latently infected ganglia and we have shown that these cells are exposed to ongoing antigen stimulation, most likely by infected neuronal cells (van Lint et al., 2005). The role of CTL in preventing HSV reactivation is currently under investigation.



The "Antigen Presentation, Recognition and the Immune Response" program (from left to right)

**Front row:** Bill Heath, Lars Kjer-Nielsen, Andrew Brooks, Frank Carbone, Jim McCluskey

**2nd row:** Gayle Davey, Usha Koul, Duangtawan Thammanichanond, Mandvi Bharadwaj, Kate Keech

**3rd row:** Claerwen Jones, Jie Lin, Eleanor Lee, Magda Wojtasiak, Daniel Barr, Martha Kotsifas, Jane Langley

**4th row:** Philippa Saunders, Danielle Zernich, Serrin Rowarth, Jason Waithman, Angus Stock, Andrea de Kauwe, Lauren Kleinert, Rhys Allan, Linda Wakim

**Back row:** Lyudmila Kostenko, Paul Whitney, Mark Hugo, Gabrielle Belz, Adele Mount, Lucy Sullivan, Patrick Reading, Zhen Jun Chen

In Bill Heath's lab the broad aims are to further understand the role of CD8 T cells with specific reference to the mechanisms of CD8 T cell tolerance (Ian Parish), factors influencing the balance between tolerance and immunity (Gayle Davey) and the role of T cells in infectious diseases, induced by viruses (Gabrielle Belz, Adele Mount, Sammy Bedoui) and malaria parasites (Rachel Lundie). The Heath and Carbone labs, in collaboration with Jose Villadangos' group at WEHI, has been extensively involved in dissecting the cross-presentation pathway, where extracellular antigen is taken up by antigen presenting cells and presented by MHC class I to CD8 T cells. In recent studies, the CD8+ dendritic cell (DC) has been identified as the DC cell type responsible for cross-presentation and for mediating self tolerance to pancreatic islet antigens. With respect to the T cells, we have shown that such tolerance requires the pro-apoptotic protein bim. Current work is investigating the role of tissue damage in precipitating the breakdown of self-tolerance and the development of autoimmune disease. In collaboration with Hamish Scott's lab at the WEHI, the role of the autoimmune regulator (AIRE) gene in T cell development and tolerance is under investigation. To examine factors capable of tipping the balance from tolerance to autoimmunity, a model of diabetes has been characterised to further understand the role of CD4 T cell help in the activation of CD8 T cells. A new project is using gene array analysis to more widely screen for pathways distinguishing immunity and tolerance.

Extensive studies using Herpes Simplex Virus-1 (HSV-1) and Influenza A virus have been carried out to further dissect the T cell response during viral infections. Major findings from this collaborative work with

Ken Shortman's lab, were the identification of DC subsets mediating viral immunity and characterising the requirement for CD4 T cell help in the CD8 T cell response to HSV-1. In another infectious disease system, in collaboration with Brendan Crabb's laboratory at the WEHI, OVA expressing *P. berghei* parasites have been generated to study the T cell responses to blood stage parasites in malaria.

Research in the Brooks laboratory centers on the immune response to viruses such as herpes simplex virus, influenza virus and cytomegalovirus. A major focus has been to understand mechanisms by which viruses activate cells of the innate immune system such as dendritic cells and natural killer cells following infection and to understand the interplay of these cells with the adaptive immune system (Patrick Reading). We have built up a detailed picture of the recruitment and activation of NK cells, neutrophils, dendritic cells and both CD4 and CD8 T cells in sites of viral replication such as skin, ganglia and lungs following infection with HSV-1 and influenza. Our work on cytomegalovirus has highlighted a role for HLA-E in both innate and adaptive immune responses. We have made great progress defining the structural basis for the recognition of HLA-E by both natural killer cells and more recently CD8 T cells (Lucy Sullivan) and are currently assessing the role of these T cells in solid organ transplants as we can readily determine patients in whom these cells will recognise the transplanted organ as well as CMV-infected cells.

Students and scientists interested in joining this exciting research effort should contact the individual group leaders directly:

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<http://www.wehi.edu.au/research/divisions/imm/>

Andrew Brooks  
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<http://www.microbiol.unimelb.edu.au/research/groups/brooks>

*Relevant publications:*

Allan et al., 2003. Science 301:1925-8  
Belz et al., 2002. J. Exp. Med. 196:1099-104.  
Borg N.A. et al., 2005 Nat Immunol. 6, 171-180  
Davey et al., 2002. J. Exp. Med. 196:947-55.  
Heath et al., 2004. Immunol. Review 199:9-26.  
Kjer-Nielsen L, et al., 2003 Immunity. 18:53-64.  
Macdonald, W.A. et al., 2003 J Exp Med 198:679-91.  
Van Lint et al., 2004. J. Immunol. 172:392-7.  
Van Lint et al., 2005. J. Virol. 79:14843-51.  
Smith et al., 2004. Nature Immunol. 5:1143-8.  
Westall et al Am. J. Transplant (in press)  
Wojtasiak et al Int Immunol 2004 16: 1333-41  
Zernich, D. et al., 2004 J Exp Med 200:13-24.

**Contributions sought for the  
ASI Newsletter**

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

**Deadline for the next issue :  
1st May 2006**

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

**HOLD THAT DATE !**

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

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

More information on the 2006  
conference can be found at:

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

## Report on the ASI-Visiting Speaker Program

As you are probably aware, the program has taken a very interesting momentum and we have managed to secure a list of prominent speakers for this year. I would like to remind you that we would like to receive proposals for candidates from any member of the ASI. Twice a year, at the midyear and annual Council meetings, candidates are evaluated and selected. We would need that the person proposed has already "in principle" agreed and that a brief CV is provided so that councillors can gather interest for their visit. The deadlines for the proposals every year are: May 15 and November 15. For further details, please visit our website for details (<http://www.wehi.edu.au/collegiate/ASI/vsp.html>).

### Planned visits for 2006

**Professor Bruno Kyewski** from the German Cancer Research Centre (DKFZ) in Heidelberg, Germany, completed his PhD in Freiburg and after his internship moved on to a postdoctoral position at the Cancer Biology Research Laboratory in Stanford, California, USA. He joined the DKFZ in 1984 and has worked there since. He was appointed professor for immunology at the Karl-Rupprechts-University in 2001. Bruno has devoted most of his career to the thymus and its role in central tolerance. His recent contributions to the field have focussed

on promiscuous gene expression in thymic epithelial cells.

### Selected publications:

Derbinski J, Gabler J, Brors B, Tierling S, Jonnakuty S, Hergenahn M, Peltonen L, Walter J, **Kyewski B**. Promiscuous gene expression in thymic epithelial cells is regulated at multiple levels. *J Exp Med*. 2005 Jul 4;202(1):33-45.

Gotter J, Brors B, Hergenahn M, **Kyewski B**. Medullary epithelial cells of the human thymus express a highly diverse selection of tissue-specific genes colocalized in chromosomal clusters. *J Exp Med*. 2004 Jan 19;199(2):155-66.

Derbinski J, Schulte A, **Kyewski B**, Klein L. Promiscuous gene expression in medullary thymic epithelial cells mirrors the peripheral self. *Nat Immunol*. 2001 Nov;2(11):1032-9.

Klein L, Klugmann M, Nave KA, Tuohy VK, **Kyewski B**. Shaping of the autoreactive T-cell repertoire by a splice variant of self protein expressed in thymic epithelial cells. *Nat Med*. 2000 Jan;6(1):56-61.

**Professor Phil Greenberg**, from the University of Washington, Seattle, USA, will be visiting from August 4-19. He will be visiting Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Townsville and Brisbane (including his attendance to the BIG meeting in the Gold Coast on August 17-18).

**Professor Thomas Blankenstein**, from the Delbrück-Center for Molecular Medicine and Head of the Institute of Immunology of the Charite Hospital, Berlin, Germany, will be visiting various branches at the end of November. He will also attend the ASI Symposium on Tumour Immunology during the Australian Medical and Research Congress (AH&MRC, November 26 and December 1) in Melbourne and the ASI Conference in Auckland, New Zealand (December 3-7).



Prof Bruno Kyewski

## ASI STUDENT PAGE

Well it seems I have big shoes to fill. I think we would all agree that Anne should be pursuing a career in column writing; I'm thinking Carrie from *Sex in the City*. She is obviously wasted in science stuck in those restrictive white coats. I shall try to fill the shoes but there may have to be a bit of tissue squashed in to help. So Anne, whenever the urge takes you, feel free to continue writing. I would be happy to sign my name to anything (well nearly anything, maybe not the stuffing up of a 1:10 dilution, however in the true spirit of the last student page I did once add NaCl instead of Tris to our SDS-PAGE running buffer).

So here is a little about myself. I'm nearly at the end of the second year of my PhD (for those of you who have just started one, this is nearly at panic time but not quite yet) at the University of Auckland. Auckland: A city in the North Island of New Zealand. New Zealand: A country in the south-western Pacific Ocean. I study bacteria on good days and on bad days I hit my head against walls and wonder what it's all about.

Just something for all you students to think about before I go. The ASI conference this year is in the lovely city of Auckland. So start sucking up to those supervisors of yours to swing a trip over the water to come see how the other side lives. The ASI has student bursaries to help you get over for your holiday/conference but you have to have been a member for the year of the meeting. So you need to get signed up now to be eligible later (before April 1).

We are also planning a student BBQ with the speakers at this year's conference. It will have all the important things, food, games and of course alcohol to help with the courage to go introduce yourself to that scientist pin-up of yours. And in the worse case scenario, you might make some new friends who are in the same boat as you.

If any of you have any questions, ideas or comments, feel free to contact me [amanda.taylor@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:amanda.taylor@auckland.ac.nz).

Cheers,  
Amanda Taylor

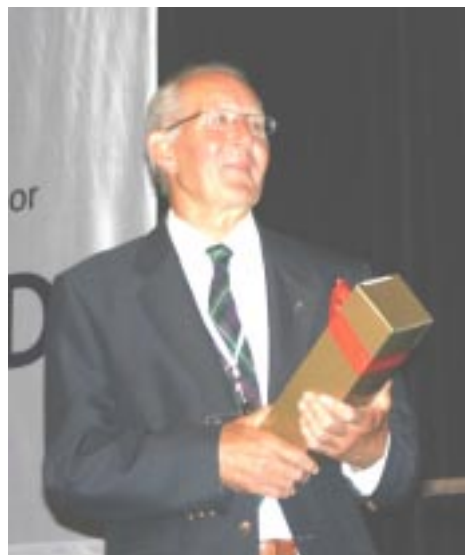
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April 18	Sydney	Centenary Inst.	Bernadette Saunders ( <a href="mailto:b.saunders@centenary.usyd.edu.au">b.saunders@centenary.usyd.edu.au</a> )

## Report on 2005 ASI Conference

The 35<sup>th</sup> annual scientific meeting of the Australasian Society for Immunology was for the first time conjointly held with the 14<sup>th</sup> International HLA and Immunogenetics Workshop at the Carton Crest hotel, Melbourne, December 4–8, 2005. Of the record 963 delegates, there were 324 from 43 countries outside Australia/NZ. Other novelties were that the abstracts were published in a special edition of *Tissue Antigens* (thanks mostly from the efforts of Jim McCluskey) and the canonical scientific program started on the Sunday.

The organising committee comprised Andrew Lew (Conference Chair), Jim McCluskey (IHIWS Chair), Ian Barr (Secretary), Pat Mottram (Conference Treasurer), Dale Godfrey (IgV President), Frank Alderuccio (Victorian Councillor), Andrew Bean, Lorena Brown (photography), Phil Darcy, Rosemary Ffrench, Anne Fletcher, Phil Hodgkin (ASI President), Rhonda Holdsworth, Grant Morahan (ex loco), Robyn Slattery, Mark Smyth, Brian Tait, David Tarlinton, Steven Turner, Jose Villadangos and Mark Wright. There were convenors for each day: Frank A, Jose V, Mark W and Dale G bore this task masterfully.

The Conference secretariat was ASNevents (Mike Pickford & Maree Overall) who were accommodating, assiduous and anticipatory. Our principal sponsors were CSL and One Lambda and major sponsor was BD Biosciences.



Burnet Orator, Ian McKenzie

Finalists for the New Investigator award:  
Shalin Naik, Tri Phan, Misty Jenkins, Erika Cretney, Lauren Ely



### Postgraduate teaching workshop

The ASI Postgraduate teaching workshop was held this year at the Alfred Medical Research Education Precinct and was attended by more than 80 students. In the morning sessions we had very stimulating lectures from three eminent immunologists. Prof Jacques Miller gave a fascinating overview of the history of the thymus and T cell selection; Prof Ward Wakeland gave a unique perspective, and some great insights, into autoimmunity and genetics; and Prof Rafi Ahmed gave an excellent presentation on immunological memory in viral infections. All three were masters in the simplicity of their presentations. The afternoon workshops were more interactive and the students selected from four workshops to attend along the themes of T cells and APC, Viruses and Vaccines, Autoimmunity, or Techniques. The students were immersed into virtual lymph-nodes for a thorough education in communication with fellow T cells and fellow DCs. There was a lot of laughter from certain immunological nodes (nerds?), and the feedback from the students was overwhelmingly positive. The presenters for the workshops were: Dr Bill Heath, Dr Phil Hodgkin, A/Prof Madga Plebanksi, A/Prof Rose Ffrench, Prof Ranjeny Thomas, Prof Richard Boyd, Dr Charles Hardy and Geza Paukovics.

### ASI-Tumour Immunology workshop

More than 110 delegates attended the annual ASI-Tumour Immunology workshop held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December. The workshop was well represented by local and international scientists and included presentations on innate and adaptive immunity, antibody

therapy and clinical immunotherapy. The keynote speaker, Peter Parham from Stanford University School of Medicine in California, gave us new insight into the development of NK cell repertoire, the functional effects of human killer cell immunoglobulin-like receptors (KIR) and an interesting analysis of KIR haplotypes and KIR ligands on the outcome of transplantation. Jeff Ravetch from the Rockefeller University in New York gave an excellent presentation describing how differential affinities of IgG subclasses for specific activating/inhibitory Fc receptors can influence activity of antibodies against pathogens and cancer and that partial restoration of inhibitory Fc receptors on B cells may be an effective way to treat autoimmune diseases. One of the highlights of the workshop each year is the Gordon Ada lecture which recognises outstanding contributions to the field of cancer immunology. It was a fitting selection that Denis Moss from QIMR delivered the lecture this year; he gave an excellent presentation of his preclinical and translational work involving immune control of EBV-associated disease. Twenty other excellent short talks completed the day. The conference organisers would like to thank all the speakers and participants for their contribution to the tremendous success of the workshop.

### The Program proper

The meeting proper started at 5.30pm on the Sunday with Peter Parham and Peter Doherty followed by a welcome reception with tasty, quality canapés and the



Revellers at the Chinese Banquet



CD8 buddies: Rafi Ahmed & Peter Doherty

Carillon string quartet. Historical trips were taken in the Doherty plenary, Ian McKenzie's Burnet Oration, Betty Rowley's brief biography of husband Derrick.

There were so many outstanding speakers at the meeting that any vignettes would not do them justice. You should have been there. The plenaries did cover a wide range of topics from the combinatorial aspects of genotype highlighted by Ward Wakeland to CD8 memory by Rafi Ahmed, Tregs by Sasha Rudensky, the role of IL2 in vivo by Mike Bevan, more DC quirks by Cao, DCs and B cells in the MZ by John Kearney to why the importance of the different FcRs by Jeff Ravetch.

We were reminded of Ian McKenzie's Atlantean contribution to Australasian immunology, specially the introduction of monoclonal technology to Oz, his alloantibodies to Ly antigens (the predecessor of CD) and characterisation of surface molecules. Ian himself in the Burnet Oration modestly understated his cancer vaccine and transplantation work.

Instead, he put his work in the bigger context of Burnet and Medawar and beguiled us with personal anecdotes of some of the giants of immunology and transplantation.

The Kevin Lafferty Memorial Debate, reinstated for this meeting, was once again a crafty display of humour, wit and spit. The argument that research institutes do all the best research and should therefore receive all the funding was led by David Tarlinton (WEHI) with support from Tom Kay (SVI) and Nick Huntington (WEHI). The opposition was comprised of team leader Richard Boyd (Monash), Alan Baxter (JCU) and Roland Scollay (Metabolic) with Pat Mottram (ARI) as moderator. After another heavy day of science, the performance was nothing less than expected – insults, lies and archival photos that will haunt these speakers for the rest of their lives. It was a packed house and thoroughly enjoyed by all from the laughs coming from the crowd. It also taught us that it takes more than a yellow frock or nasal appendage to make Richard Boyd look attractive. Nick's examples of "typical" university research were also memorable.

On the Wednesday, 360 dined on a Chinese banquet at the King Bo restaurant in Chinatown. Ten courses included crab salad soup and poached barramundi. Resourcefulness in limerick construction remains blooming. The five magicians were a real treat, and the DJ got everyone dancing. There were quite a few bravehearts who kicked on in King Street.

Phil Hodgkin at the AGM also reminded us of the celebration of some ASI members including Chris Parish for Ramciotti medal; Ian Frazer, the Eureka prize; Chris Goodnow, the major ASMR prize; and Geoff Hill, Queenslander of the Year.

There were 65 applicants for the New Investigator Award. The presentations were so outstanding that the judges wanted to give special commendation certificates to the five finalists (Misty Jenkins, Erika Cretney, Lauren Ely, Shalin Naik, Tri Phan). The winner was Tri Phan (Centenary). All this augurs well for the future of ASI science. The winner of BD Communication Award was Ken Pang (Ludwig). The IgV poster prizes were awarded to Adele Mount and Rachel Lundie (WEHI) and the Australian Life Scientist Prize (poster) to Angela Rate (Telethon). The Graham Jackson Mucosal Memorial Prize, Sanda Stankovic (WEHI). The committee would like to thank all the judges.

Fittingly and finally, Dr Lindsay Dent became the inaugural recipient of the Derrick Rowley medal for outstanding service to ASI.



The extremely serious Kevin Lafferty Memorial Debating team: Nick Huntington, Richard Boyd, David Tarlinton, Pat Mottram (moderator), Tom Kay, Alan Baxter, Roland Scollay

Thanks to Lorena Brown for photos from the conference





Sem Saeland (“Mr Langerin”) must have a great sense of humour. Margaret Baird & Barbara Fazekas de StGroth in open laughter before a plenary



Ronald Bontrop (Netherlands) & Peter Parham (Stanford) in front of trade display

### And the Bursa goes to ...

The much sought after Bursa of Fabricius Award for best limerick at the annual dinner was won by Katherine Gosling, Aude Fahrer, Adrian Liston and Bernadette Saunders. This was a repeat for former holders Bernadette and Aude. The winning entry addressed the research discovery of one of the protagonists in the Kevin Lafferty Debate – that castration leads to renewal of the thymus.

There once was a scientist named Boyd  
With T cell development he toyed  
His scientific frustration  
led to wanton castration  
Are all males of Monash devoid?



Miles Davenport, Guna Karupiah, Geeta Chaudhri, Steve Turner



Anne Kelso, Phil Hodgkin, Pat Mottram, Chris Parish

## ASI Councillors' News

### New Zealand News

Membership of the New Zealand branch of the Society stands at 68. It remains a vibrant and well connected community despite it being spread across all our major cities. We have a proportionally large number of graduate students in the branch which reflects the high profile that Immunology retains within New Zealand tertiary teaching. Otago University is the only University that offers a full degree in immunology but Auckland University has a very strong 3rd year course in immunology which attracts over 100 students. It is not surprising then that the immunology research groups field many enquiries from students wanting to do their PhD research project in some aspect of immunology. The Malaghan Institute for Medical Research is the only dedicated immunology research institute; now located on the Victoria University campus from its former location in the sprawling complex of Wellington hospital. The Malaghan's director, Professor Graham Le Gros, was deservedly elected to the New Zealand Royal Society in 2005. Graham is delighted to have the Malaghan Institute on a university campus, giving greater access to students and other academic staff at the University.

Because the NZ branch is so spread out, we run a local 2-day Immunet meeting in the middle of the year to get everyone together for science and social, particularly to introduce new graduate students. This year Immunet will be held in Wellington, June 8-9th.

Auckland is the host to the next ASI meeting in December and organisation is progressing well. We have a full list of international keynote speakers and the

website is now up and running at [www.asi2006.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.asi2006.auckland.ac.nz).

The new ASI student rep is Ms Amanda Taylor from Auckland University. Amanda is in her 2nd year of a PhD on the structure and function of superantigen-like pathogenicity factors from *S. aureus*. For those ASI students who wish to contact their advocate, her email is [Amanda.taylor@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:Amanda.taylor@auckland.ac.nz)

*John Fraser  
Councillor*

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

It is with great pleasure that I write to you today in my first term and SA/NT ASI Councillor. After the great work that Dr Su Heinzl has done over the last few years, I have a huge job ahead of me trying to keep up with the momentum and enthusiasm she put in. I would like to formally thank Su for all the hard work that she's put in and would like to congratulate her on building the membership base of SA/NT ASI over that time. I look forward to working with her in the future to continue strengthening ASI in SA and NT.

With that said and done I would like to just make a few short comments about what has happened in the last few months and what we have planned for 2006. In December last year we held our annual student meeting, a forum which allows us local students to present their work to their peers and mentors while nibbling on cheese and drinking wine. Their talks are judged and two prizes are awarded for best presentation. This event has been running for years and is continually successful and the quality of talks so high, so much so that the judges constantly struggle to award the prizes. This year, 3<sup>rd</sup> year PhD students Lachlan Moldenhauer (University of Adelaide) and Darren Miller (IMVS and University of Adelaide) came first and second and won over \$300 between them. A big thank you to ASI and Uni Books for sponsorship.

With the success of our inaugural student retreat, ASI Immunology Retreat (AIR), in 2005, we look forward to running this again in 2006. We were very pleased with the feedback from students, invited speakers and

supervisors and hope that by word of mouth, this event just gets bigger and bigger.

This year also has us looking forward to high profile international guests who travel the country with the support of ASI and we are hoping to implement a forum within which students get to spend time with these world leaders, perhaps over lunch while they are in town.

Bring on 2006, we're ready!

*Claudine Bonder  
Councillor*

### N.S.W. News

Welcome to 2006 and my first efforts as the NSW State Councillor. I must start with a special thank-you to Helen Briscoe for all her efforts over the last few years as our ASI rep. Helen was instrumental in setting up and running the successful ASI NSW branch meetings at Wisemans Ferry, she fostered the postgraduate research seminars to highlight the breadth and depth of Immunology in NSW and was enthusiastic in encouraging students and researchers alike to partake of the benefits of ASI membership. Thank-you for everything Helen.

The end of 2005 saw three of our students receive ASI International Travel Awards, for travel in the first half of 2006. Our congratulations go to Anthony Ryan and Teresa Wozniak from the Centenary Institute and Julie Wheway from the Garvan Institute. On behalf of ASI NSW, I would also like to thank and congratulate Andrew Lew and the ASI/IHIWS organising committee for raising the bar, both from a scientific and a social point of view, with an excellent joint conference last December.

I am looking forward to my term as ASI Councillor. The 2007 ASI annual conference will be held in NSW. This promises to be a wonderful opportunity to work with ASI members from all over NSW to put together a great meeting. To this end, I would welcome comments, suggestions and lots of assistance from willing bodies to aid in this campaign.

*Bernadette Saunders  
Councillor*

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**Office hours:**

**8.30am - 4.30pm**

## Queensland News

The big news from Queensland, of course, was that ASI member Ian Frazer (Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research) was named Australian of the Year, as I was informed by my suburb's free newspaper, complete with a full-front-page photo of Ian. I immediately wrote to a senior post-doc in his lab (who shall remain nameless) to get the inside dirt on Ian. Graham didn't even reply to my email. Scratching my head to let you know anything you haven't already read in your suburban newspaper, I resorted (as I always do) to the web. The top Google hit? The Scotsman newspaper blaring "Scot named top Australian"! Somewhere in there will be the ASI's own story on this: Go to the website. Well done Ian, coming directly after winning the Eureka and John Curtin prizes last year, and surely more accolades to come.

The other news from this last quarter was the most successful ASI meeting yet, with over 60 Queensland delegates. A very impressive list of international and local speakers, and enjoyed by all those I spoke to – so congratulations to the organisers.

A timely reminder for student members: April 1 is the deadline for joining or for renewal of membership for 2006, in order to be eligible for the ASI student travel bursary for this year's meeting in Auckland.

The ASI visiting speaker program has been re-invigorated by Dr Alejandro Lopez (Queensland Institute of Medical Research). I take over from Alejandro this year as Queensland Councillor, but the ASI Council has invited him to continue working as the ASI Visiting Speakers Co-ordinator. With other ASI members nationally, Alejandro helped organise the visits of a number of international speakers in 2005, and the promise is that this will continue this year. In the last quarter, the ASI visiting speaker Dr Sem Saeland toured Queensland, giving seminars in the Mater Medical Research Institute, the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, and at James Cook University. He spoke on "The Use of Langerin/CD207 to dissect Langerhans cell distribution and function" at QIMR, and "Skin antigen-presenting cells and C-type lectin receptors" at the MMRI. In Townsville he was the guest of Dr Heinrich Körner (Cellular Immunology Group within the Comparative Genomics Centre) and his talk was titled "Skin antigen-presenting cells". Sem was very generous with his time,

speaking at length with researchers and students in his busy schedule.

And finally, and still in Townsville, congratulations to Alan Baxter, head of the Medical Genomics Group at James Cook, who has been elected Vice President of ASI.

*Chris Schmidt  
Councillor*

## Victorian News



As the newly elected Victorian/Tasmanian Councillor for ASI, I like to welcome everybody for what promises to be another exciting year ahead. I would like to first thank our former Councillor, Frank Alderuccio, for all his effort and enthusiasm he has shown the past few years in promoting the Society.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the ASI conference committee for their tremendous effort in organising the program for the annual scientific meeting last year. The conference, held in conjunction with the International HLA and Immunogenetics special interest group, was the largest in ASI history, attracting many international visitors. This no doubt reflects our high standing in immunology research and the growing interest in this field both locally and overseas. The Tumour Immunology Workshop held prior to the ASI meeting was also a tremendous success and was well attended by over 100 delegates.

In December 2006, the ASI conference will be held at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, and promises to be an equally exciting event with a number of international invited speakers already confirmed. More details about this year's conference can be found on the ASI website <http://www.wehi.edu.au/collegiate/ASI/>

Besides the ASI meeting, the local IgV council will be organising many other worthwhile events this year including the techniques workshop and annual IgV meeting at Beechworth. More information about these upcoming events will soon be available on the website.

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. I recommend that you promote ASI membership to your colleagues and students. Membership details can be found on the ASI website.

*Phillip Darcy  
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.

- 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!**

## The beginnings of the New Zealand Society of Immunology

*The Australasian Society of Immunology combines both Australia and New Zealand Societies. We all know that Derek Rowley was responsible for the formation of the Australian Society, and that both were combined into the present Australasian form in 1992, but how and who formed the NZ Society? Professor John Marbrook, one of our distinguished Life Members, gives his recollection of its formation.*

In the 1970s, the Microbiology Society of NZ could look back on a very active existence, particularly in relation to agricultural and horticultural matters. It became obvious at that time that some subjects such as Immunology were blossoming to a degree that warranted special treatment. In 1973, Warran Jonas (Wallaceville Animal Research Station), Doug Wilson and I (both at Auckland University) discussed the feasibility of forming a breakaway group that might become a NZ Society of Immunology with additional emphasis on medical science that was appropriate at that time.

This idea gained momentum with support principally from the Medical Research Council (MRC now HRC) to allow the attendance of two Australian visitors to what they regarded as an "interdisciplinary Symposium on immunological topics .... at which the Society could formally be launched". It is interesting that in this context, Immunology was yet to be viewed as the totally separate 'discipline' that it is today.

We were fortunate to obtain the attendance of Ken Shortman from the WEHI and Al Cunningham from Canberra who, knowing the scant regard that locals have for those amongst their number who flourish overseas, did offer to wear his 'superman vest' to the meeting. More than 30 years on and the particular

contents of that first symposium in 1973 are difficult to recall, except of course my own contribution—a review of anti-viral immunity that ran well over time causing an exceptionally restless audience to think more about caffeine than original immunological sin.

The Director of the MRC, Dr JV Hodge, saw the success of such an Interdisciplinary Symposium as a good model for similar initiatives. Thus the Immunology Society of New Zealand was born ...



John Marbrook

## UPCOMING LECTURES & CONFERENCES

Sexually Transmissible Infections Symposium

31 March 2006

Sydney, Australia

Keynote speaker: Prof. Ian Frazer – Human Papilloma Vaccine Development.

Website: [www.cidmpublichealth.info](http://www.cidmpublichealth.info)

5th International Symposium on Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases

2–6 April 2006

Alice Springs, Australia

Website: [www.isppd5.com](http://www.isppd5.com)

Email: [isppd5@tourhosts.com.au](mailto:isppd5@tourhosts.com.au)

B Cells Cross the Divide – From In Silico to the Whole Person

Sant Feliu de Guixols, Spain

13 – 18 May 2006

Website: [www.esf.org/conferences/lc06210](http://www.esf.org/conferences/lc06210)

International Conference of Immunogenomics and Immunomics

October 8–12, 2006

Budapest, Hungary

Website: [www.bcii2006.org](http://www.bcii2006.org)

Australasian Sexual Health Conference

9 – 11 October 2006

Website: [www.ashm.org.au/conference](http://www.ashm.org.au/conference)

18th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine

11 – 14 October 2006

Website: [www.ashm.org.au/conference](http://www.ashm.org.au/conference)

3rd International Congress on Healthy Ageing and Longevity

Melbourne 13-15 October 2006

The conference organisers are keen to hear more about the immunology of ageing, and invite ASI members and other immunologists to participate in this exciting conference. ASI members will receive a \$200 discount on registration.

Abstracts close 31 May

Visit the website: <http://www.longevity-international.com/>

### Mark your calendars!

The launch meeting of the **AVID (Australian Vaccines and Immunotherapeutics Development) Network** will take place in **Melbourne** on **May 31st–June 1st.**

We hope you will all join us for two exciting days of talks, discussions and interactions with some of the leading scientists in the field.

Further details about the final program of the meeting and instructions to register will be provided soon by email to all ASI members.

*Jose Villadangos*  
Chairman, Organising Committee

**The Walter and Eliza Hall  
Institute of Medical Research**

**WEHI Seminars on the Web:**  
[www.wehi.edu/seminars/](http://www.wehi.edu/seminars/)

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2005

Held on Wednesday, December 7, 2005 at the Convention Centre in Carlton Crest, Melbourne

## Attendance and Apologies

53 members were present. Apologies were received from Geoff Shellam

## Confirmation of Minutes of 2004 AGM

Proposed by J McCluskey and seconded by J Frazer that the minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.

## Business Arising

All covered in other items below

## President's Report

Phil Hodgkin described 2005 as a successful year for our Society. Our bank accounts are healthy, there is great vitality in the activities around the states and some major structural changes have been introduced that will have long-term beneficial impact. Phil thanked all members of Council for their involvement in these changes, in particular Geeta Chaudhri, who this year ended her three and a half year term as Honorary Secretary. Jose Villadangos stepped up and has taken on this increasingly important and difficult role.

The President summarised major scientific highlights during 2005:

§ October saw Australian scientists from Perth, Barry Marshall and Robin Warren, awarded the Nobel prize in Physiology and Medicine. It is worth noting that this work was not done in an institute, or with great funding, or by identified stars. It is important for us to remember that our stewardship over ASI and immunology must continue to reach and support those at the edges without superstar funding as the next Nobel might be lurking there.

§ The other magnificent success, directly immunological, is the imminent licensing of the highly effective, "first vaccine against a cancer". Developed by Ian Frazer and his group with CSL and licensed to Merck, this invention stands to make a major impact on human health. The local immunology community takes pride in this development as our members have had the opportunity to hear the developing success at ASI meetings as Ian is a great supporter of this Society.

§ Many accolades have been bestowed upon members of our community. Chris Parish was awarded the Ramaciotti medal, Ian Frazer the Eureka prize, Chris Goodnow the major ASMR prize for science and Geoff Hill was awarded Queenslander of the Year.

Phil hailed Su Heinzl and Geoff Dandy as joint co-chairs of last year's annual ASI conference in Adelaide. This meeting was widely acclaimed as a scientific and organisational success. He also mentioned the good work of Heddy Zola and

Bernadette Swart in facilitating the sister meeting of the HLDA8 workshop. The associated FIMSA/ASI advanced training course in immunology was a fantastic success, with 107 registrants from Australia, New Zealand and seven Asian countries. Phil acknowledged Lindsay Dent's personal contribution to this course. FIMSA held a highly successful meeting in April in Hangzhou, People's Republic of China. There were over 1000 delegates at this conference, many of whom were very enthusiastic, articulate and scientifically passionate students from China. ASI was very well represented among the speakers and delegates and it is fair to say that this meeting represented a significant raising of our awareness of the important role FIMSA is playing in our region. A direct practical outcome of this meeting was an invitation to Chinese immunologist Xuetao Cao to give a plenary here in ASI2005.

The branch activities are strengthening and this is in large part due to last year's 'productivity bonus' funding and the energy of our State Councillors. There were new meetings developed; AIR in SA and a student workshop in WA were tried for the first time and were judged great successes.

Phil then expressed his satisfaction with the organization of the ASI meeting in Melbourne this year. For the first time the number of registrants had to be closed at around 880. The unprecedented numbers are, surprisingly, not due to a larger number of local registrants, but rather over 350 international delegates from 40 countries. A good part of this interest was facilitated by the overlapping IHI workshop chaired by Jim McCluskey. The development of our annual conference has been extremely well run by the local committee chaired by Andrew Lew whose pithy succinct emails this year have become famous. The other pleasing aspect of this meeting has been the performance of the professional organising team ASN led by Mike Pickford. This is especially important as one of the tasks Council undertook this year was to invite tenders to run the ASI meeting on a continuing basis. Phil explained that this initiative was taken to eliminate the inefficient loss each year of the 'memory' of how to run our meeting. Five bids were examined carefully, and the choice was made to go with ASN who offered an excellent package of price as well as experience. Phil thanked Su Heinzl, Chris Andoniou, Helen Briscoe and Norbert Keinzle for their participation in the subcommittee that assessed the bids.

The Visiting Speaker Program continues to grow under the management of Alejandro Lopez. Members have regained confidence in this program and are regularly suggesting possible visitors for

consideration. Alejandro has done such a good job that Council has asked him to coordinate and help develop an annual immunology day in Australia and New Zealand along the lines of those successfully run in Europe.

This year our website underwent a major revamp under the stewardship of our archivist Judy Greer. It looks great and is an excellent reference for all members. Phil thanked Judy for her efforts.

Phil announced that the medal struck for Burnet orators is almost completed and will be awarded retrospectively to past presenters. A second medal to commemorate Derrick Rowley as the founder of our Society is also in hand and the first award will be made tomorrow at the prize giving. Betty Rowley, Derrick's wife, has accepted our invitation to help with the presentation. Phil warmly thanked Betty for accepting to travel to Melbourne from Adelaide for this special occasion. He also thanked Geeta for her untiring efforts to establish these medals, even though officially retired as member of Council.

This year sees the retirement as State Councillors Su Heinzl, Helen Briscoe, Alejandro Lopez and Frank Alderuccio. Phil thanked them for their efforts. He noted that Su served a four year term and fitted in organising a conference. Our entertaining student rep Anne Fletcher is also now leaving. Thank you, Anne, for your amusing emails and newsletter articles through the year. This meeting will also see the retirement of Chris Parish from Council after serving time as Vice President, then President then Past President. A four year commitment on top of 14 years, and counting, for the journal. Phil thanked Chris on behalf of Council for the work done, and hoped he will enjoy a brief period of respite before taking up increased roles in IUIS.

Phil then announced an important decision that has occupied much time for Council this year. Chris Parish will be covering all the details in his report but we have taken the decision to change publisher for ICB from Blackwell to Nature Publishing Group. This difficult decision follows our strong belief that the change is in the best interests of the journal and, therefore, the Society. We should, however, acknowledge the contribution of Blackwell in working with ASI to build up the journal with Chris to its current state.

Finally Phil noted that the activities and responsibilities of this Council and this Society are increasing rapidly, due in part to the

increased scientific liaison with our neighbours, and the increased support for medical research over the last five years. Our increased funding from successful meetings and the journal provides us with the means to make changes that can have long-term consequences. Your Council is aware of its responsibility to facilitate and foster science and immunology wherever it is happening in Australia and New Zealand and surrounding regions.

This report was put to the membership. Proposed by Alan Baxter and seconded by Ian Frazer. Carried unanimously.

#### Secretary's Report

Jose Villadangos reported the following items:

§ **Composition of the Council:** The Council for 2006 will consist of:

President – Phil Hodgkin  
Vice-President – Alan Baxter  
Secretary – Jose Villadangos  
Treasurer – Norbert Kienzle

ACT Councillor – Guna Karupiah  
NSW Councillor – Bernadette Saunders  
NZ Councillor – John Fraser  
Qld Councillor – Christopher Schmidt  
SA/NT Councillor – Claudine Bonder  
WA Councillor – Chris Andoniou  
Vic/Tas Councillor – Phillip Darcy

Student Representative – Amanda Taylor  
Newsletter Editor – Miles Davenport  
IUIS – Chris Parish  
ICB Editor – Chris Parish  
FIMSA Councillor – Nicholas King  
Invited Speaker Program – Jose Alejandro Lopez  
Mucosal Immunology SIG – Allan Cripps  
Education SIG – Margaret Cooley  
Vet Immunology SIG – Wayne Hein and Andrew Bean  
Honorary Archivist and Webmaster – Judith Greer

Jose thanked the retiring State Councillors Helen Briscoe (NSW), Sue Heinzl (SA/NT), Frank Alderuccio (VIC/TAS) and Alejandro Lopez (QLD), the IUIS representative Lindsay Dent, and the Student representative Anne Fletcher for their contribution and continued support to the Society. Jose welcomed to the Council Vice President elect Alan Baxter, Councillors elect Bernadette Saunders (NSW), Claudine Bonder (SA/NT), Christopher Schmidt (QLD) and Philip Darcy (VIC/TAS), and new Student Representative Amanda Taylor.

§ **Membership distribution:** Jose presented membership numbers for 2005

and breakdown by category. The total number of members is 823, of which 183 are students. Jose reminded the need to encourage membership, especially by new students. He emphasised that the availability of student bursaries and travel awards may provide an incentive for joining the Society.

§ **Awards:** The Society awarded ten Student Bursaries to attend ASI 2005. There were also 13 International Travel Awards (9 post-graduate and 4 post-doctoral) and two Grants-in-Aid to attend the 2005 FIMSA meeting.

#### Treasurer's Report

Norbert Kienzle presented the figures of the financial status of the Society. The financial year of ASI runs from 1st November to 31st October in order to have the budget report finalized for the AGM; this is different to the ASI membership calendar year. The finances of the Society are in great shape; we had \$295,048 in total uncommitted equity as of end of October, representing a modest growth of 8% compared to last year. The operating surplus was ~\$26,000; that is 27% less than last year, reflecting a combination of lower net income and increased spending. Due to record growth (note not net) income from a mixture containing subscriptions, the ASI annual meeting and the ASI/FIMSA Training Course in Adelaide, ICB royalties and investment interests, the total growth income surpassed the threshold for an external audit. This audit is required by the Victorian Government and currently performed by WHK Day Neilson in Melbourne; the results will be disseminated to ASI members in the next Newsletter.

As previously decided by Council, there was an increased redirection of assets to the membership in order to stimulate ASI activities in local branches. In 2005 about \$80,000 was spent for benefits for ASI members that included travel awards and bursaries (\$22,300), support for visiting speakers (\$3,900), and a record commitment to State Branch funding (\$45,600); this benefit spending is 23% more than the previous year. In light of the positive financial health, Council will continue to increase members' benefit spending with an estimated \$104,000 for 2006.

#### Visiting Speaker Program

Alejandro Lopez explained briefly the purpose and guidelines of the program, and reported that in 2005 there were four sponsored speakers: Jean-Laurent Casanova (University of Paris René Descartes, Paris, France), Redwan Moqbel (University of Alberta, Canada), Georg Grau (University of the Mediterranean, Marseille, France) and Sem Saeland (INSERM, Lyon, France).

#### Report from Newsletter Editor

Miles Davenport invited submissions for the Newsletter such as articles on research labs, as well as on a wide range of issues of interest to the

Society. He reminded the membership that there were prizes for some submissions. The first deadline for 2006 is February 1.

#### FIMSA Report

The FIMSA vice-president and representative at the ASI Council, Nick King, reported on the following items:

§ A follow-up report of the FIMSA course organised in Adelaide in 2004 showed how well this course was received. Moreover, this meeting made AU\$18,000 profit, which was split with ASI.

§ The 3rd FIMSA Congress held in Hangzhou, People's Republic of China, was a brilliant success. The science was outstanding and the hospitality excellent. Three successful FIMSA scholarship awardees from Australia were Jie Zhong (CICR, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane), Martina Fuchsberger (WEHI, Melbourne) and Fang Zhou (CICR, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane). In addition, there were two successful awardees from India, one from Bangladesh, one from Singapore, two from Thailand, two from Hong Kong and 10 from China (PRC).

§ The 8th FIMSA/IIS Advanced Immunology Training Course is being jointly organized by FIMSA and the Indian Immunology Society (IIS), with support from the IUIS and the Immunology Foundation, India (local support for the conference). The ASI is covering the airfares of two speakers (Jose Villadangos and Guna Karupiah) who have confirmed. Nick King will also attend as part of the Faculty and will fund his own airfare from research money. All speakers will have accommodation and local hospitality covered by the Indian Society.

§ Nick announced the future FIMSA activities, in particular the 9th FIMSA Training Course to be held in Korea in 2007 and the 4th FIMSA congress, which will be hosted by the Taiwanese Society of Immunology in Taipei in 2008.

§ Nick acknowledged, in the name of the FIMSA Council, the support given by the ASI. He encouraged ASI to continue supporting FIMSA, not only on scientific grounds, but also on the grounds of fostering communication and understanding within the region.

#### IUIS Report

Chris Parish reported that he attended the IUIS Council meeting in Hangzhou, People's Republic of China, in April, the Council meeting being held just prior to the FIMSA conference. Preparations for the 13th IUIS Congress in Rio de Janeiro are progressing well, although there are concerns that attendance will be much lower than at previous congresses. Since many of the activities of IUIS are dependent upon a "healthy" profit from the congress, the financial future of the organization may be problematic following the Rio meeting. As a result of the financial situation, Council approved a modest increase in membership fees

from affiliated societies, there having been no increase in fees for the last 10 years. The IUIS is also investigating other ways of supplementing its income in order to sustain its current range of global activities, such as supporting conferences and workshops in developing countries.

**Meetings**

Phil Hodgkin announced that Australian Science Network, the professional conference organisers selected for the Melbourne meeting, had been awarded the contract for future meetings beginning with the 2008 meeting in NSW. Phil said this move would allow efficient development of the meeting and alleviate a significant amount of work from the local organising committee.

The location of the future ASI Annual Scientific Meetings will be:

- 2006 – NZ (Auckland)
- 2007 – NSW
- 2008 – ACT
- 2009 – QLD

**Report from Editor of ICB**

Chris Parish reported on the following items.

- § In February 2005 Anne Gernert resigned as my Editorial Assistant but, fortunately, with little notice my wife, Bhama Parish, volunteered to be my new assistant. Bhama has considerable IT experience which was invaluable during a period when the journal was adopting an online submission and reviewing system.
- § In January 2005 the journal adopted a web-based manuscript submission system and editorial office. This change resulted in a 41% increase in the number of manuscript submissions in 2005 (an estimated total of 158). The increase in the submission rate is entirely due to manuscripts from non-Australasian researchers. In fact, 75% of all manuscripts now originate from overseas groups compared with 63% in 2004. These figures are very encouraging as they indicate that ICB is attracting considerable international interest.

§ Chris expressed his concern with the low number of unsolicited manuscripts submitted to the journal by Australasian labs.

§ He also announced plans to publish three “Special Features” for 2006: Apoptosis and Immunity (February 2006), Clinical Cancer Immunotherapy (June 2006) and Immunopathology of Infectious Diseases (October/December 2006).

§ ICB has continued to increase its impact factor to 2.618 for 2004, ranking 44th out of a total of 111 immunology journals. This ranking is slightly lower than *Immunology* which is extremely encouraging as *Immunology* could be considered a sister journal, as it is the official journal of the British Society of Immunology. However, the impact factor and ranking of ICB have remained at a similar level since 2002.

Phil Hodgkin kindly requested that those who are not ASI members should leave the room of the meeting as the next matter in the agenda dealt with commercial-in-confidence negotiations.

Chris then summarised the negotiations carried out with the Nature Publishing Group to become the new publisher of ICB in substitution of Blackwell. Council members have held much discussion about this important issue by email and at Council meetings, pondering the advantages of the offer made by NPG and other competing offers made by different publishers. Council regarded the NPG proposal as the most positive, allowing ICB to become associated with the “*Nature*” name and consequently benefit from the high international profile this will accord the journal. The NPG has also offered a financially more attractive publishing contract than the current agreement, but this aspect of the offer was regarded by Council as less important than ICB joining the *Nature* stable of journals. Council decided that NPG can provide visibility and prestige for ICB that would be difficult for other publishers to match. In addition, the agreement with NPG will include free online access of ASI members to *Nature Immunology* and *Nature Reviews in Immunology*.

Phil Hodgkin announced that, based on the above, the ASI Council unanimously agreed to accept the NPG proposal, making the points that NPG had a higher profile and was offering ASI a far better deal than Blackwell has done to date. During 2006 further details of the new publishing agreement with NPG need to be finalized, such as the publication schedule (6 or 8 issues/year plus page extent), distribution of print copies of ICB to ASI members and the publication of ASI abstracts from ASI Annual Scientific Meetings in ICB, as well as the logistics of the transfer to a new publisher.

Michael Good congratulated Chris Parish and the executive on their achievement.

Trish Price asked whether the name would change, to which Chris Parish replied that it would not, but that the cover picture most likely would and that there were other ideas for revitalising its appearance. However, most importantly, ASI would still control the material published.

Anthony Basten proposed that these changes be formally adopted by the membership. The proposal was seconded by Jim McCluskey. Carried unanimously.

**Other Business**

Ian McKay noted that while the gap between ASI and ASCIA appeared to be unbridgeable insofar as meetings were concerned; was there any possibility that there could be some sharing of international speakers, considering that we were two related societies in the same country with relatively small member numbers? As an ex officio member of ASCIA in his capacity as President of ASI, Phil Hodgkin agreed to take the idea to the next ASCIA executive meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 2:00 pm

**MORE CONFERENCE PHOTOS**



David Tarlinton (WEHI) talking with Carola Vinuesa (ANU)

Ranjeny Thomas & Tom Kay



Ian Parish struggles to master ‘balloon sculpture’ over dinner

## Alan Baxter's Vision for ASI

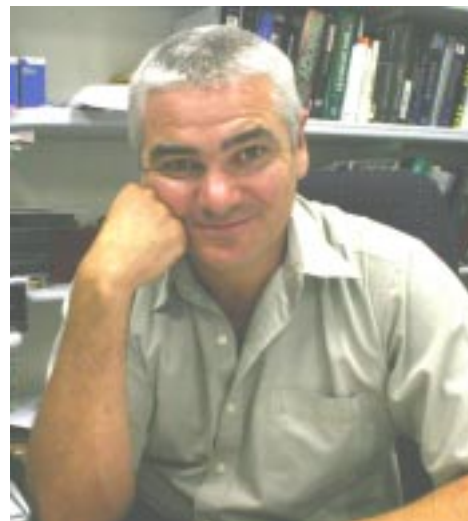
### Career Overview

I am a medical graduate who completed a PhD in immunogenetics at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute under the supervision of Tom Mandel. After working as a Research Fellow at Harvard Medical School and at Cambridge University, where I was a Supervisor in Pathology for Trinity College, I returned to Australia to establish the Autoimmunity Research Group at the Centenary Institute. After nine years in Sydney, I accepted my current appointment as Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Cell Biology at the Comparative Genomics Centre of the James Cook University. Our group studies the immunogenetics of autoimmune disease.

### Plans for ASI

Most people would agree that the recent stewardship of the Society has been outstanding. The Journal has received international recognition culminating in

its recruitment to the *Nature* stable, the last annual meeting was a vibrant, friendly congress with a strong international flavour and the Society's involvement in funding visiting speakers, local and educational events has never been stronger. Remarkably, despite relatively static membership, the financial position of the Society is better than it has ever been. It is a great time to join the Council. It is my view that we should continue to do more of the same, only more so. Under the watchful eye of the Treasurer, I hope the Council will expand the Society's community activities, increase support for travelling speakers – both national and international – and continue to encourage the regional branches to further develop their own programs, each with their own style and traditions. I strongly support Phil Hodgkin's program to increase the level of professionalism of the Society and to formalise our traditions. Finally, it is my intention to involve the Society, on a national level, in political issues that directly affect the



performance of immunology as a science and educational discipline as well as, in extreme cases, issues of basic human rights and dignity. While I understand that many members will feel involvement in politics is inappropriate for an organization of this nature, it is my view that the retirement of academics from public debate has left the community unbalanced and ill-informed in issues of national importance.



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