



N E W S L E T T E R

Australasian Society for Immunology Incorporated

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Tribute to ASI founder Derrick Rowley

Ieva Kotlarski

A distinguished academic and researcher, Derrick Rowley was Emeritus Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Adelaide. For more than 28 years, Derrick was one of the most active, outspoken and productive members of the Australian community of immunologists. In 1970 Professor Derrick Rowley was instrumental in founding the Australian (now Australasian) Society for Immunology to provide a network for discussion, information exchange and collaboration in clinical, experimental, cellular and molecular immunology in humans and animals and was elected its first President. He remained actively involved after his term as President and the Society recognized the value of his contributions by making him an Honorary Life Member. He also had a long association with the Australian Journal of Experimental Biology and Medical Science (renamed Immunology and Cell Biology in 1988), acting as Editor-in-Chief from 1963 till the end of 1987, when he accepted the less demanding position of Deputy Editor for some years. He served on the National Health and Medical Research Council for six years.

Together with his colleagues, he consistently pursued his interests in immunity to enteric infections and in the properties of bacteria that enable them to colonize and grow in animals, including humans. This work earned a fine reputation throughout the world. He was appointed to a number of World Health Organization (WHO) advisory positions, including that of Chairman of the WHO Committee of Diarrhoeal Disease Research. In 1965 he was appointed as the Australian representative on the Advisory Board of the

Cholera Research Laboratory in Bangladesh and subsequently served as Chairman of the Scientific Program Committee of the International Centre of Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, based in Bangladesh.

Derrick was born into a working class family in Bradford, Yorkshire on 1st January 1922. His parents were committed to give him a good education and the opportunities this provided. Derrick completed a BSc Honours in Chemistry in June 1941 at the Imperial College in London and took up a research position with Petrochemicals, initially in Manchester, and then for about a year in London and Orpington. During this time Derrick completed his PhD (1945) as an external student of London University.

While in London he had the opportunity to work at the Glaxo Laboratories, where he met Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin. This changed the course of Derrick's scientific life to a lifelong commitment and interest in research in biomedical science. In mid 1945 he took up a part-time research position in Fleming's laboratory in the Wright Fleming Institute at St Mary's Hospital, London, and also began studies in medicine that he completed in 1950. After a year of research in America, supported by a Harkness Fellowship, Derrick returned to the Wright Fleming Institute in London and was soon appointed head of the Department of Bacterial Chemistry. He established a strong, active group of 10 people, including support staff, working on the pathogenesis of enteric infections and the recently described phenomenon of non-specific immunity



Derrick and family arrived in Adelaide at the beginning of 1960 to take up the newly established Chair of Microbiology at the University of Adelaide, a position he held until retirement at the beginning of 1988. Many postgraduate research students and post-doctoral researchers came to the department, attracted by the expanding range

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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

Derrick Rowley, Foundation Member and First President of ASI

There will be many members, myself included, who knew Derrick Rowley only by reputation. Newer members may be unaware of his seminal role in sowing the seeds that would become the ASI. I thought it appropriate then to present extracts from his own account of the beginnings of the ASI. The following quotes are taken from his article written to mark the 21st anniversary of the beginning of the Australian Society for Immunology* (1).

I arrived in Adelaide in January 1960, and Charles Jenkins followed toward the end of that year. At that time we were the only immunologists in Adelaide.

Soon after my arrival, I made contact with other Australian scientists with an interest in immunology. Most of them were located at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for Medical Research, but there were two other small groups: one with Frank Fenner at the John Curtin School for Medical Research in Canberra that included Stephen Boyden and Bede Morris, and the other in Perth with Neville Stanley, who had recently settled there and was working on aspects of viral immunity.

By 1962 all these groups had grown in size, with the group at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute expanding the most. It seemed a good idea to invite all these immunologists, and several others with an interest in immunology, to come to Adelaide for a scientific meeting towards the end of that year when Otto Westphal was visiting my department from Germany. This 1-day meeting was held on the 8 November 1962. It was attended by Sir Macfarlane Burnet, Gus Nossal, Gordon Ada and Alex Szenberg from Melbourne; John Dineen from CSIRO in Sydney; Stephen Boyden from Canberra; Neville Stanley from Perth; Milton Salton, Geoff Cooper, Otto Westphal, Charles Jenkin, Keven Turner, Peter Reeves and the PhD students of my department in Adelaide

This meeting was deemed a success and further meetings were held informally each year between 1963–1969, rotating between Sydney, Canberra, Adelaide and Melbourne.

Derrick notes the effect of the meetings in his article:

During that time, immunology had become one of Australia's growth industries. Immunologists had infiltrated every medical school and major hospital in the country and immunology was represented at the very highest level of excellence by the greatly enlarged Walter and Eliza Hall Institute ...

The continued success of the discipline and the number of attendees wanting to come to the informal meetings gave way to a more formal society:

By 1969 it was clear that the regular attendance at our annual meetings of immunologists was too large to allow our friendly and amateurish approach to the organization of meetings to continue. Accordingly, our informal group of immunologists provided the foundation membership of the Australian Society for Immunology when it was formed in 1970.

Derrick became the first President of ASI in 1970 and delivered the Burnet Oration in 1989.

At the end of his article Derrick reflects on the change in the scientific landscape that he palpably helped create:

*In 1960 the clinicians at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, the Faculty of Medicine and at similar institutions elsewhere in Australia regarded immunology as a minor branch of microbiology. **I take some personal pride in having corrected that view.***

All ASI members in Australia and in New Zealand will thank him for his vision and energy that has so enriched the discipline of Immunology in our region.

(1) The early history of the Australian Society for Immunology. D. Rowley. Immunology and Cell Biology (1991) 69:307-308.

* Editors note: The merging of New Zealand Immunology with the Australian Society was formally recognised in 1992 by the name change to the Australasian Society for Immunology.

Introducing our new Editor

This edition of the newsletter marks my last as editor. I note this with some sadness as I have greatly enjoyed the challenge of trying to meet deadlines (mostly unsuccessfully), cajole articles (sort of successfully), and highlight activities of the Society (hopefully successfully). With new ASI responsibilities on the horizon I began to look around for a replacement editor just as Miles Davenport began to show an interest in the process. When asked "Would you like to try?" Miles actually agreed with very little arm twisting, and for this I and the Society were very grateful.

Miles has shown his suitability by writing an interesting article for this issue. Preparedness to write articles is, in my experience, a key attribute for an editor as in slow months the editor can end up needing to fill quite a bit of blank space. Knowing Miles as I do, I'm also confident he has many more ideas for essays in future. I thank all members for their support with articles, information and encouragement during my time as editor and I wish Miles every success.

Phil Hodgkin



Miles Davenport, the new ASI Newsletter Editor, looks forward to hearing from you

Derrick Rowley (cont.)

of research interests and quality of the staff Derrick appointed soon after he arrived. Under his enthusiastic leadership the department increased in size more than 8-fold and changed its name to the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, to reflect its broader range of interests.

Derrick was known for his quiet, authoritative style, which was somewhat daunting to undergraduate students and those who did not know him well. Those who knew him respected and admired him and appreciated his integrity, decisiveness and generous response to requests for help and advice, particularly from postgraduate students seeking to develop careers in research. Colleagues and former students remember him as approachable and fair, with a broad range of interests and a great enthusiasm for research and life in general. To be successful, he believed, one had to enjoy both work and play and he practiced what he preached, setting a great example for others. Derrick's greatest supporter in all his professional work and extracurricular interests throughout his adult life was his wife Betty.

An extremely hard worker, he was quick decisive and authoritative and had an innate ability to identify the central issues in complex scientific discussions. He was a leader and a mentor who insisted on compassion and respect for individuals and always dealt with life's challenges in an open, honest and even-handed way. Derrick believed that science, which he loved, had given him career and travel opportunities he might otherwise have not had. He had a large circle of friends who valued his dry humour and well reasoned views on a wide range of issues.

Derrick continued to use his expertise in various ways after he retired. He served as the Chairman of Council of the Child Health Research Institute (1988–1992), worked as a half-time Research Director of Enterovax Research Pty Ltd (1988–1989) and as Research Director and Research Adviser at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for a further five years. He also worked as a consultant and joined a small group responsible for recommending how the primary health care services for Tibetans living in India might be improved and as an advisor to a project funded by AUSAID to establish a data collection system for medical problems of Tibetans in India. In 1993 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia, in recognition of his contributions to immunology.

Derrick also continued to enjoy spending time with his friends and ex-colleagues and to travel, with itineraries planned to provide plenty of opportunities for walking, a hobby he enjoyed greatly for most of his life.

In early 2003 he learnt that he had mesothelioma and faced that challenge with the courage he had shown throughout his life. He died on 6 September 2004 and is survived by his wife, two daughters, a son and their families. Another legacy he was proud of is the large number of staff and students whom he encouraged, advised and mentored and who have made a success of their careers in biomedical and health science. He will be missed by all of them.

Professor Ieva Kotlarski is in the School of Molecular and Biomedical Science at the University of Adelaide. She was Derrick Rowley's first PhD student in Adelaide and was a work colleague for nearly 25 years.

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

Sustaining Membership

ASI Inc acknowledges the support of the following sustaining members:

- Jomar Diagnostics
- Dynal Biotech Pty Ltd

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Report on the ASI Visiting Speaker Program

As part of the ASI Sponsored Speaker program, ASI will sponsor during September the tour through various branches of Professor Jean-Laurent Casanova from the *Hôpital Necker Enfants Malades*, Paris, France. Prof. Casanova has been invited by the Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) to be the keynote speaker in their 2004 meeting at the Gold Coast (September 8-10). As seen from his publications, Prof. Casanova is a world leading figure in the area of human immunodeficiencies with particular emphasis on their impact on infectious diseases. For any details, please contact the local ASI member listed below.

| | | | |
|------------|------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Sept. 9th | Brisbane | Alejandro López | alejL@qimr.edu.au |
| Sept. 13th | Melbourne | Phil Hodgkin & Dave Tarlinton | hodgkin@wehi.edu.au; tarlinton@wehi.edu.au |
| Sept. 14th | Adelaide | Su Heinzl | susanne.heinzl@adelaide.edu.au |
| Sept. 15th | Sydney | Helen Briscoe | hbriscoe@med.usyd.edu.au |
| Sept. 16th | Wellington | Jo Kirman | jkirman@malaghan.org.nz |

A/Prof J. Alejandro Lopez

ASI Brief Notes

- ❖ The 2004 Membership ASI Membership Directory is enclosed with this newsletter. Should you wish to receive an electronic version (in pdf format), please contact the Secretariat via email (asi@21century.com.au) and it will be emailed to you.

To have been included in the Directory, the member must have agreed to have his/her details published. This conforms to the Privacy Laws. Renewal and application forms carry a box to be ticked to indicate whether you want your contact details published.



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ASI Councillors' News

New Zealand News

In July we had our annual 'Immunet' meeting in Dunedin. This year we joined up with the virologists and had a combined meeting. The meeting was very well attended and we had to turn away last minute registrants as the very scenic venue could only accommodate 100 people. We had two very exciting invited plenary speakers, Professor Ian Frazer from Brisbane and Dr Ihsan Gursel from the FDA in Bethesda. Both speakers gave excellent presentations that appealed both to the virologists and immunologists. Ian spoke on his work on HPV vaccines and that old favorite original antigenic sin, while Ihsan presented data on immunostimulatory and immunosuppressive ODN. The rest of the meeting consisted of short talks designed to bring NZ researchers up-to-date with research being carried out by the various research groups situated throughout NZ. The social program then gave everyone ample time to drink wine, renew friendships and perhaps initiate some new collaborations. So a good time was had by all (although Ihsan had a bit of a rough time, no luggage and a 5 hour bus trip from Christchurch to Dunedin) and on behalf of the ASI NZ branch I would like to thank Glen Buchan, Margaret Baird and Vernon Ward for organizing an excellent meeting.

I used the opportunity of having most of NZ's ASI members in one place to elect some new NZ branch committee members, Jo Kirman will look after the interests of the Wellington ASI members while Rod Dunbar will look after the interests of the Auckland members and will also take over the role of Treasurer. Thanks very much guys.

Other bits and pieces. First up – The Malaghan Institute moved to its new facility on the Victoria University Campus in June. Jo Kirman said that the staff are looking forward to the new opportunities that will form with the enhanced working space and resources available, while still retaining strong ties with researchers at Wellington Hospital. Jo was also pleased to report that the move went very smoothly thanks to months of planning and organization, and the new facility is

now fully operational. There will be an official opening ceremony attended by the Governor General later this month.

Other news, Otago University has just taken delivery of a new FACS Aria. This machine is the first Aria in the country and I'm sure the Otago researchers will make good use of the cutting edge technology now available to them. Finally, this year (as in others) Immunet will offer three studentships for undergraduates to carry out immunologically based research projects over the summer within the University of Otago (including the Wellington and Christchurch Schools of Medicine). For those who fancy cross-disciplinary work, budding immunologists can also take up Formulation and Bioactives Delivery Research Theme studentships where they can investigate methods to deliver their favorite immunomodulators.

Sarah Hook
Councillor

Victorian News



Greetings all to another update of your local IgV activities.

Techniques Workshop 2004

Since the last newsletter, IgV has conducted yet another successful Techniques Workshop. Over 110 participants enjoyed the day's event with a range of informative and entertaining talks. In particular, the presentation by Drew Berry on scientific animation was a pleasant diversion from the usual scientific talks we receive. Many thanks to all our speakers who made the day a success; they include Andrew Brooks (Immune profiling platforms), Frank Battye (Principles of flow cytometry), Wayne Kimpton (In vivo imaging), Holley Cate (Laser Capture), Nicole LaGruta (Retroviral transduction for gene expression), Jim Vadolas (Bacs for gene expression), Drew Berry (Scientific animation) and Tony Purcell (Proteomics). The continued popularity and support of this workshop will ensure that this becomes a truly annual event. A big thank-you to Steven Turner and Lorena Brown for organising the program and

wonderful catering. Their efforts are much appreciated. If you have any suggestions for a future techniques workshop topic, please forward topic and contact details of speaker to me.

Annual IgV Scientific Meeting

While we are all hibernating over the winter months, the IgV is planning another exciting annual meeting for you. As usual, the meeting is held in the first weeks of October and the dates for your diaries this year are **October 10-12**. The theme this year is **Infection and Autoimmunity** and a number of interstate and local speakers have been confirmed, including Alan Baxter, Nadine Dudeck, Odilia Wijburg, Scott Thomson, Andrew Bean, Rob Center and Paul Gleeson. This is an ideal opportunity to mix science with some relaxation and socialise with your fellow Victorian/Tasmanian ASI members. Students have opportunities to present their studies to a wider audience and IgV offers a number of student prizes from the meeting. While the meetings are well attended, our aim at IgV is to attract all members to what is "our local meeting". If you have never been to an IgV meeting, make 2004 the year and mark your diaries now. Details regarding registration can be found at the following website: <http://www.microbiol.unimelb.edu.au/micro-new/IgV/>

Local Accolades

I think it would be nice to acknowledge a couple of local ASI (IgV) members who have recently received significant recognition for efforts in their research fields.

Congratulations to **Prof Len Harrison** who was recently (May 21) awarded the prestigious David Rumbough Award by the US-based Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation in recognition for his contribution to research into Type 1 diabetes. This is only the second time this award has been given outside the US in its 30 year history.

Congratulations to **Dr Nadine Crowe** for her recent (May 31) commendation award as part of the annual Premier's Awards for Medical Research. Nadine's studies were completed as part of her PhD thesis into the role of Natural Killer T cells in cancer treatment.

PhD Scholarships in Tumour Immunology

Up to five prestigious PhD scholarships are being offered for prospective students commencing PhD or MD studies in Tumour Immunology at the University of Melbourne. Scholarships are being offered through The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne University, Dept of Microbiology and Immunology and Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research and include living and travel allowance. Further details can be obtained from the following website: <http://www.petermac.org/research/students>

ASI Student Travel Bursaries

A reminder to all Victorian/Tasmanian ASI student members that competitive travel bursaries are available for travel to the annual ASI scientific meeting. Details can be obtained from the ASI website

New Members

ASI is one of the strongest scientific groups in Australia. This is a reflection of the standards and values it places on its role in the scientific community. Behind the scenes, there are many people in various committees and groups who volunteer their time and work extremely hard to deliver what many of us come to expect each year. The best way to acknowledge your support for ASI and ensure that it continues as a strong international society is to spread the word and encourage fellow students or workers to join the society. If you or anyone would like to know more about IgV or ASI, don't hesitate to contact me.

Frank Alderuccio
Councillor

S.A./N.T. News

Norbert Kienzle from the QIMR in Brisbane was invited to Adelaide in May and gave us some insight into 'The multiple lives of CD8 T cells'. Not only did we benefit from his talk but he appeared to have enjoyed his visit as well as the picture of his visit proves.

Nik Petrovsky (ANU) visited the University of Adelaide and gave a talk on the Pathogenesis of Autoimmune Diabetes. Again, this was well received by local members.



Norbert Kienzle relaxing after talking to local members and students during his visit in Adelaide

We are looking forward to two outstanding international guests visiting Adelaide in September.

- Jean-Laurent Casanova from the University of Paris René Descartes will visit us as part of his tour through the country as ASI-sponsored international guest speaker.
- Peter Sieling from University of California, Los Angeles has agreed to extend his stay after attending a meeting on Heron Island and visit Adelaide to tell us about his work on the CD1-restricted T cells against microbial pathogens.

The South Australian activities focus on the organisation of the joint ASI-HLDA8 meeting in December. The preparation is going well to plan and we are confident to have put together a very exciting program. We have a fantastic list of international and national speakers. Go to <http://www.plevin.com.au/hlda8asi/> for the latest update regarding the meeting in Adelaide. There you will also find links to the FIMSA/ASI advanced training course in the week prior to the main meeting and the 27th annual meeting of the Australasian Flow Cytometry Group (AFCG) held in conjunction with the ASI/HLDA8 meeting.

I am looking forward to see many of you at the ASI 2004 in Adelaide!

Su Heinzel
Councillor

Queensland News

Immunologists in Queensland were particularly well represented in the Queensland Premier ASI Awards for Medical Research this year. Two immunologists were selected amongst the six finalists; Jai Kumar Duraiswamy (A Therapeutic Polyepitope Vaccine for EBV-Associated Hodgkin's Lymphoma and Nasopharyngeal Carcinoma) and Chris Schmidt (The Basis for an Effective Dendritic Cell Immunotherapy of Advanced Stage Melanoma) from the QIMR. Jai was selected as the winner of the Post-graduate Award for 2004. Congratulations! This year, the awards obtained larger media coverage than in previous years, achieving our goal to increase public awareness for Medical Research.

During September we will have the visit of various distinguished international speakers:

- Prof. Jay Berzofsky (NIH, Bethesda, USA) and Prof. Jean-Laurent Casanova (*Hôpital des enfants malades*, Paris, France) will be giving seminars in Brisbane on September 6th. Prof. Casanova is a guest of the ASI-Visiting Speaker program and will be visiting other branches.
- A/Prof. Johannes Vieweg (Duke University, North Carolina, USA) will also give a Seminar at the QIMR on September 13th.

Details for the **BIG (Brisbane Immunology Group) Annual Retreat** on August 19-20 at the Twin Water Resort, Noosa have been now finalised. The meeting will have international speakers Peter Creswell and Jonathan Sprent, as well as interstate speakers Richard Smallwood (Chair of the National Blood Authority), Tony Cunningham and Barbara Fazekas de St. Groth. We will report on the meeting in the next issue.

J. Alejandro Lopez
Councillor

Key speakers at our upcoming ASI meeting

BETTY DIAMOND

Professor of Microbiology and Medicine



Betty Diamond received an MD from Harvard Medical School in 1973. She performed a residency in Internal Medicine at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, and then a post-doctoral fellowship in Immunology with Dr Matthew Scharff at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. She has been on the faculty at Einstein since 1979. In September 2004 she became a faculty member of Columbia University College of Physician & Surgeons.

Dr Diamond's research has focused on the induction and pathogenicity of anti-DNA antibodies in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. She received the Outstanding Investigator Award of the ACR in 2001 and the Lee Howley Award from the Arthritis Foundation in 2002. Recognition Award, National Association of MD-PhD Programs in 2004.

Dr Diamond is currently Professor of Microbiology and Medicine. She is Chief of the Division of Rheumatology.

Dr Diamond's primary interests are in the mechanisms of central and peripheral tolerance of autoreactive B cells, and the defects in these mechanisms that are present in autoimmune disease. Her laboratory has been studying the regulation of DNA-reactive B cells. Her laboratory has studied the role of hormones and antigen in inducing autoimmunity. In a mouse transgenic for the heavy chain of a pathogenic anti-DNA antibody, elevated concentrations of both estradiol and prolactin break

tolerance cause high affinity anti-DNA B cells that are normally deleted in the bone marrow to be activated and contribute to the expressed antibody repertoire. Studies have shown that each hormone affects different pathways in B cell development.

Dr Diamond's laboratory has also developed a model of SLE induced by immunization with a peptide mimotope of DNA. This model is of interest because mouse strains differ in the susceptibility to this antigen-induced model of SLE. The laboratory has performed genetic analyses to identify three chromosomal loci important in conferring disease susceptibility.

Dr Diamond continues to study anti-DNA antibodies from patients with SLE. These antibodies have been shown to have structural and genetic features in common with myeloma proteins. It remains a question whether this reflects a common lineage for anti-DNA B cells and transformed B cells or whether self antigen constitutes a necessary trigger to B cell transformation. Furthermore, recent studies show a lack of activation induced upregulated of FcRIIb, an inhibitory receptor, on B cells of SLE patients.

MARINA BOTTO



Marina is currently employed as Professor of Rheumatology (and is an Honorary Consultant), Division of Medicine, Rheumatology Section, Imperial College, Faculty of Medicine, Hammersmith Campus, London. She was originally a medical graduate from the University of Verona and has subsequently earned postgraduate qualifications in rheumatology and medical genetics.

While much of Marina's work has focussed on complement and its role in a variety of disease processes, her publications cover a number of important aspects of autoimmunity, apoptosis, amyloid deposition and its role on inflammatory processes as well as Alzheimer's disease.

She has published over 80 papers with a number of her more recent publications being in *Nature* series journals. With a strong background in both basic and clinical immunology, Marina will be looking forward to presenting her high quality and clinically relevant data at this meeting.

VINCENZO CERUNDOLO



Vincenzo Cerundolo works in the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine, Oxford. He studied medicine at the University of Padua, Italy, specializing in oncology, and subsequently moved to the UK to work with Alain Townsend on antigen presentation. He now has a Chair in Immunology at the University of Oxford and is Associate Director of the MRC Human Immunology Unit. Recent work in his own laboratory has focused on T-cell responses to tumours, especially Melanoma and on the analysis of CD1 restricted T cell responses. This is obviously an area of great interest in a country like Australia, which has the highest incidence of skin cancers in the world.

Vincenzo has published over 120 papers in the international literature and will be delivering quite different keynote presentations at the conference and the Tumour Immunology workshop being held on the Sunday prior to the meeting.

in Adelaide, 12–16 December

NILS LYCKE



Professor Nils Lycke, MD, PhD, is head of department at Clinical Immunology, University of Göteborg, Sweden. He is the principal investigator on several internationally recognized projects focused on Mucosal Immunity and is the co-ordinator of two EU-sponsored projects. Dr Lycke went to Medical School at the University of Göteborg and graduated in 1981. Dr Lycke completed his internship in Vänersborg receiving his certificate of proficiency as a physician in 1983. He then went on to complete and defend his PhD thesis in 1986, the title of which was “Cholera toxin and the intestinal immune response”. Dr Lycke then focused on the regulation of mucosal immune responses, especially IgA B cell development. In late 1988 he returned to Göteborg and was appointed associate professor in 1988 and was subsequently appointed full professor of Clinical Immunology at the Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Göteborg in 2000 and has served as a member of the WHO steering committee for vaccine development for several years.

Dr Lycke’s work on understanding the regulation of mucosal immune responses, in particular the immunomodulating effects of cholera toxin (CT) has made him a world authority on immunomodulation and vaccine adjuvant research. His team’s development of the unique patented fusion protein, CTA1-DD, represents a novel concept in the development of immunomodulators and demonstrates that it is possible to use potent bacterial enzymes in novel engineered fusion proteins to augment immune responses

without toxic side effects. Numerous successful studies have been carried out using the CTA1-DD adjuvant together with many infectious disease related antigens.

Work by Dr Lycke has also generated new methods for preparation of lymphocytes; some of these protocols are published in *Current Protocols in Immunology*. Dr Lycke has published over 125 original peer-reviewed papers and 20 overview articles or book chapters.

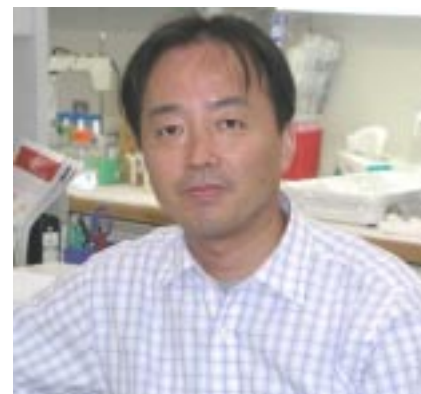
VÁCLAV HOREJŠÍ



Václav Horejší is Professor of Immunology at the Charles University, Prague and has been a Research Scientist at the Institute of Molecular Genetics Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague since 1977; since 1991 as Head of Lab. of Molecular Immunology. He has received two collaborative grants of the Austrian program Ost-West, one collaborative grant of the EU program PECO 92, one grant of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and one grant of The Wellcome Trust. Professor Horejší graduated at the Faculty of Sciences, Charles University in Prague in 1973 where he also completed his PhD in 1978.

Václav has had a long standing interest in the activation of T cells and lymphocyte signalling and has focussed more recently on microdomains/lipid rafts and their role in T cell activation, lymphocyte signalling and immunoreceptor signaling. He is author and co-author of 135 research communications published in international journals, 29 chapters in monographs, 12 review articles and three books.

TSUNEYASU KAISHO



Tsuneyasu Kaisho graduated from Osaka University, School of Medicine in 1984 with an MD and after working as a Physician at the Osaka University Hospital and National Osaka-Minami Hospital from 1984-1986, returned to the University of Osaka to complete his PhD in 1990. Dr Kaisho then spent four years there working as a research associate before moving to a 3-year postdoctoral fellowship position in the Genetic Institute at the University of Cologne in Germany. He then returned to Japan to take up a Research Associate position at the Hyogo College of Medicine before he was recruited back to the Research Institute for Microbial Diseases, Osaka University as an Associate Professor. In this position he has become the team leader in the laboratory for host defense at the RIKEN Research Center for Allergy and Immunology.

Dr Kaisho has published extensively in the field of Toll-like receptors and the role they play in regulating dendritic cells and host defenses.

Key speakers at ASI Adelaide 2004

HANS-GEORG RAMMENSEE



Professor Hans-Georg Rammensee started his career at the Institute for Cell Biology, Department of Immunology at the University of Tuebingen in Germany where he gained his PhD in 1982. From there he moved on to such distinguished institutes as the Scripps Clinic in La Jolla, CA, the Basel Institute for Immunology, as group leader to the Department of Immunogenetics, Max Planck Institute for Biology in Tuebingen, that was

directed by Professor Dr Jan Klein at the time and in 1993 as Head of Department, Tumor Virus Immunology Section, German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg. He finally moved back to where it all began and is now Departmental Head, Professor for Immunology, Chair for Immunology and Director of the Interfaculty Institute for Cell Biology at the University of Tuebingen since 1996.

He has 222 publications listed to his name and is probably best known for his outstanding work on the characterisation of peptide epitope binding motifs and the identification of peptide anchor residues in the MHC binding groove. His research interests cover the prediction of peptide binding motifs, the identification of tumour and viral antigens, the antigen processing and presentation and much more.

MASARU TANIGUCHI



Masaru Taniguchi is currently Director at the RIKEN Research Center for Allergy and Immunology in Yokohama, Japan. Professor Taniguchi began his career as a medical student at the Chiba University in Japan and moved on to do his Postdoc under Dr Jaques Miller at the WEHI in Melbourne. He is Professor in the Division of Immunology at the Chiba University since 1980 and has been the President of the Japanese Society for Immunology in the late nineties. He has won numerous prizes and has given a Special Lecture for the Emperor on allergy and immunology in 2000.

His work over the last decade has focused on $V\alpha 14$ NKT cells in innate and acquired immune response and their role in rejection of tumors. He has published on the CD1d-restricted and TCR-mediated activation of $V\alpha 14$ NKT cells by glycosylceramides as early as 1997 in *Science*.

**Contributions sought for the
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asi@21century.com.au

DID YOU KNOW?

“Australasia” does not, as many of our Northern Hemisphere colleagues believe, mean Asia plus Australia. It was coined from Latin by Charles de Brosses in his book *Histoire des navigations aux terres australes* (1756) to mean “south of Asia” and was intended to describe, Australia, New Zealand and New Guinea.

Who is this?

Last issue we asked if you knew who the person in the horse and buggy photo was and the answer is – Judi Anderson, who has provided excellent secretariat services to the ASI since 1999.

Judi first became involved with ASI whilst working for the Victorian Medical Postgraduate Foundation, a non-profit organisation which had looked after the ASI Secretariat for many years, as well as secretariats for three other medically oriented associations. Judi had been with VMPF for 10 years when it lost its government funding for various projects. It was realised VMPF would not be able to provide secretariat services at a cost effective rate, and that it would have to retrench virtually all staff members. With the Foundation's blessing, Judi decided to set up her own business to provide secretariat services to the current clients and moved out on her own in early 2000. She now works from home in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, at the foot of the Dandenong Ranges, about 20 minutes from Kiewa's home paddock.



Judi has been horse-mad since a small child (photos of her at 3 years old having pony rides on the beach front at St Kilda, Melbourne's beachside suburb, testify to this). She owned horses as a young teenager, but then school, her first job and travel overseas took precedence. Judi continued to ride whilst living in England, even working at a pony trekking establishment in South Wales for a time.

She obtained her first horse as an adult about 20 years ago – a part Thoroughbred gelding who recently died at the age of '30-something'. Mt Tawonga Kiewa, the horse in last issue's photo, is a pure bred Morgan gelding, now 14 years old who is trained to both ride and drive. (Morgans are a versatile American breed and quite rare in Australia, with only around 150 in the entire country.) In her spare time, Judi is involved with the Morgan Horse Association of Australia as its Pure Bred Registrar and editor of its newsletter, and as layout artist for the Victorian Jazz Club's quarterly magazine.

UPCOMING LECTURES & CONFERENCES

17–21 October 2004
8th International Symposium on Dendritic Cells
Brugge, Belgium
Website: www.dc2004.be

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

Olympian achievements in science

Over the last few weeks and months, national attention has been focused on the struggles and successes of Australia's Olympic team in Athens. This rightly highlights the achievements of this young group of athletes, not only in becoming the top Australians in their chosen sport, but also in some cases the top international participants. For example, 485 young Australian athletes attended the games in Athens, winning 17 gold, 16 silver and 16 bronze medals (noting that team medals are counted as one, so significantly more people than this number physically received medals)^{1,2}. In this context, it is interesting to reflect how the achievements of Australian scientists may stack up. What scientific achievements are attained by a similar number of scientists in Australia?

- The total number of Australians currently holding NH&MRC fellowships at the level of Career Development Award or above (i.e: awards generally received after the first or second post-doc) is 409 – significantly less than the number of athletes attending the Olympics (it is interesting to note, however, that in order to have a 'career' in science, you need to achieve the equivalent of Olympic selection every five years for your entire career).³
- The total number of papers published in *Nature* and *Science* in the four years 2000-2003 inclusive in which the primary author affiliation listed on *PubMed* is Australia is 72 and 69 respectively. This total of 141 papers no doubt includes significantly more Australian authors (if anyone could be motivated to count). However, being an author on a paper in either journal is probably significantly harder than Olympic selection.

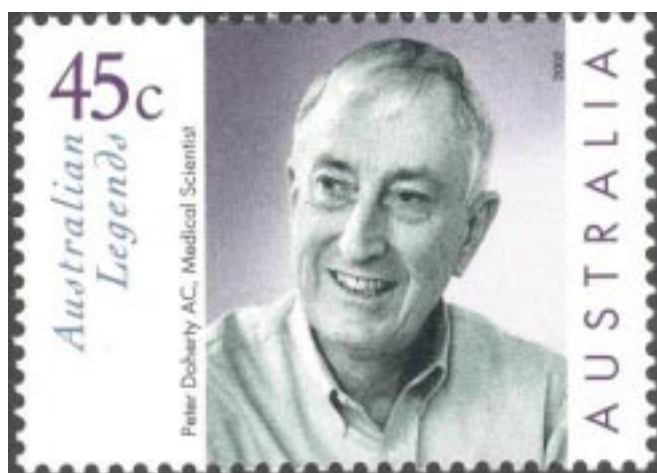
- The number of NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellows appointed (or promoted) in 2004 is the same as the number of Olympic gold medals won by Australians in Athens (17). Similarly, the number of Principal Research Fellowships awarded was only slightly lower than the number of silver medals (14 PRF awards vs. 16 silver medals)⁴.

The point of the comparison is not simply (but may be partially) for scientists to congratulate themselves on their achievements, but also to point out the disparities in the way the fields of sport and science are regarded. When was the last time a scientist walking down the street was asked for an autograph (Nobel prize-winners excluded)? Where are the sponsorship deals to carry brand name pipettes?

Joking aside, the achievements of our athletes in striving to exceed the limits of speed or endurance do provide goals and inspiration to many Australians. On the other hand, pushing the boundaries of our scientific knowledge and understanding may be equally challenging and rewarding, but far less visible. Everyone can understand and is interested in what it means to run the 100 metres in less than 10 seconds. Relatively few are inspired by the elegance of clonal selection theory. In Australia pursuit of knowledge still runs a poor second to the pursuit of sporting achievements.

*Miles Davenport
Centre for Vascular Research
University of New South Wales*

Having your picture presented on a stamp is a high accolade from any nation. For the last several Olympics, Australia Post has released stamps bearing the pictures of each gold medallist. For a scientist to achieve this level of recognition, only a Nobel Prize would clinch the deal.



- 1 <http://www.athens2004.com/> (accessed 6 September 2004)
- 2 http://www.olympics.com.au/athens/default.asp?pg=team_all (accessed 6 September 2004)
- 3 <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/funding/rescheme.pdf> (accessed 26 August 2004)
- 4 <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/research/refellow.pdf> and <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/research/repromo.pdf> (accessed 26 August 2004)

