



N E W S L E T T E R

Australasian Society for Immunology Incorporated

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The Inaugural ASI Rowley Medal

Phil Hodgkin

Development

It was with great sadness in late 2004 that members of ASI learned of the death of Derrick Rowley, the founder and first President of the original Australian Society for Immunology in 1970*. To remember and honour Derrick's contribution, Council resolved to dedicate a medal to be given to members who provide service to ASI 'above and beyond the call of duty over a long period'.

In 2005 Geeta Chaudhri took responsibility for developing the medal and negotiated with the Royal Australian Mint on the development of the artwork and the final minting. The design, drawing and sculpting of the medal were completed by renowned sculptor Wojtek Pietranik from photos provided by Derrick's family. Wojtek has received numerous awards for his work and, notably, was the designer of the medals for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney**. Wojtek's final design for the Rowley medal is a stunning achievement, as can be seen in the photo. Thanks to Geeta for her outstanding work on this medal and also thanks to Ieva Kotlarski for being the conduit to the Rowley family and for her assistance in developing this award.

At the time of suggesting the award, Council also proposed the first winner, although the information was kept secret until the actual first presentation scheduled for the prize giving ceremony at the end of the 2005 ASI meeting in Melbourne.

Betty Rowley

To help present the first award, I invited Derrick's widow, Betty, who lives in Adelaide, to attend the meeting in Melbourne.

At the time I did not know Betty at all and was unsure of her fitness to travel. I shouldn't have worried. A few days after sending the letter I received a bright phone call from Betty telling me she would love to come. As it turned out, Betty was a delightful 80 year old with many stories to tell. Betty arrived the day before the presentation day and attended our annual dinner, where she contributed to the limerick contest, entertained a large table with her stories, and took a turn dancing, despite two hip replacements.

The presentation

When the moment arrived for the presentation at the end of the Melbourne meeting, I invited Betty to the stage. Betty stood in front of about 700 and said "a few words about Derrick". The following 10 or so minutes were some of the most compelling of the entire meeting. Betty entertained and inspired us with stories of Derrick's early years with dour Alexander

Fleming, and his later difficulties setting up the department in Adelaide. Betty concluded by saying how proud and pleased the family were with this award and how delighted he would be to see the size and vibrancy of the Society today.

Betty then announced the winner and presented the inaugural award to Lindsay Dent for his outstanding work for ASI in supporting FIMSA and raising the profile and level of importance of this group to the region. Lindsay, somewhat shocked, arrived on stage (to my relief he hadn't gone home early) and thanked ASI for the honour and told us how much he had enjoyed working for the Society and encouraged younger members to get involved as it was very rewarding.

cont. p4



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Website

The ASI web site (www.immunology.org.au) has been fully remodelled and updated. New services include:

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

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

Email bulletin board

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

EDITORIAL

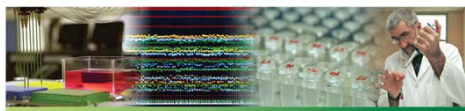
This edition of the ASI Newsletter includes three articles that highlight the contribution of Australian Immunology to the region: Natkunam Ketheesan reports on teaching in Jaffna, Sri Lanka (p5); Nick King reports on the contribution he and several others made to the FIMSA course in New Delhi earlier in the year (p12); finally, Guna Karupiah reports on teaching an immunology workshop in Malaysia (p16). These articles highlight the contributions of ASI members to supporting health and medical education in the region, and also acting as ambassadors promoting both Australia and an interest in immunology among students.

Once again the newsletter is taking the opportunity of highlighting the achievements of our members. The cover article details Lindsay Dent's achievements in winning the inaugural ASI Derek Rowley Medal for his contribution to the Society over a number of years. The achievements of younger members are also reported on pages 14 and 15, which detail the Victorian Premier's awards received by Shalin Naik and Ken Pang.

I thought it appropriate that, since the ASI conference is in New Zealand in December, we all get a bit of background about Immunology in New Zealand. On pages 7 and 8 John Marbrook and Barbara Heslop recall the early days of the New Zealand Society. For a more contemporary view of New Zealand, our student representative Amanda Taylor gives her suggestions for things to see and places to go in Auckland in December (and also provides the crossword answers you have all been waiting for!). Don't forget that the abstract deadline for the Auckland conference is 20 October!

Finally, keep those articles coming! Have you heard of a notable achievement by a member? Been to an interesting conference? Seen a hilarious answer by a student in an immunology essay or exam (I am hoping to compile these for your erudition)? Got an interesting story of ANY description??? Please send them in! It's your newsletter, so please let others know what's happening in your area.

Miles Davenport



Australasian Society for Immunology, Inc

Within the 3rd Australian Health and Medical Research Congress (26th November - 1st December, 2006), the ASI is organising two symposia on current concepts on Immunotherapy.

Thursday, November 30th at the MELBOURNE CONVENTION CENTRE

Immunotherapy 1

1:00PM

Chair: David Tarlinton, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Melbourne

Andrew C. Chan, Genentech, San Francisco, USA

David Fulcher, Westmead Hospital, Sydney

Ian Wicks, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Melbourne

Jonathan Cebon, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, Melbourne

Afternoon Tea

3PM

Immunotherapy 2

3:30PM

Chair: J. Alejandro López, Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Brisbane

Thomas Blankenstein, Max-Delbrück-Centrum für Molekulare Medizin, Berlin, GERMANY

Mark Smyth, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne

Geoff Hill, Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Brisbane

J. Alejandro López, Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Brisbane

Drinks with trade display and posters

5:30PM

On line registration and further information: <http://www.ahmrcongress.org.au/societies.htm>

Sustaining Membership

ASI Inc acknowledges the support of the following sustaining members:

- Jomar Diagnostics
- Dynal Biotech Pty Ltd

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

Inaugural ASI Rowley Medal (cont)

Lindsay was a deserving winner and the Rowley Medal is an important new award that provides a vehicle to thank and acknowledge those many colleagues who selflessly put in great service for the benefit of us all. The award will be given by Council on an ad hoc basis as appropriate recipients are identified.

I conclude with the citation for Lindsay written by friend and colleague, Nick King.

Citation for Lindsay Dent for Award of the inaugural Rowley Medal for Contribution to The Australasian Society for Immunology, Melbourne, 2005:

“Lindsay Dent first became a member of ASI in 1979. He deputized as the SA councillor to ASI in 1993 and formally adopted the role in 1994 (later expanded to SA/NT Councillor), completing his second term in 1998. In his time as South Australian Councillor for ASI, he co-organized with Graham Mayrhofer, the inaugural Congress of the Federation of Immunological Societies of Asia-Oceania (FIMSA), which was held in conjunction with the Annual ASI Scientific meeting in Adelaide in 1996. This meeting was an extraordinary scientific, social and financial success. Indeed the infamous “Penguin Dinner” at the Adelaide Museum, held amongst exhibits from Mawson’s expeditions to the Antarctic, will live on in the memories of all who intended it!

“As the SA/NT Councillor he also organized the first of what are now annual postgraduate student meetings. Lindsay was also the founding Chair of the ASI Education Special Interest Group.

“Lindsay was elected as a Councillor to the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS) in 1998 and re-elected in 2001, continuing in this role until 2004. In January 2000 he also took on the job of Secretary General for FIMSA, which dovetailed nicely with the IUIS councillorship. During his term as Secretary-General, Lindsay contributed to increasing the range and frequency of activities within FIMSA. Most importantly, this combination of roles afforded ASI accelerated prominence,

both in the region and internationally.

Although completing his term as Secretary-General of FIMSA in July 2004, Lindsay’s swansong was really the organization of the 7th FIMSA Advanced Training Course in Immunology in Adelaide, December 2004. He delivered the report of this meeting to the FIMSA Executive in Hangzhou in April 2005, returning a healthy profit to both FIMSA and ASI and completing his contribution to a new era of regional interaction. FIMSA now has an *annual* training course in one of our regional member countries and IUIS, ASI and the Japanese Society for Immunology have provided strong support to each of the host immunology societies organizing these meetings. In particular, an increased exchange is occurring between all FIMSA member societies and other countries in the Asia-Pacific, which augurs well for our future, both in ASI and in the region.

“These are just the catalogued contributions that Lindsay has made in more than 12 years of continuous formal involvement in the life of ASI. Add in the generosity of spirit, and the unflagging commitment to quality in behind the scenes organization, judging and, above all, the science, and his contribution becomes even greater.

“Lindsay’s contribution has been significant and sustained and epitomises what we would like to recognize in the Society in the often unseen and unlauded work that keeps ASI active and vibrant and a major and influential player in the immunological life of our region.”

* Those interested in reading more about the founder of ASI and about the beginnings of the Society are referred to the ASI Newsletter, September 2004 and *Immunology and Cell Biology*, 1991, 69:307.

** <http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/sydney2000games/interviews.php?interviewId=6>



Lindsay Dent receiving the inaugural ASI Derrick Rowley Medal from Betty Rowley for services to ASI and the development of FIMSA, the Federation of Immunological Societies of Asia-Oceania

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

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Teaching Immunology in Tamil Territory

Natkunam Ketheesan

*"I thought immunology was a very hard subject and understandable subject before the course. Now I am very interested in this subject" – Anon**

I find teaching immunology to be quite gratifying especially when students grasp the fundamentals and are able to build on their knowledge base. In December 2005 when I was invited to conduct a block mode course for 3rd Year medical students at the Jaffna University (JU) in northern Sri Lanka, I found that teaching immunology could also be quite challenging. The Faculty of Medicine at JU celebrated its silver jubilee a couple of years ago but due to the civil war which had claimed over 60,000 lives, JU has been unable to attract permanent academic staff in some specialties. Hence it relies on staff from other universities to participate in its teaching programmes. Immunology is taught within the microbiology programme and since there is no academic immunologist at JU, my brief as a volunteer was to design and deliver a 7-day block mode course on Medical Immunobiology.

After arriving in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, from Australia, I flew on to Jaffna a day prior to the scheduled course. On 20th December, within hours of my arrival in Jaffna it was announced by the university authorities that JU would shut down for two weeks due to the unrest triggered by ongoing skirmishes between the Sri Lankan Armed Forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Such unexpected events take place in spite of an ongoing cease fire agreement brokered by the Norwegian Government in 2002. However, on deputations made by the 3rd year medical students and the staff of the Faculty of Medicine, the JU administration amended its decision and gave special permission to conduct the course in a more secure location at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital. Although considered a safer place there were several logistical problems we had to overcome in the hospital. It was fortunate that some students who were "IT experts" were able to get the audiovisual systems in the lecture hall, which was being refurbished, up and running and able to convert my pdf files with lecture material and provide hard copies to all participants.

The theoretical aspects of basic immunology, immune interactions and clinical immunology were covered in a total of 18 hours of lectures.

Typically on the days we had lectures, we covered three distinct themes with two 45 minute lecture sessions devoted to each theme. English is the medium of instruction in the medical schools in Sri Lanka. Although all the students attending this course have had their high school education in Tamil, they had been taught English as a subject at school. Students at JU, as in many universities in the world, are accustomed to a didactic teaching style. However, during this course they were able to adapt to a more interactive style and were happy to ask questions and participate in brief discussions. After a couple of days, the most frequently asked question, and which all academics dread, was put forward on several occasions ("... which section in this lecture is most important for the exam?"). This, and the occasional music emitted by mobile phones and the text messages coming through at lectures, made me feel quite at home.

Due to the amount of material we had to cover in a short time period, it was decided that we would continue to work on Christmas Day which is normally a holiday. A late start at 10AM on Christmas Day enabled the practicing Christians among the students (who were unable to participate in midnight services on Christmas Eve due to safety issues), to attend mass before lectures. Three minutes of silence was observed for the victims of the Asian Tsunami during the lecture sessions on the following day. In 2004 approximately 30,000 people died in Sri Lanka due to the aftermath of the tsunami.

Of the lectures conducted, students were quite interested in topics covering immunity to infection, allergy and hypersensitivity, rheumatic heart disease and transplantation. The CSL video clip on "Clinical Aspects of Vaccine Preventable Diseases" and a documentary on transplantation from the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children in Perth, "Chloe", had the students spellbound. Mini-workshops on critical review of literature, report writing skills and effective presentation skills were also conducted as part of the course.

Accommodating students for the practical classes in a small area within the Clinical



Practical sessions were a success



Classes were conducted on Christmas Day

Pathology Laboratory of a busy hospital proved impossible. Therefore the students decided that it would be better to conduct the practicals for a limited number of students rather than to completely scrap the sessions. Students were balloted by the group representatives and 40 students (less than half the students in the course) participated in the practical sessions. Those participating in the practicals were expected to explain the techniques to those who had not got the opportunity. It was however evident that those who missed out were quite disappointed. BioMerieux and TropBio provided us with the material required for the practicals which I transported with other reagents in a rather large esky from Australia. Students used the Slidex latex agglutination test

for identification of *S. aureus*, an ASD test for semiquantative detection of streptococcal antideoxyribonuclease B in serum from patients with suspected rheumatic fever and an ELISA kit for the detection of filarial antigens in blood. Using density gradient techniques, students were also able to isolate mononuclear cells from donor blood and identify cell populations. In research I am used to assays not working well even when conditions are ideal. However, to my great relief with the rudimentary facilities available to us, the diagnostic assays performed by the students worked and the students were visibly impressed with the results they had generated.

Of the participants surveyed, 85% felt that the overall quality of the information provided

to them during the course was more than acceptable or outstanding. I was impressed with the interest and commitment shown by the students and for doing their utmost to enable the delivery of the course material even under trying conditions.

NK is an Associate Professor of Immunology and co-ordinates courses in immunology for both science and medical students at James Cook University.

ASI will provide funds in 2006 and 2007 to enable NK to travel to Jaffna University and conduct the Medical Immunobiology course.

* Feedback from JU Student Survey 2005



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The history of NZSI / ASI in New Zealand

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, which existed for nearly 20 years prior to this? Below, Professor John Marbrook, a distinguished Life Member of NZSI 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 J.V. Hodge, saw the success of such an Interdisciplinary Symposium as a good model for similar



Professor John Marbrook, Architect of the NZ Immunology Society and Honorary Life Member of the ASI

initiatives. Thus the Immunology Society of New Zealand was born ...

The first joint ASI/NZSI meeting in 1985:

Barbara Heslop, President of NZSI at the time, recalls the trials and tribulations of the first joint meeting of ASI and NZSI in 1985:

The first NZ combined meeting with the ASI was held in Queenstown in December 1985, organised by a small committee from Dunedin. I was president, and the organising group included Margaret Baird, Frank Griffin, John Highton, Bruce Gibbins and Mark Bradley. Margaret, Frank and John are still in Dunedin. All of a sudden in 1985 we were no longer hosting our cosy little NZ immunology gathering that didn't cost very much. We were now faced with the possibility that we could easily run into the red. (As it happened we made quite a nice profit, but we didn't know this at the start.) We decided to get some help from a professional conference organiser, and in due course hired someone from Auckland. I guess that there were no conference organisers in Dunedin at the time. I remember breaking the news to her that junior scientists didn't have expense accounts and that plenty of them couldn't afford the sort of hotel accommodation that she had in mind. The only really cheap beds in Queenstown were in huts in the camping ground. Not surprisingly she was unaccustomed to this end of the market, and

opted out of negotiating with the camping ground for financial reasons. So we looked after the cheap accommodation ourselves, and the conference organiser did the hotels and the functions. Fortunately for us, the Muldoon era had left the NZ dollar in a parlous state. It was worth about 57 cents Australian, so we had a good turnout. Our visitors included Irv Weissman from LA and Tom Gill from Pittsburgh (the doyen of the rat histocompatibility geneticists at that time).

A few snippets from this meeting:

The ASI was organised to an extent that we weren't – it had some significant regular expenditure. The NZ president was now an ex officio councillor of the ASI, so I duly attended its annual meeting in Queenstown. Peter Doherty was president, and had a couple of councillors who were rather talkative. They were substantially more adept than Peter at dominating meetings. Anyway, it dragged on interminably while they aired their views assiduously. I had to leave to attend the NZSI annual meeting which had been scheduled for a couple of hours after the ASI meeting. The NZSI had nothing more serious to discuss than the site of the next meeting, which anyway would have been informally agreed upon beforehand. The annual report and financial report had been pre-circulated, so all we had to do was to verify the correctness of these, and to confirm that Auckland (I think) was willing to host the next NZSI meeting. If I remember correctly, the Auckland group would have already informally selected their executive, whose members always came from the city where the next meeting was to be held. With this system the NZSI incurred no travel expenses. Our meeting was over in minutes. This sort of administrative arrangement is possible in small societies in their early days, but it is doomed to extinction.

Poster problems: Poster stands were not available in Queenstown, and we had to hire some from a Dunedin firm and have them trucked to Queenstown. They duly arrived, but the commercial exhibitors got down on most of them first. Possession being nine points of the law, we couldn't get them back, despite having paid for them. So with few poster stands for immunologists, we had to find some

suitable wall space around the town at very short notice. The local council staff were very obliging, and assigned a couple of sites to us, including the courthouse. We had to shift all the furniture to make some space. Dismantling the dock, the bench and all the court seating seemed mildly disrespectful of the law, but the unusual poster venue no doubt added some character to the meeting.

Our main social event was "mountain night" at the Coronet Peak ski field restaurant, where it was possible to have an outdoor barbecue at an altitude of about 3500 ft. Among other things we had a sheep roasted on a spit. We could easily have been in the clouds, and snow is never impossible at this height. But we were lucky enough to have perfect weather. A sort of sled was operating on the mountain as a tourist attraction. Its top end was accessed via the ski lift, and it ran on its own tracks back to the huts and restaurant. December was the off season for tourists in 1985 (there isn't an off season today) and we had it all to ourselves. Frank Griffin had organised a contest between the two countries as part of the entertainment. Each speaker in the two teams was given a picture selected by Frank and a few hours to ponder upon its meaning. The picture was projected on



Barbara Heslop, Foundation member of NZ Immunology Society and president in 1985

the screen for the audience, and the speaker was required to interpret it. I can't recall what the prize was, but suspect that it was that araldite phallus that is the current trophy for the Australia/NZ competition. Tom Gill, our visitor from Pittsburgh, was asked to judge the contest and awarded it to the Australian team. Unfortunately I can't remember who donated or made this trophy. If it came from somebody's lab, it probably represents a contribution to trans-Tasman understanding from the NZ taxpayer. I guess that today's laboratories would have to account for the use of the araldite, but we weren't into that sort of thing in 1985. I recall one of the Australians in the contest noting that Gus

Nossal had arrived at Queenstown on foot, and that the local organising committee had arranged to pick him up and take him to his hotel. They had therefore gone down to the lakefront to await his arrival. Gus took it in good part.

Another night – perfect weather again – we had a dinner trip up the lake on the SS Earnslaw, which has operated on Lake Wakatipu since 1912. (Incidentally, can any conference organiser resist the opportunity to get the participants into a boat?) Despite the great depth of Lake Wakatipu, the Earnslaw managed to run aground in one of the bays half way up the lake. It finally got off after a lot of ominous engine noises, and sounds of grating against loose gravel, much to the entertainment of all aboard. Fortunately those contemplating a swim didn't realise how lethally cold the water was, nor the extent to which alcoholic vasodilatation could hasten the onset of hypothermia.

The NZ of that time was totally different from the one that emerged from all the financial upheavals of the 1980s and early 1990s. The immunology was mighty different too.

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Professor Derek North
Head of Department

Auckland Hospital
Park Road
Auckland 3
New Zealand

Phone 74-640 Ext. 361

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

17th September, 1973.

Professor Barbara Heslop,
Department of Surgery,
University of Otago Medical School,
DUNEDIN.

Dear Barbara,

Warren Jonas, John Marbrook and I have been discussing the possibility of forming a New Zealand Society of Immunology. Each of us feels that there is no real forum for us for data presentation or discussion. I realise this was brought up during Bob Schwartz' visit and we agreed for a time to leave things in abeyance. However, we now think that there would be sufficient advantages in such a society if enough people were interested. Before such a venture is a goer, we would naturally need your support as one of the initial office-bearers of the Society. I have prepared a document which is a tentative one for circulation to as many potentially interested groups in the country as possible. We would welcome your comments on a Society in general and, if you are in agreement, on the suggested format as set out. I would anticipate sending this out over the names of a number of people including yourself and Brian Maclauren if we can enlist your support.

I would be very happy to chase some of the companies like Hoescht for cash for this as the diagnostic lab here is using an increasing amount of their products.

Meantime kind regards,

J.D. WILSON
Senior Research Fellow

THE MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

P.O. Box 6063,
Dunedin, N.Z.

Telegrams 'Medricil'
Telephone 79-588

29 October 1973

PERSONAL

Dr J. Marbrook,
Department of Cell Biology,
University of Auckland,
Private Bag,
AUCKLAND.

Dear John,

I was delighted to find your letter and enclosure on my desk when I returned from the North this weekend. You and Doug have not wasted any time in implementing the suggestion of a Society of Immunology and you should be congratulated on an important move in the right direction. You are also going about it in the right way, and I am pleased to note from the range of topics suggested for the plenary sessions that you propose to cast the net quite widely - this should ensure a strong foundation membership on which to build in the future.

Would you like the MRC to be associated with the establishment of the Society in a more formal manner? If so, I will put the matter up to the Council at an appropriate time. One possibility would be an interdisciplinary symposium on immunological topics next year, funded by the MRC, at which the Society could be formally launched.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,


(J.V. Lodge)

Coming Visitors from the ASI Visiting Speaker Program

Professor Graham Pawelec

Zentrum für Medizinische Forschung,
University of Tübingen, GERMANY

Graham Pawelec holds an MA in Natural Sciences and in History & Philosophy of Science from the University of Cambridge, UK. He trained in the Department of Surgery in Transplantation Immunology and holds a PhD on this subject from the same University. After moving to the University of Tübingen Medical School, Germany, he completed his Habilitation in Human Histocompatibility in the Department of Internal Medicine (Oncology/Haematology), where he is currently Professor of Experimental Immunology. He teaches and researches the immunology of cancer and immunosenescence, and has coordinated large collaborative projects in both these areas, supported by the European Commission. He is Editor-in-Chief of the specialist academic journal *Cancer Immunology Immunotherapy* (the first journal devoted to this topic, founded 1976), and is also on the editorial board of several ageing journals. His main interests are in T cell immunity and how this changes under the influence of chronic antigenic stress, caused by tumour antigens in cancer patients, and caused predominantly by persistent infection with Herpes viruses in the elderly. The aim of this work is not only to understand the biology involved but to find safe and effective means to intervene to reconstitute appropriate immunity for the benefit of both old people and cancer patients.

Adelaide, October 21–24

Brisbane, 24–26

Sydney, 26–28

Visit Host: Dr. Susanne Heinzel

Susanne.Heinzel@fmc.sa.gov.au

Phone: (08) 8204 4239



Professor Graham Pawelec

Professor Thomas Blankenstein

Max-Delbrück-Centrum für Molekulare
Medizin, Berlin, GERMANY

Thomas Blankenstein received his Ph.D. from the Institute of Immunology in Cologne, Germany. He analyzed the molecular evolution of immunoglobulin variable region genes such as gene duplications, gene conversion and genomic organization. Since 1988 when he joined the Institute of Immunology of the Free University of Berlin, he worked in the field of cancer immunology. He analyzed whether and under which conditions cytokines contribute to tumor rejection. Currently, he is group leader at the Max-Delbrueck-Center for Molecular Medicine (since 1994) and head of the Institute of Immunology of the Charite, Berlin (since 2000). Some discoveries over the last 5-10 years are: 1. B cells inhibit the generation of tumor immunity. 2. The tumor stroma is a critical target for tumor rejection by T cells. 3. IFN- γ inhibits tumor-induced angiogenesis. 4. Tumors do not lose their intrinsic immunogenicity, while growing in immune-competent hosts. Further work is on T cell engineering for more effective adoptive T cell therapy

Perth, November 19–21

Brisbane, 21–24

Sydney, 24–27

Canberra, 28–29

Melbourne, Nov. 29–December 2 (ASI Symposium at the AHMRC, Thursday 30th)

Auckland, 2–6 (ASI meeting)

Visit Host: Dr Norbert Kienzle

NorbertK@qimr.edu.au

Phone: (07) 3362 0379



Professor Thomas Blankenstein

Professor Argyrios N. Theofilopoulos

The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla,
California, USA

Dr. Argyrios N. Theofilopoulos is a Professor in the Department of Immunology at The Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California. His main interests are the molecular pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases, and he is a recognized authority in this field. He has made numerous contributions in the characterization of autoimmunity-predisposed strains of mice, including molecular studies of various immunologic genes, genome-wide studies, and development of gene-based therapies. He has published extensively in prestigious journals, including original articles and reviews, and is the editor of textbooks addressing molecular aspects of autoimmunity.

Tentative schedule:

Sydney, November 20–22

Brisbane, 22–25

Townsville, 25–28

Adelaide, Nov. 28–December 2

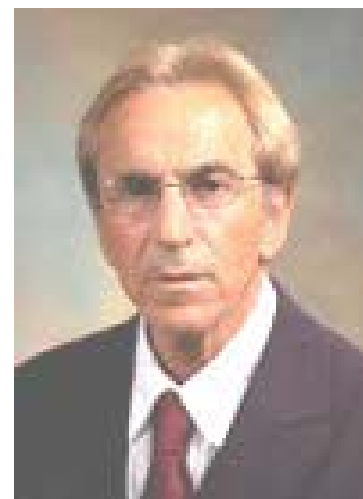
Auckland, 2–6 (ASI meeting)

Visit Host: Assoc/Prof. Nick N. Gorgani; Children, Youth and Women's Health Services

nick.gorgani@adelaide.edu.au

Phone: (08) 8161 8312

Please contact the local ASI councillor or the respective visit hosts for further details of the Seminars planned.



Professor Argyrios N. Theofilopoulos

ASI Councillors' News

Victorian News

The ASI conference at the University of Auckland, New Zealand from December 3-7 is fast approaching. Details of the preliminary program, registration and abstract submission can be found at the ASI website: <http://www.wehi.edu.au/collegiate/ASI/> The Tumour Immunology Workshop will precede the main conference on Sunday, December 3 with several international speakers confirmed for this event. ASI is also a participating society at The Australian Health Medical Research Congress (AHMRC) meeting in Melbourne from 26 November-1 December and has organised two symposia. Details for the AHMRC meeting are available on the website.

The traditional IgV tumour/techniques workshop held at the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Melbourne, was again a worthwhile event. The workshop was well attended by students who heard a series of excellent presentations from leading scientists with expertise in a variety of areas. On behalf of the IgV committee, I would like to thank the following speakers who generously donated their time to speak at this event: Grant Morahan, Lorraine Robb, Sudha Rao, Michael Tavarria, Sarah Russell, Brendan Crabb, David Huang, Ricky Johnstone, Bruce Loveland and Barbara Power. I would also like to thank the following members of the IgV committee who contributed to the organisation and success of the workshop: Steve Turner, Ian Barr, Lori Brown and David Tarlinton. Finally, financial support from the Cancer Research Institute Pre-doctoral program and BD Biosciences was much appreciated and contributed to the running of the workshop.

The next event scheduled for local members is the annual IgV meeting at Beechworth from October 15-17. This is a great meeting for younger scientists to attend, given that many will get the opportunity to present their work. Details of the program and registration will soon be available on the IgV website.



As part of the ASI visiting speaker program, Victoria recently hosted Professor Phil Greenberg who is co-director of the Immunology Program at the University of Washington Center for AIDS Research and the Head of the Immunology Program at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Professor Greenberg gave two outstanding presentations during his stay at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Monash University which were well attended. He gave tremendous insight into his latest research involving the cellular and molecular engineering of T cell responses for the treatment of cancer and chronic viral infections. This was a great opportunity for local scientists to interact with one of the leading pioneers in this field. The next scheduled visiting ASI speaker is Professor Thomas Blankenstein from the Delbruck-Center for Molecular Medicine and Head of the Institute of Immunology of the Charite Hospital, Berlin, Germany. Information regarding his visit will be emailed to members as soon as it becomes available.

*Phillip Darcy
Councillor*

A.C.T. News

The ACT Branch has put together an outstanding line-up of speakers who will visit and give a seminar this year. Our calendar of events started with the visit of Professor John Harley (Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center) on August 4. He gave two talks. The first of these was titled "The Genetics of Human Lupus: In the New Data Rich World" and the second was entitled "The Case for EBV as the cause of Lupus". Next, Dr Chris Engerweda from the Queensland Institute for Medical Research will visit us at the end of August.

Dr Philip Hodgkin (WEHI) and Professor Jon Sprent (Garvan Institute) will be visiting the ACT Branch in September and October, respectively. In November, Professors Thomas Blankenstein (Max-Delbrueck-Center for Molecular Medicine and Institute of Immunology of the Charite) and Argyrios Theofilopoulos (Dept Immunology, The Scripps Research Institute) will visit and give seminars. Both these visitors will be attending the ASI Inc Annual Scientific Meeting in Auckland in December.

The grand finale for this year will be marked by a visit by Professor Marc Feldman (Imperial College) in December. He will travel to Auckland to give the Burnet Oration at the Annual Scientific Meeting this year after which he will visit Canberra.

We look forward to an exciting 2006.

*Guna Karupiah
Councillor*

**2006 ASI annual conference
Auckland, New Zealand
December 3-7, 2006.
www.asi2006.auckland.ac.nz**

S.A./N.T. News

Membership of the SA/NT branch of ASI stands at just over 50. It remains a vibrant and well connected community with plenty of support from members across the state and territory to aid in all sorts of get togethers.

We are looking forward to two outstanding international guests visiting Adelaide in October as part of the ASI sponsored and visiting speaker programs. Prof Graham Pawlec from the University of Tübingen, Germany (invited and hosted by Dr Su Heinzl [Susanne.Heinzl@fmc.sa.gov.au]) and Prof Argyrios Theofilopoulos (invited and hosted by Dr Nick Gorgani [nick.gorgani@adelaide.edu.au]) from the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation, California. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Su and Nick as well as Alejandro for their fantastic work in arranging the ASI visiting speakers.

Finally, 2006 is the second year where the ASI SA state branch is hosting a local immunology retreat. The Adelaide Immunology Retreat (AIR) focuses mainly on students, but we are delighted to see some of the more senior names out of the local immunology community on the delegate list as well. AIR is a 1½ day, live-in retreat on 27 and 28 October at the Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary in the Adelaide Hills with lots of scientific and social activities. Students will be able to present their work, meet and talk to their peers and high profile immunologists and enjoy the local attractions as well as a wine tasting. This year, we are delighted to have Prof Ian Frazer (Australian of the Year 2006, University of Queensland) and Assoc/Prof Simon Barry (Child Health Research Institute) as invited speakers and with its continuing popularity AIR will hopefully establish itself as an annual event.

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

*Claudine Bonder
Councillor*

Queensland News

At the time of writing, the Brisbane Immunology Group meeting is imminent (August 17/18) and the organisation of this annual event has been occupying the late evenings of key committee members. The expected 120 immunologists from Queensland, New South Wales, ACT, Victoria, Western Australia and the USA have an opportunity to meet and learn the latest developments in other labs. From its inception BIG has had a strong emphasis on student involvement – postgraduate students do most of the talking on the first day, aside from Phil Greenberg (opening speaker, and an ASI invited speaker touring Australia) and Graham Mitchell (“Jonathon Sprent Oration”). The strong attendance could be due to scientific quality, the great value for money, or to the secret after-dinner party (and subsequent damning photos). ASI Queensland sponsors BIG in a number of ways: ASI members get a \$25 discount, and we donate the prizes (medals, cash and ASI memberships) for the best presentations at the meeting. This year around 40% of attendants are ASI members! A full meeting report (or the more scandalous bits, anyway) next newsletter.



Professor Ian Frazer

The 8th annual Mater Medical Research Institute Dendritic Cell Symposium in July attracted the highest attendance ever, with over 100 delegates from many research centres, including Melbourne, Perth, Canberra and Sydney. The major theme this year was “Antigen Processing”, and Professor Ken Shortman from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research featured as the keynote speaker of this very successful meeting.

The Queensland branch of ASI sponsored a number of visiting speakers for the last quarter. Dr Heinrich Körner, from the Comparative Genomics Centre at James Cook University, Townsville, visited Brisbane in June to deliver an authoritative account of TNF in autoimmunity and infectious disease. The suffix “logical” often seems to be inappropriate when paired with “immuno”, but A/Prof. Dale Godfrey (University of Melbourne; “NKT cells – a functionally diverse population of regulatory cells”) and Dr Jose Villadangos (WEHI, “Control of Antigen Presentation in Lymphoid Organ Dendritic Cells”) gave beautifully elegant introductions to their pet cells that reaffirmed the audience’s faith in the field.

In the “Prizes awarded to Ian Frazer” section of the newsletter, this quarter saw Ian awarded both Queenslandler of the Year, as well as the Coley Medal, for creating a vaccine against HPV, and thus the potential to prevent cervical cancer. The Coley Medal, from the Cancer Research Institute, recognises outstanding achievements in basic and tumour immunology. Award winners are chosen by The Academy of Cancer Immunology — a select group of 45 medical specialists, including five Nobel prize-winners, from 11 countries.

Finally, the Postgraduate Student and Senior Postdoctoral categories of the Australian Society for Medical Research “Queensland Premier’s Awards” were both won by ASI members, Drs Alberto Pinzon-Charry and Chris Schmidt (that’s me, by the way). Congratulations to us both!

*Chris Schmidt
Councillor*

Report on The 8th FIMSA Advanced Immunology Course – New Delhi, March 1-5, 2006

The 8th FIMSA Advanced Immunology Course was held from March 1–5 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), one of the premier research institutes in India, in New Delhi, India, this year. This Training Course is sponsored annually by FIMSA and the IUIS in one of the FIMSA countries to foster and enhance the cause of Immunology in the region. I think there was ample evidence of this on this occasion.

Narinder Mehra of AIIMS was the organiser and he put together an interesting and varied symposium program, comprising such luminaries as Abul Abbas (various subjects), Takeshi Tsubata (B cell antigen signalling), Yoshinori Fukui (Actin cytoskeleton in lymphocytes), Frans Klaas (Transplantation) Moh Daha (Complement) Rakesh Kumar (Signal Transduction), to name but a few. Australia was represented by José Villadangos for ASI and Nicholas King for FIMSA. Guna Karupiah unfortunately had to withdraw for family reasons at the last minute.

The format was one of morning and afternoon symposia, each followed by breakout workshops to engage the students at some intellectual depth in the area covered. This was very successful and fun and it was very clear to all the Faculty that there were some very bright and well-informed students who will hopefully come up through the ranks to populate immunological research in our region in the near future. In addition, there were poster sessions that enabled most, if not all of the registrants to communicate what they were currently doing in the lab. The range of work going on, many projects fascinatingly reflecting the regional specificity for disease, was very impressive. The best of them received prizes from a panel of judges with standards rivalling any I have seen. A remarkably wide range of registrants attended, truly from all over India, as well as all the surrounding FIMSA countries. Registrants ranged

from Honours students to Specialist Physicians. This range of 'students' also ensured an excellent level of cultural and professional exchange. The speakers kept a cracking pace, but at the end of each late day, we were able to relax informally. The entire hall was garlanded with orange and yellow marigolds strung together, lending the course a definitely festive air.

We were lucky with the weather also: the wind was coming off the Himalayas during the week we were there. This moderated the normally 30-35°C weather to a comfortable 20-25°C during the day! One evening we listened to a group of famous traditional singers and musicians—and were treated to an impromptu rendition of quite a moving traditional song by one of the premier politicians in India—I'd like to see our Glorious Leader do something like that! Other evenings were spent savouring the wide range of food that India has to offer. In all of this, contacts were made at and across all levels, while in-depth discussions were had about the minutiae of some immunological finding that had been talked about during that day's sessions, or the fine methodology of some separation procedure. The occasional mandatory stomach upset was experienced by the *uitlanders*, but all recovered successfully, interestingly, if not ironically, clearly aided by that well known western panacea, Coca Cola.

All this was set against the political backdrop of George W Bush's visit to Delhi, where agreement was reached to facilitate India's nuclear aspirations, with all the aerial and terrestrial hardware and military and police personnel that such a visit implies. By all accounts the traffic went from impossible to impassable during this time, but fortunately, the speakers were insulated from it by being comfortably accommodated in a nearby hotel.

All-in-all, a kaleidoscope of colours, culture and science—a most enjoyable, challenging and ultimately satisfying noise for all concerned!

Nicholas King
16 May, 2006

2nd Adelaide Immunology Retreat

The South Australian branch is proud to announce the 2nd Adelaide Immunology Retreat (AIR), to be held 27 & 28 October 2006 at the Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary, in the Adelaide Hills. AIR was first run last year and it turned out to be huge success. AIR-1 attracted approximately 30 delegates (fully booked) and was held in the beautiful Barossa Valley. With Prof. Eugene Maraskovsky and Prof. Nik Petrovsky as invited keynote speakers, great presentations by the delegates, a visit to a snake farm and a winery tour, we had a mixture of great science and great social activities.

We are very determined to make AIR 2006 equally as good, if not better, this year. We are delighted that Prof. Ian Frazer (Australian of the Year, 2006) has accepted our invitation as interstate keynote speaker. Our second invited speaker, representing SA, will be Assoc. Prof. Simon Barry from the Child Health Research Institute. By choosing the Warrawong Wildlife Sanctuary as the venue, we are hoping to create a unique experience for the delegates. The sanctuary is located in the idyllic setting of the Adelaide Hills and is filled with native animals. A private guided dusk tour through the sanctuary is part of the social program as well as a private wine tasting. Delegates will be asked to give a short presentation on their work and if last year is anything to go by, this promises again to be science of very high standard.

The retreat is aimed at postgraduate students and other young scientists. We try to keep the registration costs as low as possible to give as many of our promising students the opportunity to attend. With only \$30 for ASI student-members we are hoping to have achieved this. Delegates from other states are welcome to attend. More information can be found on the ASI website (link on SA branch) or by contacting Claudine Bonder (claudine.bonder@imvs.sa.gov.au).

With the excellence of our keynote speakers, the unique setting in the wildlife sanctuary and the undoubtedly high quality of presentations by the delegates, we are confident that this event will be another success.

Claudine Bonder and Susanne Heinzel
Convenors of AIR 2006

ASI STUDENT PAGE

I know you all must be buzzing in anticipation for the answers to last issue's stimulating crossword. Not that you need them, as I'm sure you all completed it in record time. But just in case there were a few random ones that you didn't get, the answers are below (I'm sure you all knew that John Fraser is the ASI NZ rep).

Now as the ASI conference this year is in my domain I thought this might be a good time to tell you of all the great things you can do in Auckland. Things that shouldn't be missed while you are here, places to get a drink and where to spend that student stipend. I've kept it to only Auckland, as if I did the whole country then that would take whole of the ASI newsletter and you would all miss out on your immunology fix (and we couldn't have that).

The big thing that you shouldn't miss is our big Christmas in the Park. It's a brilliant occasion and is happening the Saturday after the conference ends (December 9 from 7.30pm). There will be music, dancing and fireworks. The usual plan is to take a picnic and some vino and grab a spot in the Domain early as the park fills up real fast. Then settle in and enjoy the show.

My favourite day trips are off to the islands around Auckland. Depending on how much time you have, you should try and fit in a trip to Waiheke Island and to Rangitoto Island. Waiheke has great places to stay, loads of vineyards, great beaches and even has a bus system. Rangitoto on the other hand has nothing on it and is generally visited to climb to the top of the volcano (about an hour each way). Both islands are easily reached via ferries, which leave from the wharf at the bottom of Queen Street.

Other things you should try and do while here is head out to Mission Bay for fish 'n' chips on the beach and of course some ice cream to follow. All you Australians will have to practise saying fish 'n' chips properly otherwise they won't understand you. Hiring

kayaks from Fergs and heading out and about in the harbour is another fun thing to do. You could even kayak to Rangitoto if you are feeling energetic. If you know someone with a car you should definitely get them to take you to the West Coast beaches like Piha and Muriwai and see what real surf looks like. (No sharks either which will be a bonus for you Aussies.)

For all those shoppers amongst you the best places to hit are Newmarket, High Street and the Aotea Market in the weekend. The nightlife around Auckland is a little spread out but I would recommend a night out in one of the many bars in Ponsonby. The Viaduct is popular also and has heaps of restaurants and bars. The best way to get around these places is on the Link bus (the silver bus). It does a circle around all the inner city suburbs in both directions and leaves from the university and the hospital.

There is of course all the typical stuff to do like the Sky Tower (what city doesn't have a big tower now), the Museum and of course the Zoo. Apparently you can do Dolphin/Whale Safaris that are quite good but sadly I have yet to experience that myself.

The other big thing you students shouldn't miss is our student BBQ. It's going to be on the Tuesday night and will be a great chance to mingle with others in the same boat as you. There will of course be alcohol to help break the ice. It's a bargain at \$30 and should of course be regarded as a work related cost as it will be a great chance for you to meet some of the keynote speakers. So make sure you sign up for it when you register for the conference. And no, a classic kiwi BBQ does not mean you will get to try kiwi.

If you have any questions about Auckland, cheap places to stay and stuff, just flick me an email and I'll try and help.

Amanda Taylor
amanda.taylor@auckland.ac.nz

Crossword Answers

Across

- 3 Langerhan
- 5 Auckland
- 10 Immunoglobulin
- 11 Tumour
- 13 Anergy
- 14 ICAM
- 15 Perforin
- 16 Fas
- 17 Chemokines
- 18 Sepsis
- 19 Selectins
- 20 Mitogens

Down

- 1 Fraser
- 2 Apoptosis
- 4 Adjuvant
- 6 Tolerance
- 7 Eosinophils
- 8 Diapedesis
- 9 Complement
- 11 Thymus
- 12 Congenic

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!**

Work of ASI members acknowledged by Premier's Awards

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

Medical researcher cracks an age-old mystery

Dr Shalin Naik's landmark discovery of how the body grows dendritic cells, white blood cells that are the body's 'spies', has far-reaching implications for the future fight against infectious diseases and cancer.

His research at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute has cracked the decades-old mystery of exactly how dendritic cells develop in the body. It has also earned him a high commendation in the 2006 Premier's Award for Medical Research. Dr Naik received \$8,000 and a certificate.

"The immune system uses a sophisticated network of dendritic cells, or DC, that detect and then kick-start the elimination of many infections such as influenza, chicken pox and gut infections," Dr Naik says.

"They are known to develop from stem cells in our bone marrow, but exactly how this happens has eluded scientists since their discovery in 1975. Our research has resolved many of these steps."

Dr Naik says one unexpected result of his research is the discovery that the family of dendritic cells have different members each with their own life history.

"There are several types of DC that are specialised for different pathogens, in the same way different spies deal with different enemies. We've identified how DC grow in a healthy individual, and how these differ from 'inflammatory' DC that develop from monocytes during infection."

Shalin so far has four papers from his PhD, including first author papers in *Nature Immunology*, *Blood* and the *Journal of Immunology*, and an upcoming review in *Nature Reviews Immunology*. He is also the recipient of a number of prizes including best oral presentation at the recent inaugural Australian Vaccines and Immunotherapeutics Development meeting in Melbourne, travel awards to the recent Langerhans Cell meeting in Portugal, the European Macrophage and Dendritic cell Society meeting in Amsterdam and was a finalist for the New Investigator Award and Science Communication Award at previous ASI meetings.



Dr Naik, 28, lives in Fitzroy. He went to Brisbane Grammar School, then studied Science at the University of Queensland, before joining the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in 2002 to study for his PhD. He recently completed his doctorate and will briefly work with Implicit Biosciences in Brisbane before moving to the laboratory of Prof. Ton Schumacher at the Netherlands Cancer Institute in Amsterdam later this year.

**Contributions sought for the ASI
Newsletter**

You could win \$100 !!

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

Please email your contributions to the Secretariat by the above date.
asi@21century.com.au

Medical researcher's investigation into 'junk DNA'

Is the "junk DNA" in our bodies just that – the useless bits left behind from millions of years of evolution? Or is it a hidden layer of information that makes us human?

The fierce and controversial debate about the role of "junk DNA" has been a focus for medical researcher Ken Pang from the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research. His work in this emerging field suggests this junk may in fact be essential in making us who we are.

"When the human genome was mapped in 2001, our genes accounted for less than 2 per cent of the 2.9 billion letters of DNA code each of us has," says Dr Pang.

"Many scientists dismissed the rest as junk, leftover rubbish from evolution. They think the DNA that does not produce protein has no role in our body. But they appear to be wrong."

Dr Pang's research has attracted international attention and has earned him a high commendation in the 2006 Victorian Premier's Award for Medical Research. He received \$8,000 and a certificate. In the past year, Dr Pang has also received the Becton Dickinson Science Communication Award at the ASI Annual Scientific Meeting, and a Promega Student Award at the Lorne Genome Conference.

"Taken together my work dispels the long-held belief that our genomes are replete with useless information," Dr Pang says.

"This radically alters our understanding of how the human genome works, and promises to significantly influence the future practice of medicine."

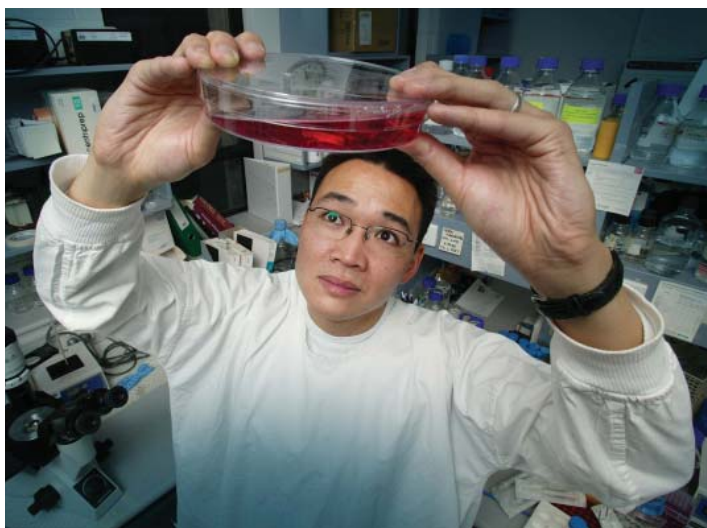
Dr Pang's laboratory work for his PhD includes studying RNA in mice and developing computer strategies to analyse the mouse genome. He has established a comprehensive online database of mammalian non-coding RNA,

which has been accessed over 200,000 times globally in the last year. He has also identified numerous novel non-coding RNAs in different CD8+ T cell subsets.

Dr Pang's work has taken him to Brisbane, where he worked with renowned biologist Professor John Mattick at the University of Queensland, and to Tokyo, where he worked with Dr Yoshihide Hayashizaki, head of the RIKEN Genome Exploration Research Group. Dr Pang is based at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research's Melbourne Centre for Clinical Sciences in Heidelberg, where his PhD supervisor is Dr Weisan Chen.

Dr Pang, 32, has also collaborated with Nobel Laureate Prof. Peter Doherty studying mutant influenza viruses, part of parallel research in immunology. During his PhD, he has had 10 scientific papers published and is a first author on half of these. These articles have appeared in journals such as *Genome Research*, *Trends in Genetics*, *PLoS Genetics*, *Science*, *Nucleic Acids Research*, *PNAS*, and *Journal of Immunology*.

A keen surfer and former competitive swimmer, Dr Pang, is married and lives in Ivanhoe, Victoria. He went to school at Melbourne Grammar before studying medicine at Melbourne University. After working for four years as a doctor, he commenced his PhD studies in 2003. This year, he has returned to clinical work to finish his specialisation in paediatrics, but afterwards intends to return to biomedical research and commence postdoctoral work overseas.



UPCOMING LECTURES & CONFERENCES

International Conference of Immunogenomics and Immunomics
October 8–12, 2006
Budapest, Hungary
Website: www.bcii2006.org

3rd International Congress on Healthy Ageing and Longevity
October 13–15, 2006
Melbourne
Website: <http://www.longevity-international.com/>

2nd Adelaide Immunity Retreat
October 26–27, 2006
Adelaide Hills, SA
Contact Claudine Bonder
claudine.bonder@imvs.sa.gov.au

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

Australian Immunologists at the 6th Ranjeet Bhagwaan Singh Technical Workshop in Malaysia

In December 2005, a team of Australian immunologists spent a week in Kuala Lumpur to teach Malaysian postgraduate students, postdoctoral fellows and senior academics new methods to measure the immune response. The workshop entitled "New Methods for Monitoring Immunity" was held at the University of Malaya from 14-17 December and attended by Malaysian researchers from eight different institutes across the country. The workshop was organised by the Academy of Sciences Malaysia and co-sponsored by The Australian Academy of Science.

The Australian team that travelled to Malaysia included Guna Karupiah, Phil Hodgkin, Chris Parish, Geeta Chaudhri, Ben Quah and Jhagvaral Hasbold.

Prior to the work-shop, three public lectures were given by members of the Australian team on topics such as "New

theories on regulating antibody in health and disease", "Immune response to viral infection" and "New approaches to cancer immunotherapy". The session generated significant discussion and opened up some potential avenues of collaboration between scientists from the two countries. It was a good opportunity to showcase our research to the Malaysian audience.

The Workshop itself ran for four very intensive and dynamic days and was attended by scientists from a range of backgrounds and academic seniority (from senior postgraduate students to professors). It was specifically designed to provide participants an advanced knowledge of the adaptive immune response and a working knowledge of how to measure and monitor the critical changes in lymphocyte behaviour coincident with a successful response. We covered principles of the adaptive immune response and included hands-on sessions with many of the important

methods for monitoring T and B lymphocyte behaviour. These methods included fluorescent flow cytometric measurement of cell division progression, apoptosis (cell death), differentiation to cytokine secretion, antibody isotype switching and development of antibody secreting cells. There was a lot of discussion of how these technologies are opening up new opportunities for diagnosis and therapeutic evaluation and intervention that will ultimately lead to improved health.

By all accounts the workshop was successful and fully met the objectives that we, and the Academy of Sciences Malaysia, had set out to achieve. The participants were exposed to new ideas and learned new techniques, there was good scientific exchange, it opened up possibilities of collaborations and potential postgraduate students, and the Workshop ended with a renewed sense of excitement for the potential of this area of research.

Guna Karupiah

