

ARCHIVES OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

1961 – 1976

KNOW YOUR SOCIETY

It has often been said that the first lesson of history is that no-one learns the lessons of history. We can try to avoid that mistake.

-- John Healy,

Archivist, ASMR, 1976

BIRTH

Three factors helped to father the Australian Society for Medical Research. Firstly, a feeling that the American Federation for Clinical Research was a fine example of a research society which fostered young investigators. Secondly, a feeling, back in 1960, that existing societies in Australia were not adequate for our growing needs. And thirdly, the kind of feeling that can best be called a pioneering spirit - that combination of initiative, imagination and determination to succeed.

These feelings were those of someone well known to us all, one Barry G. Firkin, then Director of the Clinical Research Unit at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney. Barry soon found he was not alone. Similarly influenced by an American experience, Alan Skyring and Jim McRae, both also at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, provided not only a sympathetic ear, but willingly threw their energies into turning the idea into a reality.

Support for the idea also came from Professor Ruthven Blackburn, of the Department of Medicine, Sydney University. With some foresight, he urged that proper articles of association be drawn up, as a result of which the Society was on a firm footing from the start. Mr. David Price, a Sydney solicitor, was approached for advice on this matter. Mr. Price had been involved with the legal aspects in setting up the National Heart Foundation, and brought his experience to bear on the problem. The Society owes him a debt for his selfless service in preparing the Articles of Association and in other subsequent unremunerated assistance to Society Directors.

Arising from these deliberation, it was felt that the Society should initially have 3 more committee members. A spectrum of interests was achieved by the addition of Gordon Archer of the Red Cross Blood Bank in

Sydney, Rodney Shearman of the Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Sydney University, and Arnold Hunt, of the Biochemistry Department, Sydney University.

In this way came about our first Committee, with Barry Firkin as President, Gordon Archer as President-elect, and Alan Skyring as Secretary/Treasurer; Arnold Hunt, James McRae and Rodney Shearman were co-directors. It is noteworthy that the first financial Member of the Society was Barry Firkin (7/9/61), who thereby set an example of timely payment of dues which many of our latter-day Members might reflect upon!

A publication containing submitted abstracts was given a high priority in relation to the first Annual General Meeting. Thus was "Medical Research", the Proceedings of the Society, born. It was felt that this publication would play a vital role in promoting the Society. "Medical Research", Volume 1, Number 1, December 1961 therefore became the first printed record of our activities. It would be well to quote here from the Presidential Address published in that issue, and given by Barry Firkin:

"The main purpose of this Society is to enable the young medical and science graduate to present his work to his own club, to benefit from the resultant discussion, and to meet colleagues of his own age from other disciplines, institutions and States. In this way he should become familiar with the research activities of people whom he may approach readily for advice on his own future training, and on problems arising from his work. As you can see from your journal, the bulk of the members are at present from New South Wales. It is the hope of your Committee that the success of this meeting will enable us to approach interested parties interstate, and that the next meeting of the Australian Society for Medical Research will be on a truly national footing".

These were brave words, well said. And how prophetic they were. It is good to see that in spite of the subsequent achievement of national growth predicted by our first President, the atmosphere of a club has been well maintained, and many a friendship has begun through the ASMR.

Alan Skyring started the ball rolling for the first Annual General Meeting. He says: "We decided to have the first meeting very soon after formation, and we were staggered at the response we received. We received a lot of support from older people and you will notice that a number of prominent people became senior members at a very early stage".

That first Annual General Meeting was held on the 2nd of December, 1961, in the I.C.I. Theatre, Macquarie St., Sydney. By then, some 66 were Society Members. The principle whereby executives were drawn from the ranks of those under 40 years of age was established, along the lines of the American Federation for Clinical Research. This policy has no doubt helped keep the ASMR a flexible and energetic body which has never looked back from the time of its inception. Another feature of the first Meeting was the presence of physiologists, biochemists, people from CSIRO, etc., this mixture of disciplines being a central idea of the Society.

Thirty-five abstracts were submitted to the first Meeting, and 15 were selected for presentation. Not surprisingly, all but 3 papers were from Sydney, but this was circumstantial and belies the early intention of the Directors to spread activities to other States. The first paper presented to the Society was entitled: "The Effect of an "Ovulation Inhibitor" on Ovarian Steroidogenesis", by Rodney P. Shearman. But the birth of the ASMR was not subject to such constraint!

It is interesting to turn the pages of the first issue of "Medical Research" and reflect how well the character of the Society was then

defined and how well it has been maintained through the years - a tribute to the organizational ability of our founders and their advisers. Our policies may reflect the flexibility of youth, but the foundations on which we stand keep us firmly together.

In this manner was the Australian Society of Medical Research born.

GROWTH

(I) Public Relations

Secretaries of the ASMR in this more mature stage of its development 15 years later often no doubt feel hard-working. But they would gain great consolation from a perusal of the enormous amounts of correspondence which were required of our first Secretary, Alan Skyring, who was also Treasurer. Alan set to work to turn ideas into a practical reality. He wrote to Members, to potential members, to drug firms for support, to leading research workers in other States, to libraries all around the world offering the journal, to various potential donors for support, etc., etc.

The result of these efforts was that already by December, 1961, the Society was becoming well-known, and had 55 Regular Members and 11 Senior Members. The Medical Journal of Australia took an early interest in these doings, and published an encouraging leading Article at some length on November 25th, 1961. This article gave praise to the decision to publish an Annual Journal, which the M.J.A. Editor felt "would seem to provide an adequate medium for young medical researchers to make known what they were doing". This report concluded by wishing the Society well and congratulating its founders on "a bold move which could have a very healthy

influence on medical science in Australia at a vital time in its development".

Publication of this article threw a number of Melbourne dignitaries in the research world into a fit of pique, as some Melbourne people felt they should have been contacted in the formulation of the basis of the Society. A letter subsequently appeared in the M.J.A. suggesting the Society should be called the "Sydney Society For Medical Research". It was appropriately refuted by Barry Firkin and Alan Skyring in the M.J.A. (Letters) on January 20th, 1962, who took the opportunity to give the appropriate address to which potential interstate members might apply.

All this publicity helped guarantee the success of the ASMR as a national body. By the end of 1962, Regular Membership reached 112, and Senior Membership 16, and it was possible to hold the Second Annual General Meeting at the Australian National University in Canberra.

(ii) A Set of Rules

As indicated earlier, one of the first things felt necessary for the Society was a formal set of rules, and Mr. David Price, solicitor, of Sydney, helped draw these up in conferences with the Directors. It was believed that the Society should register itself as a company limited by guarantee and should seek tax-deductability for donations. Official adoption of a constitution was not a hasty matter. From 1962 to 1967 it was a topic for lengthy discussion by the Directors and others, and all this assessment of numerous opinions contributed significantly to the quality and acceptability of the final document. In particular, a subcommittee consisting of Jim McRae, Tony Edwards, Marc Playoust, Paul Nestel and Barry Firkin did much work to iron out the problems.

However, democratic processes tend to be lengthy, and finally Marc Playoust on 13th March, 1967 urged the Directors to draw their discussions to a close and proceed firmly with the submission of the documents for registration. The original intention had been to register the Society as a company in the A.C.T., but (recurring) financial considerations led finally to a change, so that on 20th February 1969 the Society was registered as a company in N.S.W., with a clearly stated memorandum and Articles of Association.

One area of the Articles has sometimes led to some misunderstandings. This is the section dealing with the "40 year age barrier", and it might be well to state, here the relevant article (Article 6):
"Rights of Members".

6. (a) Every member shall have the following rights:-

(i) to submit abstracts of papers to the Directors for consideration of their presentation at Society meetings. All abstracts considered suitable by the Directors will be published in the Society's Journal together with a programme indicating those papers selected for presentation.

(ii) To receive a copy of the Society's Journal

(iii) To attend General and Extraordinary Meetings of the Society

(iv) To introduce guests who may submit papers for the Society's Meetings.

(b) In addition to the aforesaid, Ordinary Members may be elected as Directors of the Society and may vote in the election of the Directors; they may also vote at General and Extraordinary Meetings of the Society".

It is thus clear that all Members, including Senior Members, have the right to submit and present papers at the Annual General Meeting. The only restriction on Senior Members is their ineligibility to be elected as, or to vote in elections of Directors, and to vote at General or Extraordinary Meetings of the Society.

The Articles also fixed the composition of the General Committee at a President, President-elect (who also acts as Vice-President), and 7 other Directors. An allowance was made in Article 18 that the President of the Society may be an Ordinary or a Senior Member, but clearly this only covers the eventuality that a Director, elected at the time of being an Ordinary Member, may be elected President even if he or she happens to turn 40 during the term of office.

It should be noted that no provision was made for equal State representation in the General Committee. This would have been very difficult at the time of preparation of the Articles, and has the merit that the best candidates should be Directors regardless of their geographical origin. Some of the smaller States have felt from time to time that State representation might be desirable as a regulation. What actually happened in early years was that some advice was given to voters in election of directors to consider adequate State representation in making their choice. Then, in 1970, the Directors of the time resolved that "in future the General Committee should include one member from each State, and the A.C.T., from which nominations were received". This principle still, no doubt, reflects the popular view in the Society, but it is not necessarily binding on subsequent General Committees.

Members of the Society need not reside in Australia. This has had the valuable effect of allowing members to be elected in particular from Papua New Guinea.

(iii) Ladies Committees

One other development in our early years of some importance was the establishment of a Ladies' Committee in N.S.W. Following a meeting called by Peter Castaldi at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital on 10th March, 1967, the Committee was formed and chaired by Mrs. Ruth Firkin, wife of our first President. A formal set of rules was adopted. The Committee's purpose was to assist in social activities when Meetings of the Society were held in N.S.W., and to raise funds particularly to help in travel expenses for Society Members. The ladies were clearly very energetic in these matters. Unfortunately, the exact total of their contributions over the 3-4 years they were in operation is a little uncertain, but transfers of at least \$1100 to the Society's accounts from the Ladies' Committee are recorded. With movement of several families interstate, this Committee sadly ceased to function about 1971.

A Ladies' Committee also functioned in Victoria at the time of the 1968 Annual General Meeting in Melbourne, and gave valuable help in organizing the social programme for the Meeting.

(iv) Miss Aileen Dempsey - Administrative Assistant from 1962-1975.

We have rightly been impressed with drive and initiative of our founders. But it must not be forgotten that one of the people who made the Society possible was Miss Aileen Dempsey, long associated with Alan Skyring in her role as Executive Editor of Modern Medicine of Australia. Miss Dempsey was not only an invaluable Administrative Assistant to us from 1962-1975, but was a great help to all the incoming Committees in those years in keeping them advised of past policies. In that way she kept the thread of the intentions of our founders going, and the Society owes her a

great debt of gratitude for the countless hours she gave us over those years.

MATURITY

Perhaps 15 or 16 years of age might more appropriately be considered adolescence, but by now the ASMR has really reached the beginning of a long adulthood. By the end of 1975, some 52 research workers had served on the successive General Committees of the Society (Table 1). Several others, not listed at the time of the Annual General Meeting, served partial terms of office. The great majority of Directors have been medical graduates. Only one woman (Carline Kimber) has served as a Director.

Paul Nestel is the only President to have served more than one term, but a number of others have occupied the positions of Secretary or Treasurer for 2-3 years.

(i) Growth Throughout the Nation

Examination of Table 1 shows how rapidly it became possible to appoint Directors from States other than NSW., our State of origin. By 1968, just 7 years after establishment, 5 States and ACT were represented on the General Committee, a pattern maintained even since.

The total Society membership evidenced a rapid growth rate from 1961 to 1968 (Figure 1), after which it steadied at about 500. Senior Membership not surprisingly steadily increased as a proportion of the total. This is a healthy sign, as it indicates the number of people who want to stay on after the first flush of youth. Their presence helps stabilize the Society, but it may raise the question of special consideration for them at some stage.

Levelling of the total membership at 500 in recent years most likely reflects the effect of inflation on the funds available for research in Australia. The numbers employed in research must have been seriously eroded by this. There is no cause for complacency, however, and hopefully we might re-examine our membership status from time to time, to discover causes for loss of old members and sources of new ones.

Growth of the ASMR in different regions of Australia is reflected by the number of papers submitted from them. With regard to the latter, it will be recalled that at our first Annual General Meeting only 3 papers of 35 were from outside NSW. Table 2 shows the different regions over the years. The NSW share fell rapidly to about 40 then 25%. Meanwhile, the Victorian content rose over the first 5 years to about 25%. Even more striking, allowing for population differences, was the rise in South Australia to about 25%, but this was followed by an unfortunate decline. The ACT figures are less satisfactory.

YEAR	MEETING IN	TOTAL NO PAPERS SUBMITTED	NSW %	VIC %	ACT %	SA %	WA %	QLD %	TAS %	OTHER %
1961	Sydney	35	91	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
1962	Canberra	36	75	8	11	3	3	-	-	-
1963	Adelaide	46	54	7	-	37	2	-	-	-
1964	Sydney	52	58	10	4	28	-	-	-	-
1965	Melbourne	83	34	34	-	25	1	4	-	2
1966	Adelaide	59	41	25	-	24	2	3	-	5
1967	Sydney	80	44	30	4	8	5	5	-	4
1968	Melbourne	71	28	35	2	27	3	4	-	1
1969	Canberra	66	33	23	5	21	7	11	-	-
1970	Sydney	91	27	26	8	23	3	12	-	1
1971	Melbourne	93	5	45	5	19	4	10	1	1
1972	Adelaide	78	18	23	8	18	10	17	3	3
1973	Surfers Paradise	118	29	26	6	8	9	20	-	2
1974	Thredbo	102	27	24	6	14	9	17	2	1
1975	Thredbo	93	19	27	4	11	14	18	1	6
1976	Thredbo	81	20	30	5	8	9	24	1	3

Table 2. Total number of papers submitted for the Annual General Meeting each year, and the percentage of contribution to these from each geographical region.

Growth of the Society in Queensland is reflected by its figures - striking is the 17% seen in 1972 when the Meeting was as far away as Adelaide. Tasmanian emergence has been slight as yet, but nevertheless it is good to see Tasmania on the lists.

State by State membership is more difficult to assess, as unfortunately the membership lists have not always been shown on a regional basis. However, the figures from 1968-1976 reveal continuing strength in NSW and Victoria, and in Western Australia, fluctuation in South Australia, growth in Queensland, and regrettably small numbers from the ACT. Tasmania might do with some help in recruiting members also. The last year in which complete numbers are available is 1973, when we had 165 members in NSW, 115 in Vic, 18 in ACT, 48 in SA, 64 in WA, 63 in QLD, 6 in TAS and 1 other.

Along with membership growth in the States and Territories has been an increase in local activities. By 1963, subcommittees existed in Victoria and South Australia. In 1965, a Western Australian subcommittee was formed. By 1967 sizeable State meetings were being held about mid-year in all these areas. In 1969, a Queensland su-committee was formed and a 32 paper State meeting held in Brisbane. Since then, most of these States have continued to have annual meetings, although Victoria has been ambivalent towards them, and has omitted them a number of times.

In as much as the presentation of papers is a valuable experience for young research workers, not to mention the value of a day in dialogue with often infrequently seen colleagues, it is sanguine to note that the Society has now fostered the presentation of 394 papers at State Meetings to 1973,

as far as our records show. Of these, 120 have been delivered in Queensland, where State meetings continue large to the present.

(ii) Unhappy Events

Tragedy has struck the Society on a number of occasions. We have witnessed the early deaths of Tony Edwards, a Director from 1962-1966. Tony was made President in 1966, and died on Friday 9th December of that year, just a week after the Annual General Meeting. His death led to suggestions for a memorial, and Director, Robin Pavillard of Western Australia, proposed an annual Oration, which has been given at the Annual General Meeting by distinguished research workers ever since.

The deep regret at the loss of Tony Edwards, a tireless worker for medicine and the Society, was to be followed by further tragedies. In August, 1972, Kevin Carroll of the ACT, then Secretary, died after a long illness. Then, only a few months later, Marc Playoust, a former President and Treasurer, died in a road accident after the Adelaide Meeting in December. Marc had been a source of great strength to the ASMR, serving on the General Committee from 1964-1968. Some of his most able contributions came when he served as Treasurer from 1965-1967. Both Kevin and Marc were known not only for their work for the Society, but as good researchers and as fine people.

Then again, in 1973. A swimming accident at the Surfers Paradise Meeting claimed the lives of Clair Campion, of Adelaide, and Marcus Ma, of Sydney. Both are also well-known for their work and for their valuable humanity. Marcus was at the time Secretary of the Society, and we had looked forward to having him on the Committee for some years to come.

(v) Footsteps into Politics

One of the aims of the Society expressed in the Memorandum of Association (4(c)) is to "stimulate public interest in medical research and related problems".

Activities were inevitably more introspective than this in the formative years, when there was so much to do to get our ship afloat. But, with sails set and a fair breeze, the first proposed venture into public spheres seems to have been contained in a letter written by Professor Don Deller of Adelaide, a Director, on August 5th, 1966. He suggested that in 1967 the Secretary might prepare a report on the "Methods and Adequacy of Funding Medical Research in Australia", with a view to making this available to the Commonwealth Health Minister.

However, action seems not to have been taken, nor was the political arena seriously considered until at the Annual General Meeting in 1969 John Healy requested consideration of a potential role for the ASMR in Federal politics, particularly in an attempt to increase finance for research. Arising from these comments, Struan Sutherland proposed a symposium on funding for research to be held at the time of the Annual General Meeting in 1970, and the Members present unanimously endorsed this.

From this arose the now well-remembered symposium on the Economics of Medical Research in December, 1970. Professor Barry Firkin, Dr. R.W. Greville (Secretary, NH & MRC), Dr. Ralph Reader (Medical Director, NHF) and Dr. N. Gray (Director, Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria) were the principle speakers. The symposium attracted a large audience and stirred the interest if not the ire of Members on the subject of inadequate funding of medical research in Australia, and its proceedings were published and sent to many important politicians.

One effect of the symposium was to awaken the political conscience of the Society. Since that time every General Committee has taken on some political lobbying as part of its responsibility. In 1971, Director, Bill O'Sullivan aroused the interest of Senator Sir Kenneth Anderson, Federal Minister of Health, amongst many others to whom a copy of the 1970 symposium was sent.

In 1973, President Bill O'Sullivan, with immediate past-President and President-elect as co-signatories, wrote a strong letter to Dr. D. Everingham, then Minister for Health, about the level of NH & MRC funding.

By 1974, approaches to politicians became too numerous to discuss here. President John Healy communicated with some 20-30 prominent figures in Federal Government, and with such bodies as the AMA. The Committee sought details of the funding of research in many countries, and copiously reminded those in power of our plight. A request for information from Dr. K.W. Edmondson, Secretary of the NH & MRC., was answered at length. The views of Society Members on some matters were sought through a questionnaire, which revealed that 77% favoured permanent positions for research workers over 30 years of age, 53% favoured putting the problems of research workers to the Professional Officers' Association; even 27% would have taken the matter to Mr. Bob Hawke, of the ACTU. At a meeting of the Needs in Medical Research Committee of the NH & MRC in Melbourne, John Healy stressed the problems of uncertainty of employment in research, and the need to separate "National Health" from "Medical Research Council". Numerous press releases were made in 1974 to alert the public to the problems.

If the problems of 1974 seemed bad, catastrophe struck in the research world in 1975, when the allocations to the NH & MRC were suddenly reduced.

This brought forth an outcry from medical research workers in all States, and President John Chalmers and his Committee attacked the Government relentlessly. It was pleasing to see that in no small measure due to John's efforts, the "accounting error" of the Government was discovered, and at least some reparation made. The ASMR attack was made through major city newspapers and directly to the Government.

President Alec Morley continued to seek and get publicity for research needs in 1976, armed with much information he had already obtained as a Director in his contribution to earlier sorties in this field.

Hopefully one day the Federal politicians will open their eyes to the need for greater research funding, and our political approaches will concern more specific areas in need of attention. Only one example of the latter has so far arisen, in respect to the health problems of aborigines. In Adelaide in 1972 a symposium on this subject was held at the Annual General Meeting, and the matter was subsequently drawn to the attention of the Prime Minister and the Director of the Office of Aboriginal Affairs by Henry Ekert, then Secretary of the Society, following a resolution to that effect at the Meeting.

FINANCE

Our finances have shown, with rare exceptions, a steady growth pattern from the time of the Society's inception.

In our early days, accurate records of payments and receipts were kept, but in a form different from that which applied from June 30th 1963 onwards, from which date annual auditing was carried out by the firm of Wakely, Gisz & Co., 203 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, who have now become Parkhill, Lithgow & Gibson, George Street, Sydney. Data in Table 3 were

therefore first available in the categories shown from 1963, viz., for the July 1st 1962 to June 30th 1963. It should be pointed out that the General Committee of the Society functions from December to December each year, so that undue credit or blame should not be linked with the abilities of any one General Committee directly from Table 3.

Table 3 reveals some interesting points. One thing that is apparent is the fact that Members' subscriptions are usually below the amount expected for the number of Members. This is a sad reflection on human nature, no doubt common to all societies. The policy adopted in this regard has been to maintain a Member on the list for up to 2 years following his or her last payment of dues, as often the omission was recognized and eventually several years' dues were paid at once. The largest amount of Members' dues received was in 1973-4, when a concerted drive was made to overcome the situation.

Donations received and subscriptions from Sustaining Members have shown a gradual increase from 1963-72. Three times in that period they exceeded Members' dues. A striking increase in donations was apparent in 1973-4 and 1974-5 when approaches were first made to organizations outside the scientific and pharmaceutical areas. Notably, MIM Holdings Ltd contributed \$2000 in that period. Finances were considerably helped in 1974-5 by an increase in Sustaining Members' fees from \$100 to \$200 per annum.

The next two columns in Table 3 show the gross and nett costs of printing our own proceedings each year. Clearly, the cost of the journal was bound to rise, partly because of increasing size each year, partly because of difficulties in obtaining advertisements in some years, and partly because of inflation.

With the rising cost was associated a nett loss on the production of the journal. The first significant loss of \$540 was incurred in 1970-1, and losses of \$1500-1800 were to be encountered in the 3 subsequent years. These events led to the abandonment of the "Proceedings" after the 1973 issue. The decision was made to publish at considerable reduced cost, the whole proceedings in Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology and Physiology.

The cost of travel also has increased with growing Membership and inflation. The early policy of refunding first class rail fares to speakers at the Annual General Meeting had to be modified in 1972-6, because of the rise in rail fares. In spite of this, refunds to speakers at the Meeting have not fallen below 50% of their economy air fare, and in more recent years have been maintained at the level of about 60% of the economy air fare, together with full air fares for invited speakers, and fares for Directors to attend Meetings. Provision of travel expenses has always been given a high priority by the Society, and constitutes a most important factor in our linking together across this very vast country. It particularly aids the younger research worker, thereby helping to fulfil one of the Society's primary aims.

The nett cost of the Annual Meeting needs only brief comment. It is clear that in the overall scheme of things large profits or losses on the Meeting are unusual, and no venue used so far offers any particular cost advantage or disadvantage in itself. Cost of travel seems to be the most significant matter to consider if Society finances are tight at the time of the Annual General Meeting. A notable profit of \$913 was made at the 1968 Meeting in Melbourne.

The nett results for all aspects of finance for each year reveals that a profit was made in 10 of the 12 years for which full information was available (Table 3). It should be noted that the figures for this and for the final balance at bank do not necessarily agree exactly with those of past annual financial reports. This is brought about by there having been some 4 funds from 1967-75 - a general fund, (the largest); a travel reserve; a reserve for the AWT Edwards Oration; and a fund established by the NSW Ladies' Committee. The total balance for each year was derived from addition of all 4 funds over the period 1968-75, when the 4 funds were amalgamated into one general fund.

Comments on finance cannot conclude without a special work of thanks to Miss Aileen Dempsey (see earlier), who trudged relentlessly to and from the bank and who kept our books in such good order from 1962-75.

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF MEDICAL RESEARCH - DIRECTORS (NON OFFICE BEARERS)

1961	As Hunt	J. McRae	R. Shearman		
1962	B.G. Firkin	D.S. Nelson	A.W. Edwards		
1963	A.P. Skyring	G. Nossal	H. Lander	A.W. Edwards	B.L. Hillcot
1964	A.P. Skyring	G. Nossal	B.L. Hillcot	M.R. Playoust	D.J. Deller
1965	A. Hunt	P. Nestel	D.J. Deller	P.A. Castaldi	D.S. Nelson
1966	P. Nestel	I.J. Forbes	B. Schiff	E. Pavillard	J. Hirsh
1967	P. Schiff	C.B. Kerr	J. Hirsh	J.R. Turtle	R.D. Gordon
1968	C.B. Kerr	P. Schiff	J. Hirsh	R.D. Gordon	L.W. Powell
1969	C.B. Kerr	T.J. Martin	R.D. Gordon	L.W. Powell	M.N. Walters
1970	L.W. Powell	M.N. Walters	B. Boettcher	K.F. Carroll	P. Schiff
1971	C.L. Kimber	E.H. Morgan	W.J. O'Sullivan	J.K. Healy	A.S. Rebuck
1972	J.K. Healy	E.H. Morgan	T. Morgan	A.A. Morley	P.F. Nixon
1973	T.J. Bellair	M.H. MA	A.A. Morley	P.F. Nixon	R.R. Taylor
1974	J.W. Funder	N.G. Ardlie	G. Stokes	R.R. Taylor	A. Whitaker
1975	N.G. Ardlie	W.G. Cooksley	M. Davey	D.G. Jose	D.J. Tiller
1976	M. Davey	W.G. Cooksley	M.A. Mackinnon	D.J. Tiller	D. Jose
1977	M.A. Mackinnon	D.G. Jose	J.K. Findlay	M. Gracey	W.R. Adam
1978	W.G.E. Cooksley	D.M. Fox	M. Gracey	M.A. Mackinnon	J. Finch
1979	P.G. Barter	R.A. Bradbear	J.A. Eisman	P.G. Mathew	J.A. Whitworth
1980	R.G. Batey	R.A. Bradbear	B.M. Hall	M.J. West	J.A. Whitworth
1981	R.A. Bradbear	J.A. Eisman	B.M. Hall	J.A. Whitworth	P.J. Zilko
1982	E.J. Keogh	G. Farrell	P. Roberts	J. Savage	R.A. Bradbear
1983	N. Parttridge	L. Harrison	M. Garlepp	J. Savage	R.L. Sutherland
1984	F.G. Fassett	R. Sutherland	L. Harrison	J. Savage	L. Ward
1985	W. Tilley	J. McDougall	I. Campbell	J. Vial	L. Ward
1986	J. McDougall	J. Vial	G. Ramm	R. Coelen	P. Hart

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF MEDICAL RESEARCH - DIRECTORS AND OFFICER BEARERS

YEAR	PRESIDENT	PRESIDENT ELECT	SECRETARY	TREASURER	EDITOR OF PROCEEDINGS
1961	B.G. Firklin	G. Archer	A.P. Skyring	A.P. Skyring	
1962	A.P. Skyring	R.P. Shearman	A. Hunt	J. McRae	
1963	R.P. Shearman	G. Archer	A. Hunt	J. McRae	A.P. Skyring, A.W. Edwards
1964	G. Archer	J. McRae	A.W. Edwards	J. McRae	A.P. Skyring
1965	J. McRae	A.W. Edwards	A.W. Edwards	M.R. Playoust	M.R. Playoust
1966	A.W. Edwards	M.R. Playoust	P.A. Castaldi	M.R. Playoust	P.A. Castaldi
1967	M.R. Playoust	P.J. Nestel	P.A. Castaldi	M.R. Playoust	P.J. Nestel
1968	P.J. Nestel		P.A. Castaldi	J.R. Turtle	C.B. Kerr
1969	P.J. Nestel	P.A. Castaldi	J.R. Turtle	P. Schiff	T.J. Martin
1970	P.A. Castaldi	J.R. Turtle	W.J. O'Sullivan	T.J. Martin	L.W. Powell
1971	J.R. Turtle	T.J. Martin	K.F. Carroll	C.I. Johnston	W.J. O'Sullivan
1972	T.J. Martin	W.J. O'Sullivan	M.H. Ma	H. Ekert	J.K. Healy
1973	W.J. O'Sullivan	J.K. Healy	H. Ekert	J.P. Chalmers	P.F. Nixon
1974	J.K. Healy	J.P. Chalmers	A. Basten	A.A. Horley	N.G. Ardlie, J.W. Funder
1975	J.P. Chalmers	A.A. Morley	J.W. Funder	A. Basten	N.G. Ardlie, J.W. Funder
1976	A.A. Morley	N.G. Ardlie	J.W. Funder	A. Basten	
1977	N.G. Ardlie	A. Basten	G.G. Duggin	W.G.E. Cooksley	G.G. Duggin, W.R. Adams
1978	A. Basten	J.W. Funder	G.G. Duggin	W.R. Adam	G.G. Duggin, M.A. Mackinnon
1979	J.W. Funder	G.G. Duggin	J.A. Eisman	W.R. Adam	G.G. Duggin, J.A. Eisman
1980	G.G. Duggin	R.L. Dawkins	J.A. Eisman	J.K. Findley	G.G. Duggin, J.A. Eisman
1981	R.L. Dawkins	J.K. Findley	R.G. Batey	M.J. West	R.G. Batey, B.M. Hall
1982	J.K. Findley	J.A. Eisman	B.M. Hall	J. Whitworth	B.M. Hall
1983	J.A. Eisman	J.A. Whitworth	G. Farrell	R. Sutherland	G.C. Farrell, L.C. Harrison
1984	J.A. Whitworth	B.M. Hall	G. Farrell	L.C. Ward	G.C. Farrell, L.C. Harrison
1985	B.M. Hall	G.C. Farrell	R. Sutherland	R. Coelen	J. McDougall, R. Sutherland
1986	G. Farrell	R. Sutherland	W. Tilley	I. Campbell	J. McDougall, W. Tilley

FINANCIAL	MEMBERS' DUES	DONATIONS & SUSTAINING MEMBERS	GROSS COST MED. RESEARCH JOURNAL	NETT COST MED. RESEARCH JOURNAL	TRAVEL	NETT COST AGM	TOTAL NETT FOR YEAR	FINAL BALANCE FOR YEAR
1961-62	\$ 633	\$?	\$ 420	\$ 108	\$?	\$? (ICI, Syd)	\$?	\$?
1962-63	524	211	156	+ 10	192	- 287 (ANU, Can)	?	863
1963-64	529	999	500	+ 17	708	+ 86 (Royal Adel)	+ 496	1359
1964-65	806	614	730	- 9	410	- 408 (Univ Syd)	+ 248	1607
1965-66	646	564	1615	+ 50	619	- 121 (Univ Melb)	+ 78	1685
1966-67	1132	305	1532	+ 61	668	- 229 (Royal Adel)	+ 32	1717
1967-68	1191	1606	1428	+ 109	797	? (Univ Syd)	- 1994	3690
1968-69	1639	1500	1300	+ 131	727	+ 913 (Univ Melb)	+ 2695	6385
1969-70	1308	1647	1553	- 17	1625	+ 143 (ANU Can)	+ 754	7139
1970-71	2590	1050	1757	- 540	1387	- 331 (Univ Syd)	+ 491	7630
1971-72	2068	1700	2569	- 1828	1431	- 144 (Univ Melb)	- 128	7502
1972-73	2094	1431	2186	- 1543	2063	- 271 (Royal Adel)	- 1023	6479
1973-74	2826	4210	2540	- 1553	2290	+ 25 (Surf. Para)	+ 585	7064
1974-75	2237	8278	--	--	2941	- 147 (Thredbo)	+ 5851	12915
1975-76			--	--				

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GROWTH OF THE SOCIETY

Unlike the early days when the Society's membership was predominantly from Sydney, in the last decade there has been a membership across all the states. This is reflected in the composition of Council where over the decade there has usually been at least one representative from Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales. In the last three years there has also been a Tasmanian representative. The growth in membership over the decade and in the representation from the various states can be seen in figure 1. Members who have been unfinancial for only one year perhaps due to oversight in paying dues, are included, making the current membership over 1000. As pointed out in the Archives 1961-76, membership is retained until annual subscriptions have not been paid for 2 years. In the last decade there has always been one to two hundred members who do not pay their subscriptions on time. The steady increase in financial membership from 500 to 900 (Table 1) over the decade has in part been the result of the lobbying activities of the Society to improve the funding of medical research. The influx of non-members has been steady, however in many years it has been matched by persons who have let their membership lapse; many of these are young investigators who spend a short period in research before seeking careers elsewhere, many because of the uncertainties of funding of medical research. Members over 40 have on the whole remained loyal to the Society, even though they are no longer eligible to hold office. This support has been essential to the maintenance of the Society as a key spokesgroup for medical research. This has led to the realisation by medical researchers that the Society plays an

important role in the promotion of medical research. As a result of the increased support for medical research there is a widening and more secure medical research community within Australia from which the membership can be drawn.

In 1979 the Articles of Association were changed for the first and only time to date. This change ensured members over 40 (then known as Senior Members) had the right to vote, even though they remained ineligible for election to the Board of Directors.

The breadth of the representation can be seen in that abstracts have been submitted from all states in the Commonwealth. A disproportionately large representation has been made from the Australian Capital Territory and South Australia. The contribution from Western Australia is remarkable in view of the large distances and cost involved in travel.

Victoria has consistently submitted more abstracts than New South Wales; a marked reversal to the early days of the Society.

COUNCIL AND DIRECTORS

The decade has seen vigorous Councils. Many of the Presidents and Executives have gone to positions within the National Health and Medical Research Council and senior positions in academic medicine throughout the country. This has continued the fine tradition of the Society in this area. Apart from the broad state representation, there has continued to be a wide discipline representation, with immunology, hypertension, renal, gastroenterology, endocrinology, oncology, biochemistry, pharmacology and physiology always being represented. There has been little representation on Council of haematology, cardiology, respiratory, neurology, obstetrics or surgery in the last decade even though papers in these disciplines often

are presented at the Society. A marked change in the composition of Council has been the greater representation of non-medical graduates. Jock Findlay was a lone representative of the non medical graduates on Council and became President in 1982. Jenny Savage, Nicole Partridge and Rob Sutherland continued the non medical representation. In 1985 and 1986 medical graduates were in the minority for the first time. Judith Whitworth in 1979 became the first female Director, and was an active and energetic member of Council till she retired as President in 1984. She has been followed on Council by Jenny Savage, Nicole Partridge and Janet Vial and Prue Hart.

The responsibilities of the Council have been broadened so that the organisation of the Annual Scientific Meeting and the publications of the Proceedings have been only one of several important activities of the Society. The most outstanding activity of this decade was the creation of the Public Affairs Committee. The first step to forming a more publicly aware Society was taken by the Directors of 1977, who agreed to lobby Members of Parliaments so that questions could be put to the Minister regarding medical research funding. Dr. John Funder organized the survival kit for Directors on medical research and State Committees were formed with the principal aim of getting support for increased funding and membership. Even at this stage the question of professional public relation lobbyists was entertained but not taken up. In 1978, the Minister for Health, Mr. Ralph Hunt, attended the Annual Scientific Meeting and was signed up as a member. This was the first of many valuable relationship with the Federal Ministers for Health, including Mr. Michael MacKellar, Mr. Jim Carlton and Dr. Neal Blewett.

In 1979, Prof. John Chalmers put forward the following motion:

1. That the ASMR set up State Committees that would include current Directors and other appropriate members of the Society in each state (honorary and senior members). These committees would have among their functions a responsibility for activities in relation to funding.
2. That the ASMR set up a standing committee for the funding of medical research, which would be a subcommittee of the Society appointed by and responsible to the Directors of the Society. The committee would include the President, President-elect, Chairman of each of the State Committees and as all would not be able to attend frequent meetings there would be additionally on the committee a nucleus of members based in one city at any one time, initially in Melbourne, but able to change location as appropriate. The nucleus would include two current Directors from that state who would be members of the Executive, where possible, two members of the Society who came from research institutes and two other members of the Society not working within institutes. One of these members should in the first instance be Dr. John Funder, who would be the initial convenor. The Subcommittee would have power to co-opt and the Directors power to appoint additional members. All documents relating to funding for this Standing Committee would be circulated to all State Committees and to all Directors.

The third motion seeking third tier support as enlisted in Canada was also passed at the Annual General Meeting.

These resolutions led to the formation of the Public Affairs Committee which worked effectively under the inspired guidance of Dr. John Funder. The initial membership included John Coghlan, Jock Findlay, John Eisman, Graham Mitchell, Geoff Duggin and Roger Dawkins. Chairmanship of the PAC was transferred to Jock Findlay in 1983 and Judith Whitworth in 1985. It

was this group that worked to establish effective lobbying with the Federal Minister of Health and other Federal Ministers and Members of Parliament as well as the Department of Health. It also was to orchestrate activities such as letter writing by the membership to Federal Politicians, as well as a direct approach to specific and sympathetic Members of Parliament. It was through this Committee that a centralised unified lobbying activity for medical research was initiated. Undoubtedly as a result of the work of this committee the 1980's saw continued and successive increases in medical research funding. It is pleasing to report that since 1976 there have been real increases in National Health and Medical Research funding. The reduction in funding suffered in the 1975 budget has not been repeated.

It is with some pride that this increase in funding is a direct result of the work of the membership, Public Affairs Committee and the Board of Directors of ASMR. The Directors, usually the President, President Elect and Secretary have been most active in making direct representations to the Federal Minister for Health, other Cabinet Members and Members of Parliament. In addition, a friendly relationship with the Department of Health and National Health and Medical Research Council staff and members of the Medical Research Advisory Committee has been maintained.

FORMATION OF SUBCOMMITTEES

In 1981 the Directors set up a system of subcommittees to further involve individual Directors in the work of the Society. The subcommittees set up are as follows:

Policy Sub-committee constituted by the President, immediate past President, and President-elect. This committee worked on the policy of various issues concerning medical research including funding issues and worked closely with the Public Affairs Committee.

POSTGRADUATE SUBCOMMITTEE

This was to interact with post-graduate scholars concerning salary levels and post-graduate fees. It interacted with the union of post-graduates students and a variety of post-graduate student groups. It was active in providing a venue for medical research scientists particularly National Health and Medical Research fellows and Research Officers to meet at the Annual Scientific Meeting. A variety of issues concerning the anomalies in salary structures were identified and put forward to various groups, such as Federation of Australian University Staff Association and Council of Australia Postgraduate Associations. Nicole Partridge prepared a detailed document on relative salaries for science graduates in research lobbying against reintroduction of university fees for post-graduate students. This has been undertaken.

THE ROYAL AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS LIAISON SUBCOMMITTEE

This was to work in collaboration with the College and other societies and further encourage liaison with the South-East region. As a result of this, this Society invited Yau-huei Wei of Taiwan and Su-Wen Quan of China to take part in Annual Scientific Meetings of 1983 and 1985 respectively. These visits were sponsored by the Australian Development Assistance Bureau.

PROGRAMME SUBCOMMITTEE

This was to co-ordinate the organisation of the Annual Scientific Meeting and the publication of the Proceedings.

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

This was to oversee the finances of the Society.

APPOINTMENT TO GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES

John Funder represented ASMR on the National Committee for Medicine of the Australian Academy of Science.

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

The Society met each year and following a resolution in 1978 has continued to meet in the last week before Christmas. The main venue has been Canberra, although recently a policy has been introduced to alternate between Canberra and other venues, the first of which was Hobart in 1984 and second in Sydney in 1986. There has not been a dramatic increase in the number of abstracts submitted, usually being between 100-140 (Table II). In 1982 to accommodate more presentations, posters were introduced and poster discussions held with considerable success. These have become a feature of the Annual Scientific Meeting. The Plenary Lectures have continued to attract considerable support and in 1983 workshops were introduced and have continued to be extremely popular. These have looked at issues such as new techniques, research methodology and grant applications.

A feature of the Annual Scientific Meeting has been the award of the Champion Ma Playoust Award for the best presentation by a young investigator:

RECIPIENTS OF THE CAMPION MA PLAYOUST MEMORIAL AWARD FOR THE BEST
PRESENTATION BY A YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AT THE ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

- 1977 - F.C. Wilson, Clinical Immunology and Immunogenetics Unit, Cancer Institute, Melbourne VIC. "Retroviruses in Human Cancer".
- 1978 - J. Owens, Dept. Biochemistry, University of Queensland, Royal Brisbane Hospital, Brisbane QLD. "Dietary Vitamin B₁₂ Deficiency - Effect on hepatic Metabolism of Vitamin B₁₂ and methyl-tetrahydrofolate".
- 1979 - W.D. Tilley, Dept. Surgery, Flinders University Medical Centre SA. "Steroid Hormone Receptors in Human Benign Prostatic Hypertrophy".
- 1980 - M.J. Morris, Monash Dept. Medicine, Prince Henry's Hospital, Melbourne VIC. "Changes in Central Adrenergic Receptors During the Development of Spontaneous Hypertension in the Rat".
- 1981 - E. Sher, University of Melbourne, Dept. Medicine, Austin Hospital, Heidelberg, VIC. "Metabolism of 1,25-(OH)₂D₃ by the Breast Cancer Cell Line (T47 D)".
- 1982 - P.M. Jervois, Dept. of Medicine, Flinders University Medical Centre, SA. "Renal Function and Structure correlated with diabetic control".
- 1983 - P. Chick, University of Melbourne, Dept. of Surgery, Austin Hospital, Melbourne VIC. "Ontogeny of Gastric Acid Secretion in the Ovine Foetus".
- 1984 - D. Fenney, Dept. of Medicine, University of Sydney NSW. "Association between protease inhibitor and IgG (Gm) Gene Systems".
- 1985 - Ian Darby, Howard Florey Institute for Medicine VIC. "Location and Regulation of Angiotensionogen gene expression".

The AWT Edwards Memorial Oration has proved a major event at the Annual Scientific Meeting, it has combined medicine, science, philosophy and politics with an entertaining presentation by a distinguished Australian.

A.W.T. EDWARDS MEMORIAL ORATIONS

1975 - Professor David Maddison, Dean, Medical School, University of Newcastle, Newcastle NSW. "What's wrong with Medical Education?".

1976 - Professor N.F. Stanley, Professor of Microbiology, University of Western Australia, Perth. "Medical Research and Tropical Ecology - Global and Australian Scenes".

1977 - Sir Gustav Nossal, Director, The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Melbourne VIC. "Priorities in Scientific Research During a Troubled Age".

1978 - Dr. C. Kidson, Director, Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Brisbane. "Medicine and Man : Challenges in Several Worlds".

1979 - Prof. C.R.B. Blackburn, Professor of Medicine, University of Sydney. "Perceptions of Research: People, Projects and Priorities".

1980 - Sir Geoffrey M. Badger, Chairman Australian Science and Technology Council. "Australian Science and Technology Council's Attitudes to and Concepts of the Future of Medical Research in Australia".

1981 - Professor Gordon L. Ada, Professor of Microbiology, John Curtin School of Medicine, Australian National University, Canberra. "The Saga of Recombinant DNA".

1982 - Professor Roger V. Short, Monash University, Melbourne. "Contraceptive Effects of Breast Feeding".

1983 - Professor Bede Morris, Professor of Pathology, John Curtin School of Medicine, Australian National University, Canberra. "Unnatural Selection and the Destiny of Humanity".

1984 - Dr. Bob Brown, Tasmanian MLP and Conservationist and General Practitioner. "Space Age Society: Should we go back to the wilderness".

1985 - Mr. Robyn Williams, ABC Science Correspondent. "What is science here for - does anyone know?"

FINANCES

In the decade 1975-1985 income of the Society increased mainly through the subscription of members (Table III). In the 1970's contribution from sustaining members was equal to that from the membership, however the sustaining membership now represents less than a quarter of income, due to both the increased ordinary membership of the Society and to the contribution of commerce declining relative to inflation. An extraordinary large contribution from sustaining members occurred in 1984-85 when funds were donated to sponsor young investigators to attend a conjoint meeting with the Canadian Society of Clinical Investigators in Vancouver in September 1985. A fall in sustaining members in 1979-80 and 1980-81 was reversed by a campaign to enlist new corporate sponsors orchestrated by Dr. J. Whitworth.

Sustaining membership has been generously provided by 50 companies in the 1976-85. Continuous support for the 1976-85 period has been provided by:

Ciba Geigy Australia Ltd.,

Glaxo Australia Pty Ltd.,

Roche Products.,

Westpac Bank / Bank of New South Wales

and for over 5 years of the 1976-85 period by:

Boehringer Ingelheim Pty Ltd., Essex Laboratories Pty Ltd., Lilly

Industries Pty Ltd., Merck Sharp and Dohme (Australia) Pty Ltd., Parke Davis Pty Ltd., Sandoz Australia Pty Ltd., Smith Kline and French., Upjohn Pty Ltd., Cyanamid Australia Pty Ltd., Searle Australia Pty Ltd., Mount Isa Mines Ltd., Astra Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd.

Other companies who have provided support include Pfizer, Wyeth, Beecham, Roche Sirius, Drug Houses of Australia, BDH, AMP Society, Medos, The Boots Co., Abbott, William K. Warner, AHS/Australia, ANZ Bank, Commonwealth Banking Corporation, D.A. Book Depot Pty Ltd., Du Pont Australia, Fauldings Medical Products, INC Australia, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Nucleus Ltd., Pharmacia (South Seas) Pty Ltd., Syntex Australia, Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, Waters Associates, Travenol, Telectronics, Lederle, Ames - Division of Miles Laboratories, W.M. & S. Merrell and Company, Riker Labs Australia., Wellcome Australia,, A.E. Stansen., E.R. Squibb and Sons.

The cost of publication of the Proceedings have varied, as has the format for printing. An arrangement to have the Proceedings published in Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology and Physiology was terminated in 1982 due to cost to both the Society and Publishers. The Directors did not seek to publish the Proceedings in 1983, however in 1984 an agreement with the editor of The Australia and New Zealand Journal of Medical allowed the abstracts to be published by the off set method, without incurring the high costs of typesetting. Abstracts now appear as a supplement to the Australia and New Zealand Journal of Medicine together with the abstracts of other special societies which have an affiliation with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

The full costs of Meetings has always been difficult to compute, as differentiation of secretarial functions, newsletters, postings and

printing costs from general Society costs have not always been clearly defined. The figures shown on the table reflect revenue from registration and accomodation less accomodation and printing cost. Although this net cost has never been a major drain on the Society; general revenue always contributes to the Annual Scientific Meeting which still remains the main activity of the Society. Two identifiable expenditures never covered by registration for the meeting are the publication of the Proceedings and travel awards (Table III).

Travel Awards for young investigators are a major feature of the Society, that distinguishes it from nearly all other Medical and Scientific Societies in Australia. All young investigators who have an abstract accepted for presentation and who have no financial support from other sources are eligible for awards. In the late 1970's this was equivalent to an economy airfare. However, due to the large call on awards in 1979 and 1980 the Directors had to restrict awards to the cost of Apex airfares. Since then travel awards have cost less, except for 1984 when the meeting was held in Hobart. Young investigators can still receive equivalent to Apex return airfares to the site of the meeting. Due to costs, invited presentations at the annual scientific meetings by non members of the Society have been restricted. Directors expenses for the Annual Scientific Meeting are no longer met by the Society, although two meetings of Directors are commenced at this time.

With the expanded activities of the Society, a small travelling expense budget for the Public Affairs Committee and the Directors to make representation to government on research funding and other issues has been provided. Support for Medical Research Weeks and Animal Welfare publicity has been made.

MEDICAL RESEARCH WEEK

Victorian Medical Research Week (VMRW) commenced independently from the ASMR and was conducted by a group representing a wide spectrum of the Medical research community including the Institutes, Universities and Hospital Departments in Melbourne. In 1981 ASMR made a loan of \$500 to VMRW to purchase bumper stickers, with the phrase "Medical Research. A matter of life and health". These proved to be popular and were widely distributed at the 1982 Annual Scientific Meeting. In 1982 the Directors requested all State Committees of ASMR to consider organizing a medical research week in their states. 1984 was the first year that Medical Research Week activities were held in each state. These activities have become a major activity of the State Committees, which are autonomous, and have to take financial responsibility for their activities. Co-ordinating meetings of those involved in Medical Research Weeks were held at each Annual Scientific Meeting since 1983.

Victoria Medical Research Week convened by Dr. Bruce Scoggins has concentrated on a Hall of Health at the Westpac Bank, a dinner at the Victorian Art Gallery.

South Australia from a modest start in 1984, expanded to have the most enterprising week of all in 1985 with exhibits in Rundle Mall and a health fair at a local show ground.

New South Wales has had weeks since 1984, with very successful MRW dinners and Halls of Health within the city and suburban shopping centres.

Queensland had a conference in 1985 and a Medical Research Week dinner for the first time in 1986.

Western Australia held a symposium on Genetic Engineering together with a poster display in city mall in 1985. It is hopeful that activities will be expanded in future years.

Tasmania held a public lecture with poster display in the city centre. A successful Medical Research dinner also was held in 1985. Local press and media coverage was excellent. In view of the small numbers in Tasmania it was decided to stage Medical Research Week every 2 years.

Australian Capital Territory held a successful Open Day at JCSMR in September 1985 with excellent participation from school children. Again in view of the numbers their event may happen only every 2 years.

LIFE MEMBERS

Ms. Aileen Dempsy - 1976

Professor Barry Firkin - Foundation President of ASMR was elected to Honorary Life Membership in 1984.

Dr. John Coghlan was elected in 1985.

Mrs Ruth Lilian was elected in 1986.

USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

This has become an issue of wide public debate in the last decade. The Society has consulted widely, but particularly with Margaret Rose. Submissions have been made to the Senate enquiry of Animal Welfare. Contributions were made to Australian Physiology and Pharmacology Society pamphlet - "Why animals are used in medical research".

JOINT MEETING WITH CANADIAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL INVESTIGATION

In 1985, members attended this conjoint meeting in Vancouver B.C. Canada and presented abstracts and participated in 3 symposia, one on respiratory disease, diabetes and immune disease.

SECRETARIAL

Since 1976 the office of the Society has been based in the Royal Australasian College of Physicians at 145 Macquarie Street, Sydney. We have been fortunate to have the dedication and committed help of Ruth Lilian, who has performed all the secretarial, bookwork and conference organization for the Society. A true friend of the Society and all its members, Ruth always has concerns of the Society at heart, works long hours and is available 24 hours a day. The success of the Society has been made possible by her dedicated work.

BRUCE M. HALL

ARCHIVIST 1986

TABLE II

NUMBER OF ABSTRACTS FOR ASMR

YEAR	SITE	TOTAL ABSTRACTS	NSW	VIC	ACT	SA	WA	QLD	TAS	OTHER	NO. REGISTRANTS
1977	Cowes	100	21	31	5	12	17	11	1	2	
1978	Cowes	85	17	31	3	18	2	9	0	5	
1979	Thredbo	81	22	21	4	11	11	9	1	2	
1980	Canberra	117	24	37	3	21	16	13	1	2	
1981	Canberra	118	23	50	8	16	7	11	1	2	230
1982	Canberra	113	30	34	12	16	4	11	1	5	225
1983	Canberra	108	15	34	9	22	10	8	1	3	240
1984	Hobart	126	31	46	5	16	6	19	1	2	200
1985	Canberra	113	44	28	10	13	9	7	0	3	220

TABLE 1

FINANCIAL MEMBERSHIP OF ASMR

YEAR	TOTAL	NEW MEMBERS	NSW	VIC	ACT	SA	WA	QLD	TAS	NT	OVERSEAS OTHER
1977	529	43	171	121	11	70	69	68	5	-	14
1978	488	78	157	116	14	72	56	55	7	-	11
1979	555	88	170	135	15	87	74	58	7	-	9
1980	596	116	165	162	12	93	71	63	16	-	13
1981	603	81	165	177	14	97	68	53	17	-	12
1982	579	51	159	181	15	93	62	50	13	-	6
1983	663	120	171	205	22	110	72	52	18	-	13
1984	712	67	203	219	28	108	63	60	19	1	12
1985	718	97	235	215	28	83	66	60	20	-	11
1986	900		278	260	27	128	79	86	22	1	19

TABLE III

SUMMARY

FINANCIAL STATUS OF ASMR 1975 - 1985

FINANCIAL	MEMBERS DUES	DONATIONS + SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP	COST OF Proceedings	TRAVEL AWARDS	NET COST OF AGM	TOTAL NET FOR YEAR	FINAL BALANCE FOR YEAR
1975-76	5797	5300	-	6384	-410	772	15769
1976-77	5867	5400	1841	5366	+402	1963	15833
1977-78	9060	5500	2188	4992	- 48	4648	20481
1978-79	12318	5492	2370	7824	+127	4256	24737
1979-80	11668	3460	3542	13676	-791	-6404	18333
1980-81	16590	3000	6961	10609	+4650	-541	18454
1981-82	15543	5450	3730	4926	+617	+8308	23752
1982-83	20022	5750	5850	6227	-359	+7114	30890
1983-84	20919	6231	~4000	4049	-1641	+8894	38792
1984-85	20835	12000	~4000	11028	+2781	-649	41716