

President's report

As we embark on the ASMR's 60th year, life is still looking very different. A year on from the start of the global pandemic, we find ourselves incredibly fortunate to have the health and medical system and workforce that has provided frontline care, diagnostics, public health, infectious disease and policy response, and research from across the sector. While this list is not exhaustive, the point is that we have a highly skilled and adaptable health and medical sector in Australia that has responded to the situation at hand and the Government has been provided with evidence-based and expert advice to mount an effective response.

In the grand scheme of the global pandemic Australia has fared remarkably well compared to many other countries, while acknowledging the loss of livelihoods, lives and aspects of our valued way of life. As mass vaccination programs roll-out we must reflect on the rapidity with which numerous vaccines have been safely developed on the back of decades of prior research and think about the global health equity that is required, demonstrating what can be achieved if health and medicine, research, clinicians, researchers and health services are supported both

logistically and financially to effectively respond to health crises and reach timely health outcomes.

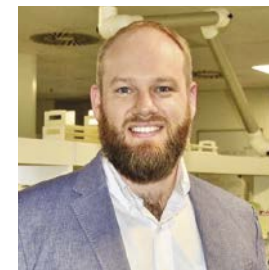
However, the issues that plagued the sector before the pandemic have now been magnified with large scale job losses, researchers forced out of the sector due to reduced funding opportunities and poor funding rates, and an increase in our highly skilled workforce leaving the uncertainty of the sector behind for better opportunities, or simply opportunities. Where other nations are investing in health and medical research, the Australian Government seemingly has little appetite to adequately support a sector that has been crucial for navigating the global pandemic as well as Australia has.

While job loss is a personal crisis for those affected, the longstanding insidious erosion of the health and medical research workforce and lack of funding for internationally competitive research across the sector is a major roadblock for discovery, innovation and translation pipelines, with far-reaching implications for health and economic outcomes.

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic there will undoubtedly be a new normal. The Australian public will demand better services from sectors

such as health and education, to combat diseases and provide preparedness for the next global crises, like climate change and further inevitable pandemics. This landscape requires serious, immediate and sustainable investment into the health and medical research sector. A sector that feeds innovation, a sector that drives discovery, translation and health policy, as well as providing the best evidence-based care to a healthcare system that rivals the best in the world.

Continuing to neglect investment into the sector places at risk the discoveries and knowledge that feed the pipeline to translation, policy, practice, innovation and commercialisation, while ultimately jeopardising possible economic, health and social benefits for all Australians. The ASMR continues to advocate for adequate and sustainable support of the health and medical research sector to empower research for a healthy and equitable Australia.



Dr Ryan Davis

Dr Ryan Davis, President,
Australian Society for Medical Research

In this issue:

President's report | 1

ASMR Medalist | 2

Parliamentary Friends Group | 3

Public Health Research: The importance of research to underpin health practice and policy | 4

A resilient health system demands support for health services and systems research | 5

ASMR Peter Doherty Leading Light Award 2020 | 6

ASMR International Research Award 2018 | 7

Calendar of Events | 8

ASMR Medalist — Associate Professor Kelvin Kong

The 2021 ASMR Medalist has been named as Associate Professor Kelvin Kong, Ear Nose and Throat surgeon from the Hunter region of New South Wales.

Associate Professor Kong is a man of action, the quintessential 'quiet achiever'. Growing up in a community where he and his family experienced both the conscious and unconscious bias of society towards black people, he could have taken an option less demanding than becoming Australia's first Indigenous ENT surgeon.

Kelvin's mother is a nurse and growing up in her house in Shoal Bay north of Newcastle, he found many in the local community depended on her to attend to cuts, bruises and other medical matters. He and his two sisters wanted to help her and actually fought over who would help the most. These experiences, as he grew older, made him aware of the differences in accessing basic health care for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. His social conscience was awakened and that led him to the medical profession.

He pursues his calling as an ENT surgeon and researcher with great passion and a deep understanding of the cultural needs of Torres Strait Islanders and Indigenous Australians.



2021 ASMR Medalist
Associate Professor Kelvin Kong

ENT surgeon, researcher, advocate, mentor and champion of improved ear health to close the gap

"If we can reduce the risk of hearing loss, we can have a direct impact on a child's ability to learn and develop."

asmr Australian Society for Medical Research
Public, Political, Scientific Advocacy

Join us at ASMR MRW® Gala Events to hear A/Prof Kong's inspirational story

Friday 4 June
Livestream to WA Gala Event

Monday 7 June
Live at NSW Gala Event, with livestream to QLD, VIC and SA Gala Events

Tuesday 8 June
National Press Club of Australia

More details on the ASMR website
<https://asmr.org.au/asmr-mrw>

Photo credit Brad Newton

A regular traveller to remote communities, his research informs his clinical practice and his cultural awareness creates an environment where patients and their families can feel comfortable with visiting a doctor.

Associate Professor Kong was drawn to the hip-hop music of the 1980s and '90s, which to him reflected the plight of people of colour. He said, "I think growing up in ghettos or vulnerable communities where there's a lot of social welfare, you can relate to the kinds of stories people talk about in that music". L'il Mike is his cartoon brainchild delivering a serious message about poor hearing and its lifelong impacts.

Together with audiometrist Marketta Douglas and the voice of Abie Wright, the hip-hop rap "Listen-Up" helps take away the fear of visiting a doctor and points out the signs of middle ear infections.

"If we can reduce the risk of hearing loss, we can have a direct impact on a child's ability to learn and develop. The change that we see is remarkable — we can take them from limited hearing and language skills to fully functioning teenagers with real employment prospects."

Please join us at an ASMR Medical Research Week® Gala Event to hear Associate Professor Kong speak about his inspiring work.

Parliamentary Friends Group

The ASMR initiated the establishment of the Parliamentary Friends of Health and Medical Research, which was formalised in December 2020, with an initial membership commitment from 44 MPs. The group is co-chaired by Dr Katie Allen MP (Liberal) and Clare O’Neil MP (Labour) and was launched on the 23rd of February 2021 at Parliament House in Canberra. The launch showcased some innovative home-grown research and was complimented by an address from Nobel Laureate Professor Peter Doherty. The Parliamentary Friends of Health and Medical Research represents a direct link to Parliamentarians to showcase health and medical research in Australia and discuss the issues facing the sector.



ASMR President Dr Ryan Davis welcoming guests to the Parliamentary Friends of Health and Medical Research launch.



Parliamentary Friends of Health and Medical Research Co-Chairs, Clare O’Neil MP and Dr Katie Allen MP, opening the launch.



Guest speaker Nobel Laureate Professor Peter Doherty, highlighted the importance of supporting health and medical research via Zoom at the launch of the Parliamentary Friends of Health and Medical Research launch.

As a former medical researcher I am delighted that on the 23rd of February Clare O’Neil MP and I launched the inaugural Parliamentary Friends of Medical Research.

It is intended that this group will provide a non-partisan forum for MPs to meet and interact with medical researchers and scientists on matters relating to medical research.

Before I became an MP I worked as a medical researcher for more than 25 years. It is no secret that Australia has produced some of the best medical research on the planet.

Our unique blend of Aussie character, of seeking opportunity but being resourceful by making do with what we have, can be seen equally in the corridors of our research institutes and universities as in the outback of our sunburnt country. But that research can step up further with more funding

Despite 75 per cent of national medical research projects considered fundable, only 13 per cent actually receive grants. Who knows what loss of productivity results from these unfunded and untranslated ideas generated in our own backyard.

We should be ambitious for our healthcare system. It is one of the best in the world. It is a unique and effective blend of public and private, where the private sector provides innovation and the public sector provides a safety net for all. Technology enables improved access for patients remotely and we need to explore healthcare systems that are better decentralised and more efficient — not just in our regions but in our cities too.

As our population inevitably ages, so too will the burden of the lifestyle diseases of the 21st century: diabetes, obesity, asthma, allergies and heart

disease. With an ageing population, costs will rise while the tax base to support those costs will narrow.

Our healthcare dollar needs to work harder. Most importantly, we need to incentivise preventive healthcare solutions rather than costly reactive ones. We need a strong economy to deliver the new wonder drugs that our scientists are now delivering to us at lightning speed to deliver better medical research outcomes.

I look forward to working with Clare O’Neil to help bring increased awareness to the power of research to the community.

Certainly COVID-19 has elevated how important medical research is and how it can keep our community healthy, safe and ultimately prosperous.



Dr Katie Allen MP

Dr Katie Allen MP
 Liberal Party, Federal Member for Higgins

It is a privilege for any Federal Member of Parliament when an institute of higher education falls in the bounds of their electorate. The true credit of course goes to the hard-working people within each institution, often working on ground breaking research, who are a credit to the communities where they live and work.

Indeed, it is a personal privilege of mine to not only have Monash University's Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Services within my electorate of Hotham — along with many of its employees as

my own constituents — but to also represent the professional interests of researchers as co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Health and Medical Research in Canberra.

Never has the important role of a medical researcher been more apparent to the wider population than now. Australia has watched as the COVID-19 pandemic brought about an incredible response from our nation's medical researchers. One that has paid dividends in record time, saving lives and livelihoods across the planet.

Australian medical researchers have been at the forefront of this effort globally and rightly deserve our immense gratitude and continued support. I will continue to support the advocacy of the Australian Society for Medical Research, and that of all Australian medical researchers.

Clare O'Neil MP
Labour Party,
Federal Member for Hotham
Shadow Minister for Senior Australians
and Aged Care Services



Clare O'Neil MP

Public Health Research: The importance of research to underpin health practice and policy

I've just come from meetings at Parliament House discussing with various MPs the Draft National Preventive Health Strategy. The draft strategy (submissions due 12 April) included some important potential reforms. The establishment of a target of 5% of Health spending being committed to public and preventive health, the need for the establishment of a mechanism to draw upon evidence to drive the allocation of such resources should we reach this target, and the principle of ensuring industries with fundamental conflicts of interest (think the alcohol industry for example) do not have a major influence on preventive health related policy.

An important part of the discussion was around the research effort needed to lead future policy and resource allocation in public and preventive health.

By way of illustration, on this same day the AIHW published a report on expenditure on the management of neoplasms. The report suggests that in 2015–16, health system expenditure on cancer and other neoplasms was estimated to be \$10.1 billion, comprising \$9.7 billion on diagnosing and treating cancer and \$409 million on the three national population cancer screening programs—bowel, breast and cervical. Further, a cost to the health budget of \$2.7 billion was attributed to cancer risk factors, such as high sun exposure, tobacco use and overweight and obesity. This makes up 42% of expenditure on the cancers known to be affected by these risk factors.

Research to tackle the behavioural and environmental causes of cancer are unlikely to be led by basic

science in the lab, although there are still many discoveries that may help tackle these challenges.

Much like Australia's successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the type of research that will have enormous impact will be, and has been, population health research. This focuses on human behaviour, systems policies and process that drive what we as humans do. Mathematic modelling of how different levels of restrictions would influence infection rates, what communications would best influence high levels of community adherence to restrictions, what processes were most effective for contact tracing, and timely analysis of infection trends across settings all helped Australia to 'destroy the curve', to paraphrase Michael Ryan, Executive Director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme



Adjunct Professor Terry Slevin

Population health research must guide advice to governments and politicians. Happily, Australia has proven to be successful and effective in this field in the last 15 months. This type of research will be essential to the successful role out of the various COVID-19 vaccines.

ASMR has an important role to bring together and create a voice for Australia's health and medical researchers. It is essential that the wide diversity of people who have dedicated their life's work to

improving health be recognised and embraced. The basic, bench and clinical scientists in the lab and the hospitals are fundamentally important to tackling the current and future health challenges for Australia and the world and are rightly proud of the successes they have had.

Population health researchers are similarly proud and successful. They are an essential part of the research community, integral to the efforts of the ASMR. Expanding opportunities to foster cooperation

and collaboration between the basic, clinical and population health research communities under the banner of ASMR will benefit all involved. But perhaps more importantly the knowledge advances achieved by this collaborative research will benefit the Australian community (who after all provide the funds!) and beyond to the international community.

Adjunct Professor Terry Slevin
Chief Executive Officer,
Public Health Association of Australia

A resilient health system demands support for health services and systems research

The COVID-19 pandemic created a global health emergency. Compared to other countries around the world, Australia has done a remarkable job in controlling this disease to date. This has been largely due to the rapid response from the Australian Government in providing immediate support to individuals, families, businesses and organisations affected by the pandemic, and a world-class health system that includes a national plan for pandemics.

The impact of this pandemic on both public health and the economy demonstrates the immense reliance on the capacity of our health system to respond effectively. For health services to meet people's needs into the future, the stronger the evidence base, the better equipped the system will be.

To date, investment in COVID-19 research through the National Health and Medical Research Council, Medical Research Future Fund and direct grants

from government have largely focused on clinical and epidemiological research. However, research that focuses on health policy, health economics and more directly on the structure and function of the health system is urgently needed.

Such research will allow Australian Governments to identify patterns within the health system and its policies, structures and effectiveness for better management of systems shock (COVID-19 pandemic), natural disasters (2019-2020 bushfires, 2021 floods), and slow burning longitudinal challenges (chronic diseases, increasing health system costs) in an economic, rigorous manner that incorporates the complexity of the problems we face.

In turn, evidence will need to be facilitated through organisational processes and direct engagement between practitioners, researchers, and policymakers. This requires sustained investment in research translation and implementation science through integrated and multi-disciplined

research networks that consider the many facets of the health system.

Attention must also be given to initial short-term and small-scale pilot-studies which are better assessed and funded locally as part of research in local health networks rather than via a national assessment process.

Health services and systems research is the enabler of a resilient, efficient and effective health system. With this comes a pressing need to support health research that will advance the Australian health system in the context of current needs and future shocks.

Adjunct Associate Professor Rebecca Haddock
Director — Deeble Institute for
Health Policy Research,
Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association
E: rhaddock@ahha.asn.au
Tw: @DeebleInstitute



Adjunct Associate Professor
Rebecca Haddock

Australia Day Honours

The ASMR would like to congratulate all the Prominent Medical Researchers who were recognised for their contribution in this year's Australia Day Honours. In particular our longstanding member and supporter, Professor Roger Reddel, who was named as an Officer of the Order of Australia.

ASMR Peter Doherty Leading Light Award 2020

Antibiotics are critical for the treatment of infection caused by bacteria. Inappropriate use of antibiotics has led to a rise in the prevalence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria (also known as superbugs) in Australia and other parts of the world. According to the United Nations, drug-resistant infections are expected to kill ten million people annually by 2050 if no immediate action is taken. The rapid rise in resistance is alarming and there is an urgent need to identify new ways to combat multidrug-resistant microbes.

An exciting prospect is the possibility to harness our own immune system as a source of disease-fighting antimicrobial proteins. Disease-fighting proteins are produced by cells and tissues within our body in response to an infection. The ASMR Peter Doherty Leading Light Award was awarded for my work on the identification of immunity-related GTPase B10 and guanylate-binding proteins in the activation of immunity to bacteria. These “killer” proteins are capable of seeking out invading bacteria hiding within our body cells. These proteins cause damage to the outer layer of the bacteria, instantaneously killing the target. This process

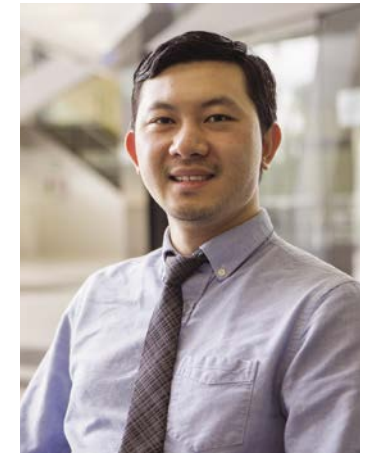
prevents proliferation of the invaders, but also break these pathogens down to smaller pieces that can be readily recognised by other immune sensors. In doing so, a coordinated immune response is triggered to enhance our body’s ability to fight and control the spread of the infection.

Our lab at the John Curtin School of Medical Research at the Australian National University has found that killer proteins pick and choose the type of invaders they attack. Further work by others in the field has revealed that killer proteins can attack and kill viruses, fungi and parasites. How killer proteins sense different types of invaders is an exciting area of future research because it will inform the design and development of more specific antimicrobials. Killing only the bad bacteria while leaving the good bacteria untouched is important because wiping out good bacteria can have devastating health consequences. We believe boosting the availability of killer proteins in the infected tissue or administering synthetic killer proteins are some of the ways in which novel immunotherapies could be developed, with the goal of reducing the spread of superbugs.

It is an incredible honour to be a recipient of the ASMR Peter Doherty Leading Light Award. I met Professor Doherty when I was a Postdoctoral Fellow at St Jude Children’s Research Hospital, USA, where Professor Doherty holds an Emeritus faculty position. I still remember vividly the day he invited Postdoctoral Fellows within the Department of Immunology to a meet-and-greet session. He shared his own scientific journey, including his earlier days at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, a place where I ended up establishing my own research group. Professor Doherty is a strong supporter of early-mid career researchers and his work in science and public service continues to inspire me.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank ASMR for this visionary initiative with the aim of recognising young researchers and for supporting our work in health and medical research.

Professor Si Ming Man
John Curtin School of Medical Research, ANU
Winner of the ASMR Peter Doherty
Leading Light Award 2020



Professor Si Ming Man

Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) audit of Health’s Management of the Medical Research Future Fund

The ASMR is calling for relevant information pertaining to the governance, management and execution of the Medical Research Future Fund to support an ASMR submission to the audit. Information can be provided anonymously to the ASMR or directly to the ANAO portal. Final deadline for information to the ASMR is Friday 14 May and final deadline for submission to the ANAO is 31 May.

The **ASMR Peter Doherty Leading Light Award** seeks to recognise the outstanding work of mid-career researchers (5- to 12-year post-doctoral) in Australia. Assessment is based on the impact of a single piece of work, including advances in knowledge, improvements in clinical practice or broader policy changes. Applications from all fields of health and medical research are encouraged, but applicants must be an ASMR member at the time of application. For more information, see: <https://asmr.org.au/research-awards>

ASMR International Research Award 2018

I am a fetal and neonatal physiologist and my research is focussed on understanding how pregnancy complications affect development of the fetal lung and identifying strategies to help compromised babies successfully make the transition from fetal to newborn life. I received an ASMR International Research Award which enabled me to spend 3 months in early 2018 working in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) with Professor Arjan te Pas and his team at the Leiden University Medical Centre in the Netherlands. During this time, I was integrated into the routine clinical care of babies and translational research being undertaken in the NICU.

The main purpose of my visit was to work as part of the team with Professor te Pas and Dr Janneke Dekker leading a clinical trial focussed on improving the transition to spontaneous breathing at birth in premature babies. This trial was based on translating pre-clinical findings from our team's synchrotron imaging experiments. The randomised controlled trial investigated the effect of initial concentration of oxygen used during resuscitation at birth in premature babies to promote them to breathe better on their own and improve oxygenation in the delivery room. These findings were very positive and the next step will be to combine this new knowledge into a bundle of care and compare the outcome to current clinical practices.

During the trip, I look every opportunity to share my research with others at both the Leiden University Medical Centre and at the Erasmus Medical Centre in Rotterdam. I was able to share my knowledge of pre-clinical studies and clinical situations observed during my visit during a delivery room audit to obstetricians, neonatologists and paediatricians focussing on improving the cardiorespiratory transition at birth. The discussions during my visit resulted in 2 new ongoing collaborations between our teams focussed on gaining pre-clinical evidence using interventions targeted both antenatally and at birth to improve the transition from fetal to newborn life. Our team at The Ritchie Centre and Monash University have focussed on generating the necessary pre-clinical evidence to improve newborn cardiorespiratory function which can then be translated into clinical trials with our collaborators. Being involved in this ongoing work is particularly exciting as it has the ability to improve outcomes for babies both in developed and developing countries.

As a physiologist with a strong background in pre-clinical research, the opportunity to be immersed in the clinical environment gave me an amazing perspective to shape my research focus as an Early Career Researcher so that I am investigating the most important questions to address newborn cardiorespiratory complications. It has been a



wonderful experience to be part of this ongoing international multidisciplinary research between our team of physiologists, physicist and clinicians sharing skills and perspectives aimed at improving newborn outcomes. I am extremely grateful to the ASMR for providing me with this opportunity which has continued to have positive effects in my research and I highly recommend to the ASMR ECR members to apply for the ASMR research award as it provides a unique opportunity to gain valuable experiences and skills.

**'Dr Erin McGillick,
NHMRC Early Career Research Fellow
at the Hudson Institute of Medical
Research and Monash University'**

ASMR Research Awards

The awards support a postgraduate student member of the ASMR nearing completion of their studies, or a recently graduated (three years maximum) postdoctoral member to undertake a short period of research in a laboratory outside of Australia (\$5,000) or in a distal laboratory (\$2,000) within Australia. Applicants for these awards must have maintained ASMR membership for more than 12 months prior to applying.

For more information, see:
<https://asmr.org.au/research-awards/>

Calendar of Events

ASMR

ASMR Medical Research Week® Scientific Symposia

Friday 4 June Victoria
 Wednesday 9 June Western Australia, Queensland, South Australia
 Thursday 10 June New South Wales, Queensland
 Friday 11 June Tasmania

ASMR Medical Research Week® Gala Events

Friday 4 June Western Australia
 Monday 7 June New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria
 Tuesday 8 June National Press Club luncheon

ASMR High School Careers Evening

Tuesday 8 June New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania

ASMR High School Quiz

Open from 1 May to 1 July

ASMR 60th National Scientific Conference

21 – 23 November Save the Date

Other

International Day of Immunology public lecture on COVID-19 vaccination

Australian and New Zealand Society for Immunology
 30 April 2021 (Virtual)

RACP Congress series 2021

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians
 Dates to be advised

62nd Clinical Update – General Practice: Cradle to the Grave

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
 1 – 3 May 2021 (Brisbane, Qld)

RANZCP 2021 Congress

The Royal ANZ College of Psychiatrists
 16 – 20 May 2021 (Hobart, Tas)

ANZAN 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting

Australian & New Zealand Association of Neurologists
 18 – 21 May 2021 (Virtual)

ANZCA Annual Scientific Meeting

Australian & New Zealand College of Anaesthetists
 27 April – 4 May 2021 (Virtual)

Pathology Update 2021: Re: Cracking the Code

The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
 2 – 4 July 2021 (Sydney, NSW)

ANZOS 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting

Australian & New Zealand Obesity Society
 20 – 22 July 2021 (Brisbane, Qld)

Joint Annual Scientific Meeting 2021

The Australasian Diabetes in Pregnancy Society, Society of Obstetric Medicine of Australia and New Zealand and Australian Diabetes Society
 23 – 25 July 2021 (Virtual)

ACEM Winter Symposium 2021

Australasian College for Emergency Medicine
 27 – 30 July 2021 Cairns, Qld

CSANZ 69th Annual Scientific Meeting

Cardiac Society of Australia & New Zealand
 6 – 8 August 2021 (Adelaide, SA)

2021 Australasian Diabetes Congress

Australian Diabetes Society and Australian Diabetes Educators Association
 11 – 13 August 2021 (Brisbane, Qld)

HGSA 44th Annual Scientific Meeting: From Promise to Precision: Beyond a 2020 Vision

Human Genetics Society of Australasia
 14 – 17 August 2021 (Adelaide, SA)

ANZSN 56th Annual Scientific Meeting

Australian & New Zealand Society of Nephrology
 30 August – 1 September 2021 (Virtual)

FSA Annual Scientific Meeting

Fertility Society of Australia
 15 – 11 September 2021 (Sydney, NSW)

RANZCR Annual Scientific Meeting 2021

The Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Radiologists
 16 – 19 September 2021 (Melbourne, Vic)

Blood 2021

Haematology Society of Australia & New Zealand (with the Australian & New Zealand Society of Blood Transfusion and the Thrombosis and Haemostasis Society of Australia & New Zealand)
 19 – 22 September 2021 (Adelaide, SA)

ANZORS 26th Annual Conference

Australian & New Zealand Orthopaedic Research Society
 October 2021 (Sydney, NSW) — Dates to be confirmed

Sleep DownUnder 2021

Australasian Sleep Association
 10 – 13 October 2021 (Brisbane, Qld)

ANZBMS 30th Annual Scientific Meeting

Australian & New Zealand Bone & Mineral Society
 12 – 14 October 2021 (Virtual)

Joint Annual Scientific Meeting

ANZ Bone & Mineral Society with the Endocrine Society of Australia and The Society for Reproductive Biology
 21 – 24 November 2021 (Melbourne, Vic)

AUPS 60th Diamond Jubilee Conference

Australian Physiological Society
 21 – 24 November 2021 (Gold Coast)

16th Congress of the Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists

Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
 22 – 25 November 2021 (Christchurch, NZ)

2021 AVBS Annual Scientific Meeting

Australian Vascular Biology Society with the High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia and the Australian Atherosclerosis Society
 23 – 26 November 2021 (Melbourne, Vic)

ASCEPT 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting: 20/20 Hindsight — creating a sustainable future

Australian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists for pharmacology and toxicology
 29 November – 2 December 2021 (Sydney, NSW)

42nd Annual SHMR Conference: Breaking Down the Silos

Society of Mental Health Research
 1 – 3 December 2021 (Hobart, Tas)

2021 — ASMR's Diamond Jubilee Year

Celebrating ASMR's long and proud history of public, political and scientific advocacy beginning with that first meeting of young scientists back on August 9, 1961 at Barry Firkin's home in Double Bay. The first ASMR Committee consisted of Barry Firkin (our first financial member) President, Gordon Archer President-elect, and Alan Skyring Secretary/Treasurer; Arnold Hunt, James McRae and Rodney Shearman were co-directors. These visionary young scientists stamped the society with the highest ideals and aspirations.

Affiliate Members

ANZAC Research Institute
 Australasian College of Dermatologists
 Australasian College for Emergency Medicine
 Australasian College of Paramedicine
 Australasian Epidemiological Association
 Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
 Australasian Gene and Cell Therapy Society
 Australasian Sleep Association
 Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases
 Australasian Society of Clinical & Experimental Pharmacologists & Toxicologists
 Australasian Virology Society
 Australia and New Zealand Association of Neurologists
 Australia and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists
 Australian and New Zealand Obesity Society
 Australian and New Zealand Orthopaedic Research Society
 Australian and New Zealand Society for Immunology
 Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology
 Australian Atherosclerosis Society
 Australian and New Zealand Bone & Mineral Society
 Australian College of Nursing
 Australian Diabetes Society

Australian Medical Students' Association
 Australian Physiological Society
 Australian Rheumatology Association
 Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
 Australian Society for Parasitology
 Australian Vascular Biology Society
 Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute
 Bionics Institute
 Brain and Psychological Sciences Research Centre
 Burnet Institute
 Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand
 Children's Cancer Institute Australia
 Children's Medical Research Institute
 Deeble Institute for Health Policy Research
 Ear Science Institute Australia
 Endocrine Society of Australia
 Fertility Society of Australia
 Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery
 Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand
 High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia
 Hudson Institute of Medical Research
 Human Genetics Society of Australasia
 Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute
 Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
 Kolling Institute of Medical Research
 Lions Eye Institute Limited

Mater Research
 Menzies Health Institute Queensland
 National Association of Research Fellows
 Nutrition Society of Australia
 Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia
 Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand
 Queensland Eye Institute Foundation
 Royal Australasian College of Physicians
 Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
 Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
 Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
 Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists
 Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
 Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
 Society for Redox Research Australasia (formerly Society Free Radical Research Australasia)
 Society of Mental Health Research
 Society for Reproductive Biology
 Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand
 Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand
 University of Queensland Diamantina Institute
 Westmead Institute for Medical Research

Associate Members

Arthritis Australia
 Australian Alzheimer's Research Foundation
 Australian Red Cross Life Blood
 Australian Respiratory Council
 Clifford Craig Foundation

Foundation for High Blood Pressure Research
 Haemophilia Foundation of Australia
 Heart Foundation of Australia
 Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
 Lupus Australia

MS Research Australia
 Scleroderma Association of NSW
 William Angliss Charitable Fund

Supporting Members

Research Australia



FOLLOW US

To keep up with all the latest information and updates on ASMR events, awards and activities join us on social media.



ASMR Directors 2021

Executive Directors

Dr Ryan Davis
 — President
Dr Daniel Johnstone
 — Honorary Treasurer/
 Honorary Secretary and Policy
Associate Professor Christoph E Hagemeyer
 — Sponsorship
Associate Professor Tony Kenna
 — Professional Development
Dr Lila Landowski
 — Media (Lead)

Directors

Dr Gautam Rishi
 — Membership
Dr Erin McGillick
 — Media
Dr Emily Colvin
 — ASMR MRW® 2021 (Lead)
Dr Dona Jayakody
 — ASMR MRW® 2021
 and NSC 2021
Dr Denuja Karunakaran
 — ASMR NSC 2021 (Lead)

Executive Office

Catherine West
 — Senior Executive and
 Chief Financial Officer
Katrina Christiansen
 — Administrative Assistant

ASMR State Branch Convenors

Mr Alireza Zarebidoki
 — ACT Convenor
Dr Nunki Hassan
 — NSW Convenor
Dr Kelly Avery-Kiejda
 — Newcastle Sub
 Committee Convenor
Dr Samantha Levin
 — Queensland Convenor
Dr Khalia Primer
 — South Australian Convenor
Dr Jenna Ziebell
 — Tasmanian Convenor
Dr Chantal Attard
 — Victorian Convenor
Dr Kimberley Wang
 — West Australian Convenor