

***ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR MEDICAL
RESEARCH***

1997

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***THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR
MEDICAL RESEARCH***

Office Bearers 1997

President:	Dr Kieran Scott
President-elect:	Dr Steven Wesselingh
Honorary Secretary:	Dr Judy Halliday
Honorary Treasurer:	Dr Matthew Gillespie

Directors 1997

Dr Philip Hogg
Dr Bruce Lyons
Dr Peter O'Loughlin
Dr John Mamo
Dr Robert Ramsay
Dr Jason Smythe

Executive Officer

Catherine West

Board Meetings - Schedule of Attendance by Directors:

November 23, 1996	Present	Dr Kieran Scott Dr Steve Wesselingh Dr Judy Halliday Dr Matthew Gillespie Dr Bruce Lyon Dr Rob Ramsay Dr John Mamo Dr Phil Hogg
	Apologies	Dr Jason Smythe Dr Peter O'Loughlin
November 26, 1996 (Extraordinary Meeting)	Present	Dr Kieran Scott Dr Judy Halliday Dr Matthew Gillespie Dr Rob Ramsay Dr Bruce Lyons Dr Peter O'Loughlin
	Apologies	Dr Steve Wesselingh Dr Jason Smythe Dr Phil Hogg Dr John Mamo
March 22, 1997	Present	Dr Kieran Scott Dr Steve Wesselingh Dr Judy Halliday Dr Matthew Gillespie Dr Bruce Lyons Dr Rob Ramsay Dr John Mamo Dr Phil Hogg Dr Jason Smythe Dr Peter O'Loughlin
July 4, 1997 (Executive)	Present	Dr Kieran Scott Dr Steve Wesselingh Dr Judy Halliday Dr Matthew Gillespie
September 26, 1997	Present	Dr Kieran Scott Dr Steve Wesselingh Dr Matthew Gillespie Dr Judy Halliday Dr Bruce Lyons Dr Peter O'Loughlin Dr Phil Hogg Dr Jason Smythe Dr John Mamo
	Apologies	Dr Rob Ramsay

PAST PRESIDENTS

THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

1961	BG Firkin
1962	AP Skyring
1963	RP Shearman
1964	G Archer
1965	J McRae
1966	AWT Edwards
1967	MR Playoust
1968	PJ Nestel
1969	PJ Nestel
1970	PA Castaldi
1971	JR Turtle
1972	WJ O'Sullivan
1973	TJ Martin
1974	JK Healy
1975	JP Chalmers
1976	AA Morley
1977	NG Ardlie
1978	A Basten
1979	JW Funder
1980	GG Duggin
1981	RL Dawkins
1982	JK Findlay
1983	JA Eisman
1984	JA Whitworth
1985	BM Hall
1986	GC Farrell
1987	RL Sutherland
1988	JG McDougall
1989	NH Hunt
1990	JJ Finlay-Jones
1991	MJ Field
1992	PH Hart
1993	WD Tilley
1994	CL Clarke
1995	S Clark
1996	Graham Mann
1997	Kieran Scott

Affiliated Members

Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes
Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists
 Australasian Menopause Society
Australasian Society for Free Radical Research
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine Inc
 Australasian Society for Immunology
 Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases
Australasian Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy
 Australasian Society of Blood Transfusion
Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists
Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy
Austrian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society
Austrian and New Zealand Society for Cell & Developmental Biology
 Austrian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology
 Austrian Association of Neurologists
 Austrian Diabetes Society
 Austrian Neuroscience Society
Austrian Physiological and Pharmacological Society
 Austrian Rheumatology Association
Austrian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Austrian Society for Psychiatric Research
Austrian Society for Reproductive Biology
Austrian Society for the Study of Obesity
Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand
Clinical Oncology Society of Australia
 Endocrine Society of Australia
 Fertility Society of Australia
Gastroenterological Society of Australia
Haematology Society of Australia
High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia
Human Genetics Society of Australasia
Paediatric Research Society of Australia
 Perinatal Society of ANZ
Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand
Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand

Supporting Members

Amrad Pharmacia Biotech
Biota Holdings Limited
Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharm. Pty Ltd
 C S L Biosciences
 C S L Limited
Eli Lilly Australia Pty Ltd
Johnson & Johnson Rsh Pty Ltd
 Pfizer Pty Ltd
Roche Products Pty Ltd
Servier Laboratories (Aust) Pty Ltd

Associate Members

Arthritis Foundation of Australia
Austrian Kidney Foundation
Austrian Cystic Fibrosis Association
Community Health & Anti-Tuberculosis Association
Haemophilia Foundation of Australia
Muscular Dystrophy Association of S A Inc
National Heart Foundation of Australia
National Multiple Sclerosis Society

President's Report, 1997 – Dr Kieran Scott

It gives me great pleasure to present to members the President's report of the Australian Society for Medical Research for 1997. This year, ASMR has been called upon to articulate the views and aspirations of the health and medical research community in a wide variety of arenas on diverse issues, in the most part, with great success.

POLITICS.

November last year saw the process of peer review in the disbursement of Cancer research funding in New South Wales under threat. ASMR, along with other individuals and organisations, worked both through the press and behind the scenes to firstly, restore grant funding for the 1997 and 1998 Cancer Council grant rounds and secondly to increase representation for active researchers on the newly constituted board of the Cancer Council. Specifically, ASMR now has a nominee on the Cancer Council Board written into the Cancer Council Act. The outcome is due to the broad representation ASMR now has through its membership, affiliated professional societies, foundations and supporters. This issue, along with political events occurring around the appointment of key NHMRC posts, once again highlights the continuing need for the research community to maintain an active interest at the interface between the conduct of health and medical research and the political process.

The 1997 Federal Budget round in May saw small increases in Government funded peer reviewed grants at a time of overall fiscal restraint. The increase in NHMRC funding was due to the efforts of Federal Health Minister Michael Wooldridge. For the second year running he was successful in arguing against cuts to the NHMRC research budget.

However, these successes occurred within the context of an overall contraction in health R&D expenditure through cuts to other schemes, notably industry incentive schemes in the 1996 budget. Of greater concern in the 1997 round was that forward projections on the NHMRC budget indicated a 25% decline in these funds over the next few years. These numbers along with recommendations in several reports of relevance to ASMR members (notably, the Mortimer review of business programmes which recommended cutting the CRC scheme), clearly show that overall, despite public statements, the Federal Government has at the time of writing (October, 1997), been unable to maintain previous levels of investment in health R&D. ASMR has publicly stated its position that status quo maintenance of Government expenditure on health and medical research is insufficient to adequately meet the needs of the Australian health system in the future. The 1998 budget round and the leadup to the next Federal election are clearly crucial times for us to get that message across at all levels of government.

In recognition of this need ASMR, with the financial support of our affiliated societies, associate members and supporting members, has expanded its lobbying effort with the goal of achieving the recognition from both sides of parliament, that investment in health and medical research in Australia needs to be increased. Specifically, ASMR believes that a healthy level of investment would be 5% of total health expenditure. ASMR also recognises that there is significant budgetary pressure on the peer-reviewed granting mechanism administered through the National Health and Medical Research Council. This is despite excellent outcomes, both in terms of public health and economic benefit in the past which can be directly attributed to research funded by this scheme. As part of the 5% investment target, ASMR believes that the NHMRC peer-reviewed grant budget should be doubled. This increase is necessary to adequately meet the challenges that advances in knowledge-based technologies will bring to the Australian health system and to adequately capture the economic benefit of national and international developments in health R&D.

The Society has also made representations on behalf of members and affiliates in several specific areas, notably the reproductive biologists in the federal political arena and those engaged in animal research, the conduct of which has been under political threat at the state level.

So, what of the future? The issue of research careers, is in my view, the one which clearly presents the greatest challenge for us. We live in times of great change in work practices in all sectors of the economy and health and medical researchers are by no means immune to this change. NHMRC salary scales at this point, clearly set the benchmark for remuneration for scientists and physicians involved in health and medical research. It is worth noting that what was once called the Career Awards Committee

of the NHMRC is now called the Fellowships Committee. The emphasis on career development is no longer obvious. Some argue there are good reasons for this in increased work force flexibility. The lack of salary supplementation for peer reviewed grant holders further exemplifies the changing role of Government agencies in maintaining a suitably qualified and rewarded research work force. If we do not formulate and articulate our views on these developments, the outcomes will continue to be determined by others.

SOCIETY ISSUES.

Financially, as our Honorary Treasurer Matt Gillespie will describe, at the National level, the Society has maintained a positive income relative to expenditure with expenditures in some states increasing over last year. These outcomes are acceptable in the short term given the Society is acting within an environment of expanded activities. Some progress has been made in the development of a business plan for the future. It is clear that for ASMR to meet the demands placed on it, the working capital base of the Society must expand to fund two crucial areas, public relations and importantly our own research capability. The days of a few people working late at night and on weekends to develop well researched and rationally argued policy positions on such complex issues as the health R&D workforce are numbered. Our membership will have to balance the benefits of a professionally resourced ASMR secretariat against our ability as a community to pay for it. The support ASMR has had in the last year has been remarkable. The challenge is to build a capital base which can sustain our current level of activity.

All categories of membership have grown this year under the stewardship of Bruce Lyons. In particular, through our Associate membership category, ASMR now has a formal relationship with nine Foundations supporting health and medical research.

Our public affairs activities through Medical Research Week continue to grow in all states. Thanks to all of the state committee members who made this happen this year. Australia's health and medical researchers owe you a debt of gratitude for your time and effort. To Peter O'Loughlin and his committee, thank you for your efforts in organising the Adelaide national meeting. Next year's Medical Research Week is set to be a greater success with the national public lecture tour by our 1996 Nobel Prize winner Prof. Peter Doherty. Many thanks to Matt Gillespie and Rob Ramsay for coordinating this tour.

Communication, under the control of Rob Ramsay, our extremely patient newsletter editor and our Western Australian Director John Mamo, has continued to underpin the efforts of the Society at all levels. This is particularly true for direct communication with our membership which has become much more effective through extensive use of E-mail. This development has allowed the Board to disseminate and obtain information from our membership rapidly which is crucial in the coordination of political campaigns. On that issue many thanks to those members who have given of their time to provide advice and support to the board. It is this element which gives ASMR its strength. The ASMR home page ([http: etc](http://etc)), a Matt Gillespie initiative, has now become a successful mechanism for ASMR to provide information to our membership, particularly our international members and to the world at large.

I would like to thank the 1997 board for their efforts, particularly our Executive Secretary and Careers Committee convenor, Judy Halliday. Thanks also to Jason Smythe and our retiring board member, Philip Hogg. Although only eight in number this year, they have served the Society with enthusiasm, patience and good humour (on most occasions). I also particularly thank our Executive Officer Cath West for her efforts on behalf of ASMR. Finally, I wish Steve Wesselingh and his new board every success in 1998. The affairs of the Society are in good hands!

Kieran Scott,
President

ASMR Annual General Meeting

Tuesday November 25, 1997
4pm to 5pm
Adelaide Convention Centre

AGENDA

1. **Welcome to all Members and Apologies - Dr Kieran Scott**
2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday November 26, 1996 - Dr Kieran Scott**
3. **President's Report - Dr Kieran Scott**
4. **Treasurer's Report - Dr Matthew Gillespie**
5. **ASMR Research Fund - Dr Matthew Gillespie**
6. **Reports from Subcommittees**
 - a) **Research Careers - Dr Judy Halliday**
 - b) **Membership - Dr Bruce Lyons**
 - c) **Public Relations /Communications & Publications - Dr R Ramsay**
 - d) **State Report - Dr Kieran Scott**
 - e) **National Scientific Conference 1997 - Dr Peter O'Loughlin**
7. **Venue for the National Scientific Conference 1998 - Dr Bruce Lyons**
8. **The National Scientific Conference 1999 - Dr Steve Wesselingh**
9. **General Business**
10. **Office Bearers for 1998**

**Judy Halliday
Honorary Secretary**

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH HELD AT THE ANA HOTEL, GOLD COAST, QUEENSLAND ON NOVEMBER 26, 1996 COMMENCING AT 3PM

Item 1 - Welcome to all Members and Apologies

Dr Graham Mann, ASMR President 1996, opened the meeting, welcoming members and accepting apologies from - Professor Barry Firkin, Professor John Funder, Dr Stella Clarke, Dr Wayne Phillips, Dr Suzanne Ollerenshaw, Dr Peter Leedmam, Dr Steve Wesselingh, Dr Sue Tett, Dr Gary Buffinton, Dr John Mamo and Ruth Lillian.

Item 2 - Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday November 28, 1995

Dr Julie Mercer moved that the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of November 28, 1995 be accepted as a true and accurate reflection of that Meeting and this was seconded by Dr Judy Halliday.

Item 3 - President's Report - Dr Graham Mann

Dr Graham Mann spoke of the full agenda for the Meeting and the need for brief reporting in order to deal with voting on the Resolutions to amend the Articles of Association. Referring to the President's Report, contained within the conference documents, Dr Mann highlighted events and activities of the past year.

With the change of government, Dr Mann said, there was a strong possibility that funding for medical research could face the fiscal restraints applied to other areas of the economy. This did not occur and there have been real gains in direct funding to NHMRC. ASMR can take pleasure in this outcome having been heavily involved in pressuring, explaining the value of and lobbying for, health and medical research as have others including members of NHMRC and MRC. The Minister, Dr Michael Wooldridge, as a member of the Expenditure Review Committee, was well placed to defend his budget and we thank him for his commitment and support. Dr Mann spoke of the problem of university funding cuts, the impact of this on health and medical research and of reduced incentives for research in the business sector. ASMR, Dr Mann said, applauds efforts across the board to improve direct funding to health and medical research but must continue to monitor the whole picture and avoid complacency about the future.

Dr Mann referred to the Office of NHMRC and its improved status. Dallas Ariotti, the senior bureaucrat in NHMRC, is a First Assistant Secretary within the Department and this is seen as a positive move for continuous and better service.

Membership, Dr Mann reported, has been growing consistently and the affiliation process is working well. There are now thirty three specialist scientific societies affiliated with ASMR, representing 12,500 declared researcher members. The Society, Dr Mann said, is on a firm financial footing and this is a significant turn around from the last few years.

Dr Mann, reporting on State Sub-committees, advised the Meeting that membership growth can be directly attributed to efforts 'on the ground' in all states. State branches are financially sound and levels of activity are increasing every year. State based organization of the NSC began in 1993; this initiative is successful both in terms of scientific program and the modest but significant profit to the Society.

In conclusion, Dr Mann advised the Meeting that it had been a very great pleasure to serve on behalf of the membership and that he was gratified by the progress the Society has made during the course of the year. Dr Mann thanked the Board for their support and Cath West, the Administrative Secretary, who has played a major role in the reorganization and positive steps the Society has made to run on a more professional basis over the past five years.

Dr Peter O'Loughlin moved that the President's Report be accepted and this was seconded by Dr Judy Halliday.

Item 4 - Treasurer's Report - Dr Julie Mercer

Dr Mercer referred to the audited accounts for the year ending June 30, 1996 and included with conference documents, particularly drawing attention to the extra income derived from increasing numbers of ordinary members and the projected, continuing 5% increase in membership per annum.

The Board, Dr Mercer said, has decided membership dues will be linked to the CPI.

Dr Mercer advised the Meeting that there had been an operating surplus of \$15,000 and a \$14,000 profit from the 1995 NSC. It was expected there would be a similar profit from the 1996 NSC. Dr Mercer extended congratulations to the LOC for both the 1995 and 1996 Conferences on this excellent result. Dr Mercer went on to speak of the policy and aim of the Society to put into reserve, 20% of the operating budget in order to build up a pool of funds equivalent to two years operating expenses. This year, the 20% target (\$25,000) has been met. Funds of \$80,000 have been moved into a high yield Term Deposit Account and the Society now has two high interest bearing accounts which can be manipulated according to cash flow requirements throughout the year to maximise interest earnings.

In addition to the national accounts, there is a summary of the Consolidated Payments and Receipts of State Branches which must be considered when assessing the finances of the Society. State activities this year have had a budget of more than \$100,000 and there are accumulated assets of \$105,000. ASMR is endeavoring to implement a system to make use of these funds to attract interest.

Dr Mercer answered a question from the floor regarding an amount of \$9249 classified as "Donation to Lobbying Effort", explaining that these funds were solicited from various sources to assist with the opinion poll conducted late 1995.

Dr Graham Mann moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted and this was seconded by Dr Bruce Lyons.

Item 5 - ASMR Research Fund - Dr Julie Mercer

Dr Mercer advised the Meeting that the Fund was established some years ago to support research activities. Owing to accounting 'sloppiness' over a period of time, it was deemed necessary to halt operations for two years to allow the accounts to be put in order; these matters have been addressed. The Research Fund has a current balance \$22,000 and it is the intention of the new Board of Directors to re-establish operations in 1997.

Responding to questions from the floor, Dr Mercer advised that it is anticipated subscription notices will include an option to donate to the Fund in 1997. Dr Mann advised there could also be an option to donate to lobbying; the two areas are not mutually exclusive and that he was confident an adequate audit trail had been established. The ASMR Research Fund, Dr Mann said is a standard, charitable research fund which has in the past been used to fund student travel to the NSC. Dr Kieran Scott added that the Fund is managed by a committee responsible to the Board of Directors and the Objects of the ASMR Research Fund list 15 options for which funds can be used.

Dr Mercer concluded by thanking Cath West for her work, particularly in facilitating an audit on the Research Fund and in the day to day running of the finances of the Society.

Item 6 - Reports from Sub-committees

a) Research Careers - Dr Judy Halliday

Dr Halliday reported that the Research Careers Committee has been looking at the results of a 'pilot study' survey. Questionnaires were sent out and distributed to Australian scientists working overseas in an effort to establish hard data on why and where they went, how long for, etc. The survey has 68 respondents; data received has been tabulated and is awaiting analysis over the next few months. The other activity of the Research Careers Committee this year is the instigation of discussion on hospital scientists; the challenges they face in the current funding climate, how careers are structured, job security, etc. This project is only just starting and is still very much in the discussion stage.

Dr Mann thanked Dr Halliday

b) Membership - Dr Steve Wesselingh

Speaking on behalf of Dr Wesselingh, Dr Graham Mann reported that the Society is maintaining good levels of membership with 1154 Ordinary members of whom 945 have resubscribed. ASMR has 33 Affiliate Members, the latest being the Australian Society for Reproductive Biology and 12 Supporting Members. We are grateful, Dr Mann said, to people supplying their email and electoral addresses. A new, non voting, category of membership has been introduced purely to improve links with the community, that of 'Associate Member'. Any community based organization which is involved in supporting health and medical research is eligible to join. Our first Associate Member is the Arthritis Foundation of Australia.

Dr Mann thanked Dr Wesselingh

c) Public Relations - Dr Janet Keast

Dr Keast reported that the beginning of the year saw activity as a flow-on effect of having data from the Newspoll survey. This data has been publicised fairly well throughout the research and broader community particularly in the lead up to the Federal Election. The major PR activity of any year is Medical Research Week with a lot of activity all around the country in that concentrated time span. There is an opportunity for input not only to media contacts but in government circles and it would seem a national approach is going to be a highlight of Medical Research Week for PR in 1997. Dr Keast advised the Meeting that a number of articles had been cheerfully written by volunteers from the committee and elsewhere for community newspapers and the like. Dr Keast thanked members of the Public Relations Committee and Cath West.

Dr Mann thanked Dr Keast

d) State Report

Addressed in the President's Report

e) Communications and Publications - Dr Matthew Gillespie

Dr Gillespie reported that the Newsletter is the first 'port of call' for most members and that he is planning on developing the Newsletter into the ASMR Home Page. Good links have been established with other networks including the University of New South Wales which has excellent grant and postgraduate information available. Dr Gillespie said it was his intention to catalogue for access through the ASMR Home Page, information about the Society, Directors, career information, submissions, annual reports, calendar of events, back copies of the newsletter, draft documents, etc. Links have been established to Affiliated and other Societies and Supporting Members.

Dr Mann thanked Dr Gillespie on behalf of the Board and the Membership for his efforts in getting the Home Page on line.

Dr Graham Mann moved that the Subcommittee Reports be accepted and this was seconded by Dr Rob Ramsay

f) National Scientific Conference 1996 - Dr Paul Bates

Dr Bates reported that the target of 250 registrants for the National Scientific Conference had been reached and that it seemed profit from the meeting would be similar to that of the 1995 NSC.

Dr Graham Mann congratulated the LOC and moved that the NSC 1996 Report be accepted; seconded by Dr Peter O'Loughlin.

Item 7 - Motions to amend Articles of Association

Dr Mann referred to the Articles of Association adopted in 1969 when the Society was incorporated and the series of Motions to be considered by the Meeting. One of the key elements cemented into the Articles was that ASMR should be a young persons organization. There are two categories of membership, Ordinary and Senior. Ordinary members **only** may be Directors of the Society; Ordinary members must be under 40 at the time of joining; at the end of the calendar year in which they turn 40 they become Senior members. Anyone who has turned 40 prior to applying to join ASMR joins as a Senior member. There is a broad consensus this is a good thing but it has been questioned from time to

time and the Board felt the need to test, in 1996, what the Society felt in this issue. Resolutions require a 75% majority to be passed.

After a process of consultation, including vetting by our legal advisor, it was decided the options on age limitations to go to the AGM should be to abolish the age limit entirely or alter the age limit for Ordinary Members from 40 to 45, Senior membership commencing at the end of the calendar year in which they turn 45. If both of these Resolutions fail, the status quo is maintained. The third Resolution is to extend the term of service from one to two years in the interests of continuity.

The final three proposals are basically to 'tidy up' our Articles of Association, formalizing procedures already in place -

- the size of the Board shall be no less than nine, no more than 11 Directors
- annual subscription shall be payable in advance on July first each year; termination of membership shall occur when a member has failed to pay their annual subscription within six months from the due date
- the new Board shall take over from the end of the AGM

Dr Mann explained the format of voting and called for a ballot to decide Special Resolutions 1, 2 and 3. The call for a ballot is the mechanism which allows Proxy votes lodged with Cath West at the National Office up until 4.30pm on Friday November 22nd 1996 to be included in the count together with members voting in person at the AGM. Proxy votes have been vetted and counted by the Administrative Secretary and the results kept confidential.

Dr Mann put the Motion to adopt Special Resolution 1 to the Meeting explaining that the effect of passing this Resolution would be to remove the age limit on holding Ordinary membership altogether, and abolish the category of Senior membership. If it is passed (by a 75 % majority) all Senior members would become Ordinary members at the end of the AGM and election to the Board of Directors would then be open to all members, regardless of age, starting in 1997.

1. Article 2(i)(a) - delete and substitute in lieu thereof the following new Article 2(i)(a):
"Ordinary members shall have demonstrated a genuine interest in health and medical research".

Article 2(ii)(a) and (b) - delete and substitute in lieu thereof the following words:
"All senior members of the Society as at 26 November 1996 shall become ordinary members".

Dr Mann asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the Motion.

Dr Marree Smith spoke from the floor, saying that she wished to speak against Resolution 1. Dr Smith addressed the Meeting saying that the one distinctive feature of the Society is that it is run by young people and this is one of the things which makes it so effective and she felt abolishing the age limit would destroy the Society.

There being no further comment from the floor, Dr Mann asked for a show of hands in favour of Special Resolution 1 - Dr Mann and Ms West counted 16 votes from the floor in favour of Special Resolution 1.

Dr Mann asked for a show of hands against Special Resolution 1 - Dr Mann and Ms West counted 29 votes from the floor against Special Resolution 1.

Ms West advised the Meeting there were 148 Proxy votes in favour of Resolution 1 and 127 against.

Dr Mann announced a total of 164 votes in favour of Special Resolution 1 and 156 against; the Motion to adopt Special Resolution 1 is defeated.

Special Resolution 1 having failed, Dr Mann put Special Resolution 2 to the Meeting saying that if it were passed (by a 75 % majority), Special Resolution 2 would change the current "40 year" age limit on holding Ordinary membership to 45. All members currently between the ages of 40 and 45 would be transferred to Ordinary membership, becoming eligible for election to the Board as of the 1997 round.

- 2 Article 2(i)(a) - delete the words and figures "forty (40)" and substitute in lieu thereof the words and figures "forty-five (45)".

Insert the following new Article 2(ii)(c):
"All senior members of the Society eligible to hold ordinary membership pursuant to Article 2(i)(a) above shall be ordinary members".

Dr Mann asked if anyone wished to speak for or against Special Resolution 2 - there being no comment from the floor, Dr Mann requested a show of hands in favour of Special Resolution 2

Dr Mann and Ms West counted 33 votes in favour of Special Resolution 2

Dr Mann called for a show of hands against Special Resolution 2 - Dr Mann and Ms West counted 14 votes against Special Resolution 2

Ms West advised the Meeting there were 237 Proxy votes in favour of Special Resolution 2 and 34 against.

Dr Mann announced a total of 270 votes in favour of Special Resolution 2 and 58 against; the Motion to adopt Special Resolution 2 is carried.

Dr Mann put Special Resolution 3 to the Meeting. The changes to the Articles in Special Resolution 3 would, if passed by a 75 % majority, increase the term of Directors from one to two years. The one year terms of the President, President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer would be unaffected.

3. Article 23(a) - add the words:

“Directors shall be elected for a term of two years and shall hold office (subject to Article 28) until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting in the second year following their election”.

Articles 23(f) and 23 (g) - to each add the following words:

“Directors so appointed shall hold office only until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election”.

Article 28 - by deleting the words *“so long as the vacating director would have retained the same had no vacancy occurred”* and substitute in lieu thereof:

“until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election”.

Dr Mann asked if anyone wished to speak for or against Special Resolution 3, there being no comment for or against Special Resolution 3, Dr Mann requested a show of hands against the Motion to adopt Special Resolution 3

Dr Mann and Ms West counted 8 votes against Special Resolution 3

Dr Mann asked for a show of hands in favour of Special Resolution 3

Dr Mann and Ms West counted 41 votes in favour of Special Resolution 3

Ms West advised the Meeting there were 10 Proxy votes against Special Resolution 3 and 263 for Special Resolution 3.

Dr Mann announced a total of 18 votes against Special Resolution 3 and 304 in favour; the Motion to adopt Special Resolution 3 is carried.

The last three proposed changes to the Articles, Dr Mann said, are to remove anomalies. Proxy voting was not made available and these will be decided by members present.

Dr Mann put the Motion to the Meeting that Special Resolutions 4, 5 and 6 be adopted and asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the Resolutions.

4. Article 14 - by deleting the word *“nine”* and substituting in lieu thereof the word *“eleven”*.

Article 14(c) - by deleting the word *“seven”* and substituting in lieu thereof the word *“nine”*.

5. Article 3 - by deleting the words

“The annual subscription shall be payable by all members other than Honorary Life Members and shall be due on the last day of the financial year. The date on which subscriptions fall due may be altered by directors from time to time”,

and insert in lieu thereof the following:

“Unless otherwise determined by the Directors, the annual subscription shall be payable in advance on the first of July for each year by all members other than Honorary Life Members.”

Article 4(b)(i) - by deleting the words:

“on or before the first day of July in the year in”

and substitute in lieu thereof the following words:

“within six (6) months from the date on”.

6. Article 20 - by deleting the words:

“at such Annual General Meeting immediately after the Chairman has announced the result of the election of directors”

and insert in lieu thereof the words:

“at the conclusion of such Annual General Meeting”.

There being no comment from the floor, Dr Mann asked for a show of hands in favour of adopting Resolutions 4,5 and 6.

The Motion to adopt Resolutions 4, 5 and 6 was carried unanimously.

Item 8 - Venue for the 37th National Scientific Conference 1997

Dr Mann announced that Adelaide would host the 1997 National Scientific Conference, November 23-26; Dr Peter O’Loughlin Convenor of the LOC.

Item 9 - Venue for the 38th National Scientific Conference 1998

Dr Mann announced that Hobart would host the 1998 National Scientific Conference; Dr Bruce Lyons convening the LOC.

Item 10 - General Business

Dr Mann thanked the Membership and Board of Directors, particularly Julie Mercer for a fabulous job as Treasurer, Peter Leedman for his great support, Janet Keast for an excellent job as PR Convenor this year and Suzanne Ollerenshaw. Dr Mann wished Dr Kieran Scott and the incoming Board every success for the coming year.

Dr Kieran Scott spoke of the enormous debt of gratitude the Society owes Graham Mann for his efforts over the last several years, particularly for his insistence that the Society work from a point of evidence based analysis and for this especially, Dr Scott thanked Graham Mann on behalf of the Society.

Item 11 - Office Bearers for 1997

Dr Scott announced the new Board Structure -

Executive

Dr Steve Wesselingh, SA

Dr Judy Halliday, Qld

Dr Matthew Gillespie, Vic

President Elect

Honorary Secretary

Honorary Treasurer

Directors

Dr Bruce Lyons, Tas

Dr Phil Hogg, NSW

Dr Peter O’Loughlin, SA

Dr Rob Ramsay, Vic

Dr Julie Mercer

Dr John Mamo

This year, Dr Scott said, we received insufficient nominations for the Board of Directors and advised that it was his intention to request Board approval to co-opt Dr Jason Smythe from New South Wales to provide adequate representation for the members in the coming year.

Dr Scott then welcomed Professor Judith Whitworth, asking her to address the Meeting.

Professor Whitworth congratulated Dr Graham Mann and the Directors for the wonderful job they have done for Australian medical research and said the role the Society plays in the national research effort is absolutely pivotal, thanking particularly Presidents of ASMR during her triennium as Chair of MRC, Dr Christine Clarke, Dr Stella Clark and Dr Graham Mann. ASMR, Professor Whitworth said, must take a lot of the credit for the good financial outcome over the period of the triennium and went on to remind the Meeting that the Society is far more than a lobby group for research funding; it is an authoritative voice able to speak on many issues relating to the research effort.

Turning to the NSW Cancer Council, Professor Whitworth said that events in NSW constituted a major threat to research and research funding and should be a cause of great concern to researchers, to all who have given their money in good faith and to anyone in the community who might hope to benefit from research. ASMR, NHMRC, MRC, the Australian Academy of Science, Professor Peter Doherty and others have expressed their strong support for the research community in this matter. Professor Whitworth explained that applications for grants through the NSW Cancer Council were called for by their Research Committee earlier this year. Applications were processed, as is usual, through interstate assessors, ranked at a Special Committee Meeting of the Research Committee and the top 25% selected for interview. The interview process took place and recommendations for funding grants went forward to the NSW Cancer Council for endorsement. Just prior to that Meeting of the Research Committee the NSW Cancer Council had a change of membership and structure; they have *declined* to fund grants recommended by the Committee. Applicants were told they should regard these applications as unable to be assessed. The majority of the Research Committee have resigned in protest; this is not a demarcation dispute between biomedical and behavioural research, it is a matter of abrogation of responsibility, denial of the peer review process and the legitimate expectations of those researchers who put in applications, the assessors and the committee who reviewed them and those people who have given money to the NSW Cancer Council.

ASMR must be critically concerned with what is clearly a move away from quality, peer reviewed science toward directed research.

Dr Kieran Scott thanked Professor Whitworth and went on to report that ASMR has written in support of the notions expressed by Professor Whitworth and will continue to advocate to bring this matter to an equitable outcome to all concerned.

There being no further business, Dr Scott closed the Meeting at 4.25pm



.....
Dr Graham Mann



.....
Dr Kieran Scott

Date: October 29, 1997

ASMR Financial Members on October 27, 1997

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CAVANAUGH Juleen
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POULIS P
SINNETT P F
VAN LEEUWEN B
WARREN H
WRIGHT L
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ADAMS I
ADAMS Linda
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ANDERSON S D
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BROWN Louise
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BYRNE Scott
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CAMPBELL T
CAPES A
CASTALDI P
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CHAMBERLAIN Coral
CHAN-LING T
CHAPMAN B L
CHAUDRI G
CHIEW Y
CHISOLM D J
CHONG B
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CLARKE C
COLLINS S
CONIGRAVE A
COOPER D A
CORONEO M
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de FAZIO A
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DOS REMEDIOS C
DUDMAN N P
DUGGIN G G
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EISMAN J A
ELLIOTT N
FARRELL G C
FAVALORO E
FIELD M
FIELD Susan
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FLETCHER A
FLETCHER P
FREEDMAN S B
GALA S

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GANDEVIA S
GARDINER E
GECZY C
GIBBONS K
GIBSON K
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GILLIES Donna
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KINGSTON D
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KORNER P I
KRAEGEN E
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LEONG Gary
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ALDERUCCIO F
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ANDERSON R
ANDERSON W P
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de JONG Tanya
De KRETZER D M
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FENNESSY P
FINDLAY J K
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FRAENKEL M
FRAMPTON R J
FRASER Simon
FRAUMAN A
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GARGETT C
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GERDPRASERT O
GIBSON P
GILLESPIE M
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GRGACIC E
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HASTINGS J
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HEIERHORST Joerg
HELME R
HERTAN Ruth
HONEYMAN Margo
HOOPER S
HORNE R
HOUSE Colin
HUMPHERY T J
JAMIESON G
JANUS E
JERUMS G
JOHNSON E
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KNIGHT K
KURUPPU D
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LAMBERT J R
LARKINS R
LENAGHAN Catherine
LI H
LIU J P
LOVELAND K
LOWE M
LUDBROOK J
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MAJEWSKI H
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REKARIS G
RICE G
RISBRIDGER G
RISTEVSKI S
ROBBIE Melissa
RODDA C
ROGERS P
ROGERSON Fraser
ROSE I
RUMBLE Baden A
SALAMONSEN L
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SAPOUNTZIS Katrina
SAVIGE J
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SCHNEIDER H
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SEXTON P M
SHAW J M
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SHULKES A
SINCLAIR A
SITTE Karin
SMALL D
SMITH C
SMITH I L
STEBBING Peter
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STEWART A G
STOKES K
STOREY E
SWEET B
TACHAS G
TEMELCOS D
THOMAS G
THOMAS Walter

THOMSON N M
TIPPING P G
TOH Ban Hock
TREGEAR G W
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VOLLENHOVE B
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WARK J
WARNE G
WARREN William
WAXMAN B
WEBSTER L
WELLARD M
WERTHER G
WHEAT Heather
WINTOUR-COGLAN E M
WLODEK M
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ZHAO L
ZHOU H
ZHU Xiang
ZORBAS Michelle

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ZEPS Nikolajs

Overseas

ALPERS M P
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GREEN S
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WALTHAM M
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Life

CHALMERS J

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DEMSEY E
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NOSSAL G J