

ANNUAL REPORT

November 2007

The Australian Society for Medical Research ACN 000 599 235 ABN 18 000 599 235 145 Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000

A/Prof Maria Kavallaris

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2007

The Year In Review

I am proud and honoured to have been the ASMR President in 2007 and to have had the opportunity to represent you and further the cause of health and medical research in Australia. 2007 has been an exciting and productive year for the Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR). We have launched and continued many important initiatives to build recognition for the social and economic value of health and medical research.

Australia has seen strong economic growth over recent years and Federal Government support for health and medical research (HMR) is currently high. The Federal Budget this year reflected this support with the allocation of an additional \$435.8 million dollars for specific infrastructure funding for medical research facilities around the country. Increases to the NHMRC (announced in the 2006 Federal Budget) have started to take effect with an increase in the number of successful project grant applications funded, ~27% for the 2008 round, compared to 21% for the 2007 round.

The ASMR is acutely aware that current funding models for HMR are cyclical and unpredictable and key investments in research and researchers can lead to economic and knowledge-based loss if funding is not sustained. History tells us that the trend of support HMR is currently enjoying is unlikely to continue indefinitely. In order to respond to current and emerging health issues we need a well-defined approach to ensure sustainable future funding for health and medical research.

This year ASMR spearheaded an important initiative aligned with our strategy to maintain HMR funding and ensure that Australian research continues to achieve at a high international standard while delivering clear health and economic outcomes for this country. A forum organised by ASMR in April this year entitled "The Future of Medical"

Research:
Sustainable
Funding Model" was held to define and commence developing sustainable funding strategies that incorporate realistic and achievable mechanisms allowing government-dependent and independent



investment in HMR to flourish. Participants for this forum were drawn from diverse fields including expertise in medical research, biotechnology, venture capital, tertiary education, policy, public health, government and non-government research agencies, and philanthropy. One outcome of the Forum was a clear understanding that future increased funding needs must be clearly articulated and justified. Driving this forward, the ASMR Board has been actively working throughout the year to strategically position HMR and has commissioned Access Economics to model current and future economic benefits of continued investment in HMR. This valuable report to be completed in 2008, will act as a springboard for a focused political and public campaign for sustained support for health and medical research.

In late 2006, ASMR commissioned the University of Queensland Social Research Centre to conduct a web-based Workforce Survey, to help understand and improve the career structures and conditions of Australian health and medical researchers in order to obtain data not previously available. Analysis for the ASMR Workforce Survey was completed early in 2007. Interestingly and of no surprise to many of our members, the data supported long-standing anecdotal evidence that lack of financial support and employment

President's Report continued

insecurity are two of the major issues facing HMR scientists and are the causes of a significant degree of dissatisfaction among the Australian HMR workforce. The quantitative data obtained from the survey is being used by the ASMR to lobby for support and improved policy and career structures for health and medical researchers.

ASMR Medical Research Week® held in June, is one of the Society's flagship events. Our dynamic series of state and national based activities enabled us to continue our wellattended scientific, public and political outreach activities and highlighted the enormous benefits of health and medical research to the community. The extensive activities of the week were published in a 2-page feature in The Australian newspaper. Throughout the week it was indeed a privilege to represent our society in six states and talk to many supporters, politicians and medical researchers about the value and importance of HMR. Media monitoring of the ASMR Medical Research Week® activities revealed that we reached a staggering 11.5 million Australians.

The ASMR Medical Research Week® Medallist for 2007 was Professor Axel Ullrich, a highly acclaimed scientist who has effectively translated his laboratory discoveries from the lab to the clinic. Professor Ullrich, Director of the Department of Molecular Biology at the Max-Planck-Institute of Biochemistry in Martinsried, Germany, has made multiple significant discoveries that have impacted on the health outcomes of people with diabetes and cancer. It was a particular honour to accompany Professor Ullrich, as he presented at ASMR Medical Research Week® events in Hobart, Brisbane, Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, and the National Press Club in Canberra, Professor Ullrich highlighted the need for continued government and corporate funding of HMR and reinforced this key ASMR message.

The exciting and diverse outreach activities during ASMR Medical Research Week® would not have been possible without the support of our members, friends and affiliate supporters, and of course, our tireless ASMR State Committees, ASMR State Committee Convenor and Public Liason Officer, Dr Emma Parkinson-Lawrence and ASMR Medical Research Week® Convenor, A/Prof Peter Eastwood.

ASMR continued its commitment for the advancement of HMR with the launch of the inaugural ASMR Professional Development Program. The program was conducted in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney in August 2007, attracting over 200 attendees. These very effective one-day workshops were specifically aimed at mid-career medical researchers 5-12 years postdoctoral. Highly successful Australian researchers generously gave their time, and shared their knowledge and experience at the workshops, professionally facilitated by Dr Moira Clay and convened by Dr Sarah Meachem. Grant funding from the Ramaciotti Foundation facilitated by Perpetual along with the logistical support provided by ASN Events allowed us to launch this Program. The ASMR will continue to run the Professional Development Program in 2008 and beyond.

In keeping with our specialised themes for the ASMR National Scientific Conference (NSC) in the intervening years between the biennial Australian Health and Medical Research Congress, the 2007 meeting on "Tissue Remodelling: Current Understanding and Future Therapeutic Targets" held in Katoomba, NSW has an outstanding program of speakers and has generated a high degree of interest to a broad range of disciplines. The meeting is convened by Dr Alaina Ammit and Prof Alastair Stewart.

An important initiative of our society is to encourage and foster multidisciplinary interactions and collaborations. The highly successful biennial Australian Health and Medical Research Congress (AHMRC) has become the largest multidisciplinary meeting in Australia. The 4th AHMRC to be held in Brisbane 16-21 November 2008 is already shaping up to be another outstanding success. ASMR Director, Dr Alison Butt is Convenor and A/Prof Greg Anderson, is the Scientific Program Convenor. Programming is well underway and the Congress will continue to deliver high caliber presentations and offer extensive opportunity for inter-disciplinary discussion. The theme of the 2008 ASMR NSC is "Epithelial Tissue Dynamics: From Stem Cells to Cancer". I am looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

Applications for the ASMR Research Fund Awards were once again, of a very high

President's Report continued

standard making judging extremely difficult. ASMR has this year made two awards for travel and research collaboration by junior researchers. Dr Di Yu from the Division of Immunology and Genetics, JCSMR, ANU will be visiting the laboratory of A/Prof Chang-Zheng Chen at Stanford University School of Medicine in the United States to learn cutting edge bioinformatic and molecular techniques. Ms Adele Lehane from the School of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, ANU has been invited to attend the laboratory of Prof Geoff McFadden, the School of Botany, University of Melbourne to further her investigation of the antimalarial effects of the heart drug verapamil.

Looking back over the past twelve months and all that we have achieved and instigated, it is clear that ASMR continues its leadership role for the advancement of health and medical research. Long-term sustainable funding without cyclical highs and lows, is critical to a dynamic and innovative health and medical research community. Our Workforce Survey has provided us with current quantitative data vital in influencing decision makers, and our sustainable funding strategy will maintain and build on the support that HMR currently enjoys. We do not have the luxury of time and therefore we are acting now! I urge you to maintain a sense of urgency (despite our current increases in funding) and use every opportunity available to you to promote the importance of long-term sustainable funding models not tied to the cycles of government or support of individual Government ministers. The ASMR will also continue to do this on our members' behalf.

In closing I would like to acknowledge the ASMR members, affiliate and supporting organisations for their continued support. There are many people who have provided assistance and advice throughout the year and I would like to specifically mention, Michelle Haber, Peter Smith, David Miles, Warwick Anderson, recent ASMR past-Presidents, Friends of ASMR and Marion Nash my Personal Assistant. Thanks to the ASMR State Convenors and their Committees for their enthusiasm and achievements throughout ASMR Medical Research Week. Special thanks to Mike Pickford and Maree Overall from ASN Events for their advice and professionalism. ASMR is grateful to the Royal Australasian College of Physicians who provide office space for the Executive Office.

The Society relies on the commitment of many individuals and I would particularly like to thank the ASMR Board and Executive for their support throughout the year. I am confident that as I pass on the Presidency to Dr Mark Hulett, I leave ASMR in very capable and competent hands. The ASMR functions as a well-oiled machine because of the enormous organisational skills of Cath West and Priscilla Diment from the ASMR Executive Office. Cath's in depth knowledge and commitment to the ASMR are unquestionable and I thank her for her friendship and guidance.

It has been a privilege to serve a forward thinking Society such as ASMR.

Best wishes,

Research, 2007.

Associate Professor Maria Kavallaris President, Australian Society for Medical

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ASMR Research Awards

There are two ASMR Research Awards, one specifically to conduct research in an overseas laboratory (\$5,000) and one specifically to conduct research in an Australian laboratory (\$2,000) outside the recipient's home city. Applications available early 2008. Consider donating to the Fund when paying your Membership Subscription.

Award Winners

2000	Miss Raelene Lim
2001	Dr Patricia Mote
2002	Ms Vanessa Murphy
2003	Ms Mary Kavurma
2004	Dr Richard Allen
2005	Dr Gabrielle Todd
2006	Ms Elissa Sutcliffe (Dom.)
	Dr Elke Hacker (Intntl.)
2007	Ms Adele Lehane (Dom.)
	Dr Di Yu (Intntl.)

PAST PRESIDENTS

4004	DO E:-1 :
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 1973	TJ Martin WJ O'Sullivan
1973	
1974	JK Healy JP Chalmers
1975	
1976	AA Morley NG Ardlie
1977	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	G Mann
1997	K Scott
1998	S Wesselingh
1999	MT Gillespie
2000	R Ramsay
2001	PD O'Loughlin
2002	PR Schofield
2003	MA Clay
2004	AH Sinclair
2005	BA Kingwell
2006	LM Khachigian
2007	M Kavallaris

Agenda - Annual General Meeting

Carrington Hotel, Blue Mountains NSW, 10:00am, Monday 12th November 2007

Item 1. Welcome and Apologies, A/P Maria Kavallaris Item 2.Confirmation of Minutes, A/P Maria Kavallaris Item 3.President's Report, A/P Maria Kavallaris Item 4.Treasurer's Report, Dr Mark Hulett Item 5. ASMR Research Fund, Dr Mark Hulett

- i) Announcement of Research Award Winners 2007
- ii) Research Award Winners 2006

Item 6.Subcommittee Reports

- a) Research Careers, Dr Sarah Meachem
 - i) Workforce Survey
 - ii) Continuing Professional Development,
- b) Membership, A/Prof J Alejandro Lopez
- c) Newsletter, Dr Gilda Tachedjian
- d) ASMR MRW Week®, A/P Peter Eastwood
- e) Media, Dr Emma Parkinson-Lawrence
- f) State Reports, Dr Emma Parkinson-Lawrence
- g) NSC 2007, Dr Alaina Ammit
- h)AHMRC 2008, Dr Alison butt

Item 7.Other Business, A/P Maria Kavallarks

Item 8. Directors and Office Bearers, 2008, Dr Mark Hulett

Honorary Secretary, Dr Alaina Ammit

Board Meetings - Attendance by Directors

November 26, 2006

Prof L Kachigian, Associate Professors M Kavallais, P Eastwood, A J Lopez, M Delatycki, Drs A Ammit, M Huett, S Meachem, S Nicholson, G Tachedjian, A Butt, E Parkinson-Lawrence, S Polyak

March 21, 2007

A/Professors M Kavallaris, M Delatycki, A J Lopez, P Eastwood, Drs M Hulett, S Meachem, S Nicholson, A Butt, G Tachedjian, E Parkinson-Lawrence Apologies: Dr A Ammit

July 26, 2007

A/Professor M Kavallaris, Drs A Ammit, M Hulett, S Nicholson, S Meachem

September 14, 2007

A/Professors M Kavallaris, A Lopez, P Eastwood, Drs M Hulett, S Meachem, A Ammit, A Butt, G Tachedjian, E Parkinson-Lawrence Apologies: A/Prof M Delatycki, Dr S Nicholson

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH, HELD AT THE MELBOURNE CONVENTION CENTRE ON NOVEMBER 29 2006.

Item 1. Welcome and Apologies, *Prof. Levon Khachigian*Prof. Khachigian, in the presence of the required quorum, opened the Meeting at 12:30pm, welcoming all present and announcing apologies from Drs. Reid, Tachedjian, Meachem, Scott, O'Loughlin and Prof Stewart.

Item2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the AGM, Monday 21st November, 2005, *Prof. Levon Khachigian*.

A/Prof . Maria Kavallaris moved that the Minutes of the AGM of November 21, 2005 be confirmed as a true and accurate reflection of that meeting; seconded by A/Prof. Rob Ramsay.

Item 3. President's Report, Prof. Levon Khachigian Prof. Khachigian opened his report by borrowing a line from Patrick Moore who said, "As from next week I'll do what Mark Twain did, I'll get my daily paper, look at the obituaries page and if I'm not there, I'll carry on as normal". Prof. Khachigian, the 46th President of ASMR, advised the meeting that it has been an honour to serve the Society and went on to speak of the activities of the past year and the role ASMR played in running a successful federal health and medical research (HMR) funding campaign, implementing several new initiatives as well as continuing the vital core business of the Society. The Federal Budget saw an

The Federal Budget saw an injection of \$905 million in funding for HMR. This increase did not take place by accident and ASMR, in the months leading up to the Budget, was at the forefront of

a tenacious, multi-faceted campaign involving members and friends around the country writing letters and visiting MP's. The Society was able to influence decision makers through numerous high level meetings and presentations, complemented by the grass roots campaign and judiciously placed Opinion Editorial pieces in The Australian and the Australian Financial Review as well as an editorial entitled "HMR: An Investment in our Future" in the Medical Journal of Australia. Prof. Khachigian referred to the contributions of previous Presidents and Boards of ASMR and the 2003 Access Economics Report, "Exceptional Returns: The Value of Investing in Health R&D in Australia" in achieving the successful funding outcome. He advised the meeting that, seven minutes after the 2006 Budget announcement, **Health Minister Tony Abbott** telephoned him from the Chamber to offer congratulations on the outcome. The next morning at the post Budget Breakfast, Tony Abbott referred to the Society as "true evangelists for HMR". ASMR was an active member of the HMR Funding Advocacy consortium together with Research Australia and the Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes. ASMR has an excellent relationship with NHMRC and its new CEO Prof. Warwick Anderson and has provided formal advice on matters of governance and accountability for that organisation. The Society has given evidence to the

Senate Community Affairs Bipartisan Committee on the Legislative Responses to the Recommendations of the Lockhart Review and made submissions to the Productivity Commission's "Science and Innovation Study", the "Australian Code for Responsible Conduct of Research" and in the last week, the 2007 Pre-Budget Submission called for adequate government funding to meet university infrastructure needs. ASMR was invited to participate in the NSW Premier's "State Plan-A New Direction for NSW and to serve on the Steering Committee on matters of HMR Policy for the NSW Office for Science and Medical Research. The Society is implementing new initiatives to increase political influence. The 'Friends of ASMR' will bring together non-scientist public and political advocates from the wider community and the "National Champions for Australian HMR" will celebrate the outstanding achievements of Australian HMR and provide additional advocacy leverage. Prof. Khachigian thanked A/ Prof. Maria Kavallaris and Dr Moira Clay for convening these two groups. This year, ASMR commissioned a web-based Workforce Survey. Prof. Khachigian reported that he and Dr Sarah Meachem in collaboration with the University of Queensland, have extracted some initial data which paints a sobering picture to the effect that 73% of respondents in active research have considered leaving for another career option. Of those who have

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left, or have considered leaving, a variety of factors were reported to have been considered in their decision making processes. 98% reported that the shortage of funding in HMR had been a factor, while 90% indicated the lack of career development opportunities. Prof. Khachigian reported on the national need for a Career Development Program and advised that he and A/Prof Peter Eastwood have been formulating a Career **Development Program for** implementation in 2007. A/Prof Eastwood convened the new "Coordinator State Committees" portfolio which has proven to be a valuable mechanism to integrate and cross-communicate the activities of ASMR in each state. The ASMR Research Fund this year, has made two Awards, one for undertaking a short period of research in a laboratory outside the applicants home city within Australia and the other for research overseas. Prof. Khachigian urged members to encourage applications for these prizes. ISTH Ltd have provided financial support for an online member directory which is now up and running. The directory, together with the entire ASMR Website is in the process of being beautified. Prof. Khachigian exhorted members to be part of the ASMR Member Directory and take advantage of the networking opportunities it offers.

Prof. Khachigian referred to ASMR MRW® and Prof. Bill Brinkley who brought a celebratory HMR message just weeks after the welcome news in the Federal Budget. Prof. Axel Ullrich, a true champion of translational research, will be the ASMR Medallist in 2007. Prof. Khachigian thanked the state committees. Dr Sarah Meachem and Cath West for their work in making the week a media success. He thanked also Mike Pickford and Maree Overall for their support. Prof. Khachigian reported that the AHMRC with Sandra Nicholson convening and Hamish Scott organising the program is an outstanding. record breaking success which will undoubtedly reflect a pleasing financial bottom line. He went on to speak of the NSC 2007 which is to be held in the Blue Mountains of NSW. Drs Alaina Ammit and Alastair Stewart are convening the "Tissue Remodelling: Current Understanding and Future Therapeutic Targets" meeting which will be held from November 11-13, 2007. Prof. Khachigian asked A/Prof Maria Kavallaris to present her Treasurer's Report.

Item 4. Treasurer's Report, A/Prof. Maria Kavallaris A/Prof. Kavallaris referred the meeting to the audited reports contained within the Annual Report of the Society. She advised that the improved trading figure was due to additional interest earnings and increased sponsorship at both the national and state level. A/Prof. Kavallaris pointed out that the accounts include Profit and Loss reports for sponsorship from the Department of Health and Ageing (DHA) and National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) as required under the terms of the ASMR agreements with them. The Consolidated Accounts of the Society include both the Department and NHMRC income and expenditures. A/Prof Kavallaris thanked Cath

West for diligently maintaining the accounts of the Society. Dr Alison Butt moved that the Audited Financial Accounts be accepted; seconded by Dr Moira Clay.

Item 5. ASMR Research Fund. A/Prof. Maria Kavallaris A/Prof. Kavallaris referred to the Audited ASMR Research Fund Accounts contained with the Annual Report of the Society and advised that donations are down by approximately \$700. This loss may be the result of the electronic delivery of the Newsletter during part of the reporting period. It is believed there will be an upturn in donations following the return to the hard copy format of the Newsletter which is the major advertising vehicle for the Awards. She advised that, following a Board Resolution in 2005, ASMR has moved to giving two awards, a domestic award of \$2,000 and an international award of \$5,000. Dr Alaina Ammit moved that the Audited Accounts of the ASMR Research Fund be accepted; seconded by Dr Bellamy Cheung. i) Announcement of Research Award Winners 2006 A/Prof. Maria Kavallaris announced the winners of the ASMR Research Awards for 2006:

Ms Elissa Sutcliff (Domestic Award) from the John Curtin School of Medical Research will be visiting Agilant Technologies in Melbourne and Dr Elke Hacker (International Award) from QIMR will be traveling to the UK to study the role of miRNA in melanomas at the Marie Curie Research Institute. ii) Research Award Winner 2005. Gabrielle Todd A/Prof Kavallaris called upon Dr Gabrielle Todd to address the Meeting. Dr Todd expressed her sincere thanks

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to ASMR for providing the opportunity to visit Prof.Mark George and his colleagues at The Centre for Advance Imaging Research in South Carolina, USA. Here, Dr Todd, learned how to interleave transcranial magnetic stimulation with functional magnetic resonance imaging. This technique allows direct visualization of stimulationinduced changes in brain activity at high spatial and temporal resolution. It is her aim to adapt the technique to study stimulation-induced reorganisation within the human motor cortex. Dr Todd advised that this work has the potential to improve the quality of life for thousands of Australians. She again thanked ASMR for these awards which are important to early career researchers and expressed her hope that they will continue.

Item 6. Subcommittee Reports

a) Research Careers, *Dr Mark Hulett*

ASMR, Dr Hulett said, has a strong commitment to career development, running a number of successful professional development events over the past twelve months in Victoria, NSW, WA, SA and ACT. Schools programs for primary and secondary school students were conducted in SA, Vic, Qld, WA and NSW including the highly successful regional schools visits in some states. Dr Hulett referred to the Workforce Survey being driven by Dr Sarah Meachem in collaboration with the University of Queensland. The web-based survey has collected hard data on brain drain/gain, career structure and conditions and will be a

useful tool to influence and inform policy. Initially completed by ASMR Members, it is the long term aim to expand this survey to the wider health and medical research community. A national professional development event is planned with sponsorship currently being sought. The national event will not take the place of the state professional development workshops. It is likely the national event will take place in Melbourrne in October 2007. b) Membership, A/Prof . J Alejandro Lopez A/Prof. Lopez advised that numbers have increased slightly this year. Statistics over time show that the member numbers remain fairly static. A/Prof. Lopez urged members present to encourage their colleagues to renew their membership and referred to the membership flier included within the Congress satchels which set out the benefits of membership of the Society. Prof. Khachigian spoke of the new initiatives which make ASMR a timely and current organisation offering many benefits beyond political advocacy to members. He requested all present to act as ambassadors for the Society. c) Newsletter, Dr Gilda Tachediian In the absence of Dr Gilda Tachedjian, Prof. Khachigian called upon A/Prof. Maria Kavallaris to address the Meeting. A/Prof. Kavallaris referred to the well accepted, new look Newsletter and advised that "letters to the editor" will be a feature for 2007. The return to the hard copy format is due to feedback from members. She advised the Newsletter Editor welcomes articles and suggestions. d) ASMR MRW Week®, Dr Alison Butt Dr Alison Butt referred to the

huge success of the week and

thanked the hard working state committees for their extraordinary contributions. She thanked also Cath West, Priscilla Diment, Mike Pickford and Maree Overall for their hard work. 2006 featured sell out dinners and professional development days, record numbers at scientific meetings, public outreach events, rural schools visits and an online schools quiz which is to be expanded in 2007. Prof. Bill Brinkley was the 2006 Medallist who spoke in all mainland states and the ACT. Dr Butt urged members to participate in the 2007 events. e) Media, Dr Sarah Meachem In the absence of Dr Sarah Meachem, Prof. Khachigian called on Dr Emma Parkinson-Lawrence to report to the Meeting. Dr Parkinson-Lawrence advised that Dr Meachem was involved with an ABC TV interview for the Congress and is an apology for that reason. Media stories on medical research during ASMR MRW® reached 7.9M Australians, clearly raising profile and awareness. With the Congress half way through, media coverage has exceeded expectations with 2M Australians hearing Congress stories and an ABC interview taking place at the time of the AGM. f) State Reports, A/Prof. Peter Eastwood A/Prof. Eastwood advised that the 'State Committee Coordinator" is a new portfolio designed to facilitate communication between state committees and directors. It has been successful initiative. A/Prof. Eastwood congratulated the state committees for their dedication in achieving enormous success for their events. g) NSC 2006, Dr Robyn Star Dr Starr spoke of the program for the NSC advising that one

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of the international speakers, Prof. Richard Flavell as well as being the Firkin Orator was chosen as a Plenary Speaker. She thanked also Prof. Chris Goodnow, the AWT Edwards Orator. Dr Starr expressed her gratitude to the program committee, A/Prof. Rob Ramsay, Dr Ian Wicks and Prof. Margaret Morris. She congratulated Drs. Sandra Nicholson, Hamish Scott and particularly thanked Dr Jeff Craig for his work in coordinating posters and prizes. h) AHMRC 2006, Dr Sandra Nicholson Dr Nicholson expressed her

delight in seeing the Congress taking shape. She advised that as at the time of speaking, the AH&MRC had 2.269 registrants and that this number would increase before the conclusion of the event. Dr Nicholson reported that sponsorship support has exceeded expectations. She congratulated Dr Hamish Scott, Scientific Program Committee Convenor and thanked ASN Events. Mike Pickford and Maree Overall. She congratulated Dr Robyn Starr for her work on the NSC. i) NSC 2007, Dr Alaina Ammit Dr Alaina Ammit advised that the NSC 2007 would be on "Tissue Remodelling: Current Understanding and Future Therapeutic Targets" and be held from November 11-13, 2007 at Katoomba in the Blue Mountains of NSW. Dr Alastair Stewart is coconvening and planning is well underway.

Item 7. Other Business, *Prof. Levon Khachigian*Prof. Khachigian thanked each member of the Board for their dedicated commitment to the ideals of the Society and wished them personal and

professional success. He thanked the ongoing members of ASMR reminding them that they are the foundation of the Society. Prof. Khachigian extended congratulations and best wishes to A/Prof Maria Kavallaris for her Presidency of ASMR. He thanked past presidents and directors for their support. Prof. Khachigian particularly and especially thanked Priscilla Diment, Maree Overall and Cath West, presenting each with a gift in appreciation of their service to the Society. He thanked Cath West for her championship of the ideals and objectives of the society and handed the conduct of the meeting to the new ASMR President, A/Prof Maria Kavallaris.

Item 8. Directors and Office Bearers, 2007, *A/Prof Maria Kavallaris*

A/Prof Maria Kavallaris advised that Prof Khachigian has been a member of ASMR for over two decades and involved in many activities over that period of time. He was Covenor of the 1995 NSC at Leura, NSW. This event, he organised almost singlehandedly as his Treasurer had to return to the UK due to a family crisis. This meeting was a landmark financial and scientific success. Over the past year, Prof Khachigian has directed the board to achieve outcomes which many thought impossible. He has carried out his duties with the utmost integrity and diligence and has left an indelible mark through his tireless advocacy on behalf of the Society and HMR generally. On behalf of the ASMR Board and Members, A/Prof Kavallaris thanked Prof Khachigian for his unwavering commitment, dedication and enthusiasm in promoting the value of health and medical research. A/Prof Kavallaris

asked Prof Khachigian to step to the Podium to accept the ASMR Past President's Badge.

A/Prof Kavallaris announced her Board and Office Bearers for 2007, Dr Mark Hulett, ACT, President-elect and Hon Treasurer Dr Sandra Nicholson, Vic. **Business Development** Dr Sara Meachem, Vic, Continuing Prof. Development Dr Alaina Ammit, NSW, Hon Secretary and NSC 2007 Dr Alison Butt, NSW, AH&MRC 2008 A/Prof Martin Delatycki, Vic, Clinical Issues A/Prof Peter Eastwood, WA, ASMR MRW(R) A/Prof Alejandro Lopez, Qld, Membership Convenor, NSC 08 Dr Gilda Tachedjian, Vic, Newsletter Editor Dr Emma Parkinson-Lawrence SA, PR and State Committee Convenor

A/Prof Kavallaris advised that the Board is aware of many challenges ahead in 2007. Planning is underway with Prof Axel Ullrich, an outstanding research scientist, the ASMR Medallist 2007. Commitments ahead include the National Professional Development Day and other initiatives to foster research careers. A/Prof Kavallaris concluded by advising the Meeting that it is an honour to be at the helm of the ASMR. There being no further business, A/Prof Kavallaris closed the Meeting at 1:30pm.

Prof Levon Khachigian

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A/Prof Maria Kavallaris November 12, 2007

Membership List as at October 18th 2007

ACT ALLEN Richard ANDERSON Warick BLACKBURNA

CASAROTTO M CHAUDHRI G **COWAN A DAY Stephanie ELLYARD J**

FRENCHH FRITZ Julie-Anne

GREADY J HORAN Catherine

HULETT M KARUPIAH G **LAMB Trevor LEFFLER Melanie**

LEHANE Adele LINTERMAN Michelle **PARISH C** POON Ivan RANDALL K

REGNER M SAKALA I SHIELDA SIMSON Ljubov

SONTANIY SPRY C

SU YC SUTCLIFFE E TALAULIKAR Dipti TSCHARKE D

WARREN H WHITWORTH J WILLIAMS Rohan

YEE D YU Di

NSW

ALKHOURIH ALLAN Charles ALRASHDAN Y AMMIT Alaina ANDERSON S D ANDERSON Luke APTE M **ARMOUR Carol ARNDT Greg ASHMANL ASHTON K ASHTON L** AU C

BAKER R

BALLEINE R BARTROP R BASTENA **BAXTER Robert**

BELLJ BELL David BENDALL Linda BIANKIN A BIANKIN Sandra

BIRKETTDJ **BLACK J**

BROOKS William BROWNA BRYAN Tracy

BURGESS Janette BUTT Alison BYRNE J

CARTLANDS CELERMAJER D CHANJ

CHANG M CHAPMAN B L CHESTERMAN C N CHEUNG B

CHISHOLM D J **CHOW Betty**

CHRISTODOULOU J CHUNG SH **CLARKE C** CLAY M

CLIFTON V COOLEN M COOPER D

COTTRELLL COWELL L COX M

CREEDS CROSSLEY Merlin CROUCHER D

DAVEY R DAVISKAS E **DE BOCK Charles** DE FAZIO Anna

DI GIROLAMO Nick DONG Q **DOYLE Kharen**

DUNCAN C DUNN Louise DUNWOODIE Sally

EISMANJA ELLIOTT David FEENEY D FIELD M

FLEMMING C

FLETCHER A FRANKLIN Andrew FRASER I

GAUS K GE Qi **GECZY C**

GELISSEN Ingrid **GIBSON K**

GLEESON Maree

GLOSS B **GRAFTONK**

GRAHAM Robert M GRANT Ross GU Baijun

GUNNING P GUOD GUO D L

HABER Michelle HABER P

HAHN Michael HALLIDAY G **HAMBLY Brett**

HANDELSMAN D HANLON M **HANSON A**

HARDEMAN E HARRINGTON J HAWKINS C

HAYES V **HENDERSON M**

HILTON H HINSHELWOOD R

HITCHINS M **HOLMES Tiffany** HOLSINGER R **HOOK Jeff**

HUDSONA HUGHES Margaret J

ISSA L JESSUP Wendy

JOHNSTONE D

JOYAJ KAHATAPITIYA P KAVALLARIS M

KAVURMA M KEAST J

KEE A KEFFORD R KHACHIGIAN L KINGSTON D

KNIGHT R KORNER PI **KUOC**

KWEK CK

LEARY J LEE A **LEMMERT K**

LAU Justine

LAYBUTT R

LEWIST LI Qiong LIN Ruby CY

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MACKAY Fabienne MACKENZIE Karen **MAGENAU A**

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MURRAY Jayne MURRAY Michael MUSGROVE E NASSIF N

NAYLOR Matthew

NG W **NGUYEN H** NICHOLSON R TAVAKOLI N **NORTH K**

OAKES Samantha O'BRIEN Philippa **OLIVER Brian**

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NT BARCLAY L

ZUNONG R

ZAHRA D

ZHONG J

OVERSEAS
BEGLEY Glen
CARLESS M
CONAGHAN P
ECKERT Danny
GREGOREVIC P
HASSAN Shirin
HASSAN F

HEINZELMANN-SCHWARZ V HILDEBRAND M HOOD V JOHNSON Renee LISTON A MILLARD Susan PARKES D SAMUEL Michael S SAUNDERS Darren SMITH Justine SMITH Nicola J SUGERMAN P

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Tas BLIZZARD C HAAS Matilda HOLLOWAY A

ZUCKER Michelle

Membership List

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MARTIN F
MCMORRAN B
VENN Alison
WOODHOUSE A

WOODHOUSE A Vic **ACHEN Marc AITKENE** AITKEN MA **ALCORN D ALEXANDER W** ANDERSON R **ANGUS J ARGENTAROA BACHL BAILEY Mark BAKER N BARNES T BATHGATE R BAYLES R BEART P BELZ G** BENTLEY Karen **BERKOVIC S BERNARD O BERNHARD Oliver BERTRAM John BIRD P BISHOP Michelle BOON Wah Chin BOON Wee-Ming BOURNE** Allison **BOWTELL David BOYD Richard BRASACCHIO D BRITTO J BRODNICKI T BURGESS AW**

CALKIN Anna

CAMPBELL D

CASLEY D J

CENTER R

CHANG J

CHEN ZP

CHERRY C

CHILCO P

CHOI W T

CHRISTIE E

CHRISTOPOULOS A

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CAMPBELL Shahan

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ERNST M

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Australasian Society for Immunology

A'asian Society for Infec. Diseases

Australian Society for Parasitology

A'asian Society for Psychiatric Rsh.

Society for Reproductive Biology

Society of Obstetric Med of ANZ

Aust Soc for the Study of Obesity

Australian Vascular Biology Soc

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High Blood Pressure Rsh. Cncl. of Aus.

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