

in this issue

The New Minister's View Ahead: Our Health Challenges Require Research Solutions

Medical research underpins the future success of Australia's health care and, as the Rudd Government's Minister for Health and Ageing, I welcome the opportunity to reach your members through the society's newsletter. The health challenges that need research solutions are many. Diseases such as cancer, diabetes, dementia and heart disease are huge and growing burdens — for the people involved and their carers, and for the health system.

In 2006, cardiovascular disease was responsible for the deaths of 45,000 Australians. Cancer was the underlying cause of death for 30 per cent of all registered deaths. Dementia and Alzheimer's disease is now Australia's fourth leading cause of death. Mental illness is estimated to account for 13 per cent of the disease burden. The prevalence of diabetes has more than doubled in the past 20 years. Prevention and more effective treatments to these and other life-threatening illnesses are all possible through research. New diseases continue to arise. Last century it was HIV, early this century we faced avian influenza.

The burden of disease is not spread evenly across our country. The heaviest burden is with the poor and most disadvantaged. The age-adjusted mortality rate is almost three times higher for Indigenous people than it is for non-Indigenous. To address these health challenges, the Australian Government is supporting the highest quality research to provide the evidence and knowledge that helps us stay healthy, avoid ill health or provides better treatment when we do become ill. This year the Australian Government has committed funding of more than \$650 million for health and medical research.

It is important now that we take full advantage of the outstanding researchers in Australia

Through agencies such as the National Health and Medical Research Council, we select and fund only the best research based on scientific excellence, strengthening Australia's health and medical research capacity and capability, and promoting new approaches



Nicola Roxon, Federal Minister for Health and Ageing

in tackling our health problems. It is important now that we take full advantage of the outstanding researchers in Australia and foster the innovative approaches to tackling our health problems.

The challenges now are to continue to expand the frontier of knowledge across all research approaches — biomedical, clinical, public health and health services research — and maintain globally leading positions in the most important areas for the future. An even bigger challenge is to ensure that new knowledge is captured for the benefit of health through new diagnostics, new products, new therapies, evidence-informed policy development and evidence-based best practice in care delivery.

Medical research has great potential to inform and contribute to the development of options that can shape the future of Australia's health system and I will welcome researchers' input into the nation's policy making arena.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to your newsletter.

**Nicola Roxon
Federal Minister for Health and Ageing**

Jackie Chan opens medical science education centre at ANU	2
The 4th Australian Health & Medical Research Congress	2
President's Report	3
International Perspectives on NHMRC funding mechanisms	5
Iodine Deficiency in Australia: A Call for Action	5
ASMR National Scientific Conference 2007	6
Australian Honours For Medical Researchers	7
Congratulations to the ASMR Tall Poppies for 2007	7
Meet the New Board	8



The Australian Society for Medical Research

145 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000

ACN 000599235 · ABN 18000599235

Catherine West
Snr. Executive Officer

Ph: 02 9256 5450

Fax: 02 9252 0294

Email: asmr@world.net

Web: www.asmr.org.au

**Newsletter Editor-in-Chief,
Dr Andrew J. Brown**

Print Post Approved

25500300067

Jackie Chan opens medical science education centre at ANU

Jackie Chan with Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Jackie's son, Jaycee Chan

Last month, action star Jackie Chan opened the Jackie Chan Science Centre, part of the new John Curtin School of Medical Research (JCSMR) building at ANU. JCSMR was created in 1948 as a result of the vision of Australian Nobel Laureate Howard Florey and Prime Minister John Curtin. In 2006, Mr Chan made a generous donation to JCSMR that funded the eponymous centre,

which showcases the past success stories — including two Nobel prizes — and ongoing work of one of Australia's premier medical research facilities.

"Jackie has a strong commitment to the education of young people and to provide them with opportunities that were not available to him when he was a child," said JCSMR Director Professor Judith Whitworth. "It was an easy call for us to use this donation to help establish a dedicated Jackie Chan Science Centre as part of the public area of the new JCSMR Building, which will showcase our history, current science, and provide viewing windows into laboratories."

Mr Chan's relationship with ANU extends back to 2002, when he made an initial donation for cancer research in memory of his mother and long-time Canberra resident Ms Lee Lee Chan. The Jackie Chan Science Centre is designed to inspire the next generation of Australian scientists by giving them an insight into the past success stories and current research at JCSMR. asmr



Photo courtesy of Karen Edwards, JCSMR

The 4th Australian Health & Medical Research Congress



16–21st November 2008, Brisbane Convention Centre

The countdown to the 4th AH & MRC has begun! Held in November this year, this is the first time the congress has come to Brisbane, and it is already shaping up to be another huge success. The unique strength of the AH & MRC is its ability to provide an outstanding and unique cross-disciplinary scientific program, and this year will be no exception. Thirty-three research societies and organizations are already on board representing a wide range of health and medical research disciplines, from basic science through to translational research. Together with the programming committee, the Congress Program Convenor, Greg Anderson is well underway to compiling an exciting program with something for everyone in the health and medical research community, and we are delighted to announce another top line-up of international plenary speakers for this year's Congress: Elaine Fuchs (Rockefeller University,

USA), Michael Karin (University of California, USA), Josef Penninger (IMBA, Austria), Stephen Baylin (Johns Hopkins University, USA) and Roger Tsien (University of California, USA).

The 2008 congress will also encompass the ASMR National Scientific Meeting which will be convened by Assoc. Professor Alejandro López on "Epithelial Tissue Dynamics: From Stem Cells to Cancer", covering such themes as the origin and development of epithelia, epithelial homeostasis and pathology, and emerging therapeutic approaches for epithelial diseases. This broad spectrum of interests will facilitate the scientific interactions with other participating societies.

We look forward to seeing you in Brisbane in November. Check out our website for further information: www.ahmrccongress.org.au.

**Alison Butt, Convenor
4th Australian Health & Medical Research Congress**

President's Report

Australia is an outstanding talent in Health and Medical Research (HMR). Our research output, its impact, and translational outcomes are impressive in global terms, and have positioned us as one of the premier countries for biomedical research. To ensure that the sector remains strong into the future, it is essential that funding will be a well-balanced partnership between government, industry and the public. That said, governments have a responsibility to provide an appropriate funding base for HMR (and its necessary supporting infrastructure) in order to stimulate the required increased investment from the corporate and private sectors. The exceptional value of investing in HMR was recognized over the term of the Howard government with the commitment of Commonwealth funds for NHMRC spending on HMR to reach a base rate of \$700 million by 2010 (~ 4-fold increase since 1999). Despite these increases, government funding for HMR in Australia still ranks amongst the middle of similar OECD countries, and we are facing significantly increased competition from other developed countries that are investing heavily in biomedical science. We need to be mindful of sustainability beyond 2010, especially in light of the effects of the recent flat lining of the US NIH budget. It is vital that we capture the returns on the investments placed, and continue the momentum with a long-term ongoing commitment. Clearly, there are limits to any government's capacity for support and greater investment from non-government sources is essential. In March last year, ASMR held a forum to discuss strategies towards sustainable funding of Australian HMR. ASMR has been actively exploring ideas and is committed to developing a long-term strategy to ensure sustainable funding for the sector.

It is fair to say that the new political environment has brought about some uncertainty in the HMR community. We need to encourage recognition by the new government of the importance of HMR to the wellbeing of all Australians and the substantial economic benefit to the nation. In this regard, it is encouraging to see that planning for the long-term future of Australia is high on the agenda of the Rudd government. The recent announcement of the Australia 2020 summit and Innovation Review represents a timely opportunity to engage the new government and to help formulate long-term policy for the sector. I thank Nicola Roxon, the new Federal Minister for Health and Aging, for her contribution to this edition of the newsletter in which she emphasizes the challenges facing HMR and the need to take full advantage of the outstanding researchers in Australia.

Governments naturally want to see measurable productivity from investments. It will be essential to provide the new government with a clearly articulated

message backed by substantiated data that investment in HMR delivers a significant benefit to the health and economy of Australia. Last year, ASMR recognized the need to produce new data demonstrating measurable returns from increased investment in HMR. Access Economics was commissioned to update and expand on the 2003 report "Exceptional returns: The value of Investing in Health R&D in Australia". We have had outstanding support for the new study from the HMR community, clearly reflecting the high regard and significant value of the 2003 report. The updated study will estimate the economic value of health R&D in Australia following the recent funding increases and include sensitivity analysis, benchmarking of the rates of return and case studies of three specific examples of wellbeing returns to Australia — diabetes, dementia and cancer. The report is nearing completion and we believe it to be a powerful document strongly supporting the case for increased HMR funding. We will be releasing the findings of the study soon. In addition to demonstrating the exceptional returns of investment in HMR, we need to further emphasize the challenges we face in health, including the high incidence of disease within aboriginal communities, increasing prevalence of lifestyle diseases, a rapidly ageing population — with associated chronic disease, and the threat of disease linked to climate change. An appropriate focus of HMR including frontier investigator research, innovative multidisciplinary collaborations and partnerships will be fundamental to address these important issues.

A strong and diverse HMR sector will be critical for Australia to meet these challenges.

In the current richly competitive international research environment, it is imperative that Australia attracts and retains its talented medical researchers. The Treasurer's call for community input into the new Government's first budget included the priority area of "making our workforce the most highly skilled in the world". Australia already has one of the world's most highly skilled and respected HMR workforces. Clearly, any diminishing of this valuable workforce would not only result in the loss of a substantial investment but would put at risk future health and economic benefits to the country. Australia is unique in the global HMR community in that it has a national career fellowship scheme supported by the NHMRC. The research output by fellows is impressive and certainly more than justifies continuation of the scheme. However, many of Australia's best and brightest have been missing out on NHMRC fellowship support — the requirement for entry is extremely high. Many would argue, that the



Dr Mark Hulett, ASMR President

Conferences

Excellence in Biotechnology Investment – Forum

April 21–22, 2008; Sydney.
www.resourcefulvents.com/page/excellence-in-biotechnology-investment

15th International Vascular Biology Meeting

June 1–5, 2008.
 Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre.
www.ivbm2008.com

XXII International Congress of The Transplantation Society

August 10–14, 2008;
 Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre.
www.transplantation2008.org/home.php

19th Annual Australasian Association for Quality in Health Care Conference

September 1–3, 2008;
 Christchurch Convention Centre.
www.conference.co.nz/index.cfm/aaqhc08

Annual Dementia Research Forum

September 18–19 2008;
 Wesley Conference Centre, Sydney
www.dementia.unsw.edu.au

Australian Atherosclerosis Society Annual Scientific Meeting

28–31 October, 2008; Sydney.
www.athero.org.au/

Australian Health and Medical Research Congress

16–21 November, 2008;
 Brisbane Convention Centre.
www.ahmrcongress.org.au/



Sir Gus Nossal,
2008 ASMR Medallist

setting of the bar so high has in part been driving the exceptional output of HMR in this country. The NHMRC has done its best to address the transition gap to the fellowship scheme with the introduction of a two-tiered Career Development Award. However, the reality is that these have proved to be quite scarce and many mid-career researchers are finding themselves in limbo. Clearly, to encourage the retention of HMR talent in Australia requires a sustainable mechanism that will provide a realistic career progression. The Rudd government has recently acknowledged the difficulties faced by mid-career researchers, not only in HMR but also across

the entire research sector, and has announced funding for 1000 mid-career research fellowships. The government should be commended for this initiative.

It is also noteworthy that the NHMRC has just undergone an external review. ASMR was invited with other stakeholders to contribute to the review in a meeting with the committee headed by Dr Elias Zerhouni (Director US-National Institutes of Health). Amongst the items raised by ASMR were the difficulties with the progression through the current NHMRC career structure, the decline in clinical researcher funded fellowships and grants, and the lack of funding opportunities for "blue-sky" innovative research. I would like to thank Professor Warwick Anderson, the CEO of NHMRC, for providing an overview of the recent review in this issue of the newsletter. We eagerly await the outcomes of the review and welcome the opportunity of providing feedback.


Each year, ASMR Medical Research Week® showcases HMR to the nation. The increased profile for research and researchers is clearly evident through media monitoring which last year indicated that the HMR message reached 11.5 million Australians! The plans for another blockbuster ASMR Medical Research Week® are in place. The week will run from May 29 to June 6 and features a wide array of exciting activities, including public outreach events — such as school programs and science in the cinema, scientific conferences, early career development programs, dinners, and the flagship event — the ASMR Medallist tour. I am pleased to announce that the ASMR medallist for 2008 is Sir Gustav Nossal. Sir Gus' influence has formed and shaped the scientific affairs of Australia for over four decades. He was Director of The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute for 30 years, a former Australian of the Year (2000), President of the Australian Academy of Science, a key contributor to the World

Health Organization Global Program for Vaccines and Immunization, the Bill and Melinda Gates Child Vaccine Program and many other organizations, notably the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation. As a communicator of science, he is unparalleled. Sir Gus will be giving presentations in all state capitals and will deliver the televised NAB address at the National Press Club on June 4.

ASMR is committed to supporting the career development of Health and Medical Researchers. Last year, we launched the resoundingly successful National Professional Development program targeted to meet the needs of mid-career researchers. Workshops were held in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne. The program will be continuing and expanding in 2008, with travel subsidies available to those people based outside the hosting cities. A survey of delegates attending the workshops last year revealed that half did not have a mentor. In response, we have initiated a new program to establish a Mentor linkage system where ASMR members and participants in the Professional Development Program will have the opportunity to be matched to a career mentor. ASMR is ideally placed to implement such a program via its broad direct membership and affiliate membership base. Full details will be made available in the near future.

Since its initiation in 2002, the Australian Health and Medical Research Congress has grown to be one of the largest and most influential scientific meetings in Australia. The 4th AH&MRC will be held for the first time in Brisbane this year on the 16–21 November. Plans are well underway. Dr Alison Butt is convener with Assoc. Professor Greg Anderson coordinating the scientific program, and Assoc. Professor Alejandro Lopez overseeing the program for the ASMR National Scientific meeting, themed "Epithelial Tissue Dynamics: From Stem Cells to Cancer". Thirty-three societies will be participating in the Congress, and it promises to be a high caliber meeting fostering innovative, multidisciplinary collaborations.

I would also like to mention that last year's ASMR National Scientific Conference "Tissue remodeling — Current understandings and therapeutic targets", that was held in November at the magnificent Carrington Hotel in Katoomba — was a huge success. I would like to congratulate the fantastic work of the organizing committee, particularly the conference convener Dr Alaina Ammit and program coordinator Professor Alistair Stewart, as well as Maree Overall from ASN Events.

Finally, with the change in the political landscape and the future directions of the nation currently up for discussion, it is imperative that we all advocate for HMR whenever possible. Now is the time to send the message of the value of HMR to the health and economy of Australia so as to lay the foundation and lock in a strong HMR sector heading towards 2020. 

ASMR — Letters to The Editor

The aim of the "Letters to the Editor" is to provide a forum for our members to voice their concerns and opinions regarding issues pertinent to health and medical researchers. The best "Letter to the Editor" received during 2008 will receive a \$100 prize.

Please submit letters by email to the ASMR Newsletter Editor (aj.brown@unsw.edu.au) by 31st July 2008 for inclusion in the August issue. Letters must be around 100 words in length. Contributors should include their name, position and affiliation for publication. The Editor has the right to edit the content for clarity, and publication is entirely at the discretion of the Editor and no correspondence will be entered into.

International Perspectives on NHMRC funding mechanisms

**Professor Warwick Anderson
Chief Executive Officer, National Health
and Medical Research Council**

One of my first commitments after appointment as CEO of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) was to submit our funding schemes and peer review processes to international scrutiny. The aim is to ensure that NHMRC incorporates world's best practice in all we do when selecting and supporting health and medical research. We look to this international review process for advice on the fairest, most contemporary and internationally benchmarked system of undertaking peer review and supporting highest quality basic biomedical, clinical, public health and health services research approaches. In the 21st century, as research collaboration grows and grows, Australian researchers should be given every opportunity to work with international colleagues, and to set their sights at the highest international levels. The issue of peer review is especially in the news internationally, as NIH undertakes a review of its systems for the first time for many years.

We have now had two teams visit us. The first, last September, was a panel chaired by Professor Alan Bernstein, President of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and comprising Dr Toni Scarpa of NIH's Centre for Scientific Review and Dr Marilyn Sleigh, CEO of EvoGenix. Then in January 2008, we welcomed a panel comprising Dr Elias Zerhouni, Director of the US National Institutes of Health, Dr Sally Davies, Director of Research and Development at the UK National

Health Service, and Dr Ed Holmes, Chairman, National Medical Research Council, Executive Deputy Chairmen, Biomedical Research Council at A*Star, Singapore. Presentations given by Dr Zerhouni and Dr Davies during their visit can be seen on our website at www.nhmrc.gov.au/news/podcasts/index.htm#ilhr

Identifying excellence is NHMRC's core business.

Identifying excellence is NHMRC's core business. Whether the objective is to improve public health and the health system, develop an innovative new commercial product, or to contribute new fundamental knowledge on human biology and on prevention, treatment and cure of human ill health, nothing succeeds like the best. To select the best, skilled reviewers are required with knowledge of the field in an international context, knowledge of the literature and insight into the potential for outcomes (new knowledge, clinical, public health, industry or community applicability) from the research proposals.

NHMRC and its Council and Research Committee are now considering the advice from the reviews. Our proposals for improvement will be presented for discussion to the research community, towards the middle of this year, with the reports of the two international review panels. We hope that as many people as possible provide us with feedback and ideas then, so that Australian health and medical research can continue to flourish and contribute even more strongly to the growth of knowledge and the improvement of health. 



Professor Warwick Anderson AM,
NHMRC Chief Executive Officer

Nominations open for Prime Minister's Prizes for Science

The Prime Minister's Prizes for Science are a national tribute to excellent and dedicated work in Australian science and science teaching. Nominations for the \$300,000 Prime Minister's Prize for Science close at 5pm on Friday 9 May 2008. For further information, visit the website: <https://sciencegrants.dest.gov.au/SciencePrize/Pages/Home.aspx>

Iodine Deficiency in Australia: A Call for Action

A Symposium held under the auspices of the Australian Academy of Science, the International Life Sciences Institute, Australasia and the Nutrition Society of Australia

Venue: The Australian Academy of Sciences Shine Dome, Canberra

Date: Monday 26 May 2008

Key Speakers include: Professor Cres Eastman, University of Sydney, Dr Sheila Skeaff, University of Otago, Professor Caryl Nowson, Deakin University and representatives of FSANZ and AFGC.

More than 50 countries around the world are iodine-deficient. Deficiency occurs when the soil is poor in iodine, causing a low concentration in the food supply and low dietary intakes. Historically, people living in Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Victoria and New Zealand had low iodine intakes.

Studies conducted over the last decade in New South Wales and Victoria, where approximately 60% of the Australian population live, indicate the presence of mild-to-moderate iodine deficiency in all groups tested. However, Western Australia and Queensland appear to have adequate intakes, whilst South Australia is

borderline. Iodine deficiency appears to be an even greater problem in New Zealand. The current deficiency is not fully understood but may be related to the reduced use of iodine-based cleaning products in the dairy industry, leading to lower concentrations of iodine in milk and the decreased consumption of iodised salt.

For more information, email ilsig@ghapl.com.au, or phone **03 9852 7755**



One of the conference convenors, Alaina Ammit with the 2007 Firkin Orator, Professor Mina Bissell

ASMR National Scientific Conference 2007

Tissue Remodelling: Current Understanding and Future Therapeutic Targets

The Carrington Hotel, Katoomba, Blue Mountains, NSW
11th – 13th November 2007

Convenors: Alaina Ammit and Alastair Stewart



The 2007 AWT Edwards Orator, Professor Julie Campbell

The 2007 ASMR National Scientific Conference on "Tissue Remodelling: Current Understanding and Future Therapeutic Targets" held in the Blue Mountains of NSW was a great success! We heard inspirational plenary presentations from the 2007 Firkin Orator, Professor Mina Bissell, and Professor Julie Campbell, the 2007 AWT Edwards Orator.

We were treated to the latest medical research in our exciting symposia in grouped themes of invited speakers and free communications and in our interactive poster sessions. We also awarded a number of prizes for outstanding presentations by our student members, listed below:

ASMR Student Poster Award

Highly Commended



Francis Shand
Dept. Pharmacology, University of Melbourne

The endogenous estrogen metabolite 2-methoxyestradiol suppresses macrophage activation via a non-estrogenic mechanism

Highly Commended



Lucinda McRobb
Heart Research Institute and The University of Sydney

Androgen treatment uncouples calcification of atherosclerotic lesions from plaque growth and inflammation by regulating sex hormone receptor levels and c-JUN/AP-1 expression

\$500 cheque Awardee



Catherine Horan
Division of Molecular Bioscience, John Curtin School of Medical Research

Remodelling of the testicular interstitium after oestrogen overexposure may be a consequence of heparanase upregulation

Campion-Ma-Playoust Memorial Award

Highly Commended



Lauren Cowell
Childrens Hospital at Westmead and University of Sydney

Identification of novel cross-talk between estrogen-regulated cell growth and integrin signalling

Highly Commended



Lauren Cottrell
University of Newcastle
Role of protein phosphatase 2A in

breast tissue remodelling and tumorigenesis

Awardee



Christine Percy
Molecular & Cellular Pathology, University of Queensland

Tissue remodelling in age-related disease in the kidney is associated with key cellular and molecular changes

With 118 delegates in attendance, this focused "Gordon"-style national scientific conference rated highly, with content of the program being rated excellent or very good by 93% of the delegates and the standard was considered excellent or very good by 96%. The success of this conference was due to outstanding scientific program developed by the Scientific Programming Committee: David Phillips, Mark Cooper, Geraldine O'Neill, Levon Khachigian, Alison Butt, Shireen Lamande, Ian

Darby, Ross Hannan, Kathy Traianedes, Alexandra Sharland and Hala Zreiqat.

Glad you all enjoyed the meeting in the beautiful Blue Mountains! And a special thanks to our previous Newsletter Editor, Gilda Tachedjian, for taking and providing the photos.

**Alaina Ammit
Alastair Stewart
Convenors ASMR NSC 2007**

Australian Honours For Medical Researchers

Congratulations to the following whose services to medical research and/or education were recognised in the 2008 Australian Honours list:

Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)


Professor Jock Findlay, Dr William Glasson, and Professor Michael Lawrence-Brown.

Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

Assoc. Professor Frances Boyle, Professor Lesley Campbell, Ms Lavinia Crooks, Assoc. Professor Michael Fernside, Professor Paul Gatenby, Professor John Hopper, Professor John McNeil, Mr Jonathan Rush, and Rev. Professor Victor Yu-Hei Yu.

Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

Professor David Kemp, Dr Colin Laverty, Ruth Lilian, Assoc. Professor Eugen Molodysky, Mr Alfons Rosenstraus, Dr Len Shanahan, and Professor Michael Sawyer.

We would especially like to highlight the honours awarded to ASMR past president, Professor Jock Findlay, and life member of ASMR and former Administrative Secretary, Ruth Lilian. Congratulations! 



Former ASMR President,
Professor Jock Findlay, AM
and now AO

Congratulations to the ASMR Tall Poppies for 2007

The Tall Poppy Campaign aims to recognise Australia's high achievers in the sciences and to encourage young people to follow in their footsteps. The Campaign is a project of the Australian Institute of Policy and Science, and annually awards a small number of early career scientists 'Young Tall Poppy

Awards'. These scientists engage in education programs to encourage school students to choose scientific subjects at a senior level and to excel in these. We congratulate all of the 2007 winners, and make special mention of our winning ASMR members (shown below).

NSW/ACT



Dr Vanessa Hayes
Children's Cancer
Institute of
Australia



Dr Nicole Verrills
University of
Newcastle



Dr Lisa Wood
University of
Newcastle/
Hunter Medical
Research
Institute

South Australia



Dr Beverly Muhlhausler
University of
South Australia



Dr Emma Parkinson-Lawrence
University of
South Australia

Victoria



Dr Benjamin Kile
The Walter & Eliza
Hall Institute of
Medical Research




Dr Julie McMullen
Baker Heart
Research
Institute



Dr Sarah Meachem
Prince Henry's
Institute of
Medical Research

Nominations for 2008 Young Tall Poppy Science Awards are open to younger researchers (generally aged between 28 and 40). Selection criteria include outstanding scholarship and research as well as

community engagement in the understanding and promotion of science. Nominations open in June/July this year. For more information, see: www.aips.net.au/tallpoppies. 

ASMR Research Awards

The Australian Society for Medical Research invites applications for "The ASMR Research Awards". Each award (\$5000 international or \$2000 domestic) will support a postgraduate student member of the Society nearing completion of their studies or a recently graduated postdoctoral member to undertake a short period of research in a laboratory outside of their home city. The award *specifically excludes* support for conference attendance and travel for an extended period of postdoctoral studies.

Further information from:
[www.asmr.org.au/
Researchfund.html](http://www.asmr.org.au/Researchfund.html)

Meet the New Board

ASMR's new board stepping out at the National Scientific Conference, Katoomba, November 2007.



Back-row from left to right:

Emma Parkinson-Lawrence (SA, Media portfolio),
Rosemary Keogh (VIC, State Committee portfolio),
Fabienne Mackay (NSW, Business Development),
Andrew Brown (NSW, Newsletter Editor),
Alison Butt (NSW, AHMRC Convenor),
Andrew Laslett (VIC, Professional Development).

Front-row:

Paul Dawson (QLD, Membership),
Martin Delatycki (VIC, Clinical Issues),
Sarah Meachem (VIC, Treasurer),
Cath West (Senior Executive Officer),
Kristen Nowak (WA, ASMR MRW® 2008 Coordinator),
 and our President, **Mark Hulett** (VIC)

ASMR State Branch Convenors

ACT Convenor **Professor Suresh Mahalingam**
 NSW Convenor **Assoc. Professor Naomi Rogers**
 QLD Convenor **Professor Mike McGuckin**
 SA Convenor **Dr Cadence Minge**
 Vic Convenor **Dr Morag Young**
 Tas Convenor **Dr Tracey Dickson**
 WA Co-Convenor **Dr Jason Kirkness**
 WA Co-Convenor **Ms Sharyn Pope**
 Contact details from www.asmr.org.au/states/index.html

Affiliate Members of ASMR

Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI)
 Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy
 Australasian Society for HIV Medicine Inc
 Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases
 Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research
 Australian and New Zealand Society for Cell & Developmental Biology Inc
 Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society
 Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists
 Australian and New Zealand Obesity Society
 Australian and New Zealand Society for Blood Transfusion
 Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology
 Australian Atherosclerosis Society
 Australian Physiological Society
 Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists
 Australasian College for Emergency Medicine
 Australasian College of Dermatologists
 Australasian Faculty of Occupational Medicine
 Australasian Gene Therapy Society Inc
 Australasian Menopause Society
 Australasian Sleep Association Inc
 Australasian Society for Immunology
 Australian and New Zealand Association of Neurologists
 Australian Diabetes Society
 Australian Neuroscience Society Inc
 Australian Rheumatology Association
 Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Inc
 Australian Society for Parasitology
 Australian Vascular Biology Society
 Cardiac Society of Australian and New Zealand
 Clinical Oncological Society of Australia
 Endocrine Society of Australia
 Fertility Society of Australia
 Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand
 High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia
 Human Genetics Society of Australasia
 Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation
 National Association of Research Fellows
 Nutrition Society of Australia Inc
 Paediatric Research Society of Australia and New Zealand
 Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand
 Royal AZN College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists
 Royal College of Nursing Australia
 Society for Free Radical Research (Australasia)
 Society of Obstetric Medicine of Australia and New Zealand
 The Australian College of Ambulance Professionals
 The Australian Medical Students' Association Ltd
 The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists
 The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
 The Royal Australasian College of Physicians
 The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
 The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
 The Society for Reproductive Biology
 Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand
 Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand
 Victorian Public Health Research and Education Council
 Western Australia Biomedical Research Institute

Associate Members of ASMR

Arthritis Australia
 Australian Red Cross Blood Service
 Australian Respiratory Council
 COTA
 Cystic Fibrosis Australia Incorporated
 Epilepsy Action
 Foundation for High Blood Pressure Research
 Haemophilia Foundation of Australia
 Juvenile Diabetes Research Fndtn
 Kidney Health Australia
 MS Research Australia
 Muscular Dystrophy Association Inc
 National Heart Foundation of Australia
 Scleroderma Association of NSW Inc
 The Lupus Association of NSW
 The Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia
 Vic Health Promotion Foundation

Supporting Members of ASMR

Biota Holdings Limited
 Blackwell Publishing Asia
 Johnson & Johnson Research Pty Ltd
 Merck Sharp & Dohme (Aust) Pty Ltd
 Pfizer Pty Ltd
 Research Australia
 Roche Products Pty Ltd
 Sapphire Bioscience Pty Ltd
 Servier Laboratories (Aust) Pty Ltd