

August 2007

in this issue

## President's Report

**T**his year's Federal Budget again recognised the value of health and medical research in Australia and allocated an additional \$435.8 million dollars for specific infrastructure funding for medical research facilities around the country.

Gains in knowledge, health and wealth flow on from investment in science and innovation with Australian scientists performing well in terms of quality and quantity of publications internationally. The majority of Health and Medical Research (HMR) is publicly funded and researchers will need to effectively disseminate and articulate their research outcomes to the general public, policy makers and politicians, if ongoing support is to be achieved. Key investment in research can be lost without sustained funding which in turn flows on to social, economic and knowledge-based loss. In April this year, ASMR organised a forum in Canberra entitled "The Future of Medical Research: Sustainable Funding Model", to define and move towards sustainable funding strategies that incorporate realistic and achievable mechanisms allowing government-dependent and independent investment in HMR to flourish. The forum will now form the basis of focused workshops and the development of a long-term strategy to ensure sustained support for health and medical research.

ASMR Medical Research Week® in June was a highly successful national event that highlighted the enormous benefits of health and medical research via public, political and scientific advocacy. ASMR Medallist, Professor Axel Ullrich, presented and celebrated ASMR Medical Research Week® at dinners in Hobart, Brisbane, Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, and a National Press Club address in Canberra. Professor Ullrich noted the need for continued government and corporate funding of HMR. ASMR Medical Research Week® 2007 featured a diverse range of national and state based activities, including scientific meetings, career development programs, schools programs, public outreach events, science in the cinema, and expos. Throughout the week it was indeed a privilege to represent our society in five states and the ACT and talk to over 1350 supporters, politicians and medical researchers about the value and importance of HMR. All the exciting 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



ASMR Medallist Professor Axel Ullrich and  
ASMR President Associate Professor Maria Kavallaris

Committees. I would especially like to thank ASMR State Convenors and their committees, Beverly Muhlhauser & Jana Morrison (SA), Mike McGuckin (QLD), Andrew Buckle (NSW): Craig Freeman (ACT), Theo Mantamadiotis (VIC), Steven Mutsaers & Sharyn Pope (WA); and Adele Holloway (Tasmania), as well as the dedicated Peter Eastwood (ASMR Medical Research Week® Convenor), Emma Parkinson-Lawrence (Co-ordinator State Committees and PR Liaison), Cath West, and Priscilla Diment (ASMR Executive Office), Maree Overall and Mike Pickford (ASN Events).

The ASMR is strongly committed to supporting and fostering research excellence and medical research careers. There is a paucity of executive style training for mid-career Australian medical researchers. Many researchers excel scientifically, but still need to develop the management skills that will enable them to successfully run their own research group, attract funding and progress through fellowship schemes. I am pleased to announce that the inaugural, national ASMR Professional Development Program is being held in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney in August, 2007. These one day workshops are specifically aimed at mid-career medical researchers that are 5–12 year postdoctoral. There is a stellar line up of speakers and discussants in each city for the facilitated and interactive ASMR Professional Development Program. Details of the program can be obtained from the ASMR web site.

The NHMRC has restructured the Career Development Awards and this has led to a record number of applications (348 in 2007 versus 186 in 2006).

<b>The Challenges of Translating Basic Science Discoveries Into Therapeutics</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ASMR Research Awards</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ASMR Medical Research Week® 2007</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>State Awards</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Horizons for Health and Medical Research (HMR) Philanthropy</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Are you a Mid-Career Researcher?</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Commonwealth Health Minister's Award</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>ASMR National Scientific Conference 2007</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Professor Tien Wong Wins 2007 Amgen Award</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>USA Award for Professor Don Metcalf</b>	<b>11</b>



**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](mailto:asmr@world.net)**

**Web: [www.asmr.org.au](http://www.asmr.org.au)**

**Newsletter Editor-in-Chief,**  
**Dr Gilda Tachedjian**  
Print Post Approved  
25500300067

One hundred and ninety seven Research Fellowship applications were also received. An International Review of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) processes, including maintenance of public confidence in research, is to be completed by December 2007. The panel will be chaired by Professor Alan Bernstein, President of the Canadian Institute of Health Research and 2001 ASMR Medallist.

The launch for the 4th Australian Health and Medical Research Congress (AHMRC) was held in Brisbane in May. There has already been strong interest from societies to participate in the 4th AHMRC to be held 16-21 November 2008, so if you are a member of a specialist society, I encourage you to lobby your society

to hold their full meeting within the congress or join as a supporting member.

Finally, I would like to encourage you to attend the ASMR National Scientific Conference on "Tissue Remodelling: Current Understanding and Future Therapeutic Targets" to be held in November in Katoomba, Sydney. A stellar program of speakers has been assembled and the program will be of interest to a broad range of disciplines.

Best wishes,

**Associate Professor Maria Kavallaris,  
President,  
Australian Society for Medical Research**

## The Challenges of Translating Basic Science Discoveries Into Therapeutics

### 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 2007 will receive a \$100 prize.

Please submit letters by email to the ASMR Newsletter Editor (gildat@burnet.edu.au) by 30th September 2007 for inclusion in the October 2007 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, publication is entirely at the discretion of the Editor and no correspondence will be entered into.

**Professor Axel Ullrich  
2007 ASMR Medallist  
Director, Molecular Biology at  
Max Planck Institute in Germany**

**I**t is a great pleasure and a particular honour to be standing here in front of you. I have already given a few talks in different places in Australia, and finally here it is, the Medal. This makes me very happy and I really am grateful to the Australian Society for Medical Research for selecting me this year to be the recipient of this honour.

Will there be a magic bullet for cancer?

Well you would like me to answer this question with yes and right here at the beginning I would like to say that there are very good signs. New and exciting developments are going to lead to fundamental changes in cancer. Cancer is still one of the biggest problems of mankind. Every fourth person that dies, dies of cancer. This is frustrating because as scientists we have realised and recognised this problem for years. In the early 1800's a so-called magic bullet concept was born for treating infectious diseases. However, for cancer it took a few more breakthroughs in order to prepare the application of this magic bullet concept and is essentially what we are calling today targeted therapy.

In 1984 signal transduction research emerged which essentially includes the analysis of mechanisms of communication between cells and our body. Cancer is the archetypical signal transduction communication




**Professor Axel Ullrich**

disease. There are many genes that make up our transduction network and when this network fails, and there are many possibilities for failure, cancer ensues. So the dream of developing targeted therapies is finding the right target to interfere with so that the cancer cell rather than the healthy cell will be preferentially destroyed or have its function impaired. In 1985 we identified the receptor HER2 to be over produced in breast cancer cells and in many experiments over many years it's over expression was found to be absolutely critical for the progression of disease. So we generated an antibody known as Herceptin or Trastuzumab to block the action of HER2 which was tested in clinical trials between 1992 and

1998 when it was approved for the treatment of breast cancer. This was the first example of such a targeted therapy for a major type of cancer and was really a breakthrough.

I would like to now tell you about a new approach that is even more effective than the specific targeted therapy and this is the development of so-called multi targeted drugs. This pays tribute to the fact that over the past 15 to 20 years we have learned that cancer is not a monogenic disease, a disease that is caused by a defect in only one gene, but by many genes. So therefore the concept of multi targeted drugs is absolutely critical. In my laboratory a graduate student discovered that the VEGF receptor 2 was critical to the process of angiogenesis or new blood vessel formation, which a tumour requires for growth. When the function of this receptor was blocked this process did not take place. This was the basis for further development and instead of using an antibody like Herceptin to block receptor function we used small chemicals. A company, Sugen, that I started up just two years before with my colleague, Josef Schlessinger, started to develop a screen for small molecules that inhibited the angiogenetic function of this receptor and the result was a drug that is today called Sutent or Sunitinib. This drug is multi-specific, meaning that it blocks the function of many different target molecules and has a very low side effect profile.

Now cancer research and medical research in general requires a few very important things, dedicated scientists and a lot of money. Much of the money comes from companies - the development of Sutent cost probably more than 1 billion US dollars. So this has to come from somewhere but it also takes time: in academia, in small companies for example, in biotech companies, research, pre-clinical and fundamental research before it gets into the hands of large pharmaceutical companies. I have now learned about some of the activities and events that ASMR facilitates to promote the need for sustainable funding to achieve these goals, which I think will greatly contribute to the treatment of cancer and many other diseases. I wish all the best to the ASMR for the future. 



ASMR Medalist Professor Axel Ullrich  
at the National Press Club, Canberra

## 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.

Applicants for "The ASMR Research Awards" must have been members of the ASMR for at least 12 months immediately preceding the year in which the Award application is to be considered. Applicants must have no more than 3 years active research post their highest degree (career interruptions will be considered).

The Award must be taken up during the first 6 months of the following year.

Applications close 5.00pm, Friday September 27, 2007.

Application forms may be found at

[www.asmr.org.au/  
App07.pdf](http://www.asmr.org.au/App07.pdf)

## HERCEPTIN History

Cloning of EGFR cDNA Relation to V-erbB	Slamon et al. Science HER2 gene amplification in Breast Cancer and correlation with disease progression	Phase I Rhu MAb	Phase III	Approval In Europe
1984	1987	1992	1995	2000
1985	1989	1993	1998	2002
HER2 Sequence published Coussens et al.	Hudziak et al. MCB Anti-tumor effect Of MAb 4D5 and 2C4	Phase II	FDA Approval	MAb 2C4 and combination therapies

## SUTENT History

Flk-1 shown to be VEGF-R (Millauer et al., Quinn et al.)	Dominant negative VEGFR-2 Inhibits tumor angiogenesis and growth in vivo (Millauer et al.)	SU5416 inhibits tumor growth In vivo (Fong et al.)	SU11248 orally active multi-targeted drug (O'Farrell et al.)	SUTENT approval by FDA and EMEA (Pfizer)
1993	1994	1999	2003	2006



# ASMR Medical Research Week® 2007

**A**SMR Medical Research Week® is the society's major public outreach event of the year, promoting community understanding and support for health and medical research across Australia. The 2007 ASMR Medical Research Week® was a great success, with record numbers of researchers, benefactors, industry supporters, State and Federal Government representatives and members of the public joining together to celebrate Australian health and medical research.

A large number of events were held across the country, organised by Convenors in each state: Beverly Muhlhausler & Jana Morrison in South Australia; Mike McGuckin in Queensland; Andrew Buckle in New South Wales; Craig Freeman in the ACT; Theo Mantamadiotis in Victoria; Steven Mutsaers & Sharyn Pope in Western Australia; and Adele Holloway in Tasmania. The success of ASMR Medical Research Week® is largely due to the efforts of these individuals and their committees.



**Victorian ASMR MRW® Radio Broadcast on 3RRR's Einstein A Go Go.**

*Front row from left to right: Kara and Dr Andrea Horvath ("Dr Andi", 3RRR).*

*Back row from left to right: Dr Shane Huntington ("Dr Shane", 3RRR),*

*Dr Theo Mantamadiotis (Vic ASMR MRW® Convenor),*

*Amy Nisselle (PhD student, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute),*

*Sebastian Dworkin (PhD student, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre),*

*Dr Mawdsley ("Danger Mouse", 3RRR), Tristan Iseli (PhD student, St Vincent's Institute).*

Public outreach events included the Annual Victorian ASMR Medical Research Week® Radio Broadcast on 3RRR's Einstein A Go Go program which featured three PhD students' projects and the 'Science in the Cinema' events in Sydney and Adelaide. Initiatives for school students included tours of metropolitan and rural schools in South Australia and Victoria and a careers seminar in NSW. The successful online ASMR Medical Research Week® Quiz was expanded to four states: Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia. More of these outreach events are planned for the coming months.

Scientific meetings and symposia were run in NSW, QLD, WA, SA and ACT. These meetings provided young medical researchers a forum to showcase their work and yet again record numbers of abstracts were submitted and delegates attended. Nationally, ASMR administered a total of 49 prizes amounting to \$52,400. Awards were given to students, and postdoctoral and senior researchers and included the AMGEN Award, won by Professor Tien Wong from the University of Melbourne. The \$50,000 Commonwealth Health Minister's Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research was awarded to Professor Jamie Rossjohn from Monash University.

Professional Development Days, which were aimed at late-PhD and early postdoctoral researchers, were held in Victoria and Western Australia. The theme of the Victoria meeting was "Professional Communications"



Dr Anke Eekele, Hon Barry House, Prof John Finlay-Jones and Prof Prue Hart at the ASMR MRW® dinner in Perth, WA




Professor Axel Ullrich, ASMR Medalist and Professor Warwick Anderson, NHMRC CEO at the NAB National Press Club Address in Canberra



**ASMR MRW® dinner in Tasmania.** From left to right: Dr Adele Holloway, Tasmanian Convenor, Associate Professor Maria Kavallaris, ASMR President, Mr Robert Gasperini the winner of the Tasmanian ASMR MRW® student award and Professor Simon Foote, Director, Menzies Research Institute

while the Western Australian theme was "Creating Career Opportunities". Both events were well-attended. NSW and South Australia will run their Professional Development Days later in the year.

The 2007 ASMR Medallist was Professor Axel Ullrich from the Max Planck Institute in Germany, who spoke of the challenges of translating basic science discoveries into new medical treatments. His successful National Tour included lectures at ASMR Medical Research Week® Dinners in Hobart, Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne and Perth as well as delivering a NAB address at the National Press Club in Canberra, when he was presented with the 2007 ASMR Medal.

The running of 2007 ASMR Medical Research Week® was a huge undertaking and would not have been possible without the professional help and guidance of Cath West and Priscilla Diment in the Executive Office, the ASMR Directors and Maree Overall and Mike Pickford at Australian Science Network. 

**A/Prof Peter Eastwood**  
**National ASMR MRW® Convenor**  
**Dr Emma Parkinson-Lawrence**  
**Coordinator of State Committees**



Associate Professor Rob Ramsay, Past ASMR President, Dr Lynn Corcoran and Dr Ross Bury, DHS at the ASMR MRW® Dinner in Melbourne.



**ASMR MRW® dinner in Victoria.** From left to right: Hon Tony Lupton, Member for Prahran, Ms Bernie Hobbs, MC and award winning science writer and broadcaster and Professor Andrew Sinclair, Past ASMR President



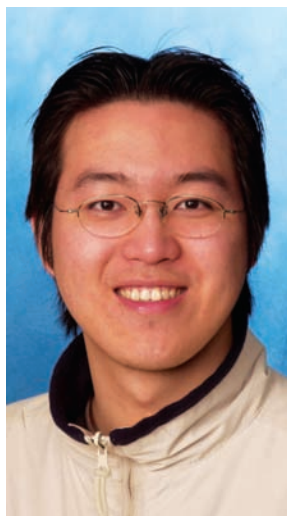
**ASMR MRW® dinner in NSW.**  
Standing from left to right: Mr Michael Bartholemei, Deputy Consul General, Fed. Rep. Germany in NSW, Professor Robert Lusby, University of Sydney, Dr Alaina Ammit, ASMR Director.  
Seated left to right: Professor Axel Ullrich, ASMR Medallist and Mary Lusby, University of Sydney.



**ASMR MRW® dinner in Victoria.** From left to right: Professor James Best, Chairman, NHMRC Research Committee, Dr Emma Parkinson-Lawrence, ASMR Director and Associate Professor Mathew Gillespie, Past ASMR President and Member of the NHMRC Research Committee.



# State Awards



**Dean Yee, ANU,**  
winner of the ASMR ACT Young  
Investigator Forum best  
student member presentation



**Finalists of the Tasmanian  
ASMR MRW® Student Awards.**  
*From left to right:*  
**Adele Woodhouse,**  
**Robert Gasperini (winner),**  
**Liesel FitzGerald**  
**and Anna King**



**Dr Helen Cox receives the  
Premiers Award for Medical  
Research at Government  
House. From left to right:**  
**Professor David de Kretser,**  
**Governor of Victoria,**  
**Dr Helen Cox,**  
**Hon Bronwyn Pike MP,**  
**Victorian Minister for Health**  
**and Dr Theo Mantamadiotis,**  
**Victorian Convenor**

## ACT

### ASMR ACT Young Investigator Forum

#### Best ASMR Student Member Presentation

**Dean Yee**  
Australian National University

## Queensland

### Queensland Premier's Awards

#### Postdoctoral Student Awards

*Winner:*  
**Dr Teong Chuah**  
*Runners Up:*  
**Dr Elke Hacker**  
**Ms Alyson Ashe**

#### Postdoctoral Awards

*Winner:*  
**Dr Christine Wells**  
*Runners Up:*  
**Dr Mai H Tran**  
**Dr Stuart Macgregor**

#### Senior Research Awards

*Winner:*  
**Dr Suyinn Chong**  
*Runners Up:*  
**Dr Allyson R. Pettit**  
**Dr Kevin J. Spring**

#### Best Student Oral Presentation

*Winner:*  
**David Holcombe**  
*2nd Place:*  
**Chad Heazlewood**  
*3rd Place:*  
**Ming Chang**

#### Best Poster Presentation

*Winner:*  
**Rehan Villani**  
*2nd Place:*  
**Mitchell Lawrence**  
*3rd Place:*  
**James Brown**

## New South Wales

### 2007 ASMR NSW Scientific Meeting Awards

#### The BD Biosciences Award for the Best Presentation by a Research Assistant or Technical Officer

**Usha Salagame**  
Westmead Institute of Cancer Research

#### The Johnson & Johnson Research Award for Best Student Poster Presentation

**Kate Patterson**  
The Garvan Institute for Medical Research

#### The Eli Lilly Award for the Best Postdoctoral Poster Presentation

**Samantha Oakes**  
The Garvan Institute for Medical Research

#### The Eli Lilly Award for the Best Student Oral Presentation

**Kirsten McTavish**  
The ANZAC Research Institute  
Concord Repatriation Hospital

#### The NSW Office for Science and Medical Research Award for Excellence in Medical Research for the Best Postdoctoral Oral Presentation

**Lisa Wood**  
Respiratory Medicine, John  
Hunter Hospital

### The University of Sydney Medal for Excellence in Medical Research for the Best Overall Presentation

**Alex Swarbrick**  
The Garvan Institute for Medical Research

## South Australia

#### Ross Wishart Memorial Award

**Cadence Minge**  
University of Adelaide

#### Clinical Research Award (Poster)

**Adhra Al-Mawali**

#### Clinical Research Award

**Hassan Bakos**  
The University of Adelaide

#### Early Career Researcher Award (Poster)

**Amanda Sferruzzi-Perri**  
The University of Adelaide

#### Early Career Researcher Award

**Rebecca Ormsby**  
Flinders University

#### Honours Research Award (Poster)

**Stacey Keep**  
The Womens and Childrens  
Hospital, North Adelaide

#### Honours Research Award (Oral)

**Miriam Butler**  
Hanson Institute

#### Healthy Aging Research Poster Award

**Duminda Kumarasinghe**  
IMVS

## Most Outstanding Oral Presentation of the Day

**Jo Stevenson**

University of SA School of Health Sciences

## Most Outstanding Poster Presentation of the Day

**Karen Anderson**

University of Adelaide

## Tasmania

### ASMR Medical Research Week® Student Award

**Robert Gasperini**

University of Tasmania

## Victoria

### Premiers Award for Medical Research

**Helen Cox**

The Australian International Health Institute,  
The University of Melbourne

### Premiers Award Commendations

**Professor Rachelle Buchbinder**

Monash Department of Clinical Epidemiology at Cabrini Hospital

**Dr Robert MacInnis**

School of Population Health,  
The University of Melbourne

**Ms Fleur Tynan**

Protein Crystallography Unit,  
Monash University

### Jack and Robert Smorgon Families Award

**The Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research and Public Health**

## Western Australia

### Department of Health Award

**Robert O'Donoghue**

Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital

### Department of Health Award

**Lucy Millar**

QEll Medical Centre

### University of Western Australia Pro Vice Chancellor, Research and Innovation Award

**Nilakshi S Jayasekera**

Murdoch University

### Murdoch University Award for Animal-Based Research

**Alison M. McDonnell**

University of Western Australia

### Edith Cowan University Award

**Emma Jamieson**

UWA Centre for Medical Research

### Western Australian Institute for Medical Research (WAIMR) Award

**Tamara Davey**

University of Western Australia

### Western Australian Biomedical Research Institute (WABRI) Award

**Yu Qian**

University of Western Australia

### Telethon Institute for Child Health Research Award

**Lindy Fitzgerald**

University of Western Australia

## Lung Institute of Western Australia (LIWA) Award

**Nital Sumaria**

UWA, Centre for Experimental Immunology,  
Lions Eye Institute

### Tri-Med Award

**Hannah Radley**

University of Western Australia

### UWA School of Surgery & Pathology Award

**Azita Vind**

Murdoch University

### Orthocell Award

**Taksum Cheng**

UWA

### Invitrogen Student Encouragement Awards

**Dana Ihdahid**

Curtin University & Royal Perth Hospital

**Dede Indra Kurniawan**

Curtin University of Technology

**Alison Carter**

Western Australian Institute for Medical Research



Dr Sandra Nicholson, ASMR Director, Professor Axel Ullrich, ASMR Medalist, The Hon Kay Patterson, Senator for Victoria and Associate Professor Maria Kavallaris, ASMR President at the ASMR MRW® Dinner in Melbourne



Professor Steven Wesselingh, Director of the Burnet Institute is presented with the Jack & Robert Smorgon Families Award 2007 by Ms Tania Smorgon at Government House



WA Department of Health Award winners **Robert O'Donoghue** and **Lucy Miller**



Associate Professor Peter Eastwood ASMR Director, Associate Professor Maria Kavallaris, ASMR President, Dr Emma Parkinson-Lawrence ASMR Director and Professor Axel Ullrich, ASMR Medalist at the WA ASMR MRW® Dinner

# Horizons for Health and Medical Research (HMR) Philanthropy

**A**ustralians used to confuse philanthropy with stamp collecting (philately)! Not anymore. Where does HMR fit into this picture of growing giving and what are we likely to see more of in future? What does philanthropy bring that other forms of funding do not?

**Giving in general.** Overall philanthropy is burgeoning. *Giving Australia* (2005) reports record total giving of \$11 billion (\$7.7 billion from individuals and \$3.3 billion from business – excluding Tsunami gifts). A buoyant economy has boosted giving along with government incentives such as the new Prescribed Private Funds (PPFs). Akin to the tax deductible private foundations of US fame, some 440 PPFs had been approved as at September 2006, housing donations of some \$505.8 million. Distributions of \$94.3 million have been made since their inception. Despite such taxation incentives, Australian giving still pales in comparison to the US. Australian giving is 0.68% of GDP less than half the US 1.6% of GDP.

**HMR giving.** *Giving Australia* charts that HMR nonprofits attract one in seven of all individual donation dollars, one-tenth of all hours volunteered and nearly one in five business donation dollars. Medical research by itself draws one in ten individual donation dollars. These figures slot HMR giving as second only to religious institution giving but not a close second. While three in five donors report HMR giving, the average donation is comparatively low: just \$77 pa against the larger contributions of \$529 pa to religion, \$234 pa to international aid or \$220 to arts/culture. These areas reflect more planned and regular giving such as child sponsorships. Similarly, some membership or volunteer involvement lifts the average gift level across all causes, with such 'affiliated' HMR givers donating on average \$94 pa.


**Future potential.** Research Australia commissioned CPNS to study possible philanthropic improvements to the Australian scene in 2005 (*Lifting the Lifegiving Dollar*). This report suggests that successful HMR philanthropy landscapes elsewhere, include:

- initiatives to stimulate such giving,
- vibrant HMR charities and foundations,
- well-resourced philanthropists and
- an involved community that understands the rationale for supporting the area.

In Australia, more HMR 'stimulants' are evident (for instance ASMR's recent forum on sustainable medical research funding models and Research Australia's efforts to gather stakeholders interested in a centre for HMR philanthropy). A concept such as the UK's Association of Medical Research Charities that builds

the capacity of these funding agencies may have a role in Australia ([www.amrc.org.uk](http://www.amrc.org.uk)). Similarly, joint venture funding between foundations and government as the UK University Challenge, which seeded funding and relationships that lead to commercial biotech investment ([www.ost.gov.uk/enterprise/unichal.htm](http://www.ost.gov.uk/enterprise/unichal.htm)). Other vibrant examples not present yet in Australia are luminary funders of the scope of a Wellcome Trust or Howard Hughes Medical Research Institute. Can such a towering entity be established here? Perhaps the newly establishing SMILE Foundation here is an early version ([www.smilefoundation.com.au](http://www.smilefoundation.com.au)).

Australian philanthropists are assisted by Philanthropy Australia. Overseas, useful specialist resourcing models to fund or better fund HMR include Grantmakers in Health ([www.gih.org](http://www.gih.org)) or groups that promote venture philanthropy such as Goldman Philanthropic Partnerships ([www.goldmanpartnerships.org](http://www.goldmanpartnerships.org)) or the Institute for the Study of Aging ([www.aging-institute.org/venture.htm](http://www.aging-institute.org/venture.htm)). The concept of a social investment that funds innovative research to the stage where venture capital may kick in is an attractive model.

**Unique angle.** Unfettered by political imperatives or election cycles, not profit-dominated as pharmaceutical companies, more able to fund risky ideas, loyal to an area or disease, cumulative over decades and able to legitimately fund into niche areas, the philanthropic dollar has always brought a different dimension to HMR funding. While it will never and should never overtake other sources, philanthropy has the potential to more prominently fund HMR in the future, and to enlarge the overall funding 'pie'. 

## Sources

ACOSS (2005) *Giving Australia: Research on Philanthropy in Australia — Summary of Findings*, Canberra, Department of Family and Community Services, available from [http://www.partnerships.gov.au/philanthropy/philanthropy\\_research.shtml#FinalReports](http://www.partnerships.gov.au/philanthropy/philanthropy_research.shtml#FinalReports)

Centre of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies QUT (2005) *Lifting the Lifegiving Dollar: Case samples of creative practice in health and medical research philanthropy*, Prepared for Research Australia, available from [http://www.researchaustralia.org/aboutResearch.asp?id=318&parent\\_id=93](http://www.researchaustralia.org/aboutResearch.asp?id=318&parent_id=93)

**Dr Wendy Scaife**  
**Senior Research Fellow**  
**Centre of Philanthropy & Nonprofit Studies**  
**Queensland University of Technology**

## Calendar

### 8th National Prostate Cancer Symposium

Melbourne Cricket Ground,  
 Melbourne, Australia  
 Aug 8–10, 2007

For information contact the Symposium Co-ordinators  
 The PR Exchange PTY Ltd,  
 email: [prex@pacific.net.au](mailto:prex@pacific.net.au)

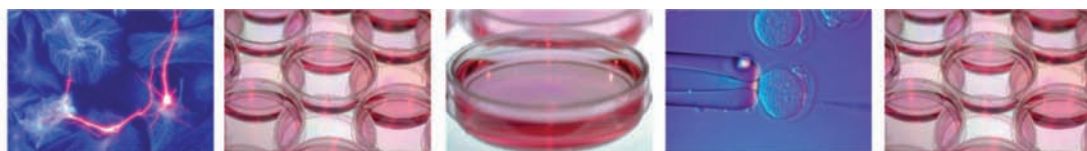
### 14th International Congress on Genes, Gene Families and Isozymes

Salvador Brazil  
 Aug 15–18, 2007  
[www.cpqrr.fiocruz.br/14thICGGFI](http://www.cpqrr.fiocruz.br/14thICGGFI)

### NSC 2007 — Tissue Remodelling: Current Understanding and Future Therapeutic Targets

Convenors: Alaina Ammit  
 and Alistair Steward  
 Nov 11–14, 2007  
 The Carrington,  
 Katoomba, NSW





### Professional Development Program

## Are you a **Mid-Career Researcher?**

**T**he Australian Society for Medical Research invites you to participate in the Professional Development Program. This one day workshop is specifically aimed at mid-career medical researchers that are 5–12 year postdoctoral and sessions include:

- The Road to a Successful Career in Medical Research
- Attracting Grants & Fellowships
- How to Translate your Discovery into a Clinical Outcome
- How to Run a Successful Research Group

This program has been designed to fill what is currently a gap in executive training for mid-career Australian medical researchers. As you are aware, ongoing professional training is not available to the majority

of medical researchers who while they may have excelled scientifically, still need to develop the management skills that will enable them to successfully run their own research group, attract funding and progress in the National Health and Medical Research Council Fellowship and other fellowship schemes.


This program is aimed at assisting the brightest of Australia's medical researchers to achieve their full potential. The program is being run in Melbourne (27th August), Brisbane (29th August) and Sydney (30th August).

**Places are limited and we invite you to register**

[www.asmr.org.au](http://www.asmr.org.au) 

**Dr Sarah Meachem,**  
Executive Director, ASMR

## Commonwealth Health Minister's Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research

**P**rofessor Jamie Rossjohn from the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Monash University has been recognized for his outstanding research and track record by winning the Commonwealth Health Minister's Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research. Professor Rossjohn's research is focused on harnessing cutting edge protein crystallography to provide insights into the mechanisms of infection by bacteria causing infectious diseases including tuberculosis, gangrene and listeria. More recently, Prof Rossjohn has worked to understand how our body fights infection by viruses such as Epstein-Barr Virus, which infects 90% of the human population and influenza. Prof Rossjohn has now forged links with the biotechnology sector to translate his basic research outcomes into potential treatments for both immune-based and infection-based diseases. Prof Rossjohn believes that protein crystallography is a major tool providing detailed information on the structure of function of proteins and a platform for rationally designing therapeutics. Prof Rossjohn was awarded the 2007 Commonwealth Health Minister's Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research. 



**Professor Jamie Rossjohn is awarded the Commonwealth Health Minister's Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research by the Hon Kay Patterson, MP**

### Call for Nominations

**Terms of Office for eight directors expire at the AGM of November 12 2007**

AMMIT, Alaina, NSW — retiring  
 BUTT, Alison, NSW — renominating  
 DELATYCKI, Martin, VIC — renominating  
 EASTWOOD, Peter, WA — retiring  
 HULETT, Mark, ACT — renominating  
 LOPEZ, J. Alejandro, QLD — retiring  
 TACHEDJIAN, Gilda, VIC — retiring  
 KAVALLARIS, Maria, NSW — retiring

### Terms of office expiring 2008

Sandra Nicholson  
 Sarah Meachem  
 Emma Parkinson-Lawrence

**Download "Call for Nomination" form from <http://www.asmr.org.au/Nom07.pdf>**



# ASMR National Scientific Conference 2007

## Tissue Remodelling: Current Understanding and Future Therapeutic Targets

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

**Convenors: Alaina Ammit and Alastair Stewart**



### THE ASMR Member Directory

The ASMR Member Directory is a new initiative to promote communication and collaboration between health and medical researchers in Australia.

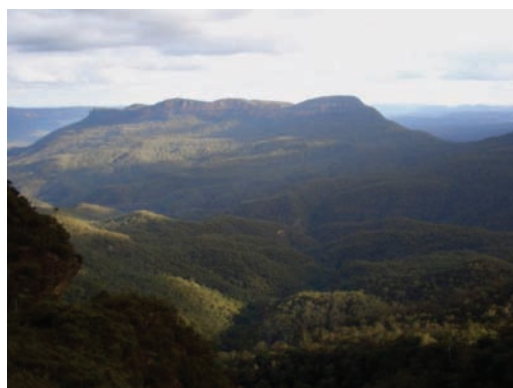
The Directory is a web-based search engine which includes individuals' position(s) and professional contact details, degrees, membership of other societies, website and four keywords/phrases (research interests).

Members are able to update information via password access to the Directory. It is openly available to the public, searchable by surname and by research interest.

ASMR members receive a consent form for listing in the Directory. It is important that you complete and sign it, and return it to the Executive Office. The form can also be downloaded from <http://www.asmr.org.au/about/membership.html>

Don't miss this opportunity to be included in this important networking resource. We look forward to receiving your forms.

**T**issue remodelling is associated with both normal and abnormal processes. The aim of the conference is to bring together researchers working in diverse disease areas in which tissue remodelling is a key feature (such as asthma, cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, reproduction, hepatic fibrogenesis and cardiovascular disease) to share their perspectives on the molecular and cellular mechanisms that control tissue remodelling and to elucidate future therapeutic targets to combat these diseases. We will be holding keynote orations, interactive symposia and poster sessions to explore the functions that cells undergo in order to remodel tissue in health and disease; including inflammation and cytokine production, migration, growth, apoptosis, matrix remodelling, cell phenotype and plasticity and tissue engineering. The Scientific Programming Committee has already confirmed invited speakers for the symposia and they include (so far): Fabienne McKay (Garvan Institute), Peter Currie (Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute), Patrick Humbert (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre), John Silke (La Trobe University), Nigel Waterhouse (Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre), Tim Hewitson (Royal Melbourne Hospital), Rik Thompson (St Vincent's Institute), Ashish Diwan (St George Hospital School and SpineMed), Edith Gardiner (University of Queensland).



This is the first time in Australia that researchers working in diverse disease fields will have met together to compare and contrast cellular functions that underlie tissue remodelling. It is our hope that the "Tissue Remodelling: Current Understanding and Future Therapeutic Targets" meeting will enhance exchange of ideas nationally and internationally and establish new ways of looking at common molecular pathways in a variety of clinical conditions. It will also be an excellent meeting for students with travel awards, presentation prizes and all the usual opportunities for networking.

And it gives me great pleasure to announce that the 2007 AWT Edwards Oration will be Professor Julie H. Campbell AO FAA (Centre for Research in Vascular Biology, Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, University of Queensland).

It promises to be a great meeting in the beautiful Blue Mountains!

Hope to see you all there!

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


**On behalf of 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, Hala Zreiqat**

**Early bird registration  
and abstract  
submission deadline:  
September 1st, 2007.  
[www.asmr-nsc.org.au](http://www.asmr-nsc.org.au)**

# Professor Tien Wong

## Winner of the 2007 Amgen Award


**P**rofessor Tien Wong from the Centre for Eye Research Australia, University of Melbourne has been recognized for his outstanding research by winning the prestigious Amgen Medical Researcher Award. Professor Wong identified a novel biomarker of cardiovascular risk based on an assessment of tiny blood vessels in the retina. These vessels are accessible to direct non-invasive examination, and damage to these vessels may mirror similar damage in the heart and brain. In the last 6 years Prof Wong has focused on determining if measurement of retinal vessel damage may help in the diagnostic prediction of

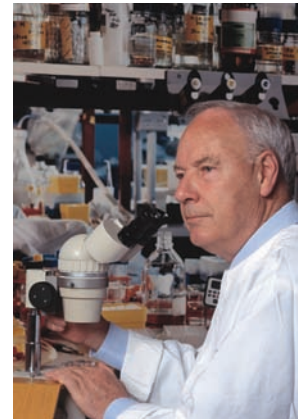
cardiovascular diseases. Prof Wong has published over 150 journal articles in high impact medical journals including the New England Journal of Medicine, the Lancet and the Journal of the American Medical Association. Prof Wong has received grants in excess of \$14M from the NHMRC, NIH and the National Heart Foundation. In 2005 he also received a Science, Technology and Innovation Grant from the Victorian State Government to build a \$6M Retinal Vascular Imaging Centre to undertake translational research capability in this field. Prof Wong was presented with the Amgen Award during ASMR MRW® in Sydney. 

# Prestigious USA Award for

## Professor Don Metcalf

**T**he American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) has honoured Professor Don Metcalf from the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute with an AACR Lifetime Achievement Award for his groundbreaking discoveries in cancer research and treatment. Prof Metcalf's discovery and development of the white blood cell regulating hormones, the Colony Stimulating Factors has impacted the lives of more than six million cancer patients. The discovery, purification, cloning, mass production and

clinical use of the Colony Stimulating Factors represent a remarkable series of accomplishments spanning more than thirty years of sustained personal creativity. The AACR Lifetime Achievement Award is the latest in a long series of national and international honours received by Prof Metcalf including the Prime Minister's Prize for Science, the Companion of the Order of Australia, the Victoria Prize, the Albert Lasker Award and the Inaugural Salk Medal for Research and Excellence. 



Professor Don Metcalf

## Director



- Renowned in reproduction & endocrinology

Established in 1969, the Institute has maintained a reputation for the excellence of its research and clinical programs.

Answering to the Board, you will lead, manage and promote the interests and activities of the Institute, which is a WHO Collaborating Centre for Research in Human Reproduction. Maintaining productive relationships with a range of strategically aligned stakeholders is vital.

An eminent researcher in a field which is aligned to the interests of the Institute, you will be a recognised leader in your chosen speciality, with a superlative record of attracting funds. Possessing an achievable vision for future directions, you must be a champion and advocate for the organisation, with the ability to function as an effective spokesperson in international scientific and public forums.

Please send a CV (Word format)  
career@brookerconsulting.com.au or ring  
Jeremy Wurm on 03 9602 1666, in confidence.

**BROOKER**  
Consulting



242BRO - ASMR

## UNSW UNSW MEDICINE Faculty of Medicine

### Research Strengths

As a member of the Australian Group of 8 research-intensive universities and the international Universitas 21 grouping, UNSW is rightly proud of its national and international research profile which, in recent years, has seen a spectacular rise in competitive funding to support its world class research. The Faculty of Medicine is at the forefront of UNSW's research profile.

The Faculty takes a strategic view of Research and aims to focus its resources on identified areas of research excellence. Chief among these are:

- Cancer Research • Brain Sciences
- Cardiovascular Research • Infection/Immunity/Inflammation

Whilst research activity in other areas is still encouraged, we are now able to concentrate on our strengths to plan for the future, building infrastructure and forming strong partnerships that will continue to make us innovators and leaders in medical research. As an outstanding example of this, we were pleased to announce in June this year, the construction of a major new research facility on the UNSW campus, to be known as the Lowy Cancer Research Centre. On completion in late 2009, this \$100 million plus facility will house up to 400 cancer researchers, from UNSW and the Children's Cancer Institute Australia (CCIA). It will be one of the largest dedicated cancer research centres in the Southern Hemisphere and Australia's only fully integrated childhood and adult cancer research centre.

For more information on our research initiatives and our Postgraduate Research Programs visit our website: <http://www.med.unsw.edu.au>



## ASMR Directors 2007

### Executive Directors

**Assoc. Prof. Maria Kavallaris** — President  
**Dr Mark Hulett** — President Elect and Honorary Treasurer  
**Dr Alaina Ammit** — Honorary Secretary  
**Dr Sandra Nicholson** — Business Development  
**Dr Sarah Meachem** — Careers and Professional Development

### Directors

**Dr Alison Butt** — Convenor AH&MRC 2008  
**Assoc. Prof. Martin Delatycki** — Clinical Issues  
**Assoc. Prof. Peter Eastwood** — ASMR MRW® Convenor  
**Dr Emma Parkinson-Lawrence** — Media and State Committee Convenor  
**Assoc. Prof. J Alejandro Lopez** — Membership and Convenor NSC 2008  
**Dr Gilda Tachedjian** — Newsletter Editor  
**Catherine West** — Senior Executive Officer

## ASMR State Branch Convenors

ACT **Dr Craig Freeman**  
 Vic **Dr Theo Mantamadiotis**  
 NSW **Dr Andrew Buckle**  
 Tas **Dr Adele Holloway**  
 Qld **Assoc. Prof. Michael McGuckin**  
 WA **Dr Steven E. Mutsaers** and **Ms Sharyn Pope**  
 SA **Dr Beverly Muhlhauser** and **Dr Janna Morrison**  
 Contact details from [www.asmr.org.au/states/index.html](http://www.asmr.org.au/states/index.html)



## MICE AND RATS

### Custom Breeding Maintenance of Strains Importation



P.O. Box 1180 Canning Vale, Western Australia 6970.  
 Telephone: (08) 9332 5033 Fax (08) 9310 2839  
 Email: [info@arc.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@arc.wa.gov.au) Web site: [www.arc.wa.gov.au](http://www.arc.wa.gov.au)

### Affiliate Members of ASMR

Australian and New Zealand Society for Cell & Developmental Biology Inc  
 Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
 Australasian Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy  
 Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI)  
 Australasian Sleep Association  
 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 Bone and Mineral Society  
 Australian and New Zealand Society for Blood Transfusion  
 Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists  
 Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists  
 Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology  
 Australian Atherosclerosis Society  
 Australian Physiological Society  
 Australian Society for the Study of Obesity  
 Australian College of Ambulance Professionals  
 Australasian College of Dermatologists  
 Australasian College of Emergency Medicine  
 Australasian Faculty of Occupation Medicine  
 Australasian Gene Therapy Society Inc  
 Australasian Menopause Society  
 Australasian Society for Immunology  
 Australian Association of Neurologists  
 Australian Diabetes Society  
 Australian Medical Students' Association  
 Australian Neuroscience Society Inc  
 Australian Rheumatology Association  
 Australian Society for Parasitology  
 Australian Vascular Biology Society  
 Cardiac Society of Australia 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  
 National Association of Research Fellows  
 Nutrition Society of Australia  
 Paediatric Research Society of Australia and New Zealand  
 Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand  
 RANZ College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists  
 RANZC of Psychiatrists  
 RANZC of Radiologists  
 Royal Australian College of Physicians  
 Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia  
 Society for Free Radical Research (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  
 Kidney Health Australia  
 Australian Red Cross Blood Service  
 Commonwealth Health and Tuberculosis Australia  
 COTA National Seniors  
 Cystic Fibrosis Australia Inc  
 Epilepsy Association  
 Foundation for High Blood Pressure Res  
 Haemophilia Foundation of Australia  
 Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation  
 Multiple Sclerosis Australia  
 Muscular Dystrophy Assoc of SA Inc  
 National Heart Foundation of Aust  
 Scleroderma Association of NSW Inc  
 The Ophthalmic Res Inst of Aust  
 The Lupus Association of NSW  
 Vic Health Promotion Foundation

### Supporting Members of ASMR

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