President’s Report

This 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 to 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 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 (Coordinator 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 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 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 organised by ASMR 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 (Coordinator State Committees and PR Liaison), Cath West, and Priscilla Diment (ASMR Executive Office), Maree Overall and Mike Pickford (ASN Events).

The ASMR Medalist 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 (Coordinator State Committees and PR Liaison), Cath West, and Priscilla Diment (ASMR Executive Office), Maree Overall and Mike Pickford (ASN Events).

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It 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 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 its 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)
ASMR 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 individual’s and their committees.

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”
while the Western Australian theme was “Creating Career Opportunities.” Both events were well-attended.

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 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

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

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 Lowrence
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
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
QEI Medical Centre

University of Western Australia
Pro Vice Chancellor, Research and Innovation Award
Nilakshi S Jayasekera
Murdoch University

Murdock 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 Ihdayhid
Curtin University & Royal Perth Hospital
Dede Indra Kurniawan
Curtin University of Technology
Alison Carter
Western Australian Institute for Medical Research

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

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

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

Australians 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). 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).

Other vibrant examples not present yet in Australia are luminary funders of the scope of a Welcome 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).

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) or groups that promote venture philanthropy such as Goldman Philanthropic Partnerships (www.goldmanpartnerships.org) or the Institute for the Study of Aging (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**


Dr Wendy Scaife
Senior Research Fellow
Centre of Philanthropy & Nonprofit Studies
Queensland University of Technology
Are you a Mid-Career Researcher?

The 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

Dr Sarah Meachem,
Executive Director, ASMR

Commonwealth Health Minister’s Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research

Professor 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.

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

Tissue 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

Professor Tien Wong
Winner of the 2007 Amgen Award

Professor 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

The 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.
ASMR Directors 2007

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Dr Mark Hulett — President Elect and Honorary Treasurer
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Dr Sarah Meachem — Careers and Professional Development

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SA  Dr Beverly Muhlhauser and Dr Janna Morrison

Contact details from www.asmr.org.au/states/index.html

Affiliate Members of ASMR
Australian and New Zealand Society for Cell & Developmental Biology Inc
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RANZC of Psychiatrists
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Society for Free Radical Research (Australasia)
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Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand
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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
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Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand
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