

President's Report

Established in 1961, the Australian Society for Medical Research is the peak, professional society, representing all Australian health and medical researchers. Built on three pillars of political, scientific, and public advocacy, the ASMR has been the voice and rallying point for Australian researchers, advocating directly to Government and key stakeholders on key issues affecting the sector.

In 2013, only 17% of NHMRC project grant applications were funded (a figure projected to get worse in 2014), but most disturbingly, 55% of projects that were considered fundable, could not be supported. To put it simply, more than 2000 research project applications, deemed worthy of funding by peer review, could not be supported due to lack of funds. These 2000 projects could be key pieces of the puzzle in the fight against cancer, metabolic disease, mental health problems, the development of bionic limbs, and many more future health challenges.

Australian researchers are recognised internationally for many paradigm shifting discoveries that have transformed global health - helicobacter, penicillin and x-ray diffraction amongst many, many others. However, without a sustainable funding model, discoveries such as this will no longer happen.

In 2013, Simon McKeon AO released the recommendations of his review into Australian health and medical research. While ASMR supports many of the reviews recommendations, it is disappointing that the crucial element of increased funding is not clearly defined.

The findings of the McKeon review did highlight one critical point – to safeguard the future health of all Australians, health and medical research must be embedded into the health care system.

Based on key pieces of data, born from ASMR commissioned Deloitte Access Economics reports, the ASMR has proposed the following business model: *to increase investment into the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to 3% of total health portfolio expenditure.*

This is the core of ASMRs evidence based funding



Dr Roger Yazbek, ASMR President

model, and what ASMR has communicated directly to government ministers and representatives of treasury and finance. Currently, the investment into NHMRC represents 0.6% of total health portfolio expenditure, and this figure is decreasing.

Australia is on the verge of a health care crisis, with an ageing population and diseases associated with ageing predicted to increase the physical and economic burden on health care. The Government's Intergenerational Report predicts that health care costs will consume Federal budgets. The evidence based, sustainable funding model, proposed by the ASMR, will play a large part in off-setting the future health crisis facing the nation.

This year, more than ever, a unified voice for health and medical researchers is needed to defend and ensure the security of Australian health and medical research. The ASMR is that voice, and as the 2014 ASMR President, I will meet with key decision makers and stakeholders to fight to achieve a better outcome for Australian health and medical researchers.

But we need you, the scientists, your colleagues, family, friends, and next door neighbours to magnify that voice, and ensure that Government hears and responds to our request. The ASMR will make material available to support this campaign, including letter templates, information brochures and fact sheets. If we are united

In this issue:

Measuring the Impact of Research — Not Just a Simple List of Publications	2
Building a New Future: 4 A Flagship Health and Medical Research Institute for South Australia	4
ASMR Indigenous Health Report	5
Ageing Well For the Future	5
ASMR Indigenous Health Forum 2013	6
National Scientific Conference 2014	6
ASMR Research Award	7
Welcome to Twitter!	7
Cell Culture Seminar for Sydney-based Labs	8



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and consistent with our message, then we will achieve increased and sustainable funding for health and medical research.

ASMR Medical Research Week® and the ASMR Medallist Tour are flagship events of the society, representing an opportunity for the public to acknowledge the work of health and medical researchers. More importantly, it is an opportunity for researchers to engage with members of the non-scientific community, informing and educating about how their research will change health care. I look forward to announcing the 2014 ASMR Medallist on the ASMR YouTube channel in the near future.

Health and medical research is an all-encompassing industry, and is not just restricted to the traditional models of molecular and cell biologists, geneticists, protein biologists etc. Physicists, chemists, biomedical engineers, bioinformaticians, psychologists, materials engineers, nanotechnologists, allied health professionals and policy makers are just a small sample of the diversity of the health and medical research sector. The health challenges of tomorrow will only

be addressed by trans-disciplinary collaborations, to foster a constant flow between knowledge and practical action.

This year, the biennial Australian Health and Medical Research Congress (AHMRC) will be held in Melbourne from the 16th-19th November, and for the first time, will have the theme of "Trans-disciplinary Approaches to Chronic Disease", to highlight how trans-disciplinary research will drive future innovations in health. The program committee, led by Associate Professor Gilda Tachedjian and Dr Tina Bianco-Miotto, have assembled an exciting program of speakers and sessions, with full details on the congress website.

The ASMR will also hold its National Scientific Meeting within the AHMRC program, and we are pleased to announce Professor Josef Penninger as this year's Firkin Orator. I look forward to welcoming you all in Melbourne.

2014 promises to be a challenging and exciting year and I look forward to working with a dynamic board of ASMR directors, and the ASMR State committees in representing the interests of Australian researchers.

Measuring the Impact of Research — Not Just a Simple List of Publications



Professor Warwick Anderson,
Chief Executive Officer, NHMRC

Ever improving citation performance.

NHMRC has been conducting rigorous analyses of the citation performance of Australian health and medical research publications since the early 1990s. We released the latest version of this regular bibliometric analysis in mid-February (*Measuring up 2013*).

The latest report covers publications from 2005 to 2009. Understanding bibliometric analyses is not straightforward and our report sets out the methodology. There are more than 100 Tables and Figures — so be careful about cherry-picking your favourite result! In short:

- NHMRC-supported publications received 60% more citations than the world average
- 2.8% of all NHMRC supported publications were in the top 1% cited world-wide, and 10.7% were in the top 5% cited world-wide
- NHMRC supported approximately 31% of all Australian health and medical research publications
- NHMRC supported 68% of publications from medical research institutes, 32% from Universities and 31% from hospitals

- Almost 40% of NHMRC-supported publications involved international co-authors (compared to just 18% 20 years ago).
- Australian publications that had NHMRC funding support increased by around 68% from previous report covering 2002 to 2006.

So, NHMRC funded publications have grown in recognition by other authors, increasingly have an international collaborator, and are well over-represented in the most commonly cited publications. Good news!

Measuring the impact of research (and the Declaration of Research Assessment)

Measuring citations in publications is just one measure of the "impact" of research; it's simply the impact on the published ideas or methods on other scientists, as acknowledged in their own publications.

It's much harder to measure the other impacts of research; those that contribute to new commercial opportunities, better products and processes to treat patients, better policies to improve prevention strategies, publications that influence policy makers to make improvements in management and administration of our system, and even how being a researcher and a teacher or clinician improves your work.

Usually, the real impact of a single piece of research will only be seen many years later. Think of Colin Sullivan's sleep apnoea research 30 years ago and now a treatment for thousands of patients world-wide and a vibrant medical devices company, or Graham Clark's original research on hearing and now cochlear implants (and another vibrant devices company).

NHMRC has long provided applicants with an opportunity to address the wider impacts of their work in their applications for consideration as part of the peer review process. In our Program Grants, Fellowships and Project Grants, this forms an essential element of the peer review.

Impact cannot be inferred from a simple list of publications.

That is why we have been strong supporters of the recent San Francisco "Declaration of Research Assessment", from the American Society for Cell Biology. The declaration for research funding bodies is:

General Recommendation

1. Do not use journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, to assess an individual scientist's contributions, or in hiring, promotion, or funding decisions.

For funding agencies

2. Be explicit about the criteria used in evaluating the scientific productivity of grant applicants and clearly highlight, especially for early-stage investigators, that the scientific content of a paper is much more important than publication metrics or the identity of the journal in which it was published.
3. For the purposes of research assessment, consider the value and impact of all research outputs (including datasets and software) in addition to research publications, and consider a broad range of impact measures including qualitative indicators of research impact, such as influence on policy and practice.

NHMRC was an early adopter of such policies well before the Declaration (particularly in regard to not using Journal Impact factors, removed from Project Grants peer review since 2008) but we are now systematically examining our schemes to ensure that our approach is in accord with the Declaration.

Economic impacts

The *Medicines and Pharmaceutical* sector is now Australia's largest export.

The *Life Sciences, Biotech and Pharmaceuticals* ASX Index has been greatly outperforming the ASX All Ordinaries over more than a decade.

NHMRC's modest Development Grant scheme also demonstrates that Australian medical researchers can be very adept at turning discovery into commercial outcomes.

For more on this, see http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/file/about/senior_staff/articles/anderson_healthy_wealthy_australia_innovation_keynote_130821.pdf

A robust, innovative health and medical research sector is the basis upon which Australia's economy can grow, as well as improve our health.

More five-year Project grants

For the 2014 funding round, NHMRC Project grants are for "five years or less", as recommended by the McKeon Review. This has led to an increase in the number of applications for five-year funding compared to last year though the majority of applications remain for three years in 2014. For the last two years, the funded rate for five-year Project Grant applications was higher than for all other applications (27.7 and 19.3%, versus 20.3 and 16.9% respectively), though some applications for five-year funding were recommended for only three or four years of funding by the peer reviewers.

NHMRC is currently considering the implications of a growth in five-year project grant funding. Grants of five year duration will require on average 40% greater NHMRC funding commitment. This will lead to fewer though longer grants, unless other policy changes are made.

Genomics and health

Of all the areas in which research is likely to make the most impact over the next twenty years, the growth in data and knowledge in genomics may be the greatest. For this reason, NHMRC will have a special focus on genomics during 2014 with a view to the successful application of genomic knowledge to health in Australia into the future. The implications of genomic knowledge are profound; more precision medicine, different ways of thinking about some forms of prevention, changes to the work of health professionals and a major need for training for many health professionals, implications for privacy, for electronic health records, and for approval of new agents and procedures, amongst others.

How to benefit from genomics is achieving world-wide attention and that is why NHMRC has joined the Global Alliance for Genomic Health, and the Global Leaders in Genomic Medicine. But, every country's health system is different, and we need to have a very active approach for evidence-based implementation so that Australians' benefit as much as possible.

Keep your eye on Research Tracker to contribute to this discussion in 2014.

**Professor Warwick Anderson,
Chief Executive Officer, NHMRC**

Building a New Future: A Flagship Health and Medical Research Institute for South Australia



Professor Steve Wesselingh,
Executive Director, SAHMRI,
ASMR Past President

I believe that the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) marks the beginning of an exciting new era for science in South Australia.

I joined the institute as the inaugural Executive Director in October 2011. Since then, we have made incredible progress in expanding our research facilities and teams, as well as developing and implementing our research strategy. However, there is still much more work to be done in growing a world-class institute and we have a lot to look forward to.

Late last year we were fortunate to officially open the doors of our flagship research facility with bipartisan support from the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Tony Abbott MP, and the Premier of South Australia, the Hon Jay Weatherill MP.

After the opening, our research teams began moving into our new purpose-built facility and over the next six months we will grow to house a mix of 600 South Australian, interstate and international researchers. The iconic SAHMRI building has been a key element in helping us attract new research talent and retaining the best from within South Australia.

SAHMRI's research themes were chosen to fill gaps in global health and medical knowledge. Our themes also recognise existing local world-leading scientific knowledge and researchers already residing within South Australia.

Our focus will centre around seven key areas, including Aboriginal Health; Cancer; Healthy Mothers, Babies and Children; Heart Health; Infection and Immunity; Mind and Brain; and Nutrition and Metabolism.

Although we are a completely independent research

institute, collaboration and innovation have been the main drivers in making SAHMRI work. We have developed important partnerships with the Federal and State Governments and South Australia's three major universities. Moving forward, we will seek to support and elevate the importance of making resources available for researchers across the state and country.

We have also established important collaborations with organisations including CSIRO, the Australian Cancer Research Foundation, Cancer Council SA, Heart Foundation and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory.

Without a significant expansion in health and medical research, South Australia will risk not meeting the challenges of our ageing population, the growing incidence of chronic disease and cancer, national and international research competition, and workforce scarcity.

That is why the timing is right for SAHMRI. As the pioneer of a new health and biomedical precinct for the state, over the next five years SAHMRI will be joined by the new Royal Adelaide Hospital, a proposed second SAHMRI research building, a new University of Adelaide Medical School and the University of South Australia's Cancer Research Centre. This will create one of the largest health precincts in the southern hemisphere.

Through SAHMRI, we now have a once in a lifetime opportunity to attract the best health, medical and scientific talent to South Australia and to continue to build on the strong research foundation we have already created. SAHMRI is emblematic of the future of health and wellbeing for our state and beyond.



ASMR Indigenous Health Report

The health status of Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) people remains unacceptable, with a significantly higher incidence of disease and morbidity, as well as lower life expectancy than the average Australian population. ASMR considers such health disparities to be one of the most important health issues facing the nation. To make a realistic plan for improving health of ATSI people, ASMR conducted events in recent years to engage Indigenous communities and some of Australia's leading advocates for ATSI health, including: 2011 ASMR National Scientific Conference "*Indigenous Health: Action on Prevention*"; 2012 ASMR Indigenous Health Forum "*Better Health Outcomes for Mums and Bubs*"; and 2013 ASMR Indigenous Health Forum "*Healthy Ageing*". The purpose of these events is to listen to the voiced recommendations from ATSI people and leading advocates, and then generate a report that acts as a catalyst for Government, public health leaders, ATSI communities and ASMR to act upon.

Over the past few decades, numerous research studies have documented the poor health status of ATSI people. Whilst many recommendations for improving the health of ATSI people have been made, most of these have not been implemented or further discussed. This has led to significant frustration for both ATSI communities and health researchers, including the leading health advocates that attended the above listed ASMR events. The large number of recommendations made over the decades, coupled with corporate memory loss due to changing Governments, may be contributing to the slow implementation of recommendations. Accordingly, ASMR has taken action to generate a set of realistic and feasible recommendations designed to achieve better health outcomes.

In November 2013, the Society released a report based on ASMR's ATSI forum "*Better Health Outcomes for Mums and Bubs*". The report's key recommendations focus on:

1. Engaging ATSI communities with emerging Indigenous health centres in all facets of women's health;
2. Developing effective models for the transfer of knowledge and evidence in relation to Indigenous women's and children's health, from Elders to women and children and across society;
3. Ensuring we have culturally safe and responsive maternity care, including primary birthing centres for low risk women across Australia; and
4. Providing low cost but healthy food in both urban and remote Indigenous communities.

The report and recommendations, which have been disseminated to politicians around the nation, are available via the ASMR website for your perusal. We are delighted to have received numerous favourable comments from both State and Federal Governments, including the Honourable Nigel Scullion, Federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs. We have the responsibility to ensure that Government receives clearly articulated and evidence-based advice from Indigenous Australians and leading health advocates. ASMR looks forward to working with Federal and State Governments, Public Health Leader champions, Indigenous Health Networks and ATSI communities to progress the implementation of recommendations that will improve health outcomes for ATSI people.

Full report "*Better Health Outcomes for Mums and Bubs*"
<http://www.asmr.org.au/Submissions.html>

Dr Paul Dawson,
ASMR Past President (2012)



ASMR Medical Research Week®

June 1st–7th 2014

- **Gala Dinners**
- **Scientific meetings**
- **Dinner with a scientist**
- **ASMR medalist tour**
- **School quiz**

Find out what is happening in your state at
asmr.org.au/MRW

ASMR Medical Research Week® is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Health

Ageing Well for the Future — NSC 2013

19th Century American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote "*All diseases run into one, old age*". However, is ageing a collection of diseases? Are aspects of ageing normal? How can we prevent or treat ageing-related diseases to ensure the best possible quality of life for older individuals?

These issues and more were recently the focus of the 52nd ASMR National Scientific Conference held in Ballarat from November 17th to 20th. The NSC brought together researchers, clinicians and healthcare workers in a mix and diversity of expertise that greatly enhanced the discussions. Whilst the sessions were focused on different organs and diseases of the body,

there was a consistent emerging message. When investigating ageing we must remember people are not bags of disconnected organs, but rather integrated and complex systems that need to be considered as one whole.

Huge congratulations go to the deserving joint recipients of the 2013 Campion Ma Playout Memorial Award: Myles Minter (University of Melbourne), and Samantha Solon-Biet (ANZAC Research Institute) for their oral and poster presentations respectively.

The NSC was book-ended by two valuable and interesting public events: an update on the large aspirin-related trial for over 70s (ASPREE), and an Indigenous Health Forum addressing

healthy ageing for Indigenous Australians.

This conference set out to answer whether medical research could ride the ageing wave of what has been termed the "*Silver Tsunami*", the ageing workforce and then retiring population due to the baby boom. The extensive range of presentations confirmed that medical research has been making, and continues to make significant progress in better understanding ageing. Future investment into this area should be extremely rewarding on multiple levels, and will, like ageing, be a new stage of opportunity and strength.

Dr Juliett Taylor
and Dr Kristen Nowak

ASMR Indigenous Health Forum 2013

Following ASMR's National Scientific Conference, we held an Indigenous Health Forum (IHF) in Ballarat on the 20th of November, 2013. In line with the theme of our scientific conference the forum focused on ageing in the indigenous community. Importantly, through building a strong connection with local Indigenous Health Care workers from the Ballarat & District Aboriginal Co-operative, our 2013 IHF was the first of its kind to include local indigenous community members.

Our forum was kindly Chaired by Mr Joshua Creamer who is President of the Indigenous Lawyers Association of Queensland. Our speakers (Professor Tony Broe, Neuroscience Research Australia; Faye Clarke, Ballarat & District Aboriginal Co-operative; Dr Odette Gibson, SA Health and Medical Research Institute; and Dr Andrew Black, Bulgarr Ngaru Medical Aboriginal Corporation, Grafton) covered a range of topics including the early onset of age related diseases, apparent memory loss in patients with diabetes, sensitivity to dietary changes, identifying increased risk

factors and how to prevent the early onset of age related chronic diseases.

Professor Paul Dawson (past-president of ASMR) also released ASMR Indigenous Health Forum 2012 Outcomes *"Better Health Outcomes for Mums and Bubs"*.

Through the efforts of our hard working and enthusiastic local indigenous health workers this year's event provided an opportunity for the Ballarat local indigenous community to contribute to key issues they face regarding their healthy ageing. A special thanks to Faye Clark, Jo Warren and Bonnie Chew for all their help in informing the topics of this forum and in supporting their local indigenous community to attend. I would also like to thank Professor Naomi Rogers, Dr Paul Dawson, Ms Cath West and all of our speakers for supporting this great event. ASMR will continue its strong commitment to facilitate improved health for our indigenous community.

**Dr Phoebe Phillips,
ASMR President-Elect**

National Scientific Conference 2014

On behalf of the ASMR, we would like to invite you to join us at the annual National Scientific Conference to be held as part of the Australian Health and Medical Research Congress, from 16th to 19th November 2014, at the Melbourne Convention Centre. The theme of the Congress is Transdisciplinary Approaches to Chronic Diseases and the meeting content will reflect the breadth of team science being conducted throughout Australia. Health and medical researchers are teaming up with other disciplines and sectors, such as physicists, material

scientists, mathematicians and computational scientists and architects to understand how the body works in health and disease in order to create new and better diagnostics, treatments and cures. Given chronic disease is the major cause of premature death in Australia, the National Scientific Conference aims to put this topic under the microscope. We have planned a number of engaging symposia to explore "Translating Omics into healthcare gains", "Accelerating discovery to translation" and the "Epidemiology of chronic disease" to name but a few. We are pleased to announce Josef Penninger (Institute of Molecular Biotechnology, Austria), also known as the renaissance man, as this year's Firkin Orator. Professor Penninger will speak on his groundbreaking work from animal models to their translational outcomes at the whole genome level. Abstracts for the National Scientific Conference will be accepted from all fields of medical research, and members will have the opportunity to showcase their own work through oral and poster presentations. We particularly encourage students and early career researchers to submit their research as this is a fantastic opportunity to hone their scientific communication skills, and potentially pick up one of the awards on offer - Students can apply for a travel subsidy to attend the ASMR National Scientific Conference. The *Campion-Ma-Playoust Memorial Award* is also open to students and members aged 30 or under at the time of the Conference.



The Australian Health & Medical Research Congress
16-19 November 2014
Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

"Transdisciplinary Approaches to Chronic Diseases"
AHMRC 2014 will facilitate a cauldron of knowledge sharing and innovation

Learn how team science identifies intersections, merges disciplinary boundaries & synergises the flow of knowledge from bench to bedside and back again

Engage in a new & emerging research paradigm that maximizes the investment in Health & Medical Research

For more information see: www.ahmrccongress.org.au
Twitter: @AHMRC2014

Congress 2014 Partners

- Australian Society for Medical Research
- Australian Colorectal Cancer Group
- Australian Oesophageal Cancer Group (ProbeNet)
- Australian Society for Microbiology
- Australasian Pancreatic Club
- Australasian Sleep Association
- Australasian Society for HIV Medicine
- Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand
- Endocrine Society of Australia
- International Society for Heart Research
- Molecular and Experimental Pathology Society of Australasia
- National Association of Research Fellows of NHMRC

**Dr Sarah Meachem and Dr Brigid Lynch,
NSC 2014 Co-convenors**

ASMR Research Awards

Each year, the ASMR offers two Research Awards to enable early career researchers to travel to another laboratory either within Australia (Domestic Research Award) or overseas (International Research Award) to learn new techniques and establish research collaborations.

As evidenced by the testimonials below, past awardees have used this experience as a springboard for launching successful research careers.

These awards rely solely on the generous donations of ASMR members to the ASMR Research Fund. Without the continued generosity of ASMR members, the ASMR would not be able to continue to support of early career researchers with the ASMR Research Awards.

When renewing your membership in 2014, please consider electing to make a contribution to the ASMR Research Fund.

Dr Mary Kavurma Heart Foundation Fellow & Group Leader, Heart Research Institute

I was lucky enough to be a recipient of the ASMR Award in 2003. I spent six weeks (March–April 2004) at Addenbrooke's Hospital, University of Cambridge UK, under the supervision of Professor Martin Bennett. Professor Bennett's research has provided important insights into the regulation of vascular cell proliferation and death, in the development of atherosclerosis, so this Award provided me with the perfect opportunity to do a short research stint in the area I love. It also gave me the opportunity to work overseas, broaden my knowledge of methodologies, meet some great people in science, and increase my scientific prospect — this was particularly valuable at the early stages of my career.

One of the best outcomes of this Award has been my continued relationship with Professor Bennett. Not only has he become a valuable mentor (I'm constantly bugging him with questions and advice), we still continue to work together, and have a strong collaboration, particularly since we are both trying to understand the molecular pathways underlying VSMC growth and death. I would recommend all early career researchers to apply for this Award. It truly is a wonderful opportunity!

Dr Gabrielle Todd Senior Research Fellow, University of South Australia

The ASMR Research Award kick-started my career as an independent neuroscientist. The Award enabled me to visit researchers at The Centre for Advanced Imaging Research in South Carolina, USA. During my four-week visit, I learnt how to study brain reorganization in conscious people. More specifically, I learnt how to combine two cutting edge pieces of technology to study brain reorganization in real time while people learn new movement skills. The experience broadened my knowledge of the field and led to novel scientific ideas that I pursued for several years thereafter. The results of my work in this area led to my successful appointment as a NHMRC Research Fellow at the University of South Australia. I now encourage my own students to seek opportunities like that provided by the ASMR Research Award.

Dr Vanessa Murphy Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Newcastle

I am currently a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Newcastle. I manage the Breathing for Life Trial, a randomised controlled trial of inflammation based asthma management in pregnancy with paediatric follow-up to 6 years of age. In 2002, I received an ASMR Research Award. This allowed me to travel to San Diego, CA in 2003 when I was in the final stages of my PhD, to undertake a three-month collaborative research project using novel proteomics technology with scientists at the Ferring Research Institute. This was a fantastic opportunity for me to experience science in a different country, with new technology that at the time I would not have had access to elsewhere, and in an industry environment, rather than an academic one. The work was included in my PhD thesis and resulted in two publications which at that early stage of my career was a boost to my publication output. The ASMR research award scheme offers young researchers a fantastic opportunity to improve their skills and collaborate with others on an international stage and I highly recommend the opportunities it affords.



Dr Mary Kavurma,
Heart Foundation Fellow
& Group Leader,
Heart Research Institute



Dr Gabrielle Todd,
Senior Research Fellow,
University of South Australia



Dr Vanessa Murphy,
Postdoctoral Research Fellow,
University of Newcastle

Welcome to Twitter!

If you're a regular *Twitter* user, you'll know that scientists use this medium to alert their followers to the publication of new and exciting research. The ASMR is inviting members to have their new, first-author publications highlighted in a tweet from **@The ASMR1**. Each week the ASMR will alert its followers to the important medical research being carried out by its members.

Simply send a direct message from your *Twitter* account to **@The ASMR1** with the following details:

- a short description of what your research is about — up to 30 characters only;
- your research funding body if applicable; and
- a link to your article in *PubMed*.

ASMR Directors 2014

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Contact details from www.asmr.org.au/Statebranch.html

Cell Culture Seminar for Sydney-based Labs

CellBank Australia is offering a seminar to labs in the Sydney area. The seminar — **Cell Culture 2014: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly** — looks at making experimental work using cultured cells more reliable, and managing any risks to safety. In practical terms, it focuses on implementing Good Cell Culture Practice guidelines (*"the Good"*); detecting Mycoplasma contamination (*"the Bad"*); and avoiding misidentified cell lines (*"the Ugly"*). CellBank Australia is a not-for-profit cell line repository, operated by the Children's Medical Research Institute (CMRI) in Westmead, NSW. The facility provides validated cell lines and related services across Australia and New Zealand. The seminar is presented by Amanda Capes-Davis.

For more information, please contact Mark Shannon, the CellBank Australia General Manager (mshannon@cmri.org.au).

ASMR Affiliate Members

ANZAC Research Institute

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Brain and Psychological Sciences Research Group

Burnet Institute

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Children's Cancer Institute Australia

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Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia

Society for Free Radical Research (Australasia)

Society for Reproductive Biology

University of Queensland — Diamantina Institute

Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand

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Brain Foundation

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Haemophilia Foundation of Australia

Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

Kidney Health Australia

Lupus Association of NSW

McCusker Alzheimer's Research Foundation

MS Research Australia

Muscular Dystrophy Association Inc

National Heart Foundation of Aust

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