

**In this issue:**

## President's Report

**T**he future health and economic challenges facing our nation are alarming. The projected health and aged care costs, approaching 50% of total Government spending by 2050, are unsustainable and will negatively impact on the affordability of health care provision. Accordingly, strategic plans to mitigate the future health crisis will become increasingly important as the effects of an aging population, climate change and chronic diseases reach their projected levels in the coming decades.

In recent years, ASMR has undertaken economic evaluations to determine the benefits of investing in health and medical research (HMR). The most recent reports from Deloitte Access Economics have focussed on NHMRC-funded HMR, which is projected to save billions of dollars for the Australian economy, not to mention the substantial benefits to our health and wellbeing. All of these reports, available on the ASMR website, have supported our evidence-based approach to inform and educate both sides of Government for increased investment in HMR.

In 2012, ASMR presented Government with a business case for linking NHMRC investment to the total annual health spend, from its current level at 0.8% to reach 3% over the coming decade. This investment strategy has extrapolated savings of more than \$25.9bn to the Australian economy, and is central to providing long-term and sustainable funding of Australia's HMR workforce.

Recently, I emailed the membership with details of ASMR's letter writing campaign, which aims to inform and educate politicians about the future health and economic challenges facing our nation, as well as the benefits of investing in HMR. I thank those members that have since written to their local Federal Member of Parliament and our political leaders in Canberra. For those members yet to write, I take this opportunity to ask that you contribute a letter to this important campaign. Details are available via the ASMR website [www.asmr.org.au/campaign.html](http://www.asmr.org.au/campaign.html)

The recent announcement of NHMRC funding outcomes has seen a total of \$652 million awarded in grants around the country. I congratulate those successful recipients, and send my commiserations to those not funded, particularly those considered fundable but missing out because of budget limitations.



ASMR President Dr Paul Dawson

Whilst ASMR acknowledges the global economic instability, and the Governments laudable ambition to return the Australian economy back to surplus, we urge consideration of ASMR's business plan to increase investment in NHMRC. This strategy will protect all Australians from the health and economic challenges facing our nation.

ASMR's commissioned reports on HMR investment, have supported two submissions to the Governments current review process (aka McKeon Review), which is currently in the form of a draft consultation paper summary. ASMR believes that the most important aspect of this HMR review is the vision for long-term structured and sustainable investment in the HMR sector. HMR is not a short term investment. It is a long term investment, taking time to translate basic discoveries into practice, to produce a highly skilled workforce and to generate economic benefits.

As President of ASMR, I thank our members for their valued support of the Society in 2012. In particular, the ASMR Directors, State committee members and our senior executive officer Catherine West and administrative assistant Priscilla Diment, for ensuring that our numerous activities are conducted in line with ASMR's mission. That is, to foster excellence in Australian Health and Medical Research (HMR) and to promote community understanding and support of the sector through public, political and scientific advocacy.

**Dr Paul Dawson**  
**ASMR President**

**Prof. Peter Doherty 2**  
**— Biomedical research and the Australian future**

**Indigenous 3**  
**Health Forum:**  
**Better Health Outcomes for Mums and Bubs**

**AHMRC 2012 4**  
**Opening Symposium**  
**— Future Health Challenges facing Australia**

**Professional 5**  
**Development 2012**  
**The Road to Research Independence: Establishing and leading a research team**

**Dinner with a Scientist 6**  
**— Advances in allergy research**

**Vale – Rob Sutherland 6**

**ASMR Research Award 7**  
**— International Winner: Dr Alex Umbers**



**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@alwaysonline.net.au**

**Web: www.asmr.org.au**

**Newsletter Editor-in-Chief, Dr Daniel Wallace**

Print Post Approved  
25500300067

# Biomedical research and the Australian future

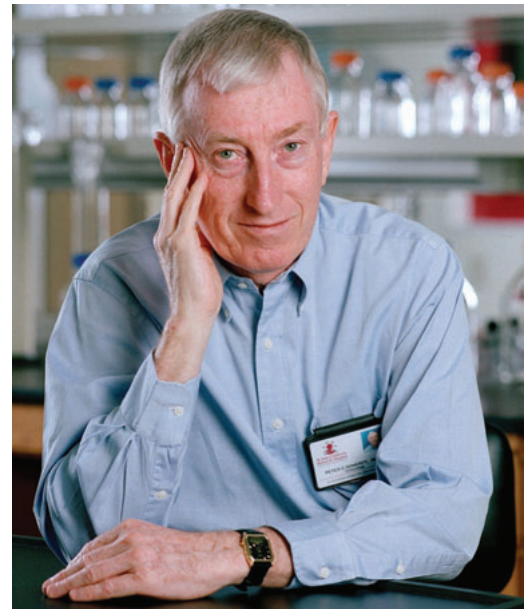
In these days of global financial instability, we face the ever-present question: where does Australia's economic future lie? What holds Australia in the first world are resilient institutions, a relative lack of public corruption and our established education/knowledge base. If we are to maintain and grow that knowledge economy, it is essential to foster educational access and opportunity for all, through Years 1 to 12 to university and beyond. Here we are entering new territory. University teaching is on the cusp of an enormous transformation as top quality lectures and the like become available online from major institutions like Stanford, MIT and so on.

So, what really matters from the viewpoint of Australia's future is the local quality of the intellectual experience. That is anchored by our open culture, a dynamic literary and liberal/performing arts scene and, last but not least, by our science. And, while we have a leading profile in many areas, including astronomy, areas of materials science, and so forth, **biomedical research is clearly the long-term jewel in the crown.** The award of four Nobel Prizes for Physiology or Medicine for work done here is extraordinary for a nation of this population size and character.

Nobel prizes are given primarily for discovery, and many of us have the sense that, while we are great at basic science, we may not be so good at application. But is that really true? At the recent 75th birthday celebrations of the NHMRC, I was surprised to hear that our top exports of manufactured goods are in the medical sector. No doubt that reflects imaginative business decisions by companies like CSL, Cochlear, ResMed, and the like, but it must also relate to the quality of the underlying science.

Apart from any direct path linking discovery/innovation and economic development, having a dynamic biomedical research culture serves our society in many ways. The first is that being at the biomedicine cutting edge means that our scientists are fully exposed in the global research community and serve regularly on the executives of the leading, international science organizations. As a consequence, we bring many major meetings to Australia. In my field for instance, the triennial International Union of Immunology Societies meeting is to be held in Melbourne in 2016. It may not be the Olympic Games, but it attracts thousands of visitors.

The major benefit of this high international profile is, though, that our medical professionals at every level are very aware of the latest trends, advances, technology and possible problems. This translates inevitably to an



Nobel Laureate Professor Peter Doherty,  
University of Melbourne

informed and dynamic culture in our research institutes, medical schools and teaching hospitals that is in turn disseminated throughout the clinical and associated technical communities. The result is better health care, both at the point of patient contact and in the quality of the advice that is available to policy makers. A further benefit from this international networking is that young Australians who have completed a biomedical research PhD (typically 7 to 8 years post high school) are a known quantity and place very well for further postdoctoral training and support in major northern hemisphere institutions, including the leading biotechnology companies. We lose some, like Bruce Stillman who followed "double helix" Nobel Laureate JD Watson as Director of Long Island's Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, but many return to build their own dynamic research laboratories. Being able to bring them back requires, of course, continuing and substantial financial support. The same is true for research trained medical graduates, where it is a constant struggle to find the funds to keep such young stars in science after they have returned from places like the Mayo Clinic. We have to get this right for both the PhDs and the MD PhDs, as they are our future.

It is clear that a long term commitment by government and sustainable investment into the health and medical research sector will be required for Australia to maintain its competitive edge in this arena.

**Peter C Doherty,**  
University of Melbourne

## ASMR Mentoring Program

The ASMR invites members who are 2 to 12 years postdoctoral to participate in the ASMR Mentoring Program. Applications are accepted all year round and the program is free to ASMR members.

For additional information and application forms please visit <http://www.asmr.org.au/Mentor.html>

# Indigenous Health Forum: Better Health Outcomes for Mums and Bubs

**T**he ASMR presents an Indigenous Health Forum to explore issues surrounding women's and children's health within the context of the broader health and social issues faced by Australian Indigenous people. The Forum to be held in conjunction with the 6th Australian Health and Medical Research Congress at the Adelaide Convention Centre on the evening of Monday 26th November will tap the brains of some of Australia's leading researchers in the fields of Indigenous women's and children's health. The forum is open to all members of the public with an interest in Indigenous Health and will be chaired by **Joshua Creamer**, a barrister-in-law and President of the Indigenous Lawyers Association of Queensland. It is hoped that the Forum will spark lively discussion and produce a set of practical, realistic recommendations designed to achieve better health outcomes for indigenous women and children.

Our five speakers are...

## Professor Ngiare Brown

Professor Brown is a Yuin nation woman from the south coast of NSW. She is a senior Aboriginal medical practitioner with qualifications in medicine, public health and primary care and is one of the first identified medical graduates in Australia. Over the past two decades she has developed extensive national and international networks in Indigenous health and social justice, including engagement with the UN system.

## Professor Bronwyn Fredericks

Professor Fredericks is the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement) and BMA Chair in Indigenous Engagement at Central Queensland University. Her research interests focus on the socio-psychological aspects of chronic disease, Indigenous women's issues and research that privileges Indigenous knowledges, methodologies and worldviews. As a Murri woman (south-east Queensland) she has been actively engaged with Indigenous controlled, community based organisations for over 30 years.

## Ms Sandra Campbell

Sandra Campbell has worked as a registered nurse and midwife since the 1980s, most often with Aboriginal community controlled organisations. She recently completed PhD studies, titled "Pre-pregnancy predictors of pregnancy events and birth outcomes in a cohort of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in North Queensland". She is interested in the intrauterine origins of adult disease because healthy mothers tend to have healthy babies.

## Professor Sue Kildea

Professor Kildea is Chair of Midwifery — Australian Catholic University and Mater Mothers' Hospitals Women's Health and Newborn Services, and a nurse midwife with experience across both tertiary and primary health care settings and has spent a lot of her career in remote Australia. She is one of Australia's leading advocates for returning birthing services to rural and particularly remote areas.

## Professor Roger Smith

Professor Smith is Director of the Mothers and Babies Research Centre/Endocrine Unit John Hunter Hospital Faculty of Health/School of Medicine & Public Health at The University of Newcastle. He is an endocrinologist with a special interest in the intrauterine origins of adult disease. His research seeks to identify the factors that lead to the high rates of preterm birth in Indigenous people and to understand the development of kidney disease and diabetes in Aboriginal people.

**Where:** Adelaide Convention Centre, South Australia

**When:** Monday, November 26th, 6:45pm – 8:30pm

**Who:** This forum is open to all members of the public with an interest in Indigenous health. Attendance is free, but registration is essential!

For more details visit: [www.ahmrcongress.org.au](http://www.ahmrcongress.org.au) or scan the QR code





Professor Jim Best,  
Head, Melbourne Medical  
School and  
Professor of Medicine,  
Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry  
and Health Sciences,  
The University of Melbourne

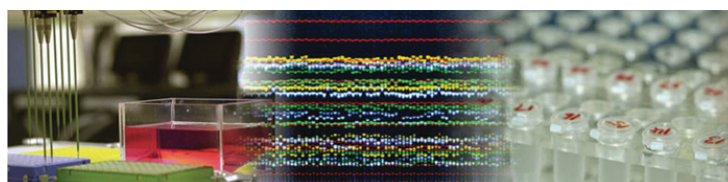
# AHMRC 2012 Opening Symposium — Future Health Challenges facing Australia

The future health challenges facing Australians and how to tackle them will be the focus of discussion and set the scene for the opening of the 6th Australian Health and Medical Research Congress to be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre on Sunday 25th November from 4:30pm. The ASMR has put together a stellar list of speakers covering a variety of topics (see opposite) and to be chaired by Professor Jim Best, who has outlined below the areas that will be covered during the symposium. We look forward to seeing you there.

All would agree that good health is our most important asset and that engagement in life and its enjoyment depend on the state of our health. The areas of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity, and mental ill health are very important health challenges for the Australian population that reduce both the quality and length of life. But the burden from these illnesses is not evenly spread through the population. Indigenous Australians are affected disproportionately,

raising the broader issue of the social determinants of health and providing a challenge that includes but is not limited to the healthcare system. Understanding through health and medical research the basis of human illness, from a molecular to a societal level, is the first step to improved prevention and treatment.

The conditions of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity and mental ill health are now well known to overlap in their clinical manifestations and in their aetiology. Based on extensive basic and clinical research, discoveries in recent years have demonstrated efficacy in preventive and therapeutic measures. How to take full advantage of those discoveries by translating them into effective treatment at the population level remains a research challenge. How to target treatments to those most at risk and most likely to benefit, is also an important research question. I am sure that this opening session of the meeting will answer many of these questions but will raise even more.



## 6th Australian Health and Medical Research Congress

25th – 28th November 2012, Adelaide Convention Centre

Promoting new, multidisciplinary approaches to health and medical research

Featuring ASMR 2012 NSC

### A Healthy Start to Life: Placental Biology

- Epigenetics
- Trophoblast invasion
- Immunity
- Sleep and pregnancy
- Placental transport
- Vascular adaptations

**PLENARY SPEAKER AND FIRKIN ORATOR**

Professor Colin Sibley (University of Manchester)

**EDWARDS ORATOR**

Professor Sarah Robertson (University of Adelaide)

**INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS**

Prof Larry Chamley (NZ)  
Dr Thierry Fournier (Paris)

A/Prof Louise O'Brien (USA)  
Prof Cees Oudejans (Netherlands)

**NATIONAL SPEAKERS**

Dr Maree Barnes  
Dr Paul Dawson  
Dr Annemarie Hennessy  
Prof David Kennaway  
Dr Peter Mark

Dr Padma Murthi  
Dr Laura Parry  
Dr Richard Saffrey  
Dr Matthew Simpson

Dr Philippe Boeuf  
Dr Eva Dimitriadis  
Prof Jeff Keelan  
Dr Sharon McCracken

Dr Chris O'Neil  
Prof Claire Roberts  
Dr David Simmons  
Dr Michael Stark

For more information visit: [www.ahmrcongress.org.au](http://www.ahmrcongress.org.au)

## AHMRC 2012 Opening Symposium **Speakers and Topics...**

- Welcome from CEO NHMRC  
**Professor Warwick Anderson**
- Opening message  
**The Honourable Tanya Plibersek MP**
- Welcome to Country  
**Uncle Lewis O'Brien**
- Chair —  
**Professor Jim Best**
- Cardiovascular Disease —  
**Professor Steven Nicholls**
- Diabetes and Obesity —  
**Professor David James**
- Mental Health —  
**Professor Helen Christensen**
- Indigenous Health —  
**Professor Sandra Eades**
- Genetics and Personalised Medicine —  
**Professor Andrew Biankin**
- Translational Research —  
**Professor John Hopwood**

# Professional Development 2012

## The Road to Research Independence: Establishing and leading a research team



**W**ould you like to develop and hone your skills on how to establish and lead a successful medical research team? Are you uncertain of exactly how to drive down that road of increasing independence in your research career?

The ASMR Professional Development Sessions at the 2012 Australian Health and Medical Research Congress aim to address these vital issues. A stellar line of experts in the field will provide their words of wisdom on the strategies of being competitive for grant and fellowship funding, as well as the often-overlooked topic of how to build and manage your research team. How does one establish a research niche, develop a positive and productive research group culture, what are the most effective management styles, and how do you ensure you recruit the right people?

The two sessions (repeated), held at the Congress on Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th November from 1 – 3 pm will be facilitated by Dr Sarah Meachem, Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research and ASMR Past President (2009). Both sessions will feature a presentation by Professor Maria Kavallaris (Children's Cancer Institute Australia and ASMR Past President (2007), who will set the scene by introducing the themes and providing a stimulating overview. Sarah will then introduce the panel members, who with her direction, and audience participation, will explore and discuss a plethora of aspects related to the main themes of the sessions.

Across the two days, the expert panels will consist of a variety of well-accomplished and successful medical researchers who represent a range of Universities, Medical Research Institutes and corners of the country. They also span a breadth of stages in terms of career, with the hope being to provide different perspectives and insights to the audience.

Our esteemed panellists are:

- Dr Ben Hogan**  
University of Queensland
- A/Professor Damien Keating**  
Flinders University
- Professor Ruth Ganss**  
Western Australian Institute for Medical Research
- Dr Jeff Keelan**  
University of Western Australia
- A/Professor Laura Parry**  
University of Melbourne
- Dr Phoebe Phillips**  
University of New South Wales
- A/Professor Sharon Ricardo**  
Monash University
- Professor Claire Roberts**  
University of Adelaide
- Professor Sarah Robertson**  
University of Adelaide
- A/Professor Steve Stacker**  
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
- Professor David Whiteman**  
Queensland Institute of Medical Research

Access to one of the ASMR Professional Development Sessions is by being registered for the same day of the Congress on which you wish to attend the session (e.g. registration for the whole Congress allows you to attend either Professional Development Session, or indeed both; registration to the Monday of the Congress would allow you to attend the Professional Development Session on the Monday). Please register to attend the Congress now, if you haven't already, and you know participating in one of the Professional Development Sessions will benefit you. Come along to the Congress and attend some stimulating multi-disciplinary sessions presented by national and international speakers, as well as participate in a Professional Development Session. We look forward to seeing you there! Any questions please don't hesitate to contact ASMR Research Career Convenors Kristen Nowak ([Kristen.Nowak@uwa.edu.au](mailto:Kristen.Nowak@uwa.edu.au)) or Amanda Philp ([APhilp@ccia.org.au](mailto:APhilp@ccia.org.au)).

### Conferences

**AusBiotech 2012 – Realising the value of life science innovation and how it will change our lives.**  
30 October to 2 November 2012  
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, Victoria  
<http://www.ausbiotechnc.org/>

### Save the date...

#### NSC 2013

**The ASMR National Scientific Conference 2013 will be held from 17th to 20th November 2013 in Ballarat, Victoria. The theme of the conference will be "Ageing".**

# Dinner with a Scientist — Advances in allergy research



**Professor Katie Allen,  
Dr Jennifer Koplin,  
Olivia Hamilton and  
Deborah Anderson  
from the Gastro and Food  
Allergy Research Group  
at MCRI**

**O**n a stormy night in August, the Brandon Hotel in Carlton North stoked the fires and welcomed in an eager crowd to have "Dinner with a Scientist" to celebrate National Science Week. The theme for the evening was Allergy Research and ASMR was pleased to host the Gastro and Food Allergy Research Group from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute to have dinner with members of the public. Team members including Prof. Katie

Allen, Dr Jennifer Koplin, Ms Deborah Anderson and Ms Olivia Hamilton mingled with dinner guests and happily spent the evening answering questions and discussing the latest in allergy research. The dinner attendees included allergy sufferers, parents/grandparents of children with allergies, school nurses, and even a graphic designer who designs food packaging.

Seated at communal tables, the dinner guests spent the evening chatting about their experiences with allergies and enjoying a fabulous meal served by the wonderful staff of the Brandon. The chef made a huge effort to design a delicious and allergy friendly menu and enthusiastically catered for the multiple specific allergy sufferers on the evening.

During the night, allergist and researcher Professor Katie Allen gave a fascinating and entertaining presentation about her research and the current practice for diagnosing and treating food allergies. She graciously answered many questions from the dinner guests and sat on long into the night discussing her work with her captivated audience.

ASMR thanks the generous sponsors of the evening: Re-Science (CSIRO) and the Ilhan Food Allergy Foundation. Thanks also to Anaphylaxis Australia, Allergy Assist, The Allergy Shop, Health Shelf, Allergy Train, Star Allergy Alerts, and Allergy Friendly Foods for donating goodies and door prizes for the dinner guests.

A great night was had by all, and many of the attendees commented on what a delight it was to be able to interact one on one with leading medical researchers. We were particularly thrilled to hear that as a result of discussions over dinner, one of the school nurses and a young allergy sufferer are now collaborating with the Gastro and Food Allergy Research Group to produce a DVD for educating school students about allergies and anaphylaxis.

**Rachel Burt  
ASMR Director**

## Vale – Rob Sutherland



**I**t is with great sadness that we learned of the recent death of Professor Rob Sutherland FAA AO (ASMR Director 1983–7; President 1987).

Rob was first and foremost an outstanding scientist — his publications and honours speak for themselves. For the last 27 years he has been a stalwart of the Garvan Institute, as Director of its Cancer Research Program and Director of the Kinghorn Cancer Centre.

Rob was a key player in ASMR during the middle years of the Society, being a Director over the period 1983–7 and taking over the role of President in 1987, for the last of the legendary Thredbo meetings, although his own participation at that meeting was curtailed by Cheryl going into labour in the midst of it. This was a period of significant change for the Society with it growing from being the 'young Turks' with an annual scientific meeting of a couple of hundred people to the overarching organisation that it is today. Rob continued to be a great supporter of the Society, encouraging members of his own laboratory and others to take up leadership roles in later years.

During the 1980s, Rob with other ASMR Directors, made many trips to the old Parliament House in Canberra, when

you could meet up with politicians just by standing in the foyer or sharing the toilets with them. He had some 'heroic' battles with Barry Jones, Minister for Science in the Hawke Government and, at that time at least, not a strong supporter of more funding for medical research.

Rob played a significant role in guiding the national medical research policy, as a member of the Medical Research Committee of NHMRC during the '90s, where he was Deputy Chair as well as Chair of the Grants Committee. He also served on a number of committees in the Cancer field. These roles were recognised in his award as an Officer of the Order of Australia. But Rob's real passion was for the laboratory and he always wanted to be allowed to get on with his research.

Most of all Rob was a 'good bloke'. He was a mentor to many during his all too short life, and his advice, often given over a beer or a coffee, was always coupled with good humour, common sense and great insight.

To Cheryl and his family, we extend our heartfelt sympathy and good wishes. We will miss him greatly.

**John McDougall,  
ASMR President 1988**

# ASMR Research Award — International Winner: Dr Alex Umbers

I spent one month with Professor John Aplin and Dr Joycelyn Glazier at the Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre, St Mary's Hospital, University of Manchester during June-July 2012. The main aim of our collaboration was to bring together the malaria research world with that of experts in placental development to ask the question — whether malaria infection in early pregnancy might have a negative impact on the growing fetus, through disturbing normal placental development?

To test this question, I was trained in the 'scratch' wound healing assay technique. We adapted an *in vitro* functional assay of early pregnancy placental cell behaviour to test the effect of *P. falciparum* or *P. vivax* in the first half of pregnancy on trophoblast cell migration. In normal pregnancy, trophoblast cell migration into the maternal decidua is essential to establish adequate blood flow to the placenta, and therefore supply of nutrients to the developing fetus. Impairment of this biological process leads to restricted fetal growth and poor health outcomes for the baby.

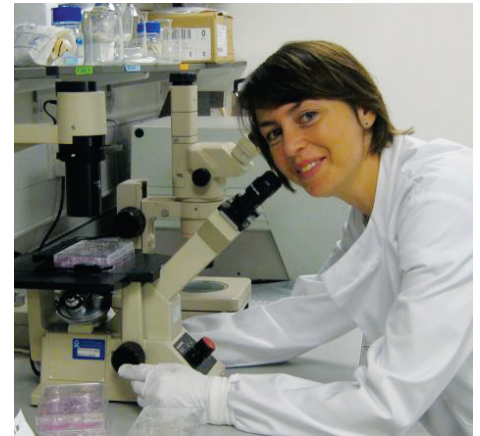
Using samples collected from women in Papua New Guinea we found that the plasma from women infected with *P. falciparum* significantly impaired trophoblast migration. This *in vitro* evidence suggests infection with *P. falciparum* could interfere with the development of the placenta, and therefore be a contributing mechanism to the fetal growth restriction observed with malaria during pregnancy. This is an important finding for disease management because currently the WHO recommendation does not protect women from infection in early pregnancy. We plan to submit our revised publication to PLoS One for review.

We also found a relationship between the amount of parasites in a woman's blood and the degree of change in trophoblast behaviour: the higher density infections have the largest negative effect on placental development. Interestingly, *P. vivax* did not seem to interfere with placental development, which could be due to the low parasitaemia observed with this parasite species, or the high variation we observed.

During my stay I presented a one hour lecture 'Malaria in pregnancy: small babies, big problem' at Grand Rounds at St Mary's Hospital. I took the opportunity to meet with three other lab heads in Manchester to discuss future collaborations on placental vascular development, micronutrients and pregnancy and metabolomics. We have some new ideas and collaborations that we will submit grants on, including a fellowship application to be based in the UK. I also met with Professors Bernard Brabin and Feiko ter Kuile, who are leaders in the field of malaria in pregnancy at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. I gave a short presentation on our preliminary data, which stimulated much discussion. In both presentations, support from ASMR was acknowledged.

Overall, the research exchange was highly productive for both research outcomes and to establish networks with research leaders in Europe, and to stimulate novel research questions and grant/fellowship submissions for my next post-doc on medical research.

**Dr Alex Umbers**  
**University of Melbourne**



Dr. Alex Umbers at work in the Maternal Fetal Health Research Centre in Manchester, UK



## The ASMR is on Facebook!

To keep up with all the latest information and updates on ASMR events, awards, activities and photos, join the ASMR Facebook page!

[www.facebook.com/theASMR](http://www.facebook.com/theASMR)

There is a direct link to the Facebook page on the ASMR homepage ([www.asmr.org.au](http://www.asmr.org.au)).

**For more information, or to promote an ASMR event, please contact the page administrator, Dr Roger Yazbek ([roger.yazbek@unisa.edu.au](mailto:roger.yazbek@unisa.edu.au))**

## ...and now on Twitter!

For all of the latest news and facts on Australian health and medical research, you can now follow us on Twitter...

[@TheASMR1](https://twitter.com/TheASMR1)

Or just scan the QR code with your smartphone or tablet device to be taken straight there!



---

## **ASMR Directors 2012**

### **Executive Directors**

**Dr Paul Dawson** — President

**Associate Professor Naomi Rogers** — President-elect  
and Regional Events Convenor

**Associate Professor Kristen Nowak** — Honorary Treasurer  
and Research Careers Convenor

**Dr Roger Yazbek** — Honorary Secretary  
and Communications Convenor

### **Directors**

**Dr Rachel Burt** — Sponsorship Convenor

**Dr Louise Dunn** — Media Convenor

**Dr Rosemary Keogh** — NSC 2012 and ASMR MRW® Convenor

**Dr Amanda Philp** — Assisting Research Careers and ASMR MRW®

**Dr Steven Polyak** — AHMRC 2012 Convenor

**Dr Juliet Taylor** — Membership and NSC 2013 Convenor

**Dr Daniel Wallace** — Newsletter Editor

### **Senior Executive Officer**

**Catherine West**

---

## **ASMR State Branch Convenors**

**Dr Jane Carland & Dr Francesca Charlton** — New South Wales  
Co-convenors

**Dr Richard Clark** — Queensland Convenor

**Dr Rajaraman Eri** — Tasmania Convenor

**Dr Krystal Evans** — Victoria Convenor

**Dr Rob Marano** — Western Australia Convenor

**Dr Cassandra McIver** — South Australia Convenor

Contact details from [www.asmr.org.au/Statebranch.html](http://www.asmr.org.au/Statebranch.html)

---

## **Affiliate Members of ASMR**

ANZAC Research Institute  
Australasian College for Emergency Medicine  
Australasian College of Dermatologists  
Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
Australasian Gene Therapy Society Inc  
Australasian Menopause Society  
Australasian Sleep Association  
Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy  
Australasian Society for HIV Medicine Inc  
Australasian Society for Immunology  
Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases  
Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research  
Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists  
and Toxicologists  
Australian and New Zealand Association of Neurologists  
Australian and New Zealand Bone & Mineral Society  
Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists  
Australian and New Zealand Obesity Society  
Australian and New Zealand Society for Blood Transfusion  
Australian and New Zealand Society for Cell & Developmental Biology Inc  
Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology  
Australian Atherosclerosis Society  
Australian College of Ambulance Professionals  
Australian College of Nursing  
Australian Diabetes Society  
Australian Medical Students' Association Ltd  
Australian Physiological Society  
Australian Rheumatology Association

Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Inc  
Australian Society for Parasitology  
Australian Vascular Biology Society  
Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute  
Bionics Institute of Australia  
Burnet Institute  
Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand  
Children's Medical Research Institute  
Clinical Oncological Society of Australia  
Ear Science Institute Australia  
Endocrine Society of Australia  
Eskitis Insitute  
Fertility Society of Australia  
Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand  
Health Innovations Research Insitute (HIRI)  
High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia  
Human Genetics Society of Australasia  
Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation  
Institute of Mind and Behavioural Sciences  
Kolling Institute of Medical Research  
Lions Eye Institute Limited  
Mater Medical Research Institute  
National Association of Research Fellows  
Neuroscience Society of Australia and New Zealand  
Nutrition Society of Australia Inc  
Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia  
Perinatal Society of Australia and New Zealand  
Prince Henry's Institute  
Research Centre for Clinical & Community Practice Innovation  
Royal ANZ College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists  
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons  
Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists  
Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists  
Royal Australasian College of Physicians  
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  
Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand  
Women's & Children's Health Research Institute

---

## **Associate Members of ASMR**

Arthritis Australia  
Australian Red Cross Blood Service  
Australian Respiratory Council  
Brain Foundation  
Clifford Craig Medical Research Trust  
Cystic Fibrosis Australia Incorporated  
Foundation for High Blood Pressure Research  
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  
Queensland Health  
Scleroderma Association of NSW Inc

---

## **Supporting Members of ASMR**

Biota Holdings Limited  
Research Australia  
Sapphire Bioscience Pty Ltd  
Servier Laboratories  
Wiley-Blackwell