



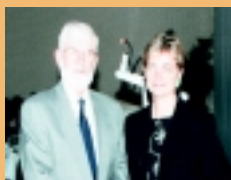
the Australian Society for Medical Research

NEWSLETTER

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July, 1999

ASMR MRW '99



Ralph Bradshaw
with Carol
Armour (ASMR
Director) at the
NSW Dinner



Nigel McMillan
holding a 'virus'
at the
Queensland
Expo



Peter O'Loughlin
(ASMR Director)
and Claudine
Bonder at the
Adelaide Oval
for the Scientific
Meeting



Ralph Bradshaw
encouraging
membership at
the NSW Dinner

The commitment to double NHMRC fund allocations within five years has at last provided a stable funding base and the opportunity for H&MR in Australia to maintain it's high international standing. I acknowledge the support for H&MR from the Minister for Health and Aged Care, Dr Michael Wooldridge in delivering this initial outcome. I say initial as he has indicated that this is the beginning of the process and that further government initiatives will enhance the position of H&MR in Australia.

Crucial to the commitment of funds to NHMRC was the timing of the HMRSR which in essence, detailed ASMR policy from the past six years on mechanisms to improve the H&MR sector in Australia. Peter Wills has been an extremely focussed individual in the process of delivering this review and we recognise his contributions.

ASMR was instrumental in the review process, bringing together interested parties for meetings, providing information, statistics and general dialogue. We contacted every federal politician (several times), spoke directly to those holding portfolios connected to health, science and technology, on

President's Report



Dr Matt Gillespie (ASMR President), Dr Michael Wooldridge and Prof. Ralph Bradshaw at the ASMR MRW Dinner, Melb.

all sides of politics, and to the treasurer. It was a rewarding experience talking to the Opposition and minor parties; they all saw the big picture and the virtue in supporting the HMRSR discussion document recommendations.

There were no obvious detractors to the central aims of the review and the Government used the NHMRC as the centrepiece of this years budget.

One final issue pertinent to this years increase in funding was the projected funding round of Y2000 which suggested a grant success rate of approximately 14%. The immediate increase in appropriations to the NHMRC will re-establish a success rate of approximately 25%. Due to allocated forward commitments, we will not see the

continued over

The Foundation for High Blood Pressure Research will be advertising two postdoctoral research fellowships in July this year, for research projects in blood pressure regulations, hypertension or associated cardiovascular disease. The first fellowship is open to Australian citizens or permanent residents and the second fellowship is open to people from countries other than Australia. The fellowships are to be undertaken at Australian research institutes and are available for three and two years respectively, from 1 January 2000. For further information please contact: Professor Warwick Anderson, Honorary Secretary, Foundation for High Blood Pressure Research, Department of Physiology Monash University, Clayton Vic 3168

President's Report (continued)

available increase in the NHMRC funds until the Y2002/3. However, such a five year undertaking permits ONHMRC to plan financially, a luxury they have not been afforded in the past.

During our 'crystal ball' gazing last year, our decision to invite Ralph Bradshaw to tour as the ASMR-AMRAD lecturer has proven more timely than we could have imagined. My personal thanks are extended to Ralph. He travelled the breadth of Australia in nine days, including three visits to Melbourne, and was not daunted by the task. His presentations and communications with the media, government and scientists were inspiring. The Sydney and Melbourne ASMR-MRW dinners were also highlighted by presentations from Dr Michael Wooldridge and Peter Wills. We should remember that Dr Wooldridge made his time available while Parliament was sitting.

County Medical Research Investment Fund (CMRIF)

The CMRIF has taken a major step forward with the recent signing of an agreement between the WEHI and County. This signing indicates resolutions of a number of issues, including ownership and management of IP, the breadth of the research portfolio and the returns offered to investors and the research sector. These issues were identified during the developmental phase of CMRIF and discussion papers are presented on the NHMRC and County home pages (www.health.gov.au/nhmrc/wnew/new.htm; www.county.com.au/mrif). We look forward to the development of CMRIF and wish County every success in raising funds from the superannuation industry.

38th National Scientific Conference

I congratulate Levon Khachigian and the LOC on the program for this year. Levon has provided an excellent program of international and national speakers, interspersed with opportunities for those submitting abstracts to participate in "oral blitz's". The NSC has taken a radical departure from past NSC's to focus on new technologies providing an update course for new directions in research.

The Society extends congratulations to Henry Burger on receipt of the Distinguished Physician Award at ENDO 99 and to Jennifer Byrne from NSW in recognition of achievements of professional women.

Nomination for Directors

Accompanying this Newsletter is a nomination form for directorship of the Society. I would encourage all eligible members to consider their nominations or proposal of a colleague to the Board of Directors. The Society is at its strongest, having our largest membership, a vital role in many consultative areas and the ability to expand our current portfolios. Please do not hesitate to contact a director if you are interested in a nomination to the board

Matthew Gillespie,
President.

1999 Board of Directors

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Andrew Sinclair (Vic) Tel. 03 9345 6371 Fax. 03 9345 6000 sinclair@cryptic.rch.unimelb.edu.au

Jason Smythe (NSW) Tel. 02 9687 2800 Fax. 02 2687 2120 jsmythe@mail.usyd.edu.au

The increasing importance of intellectual property in medical research

'Free markets' and 'open competition' are catch-cries that are frequently heard. It is surprising then that the patent system is a government sponsored, internationally recognised, limited term monopoly. The reasons for supporting such monopoly protection are to assist in industrial and economic development and to act as a reward for risk and innovation.

In order to gain a patent monopoly, it is required that the inventor publicly and completely discloses how the new invention works. The three crucial criteria used by the patent office in assessing whether to award patent protection (typically for 16-20 years) are whether the invention is novel, showing that it is not obvious and that it has a utility, or a potential application in commerce.

In return for fully describing the invention, the patent monopoly is granted. However, the protected knowledge is now available for others to improve and, after the patent expires, all others are free to use the invention. In the pharmaceutical industry, new drugs are typically the subject of patent protection. Without such protection, companies would find it difficult to justify the hundreds of millions of dollars invested to bring a new drug to market, but once 'off patent' other companies may market 'generic' versions of the drug.

In the biomedical sector, research activity will sometimes lead to discoveries which are patentable. These applications and subsequent issued patents are real and potentially very valuable commodities. Universities, hospitals and research institutes usually, but not always, claim the ownership of such intellectual property (IP) in return for salaried employment, as do some granting agencies or companies in return for research funds.

Intellectual property may be the subject of commercial transactions such as licensing contracts. Such arrangements often include ongoing support for further research and development in the originating organisation and some obligation on the licensee to develop and commercialise the technology and to pay either milestone fees and/or a percentage of income as a royalty to the owner of the patent. Many organisations, as the owner of the patent, and therefore the income earned from the patent, have

arrangements whereby they agree to share a percentage (usually between 10-50%, often on a sliding scale) of royalty and/or milestone income with the inventors. These arrangements also vary considerably.

Since the development of intellectual property, most usually patents, is a key commercial strength, it is obvious that the Wills Review has recommended that it is essential for Australia to capture the value of our excellent efforts in medical research and to use this to generate substantial knowledge-based employment. Key to this will be the development of a research culture that has a positive attitude toward commercialisation.

Several signs are already evident of these changing attitudes. Current project grant applicants will have noted the question asking about patent applications and patents in this years' NHMRC grant application forms. Secondly, County Investment Management Ltd, together with the NHMRC, have announced their intention to develop a Medical Research Investment Fund (MRIF). The concept is that, in return for additional funding (a doubling of current NHMRC grant funds has been suggested) to excellent peer reviewed research (ie current NHMRC grants) that the IP owner would return a percentage (numbers such as 50% have been suggested) of all commercialisation income back to the MRIF investors (see www.health.gov.au/nhmrc/research/medresea/c-mrif.htm and www.county.com.au/mrif/mrifpages.nsf/pages/index). Finally, the Wills Review highlights several additional areas that will be crucial for the development of a viable Biotechnology sector in Australia and a degree of Government support has already been seen in this years' budget.

Reading the pages of this weeks' issue of Nature or Science, or any other high impact journal, I'm sure that each reader would be able to identify several papers that describe a novel and non-obvious research advance that has potential commercial utility. *It is crucial that we individually, and nationally, ensure that these research breakthroughs are properly protected via patents and other methods, and used to develop the economic well-being and improved health outcomes that we desire for our country.*

Peter R Schofield

ASMR Medical Research Week 1999

New South Wales - Kathryn Quinn

The good news for medical research funding announced with the Federal Budget resulted in a celebratory mood during Medical Research Week Activities in NSW, reflected in record attendance at both the State Scientific Meeting and the MRW dinner, and the customary full-house at the Careers Seminars for High School Students. The State Scientific Meeting was held on Monday May 31st, and the convenors (Orin Chisholm, Martin Stebbing and Andrew Schrader) are to be congratulated on a pleasant and stimulating meeting. In a plenary address Professor Judith Whitworth, the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Aged Care, outlined the benefits of Australian medical research and the proposed allocation of the increased NHMRC budget. The standard of the presentations at the meeting was, as always, excellent and a number of prizes were awarded: Dr Renee Badenhop (Garvan Institute of Medical Research, post-doctoral award), Jeremy Turner (Department of Biochemistry, The University of Sydney, student oral), Sharon Leong, (School of Pathology, University of NSW, student poster), David O'Gorman (Kolling Institute of Medical Research, technical prize) and Paul Baldock (Garvan Institute for Medical Research, technical prize). The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gavin Brown, of The University of Sydney, presented The University of Sydney Medal for Research Excellence to Margot Kearns. The organising committee of the Medical Research Week Dinner did an outstanding job to attract over 280 attendees. An impressive group of speakers addressed the dinner on current/future directions in medical research and funding: Mr Peter Wills, AO, the Hon Dr Michael Wooldridge, Mr John Flack (R&D Director, AMRAD Corporation) and Professor Ralph A Bradshaw. We are grateful for sponsorship from The University of Sydney, AMRAD, NSW Health, BioRad, Eli Lilly, The Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute and The Garvan Institute of Medical Research. *NSW is hosting the 38th NSC which will be held 27th-29th November, 1999 at the Fairmont Resort, Leura* as detailed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Victoria - Rob Ramsay

1999 has been the year for Medical research budgets. The Kennett Government is acting upon the Economic Development Committee's report into Victoria's Medical research sector with vigour and dollars. Alan Stockdale's budget offered \$314 million for biotechnology, science, R&D. Much of this will have spin-offs for the medical research community. The evolution of the EDC report has been followed with interest by ASMR. It has undergone a dramatic change in emphasis. The preliminary report scared the research community with its suggestion that Medical Research was not particularly important to the Victorian Economy and that the infrastructure support from the Government might be better spent elsewhere. The initial conclusions were based upon inadequate submissions in terms of detail and in some case no submissions at all. The second round of responses served the research community better and the final report recognised the true value of MR to the Victorian economy and to Victorian's health. Plans, some secret and others not, to create Biotech.Parks and multi-Institutional Research precincts with Government support, are doing the rounds. This activity reflects the Governments belief in the need to position Victoria to participate in the Biotech Revolution. The final form of these Research Poll is anyone's guess but the desire for it to happen is very strong. The Australian Science Journal Life Sciences celebrated its 10th anniversary in Melbourne during MRW. The Image of the Year Award was sponsored for the 2nd year and the winner was Melbourne based. Best medical research story by the media sponsored by AMRAD was awarded to Maryanne Toy of The Age. MRW this year saw two shopping centre Expos sponsored by AMRAD, Public lectures, career sessions for secondary and tertiary students and a Research Investment Forum for Commercialization of Health. Major support from the Dept. of Human Services and VicHealth were very appreciated. Once again we cracked the 650 mark for attendance at the annual MRW dinner. Ralph Bradshaw gave a great address as part of his national tour sponsored by AMRAD. Dr Wooldridge made a special effort to attend and Peter Wills and Robert Doyle Parliamentary Sec. for Health, (Vic) shared centre stage with Robyn Williams.

Western Australia - John Mamo

Over the past four years, Medical Research Week has grown significantly in West Australia. Presently, we are at a cross roads in identifying volunteers who are willing to contribute to this very worthwhile cause. Medical Research Week primarily benefits the wider community. However, it has also been a most useful vehicle for raising public awareness of the issues facing the H&MR sector. In Western Australia Medical Research Week has stimulated dialogue between the tertiary sector, hospitals, industry, state and federal government departments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who made this years event an outstanding success. Minda Sarna (LOC), Dr. Sarah Dunlop, Louise Daly, Mellissa Johnston-Sayer, Dr. Jackie Bentel, Dr. Janet Preuss, Nick Zeps and Marilyn Lehman. Many thanks also to our public speakers, sponsors and those who supported us by attending. I close with a plea to my West Australian colleagues.

In recent years, ASMR has been instrumental in addressing a number of serious issues facing H&MR. It is important that all states contribute to the promotion of medical research via ASMR. If you are under the age of 45, please consider nominating as a Director of the society. Alternatively, your support by joining the state committee would be very welcomed. In fact, we need you desperately!

ASMR Medical Research Week 1999

Tasmania - Bruce Lyons

ASMR Medical Research Week started with a preview of some of the research presented in the poster competition. Paul Adlard (UTAS), Lyn Joseph (RHH) and Margaret Wallington (RHH) gave short seminars in a special Grand Round presentation on Friday May 28th, entitled "A taste of Medical Research in Tasmania". The week was officially opened by the Minister for Health and Community Services, the Hon Judy Jackson, at a luncheon at Hadley's Hotel. The special guest speaker, Professor Ralph Bradshaw (UCLA Irvine, USA) gave a presentation entitled "A renaissance of Australian Medical Research". Professor Bradshaw's appearance was part of a national lecture tour sponsored by AMRAD for ASMR Medical Research Week.

A number of local organisations participated in a display in Elizabeth Mall on Tuesday 1st June, which was energetically compered by Brett Marley of Magic 107 FM. Elizabeth Pilgrim from the RHH performed vital lung function tests on a number of local media personalities. On the evening of Wednesday 2nd June, the Medical Research Week quiz night at the Black Buffalo attracted around 100 participants.

Around 80 research posters were displayed throughout Medical Research Week in RHH. The prizegiving ceremony marking the close of ASMR Medical Research Week included speeches by Professor Andrew Glenn, the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) at the University of Tasmania and Ms. Pat Martin, the Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Hobart Hospital, both praising and encouraging the research activities being undertaken at the RHH and the University of Tasmania. The organising committee wish to thank all the generous sponsors of Medical Research Week.

Queensland - Judy Halliday

The ASMR Medical Research Week in Queensland was organised by a small but efficient committee, with thanks to P. Osborne (State President), N. McMillan, M. McGukin, M. Pantaleon, L. Jordan, I. Peak, J. Halliday and M. Rosa for their hard work. The generous sponsorship from AMP Queensland, AMRAD Corp. Ltd, The Queensland Sciencentre, the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre and various University Departments and Centres is gratefully acknowledged. The Health and Medical Research Expo, which was opened by Mr. Terry Sullivan, MLA, was held at the Queensland Sciencentre and well over 1000 people visited exhibits from the major medical research Institutions around Brisbane. Especially popular were the Giant Cell from the Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research and the Dendritic cell from the Mater Research Institute. The Centre for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism performed heel ultrasound to measure bone density, and the University of Queensland Medicine Dept provided artery doppler ultrasound tests. Of special interest was the public forum on the Pros and Cons of Vaccination presented by Prof. Ian Frazer and Mr. Greg Beattie.

The 11th AMP Queensland Biomedical Research Awards finalists presented their work in a series of public lectures at the Bancroft Auditorium, QIMR, and the winners were announced at the MRW dinner by Mr Brian Richards, the AMP Manager for Queensland. Congratulations to S. Behncken and N. Barnett who won the predoctoral and postdoctoral awards, respectively. In making the presentations Mr Richards commented on how essential it is for scientists to present their work to a wider audience and was proud that AMP could play a part in facilitating this process.

The annual dinner, held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, attracted over 110 guests and Prof Ralph Bradshaw gave a very interesting presentation outlining the potential outcomes we can expect in Australia as a result of adequate support for Medical Research.

South Australia - Sarah Hudson

ASMR Medical Research Week 1999 in South Australia was officially opened on Tuesday June 1 by the Hon Dean Brown (Minister for Human Services, SA government). The opening was combined with a press conference, during which Minister Brown, Professor Ralph Bradshaw (ASMR's AMRAD-sponsored guest for Medical Research Week 1999) and local members of the ASMR discussed the future of South Australian medical research with the press gallery. Professor Bradshaw provided further consideration of issues surrounding medical research funding in his inspiring address to attendees of the South Australian ASMR Medical Research Week Dinner, also held on June 1 at the Radisson Playford, Adelaide. Professor Bradshaw placed particular emphasis on the importance of quality education of younger members of our community. ASMR Medical Research Week 1999 in South Australia concluded with the annual local Scientific Meeting, held at Adelaide Oval on Friday June 4. The premier symposium at the Scientific Meeting was presented by Professor Rob Sutherland, Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Sydney. An equally entertaining second symposium, chaired by Professor Grant Sutherland, came in the form of a 'showcase' of Adelaide senior medical researchers from each of 5 institutions. Media coverage of the ASMR Medical Research Week was increased compared to previous years. ASMR MRW 1999 in South Australia was an absolutely resounding success. This was in no small part due to the dedicated team of local committee members.

Nominations for ASMR Board of Directors

So, you're not entirely happy with the way things are in the medical research community and you know you have a few good ideas for change

Well, why not roll-up your sleeves, grab your ideas and ideals with both hands, jump in boots-and-all and nominate for the position of a National Director of the ASMR. As a Director of ASMR there is one thing you will never be, and that's bored. Each Director is intimately involved in a number of exciting (and yes, often challenging) activities, including liaising with State Branch Committees and the general medical research community, assisting in the formulation and implementation of policy on behalf of the Societies membership, and lobbying various Government representatives and agencies on relevant issues. In addition, you may be involved in providing information to researchers, students and the general public on a spectrum of medical research activities, opportunities and concerns.

As a Director, you will not only have a chance to exercise your unique skills and experience by getting involved in one or more of the Boards sub-committees, you will also have an opportunity to play a part in improving the career structure and future prospects of medical researchers as we rapidly approach the next millennium. Sound too good to be true? Then why not call a current or past Director and ask them how they feel about the position. Go on, what have you got to lose for the cost of a phone call?

On an administrative note, the Board is made up of 10 ordinary members elected by ballot for a period of two years, and the President-elect from the previous year, who assumes the office of President. To be eligible for nomination you must be a financial member of the Society, be less than 45 years of age at the time of the Annual General Meeting, and be nominated by two financial members of the Society.

Jason Smythe, Editor



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Events

Macfarlane Burnet Centenary Symposium, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Melbourne. - Further details and online registration available at <http://www.burnet.edu.au/centenary> or email mo@asnevents.net.au Phone 03 5983 2400
3rd Australian Cystic Fibrosis Conference, The Masonic Centre, Sydney. August 26-28 1999 - contact Cystic Fibrosis Australia, P O Box 254, North Ryde, NSW, 1670. Ph: 02 9878 5259, Fax 02 9878 5058

Aged Care Australia and the Aust. Assoc. of Gerontology joint Conference - "Age of Celebration and Expectation". Darling Harbour, Sydney. September 5 - 9 1999. Telephone 02 9262 2277, Email: acaaag@tourhosts.com.au

13th International Symposium on Regulatory Peptides, Cairns, Queensland, Australia. 22 -26 October, 2000.
Information: ICMS Pty Ltd, 84 Queensbridge Street, Southbank, Victoria, Australia 3006. Tel +61 3 9682 0244, Fax 61 3 9682 0288 Email: regpep@icms.com.au Website: <http://www.icms.com.au/regpep>

Joint Meeting, Society for Free Radical Research (A'asia), Aust. Society for Experimental Pathology & ANZ Environmental Mutagen Society - December 1 -4, 1999. Sydney University. Contact Prof. Nick Hunt 02 9351 -2414, Email: nhunt@pathology.usyd.edu.au

Festschrift for Prof Lawrie Powell on the occasion of his retirement from QIMR. Bancroft Centre, Brisbane, December 3-4. Contact Barbara Leggett, Dept of Gastroenterology, Royal Brisbane Hospital

12th Lorne Cancer Conference, Feb 10-13 2000. Contact Prof. J Zalcborg, Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute. 03 9656 1749 or Jacqui Laird, 03 9496 3548, Email: Jacqui@austin.unimelb.edu.au

New Members - Feb 23 to June 25 1999

NSW

Ms Kath Arneman
Ms Chantal Ayrout
Dr Priyanka Bandara
Dr Linda Bendall
Miss Melissa Broe
Ms Katherine Bush
Dr Jo-Anne Chuck
Miss Terrie-Anne Cock
Dr Lindsay Collinson
Mr Robert Dekroon
Mr Michael Eisbacher
Mr Ronaldo F Enriquez
Ms Susan Fanayan
Mr Mossa Gardaneh
Ms Therese Garrick
Dr Anthony George
Mr Andrew Gifford
Mr Jason Harmer
Professor Stuart Hazell
Dr J M Henderson
Dr Philip Hodgkin
Dr Melissa Holmes
Ms Julie Hughes
Dr Jonathan Izant
Dr Maria Kavalarris
Ms Margo Kearns
Dr Paul Keller
Ms Louise Larkin
Miss Jinhee Lee
Ms Pilar Lopez
Dr Janet McLeod
Dr Liz Milward
Dr Heeja Namkung-Matthai
Dr Kathryn North
Ms Kathryn Pine
Dr Sean Riminton
Dr Galina Schevov
Dr Claire Shepherd
Dr Giuseppe Simonetta
Miss Prudence Stanford
Miss Sasha Tait
Dr Bernadette Vrhovski
Mr Cheng-Chun Wang

Ms Yewlan Wanigasekara-Mohotti
Mr Daniel Wardman
Dr Julie Wright
Dr Zheng Yang
Ms Sonia Yip

Dr David Zahra

Victoria

Ms Karen Berry
Mr Mark Chong
Miss Teresa Domagala
Professor Bob Fairclough
Dr Suzanne Hasthorpe
Dr William Heath
Dr Rajir Jayasena
Dr Louise Kelly
Dr Martin Lackmann
Dr Judith Layton
Dr Grant McArthur
Dr Julie Milland
Miss Justine Mintern
Dr Matthew O'Connell
Mr David Osmond
Dr Samantha Richardson
Professor Mauro Sandrin
Dr David Smallwood
Dr Steven Stacker
Dr Teodor Stelmasiak
Dr Tony Tiganis
Dr Bev Warner
Dr Richard Wilson

Queensland

Dr Nigel Barnett
Ms Kerry Boucaut
Miss Natalie Bull
Mr Christopher Dayas
Mr Anthony Dicker
Dr Camile Farah
Ms Shirin Hassan
Mr Christopher Jones
Dr K Khanna
Mr Tam Le

TOXICITY TESTING

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Pharmatox

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Ms Natalii Paczkowski
Miss Jennifer Rowland
Miss Anna Short
Dr Kevin Spring
Dr Meng Tan
Mr Andrei Varnavski

SA

Ms Michelle Anderson
Dr Jon Buckley
Mr Timothy Butler
Ms Evelyn Douglas
Ms Belinda Edmonds
Miss Lisa Edwards
Mr Abbas Hawwari
Ms Leonie Heilbrown

Miss Alexandra Holmes
Ms Wendy Ingman
Dr Rod Irvine
Mr Wayne Leifert
Miss Michaela Richards
Dr Lor-Wai Tan

WA

Ms Caryn Elsegood
Dr Sean Geoghegan
Ms Mohinda Sarna
Dr Julia Shand

Affiliate Member Organisations

Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes
Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists
Australasian Menopause Society
Australasian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Australasian Society for Free Radical Research
Australasian Society for HIV Med Inc
Australasian Society for Immunology
Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases
Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research
Australasian Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy
Australasian Society of Blood Transfusion
Australasian Society of Clinical & Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists
Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology & Allergy
Australian & New Zealand Bone & Mineral Society
Australian & New Zealand Society for Cell & Developmental Biology Inc
Australian & New Zealand Society of Nephrology
Australian Association of Neurologists
Australian Atherosclerosis Society
Australian Diabetes Society
Australian Neuroscience Society Inc
Australian Physiological & Pharmacological Society
Australian Rheumatology Association
Australian Society for Reproductive Biology
Australian Society for the Study of Obesity
Cardiac Society of Australia & New Zealand
Clinical Oncological Society of Australia
Endocrine Society of Australia
Fertility Society of Australia
Gastroenterological Society of Australia
Haematology Society of Australia & New Zealand
High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia

Human Genetics Society of Australasia
National Association of Research Fellows
Paediatric Research Society of Australia & New Zealand
Perinatal Society of ANZ
Thoracic Society of Australia & New Zealand
Transplantation Society of Australia & New Zealand

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National Scientific Conference
The Australian Society for Medical Research
The Fairmont Resort, Leura, NSW
November 27-29, 1999

You are warmly invited to attend and present your work at the 38th National Scientific Conference (NSC) of the ASMR

The Scientific program this year will be under the banner “Cutting Edge Technologies in Medical Research”.

This NSC will have strong emphasis on state-of-the-art biomedical research and will highlight recent developments in our understanding of the mechanisms underlying health and disease. Symposia will be concerned with Genetics, Model Organisms, Protein and Carbohydrate Structure, Macromolecular Interaction Analysis, State-of-the-Art Therapeutics and State-of-the-Art Imaging. Among the ‘hot’ technologies covered are DNA microarrays, lessons from yeast and mouse genetics, gene therapy, biosensor technology, fluorescence imaging and medical imaging. Several leading national and international scientists have accepted invitations to speak. These include Dr David Botstein (Stanford University School of Medicine), Ed Rubin (University of California, Berkeley), Sara Ann Courtneidge (SUGEN, Inc) and Stephen Adams (University of California, San Diego), as well as Australians David Bowtell, Ismail Kola, Chris Parish, Martin Lackmann, Richard Harvey, Dominic Leung, Rohan Baker, Greg Arndt, Colin Ward and Mark von Itzstein.

The NARF Symposium will this



*David Botstein, the 1999 ASMR
Firkin Orator*

year focus on new developments in vascular biology and feature presentations by Julie Campbell, Judy Black and Roland Stocker. In addition, we are proud to host the first inaugural Viertel Symposium, sponsored by the Sylvia & Charles Viertel Charitable Foundation, featuring presentations by seven current Viertel Senior Research Fellows (Graham Kay, Trevor Kilpatrick, Melissa Little, Eugene Marakovsky, Lorraine Robb, Pankaj Sah and Joanne Shaw).

In light of the wide-ranging implications of the Health and Medical Research Strategic Review (HMRSR), commissioned by the Minister for Health and Aged Care, The Hon. Dr Michael Wooldridge, MP, and chaired by Mr Peter Wills, AM, and the intense interest this has generated among the Australian biomedical research community, we have scheduled for the first day (Saturday) an after-dinner symposium whose

theme is “The Current and Future State of Medical Research in Australia”. The Symposium, which will be chaired by Prof Judith Whitworth, Chief Medical Officer, Australian Department of Health and Aged Care, will be focussed primarily on the impact of the Review on health and medical research in Australia. It will feature presentations by Mr Peter Wills and several other distinguished speakers and panel discussants from government, university, commercial research and philanthropic organisations. **Finally**, we are privileged to be entertained at the Conference Dinner by members of one of Australia’s finest and most innovative international orchestras, the Australian Chamber Orchestra. Please take note of the **Registration and Abstract Submission DEADLINE which is SEPTEMBER 1, 1999**. Detailed information on Registration and the preparation and submission of Abstracts will be distributed in late June / early July. Information can also be obtained through the Conference Website at www.powmri.unsw.edu.au/asmrnscl. I hope that you will be able to join us at the 1999 NSC. Levon Khachigian
Convenor, 1999 ASMR NSC