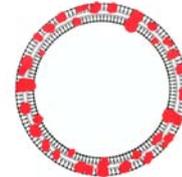


PRESIDENT'S REPORT
29th Annual Meeting of the ANZSCDBI at ComBio2009
9th December 2009
Christchurch Convention Centre
Christchurch, NZ

**AUSTRALIA &
NEW ZEALAND
SOCIETY
for
CELL &
DEVELOPMENTAL
BIOLOGY
INCORPORATED**



Dear friends and colleagues,

Our main efforts over the past year have focused on two goals, one being to re-invigorate our activities at the local and state level and the other to raise the profile of the Society, both of which yielded rewarding results. Much of this involved refining our website <http://www.anzscdb.org/> to reflect changing demands, initiatives and the role of the Society and I am indebted to **Ros Barrett-Lennard** (MTCi) and **Geraldine O'Neill** for their significant, continuing involvement.

State/NZ Chapter Activities: In response to suggestions from state/NZ representatives, we designed a program to support local and state Cell and Developmental Biology themed activities. **Geraldine O'Neill** took charge of revising the appointment of our representatives and defined responsibilities, the paramount being convening or sponsoring local meetings in our disciplines. This year most of our state/NZ representatives availed themselves of funds earmarked for such activities <http://www.anzscdb.org/ANZSCDB-Grants.html> to hold successful meetings. Well done!

19th Annual Combined Biological Sciences Meeting – **Megan Lloyd** (organising member) August, University of Western Australia, Perth WA; student poster prize. *QMB Developmental Biology Satellite Meeting* – **Christine Jasoni** (organising member) September, Queenstown, NZ; conference mixer. *2nd Melbourne Cell and Developmental Symposium* – **Kieran Harvey** and **Ian Smyth** (organising members) November, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne VIC; international speaker. *NSW Cell and Developmental Biology Meeting* – **Thomas Fath** (organising member) November, Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Sydney NSW.

Society Awards: **The President's Medal** is the highest honour that our Society bestows and I was delighted to announce that the 2009 recipient is **Richard Harvey** from the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute. Richard is an internationally recognised leader in developmental biology and specifically in the field of heart development and has made major advances in the identification of cardiac stem cells. He is a member of the Australian Academy of Sciences and a past President of ANZSCDB. Richard is the first recipient of our newly minted version of the President's Medal struck at the Canberra Mint which was presented to him at ComBio2009 prior to his plenary lecture: *The Developing Heart – Ancient Core, Fragile Form*. We are extremely pleased and honoured that **Sigma-Aldrich** has agreed to continue their sponsorship of the President's Medal for 2009 and thank **Ira Mautner**, Sigma-Aldrich New Zealand Manager for presenting Richard with the award.

The Young Investigator Award was initiated to acknowledge achievement and the successful establishment of an independent career in our disciplines, with a deciding factor being past or current service to the Society. The YIA entered its second year with nominations taking place in November and the selection committee convening in December. As with the previous year, the applicants were outstanding and the committee selected dual awardees: **Ruth Arkell** (ANU) and **Kieran Harvey** (Peter Mac). Kieran received his award, a beautiful hand blown & cold worked glass artwork, at ComBio2009 in Christchurch, NZ and spoke in the *Developmental Diseases Symposium*. During the year, he presented his work at two institutional research seminars under the auspices of the ANZSCDB YIA: the Brisbane Developmental Biology Seminar Series and the Garvan Institute (Sydney). Ruth also chose to present at the Brisbane Developmental Biology Seminar Series, but deferred the remainder of her YIA entitlements until 2010 in order to attend to a greater reward, the birth of her beautiful daughter Sophia. Ruth will receive her award and present her work in the *Patterning and Morphogenesis Symposium* at OZBIO2010 in Melbourne. We are indebted to **Carl Zeiss Australia** who will continue to sponsor the award for 2009 and 2010 and to **David Flood** for presenting the award to Kieran.

To acknowledge, encourage and assist our up-and-coming young Cell and Developmental Biologists we awarded the Toshiya Yamada Early Career Award to **Nicole Cloonan** (UQ), the Keith Dixon Prize in Developmental Biology to **Jianbin Wang** (ANU) & **Stephen Gray** (Monash), the David Walsh Student Prize

to **Alex Combes** (UQ) and the ANZSCDB Cell Biology Student poster prize to **Nikki Curthoys** (CHW) at COMBIO2008. Two ANZSCDB COMBIO2009 Travel Awards were given to **Nadia Sadli** (Deakin) and **Claire Martin** (UNSW) to present their work in Christchurch, NZ. Two Student Exchange Scheme Awards were awarded to **Jessie Zhong** (CHW) to carry out work at the Queensland Brain Institute (UQ) and to **Aamir Mukadam** (Otago) to conduct work in the Brain & Mind Research Institute (USyd)

Scientific Meetings. COMBIO continues to be our Annual Scientific Meeting and this year was held in Christchurch, NZ. ANZSCDB members on the committee **Peter Koopman**, **Peter Gunning**, **Ian McLennan** and **Phil Crosier** organised a brilliant Cell & Developmental stream and we are indebted to them for securing 4 top plenary speakers. We thank the symposium chairs for their hard work organising the 8 symposia. In keeping with the tradition (!) established at COMBIO2008, we held our Society dinner at 'The George' which provided an excellent venue to catch up with colleagues in a relaxed and lovely setting.

Registration and abstract submission for **OZBIO2010** (26 Sept to 1 Oct 2010, Melbourne Convention Centre) that encompasses COMBIO2010, the 12th IUBMB and the 21st FAOBMB has commenced. This looks to be an exciting meeting and we are indebted to our members and colleagues who have invested significant time and effort organising the Cell Architecture & Trafficking and Developmental Biology Streams, **Marie Bogoyevitch** & **David Jans** and **Helen Abud** & **Joy Rathjen**, respectively.

An integral part of OZBIO2010 is the **Young Scientist Forum** (YSF) which is a conference of 50 international and 10 Australian PhD/early postdoctoral scientists that precedes OZBIO. ANZSCDB is sponsoring 2 fellowships reserved for PhD/early postdoc members to attend the YSF plus OZBIO2010. Further details of the YSF event can be found at the FELLOWSHIP tab of the OzBio2010 website <http://www.asbmb.org.au/ozbio2010/> and applications close Feb 01, 2010.

The sometimes problematic aspects of organising COMBIOs, corporate memory and ensuring a programme that reflects the current interests of the member societies, have been alleviated by the establishment of the National Advisory Group, mentioned at the 2008 AGM. "**NAG**" is comprised of Presidents of the 3 COMBIO founding societies (ASBMB, ANZSCDB, ASPS) and past COMBIO convenors and serves to advise convenors of current and future COMBIO through informal email 'conferences'.

Next year will be the 3rd year of our 3-year commitment to the **Hunter Cellular Biology Meeting (HCBM)** to sponsor an international speaker, with associated visits to members' laboratories. The 2009 **ANZSCDB HCBM International Speaker** was **Lila Solnica-Krezel** (Vanderbilt) who presented her work on morphogenesis and gastrulation, with additional seminars at Monash University and The University of Queensland. **Ed Munro** from the University of Chicago, an expert in mathematical modelling of basic Cell & Developmental processes such as cell fate, morphogenesis, cell polarity and asymmetric cell division, will be the 2010 ANZSCDB HCBM International Speaker, with an associated visit to The University of New South Wales. The ANZSCDB Executive has decided to continue sponsorship of an HCBM International Speaker under the auspices of ANZSCDB's Distinguished Visiting Lectureship in Cell & Developmental Biology Program.

We are delighted that the **Developmental Biology Workshop** will be reinstated in 2010 in Melbourne by our eminent Developmental Biologists: **Peter Currie**, **Richard Harvey**, **Rob Saint** and **Patrick Tam**. ANZSCDB has promised funds in support of the invited international lecturers.

In 2009, in addition to the state/NZ-based meetings, we contributed to Cell & Dev Biol-based national meetings and one international meeting, in support of our disciplines and to raise our profile. These included the Indian Ocean Rim Muscle Colloquium (Jan.; UWA, Perth), 9th Australia and New Zealand Zebrafish Workshop (Feb.; Victor Harbour & Univ Adelaide, SA), ASCB/JSCB/RIKEN Cell & Developmental Biology Meeting (Sept.; Kyoto, Japan) and the 4th Barossa Meeting (Nov.; Barossa Valley, SA).

Corporate Sponsors. I have mentioned already the generous support of **Sigma-Aldrich** in their sponsorship of the prestigious President's Medal and thank them again here. **Carl Zeiss** are generous sponsors of our Young Investigator Award, and we are grateful for their support in our recognition of Australasia's brightest, emerging Cell and Developmental scientists. Corporate support for our State/NZ-based meetings mentioned above included: **Applied Biosystems**, **Geneworks**, **Invitrogen**, **Millipore** and **Roche**. We thank all our sponsoring companies whose advertisements appear regularly in our Newsletters.

Society Affiliations & Outreach. ANZSCDB continues to be a member of the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (**FASTS**), an affiliate member of the Australian Society for Medical Research (**ASMR**; contributing funds to the modelling on the HMRC workforce that the ASMR commissioned

for a pre-2010/2011 Federal Budget submission) and a full member of the International Federation for Cell Biology (**IFCB**). Through FASTS, **Kat Gaus** and **Carol Wicking** represented the Society at "Science Meets Parliament" in March. Membership in IFCB entitled us, amongst other things, to send a member - Dominic NG, Peter Doherty Fellow (Bio21, U Melb) - all expenses paid, to the 2009 IFCB International Training Program in Cell and Molecular Biology in Taiwan. Recently, we decided to become a society/paying member of the International Society for Developmental Biology (**ISDB**) in recognition of the prominence of our society and our members in this discipline. As a corresponding society of the National Committee for Biomedical Sciences (**NCBMS**) of the Australian Academy of Science, we nominated student members to attend the 60th meeting of Nobel Laureates in Lindau, Germany in 2010 and offered travel expenses to the National Institutes of Health (USA) to facilitate collaborations. In recognition of our links with the major international Cell and Developmental Biology societies, we have recently been invited to become a member of the NCBMS commencing in 2010. Our other corresponding Societies include ASCEPT, ASBMB, ESA, ASMR, AACB, ASI, ANS and ASB.

ANZSCDB commends **Ian McLennan** (Otago) for taking the initiative to build a relationship with the New Zealand Government which now recognises ANZSCDB as a key body to advise on issues that impact on Cell and Developmental Biology research and teaching in NZ. **Christine Jasoni** (Otago) will collaborate with Ian in his advocacy. The relationship with government that Ian has established is one that a Society strives to achieve.

Membership of the Society. This is our next challenge. We are currently at 266 members, of which 217 are Ordinary/Retired/Corporate and 49 are Students. Our society membership needs to grow. I ask that all heads of labs take a simple first step – encourage your students to join. We are actively promoting the Society through promotions at sponsored meetings (e.g. membership brochures, sponsorship of student prizes) and importantly, Magic Touch Consultancies has initiated a four step program of tracking memberships to ensure that we are constantly capturing every opportunity to encourage renewals and new memberships. The Executive will pursue membership – Ordinary, Student and Corporate – during the next year. We are working with MTCi to draft corporate sponsorship documents and will seek assistance from our members to engage sponsors. Increased revenue will be used in the first instance to support PhD/postdoc travel scholarships to national and international meetings. JOIN US!

Finally, I want to acknowledge my colleagues on the **ANZSCDB Executive, Geraldine O'Neill, Kat Gaus, Alpha Yap** and **Peter Currie**, and **ANZSCDB Secretariat, Ros Barrett-Lennard** (MTCi) and **Liz Orfanos** (MTCi), and thank them for their dedication, support and advice. Congratulations to Kat who saw to it that our audit was completed efficiently and the Annual Return is underway.



Edna Hardeman
President
Australia and New Zealand Society for Cell and Developmental Biology
December 9th, 2009