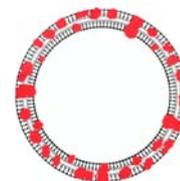


**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**  
**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the ANZSCDBI at OzBio2010**  
**30<sup>th</sup> September 2010**  
**Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre**  
**Melbourne, VIC**

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



Dear friends and colleagues,

Over the past year we continued our focus on re-invigorating our activities at the state and regional level and to foster support of our students and emerging leaders.

**State/NZ Chapter Activities:** Our program to support local and state Cell and Developmental Biology themed activities continues to grow with sponsored conferences and symposia taking place in NSW, QLD, VIC and WA, with some states having a number of activities. NSW held its 16<sup>th</sup> Cell and Developmental Biology Meeting, Melbourne its 3<sup>rd</sup> and we are very pleased that QLD will hold its 1<sup>st</sup> in October. The state/local chapter meetings supported in 2010 included:

*16<sup>th</sup> NSW Cell & Developmental Biology Meeting* – **Thomas Fath** and **Bill Phillips**, March, University of New South Wales; *20<sup>th</sup> Annual Combined Biological Sciences Meeting* – **Megan Lloyd** (organising member) August, University of Western Australia, Perth WA (student poster prize); *Biomedical Imaging Symposium "From seeing to believing: Quantitative Microscopy"* – **Thomas Fath**, Biomedical Imaging Facility, Lowy Cancer Centre, UNSW; *1<sup>st</sup> Brisbane Cell and Developmental Biology Symposium* – **Dagmar Wilhelm** and **Eva Kovacs**, October, Institute for Molecular Bioscience, University of Queensland; *4<sup>th</sup> Cell and Developmental Symposium* – **Ian Smyth** and **Peter Farlie**, November, Monash.

**Society Awards:** The **President's Medal** is the highest honour that our Society bestows and I was delighted to announce that the 2010 recipient is **Professor Emma Whitelaw** from the Queensland Institute of Medical Research. Emma is an internationally recognised geneticist and this award recognises her ground breaking contribution to the discovery of the epigenetic regulation of inheritance. Her work has far reaching implications for how we understand both the regulation of transcription and the very meaning of biological inheritance. Emma received the medal prior to her plenary lecture at OzBio2010: *Epigenetics and the determination of phenotype*. We gratefully acknowledge **Sigma-Aldrich's** role in establishing this award together with the Society and were pleased that **Kathryn Carey**, Sigma-Aldrich Australian and New Zealand Marketing Manager presented Emma 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 3<sup>rd</sup> year with nominations taking place in November and the selection committee convening in January. As with previous years, the applicants were outstanding and the committee selected **Kat Gaus**. Kat is an Assoc/Prof in the Centre for Vascular Research, University of New South Wales. Her work has been at the forefront of the revolution in light microscopy both in terms of developing new microscopes and exploiting their capacity to provide new insights into membrane function. Kat received her award, a beautiful hand blown & cold worked glass artwork, at OzBio2010 and spoke in Symposium 39 *Dynamic Subcellular Compartments*. **Ruth Arkell**, one of two recipients from 2009 chose to accept her award this year at OzBio2010 and spoke in Symposium 41 *Patterning & Morphogenesis*. We are indebted to **Carl Zeiss Australia** who were instrumental in establishing this award and to **Simon Kinder** for presenting the awards to Ruth and Kat.

To acknowledge, encourage and assist our up-and-coming young Cell and Developmental Biologists we awarded the Toshiya Yamada Early Career Award to **Elizabeth Duncan** (Uni Otago), the Keith Dixon Prize in Developmental Biology to **Jad El-Hoss** (The Kids Research Institute, CHW) and **Vicki Metzis** (IMB, UQ), the David Walsh Student Prize to **Ursula Jewell** (Uni Otago) and the ANZSCDB Cell Biology Student poster prize to **Claire Martin** (UNSW) at COMBIO2009, Christchurch NZ.

### **Scientific Meetings**

**COMBIO:** **COMBIO** continues to be our Annual Scientific Meeting and this year it took the form of OZBIO2010, which encompassed COMBIO2010, the 12<sup>th</sup> IUBMB and the 21<sup>st</sup> FAOBMB, and was held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre in Melbourne VIC. ANZSCDB members on the organising committee **Helen Abud**, **Joy Rathjen**, **Marie Bogoyevitch** and **David Jans** organised brilliant Cell

Architecture & Trafficking and Developmental Biology Streams and we are indebted to them for securing top plenary and invited symposia speakers. We also thank the symposium chairs for their hard work. There were approximately 1600 registrants at OZBIO and ANZSCDB was the second largest society present with 187 registrants. Well done!

The Executive approved the awarding of 20 **Student Bursaries** to cover the cost of registration at OZBIO. They were awarded contingent on the supervisor registering for OZBIO. This is the largest response we have had to COMBIO student bursaries. We anticipate that this scheme will be supported for future COMBIOs.

An integral part of OZBIO2010 was the **Young Scientist Forum (YSF)**, a conference of 50 international and 8 Australian PhD/early postdoctoral scientists that preceded OZBIO. ANZSCDB sponsored 2 fellowships and ASBMB sponsored 6, which covered attendance at YSF as well as OZBIO. Of the total number of applicants, 40% were ANZSCDB members which meant that we were satisfying a need for our student/postdoc members. Congratulations to **Stephanie Bannister** (Murdoch Inst, VIC) and **Cassy Spiller** (IMB, QLD) who were awarded fellowships.

The day prior to OZBIO, the **ANZSCDB Council** met with the intention of formalising this activity prior to each COMBIOs. Future Council participants will consist of the Executive, State/NZ Representatives and the Committee, which will be established in the near future.

The **Society Dinner** at COMBIO/OZBIO is now well and truly established and a great success and 58 members, national and international speakers gathered for the Society dinner at 'The Deck'. This provided an excellent venue to catch up with colleagues in a relaxed and lovely setting. Thanks go to **Ros Barrett-Lennard** for making this such a success.

The organisation for **COMBIO2011** that will be held at the Cairns Convention Centre is well underway and **Carol Wicking** and **Rohan Teasdale** are our members on the organising committee.

**Hunter Meeting:** Our relationship with the Hunter Meeting is solid. After the end of our 3-year commitment to the **Hunter Biology Meeting (HBM)** in 2009 to sponsor an international speaker, with associated visits to members' laboratories, the Executive decided to extend our commitment indefinitely under the auspices of ANZSCDB's Distinguished Visiting Lectureship in Cell & Developmental Biology Program. The 2010 **ANZSCDB HCBM International Speaker** was **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, who delivered brilliant and different talks at the HBM and at the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual NSW Cell and Developmental Biology. **Peter Cullen** from the University of Bristol (UK) will be the 2011 ANZSCDB HCBM International Speaker. Peter's lab has made a major contribution to our understanding of endosomal sorting. His group has defined the role of sorting nexins in diversifying endosomal pathways. Of particular interest is the discovery of the ability of sorting nexins to participate in endosomal signalling.

**Developmental Biology Workshop:** We are delighted to support the **6<sup>th</sup> Developmental Biology Workshop** that will take place Oct 24-27, 2010 at the Yarra Valley Convention Centre. This workshop is run by our eminent Developmental Biologists: **Peter Currie**, **Peter Koopman**, **Richard Harvey**, **Rob Saint** and **Patrick Tam**.

**Corporate Sponsors.** I have mentioned already the generous support of **Sigma-Aldrich** for their past sponsorship of the prestigious President's Medal and thank them again here. **Carl Zeiss** have generously sponsored our Young Investigator Award, and we are grateful for their past 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**) and a full member of the International Federation for Cell Biology (**IFCB**) and the International Society for Developmental Biologists (**ISDB**). Through FASTS, **Marie Bogoyevitch (VIC)** and **Aleksandra Filipovska (WA)** represented the Society at "Science Meets Parliament" in March 2010. As a member society of the National Committee for Biomedical Sciences (**NCBMS**) of the Australian Academy of Science, we were able to nominate student members to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> meeting of Nobel Laureates in Lindau, Germany in 2010. Two of our students were chosen by the international committee and we congratulate **Duncan Mortimer (QBI, UQ)** and **Denise Miles (Murdoch Childrens Research**

**Institute).** Also, I was elected Deputy Chair of the NCBMS. Our other corresponding Societies include ASCEPT, ASBMB, ESA, ASMR, AACB, ASI, ANS an ASB.

**Membership of the Society.** This continues to be our challenge. We are currently at 336 members and reached a peak of 364 members during the year. Our society membership needs to grow. I ask that all heads of labs take a simple first step – encourage your students to join. 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), **Liz Orfanos** (MTCi) and the **Editor of our newsletter Megan Chircop**, and thank them for their dedication, support and advice.



Edna Hardeman  
President

Australia and New Zealand Society for Cell and Developmental Biology  
September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010