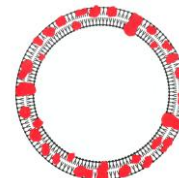


PRESIDENT'S REPORT
31st Annual Meeting of the ANZSCDBI at ComBio2010
28th September 2011
Cairns Convention Centre
Cairns, QLD

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



Dear friends and colleagues,

In this my last report as President of ANZSCDB it is very pleasing to be able to reflect on the growth of the Society, both in membership and activities. Some of these activities follow on from the impetus set in place by previous Executive teams and it is great to see them come to fruition.

- **State/NZ Chapter Activities**

Over the past 3 years I've led upfront with the drive of the Executive to serve our disciplines at the state and regional level. We now have 4 annual stand alone state Cell and Developmental Biology meetings in New South Wales (17th), Victoria (4th), Queensland (2nd) and most recently in South Australia, and our presence at the Combined Biological Sciences Meeting in Perth has grown to a symposium. We've identified potential meetings in New Zealand that we can engage in to support our members locally. The establishment, growth and success of these meetings are due in large part to the drive of our State/Regional Representatives who represent the new and future leaders of our disciplines. I speak for the Executive when I say it has been a true pleasure to interact with our Representatives to support these meetings.

- **Society Awards**

President's Medal: The President's Medal is the highest honour that our Society bestows and this year it is my great pleasure to announce that Professor **Rob Parton** from the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, University of Queensland has been chosen as the 2011 recipient. Rob is an internationally renowned cell biologist and fellow of the Australian Academy of Science. He is an expert on microdomains of the plasma membrane, with a particular focus on caveolae and caveolins, and is credited with demonstrating that lipid droplets are functional organelles in the cells. Rob will present a retrospective of his career in research and hopefully, a view of things to come in the ANZSCDB President's Medal plenary lecture at ComBio2011.

Young Investigator Award: The ANZSCDB Young Investigator Award recognises our up-and-coming leaders and I was very pleased to announce earlier this year that the recipient for 2011 is Dr **Dagmar Wilhelm** of the Institute for Molecular Bioscience. Dagmar's work focuses on sex determination and gonad development from the angle of gene regulation by noncoding RNAs. She will present her work in the 'Molecular mechanisms of development and disease' Symposium at ComBio2011 as well as chair the Developmental Biology Colloquium. In addition to her research accomplishments, Dagmar organised the inaugural Brisbane Cell and Developmental Biology meeting in 2010.

Two of the most difficult and most rewarding tasks of being the President are presiding over the committees that decide these two top awards. I cannot help but be struck by the talent that we have in our disciplines.

OzBio2010 Awards: Congratulations to the winners of our annual postdoc and student prizes: The Toshiya Yamada Early Career Award [**Catherine Itman** (Monash University)], the **Keith Dixon Prize in Developmental Biology** [**Johanna Simkin** (Murdoch Children's Research Institute)], the **David Walsh Student Prize** [**Vicki Metzis** (Institute of Molecular Bioscience, UQ)], **ANZSCDB Cell Biology Student Poster Prize** [**Fran Eversson** (Children's Hospital at Westmead) & **Libby Thomas** (University of Western Australia) & **Heidi Wong** (University of Melbourne)].

ComBio2011: We are grateful that The Portland Press is supporting one of our awards through Cell Biology International.

- **Scientific Meetings Supported**

ComBio2011 Annual Meeting continues to be the Society's annual meeting and our organisation of the Cell and Developmental Biology Streams continues to attract outstanding international and national speakers. Many thanks to **Carol Wicking** and **Rohan Teasdale** who have done an outstanding job for ComBio2011 and have managed to secure **Hiroshi Ohno** (Riken, Yokohama Institute), **David Drubin** (Berkeley), **Hans Clevers** (Hubrecht Institute), **Matt Scott** (Stanford) and **Margaret Fuller** (Stanford) for plenary speakers. We awarded 8 **student bursaries** to cover registration - all applicants who applied were

successful - following on from the policy set at OzBio that we would support up to 20 applicants (subject to availability of funds) to maximise attendance of students at our annual meeting.

The Hunter Meeting continues to be strongly supported by our members. This is an excellent annual meeting and in recognition of our strong ties, the former President Alpha Yap initiated the **ANZSCDB Hunter Speaker** and the Executive decided to continue it under the auspices of our Distinguished Visiting Lectureship in Cell & Developmental Biology Program. This program supports an internationally prominent Cell and/or Developmental Biologist to give a plenary talk at the Hunter Meeting as well as two seminars at members' institutions. **Peter Cullen** (Bristol University) was a delightful contributor to our program at the Hunter 2011, and I am very pleased to announce that **Fiona Watt** (Wellcome Trust Centre for Stem Cell Research) will be the 2012 ANZSCDB Hunter Speaker <http://hcbm.mtci.com.au/>. The laboratories to be visited by Fiona Watt are to be determined.

Other meetings supported: The Executive decided to support the following meetings convened by Society members: 13th Annual Australian Cell Cycle Workshop, 12th Australia-New Zealand Zebrafish Workshop, Boden Research Conference on Genome Biology of Corals and Their Relatives, Gordon Conference - Cell Contact and Adhesion, Student Australian Insect Molecular Biology Conference, 5th Barossa Meeting, and Boden Research Conference on Bacterial Cell Biology - New Insights on Host-Pathogen Interactions.

- **Corporate Sponsors**

Sigma and **Zeiss** have generously sponsored the **President's Medal** and **Young Investigator Award**, respectively. Future sponsorship of these awards will be negotiated in the upcoming year. We are indebted to the following companies for support of our local meetings: **Invitrogen, Millennium Science, Merck, IDT, Pall Life Sciences, Millipore, Genesearch, Integrated Sciences, In Vitro Technologies, BD, Roche, Sapphire Biosciences, Bioline, Fisher Biotech, Roche** and **Geneworks**.

- **Society Affiliations & Outreach**

ANZSCDB continues to be a member of the **National Committee for Biomedical Sciences (NCBMS)** of the **Australian Academy of Science**, **Science & Technology Australia (STA)** (formerly FASTS), the **International Federation for Cell Biology (IFCB)**, the **International Society of Developmental Biologists (ISDB)** and the **Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR)**.

This year the biomedical research community faced potential federal budget cuts. In the lead up to the announcement of the federal budget in May, the ANZSCDB joined sister societies in registering our objection to the proposed cuts through a joint submission by the National Committee for Biomedical Sciences of the AAS to federal members of parliament and through email broadcasts to Society members directing them to opinion polls, letter writing campaigns and rallies. The combined and concerted effort of the research community was successful in averting this threat to our profession and we congratulate all who took part.

- **Membership**

Member recruitment continues to be an issue for this society as well as others. In mid 2010 our membership was 364 (the highest during my Presidency), 336 at the 2010 AGM and 318 at the end of this financial year. The most effective means of recruitment was personal contact and as a result, I recommend the establishment of a Membership Committee separate from the Executive to engage in this activity. State and Regional Representative also should also look to recruit more effectively at the local meetings.

- **The ANZSCDB Committee**

Our constitution stipulates that in addition to the Executive, there must be a Committee that oversees the governance of the Society. The concept of the Committee has been dealt with in various ways over the years, but this year the Executive decided to invite prominent members to form 'The Committee' to provide advice, direction and participate in decision-making. The Committee consists of **Chris Mitchell (VIC)**, **Sharad Kumar (SA)**, **Phil Crosier (NZ)**, **Miranda Grounds (WA)**, **Richard Harvey (NSW)**, **Peter Koopman (QLD)** and soon-to-be Committee member **Alpha Yap (QLD)** who have agreed to serve in these positions and provide oversight for the Society. Each member will serve a 2 year term which can be renewed. The Executive decided that it is desirable for the Past President to serve on The Committee subject to her/his availability.

- **Farewell to the Former Treasurer and Secretary and Welcome the New**

At our AGM last year, we proposed to uncouple the turnover of the Executive in order to facilitate the transition of each new Executive. To initiate this new format, **Kat Gaus** and **Geraldine O'Neill** resigned as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively, in March of this year. I want to express my thanks for the roles they played in the growth of the Society over the past years. Our 'relatively new' Secretary is Ian Smyth and our

Treasurer is **Kieran Harvey**. We will review the handover process to determine if this is an effective mechanism to ensure the maintenance of corporate memory and a smooth transition of the Executive.

- **Secretariat and Website**

I would like to thank our Secretariat **Ros Barrett-Lennard** and **Liz Orfanos** for continued assistance and support. Ros supervised the upgrade of our website this year and I am sure that you will agree it is more appealing and easier to navigate <http://www.anzscdb.org/>

- **Newsletter**

The Executive decided to issue 2 newsletters per year rather than 3. We feel these 2 issues are timed to adequately cover the activities of the Society and that email notices allow us to notify members of upcoming meetings and items of interest in a timely manner. I would like to acknowledge our newsletter editor, **Susan Dacre**, who took over from Megan Chircop late last year. Susan has done an excellent job taking the newsletter to the next level and it is a pleasure to work with her.

I'll end this report by thanking you for giving me the privilege of serving you and welcoming the incoming President Peter Currie. I wish him the best for his tenure and the further growth of our Society under his leadership.



Edna Hardeman
President
Australia and New Zealand Society for Cell and Developmental Biology
September 28th, 2011