

President:
Professor Helena Teede

President-elect:
A. Professor Warrick Inder

Honorary Secretary:
A. Prof Tim Cole

Treasurer:
Dr Nicolette Hodyl

**MINUTES FOR ENDOCRINE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**GOLD COAST CONVENTION CENTRE
Arena 1**

**TUESDAY 23rd August 2016
4.00pm - 5.00pm**

Attendance:

Shaun McGrath, Warrick Inder, Morton Burt, Nicolette Hodyl, Tim Cole, Chris Yates, John Wentworth, Mathis Grossmann, Leon Bach, Kathy Gatford, Judith Clements, Adrian Herington, Bu Yeap, Helena Teede, Craig Harrison, Renea Taylor, Belinda Henry, Ken Ho, Frances Thomas, Ann McCormack, Peter Fuller, Christine Clarke, Emma Hamilton, Fran Milat

1. Apologies

Ashim Sinha, Ben Canny

2. Confirmation of Minutes – 25th August 2015, Adelaide Convention Centre

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting that was held on 25th August 2015 were accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Warrick Inder and seconded by Bu Yeap.

3. Business Arising (HT)

4. President's Report (HT)

4.1 Motion

**Election of new Honorary Life Member on the recommendation of Council
Professor Leon Bach**

Approval for Life member was CARRIED by members.

4.2 International collaborations and profile

4.3 Strengthen the next generation of clinicians and researchers in Endocrinology

4.4 Engagement with external bodies

We continue to strengthen international collaborations with the International Society for Endocrinology, and the US Endocrine Society. We have strong committee representation, editorial board membership, program organising committee membership and a number of joint initiatives including shared journals and joint symposia across meetings and education initiatives. This includes the US Endocrine ESA presentations at the ASM.

The inaugural ESA/ Endocrine Society session in 2015 focused on identifying and meeting challenges for our next generation of endocrinologists and endocrine researchers. A national ESA and US survey, literature review and workforce and NHMRC/ NIH funding data informed the session. Subsequently this led to a collaboration across the societies and a joint publication in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism on the symposium. ESA is now looking to implement recommended strategies emerging from this work to support early career clinicians and academics.

ESA's adoption of Clinical Endocrinology as our official Society Journal is progressing well and Australian publication success rates remain high. ESA members have free access to the online Journal via the ESA member site. ESA is well represented with several of us on the editorial board. The Clinical Endocrinology Board has approved priority access for publication of the best case presentation at the ESA Clinical Weekend meeting. We also encourage you to engage with our partner BioScientifica Journal of Endocrinology and Journal of Molecular Endocrinology for early translational researchers. ESA members are also eligible for a discounted publishing fee when

publishing case reports in the open access publication, Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism Case Reports (submit online via www.edmcasereports.com).

The new Early Academic Career Development meeting now integrates into the ESA ASM and is very strongly subscribed this year. Our scientific strengthening committee chaired by Tim Cole continues to build momentum and to promote our best internationally.

The ESA meeting this year is being held jointly with SRB and with ANZBMS. Registration and sponsorship is very strong and the field of speakers is very impressive.

ESA continues in a strong financial position with ongoing support for ESA Postgraduate Scholarships and Fellowships which are well subscribed with high quality applicants. The benefaction from the estate of ESA Founder, Dr Ken Wynne, continues to fund the \$25,000 Ken Wynne Memorial Scholarship. In 2016 we offered two scholarships and two fellowship top ups as well as the Wynne Scholarship. These will be offered in for 2017 with final numbers yet to be determined. We have also joined with RACP to offer an early career research funding opportunity as of 2017.

We have engaged in a variety of positions statements and guidelines and reviewed and endorsed many others. We have completed and submitted the ESA androgen replacement position paper under the chairmanship of Henry Burger and the leadership of Bu Yeap with a team of highly talented androgen researchers nationally. Professor Leon Bach has sat on the ISE executive on behalf of ESA and Professor Vicki Clifton now takes this role on the next ISE executive.

5. Treasurer's Report (NH)

Audited Accounts

Income from membership subscriptions marginally increased this year (up 4%) compared to 2015, from \$102,458 to \$106,528. ESA had 797 financial members in 2016, compared to 808 in 2015.

The two funds managed by Asgard have returned a net profit of \$73,371 (compared to \$105,786 in 2014-15). This was due to some instability in the global financial market at the beginning of 2016, which have now settled. Our portfolio distribution protected us against the larger losses seen in the international share market. With the Australian election now finalised, there is more certainty around Australian markets.

The first investment portfolio with Asgard has increased in value for the financial year from \$987,371 (July 01 2015) to \$999,442 (June 30 2016). **This equates to an** annual growth of \$12,071 in the last financial year, a return of 1.2%. As of August 16, 2016, there has been a further increase in value to \$1,028,979.

The second account with Asgard (funds from the Wynne estate), have been invested for the specific purpose of supporting an annual award (the Wynne Memorial Award), worth \$25,000 (+GST). The value of this fund also increased in value from **\$625,328.00 on July 01 2015 to \$632,713 on June 30 2016. This equates to an** annual growth of \$7,385 in the last financial year, a return of 1.2%. **As of August 16 2016, the** value of this investment was \$651,213.40.

Accounts held at the National Australia Bank include a working account balance (as of August 16, 2016) of \$130,320. We hold an additional two term deposits, combined value of \$341,746.

Proceeds from meetings were increased by 22% in 2015-16 (\$607,324) compared to 2014-15 (\$496,123). There was also a small increase in meeting costs of 6%. The 2016 award recipients have all received payment. Recommendations from the recent Council meeting are to offer one PhD scholarship and two post-doctoral awards for 2017. Applications close on October 30th 2016: this will be communicated through the bulletin and website.

Total expenditure was increased in 2015-16 (\$762,396) compared to the previous financial year (\$691,624). This was primarily due to increased award expenses, with two extra scholarships offered in 2015-16.

The award sponsorship for 2015-16 was lower than the previous year. Council is in negotiation with RACP to co-fund a post-doctoral fellowship for commencement in 2018.

Overall the Society posted a net profit of \$170,998 in 2015-16, compared to the operating profit of \$49,274 in 2014-15 (and \$103,370 in 2013-14). Our total net assets have increased from \$2,195,366 in 2014-15 to \$2,200,741 in 2015-16.

Approval for the Audited accounts was CARRIED by members.

6. Medical Affairs Committee Report (WI)

The Medical Affairs Sub-committee continues to have a moderately high workload. The major issues which have been commented on include:

EVOLVE

ESA surveyed the clinical members and came up with a list of 5 clinical scenarios to avoid:

1. Don't routinely order a thyroid ultrasound in patients with abnormal thyroid function tests if there is no palpable abnormality of the thyroid gland
2. Don't prescribe testosterone therapy unless there is evidence of proven testosterone deficiency
3. Do not measure insulin concentration in the fasting state or during an oral glucose tolerance test to assess insulin sensitivity
4. Avoid routine multiple daily self-glucose monitoring in adults with stable type 2 diabetes on agents that do not cause hypoglycaemia
5. Don't order a total or free T3 level when assessing thyroxine dose in hypothyroid patients

These have now been formally adopted and listed on the RACP Evolve website:

<http://www.evolve.edu.au/published-lists/esa>

Testosterone prescribing

The Androgen Working Group, chaired by Professor Henry Burger has submitted two manuscripts (Position statement in two parts) which have been accepted for publication in the Medical Journal of Australia. At the time of writing, a sub-group of the Working Group are preparing a commentary for Clinical Endocrinology on the Position statement.

Issues with medication supply

ESA has written to all pharmaceutical companies in Australia formally requesting prompt notification if there are supply issues regarding any product relevant to Endocrine practice. Unfortunately, subsequent to this, there remain instances where such communication has not taken place despite written assurances from the majority of companies that they would do so.

PBAC submission for PBS-subsidised adult GH

A working group, chaired by Prof Ken Ho and including Warrick Inder and Morton Burt as ESA representatives, along with representatives from APEG, have submitted a joint application to the PBAC for consideration of PBS-reimbursed adult GH. This had the backing of all Pharma companies who supply GH in Australia but was not primarily submitted by Pharma. The submission was modelled on the New Zealand experience and limits use to patients with impaired baseline quality of life who show a subsequent improvement on GH. The outcome of the submission is expected later in 2016.

Other issues

Other issues which ESA have been involved in include:

Establishment of a \$50,000 jointly funded ESA/RACP clinical fellowship to be offered annually from 2017

Harmonisation of GH and IGF-1 assays in Australia

Standardisation of dynamic tests of endocrine function nationally across Australia

Formalisation of collaboration between the RACP and specialty societies

International update of PCOS guidelines

Submission to the MBS Review regarding thyroid imaging

Patient and Media Enquiries

ESA also fields a number of direct patient and media enquiries, often asking for recommendations for expertise in a particular field. Clinicians are asked to list their areas of expertise/interest in the relevant section of ESA website.

Vote of thanks

Thanks to all Council members on the sub-committee and special thanks to the two co-opted non-Council members Leon Bach and John Walsh for their much-appreciated contributions.

Thanks also to Shaun McGrath, Rory Clifton-Bligh, Cherie Chiang and Ee Mun Lim for their substantial input into a number of the above initiatives.

7. Scientific Strengthening Committee Report (TC)

The Scientific Strengthening Committee has considered the following issues through the year to help provide scientific research and careers support for all ESA members.

ESA ECR Career Development Workshop

The Sub-Committee has worked with representatives from the Society of Reproductive Biology (SRB) and the Australian & New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society (ANZBMS) to organise a combined ECR Career Development Workshop at the 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting at the Gold Coast. This year it will take place during the main meeting and we have over 100 ECR and students registered. Topics will include grant writing and the grant review process, career options, tips for 'Pharma' funding and work-life balance. We would like to thank Lisa Akison and John Schjenken from SRB and Sharon Brennan and Syndia Lazarus from ANZBMS for planning and organisation of the Workshop.

Assessment of ESA Research and Travel Awards

The Committee this year is undertaking and review and upgrading of the assessment criteria and marking process of all ESA research awards and travel grants. These will be finalised soon and these updates will be placed on the ESA website. The current deadlines for awards are also under review for 2017.

Encouraging Student/ECR participation at ESA Meetings

An assessment of Student/ECR attendance at the main Annual Scientific Meetings of ESA over the past 10 years has prompted discussions on how we can promote and encourage more Graduate students, Trainees and Post-doctoral ECRs to attend our meetings each year. A number of initiatives are under discussion to be implemented for 2017 and include the possible introduction of ESA Poster Awards.

Promoting Local ESA-Supported Endocrine Symposiums and Workshops

The Sub-Committee will also develop a support process for ESA members to organise and hold local (State) Endocrine-focused Symposiums and Workshops. These would continue to encourage scientific discussion and communication within the Australian Endocrinology field, particularly for our younger members.

Thanks to all members on the Sub-Committee:

Thanks to the following ESA Council members on the Scientific Strengthening Sub-Committee; Chen Chen, Craig Harrison, Belinda Henry, Nicolette Hodyl and Bu Yeap, with special thanks to the two co-opted non-Council members Gail Risbridger and Peter Fuller for their valuable contributions.

8. Report on 2016 ESA Meetings – Seminar, Clinical Weekend, ESA Basic Career Development Workshop, ASM (HT)

ESA/SRB/ANZBMS ASM

The 2016 ESA Annual Scientific Meeting will take place at the Gold Coast Convention Centre from Sunday 21st August - Wednesday 24th August. The meeting this year is being held as a joint meeting with the Society for Reproductive Biology (SRB) and the Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society (ANZBMS), which has brought a wealth of unique aspects to the meeting. Registration numbers have been outstanding, both for ESA members as well as overall attendance with the addition of ANZBMS members. As at 1st August we had 897 registrants, including 82 invited speakers.

This year we have 3 outstanding ESA Plenary speakers. Professor Steve Franks (UK) will deliver the Harrison lecture entitled: "Anti-Müllerian Hormone (AMH): physiology and implications for ovarian function and dysfunction" and Professor Constantine Stratakis (USA) will deliver the Taft Plenary lecture entitled "An update on the genetics of adrenal diseases". This year's joint ESA/ADS plenary lecture will be given by Professor Barbara Kahn (USA) will give the joint ESA/ADS plenary lecture, "Discovery of A Novel Class of Naturally-Occurring Lipids with Anti-Diabetic and Anti-inflammatory Effects".

This year's ESA Senior Plenary was awarded to Professor Wayne Tilley and the Servier Award to Justin Chen; there will be no mid-career award due to insufficient applications. An exciting new symposium session was introduced this year by the US Endocrine Society and we have incorporated this into our ESA program, known as a "Special Scientific Session". This inaugural seminar will be given by Professor George Muscat with a focus on "Nuclear Receptors". We also have an exciting initiative where the Guidelines for Androgen Use in Men will be presented by Bu Yeap.

The ECR/Mid-Career workshop will be held as a joint event between ESA, SRB and ANZBMS. It will be attended by more than 160 members, which is a great achievement. Other symposia include "New insights into cross-talk between endocrine tissues", "Novel interactome of nuclear receptors", "Endocrine disruptors and environmental toxins", "Advances in the Diagnosis and Management of Pituitary Adenoma" and "Translation of novel discoveries to clinical management of adrenal diseases". We will also co-host three other symposia

sessions with SRB, ANZBMS and ADS. The ESA-SRB-ANZBMS Symposium speakers reflect the diversity of our societies, with talented basic and clinical researchers from across the country, ranging from early career to senior researchers.

However, as with the 2015 report, there remains concern about the drop off in participation in basic science members as evidenced once again by a reduced number of basic science abstract submissions. Concomitant with this has been an increase in clinical abstract submissions, particularly in case reports submitted by advanced trainees. Following the 2016 meeting, we will be asking ESA members to put forward symposium suggestions including topics and potential speakers for the next ASM to be held in Perth in 2017 to ensure continued diversity in the program at the ASM.

We would like to thank our POC and LOC committee members, as well as ASN events for their assistance in putting this exciting program together.

ESA Seminar Meeting 2016

May 13-15, 2016: Novotel Twin Waters, QLD

The ESA Seminar continues to attract excellent interest, with 314 attendees meeting on the aptly named Sunshine Coast. The 2016 theme was thyroid disease, although other topics included Endocrinology of systemic disease, public health topics related to Endocrinology, and parathyroid disease.

We enjoyed the presence of two international speakers this year. Professor David Cooper (The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, USA) did a brilliant job in engaging the audience with summaries of current knowledge in thyroid disease and practical tips on clinical decision-making. Dr Nick McIvor (Auckland City Hospital, New Zealand) shared his extensive experience in thyroid cancer and parathyroid surgery.

The Australian speakers were also excellent, and ensured a consistently high-class program. The Committee wishes to thank Ada Cheung, Cherie Chiang, Rory Clifton-Bligh, Cres Eastwell, Syndia Lazarus, Louise Maple-Brown, Shaun McGrath, Mark Pace, Katherine Samaras, Tim Sullivan, Duncan Topliss, John Walsh, and Neil Wetzig for their hard work in making all the sessions accessible, practical, and clinically-relevant.

Many thanks to Jim Fawcett, Graham Watson, Nitesh Patel, and the ASN Events team for their attention to detail and responsiveness in putting the meeting together, and their great support throughout the last three years. We also wish to acknowledge all our previous sponsors, without which the Seminar could not be continued.

This year marks the changeover in the ESA Seminar Committee, with the new committee of Western Australian and South Australian members to be headed by Professor Bu Yeap. The outgoing Committee wish them well, and very much look forward to the 2017 Seminar, which will be held on May 26-28 at The Langham, Melbourne.

Don McLeod, on behalf of 2014-2016 Committee (Peter Donovan, Emily Mackenzie, Vasant Shenoy, and Ashim Sinha).

ESA Clinical weekend

The 2016 Clinical Weekend attracted 328 registrants. Professors Stephen Franks, Imperial College London and Constantine Stratakis, National Institute of Health and Child Development were our international guest speakers. 53 abstract submissions were received and in the current meeting format 41 submissions had to be declined. Post-meeting discussions will result in an altered format for next year allowing a greater number of trainee presentations.

The scientific content of the meeting was extremely good and very well received. A leadership workshop was added to the Saturday afternoon program and the Endocrine Trivia on the Friday night remains very popular.

The organisation of the meeting was as usual seamless under the direction of ASN and we remain grateful to our sponsors, Ipsen, MSD, Novartis and Novo Nordisk.

Peter Davoren, Abhay Daniel, Katie English and Chee Tang

9. Future ESA Meetings (HT)

ESA Seminar Meeting 2017, 26-28 May, Langham, Melbourne

ESA Clinical Weekend 2017, 25-27 August, Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, WA

ESA/SRB ASM 2017, 27 August-2 September, Perth Convention Centre

10. Correspondence (TC)

11. Any other business

11.1 ESA new council 2016-2018

President- Warrick Inder, President-Elect – Tim Cole, Honorary Secretary – Morton Burt, Treasurer – Nicolette Hodyl. Councillors: Belinda Henry, Bu Yeap, Craig Harrison, Chen Chen, Ann McCormack, Mathis Grossmann. Past President – Helena Teede

12. Date of next meeting: Perth WA, 29th August 2017