

# ESA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## **PREFACE**

This supplement to the 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting arose as a part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the ESA. It became apparent early on in the process that the corporate knowledge of the Society needed collation; in many cases this was not readily accessible and sometimes resided entirely in the neural matter of some of our long-standing members. Hence it is hoped that this compendium will be a solid foundation on which to build an appropriate electronic archive, regularly updated, about who and what the Society represents. My thanks to Phil Harding, Skip Martin, Roger Melick and colleagues, who put together the Society's history for the first 25 years. This was published in the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary proceedings in 1982 and appears below with only minor editing. With the later sections covering the second 25 years, again Phil provided much insight, along with much assistance from Ivone Johnson, Leon Bach and others too numerous to name. It should also be recorded that the ESA Presidents over the last 25 years and many members, including our Honorary Life Members, provided much of the detail following, particularly with the biographies.

I regard this as a continually evolving work, so if parts of the document are factually incorrect or if you can help fill the inevitable holes in our knowledge, please contact the Secretariat. We also thank the Australian Academy of Science for their support of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Annual Scientific Meeting, and have included in the biographical details those Fellows of the Academy who have contributed especially to the field of endocrinology.



Honorary Secretary, ESA  
August 2008

## **THE FIRST 25 YEARS: 1958-1982**

### **Origins**

The very first moves towards the formation of the Endocrine Society of Australia occurred in May 1957, when Keith Harrison of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, and Bryan Hudson of the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne, discussed the possible formation of an association of physicians interested in diabetes and metabolism. By the time of the first meeting of the Diabetic Association of Australia – later to become the Diabetes Federation of Australia – considerable further discussion had occurred. At this meeting in Sydney on October 14-15, a scientific

programme was presented and an interim committee subsequently set up to explore the formation of a society for the study of diabetes and endocrinology. Ewen Downie, Bryan Hudson and Pincus Taft of Melbourne, Basil Hetzel of Adelaide and Keith Harrison considered the questions of membership and draft constitutions and the relationship the new body would have with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. In February 1958, a letter was circulated inviting all those interested in the formation of an Endocrine Society to attend a meeting at the BMA Hall, 135 Macquarie Street, Sydney, on June 2.

Sixty-nine persons attended this first meeting, chaired by Ewen Downie. The report of the interim committee was accepted and there was unanimous agreement that the Society should be formed. After the passage of a further motion that 'All present here this afternoon who desire to become members shall in fact become members', the acting secretary (Bryan Hudson) read out the names of eighty persons who had expressed interest in becoming members. It was agreed that these, together with twelve others added at the meeting, should be considered as original members of the Society; seven further names were added subsequently, leading to ninety-nine Foundation Members of the Society.

Later in the meeting, some amendments were made to the draft Constitution which had been circulated. Perhaps the most important of these related to the naming of the Society. In draft, the constitution referred to the Endocrine Society of Australasia. As it transpired that New Zealand colleagues had not been consulted, and as 'Australasia' was felt to be 'a fighting word in New Zealand', the name 'Endocrine Society of Australia' was agreed.

The first council, elected at this meeting, consisted of E. Downie, J. Bornstein and H.P. Taft (Victoria), K. Harrison, T.J. Robinson and C.W. Emmens (NSW), R. Hawker (Queensland) and B.S. Hetzel (SA). At the first Council meeting the following day, Ewen Downie was elected President and Pincus Taft Secretary/Treasurer. It was resolved to circulate the proceedings of the Scientific Meeting, to advise the medical press of the formation of the Society, and to hold the 1959 meeting in Adelaide.

### **Constitutions and Controversies**

The initial draft constitution circulated in 1957 reflected the fact that the interim Committee was composed of physicians working in the field of Endocrinology. It proposed that there be three types of members: medical, scientific and honorary life members. Annual meetings were to be held each year in association with the College of Physicians meeting and members were to be encouraged to present material of clinical interest to the College, whereas matters of scientific or technical interest were to be presented to the Society itself. There was criticism of these provisions on the general ground that they differentiated between scientific and medical members and might prejudice one of the Society's stated objectives, namely 'to bring together physicians and scientists for scientific discussions and demonstrations'. C.W. Emmens, T.J. Robinson and others argued for revision of these arrangements. On the one hand it was felt that holding meetings in conjunction with the College of Physicians might limit scientific representation, particularly from other states; on the other, that meetings held in conjunction with ANZAAS might not be well attended by clinicians. As a result of this debate, the constitution was

redrafted prior to the meeting of June 2, 1958, so as to provide for ordinary and honorary life member only and for some flexibility in the selection of meeting venues. In the original Constitution, it was specified that members should hold a degree in either science or medicine. By 1970 it was felt that this was inappropriate and the Annual General Meeting passed a Constitutional amendment that 'anyone working in a relevant field and showing an interest in Endocrinology and Metabolism should be considered for membership'.

At various times the suggestion arose that special interest groups to be formed within the Society. In 1967, Professor Emmens wrote to the Council to ask whether a section of Reproduction and Fertility could be set up within the Society and it was decided that papers on this subject should be encouraged and grouped together in the programme. Unaware of these moves, another group went ahead and formed a separate Society which became the Australian Society of Reproductive Biology (now the Society for Reproductive Biology, SRB). The two Societies have of course remained closely associated and continue to hold their meetings in parallel with a joint organizing committee. In 1975 an attempt was made to differentiate areas of interest by means of a constitutional amendment '...to establish within the Society one or more chapters of the Society each having its primary object the advancement of knowledge...in a particular branch or branches of endocrinology'. This amendment, which came a year after the founding of the Australian Diabetes Society (ADS), was defeated.

The question of State representation has been a constitutional problem from time to time. In 1970 the legality of council was called into question as Dr. Ron Cox had moved from Adelaide to Sydney and thereby reduced the number of states represented on Council from four – as specified by the constitution – to three. The matter was finally settled honourably with Dr. Jarrett from Adelaide being appointed to fill the rest of Dr. Cox's term and Dr. Cox being asked to attend by invitation; members of the thus legalized Council were asked to approve all previous actions of the illegal Council by mail. The problem surfaced again when Endocrinology spread into previously unexplored geographical regions, necessitating a constitutional amendment to define the Australian Capital and Northern Territories as 'states' as far as the Society was concerned.

### **Early Scientific Meetings**

The First Scientific Meeting was held on June 3, 1958, the day after ESA was formed. The papers presented included:

**R.I. Cox;** Pregnane-3 $\alpha$  : 17 $\alpha$  : 20 $\alpha$ -Triol and related steroids.

**W. Hamilton-Smith;** Liver disease and virilism.

**B.S. Hetzel & J.S. Charnock;** A comparison of the metabolic effects of salicylate and hydrocortisone in man

**I.D. Thomas, T.H. Oddie & F.F. Rundle;** Thyroxine hormone flow in euthyroid subjects with high iodine uptake rates

**June B. Shoath;** The estimation of urinary 17 ketosteroids: an appraisal of current methods

**R. Melick & P. Taft;** Observations of body hair in old people

**Peter Hall;** Neurohypophysial function

**R.W. Hawker & P.A. Robertson;** Some properties of an oxytocic substance in blood extracts

For this first meeting, there was no call for abstracts, no programme committee and no referees' reports. For the second meeting in 1959, Pincus Taft, the Secretary, circulated the Notice of Meeting which, in relation to submitted papers said 'Members desiring to read papers at this meeting are requested to notify the Secretary by 1<sup>st</sup> March 1959 and to enclose a precis of 400 to 500 words suitable for circulation to members in the Society's Proceedings. This will facilitate circulation of these Proceedings soon after the meeting'. Members were also requested to forward their annual subscription of 2 guineas (\$4.40). By comparison with average weekly earnings, today's subscription remains modest. The 1959 meeting was the first to be threatened with disruption by an airline strike, thus establishing something of a tradition. It is recalled that the Secretary and others from Melbourne decided to travel by train which they left at Murray Bridge to complete the journey by taxi so as to arrive on time; thereby being missed by the local organizers who had gone to meet the train. The Presidential address that year was given by Ewen Downie on the subject of oral hypoglycaemic compounds, with ten papers presented by other members of the Society.

### **Puberty, Adolescence and Maturity**

The second meeting in Adelaide in 1959 saw twelve new members admitted. C.W. Emmens was appointed as the Society's official representative to the International Society of Endocrinology and the Asia-Oceania Congress, which were both to meet for the first time within the subsequent year. In 1960, when Professor Emmens was President, a plenary session was held with the College of Physicians in Melbourne and in the following year the annual meeting was held in conjunction with the ANZAAS meeting. By this time, a number of medical scientific societies were flourishing in Australia and liaisons were established with The Australian Biochemical Society, the Genetic Society of Australia, The Australian Society of Microbiology, The Australian Physiological Society and the Australian Society of Plant Physiologists, with agreements to circulate meeting dates and programmes between these various societies. In 1962, it was decided that there should be a Presidential Address every second year and that in the intervening years the Society should invite a visiting speaker. It is interesting to compare this arrangement with the numbers of visiting speakers at the Society's current meetings. On March 6, 1963 the then President of the Society, Dr. Keith Harrison died, and C.W. Emmens was installed as President for the remainder of Dr. Harrison's term. Because of Dr. Harrison's death in office, the constitution was amended to allow for a Vice-President and it was decided that the guest lecturer for 1964 be called the Keith Harrison Memorial Lecture, to be given by Ken Ferguson. This has of course now become an annual event and remains the highest scientific award of the Society.

In 1959, C.W. Emmens had been one of the few Australians to attend the inaugural Asia and Oceania Congress of Endocrinology at Kyoto, Japan. At the request of Council, he applied successfully for the Second Congress to be held in Sydney in

1963. The credibility and reputation of the Endocrine Society of Australia were established both nationally and internationally by the successful holding of this Congress at a very early stage of the Society's history. It was opened by Lord Casey, the Governor General, on Tuesday May 28, 1963 and continued until Monday June 3. A total of 96 papers were included and there were symposia on fertility regulation, thyroid secretion, hormonal response to the environment, protein hormones and growth, and steroid hormone assay. The society was actively involved in the organization of subsequent Asia Oceania Congresses in Manila (1967), Auckland (1971), Chandigarh (1974), Singapore (1978) and Tokyo in 1983.

By 1966, the Society had grown substantially to a strength of 180 members. It had nominated its first Honorary Life Member – Dr. Ewen Downie, the first President. In response to a suggestion for a Summer School in Endocrinology, the 1968 Council decided that it would instead arrange a Seminar in Melbourne in early 1969, with a widely based programme, a registration fee, and a contribution from Society funds - \$300 on this occasion. This was the beginning of the Seminar Programme which has continued ever since, interrupted only by International meetings being held during the same year. By this stage, the inevitable increase in Society business had occurred – anyone who has served on Council will be able to testify to the length of these meetings – and it was decided that council meetings should be held twice a year in association with the Seminar and Annual Scientific Meetings. Council also ruled that Councillors' travel expenses should be paid only to the interim meeting and not to the Annual Scientific Meeting. It is of interest to note that first-class fares were paid in the earliest days of the Society, the arrangement being changed to economy in 1965. At some point, all payments to Council members to attend meetings of the Society were ceased. The 1970 Council Election was the first to be contested, the Society by then having grown to over 250 members.

### **Pituitary Gland Collection in Australia**

The early years of the Society coincided with the beginnings of pituitary gland collection. In the late 1950s glands were being collected by Drs. Melick and Bornstein in Melbourne and Dr. Vines in Sydney, with some growth hormone being extracted from the Sydney glands at CSIRO Prospect. In Melbourne, the initial batch of acetone-dried material was sent to Merck Sharp and Dohme in New Jersey for growth hormone (GH) extraction but little biological activity was finally obtained. Collaboration with the College of Pathologists resulted in a more extensive collection programme being set up in Melbourne with glands being contributed from Brisbane. By 1962, F.I.R. Martin was active in the collection programme which had increased, with pituitaries arriving from other areas such as New Zealand. From the resulting acetone processed material, Kevin Catt was preparing growth hormone and Jim Brown gonadotrophins. The first patient to receive follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) was treated in 1963 and conceived in the third cycle. Over the subsequent five years, Jim Brown processed 9,000 pituitaries, producing over 11,000 ampoules of FSH from acetone dried glands using an ethanol extraction procedure. The residues from this process were further extracted by Kevin Catt and found to have satisfactory GH activity. The supply of FSH obtained was sufficient for Australian requirements and pituitaries were processed for Halifax, Nova Scotia and Singapore as well as New Zealand. In Melbourne, there were supplies sufficient for treatment of all anovulatory women being seen as well as some 20 men. In 1964 the Victorian

Pituitary Group began to assess applications for supplies of GH to treat short stature. At about the same time, a meeting was convened by the CSIRO, CSL, AMA, RCOG and RACP. This meeting ultimately resulted in the formation of the Human Pituitary Advisory Committee on which the Society was originally represented by C.W. Emmens and subsequently, from late 1965, by Les Lazarus who became secretary to the Committee and then its Chairman.

In 1966, CSL started to process frozen glands while the Melbourne Group continued with their acetone drying procedure until 1968. By that stage, Dr. Lazarus reported that 5,000 glands per year were being collected and that 25 patients were being treated with GH and 56 with FSH. In 1970, the collection was 8,000 glands per year; 65 patients were being treated with GH and 109 with FSH as a result of which there had been 45 pregnancies. All those involved regard these early days as having been most exciting, of course being unaware of the potential dangers of pituitary extracts that later emerged.

### **Publication of the Proceedings**

The question of publishing the Society's abstracts was first discussed at the 1960 Council meeting. In 1962, it was agreed to publish the Constitution and the Membership List of the Society in the form of a booklet and the 1982 volume of the Proceedings was the next occasion on which the Membership was published. For the 1965 and 1966 meetings, the abstracts were prepared by offset printing. The Medical Journal of Australia published the abstracts in 1967 and 1968, but was unable to allocate sufficient space for them in subsequent years. The Journal of Endocrinology had quoted the equivalent of \$440 to publish the abstracts and this was regarded as too expensive. A separate booklet was therefore published and a subcommittee formed to discuss the feasibility of a Journal; their conclusion was that this would be too costly and their recommendations resulted in the first issue of the Proceedings in its present form being published for the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in 1970. In 1975, the Seminar Meeting abstracts were published together with the annual meeting for the first time.

### **THE SECOND 25 YEARS: 1983-2008**

#### **Research Highlights**

No history of Endocrinology can hope to encompass all the significant research advances in this field that has continually evolved over the course of fifty years or more. Nevertheless, some highlights in this second 25 years of the Society that heavily featured efforts by Australians and members of ESA are worth recording. These include the contributions of Geoff Tregear and Hugh Niall that led to the sequencing of PTH, relaxin and other peptides. Subsequently the full characterisation of relaxin at the Florey made relaxin almost an Australian hormone. Similar claims could also be made to the purification and characterization of the inhibin, activin and follistatin family by the groups led by Henry Burger and David de Kretser. While leading efforts were made at the same time by the Sugino group in Japan and Wylie Vale's group at the Salk, the reputation of the Melbourne groups in this field is undisputed. The identification of PTHrP as a cause of tumour

hypercalcaemia by Jack Martin's group is another highlight of Australian endocrinology. Other notable efforts include the endocrinological advances leading to IVF and assisted reproductive procedures and Australia's profile in the ongoing use of stem cells and their application in endocrinology and related applications. The face of research in general has undergone a quantum shift from the initial purification of hormones and their early clinical use through to today's science which has benefited enormously from the Human Genome project and often features a global assessment of hormone action through array technology and bioinformatics and the potential contemplation, not even able to be envisaged 25 years ago, of individual gene therapy for patients.

### **Annual Scientific Meetings**

The scheduled Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of the Society, held annually since the first meeting in 1958, has undergone some subtle but significant changes over recent years. There was a long-standing tradition of holding the meetings in the September AVCC common week, which enabled them to be held at University venues with all the joys of undergraduate college accommodation, shared bathrooms, narrow beds and no heating coupled with draughty inadequate lecture theatres and vast halls. There was a move initially to hotels with chandeliers, but over recent years with the growth of the Society, the ASM is held in major purpose-built convention centres. In so doing, the meetings moved away from the University break, which was initially fiercely fought by a number of University academics who felt that their commitments during term would preclude them attending the meetings. Some other 'notable' reminiscences include the 2001 ASM on the Gold Coast, where a forklift setting up the trade display ran over a junction box and brought down the computer network, leading to unexplained chaos in the various meeting rooms as to why none of the projectors were working. That meeting also coincided with the 9/11 terrorist attack in the US. One of the plenary lecturers, Domenico Accili from New York, had spent the whole night watching the catastrophe and trying to contact family and colleagues. After asking for a moment of silence with extreme dignity, he then proceeded to dazzle the delegates with an outstanding lecture. The Society has also moved in recent years to a 'seamless' system of meetings with other societies such as the SRB, ADS and the Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society (ANZMBS). The ASM also features electronic abstract submissions and registrations with one conference organizer, one trade display, etc. This progressed and improved each year and ESA has used the same company for its conference Secretariat since 2001.

A major achievement was the Society's successful bid to host the 2000 International Congress of Endocrinology (ICE) meeting. That process heavily relied on people like John Eisman, Rob Baxter and David Handelsman and their colleagues in Sydney. Ultimately and, somewhat ironically, the process came down to a shoot-out between Beijing and Sydney as it had for the Olympics, and again the outcome was the same. It is fair to say the Chinese were not happy. The Congress had 3500 registrants and there were 18 associated Satellite Meetings in Australia and New Zealand. Within Australia it generated 62 radio or news items, 53 newspaper articles, 32 on-line news items, 20 television interviews and three articles for general practice journals. Overseas coverage was not monitored but ten international media representatives

covered the Congress. As well as increased international profile, the meeting returned a profit of \$260,000 to ESA!

As well as the ASM, the Society has run its annual Seminar Meeting since the instigation of these meetings in 1969. In the mid 90s, for instance, there was a series of colourful seminar meetings including three at the Lake Hume Resort in Albury, chosen more for its central location to address Melbourne and Sydney rivalries, than for any other virtue. Subsequently, Roger Smith was charged with finding a central location and went for geography rather than demography and took everyone off to Alice Springs! He then ran a couple of very successful meetings in Canberra. The Albury meetings, however, marked the end of an era in that the seminar meetings had started out as a Gordon Conference/Laurentian Hormone Conference-type scientific meeting with two or three plenary lectures, usually including two overseas lecturers, followed by a symposium-style meeting with much time for discussion. After the Ayers Rock meeting, they moved to a more clinical update-type format offering substantial educational experience to registrars and continuing education to endocrinologists and other physicians. This has been enormously successful as reflected in both attendance and income, but some members were somewhat saddened to see the loss of the generalist scientific-style meeting that it was.

Another development of note at the ASM has been the instigation of the Taft Lectureship in 1994. Following Pincus Taft's death, his seminal influence on Australian clinical endocrinology was celebrated by inviting clinically oriented presentations to balance the Harrison Lecturer, which was increasingly and inevitably focused on the tremendous advances in basic research. The closer relationship with the Japanese Endocrine Society has been seen in the publication of the ASM proceedings as a supplement to the *Endocrine Journal* (2005-2007) and the Australia-Japan Lecture featuring a plenary speaker from Japan at the ASM. Another recent innovation is the neuroendocrinology interest group with a dedicated symposium held as part of the ASM. ESA has also recently expanded its portfolio of junior investigator awards by adding the Bryan Hudson Clinical Endocrinology Award to the longstanding junior investigator award which has been predominantly won by basic scientists. A number of travel grants are awarded annually to help junior members attend international meetings and visit overseas laboratories.

The needs of clinical endocrinology have not been forgotten by ESA. The clinical weekend, which has preceded the ASM since 1986, is a wildly successful combination of clinical presentations, updates by local and international experts, time for colleagues to catch up with each other and a dose of 'endocrine trivial pursuit' in most years. For many clinicians, this weekend has become the main focus of their interaction with the Society.

### **The Structure of the Society**

While ESA has grown significantly since its inception with 99 Foundation members, it is a vibrant mixture of clinicians and other medical professionals in practice, clinicians in research and basic scientists in endocrinology and associated fields. Currently there are 899 members of the Society, including 689 full members, 138 student members, 21 retired members and 51 Honorary Life Members. It is worth noting that in 1982 the Society decided to confer Honorary Life Memberships on all its Foundation members who were still active members at the time. Since then, there has been a sporadic conferring of Honorary Life Membership to members who have



provided outstanding service to the Society, with the intention to propose four members for consideration of Life Membership at the 2008 annual general meeting. Although some of the student members do not remain ESA members once their student training is complete, the Society actively encourages membership by a strategy where the registration costs to attend the ASM as a non-member is more than the total of the member rate combined with the annual membership fees. Another feature of tracking membership was developing the first membership database and publishing the membership directory (which was especially significant pre-internet), leading to today's online membership database containing relevant details of all our members including their fields of interest.

The tyranny of distance has always been an issue with ESA Council meetings and meetings via teleconference have been the norm for a number of years. Council meetings are held at roughly quarterly intervals, including a Council meeting held at the ASM and preceding the AGM. A recent chapter in the history of the ESA is the modernisation of the Secretariat, which moved from a nomadic model based around the location of the Honorary Secretary to a base at the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (Sydney) in 1999. The new structure with a dedicated Secretary has greatly improved the running of the Society's activities and communication to its members. Another recent development has been the reorganisation of Council with overlapping terms for Councillors and a President-elect. This is an important structural step to ensure that ESA is managed optimally without loss of corporate memory after each election.

## **Finances**

The Society has undergone a major restructure in terms of financial management. This is particularly relevant given that the financial assets of the Society are currently around one million dollars. David Handelsman, first as Treasurer and then as President, undertook to stabilise and re-energise this part of the Society's activities. He developed a financial backing of at least twice the cost of the ASM outlays, achieving that and then exceeding this target partly courtesy of the ICE meeting profit in 2000. This ongoing financial stability has allowed the recent initiation of the scholarship and post-doctoral awards given by ESA and also that of the increased number of travel awards, not only to attend the ASM but also to overseas meetings. This has been also been made possible in part by taking the bold step to invest more aggressively than previously, when all funds were held in bank accounts and term deposits. This was managed by previous Councils and Treasurers (David Handelsman and Cathie Coulter, in particular). While this has been of tremendous benefit, the financial position of the Society is thus subject to temporary fluctuations in stockmarket and share value, such as those related to 9/11 and the recent sub-prime mortgage fiasco in the US.

## **Supporting young members**

A Society needs new members to survive and a discipline needs new members to thrive. As mentioned above, ESA has expanded its portfolio of junior investigator awards to encourage trainees to do excellent work and present it at our meetings. Travel grants assist them in attending ESA meetings as well as international meeting and laboratories. As mentioned above, ESA now provides a postgraduate research

scholarship and a postdoctoral award to help junior members establish their research careers at a particularly vulnerable time. An important component of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration is the Rising Star Symposium, which honours four young members who have already made important contributions to endocrinology.

### **ASM Proceedings and Newsletters**

The ASM Proceedings have remained essentially as they had been since the 1970s, but recently have moved to a larger page format, partly prompted by being published as a supplement to *Endocrine Journal*. This has created some debate in the membership, as the single bright colour scheme of the front cover changing year by year and the uniform size made it easy for the proceedings to sit on the office bookshelf. Many remember the famous (infamous?) 1999 proceedings that were distinguished primarily by the colour (pink) and the fact that it matched a now famous dress worn by Cathie Coulter, the then Editor of the proceedings - a fact she has never lived down. Newsletters are published twice a year, with the Newsletter Editor providing content to a professional graphic designer, with printing and mailing arranged off-site. This contrasts very much with earlier times when the newsletter was roneo'd from typed copy.

### **The Society Profile and its Relationship with the RACP**

Importantly, ESA has evolved into a well-respected professional body where expert opinion is sought by Government bodies and other organizations. Previously this was on an *ad hoc* basis, but in the late 1980s there was a position created on Council with responsibility for Clinical Affairs, which has been continued to the present day. This acts mainly as a mechanism of liaison between ESA and RACP, but also occasionally has input into matters of particular concern to clinical endocrinologists. There have been reports commissioned from expert members of the Society covering topics such as the use of growth hormone in adults, androgen treatment of men (Med J Aust 2000; 172, 220-224), metformin to treat polycystic ovarian syndrome (Med J Aust. 2001; 174, 580-583), the use of postmenopausal hormone therapy by medical practitioners (with the RANZCOG and Menopause Society) and Vitamin D deficiency in Australia (with ANZBMS). These reports have been utilised by various Government agencies and Council regularly receives invitations to provide submissions to Government enquiries on various aspects related to endocrinology and clinical practice. Another aspect of ESA's professional relationship has been its involvement in curriculum development with the RACP.

### **Concluding Remarks**

What has emerged, based on the solid foundation of its first 25 years of existence, is that the most recent 25 years of The Endocrine Society of Australia depicts a continually expanding, vibrant and healthy body of professionals, both clinicians and basic scientists, that represent the broad meaning of what it is to be an endocrinologist in Australia in the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This attests to the vision of the founding fathers of the Society at that fateful meeting on June 2, 1958, and how this has been built into a pillar of achievement by many, many members

who have not stinted in their commitment to this Society. We are sure that Keith Harrison and Bryan Hudson would be amazed and proud at what ESA has become, but it could also have disappeared a long ago without the commitment of so many. One wonders what those who are preparing a history update for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society will make of the next 25 years we are about to experience, and how far the Organization will have come since 2008!