

We are celebrating

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

Join us at our Annual Scientific Meeting  
in Melbourne, 25–28 August 2008

[www.esa-srb.org.au](http://www.esa-srb.org.au)

# ESA news

THE ENDOCRINE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

## Important Items in this edition

FROM THE

# ESA President

ESA Council has been very busy with a range of activities over the last few months.

Late last year, we completed the selection process for the inaugural ESA Post-Doctoral Fellowship. Dr Jeremy Smith of Monash University was awarded the fellowship, worth \$25,000 pa for 2 years, in a hotly-contested process among 18 applicants. Awarding of the second ESA Higher Degree Research Scholarship was delayed until early this year because of the late announcement of NHMRC scholarships. We are delighted that Lucia Gagliardi is the winner for her PhD studies with A/Prof David Torpy.

As I hope you are all aware, ESA is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. We are planning major celebrations centred around our Annual Scientific Meeting in Melbourne on August 25-28. The Governor of Victoria (our own David de Kretser) will open the meeting, and he will also make a celebratory address at the Conference Dinner. We will run a continuous slide show highlighting Australian endocrinology achievements at the dinner, which has been very successful at Medical Research Week dinners. Please email appropriate slides to David Phillips at [david.phillips@med.monash.edu.au](mailto:david.phillips@med.monash.edu.au). The Australian Academy of Science has agreed to co-endorse a Rising Star symposium to showcase our emerging talent. We plan to honour our life members in an anniversary supplement to be included in the Conference Proceedings. Of course, all of this is in addition to the outstanding program that has been organised by Helen MacLean and her committee as outlined elsewhere in this newsletter.

Those of you who have superannuation or read the newspapers know that financial markets are in turmoil at the moment. ESA is not immune to these events and our investment portfolio has decreased in value over the last few months. Vicki Clifton, our treasurer, has been carefully reviewing our financial position.

We do not wish to decrease activities such as awards and meetings, but we do need to safeguard our viability. Council has therefore decided that an increase in subscriptions is appropriate. These were last increased in 2000, and we now propose to increase them gradually over the next 5 years to \$150 for full members and \$80 for students. These proposed changes will need to be approved by members at our next AGM.

It is time for an ESA Council election. The process is outlined elsewhere but we are implementing a new system whereby 5 members remain on Council for another 2 years, and 5 new members are elected for 4 years. This system will ensure that there is continuity of 'corporate memory' within Council. We are now calling for nominations, and I'd especially encourage younger members of ESA to nominate. The only prerequisite is wanting to make a contribution to Endocrinology in Australia, and the new system ensures lots of on-the-job training!

ESA members have a lot to be proud of in this, our 50th year. I hope you all will make the effort to participate in ESA activities this year, which include the Annual Seminar Meeting and Clinical Weekend as well as the Annual Scientific Meeting.

**Professor Leon Bach**

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### ESA Website:

[www.endocrinesociety.org.au](http://www.endocrinesociety.org.au)  
Webmaster: Anne Kovach

### Design

Mark Stevens  
MarkIT Media

## ESA SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

“Investigating physiological adaptations to weight loss contributing to weight regain”

Student: Dr Priya Sumithran

Supervisors: Professor Joseph Proietto, Dr Adamandia Kriketos

While humans can deliberately reduce food intake in the short term, the almost invariable weight regain that occurs in obese individuals after weight loss suggests that in the long term, biologically-determined feelings of hunger and satiety may be more important than voluntary control of food intake.

The overall aim of this project is to characterise mechanisms associated with hunger and satiety at baseline, immediately following weight loss, and after different periods of weight maintenance. In particular, we aim to assess the interaction of circulating nutrients such as glucose and free fatty acids, and hormones such as leptin, insulin, cholecystokinin, ghrelin and others, with hunger and satiety ratings pre- and post-weight loss. This will be accomplished through cross-sectional and longitudinal examination of overweight and obese subjects who will undergo a rapid loss of at least 10% of their initial body weight. The subjects will be re-examined following weight maintenance periods of 6 and 12 months to investigate the longer-term hormonal responses to weight loss. The effect of ketosis on hunger, satiety and on circulating nutrient and hormone responses will also be examined.

A separate, related study was undertaken and completed in 2007, to examine the degree of carbohydrate restriction required to induce ketosis in overweight or obese individuals. The results from this study are currently being analysed.

I am very grateful for the scholarship and support provided by the ESA which has assisted me in commencing and continuing this research.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ENDOCRINE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

The Annual General Meeting of ESA will be held at Melbourne Convention Centre, Melbourne 5.00pm in the Bellarine 4 room on Tuesday 26th August 2008. All members are encouraged to attend the meeting.

Two motions will be put forward at this meeting.

1. Election of new Honorary Life Members on the recommendation of Council  
Peter Fuller  
David Handelsman  
Gail Risbridger  
Duncan Topliss
2. Increase ESA subscription fee over the next 5 years to:  
\$150 for full members and \$80 for students

A proxy form is included in the newsletter.  
Mail or Fax to 02 9251 8174 by 1st August 2008.

## NOMINATIONS FOR ESA COUNCIL 2008

Nominations are now called for election to membership of the Committee (Council) of the Endocrine Society of Australia. Following the restructuring of the Committee in 2005, an election will be held this year for 5 members to each serve a 4 year term. Five current committee members (Mark McLean, Vicki Clifton, David Phillips, David Healy and Bu Yeap) will continue to serve for another 2 years until the 2010 election. Mark McLean will become President after this year's Annual General Meeting.

1. Current Committee members are eligible to nominate for re-election.
2. At least 4 states must be represented on the Committee. Nominees must be a financial member of the Society, and be nominated by two financial members of ESA. The primary requirement of a committee member is an interest in assisting with the work of ESA in promoting endocrine research and practice in Australia.

Nominations for election to the Society must reach the secretary of the ESA, A/Prof David Phillips, 145 Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW 2000 by 5:00 pm, Tuesday 20th May 2008.

Further details regarding the Committee of ESA, and procedures for elections to the committee can be found at the ESA website: <http://www.endocrinesociety.org.au/constitution.htm>

**Professor Leon Bach**

ESA President

**ICE 2008 Brazil Nov. 8-12**

Have you taken a look on the preliminary scientific program for the **World Congress of Endocrinology?**

Visit our website  
[www.ice2008rio.com](http://www.ice2008rio.com)

**ICE 2008**  
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Nov 08-12, 2008  
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## 50TH ANNIVERSARY ESA/SRB ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING 2008, Melbourne, 25th-28th August

The Annual Scientific Meeting in Melbourne, 2008, will celebrate 50 years of the ESA, show-casing endocrine research past, present and future. The Harrison lecturer for 2008 is Dr Colin Ward, CSIRO, who will give an overview of his long-term research elucidating the structure and function of insulin family receptors. Our Taft lecturer is Prof William Young Jr, Mayo Clinic, presenting on adrenal conundrums, and our Japan-Australia lecturer is Prof Shigeaki Kato, University of Tokyo, talking on signal transduction mechanisms of steroid receptors. Two other plenary speakers round out the program, with Dr Lynette Nieman, NIH, asking "is cortisol pathologic?", and Prof John Bilezikian, Columbia University, presenting on metabolic bone disease.

Our symposia this year cover a range of clinical and basic topics. To celebrate 50 years of the ESA, the Australian Academy of Science is sponsoring a "Rising Star" symposium, with four outstanding younger members of the ESA selected by the ESA council to present in this symposium. Basic science symposia topics include thermogenesis (joint Neuroendocrinology Australasia), germ cell development (joint SRB), approaches to investigating endocrine gene function, and the renin/angiotensin system: function & dysfunction. Mixed clinical/basic symposia topics include osteoporosis: mechanisms and therapies (joint ANZBMS), endocrine cancer, and obesity: causes, effects & management. Other clinical symposia topics include androgens in women, and immunoassays: tackling the next 50 years (joint AACB).

### ESA SEMINAR MEETING, 2008

This year the ESA Seminar Meeting will be held from Friday May 9th to Sunday May 11th in Sydney, at the Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel. As in previous years the purpose of the meeting is to provide up-to-date seminar presentations on a variety of hot topics in Endocrinology and Diabetology. This is a very popular meeting with trainees and experienced clinicians alike. Each topic is covered in a mini-symposium featuring 3 speakers, chosen to present basic science and clinical aspects of the topic.

In 2008 the seminar topics are:

1. Pregnancy (Metformin in pregnancy, Vitamin D in pregnancy, Fetal programming of the endocrine system)
2. Obesity (Fat as an endocrine organ, Obesity surgery, Obesity and pregnancy)
3. Diabetes Update (Metabolic mechanisms in T2DM, GLP-1, Diabetes in disadvantaged communities)
4. Hormones and Cancer (Late effects of cancer treatment, Growth factors in tumour biology, Radionucleotide therapy of neuroendocrine tumours)
5. Research methodology (Interpreting clinical trials, Manipulating and measuring the genome, Choosing career paths)
6. Lipids (The FIELD Study, Familial hyperlipidaemia, Fatty liver and the metabolic syndrome)

Attendees will enjoy a great educational program in a tremendous venue right on the edge of Sydney Harbour at Circular Quay, plus a gala dinner and a two afternoons free to enjoy central Sydney. Further details and registration available at the ESA website <http://www.endocrinesociety.org.au/>

**Bronwyn Crawford (Seminar Meeting Co-ordinator)  
and Mark McLean (POC Chair)**

In the clinical stream, our highly successful "Meet the Expert" sessions will continue this year, as will the clinical case reports and clinical debate, which this year looks at radioactive iodine vs surgery for treatment of Graves disease. This year two Career Development Workshops will be run in parallel breakfast sessions, one addressing issues relevant to basic researchers (how to write a grant, get published, fellowship systems), and the other aimed clinicians (academic medicine, private practice, work-life balance).

Our usual oral sessions will run again this year, with some of our senior ESA colleagues starting these sessions with an overview of what we know, and what we need to know next. The next generation of researchers in our society are always on show in the Novartis Junior Award and Bryan Hudson Clinical Award oral sessions. To encourage attendance at our posters, this year a single poster session will run combined with the SRB in an unopposed afternoon session, and drinks and nibbles will be on hand to facilitate discussion.

We encourage everyone to attend this historic ASM, celebrating 50 years of our society. Abstract submission deadline is June 16th, and for further information, visit the website: [www.esa-srb.org.au](http://www.esa-srb.org.au).

**Helen Maclean  
(POC Chair)**

### ESA CLINICAL WEEKEND 2008 - Call for Clinical Cases

The clinical weekend features interesting cases for discussion from Australia wide and will be hosted just prior to the ESA annual scientific meeting. The venue will be Erskine house/Mantra resort at Lorne on the Great Ocean Rd between the 22nd – 24th August, 2008. Speakers are still being finalised, but cases of Cushings disease issues either diagnostic, therapeutic or subsequent management, in addition to cases where PET may play a role - therapeutically or diagnostically would be great, and can be forwarded to [echendrich@mac.com](mailto:echendrich@mac.com), although a separate email will be sent to supervisors of training in the near future.

Format and Deadlines:

The deadline for case submissions will be June 16th. The format for submission will be one A4 page of relevant clinical detail, investigations and/or management, plus a series of questions for the audience. Cases selected for presentation will then be submitted in powerpoint, and include a discussion of the questions. Please email case submissions to Dr. Elke Hendrich ([echendrich@mac.com](mailto:echendrich@mac.com)).

**Elke Hendrich  
(POC Chair)**

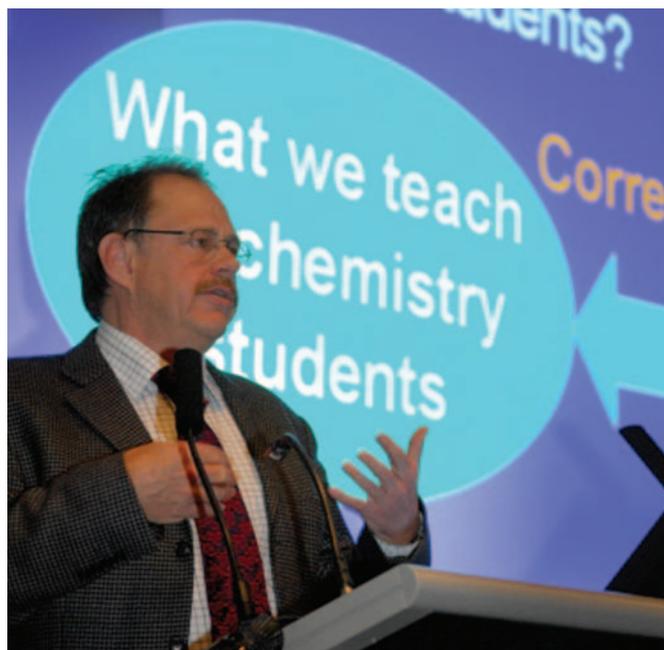
## NATIONAL FORUM ON EDUCATION IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

11 December 2007, A/Prof Tim Cole

This forum on Education in Biomedical Sciences was attended by A/Prof. Tim Cole on behalf of the Endocrine Society of Australia and the abbreviated report below was compiled by the Forum Chairs Prof. Philip Nagley and Dr. Janet Macaulay. The concept of a National Forum on Education in Biomedical Sciences (NFEBMS) held at Monash University in December 2007 was developed by Professor Phillip Nagley, Chair of the Education Committee of the School of Biomedical Science (SOBS) at Monash University. The NFEBMS was designed to include courses in Biomedical Science and also Science, Biotechnology and other courses in which biomedical sciences are explicitly taught. The Forum was held on Tuesday 11 December 2007 at Monash University with 120 registrants. The forum attracted participants from within Australia and internationally. The five international participants came from South Africa, Singapore and New Zealand. The Australian registrants were both local Victorians (seventy) and representatives from other states (forty five).

The morning sessions consisted of presentations by the invited speakers and in the afternoon discussion sessions were held involving all forum participants. The first session of the forum was on the theme of "Concepts and Learning" and commenced with a presentation by Prof. Trevor Anderson. Trevor is the Head of the Science Education Group, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa and is also a member of the Educational Sub-Committee of the International Union of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology (IUBMB). He is on the Editorial Board of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology Education, for which he writes a regular column entitled "Bridging the Gap between science education research and its application in teaching practice". He is also a member of the IUBMB Concept Inventory Project and the Australian Carrick Grant project which is addressing the development of a Concept Inventory for Molecular Life Sciences. Trevor's presentation was on "The multifaceted nature of conceptual understanding in molecular life science" in which Trevor discussed selected facets of conceptual understanding that require competence in specific cognitive skills such as visualization (a specific area of Trevor's research). This was followed by a presentation by Michelle Siow and Elaine Yew (Republic Polytechnic, Singapore) illustrating their "One Day, One Problem, learning system. This is an innovative integrated curriculum in which students work entirely in small groups to solve a new, relevant problem each day with the guidance of a tutor and are assessed through quizzes and a learning journal.

After morning tea, the second session with the Theme "Graduate attributes and employability" was presented by four speakers. Simon Barrie (University of Sydney) spoke on the issue of why we should actually address graduate attributes. Phillip Poronnik (University of Queensland) discussed the importance of communication skills and the integrated approaches that he and his colleagues have used to develop communication skills for students in the biomedical sciences, across entire programs. Caroline Jones (Murdoch University) then gave an insightful and informative discussion on the important issue of which laboratory skills our students should learn. She discussed creative ways to teach these skills, particularly when challenged with large classes. The final presentation in this session by Gregor Kennedy (University of Melbourne) raised the issues of the "Pitfalls and Pleasures" in evaluating educational technology.



Prof. Trevor Anderson, Head of the Science Education Group, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa addresses the National Forum on Education in Biomedical Sciences (NFEBMS) held at Monash University in December 2007.

The afternoon consisted of breakout groups which had lively discussions on a range of topics. In response to the question, "What should be the balance between theory, laboratory work and IT skills?", the overall view was that this will vary with the specific degree and possible graduate destinations and that there may in fact be different versions of delivery of the same content. The issue of "What is the set of core concepts and learning in Biomedical Science?" also resulted in a conclusion that we could not be prescriptive in relation to this. All this was followed by a final open discussion session chaired by Lesley Lluka (University of Queensland), commencing with Elizabeth McDonald (Director - Grants Scheme, The Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education) giving a broad context to the Carrick activities which could support Biomedical Science.

The National Forum would not have been possible without the generous support of all our sponsors who we gratefully acknowledge: the Australian Academy of Science, Australian Physiological Society, Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Australasian Society for Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists, Australian Society for Microbiology, Endocrine Society of Australia, Genetics Society of Australasia, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University and Pearson Education Australia. The Forum brought together a wide range of teachers and other interested individuals whose educational engagement varied from degrees in Biomedical Science as such, to those involved in Science courses with some biomedical aspects and Medical Laboratory Technology programs. We achieved an unexpected unity of spirit in approaching common challenges, in relation to specialization or breadth of courses and relationships between discipline areas.

### Phillip Nagley

On behalf of the Organising Committee

Chair: Phillip Nagley

Secretary: Yvonne Hodgson

Program Coordinator: Janet Macaulay  
(Chair of Program Committee)

School of Biomedical Sciences,  
Monash University, 7 April 2008

## **FIR INTERNATIONAL POST DOCTORAL TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO DR ASHWINI CHAND, PRINCE HENRY'S INSTITUTE, MELBOURNE.**

Dr Ashwini Chand from Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research has been awarded a "Frontiers in Reproduction" (FIR) Post doctoral training award to travel to the USA and partake in a six-week training course from May 3-June 15 at the Marine Biology Laboratory (MBL), Woods Hole, MA. MBL gets its funding from agencies such as the World Health Organization and UNESCO. This course will cover 'Molecular and Cellular Concepts and Applications' of reproduction research and is limited to 20 participants per year. The MBL has a rich tradition and history of training experimental biologists. The FIR lectures and labs are taught by 30-40 leading investigators in the different areas of Reproductive Biology. These unique characteristics of FIR and the MBL provide an informal and relaxed setting to complement an intense lecture and laboratory schedule. The ratio of faculty and teaching assistants to participants is about 4 to 1.

FIR is divided into three major sections of 2 weeks duration. Each section consists of lectures from resident faculty and other invited speakers, discussions and informal seminars, laboratory exercises, demonstrations and one-on-one tutorials.



Dr Ashwini Chand

The first section is currently directed by Leslie Heckert (The University of Kansas Medical Center) and covers signal transduction, hormone signaling and gene expression in Reproductive Endocrinology. The second section is directed by Franco De Mayo (Baylor College of Medicine) and it covers transgenic technology, cell-cell interactions in reproductive tissues during development as well as Embryology and Implantation Biology. The third section, directed by David Albertini, (The University of Kansas Medical Center) is focused on gametogenesis, fertilization, cloning and stem cells.

### **SPONSORSHIP OF ESA**

The Society gratefully acknowledges support from the following sponsors:

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#### **ESA AWARD SPONSORSHIP**

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### **IMPORTANT DEADLINES:**

Ballot form deadline	20th May 2008
ASM Abstract deadline	16th June 2008
Novartis Junior Scientist Award	16th June 2008
Servier Award	16th June 2008
ESA Bryan Hudson Clinical Endocrinology Award	16th June 2008
ESA Travel Grants	16th June 2008
ESA IPSEN International Travel Grant Award	1st August 2008
Proxy form deadline	1st August 2008

**ESA AWARDS AND GRANTS 2008** – Website <http://www.endocrinesociety.org.au/awards.htm>

**ESA TRAVEL GRANTS TO ATTEND THE ASM**

25-28th August 2008, Melbourne

Applications are called for travel grants to the ASM 2008. These grants are intended to assist junior members of the society to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting, and generally amount to an Apex Airfare from the applicant's City.

Eligibility:

1. Only members of the society may be awarded travel grants. (Membership must be ratified by Council.)
2. The categories of applicant in order of decreasing priority for consideration are:
  - o Full time student (postgraduate) presenting an abstract
  - o Research assistant/research officer (NH&MRC scale) presenting abstract
  - o Full time student (postgraduate)
  - o RA/RO.
3. The supervisor should certify the category and advise whether any other specific support is available from the institution, i.e. travelling scholarship/grant.
4. Generally ineligible for a travel grant are:
  - o Members in higher positions than RO
  - o Members who are physicians or PhDs more than 7 years post-doctorate
  - o Members resident in a country other than Australia.

**The applications should include 5 copies each of:**

- o The application form available from: <http://www.endocrinesociety.org.au/awards.htm#travel>
- o Submitted abstracts
- o A brief CV.

Requests for travel grants to the Annual Scientific Meeting should be addressed to:

Dr David Phillips  
 Honorary Secretary  
 Endocrine Society of Australia  
 145 Macquarie Street  
 Sydney NSW 2000

**Closing Date: 16th June 2008**

**2008 NOVARTIS JUNIOR SCIENTIST AWARD**

The Novartis Junior Scientist Award is given for the best presentation at the Annual Scientific Meeting by an advanced trainee or a person enrolled for a higher degree (PhD, MD, FRACP). Nominees must be members of the Endocrine Society of Australia. Applicants will be judged initially on the basis of their Abstracts and a short list of applicants will be chosen to present in a special session. Applicants will be informed of the session in which they are to present when acceptances of Abstracts are sent out.

In addition to submitting their abstract to the above address ([ESA-SRB@asnevents.net.au](mailto:ESA-SRB@asnevents.net.au)), applicants should email their abstract, a brief CV and a supporting letter from their supervisor as attachments to:

Dr Helen MacLean  
 Department of Medicine  
 University of Melbourne  
 Austin Hospital  
 Studley Road  
 Heidelberg, VIC. 3084.  
 Email: [hmaclean@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:hmaclean@unimelb.edu.au)

**Closing Date: 16th June 2008**

**2008 SERVIER AWARD**

The Servier Award is made annually to recognise the best scientific paper published in the 12 month period preceding the closing date for abstracts for the Annual Scientific Meeting by an active member of the ESA early in their career. The award is given for a single publication, although up to two additional papers may be submitted in support of the application.

Eligibility:

Society members who are within 8 years of having obtained a higher degree or diploma (i.e. PhD, MD, FRACP) and who are currently financial.

Regulations:

1. The Servier Young Investigator Award is made by a subcommittee of Council consisting of the President, Treasurer and Honorary Secretary.
2. The award will be presented at the dinner associated with the Annual Scientific Meeting to which the awardee is invited and expected to attend.
3. The value of the award supported by Servier Laboratories Australia is \$1000.
4. The deadline for applications is the same as that for abstracts to the Annual Scientific Meeting.
5. The application must be sponsored by a financial member of the Society who may write a letter in support of the application.
6. Work submitted for publication, but not yet accepted for publication is not eligible for the award.
7. The work must have been performed predominantly in Australia.
8. The applicant should submit a statement from the department head, or head of research group, signed by all co-authors, which outlines the applicant's role in
  - a) Planning the design of the work
  - b) Experimental and analytical work
  - c) Writing and revision.
9. The winner may be invited by the Program Organising Committee to present the work at the Annual Scientific Meeting.
10. The subcommittee has a duty to apply the criteria equitable to all applicants.

Applications:

An original and 4 copies of the application should be sent to the ESA Secretary and must include the relevant publication. Page proofs are acceptable. If the work is 'in press', written documentation of final acceptance must be provided.

The applications to be sent to:

Dr David Phillips  
 Honorary Secretary  
 Endocrine Society of Australia  
 145 Macquarie Street  
 Sydney NSW 2000

**Closing Date: 16th June 2008**

## 2008 ESA BRYAN HUDSON CLINICAL ENDOCRINOLOGY AWARD

This Award, now running for the third year, has been introduced to promote research in Clinical Endocrinology and the profile of Clinical Endocrinology Research at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society.

The Award will be made for the best presentation in the field of clinical endocrinology by an active member of the Endocrine Society of Australia early in their career. Society members who are less than 45 years of age or who are within 10 years of obtaining professional qualifications, and who are current financial members of at least 12 months standing, are eligible to apply. The 2008 ESA Bryan Hudson Clinical Endocrinology Award applications need to be made directly to ESA, not the conference secretariat. Please note that all abstracts with a predominant clinical content will be eligible for assessment, as long as the applicant meets the criteria described.

In addition to submitting their abstract to the above address (ESA-SRB@asnevents.net.au), applicants should email their abstract, a brief CV and a supporting letter from their supervisor as attachments to:

Dr Helen MacLean  
Department of Medicine  
University of Melbourne  
Austin Hospital  
Studley Road  
Heidelberg, VIC. 3084.  
Email: hmaclean@unimelb.edu.au

**Closing Date: 16th June 2008**

## ESA PROMOTES A MODEL FOR REVISION OF DRUG PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

Whenever a drug is approved for use in Australia a Prescribing Information (PI) document must be provided by the drug manufacturer, and approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). Most clinicians will be familiar with the detailed and abbreviated PI which is published in MiMS. The information contained in the PI has a major impact on drug prescribing and usage. A separate Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) document is also produced with information intended for patients and the public. These documents are very important for safe usage of medicines in our community. However, problems may arise if the PI or CMI documents are not updated regularly to reflect new patterns of clinical usage or the results of new research. In many cases the PI documents for commonly used drugs have undergone no substantial editing or updating since the drug was first introduced, sometimes decades ago.

In 2007 Professor Jim Stockigt and A/Prof David Torpy published a number of short articles pointing out potentially dangerous deficiencies in the published PI documents for a variety of medications commonly used in Australia for management of thyroid, adrenal or pituitary disorders (1, 2). Of course, this issue is not confined to the field of endocrinology and the ESA has made approaches to the TGA and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians seeking a mechanism to address generic issues relating to out-of-date PI and CMI (3, 4).

Last month I chaired a meeting between representatives of the TGA, RACP, AMA, ESA, Medicines Australia and the Generic Medicines Industry Association (the latter two being bodies representing the pharmaceutical industry). This meeting agreed that specialty societies such as the ESA could make a very important contribution by providing expert, non-partisan and evidence-based advice on drafting and revision of PIs and CMIs. The ESA has undertaken to revise PIs for six commonly used endocrine medications, and to submit these to the TGA and the drug manufacturers for their agreement.

If successful, this process will be used as a template to encourage other specialty Societies to undertake similar reviews.

ESA Council is grateful to the clinicians who have promoted this issue, and those who have given their time and knowledge to do the editing task. This is an example of members of the ESA undertaking important pro-bono work for the profession and the community, and endocrinologists providing a lead to other craft groups.

1. Stockigt JR. Barriers in the quest for quality drug information: salutary lessons from TGA-approved sources for thyroid-related medications. *Med J Aust* 2007; 186:76-9.
2. Torpy D. Adrenal replacement: misleading information for consumers *Med J Aust* 2007; 186: 483-4.
3. Dowden JS. Product information past-perfect. *Med J Aust* 2007; 186: 51-2.
4. Bach LA. Specialist societies can assist. *Med J Aust* 2007; 186: 483.

**Mark McLean**

## NEW MEMBERS

Saima Amer	Kishani Kannangara
Greg Anderson	Jenny Keey
Chantacha Anukulkitich	Reece Kyle
Caroline Badam	Colleen Ludemah-
Helen Barrett	Robertson
Anna Barron	Donald McLeod
Helge Binder	Penelope McLernon
Miriam Blackburn	Nadarajah Mugunthan
Wah Boon	Brian Oldfield
Victoria Carleton	Sarah Pattison
Jessica Chang	Carolyn Petersons
Ursula Ciller	Annalise Pham
Kerri-Ann Clayton	Amanda Rickard
Rachel Davey	Sunita Sandhu
Marianne Diaz	Christy Sankoorikal
Peter Donovan	Chaubey Santosh
Gerry Fegan	Shenaz Seedat
Ashley Fong	Deepali Shirkhedkar
Mark Forbes	Ken Thong
Kirtan Ganda	Roxanne Toivanen
Amy Herlihy	Venessa Tsang
Kiernan Hughes	Andrew Turner
Joel Iedema	Zara Weedon
Frederik Jacobus	Bruce Wen
Anju Joham	Kathryn Williams

ENDOCRINE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA – COUNCIL AND OFFICE BEARERS

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Hunter Region Mail Centre  
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Australia  
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Fax: 02 49214394  
Email: vclifton@mail.newcastle.edu.au

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Fax: 03 9594 7416  
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**Professor Evan Simpson**  
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Mobile: 0414 454 085  
Office Hours: 10.00am - 4.00pm  
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

FUTURE MEETINGS -

**2008**  
**9-11th May 2008**  
**ESA Seminar Meeting**  
Sydney Harbour Marriott  
Website: www.esaseminar.org.au

**15-18 June 2008**  
**ENDO 2008**  
San Francisco. California  
Website: www.endo-society.org

**10-14th August 2008**  
**XXII International Congress of**  
**The Transplantation Society**  
Sydney Convention Centre, Darling Harbour,  
NSW  
Early Bird Registration by: 26 May 2008  
Abstract Closing Date: 7 March 2008  
Website: www.transplantation2008.org

**22-24 August 2008**  
**ESA Clinical Weekend**  
Hilton on the Park, Melbourne  
Website: www.esaclinicalweekend.org.au

**25-28 August 2008**  
**ESA/SRB ASM**  
Melbourne Convention Centre  
Website: www.esa-srb.org.au

**28-31 August 2008**  
**ANZBMS 18th Annual Scientific Meeting**  
Hilton on the Park, Melbourne, VIC  
Website: www.anzbms.org.au

**28-30 August 2008**  
**ADS/ADEA ASM**  
Melbourne Convention Centre  
Website: http://www.ads-adea.org.au/

**15-18 September 2008**  
**AACB 46th Annual Scientific Conference**  
**Laboratory Medicine:**  
**Promoting Population Health**  
Adelaide Convention Centre  
Adelaide, South Australia  
Website: www.aacb.asn.au

**29 Oct – 1 Nov 2008**  
**Asia Pacific Paediatric Endocrine Society**  
**(APPES) Scientific Meeting**  
Seoul, Korea  
c/o APPES Secretariat  
PO Box 180 Morisset NSW Australia 2264  
Tel: +61 2 4973 6573  
Fax: +61 2 4973 6609  
Email: appes@willorganise.com.au  
Website: www.appes.org

**8-12th November 2008**  
**ICE 2008**  
Rio De Janerio, Brazil  
Website: http://www.ice2008rio.com/

**16-21st November 2008**  
**4th Australian Health & Medical**  
**Research Congress (AH&MRC)**  
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre  
Website: www.ahmrccongress.org.au

**17 - 19 November 2008**  
**APEG Annual Scientific Meeting**  
Hotel Realm, Canberra, ACT  
Contact details:  
APEG Conference Secretariat  
PO Box 180  
Morisset NSW 2264  
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Email: apegasm@willorganise.com.au

**2009**  
**21-25 March, 2009**  
**2nd Joint Meeting of IBMS and ANZBMS**  
Sydney Convention Centre, Australia  
Website: anzbms.org.au

**23-26th August 2009**  
**ESA/SRB ASM**  
Adelaide Convention Centre  
Website: www.esa-srb.org.au

**2nd-5th September 2009**  
**ADS/ADEA ASM**  
Adelaide Convention Centre  
Website: www.ads-adea.org.au

**2010**  
**25-28 August 2010**  
**ESA/SRB ASM**  
Sydney Convention Centre  
Website: www.esa-srb.org.au

**2011**  
**29 August-1st September 2011**  
**ESA/SRB ASM**  
Perth Convention Centre  
Website: www.esa-srb.org.au