



FROM THE PRESIDENT AND HONORARY TREASURER

You will all be aware that the last 6 months have brought financial turmoil across the whole world. ESA is not immune from these events and it is important that I let you know about some significant decisions that your Council have recently made regarding the financial affairs of our Society.

Fortunately, the fundamental aspects of our finances are very secure. We have a moderate operating surplus each year, based upon the continuing success of the Society's three regular meetings and the ongoing support of our corporate sponsors. We do not foresee any looming threat to this income, and our operating expenses remain modest. However, the global financial crisis has raised important questions about the best way to preserve and manage our funds. A number of years ago ESA Council found itself in possession of an accumulated nest-egg of funds and sought professional advice regarding its management. The endowment was placed in an investment account and we have benefited from the stock market boom. Income from this investment has enabled the Society to establish an annual PhD Scholarship and the ESA Post-doctoral Award, as well as increased numbers of Travel Grants to junior members of the Society. The cost of these awards, currently about \$90,000 per year, was being adequately met by returns on the investment – until recently. Unfortunately, in the last 18 months the value of the overall fund has declined and the return is projected to be very poor in the coming year.

At the time of the last Annual General Meeting (in Melbourne, in August 2008) the financial downturn was already being felt and the Society members present discussed our response. At that time the majority decision was to stick to our investment strategy as the best option for long-term growth, despite negative short-term prospects. We sought further independent professional advice in November 2008 and

this concurred with the decision to retain our investments. However, by February of 2009 it was becoming clear that the financial markets were facing much more serious losses than had been first predicted, and the value of our investments had declined by approx 15% since August 2008. Council held a teleconference and a series of email discussions. We decided to withdraw funds from the investment account and to secure it in a cash account, protecting the Society's funds from further market falls. Although this means that we will miss out should a sudden stock market upswing occur, Council believes that this is the only way of protecting the ESA from the more damaging prospect of further declines diminishing the value of the investment.

With the recent losses we have effectively surrendered the unrealized capital gains from the investment, but preserved the original capital less some expenditure on PhD scholarships and Fellowships. Our challenge now is to try to maintain our support for the awards and scholarships in the face of lower income. We will look for other ways of generating support for core ESA activities, and Council will continue to inform the Society membership of financial developments.

On a happier note, you will read elsewhere in the Newsletter of a new award being offered by the ESA – the Mid-Career Researcher Award. This will recognize strongly performing basic and clinical scientists who are 5-12 years from award of their higher-degree. I hope to see you at either the Seminar Meeting or the Annual Scientific Meeting later this year.

Mark McLean, President ESA.
Bu Yeap, Honorary Treasurer

Important Items in this edition

1. President and Treasurer's Report
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ESA CLINICAL WEEKEND 2009

The ESA Clinical Weekend in 2009 will as usual immediately precede the Annual Scientific Meeting, running from Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd August. This year, the meeting will be held at the Novotel Barossa Valley Resort, South Australia. The Barossa Valley, situated about an hour's drive north of Adelaide, is one of Australia's leading wine regions. Saturday afternoon activities will almost certainly include a tour of local wineries and wine tasting. Alternatively, the Novotel has a good golf course adjacent.

The programme for 2009 will feature invited presentations from Professor Joseph Verbalis, Georgetown University Medical Centre, Washington DC and Dr Karen Miller, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston.

ESA ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING, August 23rd – 26th, 2009, Adelaide

This year's annual scientific meeting will be held in Adelaide, again in conjunction with the NZ Society of Endocrinology. We are back to the usual days of the meeting, with the Welcome Reception opening the meeting on Sunday evening, but this year the meeting will run three full days, finishing at 4 pm Wednesday. The SRB is also running a TGF α workshop on Sunday, from 9.30 am – 2 pm, cost \$60, which it invites all interested ESA members to attend. Last year's joint ESA/SRB afternoon poster session was such a success that we are retaining the same format again this year. And we have introduced a new Mid Career Award Lecture at this year's ASM. This is a 20-minute lecture presented by the award winner, and recognises researchers in the development phase of their career. So check out the ESA website for eligibility and details on how to apply for this award.

Our distinguished line-up of plenary speakers provides a mix of outstanding clinical and basic research. The ESA's highest honour is the Harrison Lecture, which will be presented this year by Dr John Cidlowski from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, NIH, in North Carolina. Dr Cidlowski will be presenting his latest research in his lecture on mechanisms of tissue specificity of glucocorticoid action.

The Pincus Taft plenary lecturer for 2009 is Dr Karen Klahr Miller, from Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. The Taft lecture recognises outstanding clinical research, and Dr Miller will be presenting her work on the endocrinology of anorexia nervosa. The Japan-Australia lecture will be presented by Prof Hironobu Sasano, Tohoku University School of Medicine, on intracrine hormone actions in breast cancer. Our fourth plenary lecturer is Dr Joseph Verbalis, Georgetown University Medical Center, talking on the topic of hyponatremia.

We have two joint plenary speakers in our meeting this year. The joint ESA/NZSE Nancy Sirrett lecture, which recognises an emeritus New Zealand researcher in endocrinology, will be presented this year by Prof Peter Gluckman, from the Liggins Institute, University of Auckland, on fetal origins of growth and health.

The weekend will again feature a range of clinical cases, to be presented by junior members of the Society. Abstracts will be called for in the near future and will need to be submitted by the 19th June.

On behalf of the local organizing committee I would like to invite all ESA members to attend the ESA Clinical Weekend in 2009.

Dr Morton Burt

Endocrinologist, Southern Adelaide Diabetes and Endocrine Services

Head, Organizing Committee, 2009 ESA Clinical Weekend

Our joint ESA/ADS lecturer is Dr Mark Febbraio, Baker IDI Heart & Diabetes Institute, who will be talking on adipokines and myokines.

We continue to run concurrent basic and clinical streams in the meeting, and Wednesday's program will be fully integrated with the SRB and ADS meetings. The Basic stream includes symposia on reproductive cancers (joint ESA/SRB); G-protein coupled receptors (joint ESA/Neuroendocrinology Australasia); sleep disorders (clinical/basic); nuclear hormone receptors; applications of bioinformatics; and adipokines & myokines (joint ESA/ADS)

The Clinical stream includes symposia on pituitary disease, endocrine consequences of cancer treatment, management of the infertile couple, and sleep disorders (clinical/basic). In addition, our Clinical Case Reports session will emphasise important diagnostic and management points, and Meet the Expert sessions will cover the topics of primary hyperaldosteronism, male contraception, and disorders of puberty.

We will continue holding our parallel Career Development Workshops for junior scientists and clinicians. These free breakfast sessions, on Tuesday morning, includes senior researchers and clinicians who will provide insight and advice on different aspects of developing careers in medical research and endocrinology.

Registration and the call for abstracts has now opened, and abstract submissions close June 19th, 2009.

For further information on the meeting, see <http://www.esa-srb.org.au/>.

We encourage participants, particularly our junior members, to apply for the various awards and grants available to society members.

For further information on the ESA awards, see <http://www.endocrinesociety.org.au/awards.htm>.

ESA SEMINAR MEETING 2009

The Endocrine Society of Australia's 2009 Annual Seminar Meeting will be held at the Ettalong Beach Resort, NSW, from the 1st - 3rd of May. The website <http://www.esaseminar.org.au> contains the registration information (due now) and the scientific programme. The ESA Programme Organizing Committee is grateful to the many excellent guest speakers (including 2 international speakers) who are giving their time to attend this meeting and we look forward to a strong attendance.

Regards,
Bronwyn Crawford PhD, MB BS, FRACP
Endocrinologist and Clinical Senior Lecturer

NHMRC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2008

Professor Helena Teede received The NHMRC Achievement Award 2008 for outstanding research work across NHMRC's grant and fellowship schemes following the outcome of the 2008 peer review process;

this was one of 7 national awards presented by the NHMRC.

ESA IPSEN INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GRANT AWARD 2009**Aim:**

To support younger members of the society to travel to international meetings, laboratories and/or clinics to further their training and knowledge in Endocrinology.

Award:

One award of \$3500 will be awarded to assist with the costs of international travel - Deadline 1st August 2009

Visit ESA website: <http://www.endocrinesociety.org.au/awards.htm#ipsen>

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

ESA Mid-Career Researcher Award Deadline	22nd May 2009
Abstract deadline	19th June 2009
Novartis Junior Scientist Award	19th June 2009
Servier Award	19th June 2009
ESA/CSL Bryan Hudson Clinical Endocrinology Award	19th June 2009
ESA Travel Grants	19th June 2009
ESA IPSEN International Travel Grant Award	1st August 2009

NEW MEMBERS

Omar Akram,
Tricia Chee,
Daniel Chen,
Yoon Cho,
Grant Cracknell,
Abhay Daniel,
Gerard Gibbs,

Christian Girgis,
Vincent Harley,
Michael Holland,
Zoe Hyde,
Stacey Jamieson,
Shantha Joseph,
John Kok,

Jaideep Kulkarni,
Narsing Laddipeerala,
John Lai,
Syndia Lazarus,
I-Lynn Lee,
Anna Lih,
Clement Lo,

Naswrin Moin,
Colleen Nelson,
Shalini Nilajgi,
Gregory Ong,
Nocole Opie,
Anuradha Sakthivel,
Vasant Shenoy,

Astrud Tuck,
Shilpa Verma,
Paring Vora,
Tang Wong.

ESA MID-CAREER RESEARCHER AWARD – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The ESA is pleased to announce a new Mid-Career Researcher Award, designed to recognise an outstanding mid-career researcher in endocrinology. The award comprises a plaque and 20-minute lecture at the Annual Scientific Meeting, and complimentary meeting registration.

Eligible applicants are active ESA members with five to 12 years' research experience post-higher degree (PhD, MD or FRACP) at the deadline of application (exceptions can be made for career interruptions). The winner must attend the ASM to present their lecture. The award will be made by a selection committee comprising the ESA Council members and the Chair of the ESA POC. **The application deadline is May 22nd 2009**, applicants will be notified at the close of abstract submissions for the ASM (June 19th), and the winner will be asked to provide an abstract for their lecture within three weeks of notification, to be included in the ASM Proceedings. For further information please see the ESA website (www.endocrinesociety.org.au/awards.htm). The ESA encourages all eligible members to apply for this new award.

Applications should include:

1. One-page summary of major research contributions.
2. CV, including the following sub-headings:
 - Publications
 - Grants (current and previous)
 - Peer Recognition: Invitations to Speak
 - Contributions to Research Training
 - Contributions to Professional Activities
3. Letter of support from nominating ESA member.

Applications should be sent to:

Ms Ivone Johnson
Endocrine Society of Australia
145 Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Email: esa@racp.edu.au

ESA Mid-Career Researcher Award

To recognise an outstanding mid-career researcher in endocrinology. The award comprises a plaque and 20-minute lecture at the Annual Scientific Meeting, and complimentary meeting registration.

Eligibility:

Active ESA member with five to 12 years' research experience post-higher degree (PhD, MD or FRACP) at deadline of application (exceptions can be made for career interruptions).

The winner must attend the ASM to present their lecture.

Regulations:

1. The ESA Mid-Career Researcher Award is made by a selection committee comprising all Council members and the POC Chair of the ASM POC.
2. The Award will be presented at the Annual Scientific Meeting, and the winner must be available to present their lecture.
3. The application must be sponsored by a financial member of the Society who should write a letter in support of the application.
4. Applicants will be notified of the decision at the time of abstract submission closure for the ASM, and the winner will be expected to submit an abstract for their lecture within three weeks of notification for inclusion in the ASM Proceedings.
5. The selection committee has a duty to apply the criteria equitably to all applicants.

Applications should include:

1. One-page summary of major research contributions.
2. CV, including the following sub-headings:
 - Publications
 - Grants (current and previous)
 - Peer Recognition: Invitations to Speak
 - Contributions to Research Training
 - Contributions to Professional Activities
3. Letter of support from nominating ESA member.

Applications should be sent to:

Ms Ivone Johnson
Endocrine Society of Australia
145 Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000
Email: esa@racp.edu.au

Applications Close: May 22nd, 2009

SUBMITTING A CASE STUDY

Call for Clinical Case Abstracts for the ESA Clinical Weekend 2009

All Endocrine Advanced Trainees are invited to present a clinical case at this year's Clinical Weekend Conference in The Barossa Valley. It would be greatly appreciated if supervisors can please bring this to the attention of any Trainees who may not receive this ESA Bulletin by Email.

SELECTION:

Cases on any aspect of clinical endocrinology are welcomed. However, cases related to the areas of expertise of our two International Plenary speakers (pituitary disease and disorders of salt/water homeostasis) will be viewed favourably. Selection criteria will include educational value and quality of the presentation. Trainees should discuss the case with their supervisors prior to submission.

FORMAT:

Submitted abstracts should not be longer than one A4 page. The submission should include relevant clinical detail, investigations and/or management, plus a series of questions raised by the case to be addressed during the presentation.

ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATIONS:

Successful candidates will be notified in mid July. They will then be asked to provide up to 4 pages of supporting references to be added with their submission to the delegate handbook. Abstracts that are not accepted for presentation at the Clinical Weekend will be automatically forwarded to the Program Organizing Committee of the ESA/SRB Annual Scientific Meeting to be considered for presentation at that meeting.

PRESENTATIONS:

Cases selected for presentation should be presented in PowerPoint. At the meeting, Trainees will present their case 3 times in a rotating format to small discussion groups. Presentations will total 30 minutes. Presenters should aim to outline the case and its management in 10-15 minutes, allowing 15-20 minutes to review the questions raised by the case. Presentations should be interactive and involve the audience wherever possible.

DEADLINES:

The deadline for submission is the 19th June.
Please email case submission(s) to Dr Morton Burt
(morton.burt@health.sa.gov.au)

ENDOCRINE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA – COUNCIL AND OFFICE BEARERS 2008-2010

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Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

FUTURE MEETINGS -**2009**

1st-3rd May 2009
ESA Seminar Meeting
Ettalong Mantra Resort
www.esaseminar.org.au

10th-13th June 2009
ENDO 2009
Washington DC, USA
Web: <http://www.endo-society.org/meetings/Annual/index.cfm>

21st-23rd August 2009
ESA Clinical Weekend
Barossa Novotel Resort
www.esaclinicalweekend.org.au

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

26th-28th August 2009
ADS/ADEA ASM
Adelaide Convention Centre
Website www.ads-adea.org.au

2010

29th Augut-1st September 2010
ESA/SRB ASM
Sydney Convention Centre
Website: www.esa-srb.org.au

2011

28th-31st August 2011
ESA/SRB ASM
Perth Convention Centre
Website: www.esa-srb.org.au