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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the first 2010 ESA Newsletter. I am writing this on my way to the International Congress of Endocrinology in Kyoto. It is pleasing to see a number of Australian colleagues in prominent positions on the program of this international meeting. Our Past-President, Leon Bach has been on the programming organizing committee for ICE 2010 and has been an effective advocate for the members of our antipodean society. Gail Risbridger works hard to the same effect on the US Endocrine Society POC and this pair do a great job to keep Australian endocrinology on the world stage.

The financial uncertainties of the last 12 months caused a temporary suspension of the ESA PhD Scholarship and Post-doctoral Award. I am very pleased to announce that these grants to deserving young ESA members will resume this year. Elsewhere in the Newsletter you will see a report of the excellent work performed by Jeremy Smith as recipient of the ESA Post-doctoral award. I urge all eligible young scientists to consider applying for the 2010 awards. Details of the awards are available from the ESA website (www.endocrinesociety.org.au).

The 2010 round of ESA meetings will soon commence with the Annual Seminar Meeting, on the beach in Wollongong, from April 30th to May 2nd. In addition to a distinguished line-up of local speakers for that meeting we will also be joined by Professor John Wass from Oxford University. This meeting marks the conclusion of the three-year cycle of Seminar Meetings in NSW and I would like to thank Bernard Champion, Bronwyn Crawford and their organizing committee members for their hard work. Preparations for the Clinical Weekend (Terrigal, August 27th to 29th) and Annual Scientific Meeting (Sydney, August 29th to September 1st) are well underway. This year the Harrison Lecturer will be Stafford Lightman from Bristol, the Taft Lecturer is Karel Pacek from Bethesda, and the ESA/ADS Lecturer is

Ralph De Fronzo from Texas. It will be well worth the trip to Sydney so start thinking about your abstract now!

In 2011 the ESA Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in Perth. For that year we are planning a combined meeting with the Australian Paediatric Endocrine Group (APEG) which promises to be a great opportunity for a clinical and scientific meeting incorporating all aspects of adult and child endocrinology. For the 2011 meeting our usual partnership with the Society for Reproductive Biology (SRB) will be interrupted - as SRB hosts a major international meeting on reproductive sciences. The combined ESA/SRB meeting format will return in 2012.

Every two years we elect new members to ESA Council (Committee). Council members determine all aspects of the Society's activities and it is important that we have a dynamic and diverse membership. Half of the existing Council will soon reach the end of their term and nominations are now being sought for new members to serve a four year term. If you have energy and ideas, your Society needs you! I am very grateful to the members of existing Council who have kept everything running so well in the last two years.

This will be my last Newsletter Report as ESA President. I have had the privilege and pleasure of this role for the last 2 years and will soon be handing it over to Vicki Clifton – our first female president. After 50 years it is long overdue that we have a woman's influence at the head of the Society. It is a notable feature of modern endocrinology in Australia that our young generation of scientists and clinicians are overwhelmingly female. I congratulate Vicki on succession.

**Mark McLean,
 President ESA.**

ESA/SRB Annual Scientific Meeting

Abstract submission deadline - 18th June 2010

Website: <http://www.esa-srb.org.au>

The Program Organising Committee for the ESA Annual Scientific Meeting in Sydney look forward to joining you all for an exciting meeting. Our four plenary speakers are now confirmed; Professor Stafford Lightman is our 2010 Harrison lecturer and will present his recent work on the neuroendocrinology of stress. We are also delighted to welcome Professor Karel Pacak as the Taft lecturer (catecholamines), Professor Ralph De Fronzo as the ESA/ADS Plenary Lecturer (determinants of diabetes risk), and Professor Jayne Franklyn as our fourth plenary speaker (thyroid disease).

We hope that all members of ESA and associated societies will find topics of interest amongst the symposia. In 2010 these will include:

- Pregnancy nutrition (a joint ESA/SRB symposium)
- Thyroid function and dysfunction

- Generation and significance of pulsatile hormone secretion (a joint ESA/Neuroendocrinology Australasia symposium)
- Recent advances in cancer therapies and mechanisms
- Endocrinology and energy balance
- AWE showcase (ESA/AWE joint symposium)
- Receptors and signal transduction
- Choosing and using thresholds in diabetes diagnosis and management (ESA/ADS joint symposium)
- Opinions: Calcium therapy for osteoporosis

Registrations and abstract submission are now open, at <http://www.esa-srb.org.au/>. We look forward to joining you at the end of August in Sydney for an exciting and stimulating program.

Dr Kathy Gatford

CONGRATULATIONS

International Society of Endocrinology

Congratulations to Professor Leon Bach, past-president of ESA, for his election to the International society of Endocrinology executive committee for a period of two years.

ESA IPSEN INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GRANT AWARD 2010

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 2010 Visit ESA website: <http://www.endocrinesociety.org.au/awards.htm#ipsen>

REMINDER TO PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTION DUES

ESA membership subscriptions are now due. Please ensure that the Secretariat has all the correct mailing and contact details, particularly email addresses, as we rely on these to maintain contact with you and keep you informed of ESA activities.

Membership to the ESA permits access to all meetings, obtaining membership registration, opportunity to apply for the various ESA awards/Travel Grants and the ESA newsletter. You may find it more convenient to use the online Annual subscription renewal form and secure credit card payment gateway.

<https://www.endocrinesociety.org.au/members/index.cfm>

NOMINATIONS FOR ESA COUNCIL 2010

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 4 members to each serve a 4 year term.

At the 2008 election the 5 committee members elected for 2008-2012 were Peter Ebeling, Warrick Inder, Evan Simpson, Helena Teede and Tim Cole. They remain on the committee until 2012.

The 4 members reaching the end of their terms in 2010 are Mark McLean (who will stay on for the next two years in the role of past-president), Bu Yeap, David Phillips and David Healy. These 4 members can stand for re-election if they wish.

Vicki Clifton will take on the role of President for two years, then past president for two years.

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,
Dr David Phillips,
145 Macquarie Street,
Sydney, NSW 2000
by 5:00 pm, Friday May 28th 2010.

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 Mark McLean
ESA President

ESA CLINICAL WEEKEND 27-29TH AUGUST 2010 Crown Plaza Terrigal Resort, Terrigal,

The annual ESA Clinical Weekend has become an important function for clinical endocrinologists and for trainees throughout Australia. ESA's 2010 meeting will continue its tradition of fellowship combined with a stimulating scientific program.

It will again be held immediately prior to the ESA/SRB Annual Scientific Meeting. In keeping with past meetings, the ESA Clinical Weekend will be held at a residential rural resort; this year at the Crown Plaza Terrigal Resort. The resort is nestled on the beach overlooking the serene waters of Terrigal Beach on the Central Coast. The resort was completely renovated in 2009 and every room faces the ocean, has its own private balcony and some also overlook the iconic outdoor heated swimming pool. The resort features 196 guest rooms, outdoor pool, sauna, spa, health club, two restaurants, two bars and a cocktail bar.

Speakers include:

Jayne Franklyn

School of Clinical and Experimental Medicine College of Medical and Dental Sciences United Kingdom

Karel Pacak

School of Clinical and Experimental Medicine College of Medical and Dental Sciences
United Kingdom

Programme and registration available from:
<http://www.esaclinicalweekend.org.au/>

NEW MEMBERS

Naomi Achong
Sibte Akbar Abidi
Shaikh Aziz
Pui Chan
Heng Chan
Viral Chikani

Lucy-Enid Ding
Yan Gao
Sarah Glastras
Sue Goh
Lisa Hayes

Warnakula Lowe
Michael McNamara
Rashmi Narayanan
Jatin Patel
Anjana Radhakutty

Yogesh Rajee
Praseetha
Shanmugalingam
Tilenka Thynne
Swee-Inn Yeoh

ESA POSTDOCTORAL AWARD – Final Report 2009 - Jeremy Smith

Final Report for Proposed Research Program 2008-2009

Expt 1. Kisspeptin and GPR54 expression in ovine brains, projections to GnRH cells

1a. Distribution and expression of kisspeptin expressing cells.

We have conducted studies outlining the expression and distribution of kisspeptin cells within the hypothalamus. The expression of kisspeptin protein was up-regulated in the arcuate nucleus of OVX ewes and reduced by oestrogen treatment. We have also performed and published similar experiments in ewes at differing stages of the oestrous cycle. We show up-regulation of kisspeptin protein expression during the late-follicular phase of the oestrous cycle, concurrent with the onset of the preovulatory LH surge.

1b. Projections of kisspeptin-producing cells to GnRH cells.

Our data show a significant percentage of GnRH neurons (approximately 60-100%) receive input from kisspeptin positive terminals. Moreover, this percentage appears to be regulated by breeding season in the ewe.

1c. Retrograde labelling from POA and Fos induction by oestrogen.

Initial retrograde (and anterograde) tracing studies are underway. We now have evidence to suggest kisspeptin fibres in the median eminence originate from the arcuate nucleus. We show under a condition of oestrogen positive feedback stimulus (leading to a preovulatory LH surge) kisspeptin cells in both the middle and caudal arcuate nucleus become transcriptionally activated.

Expt 2. Effects of kisspeptin on GnRH/LH secretion in relation to breeding season and steroid feedback

2a. Effect of kisspeptin on GnRH/LH secretion.

Our data show kisspeptin administration rapidly and robustly stimulates LH secretion in ewes. The degree of response in LH concentrations to kisspeptin varied during different reproductive phases in the ewe. To confirm this we have now directly measured the GnRH (in portal blood) response to kisspeptin.

2b. GPR54 mRNA expression in relation to breeding season and steroid feedback.

This study has been completed. We have perfected a double label in situ hybridisation technique of determining the level of GPR54 expression directly on GnRH neurons.

Expt 3. Effects of kisspeptin antagonist on LH release and ovulation

3a. Effect of kisspeptin antagonist on LH secretion

We have shown intracerebroventricular (ICV) administration of a kisspeptin antagonist reduces the concentration of LH in OVX ewes.

3b. Effect of kisspeptin antagonist on ovulation

Preliminary analysis of the data suggests treatment with a kisspeptin antagonist prevents (or severely dampens) the preovulatory LH surge. These data are currently under analysis and will be presented at the ICN meeting in 2010 (France). It is predicted the data will be published in 2010.

Papers published in relation to this award

- 1) **Smith JT** and Clarke IJ (2010) Seasonal breeding as a neuroendocrine model for puberty in sheep. *Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology*, In Press.
- 2) Backholer K, **Smith JT**, et al. (2010) Kisspeptin cells in the ewe brain respond to leptin and communicate with neuropeptide Y and proopiomelanocortin cells. *Endocrinology*, In Press.
- 3) Backholer K, **Smith JT**, Clarke IJ (2009) Melanocortins may stimulate reproduction by activating orexin neurons in the dorsomedial hypothalamus and kisspeptin neurons in the preoptic area of the ewe. *Endocrinology* 150:5488-5497.
- 4) **Smith JT**, et al. (2009) Kisspeptin neurons in the ovine arcuate nucleus and preoptic area are involved in the preovulatory luteinizing hormone surge. *Endocrinology* 150:5530-5538.
- 5) **Smith JT**, et al. (2009) Seasonal and cyclical change in the luteinizing hormone response to kisspeptin in the ewe. *Neuroendocrinol* 90:283-291.
- 6) Roseweir A, Kauffman A, **Smith JT**, et al. (2009) Discovery of potent kisspeptin antagonists delineate physiological mechanisms of gonadotropin regulation. *J Neurosci* 29:3920-3929.
- 7) **Smith JT** (2009) Sex steroid control of hypothalamic Kiss1 expression in sheep and rodents: Comparative aspects. *Peptides* 30:94-102.
- 8) **Smith JT**, Coolen LM, et al. (2008) Variation in kisspeptin and gonadotropin-inhibitory hormone expression and terminal connections to GnRH neurons in the brain: possible medium for seasonal breeding in the sheep. *Endocrinology* 149:1951-1959.

ESA would like to thank ESA award sponsors

Ipsen Pty Ltd
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Australia Pty Ltd
Servier Laboratories (Australia)

IVAN GENTRY JARRETT, 1/4/1915 - 3/11/2009.

Ivan Jarrett was born in Tumby Bay, South Australia on 1 April 1915 and moved to Adelaide with his family around 1920. He was educated at Rose Park Primary School, and then went on to Norwood High School and Adelaide Boys High School for his secondary schooling. In 1933 he began his Science degree at the University of Adelaide. He undertook this part-time while working as a laboratory technician in the Histology Department at the University. On completion of his degree in 1939, he joined what was then CSIR, now CSIRO, at the Animal Nutrition Laboratories in Adelaide.

He retired in 1980 after 41 years with CSIRO, having spent the last five years of his career as a Chief Research Scientist and Assistant Chief of the Division of Human Nutrition in Adelaide. After his retirement, he was appointed an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital where he spent the next 15 years in the Gastroenterology and Gerontology Departments actively mentoring students, as well as developing and participating in different research programs.

Throughout his long scientific career, Dr Jarrett was concerned with the study of metabolism and nutrition, first in the ruminant and later in the human. He was the first to establish experimental diabetes in sheep and used this model to study aspects of diabetes and insulin action. He was also among the first to indicate many points of similarity between some of the metabolic pathways in ruminants and those characteristic of fasting or diabetes mellitus in the human.

Dr. Jarrett was able to make important observations on the dramatic changes in metabolism which take place when young ruminants change from milk feeding to rumination concurrently with the colonisation of the rumen. He contributed greatly to the understanding of the regulation of intermediary metabolism and he became an international expert in metabolic control mechanisms and in general endocrinology, particularly as it related to the adaptation to nutritional changes.

Dr. Jarrett was an active and highly sought after collaborator both in Adelaide and overseas. In 1972 he was awarded a Nuffield Fellowship and spent six months at the ARC Institute of Animal Physiology in Cambridge UK. In 1978 he was awarded a Professorial Fellowship from the Kroc Foundation for Medical Research and was appointed Adjunct Professor in the Department of Physiology and Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University where he used his model of isolated hepatocytes to study diabetes mellitus in miniature pigs. In 1985 he was awarded a Fellowship from the Commonwealth Government Science and Industry Endowment Fund to visit cancer centres in the USA.

During his long career he contributed extensively to a number of scientific societies, particularly the Physiological Society of the UK, the Australian Biochemical Society, the Nutrition Society of Australia, the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and the Endocrine Society of Australia of which he was a founding member, Treasurer and President. He was elected an Honorary Life Member of these last two societies.



Dr Jarrett received a Doctor of Science degree from the University of Adelaide in 1964. He was author and coauthor of over 150 published papers. He was generous with his time, mentoring and encouraging junior staff. He supervised several graduate students in the University of Adelaide and was instrumental in bringing a number of key researchers back to the Division from overseas.

In addition to his outstanding research career Dr. Jarrett shared his personal interests in art, music and literature with the community as a whole. He was President of the Friends of the Art Gallery of South Australia from 1975-77, he served on the South Australian Committee of Musica Viva from 1969-1993 and was Vice-President from 1981-83. He was the foundation Chairman for the Arts in Burnside in 1994 and was instrumental in the establishment of the Pepper Street Gallery. He worked tirelessly as Chairman of the Burnside Library Community Consultative Committee for over ten years from 1995 and was very proud of the library redevelopment to which he donated several pieces of art. In 2001 he was named Citizen of the Year by Burnside Council and he received a Centenary Medal in 2003. He was very loyal to his alma mater and served on the Senate of the University of Adelaide for many years. He helped to revitalize the Graduates Union which subsequently became the Alumni Association of which he was an honorary Fellow. From 1973-1979, he served on the council of the Torrens College of Advanced Education and was Chairman of the Planning Committee from 1977-1979.

He was predeceased by his wife Myra to whom he was married for over 60 years. He is survived by his two sons, David and Richard, their wives Victoria and Diane, and four grandchildren Thomas, Benjamin, Mark and Lisa, whose various accomplishments brought him much joy and satisfaction.

REVISED AMERICAN THYROID ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR PATIENTS WITH THYROID NODULES AND DIFFERENTIATED THYROID CANCER

The ESA Council has recently endorsed the Revised American Thyroid Association Management Guidelines for Patients with Thyroid Nodules and Differentiated Thyroid Cancer (published in Thyroid 2009; 19; 1-46.). The guidelines have also been endorsed by the Australian Endocrine Surgeons group.

On behalf of the Australian Thyroid Cancer Guidelines group which evaluated the ATA guidelines and recommended endorsement to the ESA Council I am happy to receive any comments from members over the next few months at: duncan.topliss@med.monash.edu.au

The guidelines are available to download from the ATA website (www.thyroid.org)

Professor Duncan Topliss

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

ESA Mid Career Award	22nd May 2010
Abstract deadline	18th June 2010
Novartis Junior Scientist Award	18th June 2010
Servier Award	18th June 2010
ESA Bryan Hudson Clinical Endocrinology Award	18th June 2010
ESA Travel Grants	18th June 2010
ESA IPSEN International Travel Grant Award	1st August 2010

ESA SEMINAR MEETING

The committee of the Endocrine Society of Australia are pleased to announce that registration is now open for the 2010 Annual Seminar.

This year's meeting will be held at the Novotel Wollongong Northbeach, NSW from the 30th April to the 2nd of May. The program for this years Seminar is available on the conference website and registration is now open.

To register and to view more information about the location, travel and special accommodation rates, visit the Seminar's Official website: www.esaseminar.org.au

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Annual General Meeting of ESA will be held at Sydney Convention Centre on Monday 30th August 2010.
All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.**

FUTURE MEETINGS -**2010****24-28 April 2010**
12th European Congress of Endocrinology

Czech Republic

Website: http://www.endo-society.org/custom_apps/Events/Event.cfm?EventID=1320**30 April-2 May 2010**
ESA Seminar Meeting

Novotel, Wollongong

Website: www.esaseminar.org.au**19-22 June 2010****ENDO**

San Diego, California, USA

Website: <http://www.endo-society.org/meetings/Annual/index.cfm>**6-8 August 2011**
Australian-Canadian prostate Cancer Research Alliance Symposium

Gold Coast Convention Centre

Website: <http://www.aus-canprostatealliance.org/events/2010-symposium>**28-29 August 2010****ESA Clinical Weekend**

Terrigal, NSW

www.esaclinicalweekend.org.au**29 August - 1 September 2010****ESA/SRB Annual Scientific Meeting**

Sydney Convention Centre

www.esa-srb.org.au**1-3 September 2010****2010 ADS/ADEA Annual Scientific Meeting**

Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre

Darling Harbour

5-8 September 2010**ANZBMS 20th Annual Scientific Meeting**

Adelaide Hilton

Website: www.anzbms.org.au**19-22 October 2010****IFPA 2010**

Fetus and Placenta: A perfect harmony

Santiago, Chili

Website: <http://www.ifpaconference.org>**2-5 December 2010****AOCE 2010 - 14th Asia-Oceania Congress of Endocrinology**

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Website: www.aoce2010.com**2011****4-7th June 2011****ENDO**

Boston, Massachusetts

<http://www.endo-society.org/meetings/Annual/index.cfm>**28th-31st August 2011****ESA/APEG ASM**

Perth Convention Centre

Website: www.esa-srb.org.au**4-8th September 2011****ANZBMS ASM**

Gold Coast

Website: www.anzbms.org.au

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