



FROM THE ESA PRESIDENT

2008 has proven to be a tremendously successful year for our Society. The most memorable event was surely the celebration of our 50th birthday at a gala reception at Government House, Melbourne, as guests of our Vice-regal colleague, Professor David de Kretser – Governor of Victoria. In a warmly received speech Professor de Kretser congratulated the ESA for its vigour, collegiality and the successes of the first half-century. Our thanks must go to the Governor for the wonderful hospitality that he showed to us, and for his enthusiastic support of the Annual Scientific Meeting for 2008. I would particularly like to thank the special event committee (David Phillips, Tim Cole, Jeffrey Zajac and Leon Bach) for their splendid organization of the 50th anniversary celebrations.

The ESA continues to thrive in its 51st year. The ASM, the Seminar Meeting and the Clinical Weekend all surpassed previous records for attendance in 2008 – and all were acclaimed for running very successful programs. The organizing committee chairs; Helen MacLean, Bronwyn Crawford and Elke Hendrich, respectively have done tremendous jobs in bringing these large meetings up to such consistently high standards.

Another element of core business of the Society is the support of young and developing scientists through award of Travel Grants, the ESA Higher Degree Scholarship and ESA Post-doctoral award. The number of award recipients is being

ramped up over the next few years and this will represent a major financial and logistic commitment by the Society. I would like to thank the members who generously give their time to act on the selection committee for the awards. This is a task that becomes more difficult (and more satisfying) as the number and quality of applicants seems to increase every year. The recipient of the 2008 Higher Degree Scholarship, Lucia Gagliardi from the University of Adelaide, has been successful in obtaining ongoing NH&MRC support for the remainder of her PhD – so it is very pleasing that ESA was able to support her to the stage at which she has obtained this external funding.

We fund the scholarships and awards program from the income of the Society's investments. In the current uncertain financial climate we face some challenges in maintaining this income stream and these are discussed by our treasurer, Bu Yeap, elsewhere in the newsletter. However, Council retains its commitment to the Awards program as one of the most important activities of ESA.

In beginning my term as ESA President I recognize the enormous contribution of Past-president Leon Bach, who has guided the Society through a number of very important changes in recent years. He will remain on Council and will be joined by new Council members Warrick Inder and Helena Teede. Together we look forward to an even more productive and exciting year for the ESA in 2009.

Dr Mark McLean (President)

Important Items in this edition

1. President's Report
2. Honorary Life members
2. Sponsors
2. Increase in subscription fees
3. ESA/IPSEN 2009 awards
3. New Members
3. ESA Seminar Meeting
4. ESA 2008 Award winners
4. ESA Treasurers Report
5. 50th Anniversary Speech at Government House
5. New Council 2008-2010
6. ESA Annual Scientific Meeting
7. AVE Report 2008
8. AGM Minutes
10. In Memoriam
11. ESA-Council and office bearers
11. Dates for the Diary

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HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Council has nominated Peter Fuller, David Handelsman, Gail Risbridger and Duncan Topliss, all of whom have provided outstanding service to ESA, for honorary life membership. In accordance with the Constitution, members at the AGM endorsed their nominations.



Peter J. Fuller
ESA member since 1981;
awarded Life membership in 2008.

Peter Fuller graduated with a BMedSci(Hons) in 1975, a MBBS in 1977 and a PhD in 1985, all from Monash University. He obtained his FRACP in 1984. He is currently an Associate Director of Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research and Head of the Steroid Receptor Biology Laboratory. He is also Director of the Endocrinology Unit at the Monash Medical Centre/Southern Health and a Professorial Fellow in Medicine and Biochemistry at Monash University. Peter trained in Melbourne in clinical and molecular endocrinology before postdoctoral training at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. He was awarded a Wellcome Trust Australian Senior Research Fellowship in 1987 and has received the Eric Susman Prize from the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. He has served on ESA Council and was Vice-President from 1992-94 and then President from 1994-96. He has served as Chairman of the NHMRC Training Awards and Enabling Grants Committees and also as a Member of the Research Committee. He is currently on the Board of the Cancer Council of Victoria as well as being an inaugural member of the Victorian Cancer Agency's Advisory Council. His research interests lie primarily in understanding the molecular mechanisms of adrenal steroid hormone action, the molecular pathogenesis of granulosa cell tumours of the ovary and also with colleagues at the Royal Children's Hospital to study the molecular basis of intestinal adaptation.



David J. Handelsman
ESA member since 1978;
awarded Life membership in 2008.

David Handelsman obtained his medical degree (MB BS, University of Melbourne) in 1974, was awarded a FRACP in 1980 and a PhD in Endocrinology from the University of Sydney in 1984. After serving as NHMRC NH Fairley Fellow (1984-86) at UCLA and Wellcome Senior Research Fellow (1987-89), he was appointed Associate Professor (1989) and then Australia's first Professor of Andrology (1996) at the University of Sydney. Since 1998 he has been the inaugural Director of the ANZAC Research Institute at Concord Hospital, where he also established the country's first hospital Andrology Department. His expertise in male reproductive health, medicine and biology has involved research in basic, clinical and public health domains. His interests are in the physiology, pathology, pharmacology and toxicology of androgens. Over a 28 year research career he has published over 320 scientific papers, supervised 17 PhD students and 10 other graduate students while maintaining continuous funding from peer-reviewed grants and industry contracts. He has served on the Editorial Board of 14 journals (9 current) and been ad hoc peer reviewer for 86 scientific journals. Awards for his research include the Royal Australasian College of Physicians's Susman Prize (1994) and the inaugural AMA Men's Health Award (2003).

SPONSORSHIP OF ESA

The Society gratefully acknowledges support from the following sponsors:

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ESA AWARD SPONSORSHIP

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INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTION FEES

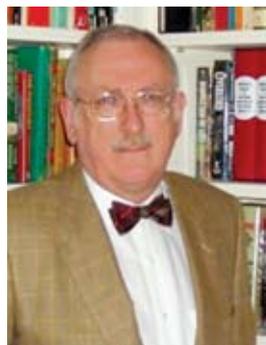
A motion was put up at the AGM to increase subscription fees incrementally over the next five years. Next year (2009) fees would be \$110 for full members, \$50 for students and \$45.00 for overseas members.

This will increase each year until the fee is \$150 for members, \$70 for students and \$65.00 for overseas members. These changes are in line with the fees of other societies. This motion was accepted by members.



Gail P. Risbridger
ESA member since 1978;
awarded Life membership in 2008.

Professor Risbridger is a career academic and researcher who has spent her academic working life on understanding the endocrinology of male reproductive tract organs, especially the testis and prostate gland. She graduated with a BSc from the University of Sussex and a MSc from the University of Strathclyde. After emigrating to Australia, she graduated with a PhD from Monash University in 1980. She then worked in teaching departments of the University until becoming a founding member of the Monash Institute of Medical Research (MIMR). She currently heads the Institute's Centre for Urological Research (CURE) and leads a team of investigators who aim to understand prostate disease leading to better diagnosis and treatment of both benign and malignant prostate disease. Gail is a Fulbright Senior Scholar and recipient of the British Endocrine Society Asia-Oceania Award, given in recognition of her significant contribution to Endocrinology. She has ~150 publications in the field of male reproductive endocrinology and serves on national and international Editorial and Advisory boards of Government, Industry and Professional organisations. She was Honorary Secretary of ESA from 1994-98.



Duncan J. Topliss
ESA member since 1977;
awarded Life membership in 2008.

Duncan Topliss graduated with a MBBS from Monash University in 1973, obtained his FRACP in 1980 and MD in 1989. He was elected a Fellow of the American College of Endocrinology (FACE) in 1996 and is an Honorary Professor of Medicine at Monash University. Since 1982 he has been a member of the Department of Endocrinology & Diabetes at the Alfred Hospital, Melbourne and became Director of the Department in 1996. He has been a member of Program Organization Committees for the International Thyroid Congress (1996, 2000), reflecting his interest in thyroid disease. He delivered a plenary lecture at the International Thyroid Congress on cellular mechanisms of thyroid hormone uptake (1996), and has made invited contributions to seminars at the ISE, ITC, AOTA and ESA meetings. He has been a member of the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee since 1999 and Chairman of the Australian Adverse Drug Reaction Advisory Committee since 2001. He is a former Treasurer (1992-96) and President (1996-98) of ESA and has served on Program Organizing Committees at the Annual Scientific meetings as well as the Seminar and Clinical Weekend meetings.

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.

Awards:

One award of \$3500 will be awarded to assist with the costs of international travel to a European destination - Deadline 1st March 2009.

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

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>

ESA SEMINAR MEETING

1st-3rd May, 2009

Ettalong Mantra Resort

Ettalong is a quiet, yet growing village by the sea-side, situated near Umina and Woy Woy on the Central Coast, about 1½ hours north of Sydney. The Ettalong Beach Resort features stunning ocean views; however the town also offers alternative styles of accommodation. Ettalong is also close to bushland and National Parks waiting to be explored. Ettalong is the perfect location for swimming and water sports with a selection of beaches and waterways within Ettalong and the surrounding area.

Bronwyn Crawford (Convenor)

NEW MEMBERS

Claire Abou-Seif
Ghassan Alhami
Megan Allars
Nisha Antony
Sara Baqar
Geoffrey Braatvedt
Kara Britt
Kirstyn Carey
Ada Cheung
Jenny Chow

Scott Clarke
Izabella Czajka-Oraniec
Vicki Edwards
Alexandra Firsova
Jenny Fung
Vernon Heazlewood
Sarah Holdsworth-Carson
Shirin Hussain
Flora Ip
Javed Iqbal
Kavitha Iyer

Datta Joshi
David Kim
Michele Kolo
Kim Lee
Kaushik Maiti
Peter Mwamure
Judy Ng
Kingsley Nirmalaraj
Liza O'Donnell
Fredrik Olsson
Annette Osei-Kumah
Mark Pace

Pui Pang
Melissa Papargiris
Ryan Paul
Jonathan Paul
Emily Payne
Kirsty Pringle
Ann Robinson
Jimmy Shen
Peter Simn
Michael Stowasser
Qiang Sun
Mark Tang Fui

Mark Vickers
Thuy Vu
Kelly Walton
Sarah Wilkinson
Stephen Wong
Lai Wong
Roisin Worsley
Hui Wu
Tuo Ya

ESA 2008 Award Winners

NOVARTIS JUNIOR SCIENTIST AWARD

Sue Mei Lau



Adam Zwart from Novartis presented the award to Sue Mei Lau

SERVIER YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD

Belinda Henry



Toby Moore from Servier presented the Award to Belinda Henry

ESA Treasurer's Report

All of us are acutely aware that the world is going through a major financial crisis that will rank in history alongside the events of 1929, already overshadowing the more recent 1987 share market crash and the turn of century dot-com bust. At the ESA Council meeting on 25 August and the Annual General Meeting on 26 August 2008 there was much discussion on how these events would impact on the Society's financial position and what course of action should be undertaken, particularly with regard to ESA's investments whose income was to fund the award of research scholarships and fellowships. Council members recently have discussed events via email.

When reported at the 2007 Annual Meeting the ESA's Asgard investment was valued at \$1,052,228 divided approximately into 30% cash/fixed interest, Australian shares, international shares and 10% property. As of 21 August 2008, the balance was \$853,075, and as of 8 October \$835,844. These figures do not take into account the latest falls in global share markets reported in today's newspapers even as I write this report. Looking back, the original sum invested was \$600,000 in 2001/2, topped up with \$120,000 in 2005, and ESA withdrew \$20,000 in 2007 and \$70,000 in 2008 to fund PhD scholarships and post-doctoral fellowships. The investment took a loss in the early years, before enjoying significant success from 2003 onwards. Thus ESA had done well from the investment, and we have lost unrealised gains rather than the original capital itself. Had we been able to predict the course of events, it would have been great had we gone 100% cash at the start of 2008. However, earlier this year the Asgard fund managers had already shifted ESA's investments away from the US and we held a substantial proportion of cash or fixed interest thus these actions sheltered us from an even worse outcome. The consensus reached by Council toward the end of September was that ESA's investments were in a conservative portfolio with a reasonable cash component, and that converting entirely to cash at that point would limit

ESA /CSL BRYAN HUDSON CLINICAL ENDOCRINOLOGY AWARD

Anne McCormack



Rick Haydon from CSL presented the award to Anne McCormack

ESA IPSEN INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GRANT AWARD

Elif Ekinci, Andrew Siebel, Jenny Chow



Andrew Siebel, Mark Taylor (Ipsen), Jenny Chow, Elif Ekinci

the potential for recovery. However, Council will reassess the situation following events of the past week, and will likely seek independent advice on whether to change our strategy.

After removing investment income and capital gains and/or losses from the Asgard investment ESA's 2006/7 income would be \$463,316 against expenditure in the year of \$419,871. Thus ESA's income from day-to-day activities and its major meetings largely cover the associated expenses. We have initiated the award of PhD scholarships (three year funding) and post-doctoral fellowships (two year funding). Thus the projected ceiling of 3 PhD scholars and 2 Fellows in any one year will require a maximum expenditure from the ESA of \$1,175,000 per annum. While ESA had an investment balance of \$1 million and projected returns on the investment of 12% this would have funded the scholarships and fellowships on an ongoing basis. Given the investment balance is now around \$800,000 and returns may be poor for the next few years Council needs to explore all options available to raise additional sponsorship to continue funding these awards into the future.

The 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting was exceptionally well attended (thanks to all Society members who attended, contributed and supported the event, and especially Helen MacLean and the POC and LOC), therefore ESA will likely achieve a surplus of income over expenditure for the ASM this year. Also, the Annual General Meeting agreed on modest increases in ESA membership subscriptions consistent with those of similar Societies eg. the ADS. These will provide a useful buffer whilst we wait for the global financial markets to stabilise and work to strengthen the Society's financial position. The Society's financial resources are held in trust to support activities of the ESA for the benefit of current and future members thus they must be managed with the highest diligence, which is a key priority for the Council.

A/Prof Bu Yeap, Honorary Treasurer

50th Anniversary Speech at Government House

Professor and Mrs de Kretser, Honorary Life Members, Guests and Colleagues

In May 1957, Keith Harrison in Sydney and Bryan Hudson in Melbourne proposed an association of physicians interested in diabetes and metabolism. By October of that year, a committee was set up to explore the formation of a society for the study of diabetes and endocrinology, and a programme was planned for a scientific meeting. A draft constitution was formulated and, in February 1958, all those interested in the formation of an Endocrine Society were invited to a meeting in Sydney in June. Sixty-nine people attended this first meeting, and these and a further 30 interested people became the foundation members of ESA.

Fast forward to today and ESA has over 900 members, runs 3 highly successful scientific and clinical meetings, provides higher degree students and postdoctoral fellows with financial support, and makes 3 junior investigator awards and 3 international travel awards. We are involved in clinician training, and providing advice and input to Government and professional bodies on endocrine matters.

Our members have made internationally significant scientific and clinical discoveries and we count among our members a State Governor, a University Vice-chancellor, RACP Presidents, Faculty of Medicine deans, Institute heads, and Fellows of the Australian Academy of Science. Sometimes we are too modest in acknowledging our achievements but I think we all agree that our founders would be justifiably proud of what their Society has become.

It wasn't always easy. Early councils had to grapple with heady issues such as whether Council members should be paid first-class airfares. This was changed to economy in 1965 and ceased completely sometime later.

Although scientific methodologies were rudimentary in the early days, it is fascinating to see the creativity with which clinical questions were addressed and the extent to which understanding endocrine physiology underpinned the development of indirect measures of hormone action. Typed proceedings of the early meetings included transcripts of talks together with the subsequent discussions, so it is obvious that ESA has always been blessed with passionate and outspoken, if not occasionally headstrong, members.

Of course, anniversaries such as this are not just about the past and ESA's commitment to supporting our junior members is manifest in our fellowships, awards and grants. We are celebrating four of our Rising Stars in a symposium on Wednesday afternoon and the difficulty in choosing the speakers is a tribute to the quality of our younger researchers. We could easily have filled several more symposia.

In conclusion, I'd like to thank Professor and Mrs de Kretser for hosting this celebration in such a spectacular location. I'd also like to thank my fellow Councillors and all of the ESA members who made suggestions regarding our Anniversary celebrations.

In particular, I'd like to thank David Phillips who has worked tirelessly to organise tonight and all other aspects of our celebrations. No task was too difficult or too petty for him and I sincerely appreciate his outstanding contribution.

I hope that this week will remind all of us to be proud of the strength of endocrinology in Australia.

Thank you.

Professor Leon Bach



Mark McLean presenting Leon Bach with his plaque



D Phillips Mark McLean Vicki Clifton Leon Bach David De Kretser



Audience watching The Vocal Consort

NEW COUNCIL 2008-2010

President: Mark McLean,

President-elect: Vicki Clifton,

Secretary: David Phillips,

Treasurer: Bu Beng Yeap,

Councillors: Timothy Cole,
Peter Ebeling,
Warrick Inder,
David Healy,
Evan Simpson,
Helena Teede

ESA Clinical Weekend: August 22-24, 2008

Lorne welcomed us with somewhat warmer weather than we're accustomed to at this time of year, the many warnings to bring warm gear clearly effective at ensuring the arctic winds were kept at bay. This year's ESA clinical weekend was one of the largest experienced with 208 registrants.

The weekend kicked off with a fantastic trivia pursuit hosted by Dr. Amanda Love, with a focus on 1958, to herald the 50th anniversary of the ESA. This had most of us scratching our heads (or bald spots), at some stage, with demands for a re-run to 'check the answers' highlighting the importance to endocrinologists of 'getting it right'. The feedback was most positive with non-medical partners particularly welcoming the ability to participate in a slightly less 'medical' format.

Saturday morning saw a return to clinical basics, with an excellent overview of the investigation and management of Cushing's syndrome by Dr. Lynette Nieman, a member of an international committee of experts, who recently published a consensus statement on the treatment of ACTH-dependent Cushing's syndrome. *JCEM*, July 1, 2008; 93(7): 2454-62.

The clinical cases were, once again, of an excellent standard and kept the audience interested and fascinated. From Cushing's syndrome conundrums and new mutations, to VIPomas and bizarre methods of consuming orange juice, the weird and wonderful thyroid dilemmas and new life restoring treatments highlighted once again why this weekend is so popular.

Saturday afternoon was pleasant enough for 34 of us to brave the hills and dales of Lorne and the Otway National Park on a walk that took in majestic views of the coastline, treacherous mudslides, (well it was quite slippery), grazing wallabies, kookaburras, cockatoos, rosellas, king parrots, and a total of 5 koalas! Sufficient wildlife to please even the most blasé of Aussies. After 2 hours of fairly energetic trekking, we were rewarded with coffee and cake, leaving sufficient time to stroll home, collapse and rejuvenate in time for dinner.

Congratulations to Dr. Sue Lyn Lau for providing no end of laughs with her entertaining look at the changing face (or otherwise) of endocrinology over the last 50 years. It made Saturday evening truly one to remember.

Thanks go to the organisers, registrars and chair-people Australia wide, who so enthusiastically contributed their time and energy to ensure a successful weekend. See you in Adelaide.

Elke Hendrich

ESA Annual Scientific Meeting,

August 25th – 28th 2008, Melbourne.

This year's ASM, celebrating 50 years of the ESA, had a record attendance, a record number of abstracts submitted, and more plenary and symposia presentations than any previous meeting. The 50th anniversary meeting was formally opened by the Governor of Victoria, Prof. David De Kretser, at an official reception at Government House. It was fitting in this anniversary year that the Harrison lecturer was the renowned Australian scientist Colin Ward, who gave an overview of his group's seminal research elucidating the structure of the insulin receptor and related molecules. The Pincus Taft lecturer, William F Young Jr, gave an elegant outline of the approach to diagnosing and managing the adrenal incidentaloma. The Japan-Australia lecturer, Shigeaki Kato, presented an impressive overview of his group's research using knockout mouse models to identify novel roles and mechanisms of action of nuclear sex hormone receptors. John Bilezikian's plenary lecture on primary hyperparathyroidism included a sneak peak of the new guidelines developed from the 3rd International workshop on primary hyperparathyroidism. And our final plenary lecturer, Lynette Nieman, gave a thought-provoking presentation on the possible pathology of hypercortisolism in the absence of Cushing's syndrome.

The up-and-coming generation of researchers in endocrinology were recognized in two different forums at this year's scientific meeting. There was an extremely high standard of presentations by the award finalists for both the basic science and clinical junior investigator research prizes. Sue Lau from the Garvan Institute was awarded the Novartis Junior Scientist Award, and Ann McCormack from the Kolling Institute of Medical Research was the winner of the CSL Biotherapies Bryan Hudson Clinical Award. Belinda Henry was the winner of the Servier award for the best publication by an early career researcher in the last 12 months, and the results from her study were presented in a symposium presentation. In addition to the usual junior investigator award sessions, the meeting had a special symposium sponsored by the Australian Academy of Science, to recognize outstanding mid career researchers in endocrinology. The four outstanding presentations by Jenny Gunton, Craig Harrison, Peter Liu and Louise Hutley, spanned the breadth of basic and clinical research, and covered diverse areas of research from diabetes to reproductive hormones, andrology and obesity.

The joint symposia with other societies continued to be a feature of the ASM, fostering the collaboration between researchers in related fields. This year the ESA had joint symposia with the SRB on germ cell development, with Neuroendocrinology Australasia on energy expenditure, the AACB on the future of immunoassays, and the ANZBMS on osteoporosis. The scientific program was rounded out by a number of other symposia including basic, clinical and mixed sessions. All oral sessions were very popular, as were the Meet the Expert sessions for the clinical audience, and the diversity and high standard of all presentations reflects the strength of research in endocrinology in Australia.

This year the posters were presented in one unopposed session and combined with the SRB's posters, and the number of attendees at the session, and the enthusiasm of the discussion generated, indicated the great success of this format.

The career development workshop, which was introduced last year for junior basic scientists, was expanded this year to include a parallel session for junior clinicians. Both sessions were also very well attended, and all the speakers gave very insightful and thought-provoking presentations. For those who want to review the presentations in the basic science workshop, which cover the topics of Developing Your CV for the Fellowship System, How to Write a Paper and the Basics of Grantsmanship, they are now available to download from the members area of the ESA website (<https://www.endocrinesociety.org.au/members/index.cfm>).

The Program Organising Committee would like to thank Mike Pickford and his staff at ASN Events, Ivone Johnson, the Local Organising Committee, all session chairs, and all the presenters who participated in the meeting for their hard work and quality of presentations, which all contributed to the outstanding success of the meeting.

Helen MacLean, Chair, POC

AWE Report 2008

The 9th meeting of the “Australasian Branch of Women in Endocrinology” (AWE) was held on Tuesday 26th August in Melbourne, in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary meeting of ESA. Once again we exceeded previous numbers of registrants and enjoyed a pleasant evening’s networking and the chance to recognise our AWE Travel Grant Awardees. We particularly wish to thank DSL-Australasia, part of the Beckman Coulter group of companies, and in particular DSL Australasia’s Managing Director Dr Sylvia Johnson, for their continued support and sponsorship of the reception.

DSL have also generously increased their sponsorship to cover two of the AWE New Investigator Travel Awards this year, with the third Travel Award again sponsored by Novo Nordisk. We sincerely thank these two sponsors for their consistent support, which enables us to provide this travel support to students and scientists who are in the process of establishing their careers. Each of these awards is valued at \$1500 towards the costs of attending the ENDO meeting in the US, and makes attending the meeting viable for many of our students and postdoctoral fellows who may have limited access to other support.

This year, Dr Sylvia Johnson presented the AWE-DSL New Investigator Travel Awards to Johanna Barclay, of the Growth Hormone & Cytokine Signalling Laboratory at the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, University of Queensland, and to Ulla Simanainen, of the Andrology Division at the ANZAC Research Institute. Mr Mads Tang Dalsgaard, the Managing Director of Novo Nordisk in Australia presented the AWE-Novo Nordisk New Investigator Travel Award to Kathryn Backholer, a PhD student from the Department of Physiology at Monash University. AWE Merit certificates were presented to Caroline Jung (St Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne), Vita Birzniece (Garvan Institute), Lisa-Marie Atkin (Children’s Nutrition Research Centre), Anna Barron (University of Western Australia) and Amanda Rickard – (Prince Henry’s Institute). We congratulate each of our Award and Merit certificate winners for their achievements in a strong field – application numbers increased 50% over 2007!

Annual AWE Travel grants of \$1500 each should be available again to attend ENDO 2009 in Washington, DC. These awards are to assist senior PhD students and post-doctoral fellows who are AWE members (and financial members of either the ESA or NZSE) to attend the meeting, and also provide a great networking opportunity with tickets to the Women in Endocrinology dinner at the US ENDO meeting! Application forms will be available from the ESA website in January 2009, and the deadline for receipt of applications is April 17th 2009. The 10th meeting of AWE will again be held in conjunction with the ESA-SRB meeting in Adelaide in August 2009. I look forward to seeing you all there to congratulate next year’s winners!



Dr Sylvia Johnson (DSL Australasia), Mr Mads Tang Dalsgaard (Novo Nordisk) & Dr Kathy Gatford (AWE Director)



Dr Sylvia Johnson with Johanna Barclay and Ulla Simanainen (AWE-DSL New Investigator Travel Awardees)



Mr Mads Tang Dalsgaard (Novo Nordisk) with Kathryn Backholer (AWE-Novo Nordisk New Investigator Travel Awardee)



Women in Endocrinology.





THE ENDOCRINE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

President:
Prof. Leon Bach

President- Elect:
Dr Mark McLean

Honorary Secretary:
A. Prof David Phillips

Treasurer:
A. Prof Vicki Clifton

MINUTES FOR ENDOCRINE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MELBOURNE CONVENTION CENTRE, MELBOURNE
Bellarine 4 room

TUESDAY 26th AUGUST 2008
5.00pm

Attendance:

Paul Williams, Tim Cole, Brian Hirschfeld, David Phillips, Duncan Topliss, Warrick Inder, Gail Risbridger, Judy Ng, Nisha Antony, Stephen Wong, Fredderic Olsson, Kirstyn Carey, Francis Thomas, Rick Nicholson, Brendan Waddell, Peter Liu, John Casey, Ursula Ciller, Ben Canny, Peter Fuller, Mark Hedger, Christine Clarke, Mathis Grossmann, Kathy Gatford, Mary Wlodek, Helen MacLean, David Handlesman, Catherine Choong, Geoff Matthews, Jim Stockigt, Tamas Zadar, Meg Henderson, Mark McLean, Elke Hendrich, Leon Bach, Vicki Clifton, Bu Yeap, Evan Simpson, Peter Ebeling, David Healy, Helena Teede, Jeffrey Zajac

1. Apologies

Ray Rodgers, Don Perry-Keene, Vince Russo, Henry Burger, Paul Farnworth, Iain Clarke

2. Confirmation of Minutes – 3rd September 2007, Christchurch Convention Centre

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting that was held on 3rd September 2007 were accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Tim Cole and seconded by Bu Yeap.

3. Business Arising

Nil

4. President's Report

Meetings and 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Leon stated that ESA have a record number of registrations for the Annual Scientific Meeting this year, which is in part due to our 50th Anniversary celebrations. Council and David Phillips in particular have been very busy preparing for the anniversary, with our celebrations including a reception at Government House, a historical supplement in the Proceedings, a Rising Star symposium in conjunction with the Australian Academy of Science, and a slideshow of ESA achievements at the conference dinner.

Payments for ESA members presenting at ESA meetings

ESA policy is that members are not entitled to payments or reimbursements when they are invited to present at ESA meetings as this is part of their obligation to the Society. Payments would also have a significant impact on our finances. Despite this policy being published in the Newsletter, the POC chair continues to receive requests from some members, which can lead to tension.

The membership discussed this topic. Suggestions include offering free annual dinners and reduced registration fee if the speaker is a member of ESA. This topic will be an agenda item at the next council meeting.

Awards

We awarded the second ESA Scholarship to Lucy Gagliardi. She has recently been offered an NHMRC Scholarship and we have decided not to make a replacement award this year. Jeremy Smith was awarded the inaugural ESA Postdoctoral award. CSL is the new sponsor of the Brian Hudson Clinical Junior Investigator Award. Thanks to Mark McLean for facilitating the latter.

Subscription fees

We are proposing to increase subscription fees over the next 5 years to ensure our financial stability. Vicki will outline the details in her report.

Honorary life members

Council has nominated Peter Fuller, David Handelsman, Gail Risbridger and Duncan Topliss, all of whom have provided outstanding service to ESA, for honorary life membership. In accordance with the Constitution, we now invite members to endorse their nominations.

Leon Bach thanked the following people for their help during the year:

Mark McLean, for taking over the helm when I have been indisposed and for his expert dealings with the RACP.

Vicki Clifton, for bearing the brunt of the stock market decline and its effects on our finances and her assistance with scholarships and postdoctoral awards.

David Phillips, for his tireless work as secretary especially in relation to our 50th Anniversary activities.

Peter Ebeling, Bu Yeap, Elke Hendrich and David Healy, for their contributions to clinical and RACP issues.

Tim Cole, for editing the newsletter.

Evan Simpson, for liaising with international societies.

Jeffrey Zajac, for his wise counsel.

Mark Hedger and his LOC and Helen Maclean and her POC for their excellent organisation of the Scientific Meeting.

Elke Hendrich, for coordinating the Clinical Weekend and Bronwyn Crawford and her POC for organising the Seminar Meeting.

Ivone Johnson, for her administrative expertise and efficiency.

4.1 Motion

Election of new Honorary Life Members on the recommendation of Council

Peter Fuller, David Handelsman,
Gail Risbridger, Duncan Topliss

Approval for the new Honorary Life members was moved by Leon Bach and seconded by Mark McLean. CARRIED by acclamation.

Increase ESA subscription fee over
the next 5 years to:

\$150 for full members and \$80 for students

Approval for increasing the subscription fee was moved by Vicki Clifton and seconded by Ben Canny. CARRIED.

4.2 New Council

Congratulations to the new council. President-Mark McLean, President-elect-Vicki Clifton, Honorary Secretary-David Phillips, Treasurer-Bu Yeap. Councillors; Peter Ebeling, Tim Cole, Evan Simpson, David Healy, Warrick Inder, Helena Teede

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1 Audited Accounts

Approval for the Audited accounts was moved by Tim Cole and seconded by Peter Ebeling. CARRIED.

FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE AUDITOR

The auditors' report indicates that this year we are running at a loss of \$66 995. This is due to the down turn in the financial market over the last 12 months which has resulted in a loss of \$222 842 from the Asgard Investment. The recommendation from the auditor is to move more of the investment into cash funds or term deposits. Overall the expenditure by ESA has not changed significantly from last financial year. There is a 21% decrease in expenses for this financial year relative to last year which relates to the timing of the audit relative to the distribution of our travel awards and our Annual Scientific Meeting expenses which were reduced in this financial year.

Corporate sponsorship

Corporate sponsorship has decreased slightly this year. The sponsors for this financial year are Servier Laboratories and Genzyme Australasia.

Membership subscriptions

Subscription payments have increased since last financial year. We abolished the fee for late subscriptions in an effort to encourage members to pay anytime which appears successful and the introduction of the on-line payment system has made it easier to pay subscriptions. From July 07 to June 08 we had 110 new members. Currently we have 884 members, 676 have paid up to 2008 and 208 unfinancial members.

A recent review of spending from Jan – Dec has identified there will be a rise in expenditure over the next few years in travel costs, speakers costs and scholarships with the introduction of another PhD scholarship and the new post doctoral fellows award. The losses experienced in the Asgard investment have also impacted on budgetary needs for the next few years. By 2009 there will be an increase in expenditure by ESA of \$100 000 so the operating budget will be running at \$300 000 per year. In order to stabilise the financial situation of the society, we propose to increase subscription fees incrementally over the next five years. Next year (2009) fees would be \$110 for members and \$50 for students. This will increase by \$10 each year until the fee is \$150 for members and \$70 for students. These changes are in line with the fees of other societies.

Society's investments

Asgard Investment portfolio – Closing balance as at 21st August 2008- \$853,075.21

Based on the problems experienced in the financial market, Asgard has written a comprehensive report for consideration by the members as detailed below.

Summary

The 2007-2008 financial year saw the worst financial figures for 26 years. The ongoing effects from the US market's credit crunch, the US dollar slumping against the Euro in response to the weakening US economy, surging fuel prices and rising interest rates resulted in downward movements across most asset classes. Listed property trusts also fell an average of 40%.

Recommendations

With the anticipation of market volatility throughout the 1st half of 2008, we adjusted the portfolio last November. This positioning cushioned the portfolio from the full brunt of the market downside.

Our strategy in November 2007 always included our intention to re-align again around September this year to be positioned for when the expected market upside occurred in the last quarter 2008. However, before determining our weightings for this re-balance, we are holding one-on-one meetings with major investment managers and research houses and are currently analysing all data.

Consequently, it is our strong opinion that by adopting a cash stance now with the portfolio, you will simply lock in short-term losses and more importantly, miss the market upside when it occurs.

Intelligent diversification for your portfolio is the answer – spreading the funds across different investments in line with a long term plan instead of cashing up based on short term market moves. By adopting this approach, over the long term you not only reduce the trading costs, you avoid the temptation of attempting to beat the market.

Members discussed the conflicting recommendations from the auditor and Asgard. It was noted that Council members are not in a position to make major financial decisions without expert advice. It was decided that council would consider the outcome of the forthcoming Asgard review and then decide whether to seek independent financial advice.

PhD and Postdoctoral Scholarships

ESA presently funds two PhD scholarships at a cost of \$22 500 for three years to Dr Priya Sumithran and Dr Lucy Gagliardi. Lucy has subsequently been funded by the NHMRC PhD Scholarship and payments will cease at the end of the month. Dr Jeremy Smith was funded for a postdoctoral fellowship in 2008.

Applications for PhD and Postdoctoral scholarships are now available on the ESA website for commencement in 2009. The Postdoctoral Scholarship will be for two years at a sum of \$25 000 per year. The PhD scholarship will be \$22500 for three years. Please encourage students and post doctoral fellows to apply. The scholarships will be offered annually to either a clinical or basic science project in endocrinology.

6. Medical Affairs and RACP Affairs

The interaction of ESA with RACP during the last 12 months has been particularly influenced by the continuing changes in the College's governance structure. ESA now has a seat, along with all of the other specialty societies, on the Adult Medicine Division Council of the RACP. This is the main policy and planning forum of the College and gives the societies a greater say on the running of RACP affairs. ESA continues to have an important role in the training of clinical endocrinologists through the Specialist Advisory Committee, which oversees the progress and certification of all trainees nationally. Additionally, ESA has had an important role in development of the centralized system for appointment of trainees to hospital-based training positions in Victoria and NSW. Finally, ESA has taken on an advocacy role within the RACP with respect to the issue of revising and rationalising prescribing information for important drugs used in our specialty. This activity was initiated in response to a series of concerns raised by Prof J Stockigt about dangerous inaccuracies in official prescribing information for a range of medications. ESA has been in consultation with TGA, pharmaceutical companies, industry peak bodies and the AMA to find a way for clinicians to have input to this information, and to other important aspects of the drug regulatory process. This is a campaign that will provide a template for other specialty societies to take similar action in regard to their own specialty medications.

Peter Ebeling stated that ESA have also been involved in the following:

Revising the PBS, Iodine, Thyrogen use and RANZCR draft guidelines.

Duncan Topliss and Rory Clifton-Bligh are involved in advance training.

ESA have asked Ken Ho to form a sub-committee for Growth Hormone for adults. A representative from APEG will also be on this committee.

Membership also discussed the shortage of hydrocortisone tablets in Australia. ESA and APEG will work together to approach the TGA and relevant authorities.

Paul Williams will submit a report to council on the lack of endocrinology pathology providers.

7. Report on 2008 ESA Meetings • Seminars • Clinical weekend • ASM

The 2008 Seminar, Clinical weekend and ASM have shown near record numbers of registrants and were very successful.

8. Future Meetings

ESA ASM 2009, Adelaide Convention Centre 23rd-26th August

The ASM will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, SA. Helen MacLean is the POC Chair.

ESA Clinical Weekend 2009, 21st-23rd August Barossa Novotel, SA

This meeting will be held at the Barossa Novotel Resort, SA. This meeting will be chaired by Morton Burt

ESA Seminar Meeting 2009, NSW

This meeting will be held from 1st-3rd May 2009 at the Ettalong Mantra Resort, NSW. The convenor for this meeting is Bronwyn Crawford.

9. Other business

Membership discussed the US Endocrine Society meeting. Gail Risbridger stated that unless you are a member of the US Endocrine Society you will not be considered as a symposium speaker. Ken Ho and Iain Clarke are the 2 Australian representatives for the meeting. ESA council will co-ordinate a list of members to speak at this meeting. The list will be available at the beginning of next year. Also, ESA will email membership to ask for their suggestions of speakers for this meeting.

10. Date of next meeting: Adelaide, 24th August 2009

IN MEMORIAM:



The Late Frank I.R. 'Skip' Martin AM

It is with much sadness that ESA reports the passing of Frank 'Skip' Martin last month following a brief illness related to melanoma. Skip was a foundation member (1958) of ESA and was awarded life membership in 1982. Skip's research interests were clinical diabetes, thyroid and pituitary disorders and he was an author of over 150 relevant scientific publications. After studying medicine, in 1957 Skip was appointed a Registrar at the Alfred Hospital under Pincus Taft and Bryan Hudson, who remained close friends and mentors. After a time at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland and Middlesex Hospital, UK, he was appointed Assistant Honorary Endocrinologist at the Royal Melbourne Hospital in 1961 and remained there until 1989. He was Physician to the ante-natal Diabetic Clinic at the Royal Women's Hospital from 1971-89. He had an outstanding career in endocrinology as clinician, researcher and mentor across generations of diabetologists and endocrinologists.

He was also a founding father of the Australian Diabetes Society (ADS) and was made an honorary life member of ADS. Skip is fondly remembered by the ADS secretariat, including during his preparative research and authorship of the landmark publication, 'A History of Diabetes in Australia', written by Skip in the 1990s and published late in the last millennium. Skip was made a member of the Order of Australia in 1995 for his service to medicine, particularly in the field of endocrinology and diabetes. He will be sadly missed by his ESA colleagues and ESA extends their condolences to his family and friends.

Tim Cole Newsletter Editor, ESA

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Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

FUTURE MEETINGS -

2008
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-International Congress of Endocrinology
Rio De Janeiro, 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
Tel: 02 4973 6573
Fax: +61 2 4973 6609
Email: apegasm@willorganise.com.au

2009
19-21 January 2009
International conference on reproductive biology and comparative endocrinology
University Of Hyderabad Hyderabad, India
Website: <http://srbce.org/newconferences.htm>

16-20 March, 2009
12th Mayo Clinic Endocrine Course
Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel
Big Island of Hawaii
Contact: Rebecca Hinchley
Phone: 507-284-2776
Fax: 507-284-5745
Website: <http://endocourse.mayo.edu>

21-25 March, 2009
2nd Joint Meeting of IBMS and ANZBMS
Sydney Convention Centre, Australia
Website: www.ibms2009.com

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

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

2010
29th August-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

