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**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**  
Dr Peter Nash  
Professor Nick Fazzalari  
A/Professor Mark Kotowicz  
Dr Tim Cundy

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:**  
Professor Nick Fazzalari

**ANZBMS Secretariat**  
Ivone Johnson  
145 Macquarie Street  
Sydney, NSW 2000  
Phone: +61 2 9256 5405  
Fax: +61 2 9251 8174  
Email: anzbms@rACP.edu.au  
Website: www.anzbms.org.au

**Design**  
Mark Stevens  
MarkIT Media

**Webmaster**  
Anne Kovach

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since the last newsletter, any one practising in the field of clinical bone disease can't help but have been aware of the story that ran on the 7.30 Report on 11th December about the risk of osteonecrosis of the jaw with bisphosphonates. Needless to say, this story has generated a lot of work for Council and the Therapeutics Subcommittee and it has taken a lot of time to correct the misinformation created in the public's mind. Some background to the story might interest members.

When ANZBMS became aware the story was planned, we contacted 7.30 Report and suggested they not only interview dentists, but also include the bone community. It was agreed that I would be interviewed representing the Society, although I also suggested that Professor Peter Ebeling, as a Member of the ASMBR Task Force on ONJ, also appear on the show. The story that finally went to air was a program with numerous inaccuracies and lack of impartiality, which did not educate the public, but rather made many osteoporosis sufferers needlessly concerned. ANZBMS, in conjunction with Osteoporosis Australia, decided to put out its own press release to try and correct some of these inaccuracies and that was successful in that the 7.30 Report agreed to run a second program on 21st December. This was a much more balanced program with the assistance of Professor Chris Nordin, which put the risk of this complication in an appropriate perspective. However for many patients who had been scared into stopping their therapy already, the damage had been done.

I would particularly like to thank Dr Emma Duncan and Andrew Lowy for their support during the process. Emma made a complaint to Media Watch and Andrew enlisted the support of sister association, ASCEPT. ANZBMS made a written complaint immediately after the first story and did finally receive a letter in response from the ABC on 8th February acknowledging there were a number of inaccuracies and shortcomings in the program leading to misleading information being conveyed.

These matters have been reported to the ABC Board.

On a brighter note, I am pleased to report that progress for the 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting to be held in Melbourne at the end of August is progressing very well with an exciting program being coordinated by Matt Gillespie and Ego Seeman, as outlined in Matt's report. I encourage all members to attend this meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the Endocrine Society of Australia.

Another exciting initiative is the Bone Weekend, which will be held in Melbourne on 19th and 20th April. This meeting is aimed primarily at registrars in training and at this time, we have received expressions of interest from 88 Endocrinology or Rheumatology registrars to attend the meeting. The meeting is being sponsored by Amgen. The idea for the weekend originated with Ego Seeman, but I would also like to thank Peter Nash and Mark Kotowicz for the innovative and exciting program, with a list of speakers that would be the envy of many international Bone meetings.

It is hoped that the Bone Weekend becomes an annual event that not only educates training clinicians who might work in related fields and need to know something about metabolic bone disease, as well as also stimulating some registrars in training to consider working the Bone field itself.

Finally I am pleased to report that our joint efforts with Osteoporosis Australia have led to the award of 3 new scholarships or fellowships in 2008 funded by the ANZ Trustees/Wicking Trust, Trustco in Western Australia and the Myer Foundation. I would like to particularly thank Maria Chilcott, who filled the role of fundraiser under Judy Stenmark's supervision in the first year. Maria has moved onto other things and a new fundraiser, Chris Browne, has recently been appointed.

**Professor Philip Sambrook**

## ANZBMS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Jessica Costa  
Gustavo Duque  
Elizabeth Lawrie  
Sunita Sandhu

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of ANZBMS will be held at Hilton on the Park, Melbourne on Friday 29th August 2008 at 5.00pm. All members are encouraged to attend the meeting at which the Roger Melick Young Investigator Award, Christopher & Margie Nordin Young Investigator Poster Award, ANZBMS/AMGEN Outstanding Abstract Award, Christine & T. Jack Martin Research Travel Grant, Kaye Ibbertson Award for Metabolic Bone Disease and the Sol Posen Research award.

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

all awards and grants at <http://anzbms.org.au/resources/grants/index.cfm>

### ANZBMS/AMGEN OUTSTANDING ABSTRACT AWARD CRITERIA

The Program Organising Committee will now award five prizes of US\$1000 to the abstracts receiving the highest score.

Eligibility criteria:

- The applicant must be a financial member of ANZBMS at the time of the application.
- The applicant must have made a substantial contribution to the work and be first and presenting author of the paper to be delivered at the ANZBMS Annual Scientific Meeting.
- Applicants eligible for a Young Investigator Award may also apply for an Outstanding Abstract Award.
- Applicants with a PhD or MD degree (or equivalent) should have completed this degree within the past 10 years

**Deadline: 1st June 2008**

### ANZBMS TRAVEL GRANT CRITERIA 2008

Eligibility criteria:

- The applicant must be a financial member of ANZBMS at the time of the application.
- The applicant must have made a substantial contribution to the work and be first and presenting author of the paper to be delivered at the ANZBMS Annual Scientific Meeting.
- The applicant must be employed at a level no higher than lecturer or Institutional Research Fellow.

Selection:

Preference will be given to students, research assistants and to the presenters of those abstracts that receive the highest ranking by the Programme Organising Committee. The amount allocated to each travel grant will be determined according to the number of successful applications and the funds available.

**Deadline: 1st June 2008**

### CHRISTOPHER AND MARGIE NORDIN YOUNG INVESTIGATOR POSTER AWARD CRITERIA 2008

Eligibility criteria:

- The applicant must be a financial member of ANZBMS at the time of the application.
- The applicant must have made a substantial contribution to the work and be first and presenting author of the paper to be delivered at the ANZBMS Annual Scientific Meeting.
- The applicant must be currently undertaking work towards a higher degree (including FRACP).

Selection:

The Programme Organising Committee will be responsible for selecting a short list of candidates for the award. This selection will be on the basis of abstract quality. A panel of judges will assess the short-listed presentations to select the winner.

Award Amount: \$1000

**Deadline: 1st June 2008**

### KAYE IBBERTSON AWARD FOR METABOLIC BONE DISEASE CRITERIA 2008

Eligibility Criteria

The award is based on the productivity of the applicant, in terms of published clinical and/or basic research, in the field of metabolic bone disease. The award will be based on the applicant's best 5 papers, of which the applicant is first author, in the last 5 years. The contribution of the applicant as an author must be stated. Publications must be relevant to bone. The winner will be announced at the AGM.

- The applicant must have been a financial member of ANZBMS for at least 2 years at the time of the application.
- Applicants with a PhD or MD degree (or equivalent) should have completed this degree within the past 10 years.

Award Amount: \$1000

**Deadline: 1st June 2008**

# AWARDS AND GRANTS

all awards and grants at <http://anzbms.org.au/resources/grants/index.cfm>

## ROGER MELICK YOUNG INVESTIGATOR

### AWARD CRITERIA 2008

#### Eligibility criteria:

- The applicant must be a financial member of ANZBMS at the time of the application.
- The applicant must have made a substantial contribution to the work and be first and presenting author of the paper to be delivered at the ANZBMS Annual Scientific Meeting.
- The applicant must be currently undertaking work towards a higher degree (including FRACP).

#### Selection:

The Programme Organising Committee will be responsible for selecting a short list of candidates for the award. This selection will be on the basis of abstract quality. A panel of judges will assess the short-listed presentations to select the winner.

Award Amount: \$1000

**Deadline: 1st June 2008**

## SOL POSEN RESEARCH AWARD

### CRITERIA 2008

#### Eligibility Criteria

The award is based on the best paper published in the 18 months prior to the closing date of the award. Criteria includes:

- The applicant must be a financial member of ANZBMS at the time of the application.
- Research student or within of 5 years of obtaining PhD, Masters, FRACP or equivalent.
- No one paper can receive the award more than once, although applicants can submit the same paper in different years
- Applicants should be the first author.

Award Amount: \$1000

**Deadline: 1st June 2008**

## CHRISTINE & T. JACK MARTIN RESEARCH TRAVEL GRANT

Supported by a grant from "Amgen"

#### Eligibility Criteria:

Any financial member of the ANZBMS with continuous membership for 12 months, or more, will be eligible to apply. Preference will be given to members in the training phase of their careers, and current members of Council are not eligible to apply. Applicants with a PhD or MD degree

(or equivalent) should have completed this degree within the past 10 years.

#### Applications:

The closing date for the award for travel in 2009 is 15 August 2008. The application should include an itinerary for the proposed travel, a research proposal, a supporting letter from the laboratory where the major part of the work will be carried out, a budget and the curriculum vitae of the applicant.

#### Itinerary:

A one (1) page proposal for travel, including meetings and laboratories to be visited. A general statement of the reason for the travel should be included. Indicate the contact person in each laboratory, and a brief purpose for each visit. For conferences, please note if you intend to present a paper or poster.

#### Research proposal:

This must not exceed 3 pages (A4), including references. The proposal should include: the aims and significance of the work to be performed a brief description of methods to be used or learned and the expected outcomes (including a statement of the value of the travel / project to the applicant).

#### Curriculum Vitae:

A summary curriculum vitae should be included for assessment of track record. This should include publications for the past three (3) years, and may include the name of at least one referee. This must not exceed 4 pages.

#### Supporting documentation:

Applications should include a letter of support from the head of the laboratory where the major work will be undertaken. Higher degree students should also include a letter of support/endorsement from their principal supervisor indicating that they approve of the proposed travel / project.

#### Budget:

Applications up to \$15,000 will be considered, based on merit, and funded with consideration of the proposed budget. The grant may be used for any purpose associated with achievement of the aims of the travel and research project. This includes travel and accommodation, registration at conferences and bench fees (maintenance costs) for the project to be undertaken in the proposed laboratory. A one (1) page budget proposal should be submitted.

## ANZBMS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES:

Amgen

Eli Lilly Australia

Fonterra Brands

Insight

Key Pharmaceuticals

Medtel

Merck Sharp & Dohme  
(Australia)

Novartis Pharmaceuticals

Osteoporosis Australia/IOF

Sanofi-Aventis

Servier Laboratories

Surgical Synergies

Thomson Scientific  
Instruments/Skyscan

# ANZBMS MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

**Reminder to pay your subscription dues**  
ANZBMS 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 ANZBMS activities.

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

The screenshot shows the 'Join ANZBMS' page of the ANZBMS website. The top navigation bar includes links for About Us, Membership, News, Events, Resources, and Contact Us. On the left, there's a sidebar with links for membership, Join ANZBMS, Subscription Renewals, Privacy Policy, and Life Members. The main content area is titled 'Join ANZBMS' and includes sections for 'Eligibility' (describing who can join) and 'Annual Membership Fees' (listing fees for Full members, Overseas members, Student members, Overseas Student members, and Retired members). It also includes a note about membership periods and GST. A link to download the application form is provided, along with a note about Adobe Acrobat Reader. To the right, a box lists 'Advantages of Membership to the ANZBMS' which include attendance at meetings, travel grants, awards, and discounts.

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Abstract	1st June 2008
Early bird registration	1st June 2008
Travel Grant	1st June 2008
Roger Melick Young Investigator Award	1st June 2008
ANZBMS/AMGEN Outstanding Abstract Award	1st June 2008
Chris and Margie Nordin Poster Award	1st June 2008
Kaye Ibbertson Award on Metabolic Bone Disease	1st June 2008

## IOF ANNOUNCEMENT

IOF announces Progress in Osteoporosis available FREE online. A free online review journal to keep you abreast of the latest research in osteoporosis.

Progress in Osteoporosis is a leading quarterly review journal that provides a timely update of the most recent articles on scientific advances in the field of osteoporosis.

- Regular editorial overviews contain accurate summaries and incisive commentaries on the most relevant papers.
- Most original research and reviews are cited.
- Summaries and figures are provided for readers who may not have easy access to all the specialist literature.

VISIT [WWW.IOFBONEHEALTH.ORG](http://WWW.IOFBONEHEALTH.ORG)

## OSTEOPOROSIS AUSTRALIA UPDATE

In 2008, ANZBMS is represented on the Board of Osteoporosis Australia by Profs Philip Sambrook and Rebecca Mason. The 2008 Chair of the Medical and Scientific Committee of OA is Prof Peter Ebeling, a former President of ANZBMS.

OA continues to produce and update a number of consumer guides, sponsored by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. The "Calcium, Vitamin D and Osteoporosis" guides for GPs and consumers have recently been updated. Work is progressing on an exercise guide and a guide for nurses.

The Research Fund is well on the way to a goal of \$1 million dollars. New awards were made in 2008 for the new OA/RACP Research Scholarship and 2 new OA/NHMRC scholarships. New funding for research projects has been obtained from the Myer Foundation (PhD scholarship); Trustco- Fred P Archer Charitable Trust - strong bones research scholarship (PhD scholarship tenable in WA) and from the ANZ Trustees/JO & JR Wicking Trust -Community exercise project (3-year project grant tenable in Vic).

**Professor Rebecca S Mason**

## 2ND JOINT MEETING OF IBMS AND ANZBMS

21-25 March, 2009  
Sydney Convention Centre,  
Australia  
Website:  
<http://www.ibms2009.com/>

### Key Dates

The conference opens on Sunday 22nd March 2009 with an evening lecture and welcome function, and will finish on Wednesday 25th March.

12th December 2008:  
Early Bird Deadline.

12th December 2008:  
Closing submission date for all submitters wishing to be considered for orals or plenary posters.

30th January 2009:  
closing submission date for all submitters wishing to be considered for poster only submissions.

30th January 2009:  
Speaking program announcement and listing on the web (without abstracts).

The Cancer and Bone Meeting (CABS) commences at the same venue on the 25th and finishes on Friday 27th March

## THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE

The Therapeutics Committee has had a number of projects since the last newsletter. Reference has already been made above to the 7.30 Report and a number of members of the Therapeutics Committee were involved in the ANZBMS response to the program. We have also recently been in contact with the National Prescribing Service about their guidelines for ranking therapies for osteoporosis. The Therapeutics Committee are concerned that these guidelines aren't evidence-based and have approached the NPS to have a meeting to try and be sure that any material they put out does reflect the true evidence base in regard to the treatment of osteoporosis. We have also been in contact with ADEC about pending new drugs for the treatment of osteoporosis and the Society's view of where they might fit from the clinician's point of view.

The Committee has also written to the Medical Services Advisory Committee to try and find out the status of our application to widen the Medicare rebate for bone densitometry to include patients treated with drugs that may cause rapid bone loss, such as the aromatase inhibitors. Given these agents are becoming increasing prescribed for the treatment of breast cancer, this is an important issue which we will pursue.

**Professor Philip Sambrook**

## ANZBMS PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Society's Calcium Position Paper has been submitted to the Medical Journal of Australia and is currently under review. I would like to thank those who contributed to this effort, not only the writing committee but also those who provided valuable input to the final document. Other issues on the committee's agenda include input into the development of a national curriculum for medical schools on musculoskeletal disorders and curriculum development for the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) for Basic Physician Trainees and Advanced Trainees in Endocrinology.

A proposal to establish physician training positions in Metabolic Bone Disorders has been given some support by the RACP Committee for Physician Training. These positions would be suitable for Physician Trainees in Endocrinology, Rheumatology, Geriatrics and possibly Nephrology. The principal stumbling block is that individual Committees responsible for subspecialty training may be loathe to have trainees from other specialties occupying training positions

that have previously been monopolised by trainees from a particular craft group. Thus, ideally new training position will need to be established and this would require funding and demonstration that the new training position would not reduce training opportunities/exposure of existing trainees. Currently, there is a possibility of obtaining Commonwealth funding for new training post through the Extended Specialists Training Program (ESTP) that has replaced the Outer Metropolitan Training Program.

The society has recently approached the Health Insurance Commission to request a Medicare Benefit for Bone Densitometry for women receiving treatment with aromatase inhibitors for breast cancer. This will permit identification of women using these agents who are at greatest risk of fracture but will then raise the issue of access to therapy as it is likely that the vast majority of these patients will probably not qualify for a PBS subsidy for osteoporosis therapies.

**Associate Professor Mark Kotowicz**

# DATES FOR THE DIARY

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## 2008

### 15-18th June 2008

ENDO 2008  
San Francisco  
Website: <http://www.endo-society.org/endo/>

### 10-14th August 2008

XXII International Congress of  
The Transplantation Society  
Sydney Convention Centre, Darling Harbour, NSW  
Website: [www.transplantation2008.org](http://www.transplantation2008.org)

### 22-24th August 2008

ESA Clinical Weekend  
Cumberland Lorne Resort, VIC  
Website: [www.esaclinicalweekend.org.au](http://www.esaclinicalweekend.org.au)

### 25-28 August 2008

ESA/SRB ASM  
Melbourne Convention Centre  
Website: [www.esa-srb.org.au](http://www.esa-srb.org.au)

### 28-30 August 2008

ADS/ADEA ASM  
Melbourne Convention Centre  
Website: [www.ade-adea.org.au](http://www.ade-adea.org.au)

### 28-31 August 2008

ANZBMS 18th ASM  
Hilton on the Park, Melbourne  
Website: [www.anzbms.org.au](http://www.anzbms.org.au)

### 12-16 September 2008

ASBMR  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada  
Website: [www.asbmr.org](http://www.asbmr.org)

### 22-25 October 2008

IBMS  
Beijing, China  
Website: <http://www.ibmsonline.org/Meetings/IBMSBeijing/tabid/157/Default.aspx>

### 8-12th November 2008

ICE 2008  
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.ahmrcongress.org.au](http://www.ahmrcongress.org.au)

### 3-7 December 2008

IOF World Congress on Osteoporosis  
Bangkok, Thailand  
Website: <http://www.iofbonehealth.org/wco/2008/homepage.html>

## 2009

### 21st-25th March, 2009

2nd Joint Meeting of IBMS and ANZBMS  
Sydney Convention Centre, Australia  
Website: [www.anzbms.org.au](http://www.anzbms.org.au)

### 30th August-2nd September 2009

ESA/SRB ASM  
Adelaide Convention Centre  
Website: [www.esa-srb.org.au](http://www.esa-srb.org.au)

### 2nd-5th September 2009

ADS/ADEA ASM  
Adelaide Convention Centre  
Website: [www.ads-adea.org.au](http://www.ads-adea.org.au)

### 11-15th September 2009

ASBMR 31st Annual Meeting  
Colorado Convention Center  
Denver, Colorado, USA  
Website: <http://www.asbmr.org/meeting/meetingsindex.cfm>

## 18TH ANZBMS ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

On behalf of the Program Organising Committee of the ANZBMS I would like to invite you all to attend the 18th ANZBMS Annual Scientific Meeting to be held at Hilton on the Park in Melbourne on 28-30th August 2008.

It's not too early to start thinking about your abstracts for the ANZBMS Annual Scientific Meeting. June 1st will be the Abstract Deadline as well as the closing date for Early Registration and for all Awards and Travel Grants.

The scientific and social programs will provide endless opportunities for productive interactions. We have planned an exciting scientific program, with excellent international speakers

Invited plenary speakers include Professor John Bilezikian from Columbia University, New York, Professor Mitch Schaffler from Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, and Professor Shigeaki Kato from The University of Tokyo, Japan.

**ANZBMS** is a professional medical / scientific society established in 1989 to bring together clinical and experimental scientists and physicians actively involved in the study of bone and mineral metabolism in Australia and New Zealand.

Members, if eligible should consider applying for any of the societies awards - the Roger Melick Young Investigator Award, Christopher & Margie Nordin Young Investigator Poster Award, ANZBMS Outstanding Abstract Award, Christine & T. Jack Martin Research Travel Grant, Kaye Ibbertson Award for Metabolic Bone Disease and the Sol Posen Research Award, and ANZBMS Travel Awards.

I encourage all members to attend this meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the Endocrine Society of Australia. There will be a joint ESA/ANZBMS session on Thursday 28th August 2008.

Saturday 30th of August will be a full day of presentations followed by the conference dinner on Saturday night. As such, make your departure arrangements for Sunday morning or later to enjoy the sights of Melbourne.

Please visit the web site at <http://www.anzbms.org.au> for updated information and on-line registration.

**Professor Matthew Gillespie**