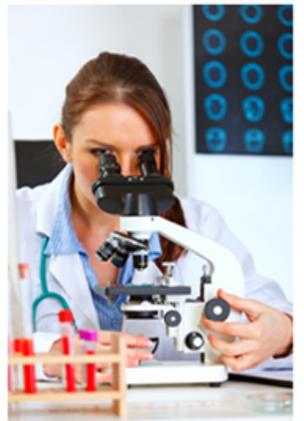




ANZBMS

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



**Australian and New Zealand
Bone and Mineral Society**

ANZBMS

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ABN: 69 072 086 894

Aims & Goals

The aims and goals of the Society are to:

- act as the principal professional body for scientists and clinicians involved in research and management of patients in the field of metabolic bone disease and mineral metabolism in Australia and New Zealand;
- act as the premier forum for the presentation of research and debate about clinical and metabolic bone disease in Australia and New Zealand; and
- advance the education of clinicians, allied health professionals and the public in the nature of and management of diseases impacting upon the skeleton.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I come to the end of my second year as President, it is with great pleasure that I share a summary of the Society's key activities, milestones, and achievements over the last twelve months.

ANZBMS has continued to strengthen its role as the leader in bone research, education, and clinical practice, reflecting our commitment to improving patient outcomes in osteoporosis and other bone and mineral disorders. We have endeavoured to support our early career investigators, our research community in general, and our clinical members. We have undertaken a comprehensive survey of our members and are acting on these results.

This report outlines some of the Society's most significant activities and developments over the last year. This is not intended to be exhaustive and reflects some of my biases. A fuller overview of our activities should come through with reading the detail of all the other committee reports.

Meetings

Our Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) remains the most anticipated event on the calendar, and this year's meeting again looks fantastic. I applaud the efforts of our POC leads, Agnes Arthur and Kirtan Ganda, the Meetings Committee Chair, Michelle McDonald, and the wider POC. They have put together a well-balanced program with

cutting-edge research presentations and interactive topics ranging from bone disease pathogenesis to innovative therapeutic approaches. I am also impressed by the Early Career focussed (and organised) sessions that have become such an important part of our Society. Our commitment to supporting the career development of our junior researchers has also been strong and is hopefully an example to the wider research community. It is a particular delight to be able to host Emma Duncan as one of our guests. Emma is a former President of ANZBMS and current President of ASBMR. I thank her for committing the time to be here despite her multicontinental duties and responsibilities.

ANZBMS has also hosted a range of other meetings over the last year. These include the Advanced Clinical Postgraduate Course which is proving an excellent update for both trainees and seasoned practitioners. This year's meeting had over 220 registrants and the attendee feedback was exceptional.

ANZBMS is now unquestionably the major source of education in the bone and mineral space for both trainees and established consultants. In addition, the CPC has organised excellent webinars covering a diverse range of clinical areas. I thank Jasna Aleksova, the members of the CPC Committee and the faculty of these meetings for such a comprehensive and stimulating program.

Our Clinical Imaging Committee has also held 2 bone densitometry courses. These continue to be the flagship densitometry courses nationally. Thanks Nick Pocock and the team for continuing to lead these courses.

We also look forward to how we can further enhance our meetings profile and add value for our members. I will leave it to the Meetings Committee report to update you on these exciting developments.

Research Grants and Fellowships:

ANZBMS continues to be committed to supporting the next generation of researchers in the field of bone and mineral metabolism. This is through a range of opportunities including presentations and awards at the ASM and mentorship and grant writing support. More of this will be detailed through the ECIC and Research Committee reports. Traditionally, ANZBMS has not been in a position to directly fund research grants. However, in recent years we have had a fruitful collaboration with the Bone Health Foundation (BHF) to co-fund a range of grants and this has continued again this year. These include Health Innovation, Interdisciplinary Collaborative, and Grand-in-Aid grants. We are continuing to look at ways we can fund research jointly, addressing aspects of the missions of both societies

where they overlap. I personally thank the effort the BHF board (and Linda Stanton in particular) has made to work between our societies despite some of the differences in the way we are set up. As a society we are in the debt of two people who really have made this relationship work. These are Mark Forwood who had the vision to establish this collaboration, and Michelle McDonald who has employing her considerable interpersonal skills and infectious enthusiasm to build trust and resilience into the relationship.

Advocacy for Bone Health:

As I know the membership desires, ANZBMS remains an advocate for policies that prioritize bone health at both the state and national governmental levels. This year, we continued our advocacy efforts to increase funding for musculoskeletal research and improve access to new bone disease diagnostic tests and treatments. Much of this advocacy is done quietly but effectively through our Clinical Practice and Therapeutics Committees or in association with partners such as Healthy Bones Australia. A notable example of significant successes in terms of advocacy is our support for the PBS listing of abaloparatide as a first and second line agent in people with osteoporosis at high risk of fracture.

The PBAC made note that support from societies such as ours was an important part of their decision making. Although not yet available on the PBS we are expecting it to be available any time soon. We have also now completed publication of a series of articles related to the Australian experience of hypophosphataemia and its treatment through a generous grant from Kyowa Kirin. This culminates a series of successful endeavours designed to assist clinicians in looking after patients with this condition.

I would like to give a further shout-out here to Nick Pocock and his colleagues for his feedback on behalf of ANZBMS on the "Review of Bone Mineral Densitometry services on the Medicare Benefits Schedule". The importance of this document and Nick's response might not be immediately evident but Nick pulled together the evidence in support of funding multiple areas of clinical care that we would like to see introduced or expanded within Australia.

Society Governance, Feedback and Sustainability:

My predecessors have ensured that ANZBMS has robust processes and governance which makes the President role easier and more enjoyable. We have as a committee made some changes to some aspects of how we work and these can be discussed at the AGM as needed.

We remain acutely aware that we are a binational society and we try to ensure that the Aotearoa/New Zealand perspective is not missed even if many of our activities are based in Australia. More importantly, I would like to thank all members of Council and the chairs and members of all of our committees. There is no way I can name you all personally but you collectively have demonstrated extremely high congeniality and professionalism. There are however 3 officers of the Society that have to be mentioned, much like I did in the last report. ANZBMS should recognise the boundless energy of Michelle McDonald in her role as President-Elect. She also brings an international strategic perspective that will ensure ANZBMS maintains its role as a leader in the global bone field. We will have an exceptional President for the next two years. I'd like to thank Mark Forwood as immediate Past-President. Not only did Mark manage the society for several weeks of my initial term while I dealt with some family emergencies but he has continued to be a sounding board and source of advice and wisdom for me and the Council. Last, but not least, Rachel Davey in her role of treasurer has overseen a program of financial management that has not only ensured our financial viability (despite declining

funding from companies) but has established a foundation for prudent investment in our members interests over the next few years.

On a final note, I'd like to reiterate again that there is a personal cost, in terms of time and energy, for our members that take roles on Council or ANZBMS committees. At some times of the year this can be considerable. I am keen that we don't end up burning out, or otherwise disadvantaging, our members that volunteer for these critical positions. As such, I would ask you as members to also recognise these contributions where you can. Due to legal advice, I request you refrain from hugging every Committee member you meet (at least not without their consent) but the odd expression of thanks or constructive positive feedback would be very much appreciated and would help our society run.

Please enjoy the Annual Meeting and catch up with me if you have any suggestions regarding improving our society.

Mark Cooper



Professor Mark Cooper
President



On behalf of the Program Organising Committee and the Council of ANZBMS, I would like to invite you to the 36th ANZBMS Annual Scientific Meeting taking place in Auckland. We are putting together an outstanding scientific program across basic, clinical and allied health topics. There will also be plentiful opportunities for scientific networking.

Whether you are an early or mid-career investigator, clinician, basic scientist, or allied health professional, the meeting will allow you to reconnect with peers, drive new collaborations and learn from the exciting program of cutting-edge musculoskeletal science.

Registrations and abstract submissions will open in early 2026.

**Professor Mark Cooper
President of ANZBMS**



TREASURER'S REPORT

Finance Committee

Rachel Davey (Chair)
Allison Pettit
Mark Cooper
Jill Cornish
Mark Forwood
Ivone Johnson

General Financial Result 2024-2025 Financial Year

2025 Member's funds on 30
June 2025 = \$1,329,432 (2024 =
\$1,294,113)

Overall Profit

\$35,319 Profit (2024 =
\$184,121 Profit)

The Society remains in a sound financial position. With a moderate drop in interest rates over the last financial year (2025: 3.5–4.5% vs 2024: 4.95–5.35%), income from the Society's term deposits decreased by \$13,000. This was partly offset by an increase in returns from the managed fund (HUB 24) of \$6,850. Revenue from our scientific and satellite meetings continues to be strong, and the Society thanks all members involved for their significant contributions.

Income

Our society income decreased for the 2024-2025 period:

Investment income (HUB24) –
\$22,353 (2024 = \$15,499)

Market value movement on
investments (HUB24) - \$23,608
(2024 = \$19,927)

Interest from term deposits –
\$5,239 (2024 = \$18,507)

#Meeting proceeds – \$40,310
(2024 = \$357,465)

Densitometry/Dexa courses –
\$69,409 (2024 = \$75,905)

Advanced Clinical Postgraduate
Meeting – \$45,977 (2024 =
\$28,500)

Osteoporosis Webinar - \$564
(2024 = \$4,636)

Sponsorship – \$11,364 (2024 =
\$56,209)

Membership and Subscriptions –
\$57,746 (2024 = \$63,509)

#Following Australian accounting standards, the Auditor assigns ASM revenues to the year received, and expenditure to the year when committed. Consequently, the gross income and gross expenditure in respect of each ASM will be reflected in the profit and loss account, as they occur, rather than simply recognising a 'net profit' of each individual meeting.

Expenses

Our society expenses decreased for the 2024-2025 period:

#Meetings – \$71,626 (2024 =
\$283,659)

Awards – \$44,734 (2024 =
\$54,670)

Travel Grants - \$14,550 (2024 =
\$8,240)

Office (i.e. rent, secretariat,
office expenses, website) –
\$93,158 (2024 = \$69,579)

Audit/Accounting – \$5,267
(2024 = \$5,668)

Miscellaneous – \$12,448 (2024
= \$26,714)

Investments (as of November 2024)

Commonwealth Bank

Balance in Premium Business
Cheque Account \$169,206

Balance in Business online saver
\$654

Judo Bank Term Deposit

Invested on: 2 November 2025

Maturity date: 2 November
2026

Interest rate: 4.15% p.a.
(Compounded at maturity)

\$453,848 (included in HUB 24
managed fund figure below)

Members Equity Bank

Invested on: 26 January 2025

Maturity date: 26 January 2026

Interest rate: 4.15% p.a.
(Compounded at maturity)

\$143,000 (included in HUB 24 managed fund figure below)

HUB 24 managed fund (as at 7/11/25) \$1,152,862.00

Total Accumulated Funds

\$1,322,722.00

Key Outcomes

Optional discounted 2- and 3-year memberships were introduced for ANZBMS full members in January 2023. In 2024, an increasing number of members chose to renew for multiple years, reflecting strong engagement and satisfaction with this option. Currently, 270 members are subscribed through to 2025, 19 through to 2026, and 12 through to 2027, a total of **301 financial members**. This represents a slight increase in membership numbers compared with the previous year. The Society invests surplus funds raised from these 2- and 3- year memberships and donations to generate further income to continue to give back to our membership in the form of grants and training courses in accordance with the Society's strategic objectives.

On behalf of the Society, I would like to thank the following members for their donations in the 2024-2025 financial year; Farahnaz Salehi Nia, Tuan Van Nguyen, Mark Raymond Forwood, Terrence Diamond, Michael Bennett and Mark Cooper, in addition to those members who wish to remain anonymous.

The profits raised in the 2024-2025 financial year have enabled ANZBMS to continue its partnership with the Bone Health Foundation (BHF) in 2025 through joint grant initiatives, including the ANZBMS Bone Health Foundation Health Innovation Grant and the ANZBMS Bone Health Foundation Grant-In-Aid. These funds also support the continuation of our awards program, including the Christine and T. Jack Martin Research Travel Grant and ECIC initiatives such as the B.O.N.E. Program. In addition, profits from the last financial year are being used to support the IFMRS Herbert Fleisch Workshop: Asia Pacific 2025, to be held in Cairns following the 2025 ANZBMS Annual Scientific Meeting (12-14 November 2025), a 3-day residential program connecting musculoskeletal researchers at all career stages with leading scientists for learning, networking, and hands-on experience.

Although down from our previous profit in 2023-2024, the profits from this year (2024-2025) will allow us to continue this level of funding support for our members across these initiatives.

I would like to offer my thanks to members of the Finance Committee, Ivone Johnson and Melissa Douglas for their guidance and support. Thank you also to Rod Laws of Tinworth & Co Chartered Accounts for auditing the accounts and to Jason Dix from Carrington Financial Services for managing our HUB24 Portfolio and Term Deposits.



**Associate Professor
Rachel Davey
Treasurer**

THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE

The Therapeutics Committee met quarterly in 2024/25 and the following matters were considered:

1. Updating RACGP guidelines regarding the 1st line indications for romosozumab in treatment of osteoporosis – in progress (per advice from Prof Peter Wong, HBA)
2. Palovarotene was listed on the PBS for treatment of fibrodysplasia ossificans progressiva
3. Abaloparatide received recommendation by PBAC for treatment of patients with severe established osteoporosis and very high risk of fracture (but not yet listed on PBS)
4. Palopegteriparatide has not at this stage been recommended by PBAC for treatment of chronic hypoparathyroidism
5. The need to increase awareness regarding the risk of severe hypocalcaemia and hypophosphataemia resulting from using potent anti-resorptive treatments (denosumab, zoledronic acid) in close proximity to intravenous iron. Christian Girgis has advised that eTherapeutic Guidelines will specifically address this risk, and the Therapeutics Committee will advise ANZBMS on appropriate cross-reference when available.
6. We have discussed setting up a working group to

facilitate national guidelines on diagnosis and management of atypical femur fractures; Hanh Nguyen and Peter Ebeling are on the ASBMR task force for AFFs, and an updated report including new case definition is expected soon.

7. Christian Girgis chaired the group on national guidelines for medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaw, and which will be published soon.

8. Shejil Kumar and Jess Sandy are drafting two papers for a national audience on diagnosis and management of hypophosphataemia

I am pleased to report measurement of plasma/serum FGF23 for diagnosis of XLH is now supported by the MBS (item 66520). Credit for this achievement rests primarily with Richard Prince.

I would like to acknowledge the Therapeutics Committee members for their hard work this year: Cherie Chiang, Christian Girgis, Hanh Nguyen, Peter Simm, Alan Doube and Richard Prince. Alan has indicated he will step down from the Committee after this year's AGM.



**Professor Roderick
Clifton-Bligh**
Chair Therapeutics Committee

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Current members

Chair(s): Josh Lewis

(epidemiology, bone-vascular)

Members: Rebecca Mason (basic, clinical vitamin D, calcium and bone NSW), Dawn Coates (Bone bioengineering and stem cell biology, New Zealand), Rob Blank (basic, translational, and clinical aspects of bone biology Vic), Natalie Hyde (epidemiology preventative health research Vic), Marc Sim (epidemiology - nutrition and exercise WA), Paul Anderson (basic/preclinical bone and mineral SA), John Kemp (genetics, basic, mendelian randomisation QLD), Michael Thompson (Endocrinology, diabetes, osteoporosis, thyroid & parathyroid problems Tas), Lucy Collins (clinical adult and paediatric bone disorders Vic), Thach Tran (Epidemiology, experimental design biostatistics NSW) and Fran Milat (Clinical Endocrinology - osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease Vic).

This committee is charged to:

- Organize and judge competitions for ANZBMS research awards.
- Organize advocacy efforts for musculoskeletal research funding.
- Promote the careers of the society's junior investigators.
- In partnership with the therapeutics committee, organize advocacy efforts for musculoskeletal drug pharmacy benefits coverage.
- In partnership with the therapeutics committee, develop society positions on

evidence-based clinical best practices.

- Liaise with partner societies to promote a unified voice for musculoskeletal research.

Chair's Report:

It has been another busy and exciting year for the ANZBMS research committee in 2025 with three main activities supported. I would like to thank all the committee members for being fantastic to work with the many awards and grants this year.

Welcoming new committee members: Dawn Coates .

Details of Activities:

1. Review of ANZBMS annual awards

Sol Posen Research Award: The award is based on the best paper published in the 18 months prior to the closing date of the award by an applicant who must be undertaking a higher degree or be within 5 years full-time equivalent of obtaining their higher degree (PhD, Masters, FRACP or equivalent). This year, we received 6 applications for the Sol Posen Award. Assessment is based on 4 criteria (scientific rigor, innovation, significance, and interest). Thank you to the research committee for their time assessing this award.

ANZBMS Kaye Ibbertson Award for Bone and Mineral Medicine: The award is open to applicants with a higher degree (PhD or equivalent) completed within the past 15 years and at least 2 years as ANZBMS member, and 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 is based on the applicant's best 5 papers, of which the applicant is an author, in the last 8 years. There were 2 applicants for this award. The assessment is based on 4 criteria: innovation / significance, author's contribution, journal prestige and citations. This year and in future, we asked applicants to submit the papers for this award and the Sol Posen award to facilitate review by the RC. Thank you to the research committee for their time assessing this award.

Christine & T. Jack Martin Research Travel Grant. The aim of the Grant is to facilitate travel to undertake bone and mineral research in any aspect of basic or clinical science. It is expected that travel would be initiated in the year after the award is made.

The award is open to financial members of the Society and preference will be given to applications from members who are in the training phase of their careers. (i.e., within 15 years of obtaining their higher degree (full-time equivalent). We had two applicants this year. Special thanks to Rebecca Mason and the research committee members that reviewed the grant applications.

The Roger Mellick Young Investigator Award and the Christopher and Margie Nordin Young Investigator Poster Award

finalists have been/will be chosen by the ASM Program Committee. The awards will be judged at the ASM and awardees announced at the conference dinner. A special thanks to Natalie Hyde for organising the judging of these awards.

2. Review of the ANZBMS-BHF grants

2025 ANZBMS-BHF Health Innovation Grants. In conjunction with BHF we developed a new EOI and grant review process to reduce the burden on applicants and the grant reviewers given there were 21 applications for 1 grant in 2024. There were 30 EOIs submitted, and the grant review panel members reviewed all EOIs after excluding applications with COIs (at least 4 reviewers per application - mean 7.2 per application). The top 7 applications were invited to the next round to prepare a full application for external review. The top 2 grants were successful for funding. The feedback from the grant review panel was positive for the EOI process of shortlisting, and no substantive concerns were raised.

2025 ANZBMS-BHF Grants-in-Aid. There were only 4 applications for the grants-in-aid with one being ineligible (no national grant applied for). One grant was supported for funding. Concerns were raised about the number and quality of the

applications to this scheme and whether it would be worthwhile to divert funding to other grants where there is more interest.

Thanks to all the members of the research committee and grant review panels for their hard work and time reviewing these. A special thanks to Paul Anderson, Michelle McDonald, Linda Stanton & Jo Cook.

3. Working with Linda Stanton & Jo Cook from BHF, Paul Anderson and Michelle McDonald to develop a consumer and community involvement roadmap and resources for 2026 and beyond.

In 2025 we started discussions about a national initiative to integrate the voices of consumers into musculoskeletal research and advocacy. Led by BHF and ANZBMS the goal is to improve research relevance, equity and impact through the creation of a structured consumer and community involvement (CCI) and

engagement framework. This will support ANZBMS affiliated researchers to embed meaningful consumer engagement to NHMRC and MRFF funded projects. The first step was a survey to see needs of members, what CCI resources may be available and what CCI has already been undertaken within the ANZBMS membership. We have a document library of example CCI resources including guidelines, priority mapping workshops, community conversations and strategic roadmaps as well as a quote from the WA Health Translation Network Consumer and Community Involvement program (CCIP) to support training and developing/supporting a culture of CCI within ANZBMS.



Professor Rebecca Mason



Professor Josh Lewis

Co-Chairs Research Committee

CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Committee members :

Jasna Aleksova (Chair), Christian Girgis (Past-Chair), Mark Cooper (ANZBMS President), Mark Forwood (Past-President), Michelle McDonald (President-elect), Jacqueline Center, Cherie Chiang, Grahame Elder, Michael Bennet, Sunita Paul, Angela Sheu

Strategic Objectives:

In 2025, the committee has dedicated its commitment

- 1) to represent and engage with clinicians amongst the society's broad membership
- 2) to promote educational activities, contributing to continuing professional development of society's members and
- 3) regularly appraise new guidelines and practice-changing publications, as presented to the society.

Over the past year, the Clinical Practice Committee (CPC) has undertaken a significant body of work in advancing postgraduate education, responding to evolving therapeutic challenges, and supporting high-quality clinical practice across the bone and mineral field. Our activities have focused on consolidating national clinical standards, strengthening educational offerings, and ensuring timely guidance during periods of therapeutic uncertainty.

ANZBMS Clinical Postgraduate Meeting:

The primary focus of the CPC in late 2024 and early 2025 was the organisation and delivery of the ANZBMS Clinical

Postgraduate Meeting. After review, this meeting transitioned to a biennial schedule to better align with the pace of developments in metabolic bone medicine and to support advanced trainees in meeting the compulsory attendance requirement over their two-year core endocrinology training period.

This two-day educational program brought together over 200 registrants from across endocrinology, rheumatology, oncology, gynaecology, orthopaedics, geriatrics and primary care. The curriculum encompassed a comprehensive suite of clinically relevant and emerging issues, including:

- Osteoporosis in young adults
- Bone health in premature ovarian insufficiency
- Menopausal hormone therapy
- Breast and prostate cancer-related bone loss
- Complications of anti-resorptive therapy (osteonecrosis of the jaw and atypical femoral fractures) and contemporary management strategies
- Familial hypocalcaemic hypercalcaemia and primary hyperparathyroidism
- Hypothyroidism in the context of bone health
- Controversies in calcium supplementation
- Trabecular Bone Score (TBS) and Echolight assessments

The meeting featured state-of-the-art presentations, case-based discussion, and multidisciplinary expert dialogue. Attendee feedback was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the depth, clinical relevance and practical utility of the program. Recordings remain available to members until the end of 2025, and planning has commenced for the next meeting scheduled for early 2027.

Teriparatide Supply Interruption:

In response to the national teriparatide shortage, the CPC rapidly developed a clinical position statement to support clinicians and patients during the interruption in supply. This guidance sought to mitigate the impact of unplanned treatment cessation on fracture risk and disease progression, while addressing associated patient distress.

The statement, endorsed by the Endocrine Society of Australia and disseminated to all ANZBMS and ESA members, provided interim strategies for alternative therapy selection and monitoring during the shortage period.

CLINICAL PRACTICE COMMITTEE

The CPC remains engaged with industry and regulatory partners to support ongoing medicine access and communication pathways for future supply events.

Clinical Guideline Contributions and Endorsements:

The CPC has continued its role in reviewing, developing and endorsing clinical standards and guidelines relevant to mineral and bone disease. This year, formal contributions and endorsement processes included:

- Parathyroid hormone and metabolic bone therapy guidance
- HBA/medical regulatory guidance relating to medication-related osteonecrosis of the jaw (MRONJ)
- SOS Fracture Alliance (SOSFA) draft clinical standards for secondary fracture prevention

The committee has also participated in national policy and prescribing-framework discussions, with particular focus on equity of access, appropriate governance, and scientific rigor in the implementation of emerging therapies.

Industry and Stakeholder Collaboration:

We have maintained active engagement with pharmaceutical and sector stakeholders to ensure ethical collaboration, support safe and appropriate prescribing, and uphold the

scientific integrity of education and advisory processes. Particular emphasis has been placed on new agents in metabolic bone disease, menopause therapies, and rare bone conditions.

Forthcoming Education and Advocacy Initiatives:

Planning is underway for a 2026 educational webinar series targeting areas of uncertainty or evolving evidence. Proposed topics include:

- Updated KDIGO CKD-associated osteoporosis guidelines
- Stress fractures and sports-related bone injury
- Osteoporosis in neuromuscular disorders
- Advances in bone imaging modalities, including their clinical utility and limitations

These initiatives are designed to provide accessible, evidence-based continuing professional development and promote excellence in metabolic bone care across Australia and New Zealand.

We want to hear from you. The CPC is constantly looking for ways to better engage the society's clinical members. Please feel to reach out to us with any suggestions on ways we can engage with you on clinical matters, concerns or challenges in the practice of bone and mineral medicine.

Please feel free to contact any of the committee's members or the chair Jasna Aleksova on jasna.aleksova@hudson.org.au



Dr Jasna Aleksova
Chair Clinical Practice
Committee

PROGRAMME ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Programme organising committee

The 2025 ANZBMS Programme Organising Committee (POC) comprises: Agnes Arthur (Basic Science Co-Chair, SA), Kirtan Ganda (Clinical Co-Chair, NSW), Santosh Chaubey (LOC, Clinical, Qld), Michelle McDonald (President Elect, NSW), Kara Anderson (ECIC, Vic), Cassandra Smith (ECIC, WA), Dina Abdelmoneim (NZ), Ryan Chai (NSW), Kai Chen (WA), Natalie Hyde (Vic) and Albert Kim (NSW).

Together with ASN Events, the POC have developed a rich and diverse program that balances basic, clinical, and translational science, maintaining a strong emphasis on inclusion and scientific excellence. The 2025 ASM will again foster collaboration across disciplines, bringing together leading researchers, clinicians, and allied health professionals in the bone and mineral field.

Program Overview:

With support from ASN Events, the organising committee has curated an engaging program that reflects emerging themes across bone and mineral research – from molecular mechanisms to clinical translation. The meeting continues to prioritise gender balance, diversity of representation, and the integration of early-career and allied health voices. We start the 2025 annual scientific meeting with the debate topic entitled “*Nutritional therapy is better than pharmacotherapy as first line*

pharmacotherapy as first line PREVENTION OF bone loss in the older adult”, chaired by Prof Craig Munns. Our debaters for the motion include **Dr Sandra Iuliano** (University of Melbourne) and **Dr Marc Sim** (Nutrition and Health Innovation Research Institute (NHIRI)). The team against the motion are **Prof Emma Duncan** (King’s College, London), and **Prof Robert Blank** (Sydney).

The ANZBMS POC is delighted to announce this year’s Clinical Plenary Speaker, **Prof Morten Frost** (University of Southern Denmark), whose work focuses on diabetes and bone health. The Science Plenary Speaker will be **Prof Geert Carmeliet** (KU Leuven, Belgium), a global leader in the field of metabolic regulation in bone cells and bone regeneration.

We are also delighted to have **A/Prof Marc Wein** (Massachusetts General Hospital, USA) present on the osteocyte mechano-responses. This presentation will cover both basic science and clinical research.

Themes and Invited Speakers:

Other Broad thematic areas for ANZBMS 2025 include:

Spine Imaging, Aortic Calcification and Bone health – **Dr John Schousboe** (HealthPartners Institute, USA)

Exercise and Bone Health: **Dr Cassandra Smith** (Edith Cowan University, Perth, Australia).

Mechanobiology and Osteocyte Signalling: **Dr Mikihito Hayashi**

.(Institute of Science, Tokyo)

OMICS and Bone Health – **Dr John Kemp** (Mater Research, Brisbane)

Transgender Bone Health and Hormone Therapy – **Professor Bronwyn Stuckey AM** (Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Australia) and **Prof Rachel Davey** (The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia).

Dental Tissue Regeneration and Bone Bioengineering – **A/Prof Dawn Coates** (University of Otago, NZ)

Air Pollution and Bone Health: **Dr Lieke Scheepers** (Menzies Institute for Medical Research, Tasmania, Australia).

ANZBMS POC have partnered with the **Healthy Bones Australia** to present the **Healthy Bones Australia Indigenous Health and Past Awardee Symposium**. Speakers include **Dr Greg Lyubomirsky** (Healthy Bones Australia), **Dr Ayse Zengin** (Monash University, Australia), **Indigenous women Agnes Mosby** (Queensland, Australia).

Clinical Cases and ECI Activities:

The ever-popular Clinical Cases in Metabolic Bone Disease session will take place on Monday 10th November, providing a platform for advanced trainees and early-career clinicians to present instructive cases. The

PROGRAMME ORGANISING COMMITTEE

winning presentation will again be offered a publication opportunity in the Journal of Bone and Mineral Research (JBMR), with the publication fee waived.

The Early Career Investigator Committee (ECIC) continues to play a central role in fostering networking and development opportunities for emerging researchers. Activities will include “Bones & Brews”, mentoring lunches, and the Bridging Overseas Networking and Exchange (B.O.N.E.) Program, with exchange speakers from JSBMR (Generation of an osteocyte-specific Cre mouse model reveals distinct roles of osteocytes – **Dr Mikihiro Hayashi**, Institute of Science Tokyo, Japan) and ASBMR (Bone Health in Microgravity: Tracking Bone Remodelling in Spaceflight and Recovery - **Dr Matthias Walle**, University of Calgary, Canada).

Delegates and Abstracts:

As of October 2025, the meeting has attracted 251 delegates, including sponsors, exhibitors, and invited speakers.

A total of 153 abstracts were submitted, spanning basic (41 submissions), clinical (81 submissions) and 18 clinical case studies submissions. Of these, 60 were accepted for oral presentations, including 3 outstanding abstracts (including top student abstract, all supported exclusively by ANZBMS) as well as 8 finalists for

the Roger Melick Young Investigator Award, and 10 finalists for the Christopher & Margie Nordin Poster Prize. There were 10 accepted as plenary posters.

Sponsored Sessions:

The 2025 ASM will again host several sponsored lunchtime symposia (details TBC), highlighting current clinical challenges and innovations in bone health including the topic: Long-Term Denosumab Use: Translating Evidence into Everyday Care, by **A/Prof Cherie Chiang**.

Social Functions and Tours:

The Cairns setting provides a unique opportunity for delegates to enjoy the natural beauty of Far North Queensland while networking with peers.

Optional Sunday tours on 9 November include:

Green Island Discovery Tour – Coral cay snorkelling, glass-bottom boat, and eco-walk.

Discover the Daintree – Scenic rail to Kuranda and return via Skyrail cableway, exploring rainforest and local heritage.

The official Welcome Reception, Conference Dinner, and Bones & Brews events will further strengthen community ties and foster new collaborations across the Society.

Industry Support and Sponsorship:

The ANZBMS gratefully acknowledges the generous support of its 2025 sponsors, including **Platinum Sponsor, Arrotex Pharmaceuticals, Gold Sponsor and coffee cart sponsor, Kyowa Kirin, and Silver Sponsor Amgen**, as well as other valued partners.

Acknowledgements:

The ANZBMS POC extends sincere thanks to all members of the organising and research committees, session chairs, the ECIC, Ivone Johnson and the ASN Events team led by Jim Fawcett and more recently Aileen Lozie for their tireless work in bringing the 2025 ASM to fruition.

Special thanks are also due to all sponsors, exhibitors, and delegates whose contributions and enthusiasm make this meeting possible.



Dr Agnes Arthur & Dr Kirtan Ganda

MEETINGS COMMITTEE

The role of the ANZBMS meetings committee is to plan meetings for our members including the annual scientific meeting, the clinical densitometry meeting, joint society meetings, Advanced Clinical Postgraduate Meeting, member webinars and educational meetings in collaboration with our society sub committees (2024/2025 ASM program organizing committee, clinical practice committee and ECIC and sister societies ANZORS, IFMRS, JSBMR etc)

Members

Michelle McDonald (Chair)

Mark Cooper (President)

Mark Forwood (Past President)

Natalie Sims (Past Past President, IFMRS rep)

Eugenie Macfarlane (ECIC)

Jasna Aleksova (CPC Chair)

Ayse Zengin (Past POC chair- on maternity leave November 2024)

Agnes Arthur (Current POC Chair)

Kirtan Ganda (Current POC Chair)

Rachel Davey (Treasurer)

The committee have met in February and April in 2025 and communicated by email throughout 2025. We have been working on the below components of meetings across various communities in our membership:

- CPC webinars - the CPC have been very active in this space under the leadership of Jasna Aleksova. They have held 3-4 very well attended webinars in 2025 as outlined in the CPC report. They also held a very well attended post graduate Advanced Clinical Postgrad Meeting in March 2025
- The ANZBMS POC have been working very hard to drive a fantastic program for the 2025 meeting next week in Cairns They will provide an overview in their annual report. We have reached 251 registrants
- The IFMRS Herbert Fleisch Workshop: Asia Pacific 2025 will go ahead 12-14th November after the 2025 ANZBMS. Natalie Sim (IFMRS) and Michelle McDonald worked with Yumie Rhee (KSBMR) and Yuuki Imai (JSBMR) as the steering committee to lead this initiative. We have 52 registrants with approximately 50% from Overseas registrants, and secured an unplanned budget surplus due to support from Onero and Amgen. We will provide a detailed report on this after the meeting.
- The ECIC have held a number of webinars including the very successful joint venture with ESA ECR connect in

August 2025, and have played a key role in organising events at the 2025 meeting - see ECIC annual report for details

- Clinical densitometry meeting update will be provided as part of the clinical imaging committee – breakfast Session at ANZBMS 2025 managed by Nick Pocock

Future meetings

- The 2026 ANZBMS has been confirmed to be taking place in Auckland NZ and Auckland Convention Centre September 7-10th 2026
- The 2027 ANZBMS meeting will be held with ESA and SRB again – this has been agreed on and we are working on a location and dates. Potentially Melbourne tentatively held 14-17th November.



**Associate Professor
Michelle McDonald**
**Chair Meetings
Committee**

CLINICAL IMAGING COMMITTEE

An online course was held in March 2025 and a face to face course was held successfully in Brisbane on September 20th and 21st. The registrant numbers for the Brisbane course were less at 34 compared to previous such courses, but with change to outgoings and a slight decrease in facilitator numbers, it is anticipated to have made a modest profit.

Special thanks is due to Dr Denise Brooks for organising and managing the Brisbane venue.

Thanks also to Chris Schultz and Julie Briody for their ongoing work to facilitate the online courses.

During Covid online courses were introduced by the ANZBMS as the only viable mechanism of maintain densitometry education during the pandemic. Now that the pandemic is over Prof Roger Price has been working with the NSW EPA to formally approve online teaching.

The next face to face course is to be held at The Garvan Institute in March or April 2026 with a second online course in September or October 2026.

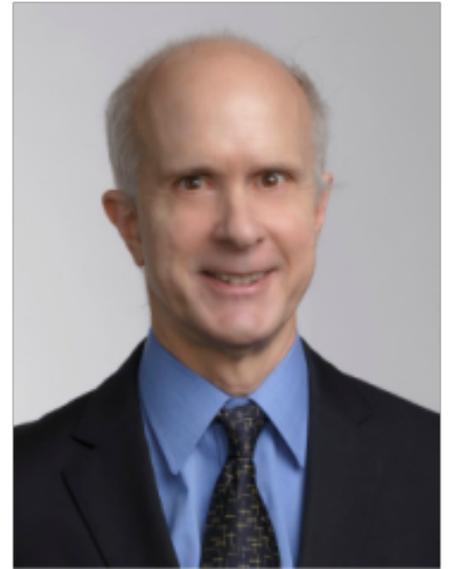
DOHAC Submission

The CIC provided advice to Council regarding a submission to the DOHAC in relation to Medicare-funded bone densitometry services.

This was a wide-ranging review and addressed, amongst other issues, densitometry services to

first nations people, the long-standing issue of funding for women with breast cancer on aromatase inhibitors and possible expansion of item numbers for DXA to include lateral spine morphometry and TBS. The review also provided support for additional item numbers for non DXA related modalities including HRpQCT and opportunistic CT. The CIC did not recommend funding for Radiofrequency Echographic Multi Spectrometry (REMS).

TBS Position Statement A position statement in relation to Trabecular bone score was developed for Council. This was subsequently endorsed by Council and has also had endorsement from HBA and AANMS. The RANZCR has yet to respond.



**Associate Professor
Nicholas Pocock
Chair Clinical Imaging
Committee**

EARLY CAREER INVESTIGATOR COMMITTEE

2024-2025 ECIC Committee Report

Madhuni Herath, and Kara Anderson (Acting Co-Chair)
- ECIC Co-Chairs

The specific objectives of ECIC are to:

1. To act in collaboration with the ANZBMS senior committee and foster active engagement of early career investigators within the ANZBMS.
2. To promote activities that engage early career investigators and senior members in open dialogue and collaborative initiatives.
3. To increase early career investigator awareness of research trends and application of new technologies in bone and mineral research.
4. To increase engagement of clinical trainees and improve training in bone and mineral metabolism.
5. Involvement in scientific and social programs at the ANZBMS Annual Scientific Meeting.
6. To foster science communication and engagement with the public.
7. To facilitate translation of scientific findings to industry and government.

2021-2022 ECIC Committee

Co-Chairs

Dr. Shejil Kumar (NSW)

Dr. Madhuni Herath (VIC, 2024 until May 2025)

Dr. Eugenie Macfarlane (NSW, Acting Co-Chair)

Members

Dr. Mícheál Ó Breasail (VIC)

Dr Abadi Gebre (WA)

Dr. Micaela Quinn (SA)

Dr. Angela Sheu (NSW)

Dr. Martha Blank (NSW)

Dr. Kai Chen (WA)

Dr. Lucy Collins (VIC)

Dr. Gabrielle Stokes (VIC)

Dr. Cassandra Smith (SA)

Dr. Shejil Kumar (NSW)

Dr. Eugenie Macfarlane (NSW)

Subcommittee team leaders were nominated by members of each subcommittee.

- Dr. Mícheál Ó Breasail: Communications
- Dr. Micaela Quinn: Career Development
- Dr. Eugenie Macfarlane: Events
- Dr. Lucy Collins: Clinical

Nomination of New ANZBMS ECIC Members for 2026

Recruitment for the 2026 ECIC Term commenced on

24th of August 2025 and submission timeline for Expressions of interest (EOI) closed 26th September 2025. In total, 14 applicants submitted an EOI, representing VIC, QLD, WA, SA, TAS and NZL. This is the highest number of applications received in the last 4 years. Scoring of the applications by the current ECIC was conducted anonymously and closed on 15th October 2025. Council ratified the successful nominees and the following ECIs will commence their term with the ANZBMS ECIC from late November 2025:

Clinical and Basic Scientist

Dr. Sarah Brennan (NSW)

Basic Scientist

Dr Kaitlyn Flynn (QLD)

Dr Marion Mundt (WA)

Clinical

DrOwen Taylor-Williams (WA)

Dr Brenda Ta (WA)

Dr Mawson Wang (WA)

We decided to introduce an additional member to ECIC (taking total members from 12, to 13) to assist with ECIC workload. The composition of the 13-member ECIC for 2026 will consist of 10 females/3 males, with diverse expertise (5 science, 7 clinical, 1 both)

and include representation across NSW, VIC, WA, QLD, however no successful members from SA, TAS or NZL. We will continue to drive engagement amongst ECIs across less well-represented contingents.

We would like to thank the outgoing ECIC members: Dr Mícheál Ó Breasail (VIC), Dr Abadi Gebre (WA), Micaela Quinn (SA), Dr Angela Sheu (NSW) and Dr Madhuni Herath (VIC) for their time, effort and contributions during their terms.

Objective 1: To act in collaboration with other ANZBMS committees to foster active engagement of early career investigators within the ANZBMS.

The ANZBMS and the ANZBMS ECIC continue to work in partnership to increase engagement and improve support and exposure for the ECIs. For 2025, representatives of the ANZBMS ECIC are now officially involved in 5 subcommittees of the ANZBMS (POC, Communications, the ANZBMS Newsletter Editorial Board, Clinical Practice Committee and Meetings committee). The Co-Chairs also attend all ANZBMS Council meetings as ex-officio members and engage in regular online communication with Council to discuss new and existing initiatives.

There has also been demonstrable interest in encouraging and promoting ECIs to be involved in ANZBMS subcommittees as well as other ANZBMS initiatives. ECIs are also given the opportunity to chair various sessions at the 2025 ANZBMS ASM, alongside senior members.

ECIC members on subcommittees of the ANZBMS:

- Dr Cassandra Smith: POC
- Dr Eugenie Macfarlane: Meetings Committee, POC
- Dr Mícheál Ó Breasail: Communications Committee
- Dr Angela Sheu: Clinical Practice Committee
- Dr Kai Chen: ANZBMS Newsletter Editorial Board

The ECIC has also worked closely with Prof Josh Lewis (Research Subcommittee) to help plan and design the new Career Development Award, and to better inform the Fellowship Coaching Program.

Objective 2: To promote activities that engage early career investigators with MCI and senior members in open dialogue and collaborative initiatives.

ECR Connect

In 2025, the ANZBMS ECIC led a collaborative initiative with the

early career committees of the Endocrine Society of Australia (ESA) and Australian Diabetes Society (ADS). This initiative was an online weekend seminar held on Saturday 2nd August via Zoom. More than 60 delegates attended with positive engagement and feedback. Topics included conference presentations, research promotion, grant funding applications, artificial intelligence, mouse models, investigator-initiated clinical trials, and an expert panel for Q&A. Invited speakers included Prof Natalie Sims, A/Prof Michelle McDonald, A/Prof Jun Yang, Prof Simon Angus, Dr Albert Kim, Dr Amy Dwyer, Dr Jennifer Snaith and Dr Mahesh Umapathysivam.

Given success of the webinar, we are keen to run this event again next year.

We would like to thank the speakers and the organising committee for their work and time to make this event possible. They are:

- Dr Eugenie Macfarlane (ANZBMS Co-lead)
- Dr Shejil Kumar (ANZBMS Co-lead),
- Dr Martha Blank (ANZBMS)
- Dr Mawson Wang (ESA)
- Dr Lisa Raven (ADS)
- Dr Cat-Shore Lorenti (IT support)

Fellowship-Coaching Program

This initiative supports ECIs with their NHMRC Investigator Grant applications and focuses on the research impact and leadership sections of applications. Unfortunately, the Fellowship Coaching Program needed to be withheld this year as the successful applicant was later deemed ineligible. Given the low uptake and success of this program in recent years, we are currently considering ways to update the program to better serve our ECI community. This involves active discussions with Council and Research Subcommittee.

We are grateful to the MCI coaches and senior panel members that agreed to be involved in the 2025 program. They are:

MCI Coaches

- Professor Josh Lewis
- Dr Sandra Iuliano

Senior Panel Members

- Professor Natalie Sims
- Professor Peter Ebeling

ECI Communication Initiatives

The ANZBMS Facebook Group is an initiative of the ANZBMS ECIC, led by the Clinical subcommittee with support from the Communications subcommittee. The aim of this initiative is to advertise news and opportunities and improve

accessibility and engagement of ECIs, particularly those from clinical backgrounds, and geographically under-represented areas. We also hope through this initiative to improve interaction between ECRs and more senior members of ANZBMS. This Facebook Group supports other avenues for ECR communication including LinkedIn and emails.

Career Development Award

The Career Development Subcommittee has initiated a new award, which has been approved by Council. The award includes \$1,000 cash prize, 1-year free ANZBMS membership, and opportunity to co-chair an oral session at ANZBMS ASM, as well as a 12-month mentorship program. Eligible candidates include early ECIs (<5 years post PhD and/or clinical qualification) without substantial prior funding (<\$50,000 total grant funding, no prior Cat 1 funding) who have experienced some form of career disruption. The scoring rubric has been approved by Council. The ECIC is currently working on securing members of the award review panel, and mentors. Applications for this inaugural award will close in mid-2026. The successful applicant will provide a progress report.

Meet the Expert Sessions at the ASM

In 2024-2025 the ECIC has led a

new 'meet the expert' initiative to provide early-career researchers with the opportunity to meet and network with more senior speakers at the ASM. These sessions are designed to facilitate open dialogue between researchers of all career stages in a casual setting during tea breaks.

Objective 3: To increase early career investigator awareness of research trends and application of new technologies in bone and mineral research.

The Bridging Overseas Networking and Exchange (B.O.N.E) Program

B.O.N.E Program is an ANZBMS Early Career Investigator Committee (ECIC) initiative, established in 2018, to address the limited opportunity and funds for invited presentations for early career investigators (ECI) in the musculoskeletal field. The B.O.N.E program has been extremely successful thus far, with successful applicants from ANZBMS offered the opportunity to present at international conferences and co-host a relevant session, and overseas ECRs offered the opportunity to share their research at the ANZBMS ASM.

This was a busy year for the B.O.N.E Program:

- Approval of updated MOU with ASBMR (-2028) with greater involvement and support by ASBMR ESIC (Early-Stage Investigator Committee)
- Facilitated informal exchange with JSBMR
- Developed MOU with JSBMR – currently under ongoing review by JSBMR
- Developing MOU with ECTS

The B.O.N.E awardees for 2025:

- Dr Kai Chen (ANZBMS recipient for ASBMR exchange)
- Dr Matthias Walle (ASBMR recipient for ANZBMS exchange)
- Dr Melissa Cantley (ANZBMS recipient for JSBMR exchange)
- Dr Mikihiro Hayashi (JSBMR recipient for ANZBMS exchange)

Objective 4: To foster science communication and engagement with the public

The ECIC utilises the following avenues towards improving communication both within the scientific community and the public:

- ANZBMS Website
- The ANZBMS Newsletter with its ECI-specific section
- ANZBMS ECIC LinkedIn Group & Page
- ANZBMS Facebook Group & Page
- ECI mailing list

The ANZBMS Early Career Investigator LinkedIn Group is

a new initiative of our communications subcommittee for 2024. This was created in response to changes in engagement and utility of social media platforms and we hope to maintain and encourage renewed interest in bone research through its promotional capabilities. We encourage members of all levels to join the LinkedIn and invite ECIs to share their work and achievements on the page. In 2025, a new LinkedIn page has been created “ANZBMS Early Career Investigators” to promote dissemination and communication between ECIs and with more senior members.

In 2025, the Communications subcommittee has developed an ECI mailing list with assistance of Ivone Johnson.

All initiatives are now co-advertised on ANZBMS ECIC LinkedIn Group, Facebook Group, ECI mailing list and Ivone Johnson’s member e-newsletter.

Objective 5: To increase engagement of clinical trainees and improve training in bone and mineral metabolism.

Clinical Cases in Metabolic Bone Disease Seminar

In 2025, the Clinical Cases Seminar is being held at the ANZBMS ASM Cairns (Monday, 10th November). This will involve four case presentations by advanced trainees, with prize of

JBMR Plus publication waiver. Judges include: Terrence Diamond, Dr Sonia Stanton, and Dr Alexandra Matthews. Sponsorship by Kyowa Kirin has been secured. This event was organised by Dr Angela Sheu, Dr Shejil Kumar and Dr Lucy Collins.

ESA/ANZBMS Clinical Fellowship Database

This is an ESA-led database of clinical/research fellowships available across Australia which aren’t advertised through the central panels. ANZBMS ECIC supports this database by liaising with clinicians who run bone services across Australia/New Zealand to ensure bone health-specific positions are included.

RACP Webinar Series

This webinar is part of the Specialty Society Webinar Service that is being undertaken by the RACP in partnership with its affiliated specialty societies. Six webinars were organised by the ANZBMS ECIC for 2025. We thank all presenters for their contributions.

| Speaker(s) | Webinar topic | Webinar date |
|-------------------------|---|--------------|
| Dr Sandra Iuliano | Nutrition and bone: a clinician's guide | 23.07.2025 |
| Prof Craig Munns | Paediatric and adult OI | 29.07.2025 |
| A/Prof Christian Girgis | Management of rare bone diseases – giant cell granuloma and fibrous dysplasia | 12.08.2025 |
| Prof Peter Ebeling | Osteoanabolic therapy – transition/sequence/combo | 25.08.2025 |
| Dr Albert Kim | Insights into denosumab discontinuation: from bench to bedside | 22.09.2025 |
| Dr Hanh Nguyen | Hypophosphataemia following iron infusions | 17.11.2025 |

Objective 6: Involvement in scientific and social programs at the ANZBMS Annual Scientific Meeting.

The ANZBMS ECIC will co-host 7 events at the 2025 ANZBMS ASM:

Science at Speed Networking Session: Sunday 9th November 2pm - 3pm

This event aims to foster collaboration and networking across different disciplines and career levels.

Bones & Brews Networking Function: Sunday 9th November 7:30pm

This is a casual drinks and dinner social event which will bring like-minded friends and colleagues together with an evening of trivia at Hemingway's Brewery.

The ECIC Breakfast: Monday 10th November

B.O.N.E award winners from ASBMR and JSBMR as well as current and incoming ANZBMS ECIC members are invited to network, meet each other in person and plan for the upcoming year.

Clinical Cases in Metabolic Bone Disease Seminar: Monday 10th November 6pm

The clinical cases session aims to foster interest in the bone field amongst advanced and basic physician trainees and senior clinicians and hopes to engage them into the wider clinician-researcher network.

ECIC Career Development Workshop: Tuesday 11th November 1:30pm-2:30pm

A panel of researchers spanning basic science, clinical and public health fields will share their interdisciplinary research experiences and knowledge, as well as tips on how to bridge the gaps between bone and mineral research disciplines at various career stages. The topic in 2025 is: "Bridging the gap between basic, clinical and public health research".

ANZBMS ECIC B.O.N.E Symposium:

The Bridging Overseas Networking and Exchange (B.O.N.E) Program is a collaborative initiative to provide ECIs the opportunity to present their research abroad to facilitate international networking and collaboration. This year ANZBMS has invited two early-career speakers from JSBMR and ASBMR:

- Dr Mikihiro Hayashi (JSBMR) "Generation of an osteocyte-specific Cre mouse

model reveals distinct roles of osteocytes” Tuesday 11th November 5-5:30pm

- Dr Matthias Walle (ASBMR) “Bone Health in Microgravity: Tracking Bone Remodelling in Spaceflight and Recovery” Wednesday 12th November 9-9:30am

ECIC Meet the Expert sessions: Monday-Wednesday during tea breaks

An opportunity for early career researchers to network with invited speakers in a casual setting over tea and coffee.

- Monday, Morning tea - Prof Mortem Frost
- Monday, Afternoon tea - Prof Emma Duncan
- Tuesday, Afternoon tea - Prof John Schouske
- Wednesday, Morning tea – A/Prof Marc Wein

We would like to thank all Early Career Researchers for their engagement and contributions during 2024-2025 and look forward to another productive year ahead.



Dr Shejil Kumar



Dr Eugenie Macfarlane

Co-Chairs, Early Career Investigator Committee

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The role of the Communications Committee is to oversee the delivery of information among members of the ANZBMS and between ANZBMS council and members of the society by a number of activities.

Communications Committee Membership

Melissa Cantley (Chair)

Kara Anderson (general communications)

Sarah Hosking (social media editor)

Renee Ormsby (website)

Jiao Jiao Li (website)

Rouha Granfar (social media editor)

Mark Cooper (ANZBMS Honorary Secretary and Clinical Practice Representative)

Ivone Johnson (ANZBMS Secretariat)

Pholpat Durongbhan (ANZBMS Newsletter Co-Editor in Chief)

John Kemp (Research Committee Representative)

Therapeutics Committee and Densitometry committee representatives needed.

ANZBMS Newsletter

The Newsletter is one of our main forms of communication with our members providing updates on ANZBMS activities, highlighting member achievements and

publications, and disseminating information on events including the ANZBMS Annual Scientific Meeting, webinars and other opportunities. The ANZBMS Editorial team does a fantastic job of compiling society related information and presenting it in a clear and engaging way.

Current ANZBMS Editorial Board Members

Pholpat Durongbhan (ANZBMS Newsletter Co-Editor in Chief), Dr Haniyeh Hemmatian, Jacob Harland, Dr Kai Chen, Dr Kaitlyn Flynn, Mackenzie Skinner, Dr Chelsea Tan and Dr Karen Van.

Check out past issues of the newsletter:

<https://www.anzbms.org.au/newsletters.asp>

ANZBMS eNews

The eNews template has continued to be utilised to communicate news and information to members. This is compiled and sent out by Ivone Johnson in consultation with ANZBMS President Professor Mark Cooper.

Website

We are currently working with the ANZBMS WebMaster Tony (Between Coffees) to design a new ANZBMS website. We established a website working group who reviewed the website

along with other science society websites to develop a plan and new structure for the updated website. This was reviewed with extensive feedback provided by Council. We are now working with Tony to roll this out so please keep an eye out for updates.

Social media

Sarah Hosking and Rouha Granfar are the joint Social Media Editors. We are currently exploring other options for ANZBMS such as a LinkedIn profile.

ANZBMS Videos

Two videos are being created (one in conjunction with the ECIC), with the aim to encourage membership, provide an engaging form of information sharing about the committee and have the capacity to be used on our website, social media and more broadly. They have been designed for longevity, and will hopefully be of use for many years to come. Thank you to Kara Anderson who has been driving this initiative. We hope to have the videos completed and released soon.

IFMRS newsletter updates

We continue to provide regular updates for the IFMRS newsletters including details about the ANZBMS, webinars,

Annual Scientific Meeting and the B.O.N.E program.

General Communications

Kara Anderson regularly designs flyers and save the dates for society webinars and training courses.

ANZBMS migration to Microsoft 365

During 2025 we worked with the WebMaster Tony to migrate ANZBMS emails and file storage to Microsoft 365. Thank you to the Committee Chairs who worked with Tony to provide the necessary details to enable this to happen.

Membership Survey

In 2024 we completed a member survey to ensure that we have an accurate understanding of the needs and aspirations of our Society members.

This year we have been working to address the key gaps that were identified through the survey:

- Mid-career support; keeping researchers in the field
- Collaboration opportunities
- Shaping policy
- Equity & diversity
- Supporting clinician-researchers
- Interdisciplinary activities
- Grants and grant support

Our focus this year has been on the mid-career support. We have established a new **ANZBMS Mid-Career Plenary Award**. The award recognises the outstanding achievements of an ANZBMS mid-career researcher. The awardee will receive a plaque and a plenary speaking invitation at the next Annual Scientific meeting. In addition, the award includes complimentary registration for the meeting, a ticket to the conference dinner, and travel support covering an economy return airfare within Australia and up to four nights' accommodation at one of the conference pre-booked hotels. More details will be circulated and added to the website.



Melissa Cantley

Chair Communication Committee

ANZBMS 2025 AWARD WINNERS

CHRISTINE AND T. JACK MARTIN RESEARCH TRAVEL GRANT 2025 FOR 2026

This grant is offered by the ANZBMS in memory of Christine Martin and to honour the outstanding and major scientific contributions of Professor T Jack Martin to bone and mineral research and his contributions to associates and trainees in teaching, research, and administration.

Dr Eugenie Macfarlane

University of Sydney



PHILIP SAMBROOK YOUNG INVESTIGATOR TRAVEL AWARD

The Professor Philip Sambrook Award is presented annually to an outstanding early career researcher and is announced at the annual Australia and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Annual Scientific Meeting. Successful applicants must be passionate about bone research, results driven and committed to giving back to the community.

The 2025 Travel Grant was awarded to research evaluating the incidence of vertebral fractures using data from the Geelong Osteoporosis Study, a population-based cohort with minimal exclusion criteria. Unlike previous research limited by selective or clinical samples, this study offers representative, community-level estimates. Using lateral spine scans and semi-quantitative methods, it reports age-standardised rates of incident vertebral fractures.

Dr Kara Anderson

Associate researcher fellow,
Deakin University



ANZBMS 2025 AWARD WINNERS

KAYE IBBERTSON AWARD FOR BONE AND MINERAL RESEARCH

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 is based on the applicant's best 5 papers, of which the applicant is an author, in the last 8 years.

Jiao Jiao Li

University of Technology Sydney



ANZBMS SOL POSEN AWARD

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

Lena Batoon

Mater Research Institute,
The University of Queensland



ANZBMS 2025 AWARD WINNERS

ROGER MELICK YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD

This award is presented to commemorate the contribution of Dr Roger Aziz Melick to endocrinology and student education. Roger Melick died in November 1986 after a long battle with cancer. He trained in endocrinology with Fuller Albright, in Boston, and joined The Royal Melbourne Hospital as the third member of the foundation Department of Medicine. He was appointed Head of the Clinical School in April 1979 and he was forced to retire because of his illness during 1986. Roger Melick was particularly known for his kindness, consideration and empathy for both patients and students. The prize is awarded annually to young members of the Society working towards a higher degree (including FRACP).

Mary Louise Fac

St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research,
The University of Melbourne



CHRISTOPHER AND MARGIE NORDIN YOUNG INVESTIGATOR POSTER AWARD

This award is named in honour of the outstanding and major clinical investigations into disorders of bone and mineral metabolism made by Professor Christopher Nordin and his contributions to the ANZBMS. Professor B.E Christopher Nordin was a senior specialist at the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science in Adelaide, and the man credited with drawing the medical community's attention back to the link between calcium deficiency and osteoporosis (brittle bones).

Prof. Nordin did his medical training at University College Hospital in London, graduating in 1950. In 1952, he went to Hammersmith Hospital, the postgraduate medical school, where he developed an interest in the link between calcium and bone strength. After more than 20 years in Britain, many as director of the Medical Research Council's Mineral Metabolism Unit in Leeds, Prof. Nordin moved to Adelaide in 1981 to take up a position at Royal Adelaide Hospital; where, instead of retirement, he wanted the excitement of setting up a new osteoporosis research group.

Professor Nordin was also the World Health Organisation's calcium expert, a visiting professor of medicine and pathology at the University of Adelaide and an emeritus specialist in endocrinology at Royal Adelaide Hospital. Prof. B.E.C. Nordin's work was honoured by the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research by the Frederick Bartter award in 1998.

Hayley Neilsen-Burke

James Cook University



ANZBMS 2025 AWARD WINNERS

CLINICAL CASES IN METABOLIC BONE DISEASE SEMINAR AWARD

The Clinical Cases in Metabolic Bone Disease Seminar was established in 2018 to encourage clinical interest in metabolic bone research in junior clinicians. This seminar provides an opportunity for physician trainees to present their case and literature reviews to a national scientific audience. It is anticipated that each case will spark lively discussion regarding complex areas of metabolic bone disease, engaging both clinicians and scientists. The clinical cases session aims to foster interest in the bone field amongst advanced trainees and senior clinicians and hopes to engage them into the wider clinician-research network.

Kathleen Pak

ANZBMS OUTSTANDING CLINICAL AWARD

Mike Lin

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital



ANZBMS 2025 AWARD WINNERS

ANZBMS OUTSTANDING BASIC AWARD

Xiaojun Chen

The University of Western Australia



ANZBMS HIGHEST RATED STUDENT ABSTRACT

Julian Chu

The University of Sydney



ANZBMS 2025 AWARD WINNERS

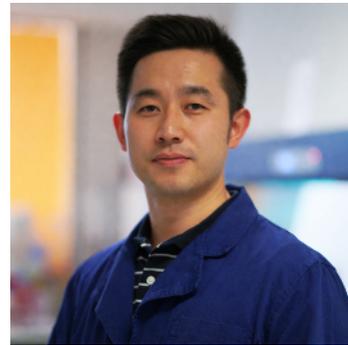
BRIDGING OVERSEAS NETWORKING AND EXCHANGE (B.O.N.E) PROGRAM

The Bridging Overseas Networking and Exchange (B.O.N.E) Program is an ANZBMS Early Career Investigator Committee (ECIC) initiative, established in 2018, to address the limited opportunity and funds for invited presentations for early career investigators (ECI) in the musculoskeletal field. This program will boost ECIs track records, increase their exposure, provide travel support, and facilitate international networking and collaboration - together enabling more competitive track records for future funding opportunities.

This years recipients were:

Kai Chen

ANZBMS (attended ASBMR)



Matthias Walle

ASBMR (attended ANZBMS)



Melissa Cantley

ANZBMS (attended JSBMR)



Mikihito Hayashi

JSBMR (attended ANZBMS)



ANZBMS 2025 AWARD WINNERS

ANZBMS BONE HEALTH FOUNDATION HEALTH INNOVATION GRANT

The purpose of this grant is to deliver funding to test the feasibility of innovative concepts to improve musculoskeletal health. The scope of projects includes clinical, public health and/or health services (including clinical service delivery) or biomedical research that may lead to larger, more rigorous studies and or nationally competitive grant funding.

Albert Kim

Westmead Hospital, Sydney



Susan Millard

The University of Melbourne



ANZBMS 2025 AWARD WINNERS

ANZBMS BONE HEALTH FOUNDATION GRANT IN AID

The aim of the Grant-in-aid is to support high quality unfunded bone and mineral-related research applications. The purpose is to enable mid-career researchers who have been unsuccessful in a major research grant application to continue to generate data to strengthen their application and enhance their competitiveness in subsequent major grant rounds.

Yinghong Zhou

The University of Queensland



2025 ECTS New Investigator Awards

Xiao jun Chen

The University of Western Australia



ANZBMS 2025 AWARD WINNERS

CHRISTINE AND T. JACK MARTIN RESEARCH TRAVEL GRANT 2024



Haniyeh Hemmatian

St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research,
The University of Melbourne

In May and June 2025, I undertook a research visit to Europe supported by the Christine and T. Jack Martin Travel Grant from the Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society (ANZBMS). The primary goal of my travel was to train at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Osteology in Vienna, Austria, where Quantitative Backscattered Electron Imaging (qBEI), a technique used for studying bone mineralisation at the microscopic level and rarely used in Australia, was first developed. In addition to this core objective, I expanded the scope of the visit through additional collaborations in Germany and by attending the European Calcified Tissue Society (ECTS) conference in Innsbruck, Austria.

My trip began with a visit to the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces in Potsdam, Germany, where I worked in the laboratory of Dr Richard Weinkamer. During this time, I trained in mathematical modelling and simulation of fluid flow through the lacunocanalicular network - an advanced modelling approach developed by Dr Weinkamer. With this training, I successfully ran this simulation on our dataset, and am now establishing this capability at St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research. In parallel, I was introduced to a Second Harmonic Generation (SHG) microscopy technique, a valuable imaging method for assessing collagen organisation in bone. I applied SHG imaging to a set of our own samples, producing results that will serve as a starting point for bringing this technique to our lab in Melbourne.

While at Max Planck, I also presented a seminar on our recent work related to age-related changes in the bone composition and quality. The talk was well received and led to constructive feedback as well as in-depth scientific discussions with colleagues. One of the highlights of this visit was a meeting with Professor Peter Fratzl, a global leader in bone material science. We discussed our recent qBEI and Fourier Transform Infrared spectroscopy (FTIR) results, and I received important insights and constructive feedback that will inform our ongoing analyses and interpretation.

Following my time in Germany, I travelled to Vienna for a research placement at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Osteology under the supervision of Dr Markus Hartmann and Dr Stéphane Blouin. This phase of the trip was focused on in-depth training in qBEI. I observed and practiced the complete qBEI workflow - from advanced sample preparation techniques such as polishing and carbon coating, to qBEI imaging and image processing. Dr Blouin provided detailed instruction on all stages of the technique, and I directly validate our set-up that I had developed remotely in Melbourne through online collaboration. With this hands-on experience, I am confident in the accuracy and reproducibility of the way I have established the qBEI method at St. Vincent's Institute of Medical Research. This marks the first time this quantitative technique has

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been reliably implemented in Australia and opens new avenues for research into bone composition and quality through precise measurement of bone mineral density distribution at the microscopic level.

While in Vienna, I also visited Dr Eleftherios Paschalis at Hanusch Hospital, an internationally recognised expert in FTIR and Raman spectroscopy. I presented our recent results on age-related changes in bone composition using FTIR results to him, and his expert feedback has been invaluable in guiding further analytical approaches and has already led to a new research collaboration in my laboratory. I also gave a talk at the AUVA Trauma Centre, which led to additional discussions with clinicians and researchers working in orthopaedics and bone regeneration. These interactions helped build new collaborations and exposed our research to a broader interdisciplinary audience.

In the final part of my trip, I attended the European Calcified Tissue Society (ECTS) annual congress in Innsbruck. Here I reconnected with colleagues from Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany and engaged with international researchers working in bone biology and imaging. I had many conversations about our recent results and learned about emerging trends and complementary methodologies in bone research, all of which will help guide the next steps in our work.

In summary, this travel grant enabled the successful establishment of the qBEI technique in Melbourne, fulfilling the primary goal of my proposal. Beyond this, I acquired training in two additional methodologies - fluid flow modelling and Second Harmonic Generation (SHG) microscopy imaging - that will further strengthen our lab's imaging and analytical capabilities. I also built and reinforced international collaborations, exchanged ideas with leading experts, and gained valuable feedback that will improve our research. This visit has greatly enriched my technical expertise and broadened my scientific network, ensuring that the impact of this grant will extend well beyond the immediate outcomes.

I sincerely thank ANZBMS for the Christine and T. Jack Martin Travel Grant and supporting this opportunity. This experience has had a transformative effect on my technical expertise, international collaborative network, and research trajectory. I am confident it will have a lasting impact on the development of bone imaging research in Australia.

ANZBMS MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

KING'S BIRTHDAY 2025

Professor Richard Lewis Prince, has been awarded Officer of the Order of Australia. For distinguished service to endocrinology as a researcher and clinical physician, to tertiary education, and to professional societies. Individuals are appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service of a high degree to Australia or to humanity at large. An AO is the second highest level.

Richard Prince

Senior Honorary Research Fellow
The University of Western Australia



ANZBMS LIFE MEMBER

Peter Ebeling

Monash University



FELLOW OF AUSTRALIA ACADEMY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SCIENCES

The Academy is honoured to recognise Professor Minghao Zheng FAHMS as a newly elected Fellow. Professor Zheng is a global leader in orthopaedic and regenerative medicine whose discoveries have led to new medical devices and cell-based products to repair cartilage, bone, and nerve injuries. His research has transformed understanding of musculoskeletal disease by revealing that giant cells in bone tumours are non-tumour cells (enabling non-surgical treatment), identifying obesity-linked pathological changes in osteoarthritis, and uncovering mitochondrial transfer as a key process for tissue homeostasis. His innovations have improved treatment outcomes for patients in Australia, the United States, and Europe.

Ming Hao Zheng

The University of Western Australia



ANZBMS MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS

2025 NHMRC IDEAS GRANTS

Revolutionising discovery and characterisation of genomic elements underlying osteoporosis

CIA: Scott Wilson (The University of Western Australia)

\$999,031

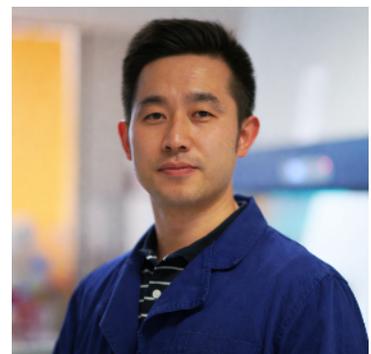


Numerous osteoporosis risk variants, implicated in bone cell biology, have been identified through genome-wide association studies and partially characterised by our group. We now aim to fully elucidate their functional mechanisms by integrating massively parallel reporter assays (MPRAs) with TAP-seq (i.e. leveraging locus-specific CRISPR perturbations and single-cell transcriptomics in bone cell models), to resolve causal regulatory elements and effector genes with high precision.

Targeting glucose-drive adiposity in bone marrow to ameliorate bone loss

CIA: Kai Chen (The University of Western Australia)

\$1,300,369



Bone marrow fat makes up 70% of adult bone space and was once thought to be inactive—but it plays a key role in bone health. It consumes more sugar than other bone cells, and its growth is linked to bone loss in conditions like osteoporosis. Our research uses advanced imaging to study how dietary sugar turns into bone fat and explores using RNA therapies to block this process. This may lead to new treatments that protect and strengthen bones.

ANZBMS MEMBER PASSING

Vale – Professor Christopher Paul Gilfillan MBBS FRACP PhD

10 October 2025



Professor Christopher Paul Gilfillan. Credit: Eastern Health.

The Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Monash University and Eastern Health mourn the loss of Professor Christopher Paul (Chris) Gilfillan, who died on the night of 7 October 2025. Chris was an exceptional clinician, an inspiring leader, and a generous mentor whose influence will be deeply felt across our community for many years to come.

Professor Gilfillan served as Director of Endocrinology at Eastern Health since 2008, Clinical Professor in the Department of Medicine at Monash University's Eastern Health Clinical School, and Director of Endocrine Research for the Eastern Clinical Research Unit (ECRU). He also maintained a respected private practice in Box Hill and Frankston. Under his leadership, Eastern Health's endocrine services grew from a single clinic to a network of 18 specialist programs across Melbourne's eastern suburbs, providing high-quality, community-based care for thousands of patients.

Chris's clinical interests were broad, ranging across type 2 and gestational diabetes, thyroid cancer, osteoporosis, metabolic bone disease, and others. He served as Principal Investigator on numerous national and international clinical trials. He was deeply

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committed to translating research into therapies that change lives. In his role as Clinical Director of Endocrinology, he led Eastern Health's Clinical Research Unit in running 11 active diabetes trials in 2024, including studies of next-generation incretin therapies. In some patients these therapies achieved dramatic results—weight loss, cessation of other diabetes medications—and held promise of reversing the diabetic phenotype. His contributions earned him many honours, including the Centenary Medal for services to diabetes care on the Mornington Peninsula.

Prof Gilfillan was chair of the metabolic theme of Monash Partners academic health sciences centre and served on the advisory board of the Victoria Cancer Biobank. He also participated in committees of Safer Care Victoria. He has participated in review of manuscripts contributed to international journals including *Thyroid* and *Endocrinology*.

A dedicated academic and educator, Chris was an Adjunct Clinical Professor at both Monash and Deakin Universities, where he played an integral role in teaching medical students, physician trainees, and PhD candidates. His mentorship was deeply valued. Chris dedicated countless hours to guiding students, supporting early-career researchers, and nurturing the next generation of clinicians and scientists.

Chris led with humility, kindness, and quiet strength. His colleagues and team describe him as kind, caring, and passionate about his patients. His calm wisdom, wit, and warmth inspired those around him, and his compassion shaped a culture of respect, excellence, and empathy throughout his department.

We will remember Professor Gilfillan for his brilliance, his humanity, and his unwavering dedication to his patients, students, and colleagues. He will be missed profoundly, and his legacy will continue to enrich our community.



Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Scientific Program Committee and the ANZBMS Council, it is my pleasure to warmly invite you to join us in Auckland, New Zealand for the 36th ANZBMS Annual Scientific Meeting.

We are heading back across the Tasman Sea to the beautiful New Zealand for the 2026 meeting. Lead by President Elect, Associate Professor Christian Girgis, and Co-chairs Dr Melissa Cantley and Dr Michael Bennet, our Scientific Program Committee are shaping an exciting and comprehensive scientific program that spans basic, clinical and allied health research, with sessions designed to inspire learning, engage discussion, and showcase excellence across our musculoskeletal community. The meeting will also offer abundant opportunities to connect, whether you're catching up with long-standing colleagues or building new collaborations.

Whether you are an early or mid-career investigator, clinician, basic scientist, or allied health professional, we hope you'll join us for a meeting that brings our community together, fosters meaningful exchange, and highlights the latest advances in musculoskeletal research.



A/Prof Michelle McDonald
President of ANZBMS



To our colleagues in the healthcare industry,
We're thrilled to present you with an array of exciting opportunities to partner with ANZCA at the 2026 ASM. As one of the largest specialist medical colleges in Australia and New Zealand, our vision is to be a recognised world leader in training, education, and research. Our meeting is one of the primary ways we actualise this vision, and we are reaching out to potential sponsors like you to join us in achieving our goals and making a meaningful impact.

Our international speakers are complemented by a myriad of diverse local speakers. The scientific program is enhanced by an extensive collection of workshops and small group discussions which promise high levels of engagement from our delegates.

With a plethora of educational offerings and numbers exceeding 1800 in-person in Cairns 2025, we're anticipating a high number of delegates attending in 2026 to learn with one another and hear from the healthcare industry.

On behalf of ANZCA, the 2026 National Organising Committee welcomes you to come and explore the advantageous opportunities with us in Auckland, New Zealand.

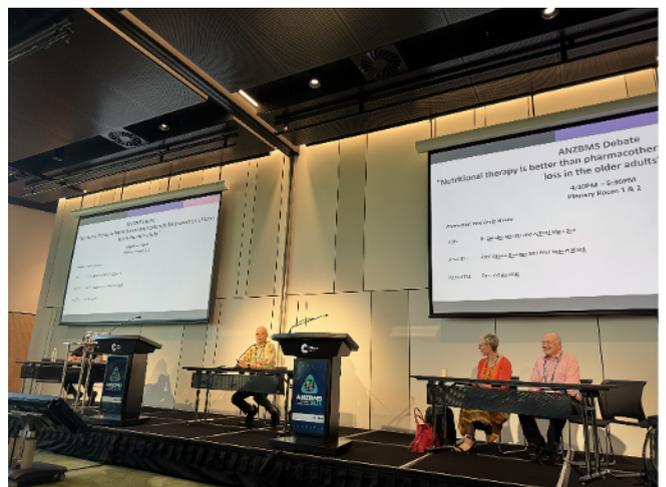
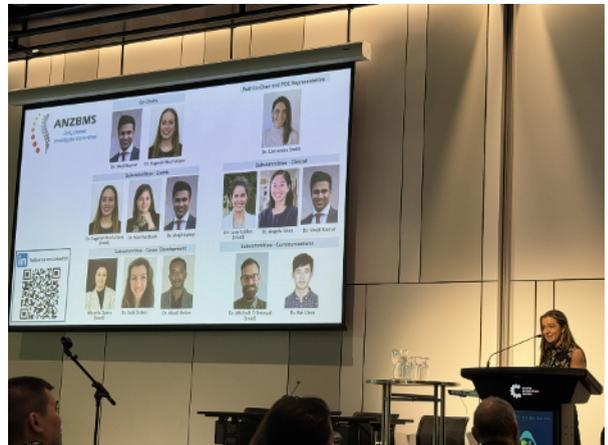


Dr Kerry Benson-Cooper
Convenor (Chair)



Dr Marta Seretny
Scientific Convenor

Snapshots from the 35th ANZBMS ASM



Snapshots from IFMRS Herbert Fleisch Workshop



ANZBMS COUNCIL AND OFFICE BEARERS

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Past President (from 11/11/25)



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President
(from 11/11/25)



**Associate Professor
Michelle McDonald**

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President-elect
(from 11/11/25)



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Treasurer



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Past President (until 11/11/25)



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Chemical Pathologist, Department of Pathology, Royal Melbourne Hospital
Endocrinologist, Austin Hospital & Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
Honorary Senior Fellow,
The University of Melbourne

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Griffith University

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Professor Itamar Levinger
Associate Director Research and Research Training, Institute for Health and Sport (IHES), Victoria University, Leader: Bone, Muscle and CV Research Group, IHES.

COUNCIL MEMBER



Associate Professor Marc Sim
Edith Cowan University
Western Australia

COUNCIL MEMBER



Dr Ali Ghasem-Zadeh
(Councillor from :11/11/25)
Quantitative Bone Imaging lab
Departments of Endocrinology and Medicine, Austin Health
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