**VALE Jane Moseley**

**24.06.1946 - 22.04.2024**

It is with great sadness that we share with the ANZBMS membership the notification of the death of Jane Moseley on 22nd April. May we take this opportunity to celebrate her immense contribution to bone and mineral research over so many years, and her support of all the researchers and students, who were enriched not only by her fierce and discerning intellect, but by her kindness, generosity and loyalty shown to all she worked with in the laboratory.

Following graduating in Science at the University of London, Jane undertook a PhD supervised by Iain MacIntyre at the Hammersmith Hospital, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, graduating in 1972 after contributing much to the early research on calcitonin, including establishing the ultimobranchial origin of calcitonin. It was during this time as fellow PhD students at the Hammersmith, that Jane and Carrie Hillyard became lifelong friends.

Jane made the decision to migrate to Australia, and in 1973 joined the bone group then at the Austin and Royal Melbourne Departments of Medicine. When that group dispersed, Jane worked as a post-doc in immunology with J.J. Marchalonis at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, until in 1978 , when the bone group had assembled again, she joined with Jack Martin, David Findlay and others at the Department of Medicine, Repatriation General Hospital, Heidelberg.

For more than 30 years, Jane Moseley made outstanding contributions to the research of that group. Her first work was on the calcitonin receptor in cancer cells and in osteoclasts, but she rapidly became conversant with the cell biology of osteoclasts especially, and how they were influenced by osteoblasts. She published extensively throughout those years, with much original work, beginning first as an NHMRC post-doc, then a Senior Research Fellow, and for many years a Principal Research Fellow of the NHMRC.

When the group began in the early 1980’s to aim at identifying the cause of the humoral hypercalcemia of malignancy, Jane made good use of her protein chemistry background and skills in cell biology, and led the efforts in the laboratory that resulted in the isolation, purification and sequencing of PTHrP, in collaboration with Dick Wettenhall and PhD student Larry Suva, that led to the cloning of PTHrP with Bill Wood (Genentech).

In collaboration with Bruce Kemp, whose laboratory prepared synthetic peptides based based on that sequence, Jane carried out the first evaluations of the biological activity of PTHrP in activating adenylate cyclase in target cells, and showed also that aminoterminal PTH and PTHrP could readily be distinguished immunologically.

Throughout those years Jane continued with productive work on the regulation of osteoclast formation and on PTHrP action and production, working much with Matthew Gillespie and Janine Danks on the production of PTHrP by normal keratinocytes, cancer cells, osteoblasts and non-mammalian species. A major role of PTHrP to which Jane contributed in those years, was the effect of promoting calcium transport across the placenta, this in collaboration with Tony Care and Ivan Caple, and Christine Rodda and John Heath as PhD students, in addition to her supervision of Vivian Grill investigating the role of PTHrP in breast milk.

Jane Moseley’s list of published papers, reviews and chapters is indeed an impressive one, but what does not come out through those is the immense contribution she made over almost four decades to the work of others around her. These generous contributions were made at all levels, but Jane was especially helpful with the initiation into the laboratory and the further work of research students. Of particular note were the laboratory and interpersonal skills she brought into play in incorporating new medical graduates into that research environment. Jane seemed to know better than anyone else that without any laboratory experience at all, they would have been particularly lost. Jane welcomed them, trained them, criticised them kindly and with gentle humour but firmly enough, that they went on to successful PhD’s and careers.

In addition to Jane’s immense contribution to calcitonin and PTHrP work, in her spare time she also loved exploring the Australian bush and became an Australian “birdo”. Jane would also be regularly seen at symphony concerts and the opera, which she enjoyed immensely. As a testament to Jane’s critical mind, excellent communication skills and personal integrity, following her retirement from the laboratory, she served for some years on the Ethics Committee at St Vincent’s Hospital. When Jane fully retired, she thoroughly enjoyed her relaxed retirement, with regular trips back to the UK to visit family. Around a year before her death Jane learnt that she had developed an incurable malignancy, and in her wonderful practical way she continued to make the most of the time she had with friends and family.

On a personal note, I (Christine Rodda) had the privilege of re-establishing contact with Jane in recent months, sharing a cup of tea and a chat, just as we used to do with Jane as my supervisor and me as her PhD student, like she did so generously with all her students over the years. It was wonderful to reminisce together about all the research and the people that she guided over so many years, and for me to consider how in just a few years, nearly forty years ago, Jane represented such an inspirational role model, and the wider lessons she taught me about scientific integrity.

Jane is survived by her brother, nieces and nephews, and great nieces and nephews, all of whom she adored. Jane will be sadly missed, but we are all grateful for the many and varied ways that she touched our lives along the way.

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