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A/Prof. Jillian Cornish
PRESIDENT ELECT

Dr Mark R. Forwood
TREASURER

A/Prof David Findlay
HONORARY SECRETARY

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The society is growing.

In 1992 we had 64 members. In 2004 we have 440 members. This is good. In 1992 we had \$22,000 in assets. In 2004 we have \$440,000 in assets. If you think this is also good, think twice. How many PhD scholarships, grants, travel allowances, and awards can we provide with this funding? Herein lies one of the great challenges for future councils and Presidents. Find funding.

Our income is derived largely from annual registration fees, industry support, and modest profits from annual scientific meetings. We need other sources of funding from the business world and those of you with a talent in finance should offer your services as councillors or subcommittee members so that we can continue to thrive as a viable society.

The sole function of the society is to provide education opportunities for its members. At this time, we provide only one major educational service to our members as a group and that is the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM). We do not have our own journal and at this time we probably cannot justify the establishment of a journal. However, this is something to keep in mind as the society grows and develops links with other groups such as the arthritis foundation, orthopaedics, biomechanics and allied fields. We provide piecemeal support to individuals with scholarships, awards, and travel grants but all this is far from enough.

What else must we do?

We have commenced several projects. We are in the process of establishing a strategic plan that highlights the goals of our society at the national and international level. At the national level we are continuing the ASM but increasingly we are trying to expand this meeting so it has either an international component and has a collaborative component with other learned bodies. Why do this? There are many reasons. Recall the meeting two years ago that we a celebration of the work of T.J.Martin and drew a huge international audience and gave our members the opportunity to listen to some of the most authoritative thinkers in the field. This years meeting will be combined with the Endocrine society while the following year the meeting will be held in conjunction with the third Asia-Pacific IOF regional osteoporosis meeting that will feature over 24 international speakers from Asia and Japan as well as invited guests from Europe and the USA. This meeting will be held at the Mirage Port Douglas during four days. The idea of this meeting is to enfranchise all of the countries in our region as equal partners and play host on this occasion featuring many guests from SEAsia and Japan. Reciprocation may occur in the future. There will be a shared session with the Arthritis Society later this year and another with the Gynaecologists is being organised. At this time, it is simplest to share a session or have a

symposium organised at the ASM of other societies. We are yet to organise links with orthopaedics, this is an important Mission Impossible to be accomplished.

If we are to survive as a society our ambitions must extend beyond the shores of this blessed plot and embrace the fact that we are members of the SEAsian region and a global village. We must play on the hemi-global and global level, and so provide educational opportunities and security to young investigators who will then be the leading thinkers internationally.

Other educational projects are underway. The first is the physician's update which is organised through the initiative of Osteoporosis Australia and is a combined effort of both our societies. It was very successful last year and will be held annually a day or so before the ASM. If this continues to be successful I believe there is a case to be made for organising this activity on a state by state basis 2-3 times per year.

Discussions are underway to develop a Bone weekend. The first day could be for registrars the second for physicians. The programme would include case presentations as done by the Endocrine society. Other specialities should be included to interest young Scientist-Physicians into a career in bone biology. This could be run with the RACP from time to time. The RACP SAC in Endocrinology wants to run an annual training

SYDNEY BONE AND MINERAL GROUP MEETINGS

The meetings of the Sydney Bone and Mineral Group are held on the 2nd Tuesday of March, May, July, September and November 2005

Venue:
Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron
33 Peel St Kirribilli

Time:
6pm for drinks and canapes
6 30 - 8 pm three 30 min presentations

Parking:
Available underneath, free of charge

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.... *continued*

seminar that would cover the clinical curriculum over 3 years. We could contribute to the bone component of this.

The development of the bone densitometry training course is well underway and will be offered later this year for technicians and physicians. The success of this meeting depends on the support of the members.

Profit arising from this meeting will be given to the ANZBMS for distribution to members as grants and scholarships. There will be a shared session with the Arthritis Society later this year and another with the Gynaecologists is being organised. At this time, it is simplest to share a session or have a symposium organised at the ASM of other societies. We are yet to organise links with orthopaedics, this is an important Mission Impossible to be accomplished.

I would like to express my thanks to the major sponsors, Sanofi-Aventis, MSD, Eli Lilly and Roche as they have helped us a great deal. The existing council will change over at the Perth AGM. Jill Cornish will become the new president. I wish Jill and the new council the best of luck for the future. I would like to thank the outgoing councillors for their hard work and hope that we can continue to grow the society, forge links with other societies and increase our working relationship with other countries so ensure this society lasts a thousand years, at least. I also particularly thank Ivone, our secretariat who is the cement that bonds our society historically and who outlasts all the presidents and their men.

Ego Seeman

ANZBMS ARE CALLING FOR NOMINATIONS FOR COUNCIL

The new ANZBMS Council's term (2005-2007) will commence at the Annual General Meeting in Perth on 8th September this year. The new President for this 2 year term will be Associate Professor Jillian Cornish.

Voting is needed for the President-Elect and a new Council. A candidate can nominate for one or both of these positions.

If you feel there is something burning inside you, a vision for the future of the society that must find expression then don't be shy, put your name forward and help us continue to make the society grow.

We are a young society, only 16 years old, peripubertal really. There are many issues and opportunities to be met. Those of you with a vision and sense of these issues should engage with the society and make things happen. How can we fulfill our responsibility to continue the tradition of bone and mineral research in this country?

How do we demonstrate excitement of a career in research to young scientists and physicians?

How do we provide security for those who commit to a career in the area? How do we develop independent funding for the society that is just so crucial if our educational goals are to be met? What is our place in the SEAsia region and globally? How should we work with government, other scientific bodies, and the pharmaceutical industry?

If you have the fire or know of an ignited colleague who needs a little push, then push away, we need a council that asks what it can do for the society, not the reverse. Take your vote seriously and help us build a finer society that we all can be proud to be part of and contribute to.

Don't be shy, send your nomination form (included in this newsletter) to:

ANZBMS
The Honorary Secretary
Associate Professor David Findlay
145 Macquarie Street
Sydney. NSW. 2000.
to be received by 1st June 2005.

Ego Seeman
Outgoing President

ANZBMS 2004 AWARD AND GRANT WINNERS

Roger Melick Young Investigator Award

The two Roger Melick Young Investigator Awards, sponsored by Servier, were presented to **Susan Allison** who presented data on “*Y-receptor and leptin interactions in the central regulation of bone formation and marrow fat*” and **Kirk Ho Man Yip** who presented data on “*sesquiterpene lactone parthenolide blocks lipopolysaccharide induced osteolysis via the suppression of NF-kB activity*”.

Christopher and Margie Nordin Poster Award

The two Christopher and Margie Nordin Poster Awards, sponsored by Servier, were presented to **Laura Gregory** who poster was titled “*Cyclooxygenase-2©X-2) inhibition prevents ovariectomy-induced bone loss in adult rats*” and **Mark Bolland** who’s poster was titled “*Increased body weight in primary hyperparathyroidism: implications for disease associations*”

Christine and TJ Martin Award

The Christine and T J Martin Award, sponsored by Merck, Sharp and Dohme was awarded to **Kerrie Sanders** from Barwon Health, Geelong



Christine Rodda, Susan Allison, Ego Seeman, Kirk Ho Man Yip and Roger Zebaze

Outstanding Abstract Award

The Outstanding abstract award in the field of Calcium Nutrition sponsored by Key Pharmaceuticals was awarded to **Christine Rodda**, who presented data on “*Ethnic differences in effect of calcium supplementation on bone density in peripubertal girls in a double-blind, placebo-controlled randomized trial*”.

The Outstanding abstract award in the field of Densitometry, sponsored by Insight was awarded to **Roger Zebaze**, who presented data on “*The femoral neck is ellipsoid. Assumption of circularity introduces errors in FN volume, volumetric bone mineral density and bone strength*”.

ANZBMS PhD Scholarship Award

Three one year ANZBMS PhD Scholarship Awards was awarded to:

Susannah O’ Sullivan,
Auckland City Hospital
Mark Bolland,
Auckland University
Nicola Zimmerman,
Geelong Hospital



Christopher Nordin presenting award to Mark Bolland



Jack Martin presenting award to Kerrie Sanders



Christopher Nordin presenting award to Laura Gregory

ANZBMS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

Miss Edwina Barrett

Miss Kym Bramich

Dr Stephen Busby

Dr George Fishman

Dr Stan Gronthos

Dr Mary Gutteridge

Mr Ian Harris

Associate Professor Robert
Howman-Giles

Dr Dianne Hughes

Mr Ben Khoo

Dr Andrew Kurmis

Dr Kerry McMahon

Dr Susannah O’Sullivan

Dr Simon Vanlint

Mrs Christine Visser

Dr Caroline Wijaya

Ms Lana Williams

Ms Qian Zhang

Mr Yu Zheng

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Abstract
20th May 2005

Early bird registration
20th May 2005

Travel Grant
20th May 2005

Roger Melick YI Award
20th May 2005

Chris and Margie Nordin
Poster Award
20th May 2005

Kaye Ibbertson Award on
Metabolic Bone Disease
20th May 2005

Christine and
T Jack Martin Research
Travel Grant
4th August 2005

ANZBMS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES:

Major Sponsors

Merck Sharp & Dohme
Sanofi-Aventis
Eli Lilly
Roche

Other Sponsors

Boots Healthcare
DSL Australia
Inderlec Medical Systems
InSight
Key Pharmaceuticals
Mayne Pharma
Medtel
Novartis Oncology
Osteoporosis Australia
Servier

15TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING PERTH, WA 7TH- 9TH SEPTEMBER 2005

It's not too early to start thinking about your abstracts for the ANZBMS Annual Scientific Meeting. **May 20th will be the Abstract Deadline** as well as the closing date for Early Registration and for all Awards and Travel Grants. The venue will be the InterContinental Burswood Resort on the scenic Swan River and will provide an excellent occasion for reconnecting with your Antipodean and international colleagues. The scientific and social programs will provide endless opportunities for productive interactions. We have planned an exciting scientific program, with excellent international speakers – Raj Thakker and Brendan Boyce – whose presentations will integrate the clinical and basic science interests of our society. Our list of local invited speakers is also coming together well, with a few new faces and a range of topics sure to satisfy every scientific appetite.

Dr. Raj Thakker (UK), the May Professor of Medicine at the University of Oxford, is a consultant physician at the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine and the John Radcliffe Hospital. A noted authority on the genetic basis of diseases of calcium and bone metabolism, his recent studies highlight the roles of calcium sensing receptor, chloride channels and GATA3 transcription factor in calcium homeostatic tissues.

Dr. Brendan Boyce (USA), Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and of Orthopaedics at the University of Rochester Medical Centre in New York, has made key contributions to our understanding of osteoclast formation, activation and survival. His current studies focus particularly on the roles of NF-kappaB and src tyrosine kinase in the increased bone resorption that characterise osteoporosis, inflammatory joint disease, metastatic bone disease and loosening of orthopaedic implants.

We have scheduled our meeting to follow the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Endocrine Society of Australia and thus encourage attendance at both meetings. In this spirit, we have planned a Bone Symposium during the last session of their meeting on Wednesday morning at their venue, the Perth Convention Centre. Afterward, ANZBMS and interested ESA members will travel back to Burswood for lunch and a special

industry symposium sure to create a buzz. This will be followed by an afternoon of talks open to ESA registrants, the traditional ANZBMS evening poster session and welcome reception. Please tell your colleagues who are planning to attend the ESA conference about the ANZBMS conference. Our provisional programme will be posted on the web page soon.

A primary purpose of the ASM is education, and attendance by scientists in training is particularly important. Supervisors and mentors of PhD scholars and postdoctoral scientists are strongly encouraged to support attendance by their junior colleagues, to give them the valuable experience of oral and poster presentations. A large number of travel grants and merit awards will be available to provide funds for their participation.

This meeting would not be possible without our generous sponsors and exhibitors. In particular, we acknowledge the exceptional support of our platinum sponsors Merck Sharp & Dohme, Sanofi-Aventis, and Servier Laboratories, and our gold sponsor Eli Lilly. Their contributions have allowed us to pursue our educational mission with confidence. Please visit the web site at <http://www.anzbms.org.au/> for updated information and on-line registration or ring the Meeting Secretariat on

(02) 9437 9333.
Edith Gardiner

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Thursday 8th September 2005

The Annual General Meeting of ANZBMS will be held at InterContinental Burswood Resort in Perth. All members are encouraged to attend the meeting at which the Roger Melick Young Investigator Award, Christopher & Margie Nordin Young Investigator Poster Award, ANZBMS Outstanding Abstract Award, Christine & T. Jack Martin Research Travel Grant and the Kaye Ibbertson Award for Metabolic Bone Disease

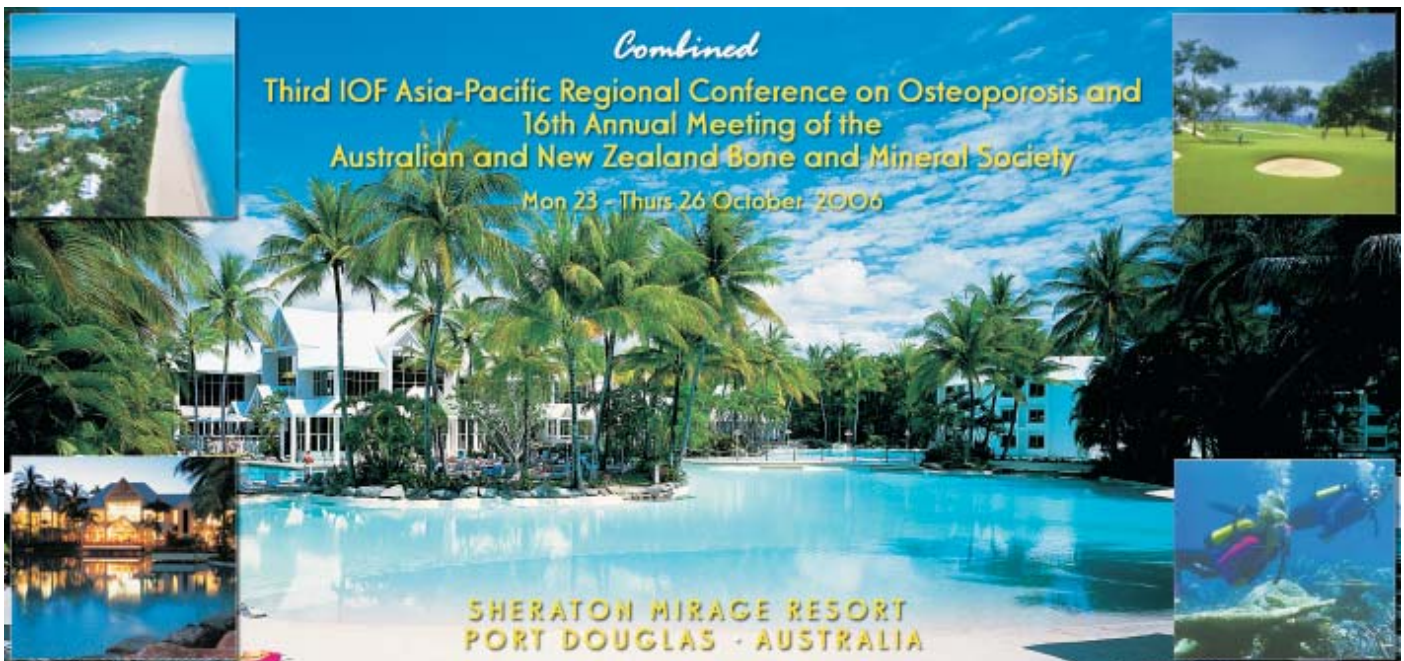
ANZBMS TO HOST ASIA-PACIFIC OSTEOPOROSIS MEETING IN 2006

A unique opportunity for scientific exchange between investigators in Australia, South-East Asia, Japan, and China is being offered in 2006. The 16th Annual Scientific Meeting of the ANZBMS is being combined with the 3rd IOF Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Osteoporosis in Port Douglas, North Queensland from Monday 23 October – Thursday 26 October 2006.

The Sheraton Mirage Resort, which has been chosen as the location for this important event, has first class conference facilities with space for a trade display and scientific posters. The 5-star resort is nestled amongst 130 hectares of tropical landscaped gardens, 2 hectares of magnificent saltwater lagoons and an 18-hole championship golf course. A very special rate has been negotiated for the spacious luxury rooms most of which feature two double beds or one king size bed. There are daily flights into Cairns International Airport with coach transfers available from the airport to Port Douglas.

The scientific program will offer a range of topics by eminent speakers in a series of lectures related to osteoporosis, metabolic bone disease and treatment. A special feature will be expert round table discussion sessions on inter and intra signalling, bone quality and therapeutics. The date for submitting abstracts for mini oral presentations and poster displays is 1 June 2006.

The ANZBMS training course on densitometry, a physicians course aimed at the practical application of bone densitometry and a technicians course aimed at running a densitometry service will be held on the weekend prior the meeting. There will be a Physicians Update Day organized with Osteoporosis Australia (OA) dealing with what the practising doctor needs to know about osteoporosis in women and men. Other meetings such as a Pediatric day, a confocal workshop, an IOF meeting for allied health professionals and a patient society meeting with OA are in the planning phase.



RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Congratulations to those of you who have survived the NH&MRC grant writing and submission process! And after this comes judgment (Hebrews 9: 27b)! The good thing is that many members will have the opportunity to participate in the review process, and this is a plea that we all do so as conscientiously and fairly as possible. By that I mean reading the grants carefully, making non-emotive, fair, constructive criticisms and then *giving ratings that reflect those comments*. The latter is most important when the grants come to be considered at a panel level. Although our system does not have a

'memory', it would be wonderful if we were to develop a culture in this country of recognising good ideas and assisting them to get funded by helpful, rather than destructive, comments. In addition, if we are unnecessarily negative in our reviews of bone-related grants, then other fields may benefit from that. I have included below the Review Criteria that the NIH has recently adopted for assessment of their grants. Please read and ponder the Overall Evaluation section. **Happy reviewing!**

MEMBER S PUBLICATIONS

This section in the ANZBMS Newsletter and Website (anzbms.org.au/memberpub/index.htm) is designed to give members an overview of the clinical and basic research that we are collectively involved in.

Members are encouraged to contribute to this section by sending in details of recent publications to Ivone Johnson at anzbms@racp.edu.au

Alvarez E, Westmore M, Galvin RJ, Clapp CL, Considine EL, Smith SJ, Keyes K, Iversen PW, Delafuente DM, Sulaimon S, Zambrano C, Ma L, Sato M, Martin TJ, Teicher BA, Galbreath EJ.

Properties of bisphosphonates in the 13762 rat mammary carcinoma model of tumor-induced bone resorption. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2003 Nov 15;9(15):5705-13.

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Bilateral femoral head osteonecrosis following septic shock and multiorgan failure. *J Bone Min Res* 2004;19:517-521

Bouralexis S, Clayer M, Atkins GJ, Labrinidis A, Hay S, Graves S, Findlay DM, Evdokiou A.

Sensitivity of fresh isolates of soft tissue sarcoma, osteosarcoma and giant cell tumour cells to Apo2L/TRAIL and doxorubicin.

Int J Oncol. 2004 May;24(5):1263-70.

Braatvedt GD, Bagg W, Gamble G, Davidson J, Reid IR.

The effect of atorvastatin on markers of bone turnover in patients with type 2 diabetes. *Bone* (in press)

Campbell, T.M., Wong, W.T. and Mackie, E.J.

(2003) Establishment of a model of cortical bone repair in mice . *Calcif. Tissue Int.* 73:49-55.

Changhai Ding, Qin Li, Zuying Xiong, Aiwu Zhou, Graeme Jones, Shuyun Xu. Oral administration of type II collagen suppresses pro-inflammatory mediator production by synoviocytes in rats with adjuvant arthritis.

Clinical and Experimental Immunology 2003 132:416-23

Cool SM, Snyman CP, Nurcombe V, Forwood M.

Temporal expression of fibroblast growth factor receptors during primary ligament repair.

Knee Surg Sports Traumatol Arthrosc. 2003 Dec 23 [Epub ahead of print]

Cooley HM, Stankovich J, Jones G. A cross-sectional study of the association between hormonal and reproductive factors and hand osteoarthritis.

Maturitas 2003 45:257-65.

Chang KP, Center JR, Nguyen TV, Eisman JA.

Incidence of hip and other osteoporotic fractures in elderly men and women:

dubbo osteoporosis epidemiology study.

J Bone Miner Res. 2004 Apr;19(4):532-6.

Chris Barnes, Patricia Wong, Brendan Egan, Tessa Brewin, Fergus Cameron, Graeme Jones, Henry Ekert, Paul Monagle.

Reduced bone density in children with severe haemophilia. *Pediatrics* (in press)

Cicutini F, Wluka A, Davis S, Strauss BJ, Yeung S, Ebeling PR.

Association between knee cartilage volume and bone mineral density in older adults without osteoarthritis.

Rheumatology (Oxford). 2004 Mar 23 [Epub ahead of print]

M Coetzee, MC Kruger.

Osteoprotegerin/ RANKL ratio: a new approach to osteoporosis treatment?

Southern Medical Journal (2004) 97: 506-511

Cornish J, Callon KE, Mountjoy KG, Bava U, Lin J-M, Myers DE, Naot D, Reid IR.

α-Melanocyte stimulating hormone (α-MSH) is a novel regulator of bone.

Amer J Physiol 2003; 284: E1181-E1190

Cornish J, Gillespie MT, Callon KE, Horwood NJ, Moseley JM, Reid IR.

Interleukin-18 is a novel mitogen of osteogenic and chondrogenic cells.

Endocrinology 144:1194-1201, 2003

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Shared pathways of osteoblast mitogenesis induced by amylin, adrenomedullin, and IGF-1.

Biochem Biophys Res Comm 2004; 318: 240-246

Cornish J.

Lactoferrin promotes bone growth. *Biometals* 17:331-335, 2004

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J Clin Endocrinol Metab 88:78-81, 2003

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Davidson PL, Goulding A, Chalmers, D.

Biomechanical analysis of arm fracture in obese boys

Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health 37: 657-664 (2003).

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Gene array identification of osteoclast genes: differential inhibition of osteoclastogenesis by cyclosporin A and granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor.

J Cell Biochem. 2004 Feb 1;91(2):303-15

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Risk-taking, coordination and upper limb fractures in children: a population based case-control study.

Osteoporosis International 2004 (in press)

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Br J Haematol. 2004 Feb;124(4):485-7.

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Cancer. 2004 Mar 1;100(5):892-9.

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Technology evaluation: MRA, Chugai.

Curr Opin Mol Ther 2003 5:64-9

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Macroprolactinomas presenting with slipped capital femoral epiphyses.

The Endocrinologist 2004;14:31-2.

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Australian Journal of Dairy Technology 58: 73-78 (2003).

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J Am Diet Assoc. 2004 Feb;104(2):250-3.

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Parallel PI-3 kinase and p42/44 MAP kinase signaling pathways subserve the mitogenic and anti-apoptotic actions of IGF-1 in osteoblastic cells.

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Hu YS, Zhou H, Myers D, Quinn JM, Atkins GJ, Ly C, Gange C, Kartsogiannis V, Elliott J, Kostakis P, Zannettino AC, Cromer B, McKinstry WJ, Findlay DM, Gillespie MT, Ng KW.
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British Journal of Sports Medicine 2003 37:382-3.

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JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Progress in Osteoporosis
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INAUGURAL KAYE IBBERTSON AWARD FOR METABOLIC BONE DISEASE

This Award is named in honour of the outstanding career and major investigations into skeletal disorders made by Professor Kaye Ibbertson, and his contributions to the ANZBMS. Emeritus Professor Kaye Ibbertson was the Foundation Professor of Endocrinology at the University of Auckland and established the Department of Endocrinology at Auckland Hospital. He has personally trained most of New Zealand's endocrinologists, as well as practitioners working further afield. His clinical and research interests during the last 40 years encompass many aspects of endocrinology. He contributed substantially in the area of metabolic bone disease, in particular in Paget's disease. He was involved in the early trials demonstrating the efficacy of calcitonin and etidronate.

Subsequently he worked in collaboration with Professor Russell Fraser and Professor Olaf Bijvoet to demonstrate the enormous therapeutic potential of pamidronate in this condition. He also made important contributions to the literature in osteoporosis, acromegaly and thyroid disease (particularly with respect to iodine deficiency). Kaye is a thoughtful and gentle man whose legacy to endocrine practice and research has been substantial.

Further information:
<http://anzbms.org.au/grants.htm>
Deadline: 20th May 2005

IS VERTEBROPLASTY AN EFFECTIVE AND SAFE TREATMENT FOR OSTEOPOROTIC VERTEBRAL FRACTURES?

- Do you have a patient with a painful spinal fracture of less than 6 months duration?
- Was it due to osteoporosis?

IF YES, THEY MAY BE SUITABLE FOR OUR TRIAL.

We are conducting a randomised double-blind placebo-controlled trial into the efficacy and safety of vertebroplasty for the treatment of acute, painful osteoporotic vertebral fractures.

Participants in the trial will either receive a vertebroplasty or a sham vertebroplasty procedure and will be assessed at baseline, 1 week, 1, 3, 6, 12 and 24 months.

All procedures are free of charge for the participants.

We would be really grateful for your help in recruiting eligible people. Main inclusion criteria's are:

1. patients who have one or two acute osteoporotic vertebral fractures and
2. back pain of 6 months or less duration

If you have a potentially eligible patient, please call the research co-ordinators:
Ms Lainie Wengier or Dr Jo Youd on
Ph: 9508 1652

Please note:

- the trial is being conducted at the Cabrini, Royal Melbourne & Alfred Hospitals, and Monash Medical Centre
- the trial has ethical approval from Cabrini, Royal Melbourne & Alfred Hospitals, Monash Medical Centre, Monash University and Northern Health
- funding has been provided by the NHMRC with contributions from the Arthritis Foundation of Australia, Cook Australia and the Cabrini Education and Research Institute

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about the trial:

Rachelle Buchbinder for the Collaborative Vertebroplasty Research Group.
(rachelle.buchbinder@med.monash.edu.au)

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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.

ANZBMS DENSITOMETRY SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT

ANZBMS Training Course

Development of the ANZBMS course is progressing steadily. The first draft of the lectures is now virtually complete and the review process begun. We are still on track to run the first course in mid year 2005. Peter Ebeling is currently looking at possible venues to run the course in Melbourne.

The ANZAPNM has contacted the ANZBMS and it is likely they will accept attendance at the course as suitable training for their advanced trainees in Nuclear Medicine.

DXA Accreditation.

The RANZCR has entered into a mandatory accreditation scheme for practices providing radiology services. This covers all diagnostic imaging services but excludes a few areas including Nuclear Medicine. There is no mention of densitometry in the areas excluded and it is likely that as far as the RANZCR is concerned the accreditation scheme will cover DXA.

The ANZAPNM is negotiating a separate agreement (non compulsory at this stage) with the Federal Government which will probably include the densitometry services they provide.

The ANZBMS should develop a strategy of how its accreditation scheme is to be modeled and how best to approach the Federal Government. The two main outstanding issues to consider are:

1. Whether the accreditation system is compulsory and whether it is linked to Medicare rebate eligibility
2. How to organize and fund site visits (I think the general thinking is that site visits are necessary but as far as I am aware no definite decision has been taken by council about frequency, manpower, etc). We are still in need of good data about the size of the likely demand for ANZBMS DXA accreditation.

Nick Pocock

NIH CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS

Significance: Does this study address an important problem? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge or clinical practice be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

Innovation: Is the project original and innovative? For example: Does the project challenge existing paradigms or clinical practice; address an innovative hypothesis or critical barrier to progress in the field? Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technologies for this area?

Investigators: Are the investigators appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers? Does the investigative team bring complementary and integrated expertise to the project (if applicable)?

Environment: Does the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Do the proposed studies benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, or subject populations, or employ useful collaborative arrangements? Is there evidence of institutional support?

OVERALL EVALUATION: In one paragraph, briefly summarize the most important points of the Critique, addressing the strengths and weaknesses of the application in terms of the five review criteria. Recommend a score reflecting the overall impact of the project on the field, weighting the review criteria, as you feel appropriate for each application. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have a major scientific impact and, thus, deserve a high merit rating. For example, an investigator may propose to carry out important work that by its nature is not innovative, but is essential to move a field forward, or improve clinical decisions or outcomes.

RACP NEWS

The College achieved accreditation with the Australian Medical Council for its provision of specialist medical education in 2004. The accreditation lasts until 2008 and the AMC recommended changes that largely mirror the Education Strategy developed by the college.

Changes underway include the development of curricula and formalizing training partnerships with Special Societies. The ANZBMS is already involved in the preparation of curricula (Rory Clifton-Bligh and Mark Kotowitz represent us on the Endocrine SAC). Whilst the ANZBMS-ADS-ESA consortium was not selected by the Adult Medical Division for formal talks to test 'ways' to develop partnerships this does not preclude the society from initiating talks for effective and equal partnership in areas of interest to our society. The College currently provides the society secretariat support and the separate and joint responsibilities (and liabilities) will need to be defined and agreed upon.

The formalization of continuing education and training and the re-engineering of relationships with Special Societies has been questioned with concern that the process may become more bureaucratic (more rules and protocols and a greater emphasis on record keeping) in an endeavor to satisfy external bodies such as the AMC.

Is there any supporting evidence that the proposed changes are better than the current model of informal but nonetheless effective teaching through the apprenticeship model? (David Henderson, RACP News, February 2005)

Is MOPS just a hassle with little relevance as a lot of Fellows would appear to have decided by their low participation rate? Should our society be engaging with the college to develop pathways for satisfying continuing education requirements that would meet the needs of members of our society?

The College is also discussing the future of its ASM and ways of increasing the ASM's relevance and attracting a broader population of fellows to attend. Is there a format that ANZBMS would consider other than the co-sponsored special symposia (ASM 2003)?

Members of ANZBMS who are interested in these issues are invited to write to the ANZBMS Newsletter Editor or myself.

Michael Hooper

ANZBMS representative on the FRACP Specialties Board Member FRACP Adult Medicine Division Committee

DATES FOR THE DIARY

2005

May 23-27, 2005
3rd International Conference on Bone and Mineral Research & 5th International Osteoporosis Symposium, Xian, China
Email: info@china-osteofound.org
Website: www.chinaosteofound.org/en

June 25-29, 2005
Second Joint Meeting of the European Calcified Tissue Society and the International Bone and Mineral Society, Geneva, Switzerland
Email: ectis-ibms@mci-group.com
Website: www.ectis-ibms-2005.org

July 8-9, 2005
International Symposium on Paget's Disease
Oxford, UK
Email: janet@janet-crompton.com
Website: www.paget.org.uk

September 2-4, 2005
ESA Clinical Weekend
The Novotel Vines Resort, Swan Valley, WA
Contact Mike Pickford ASN
Email: mp@asnevents.net.au
Website: http://www.esaclinicalweekend.org.au/

September 4-7, 2005
ESA/SRB Annual Scientific Meeting
Perth Convention Centre
Contact Mike Pickford ASN
Email: mp@asnevents.net.au
Website: www.esa-srb.org.au

September 7-9, 2005
ANZBMS Annual Scientific Meeting
InterContinental Burswood Resort, Perth
Contact: Conference Action
Email: emma@conferenceaction.com.au

September 7-9, 2005
ADS/ADEA
Annual Scientific Meeting
Perth Convention Centre
Contact Mike Pickford ASN
Email: mp@asnevents.net.au
Website: www.ads-adea.org.au

September 23-27, 2005
Annual Meeting, American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
Gaylord Opryland Hotel
Nashville, Tennessee, USA
E-mail: asbmr@smithbucklin.com
Website: www.asbmr.org/meeting/index.cfm

October 18-22, 2005
11th World Congress on the Menopause, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Contact website: www.anajuan.com/menopause

November 5-11, 2005
World Congress on Neurology
Sydney, Australia
Website: www.aan.org.au

2006

June 2-6, 2006
IOF World Congress on Osteoporosis
Toronto, Canada
Website: www.osteofound.org/wco/2006

August 21-23, 2006
ESA Annual Scientific Meeting
Gold Coast
Contact: ASN Events
Website: http://www.esa-srb.org.au

September 15-19, 2006
Annual Meeting, American Society for Bone and Mineral Research
Philadelphia Convention Center/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
Phone: (202) 367-1161
Fax: (202) 367-2161
E-mail: asbmr@smithbucklin.com

October 23-26, 2006
Third IOF-Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Osteoporosis and 16th Annual Scientific Meeting of ANZBMS Sheraton Mirage, Port Douglas, QLD
Email: anzbms@racp.edu.au
Website: anzbms.org.au

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.