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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2010 is shaping up to be an exciting year. Most of us have by now recovered from the new NHMRC application process – it may be easier to update in future, but was painful at the time. Everyone was reminded again that, despite being a National Health Priority, the term “musculo-skeletal” is not in the fields of research. The ANZBMS Scientific Committee will be taking steps to convince the Australian Bureau of Statistics that this term should be included in future classifications for sensible health-related reasons, apart from directing grant applications to appropriate NHMRC panels.

Abstracts have now opened for the Annual Scientific Meeting to be held in Adelaide from 5-8th September. Closing date is May 1st, so get yours in soon. Details of the meeting have been provided by Program Organizing Committee Chair, Emma Duncan elsewhere in this newsletter. There is an excellent line-up of international and national speakers, but there will also be ample opportunities for our newer researchers to present their work. As a new initiative this year, a “Beginner Bone” session will be held on the Sunday just before the main conference. This is meant to provide an outline of basic bone science for clinical fellows and basic clinical bone disease for researchers. We hope this will be attractive to members. Please note also the awards available for this meeting – details are on our website. Note that applications for most of these awards close on May 1st. Council encourages members to consider also applying for the Christine and TJ Martin Research Travel Grant. These applications are due on August 1st.

Every year we encourage our members to make sure they are financial. Apart from our calculations which show a substantial financial return on the membership fee, there is now a further incentive to keep in mind. Eligibility for travel grants require that the applicant and their supervisor be financial members of ANZBMS – see details elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Australian Health and Medical Research Congress will be held in Melbourne on 14-19th November. As in the past, ANZBMS will be a participating society, which means that we will have a day of sessions of particular interest to our members, including

joint sessions with the Mutagenesis and Experimental Pathology Society of Australia – on vitamin D with Prof Dan Bikle – and with the Matrix Biology Society – on gut-derived serotonin regulation of bone mass with Dr Vijay Yadav. Details are provided elsewhere in the newsletter.

Plans are also underway for our meeting on the Gold Coast in 2011. I am pleased to announce that this meeting will be held in conjunction with the International Osteoporosis Foundation (Asia-Pacific Regional meeting) and with the Japanese Bone and Mineral Society. The 2012 meeting will be held in Perth.

On a sadder note, Greg Mundy, a friend, colleague and mentor to many of people in the bone field, including many in Australia and New Zealand, recently passed away. Greg was here at last year's joint meeting of ANZBMS and IBMS in Sydney. His good friend Jack Martin has written an obituary.

As you can see from the accompanying articles, ANZBMS members have been active in a large number of areas of interest to all of us. Our relationships with Osteoporosis Australia, with the RACP and with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists continue to be strong and collegial. In late May, the next Council meeting will primarily consider the ANZBMS strategic plan. This is a good opportunity for members to get involved and an opportunity to shape our directions in the next few years. The current plan is prominently mentioned on the home page of our website. Please take some time to look at it and send your comments and any ideas to Ivone Johnson (anzbms@racp.edu.au). Fresh ideas would be very welcome and we would especially welcome input from more junior colleagues.

**Professor Rebecca S Mason**

## ANZBMS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Mrs Kathryn Cottrill

Ms Renee Otma

Mrs Dalmonte

Ms Helen Mair

Miss Kristy MacRae



*Professor Rebecca S Mason*

## REPORT ON OSTEOPOROSIS

As I reported last time, Osteoporosis Australia was affected by the Global Financial Crisis, like many other not-for-profit organizations. Under the leadership of the new CEO, Naseema Sparks, with input from the Board, OA's position has improved. Much of the funding for osteoporosis awareness and programs comes from the Federal Government, including the Department of Health and Ageing.

Although ongoing funds are to be committed, the level of support is unclear at this stage, particularly given the current political climate. Still, the stated government emphasis on prevention, should help the outlook. Initiatives to work more effectively with State offices and to find out how best to help pharmacists with their needs in relation to osteoporosis are currently being undertaken.  
**Professor Rebecca Mason**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of ANZBMS will be held at Adelaide Hilton, Adelaide on Tuesday 7th September 2010 at 5.00pm. All members are encouraged to attend the meeting at which the Roger Melick Young Investigator Award, Christopher & Margie Nordin Young Investigator Poster Award,

ANZBMS/AMGEN Outstanding Abstract Award, Christine & T. Jack Martin Research Travel Grant, Kaye Ibbertson Award for Metabolic Bone Disease and the Sol Posen Research award.

## SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

ANZBMS membership subscriptions are now due. Please ensure that the Secretariat has all the correct mailing and contact details, particularly email addresses, as we rely on these to maintain contact with you and keep you informed of ANZBMS activities. Membership to the ANZBMS permits access to all meetings, obtaining

membership registration, opportunity to apply for the various ANZBMS awards/Travel Grants and the ANZBMS newsletter. You may find it more convenient to use the online Annual subscription renewal form and secure credit card payment gateway. <http://www.anzbms.org.au/mship/renewals/index.cfm>

## CLINICAL BONE DENSITOMETRY COMMITTEE REPORT: MARCH 2010

The next Course will be held in Brisbane on 27th & 28th March (UQ), with approximately 45 registrants. This shows the maintenance of a healthy supply of registrants at the current rate of conduct of courses. The next Course will likely be located in Adelaide, to coincide with the ANZBMS Annual Scientific meeting.

Two Course representatives have been invited back to an EU country in 2011 as a tag-team representing ANZBMS in a co-badged course. As always, we are grateful for the relentless organisational work of Chris Schultz, particularly when Adelaide is involved.

The International ANZBMS-sponsored meeting in 2011 (Gold Coast) may present an opportunity for a co-badged arrangement, similar to Sydney 2009, though it might need to be located in Brisbane.

Steady improvement in Course material and presentations has occurred over 2009. However, a complete reappraisal has been foreshadowed by the Committee during 2010.

**ANZBMS Clinical BMD Committee  
March, 2010**

# ANZBMS ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

## Adelaide at the Hilton Hotel, 5-8 September 2010

Planning for this year's ANZBMS annual scientific meeting has been an exciting task. The committee is delighted to have as confirmed international guests Prof Juliet Compston (University of Cambridge); Prof Dr Ralph Mueller (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich), Dr Michaela Kneissel (Novartis, Switzerland) and Prof Paul Lips (VU University Medical Centre, Amsterdam). Other speakers will include not only internationally renowned Australian and New Zealand researchers and clinicians, but also our many prominent young bone investigators.

The meeting will in Adelaide at the Hilton Hotel, 5-8 September 2010. The close proximity of the many famous vineyards of South Australia has not escaped the local organizing committee, lead by David Findlay.

Sessions at the conference will include both invited speakers and the most outstanding abstracts submitted in the relevant area of interest. Planned sessions include:

- Basic and clinical aspects to bone anabolism
- Mechanical loading in bone
- Osteoimmunology
- Vitamin D: beyond bone
- Bone imaging
- The bone and joint interface
- HIV and bone
- Obesity and fractures

We are hoping to run a "Beginner Bone" afternoon as a pre-conference warm up before the welcome function on Sunday

afternoon - basic bone science for clinicians, and basic clinical bone disease for scientists. These seminars are aimed specifically at medical registrars and early researchers (PhD students and early postdocs), to provide an interactive, nonconfrontational and friendly forum for early career boneheads. Hopefully this will enrich the conference experience for these younger participants.

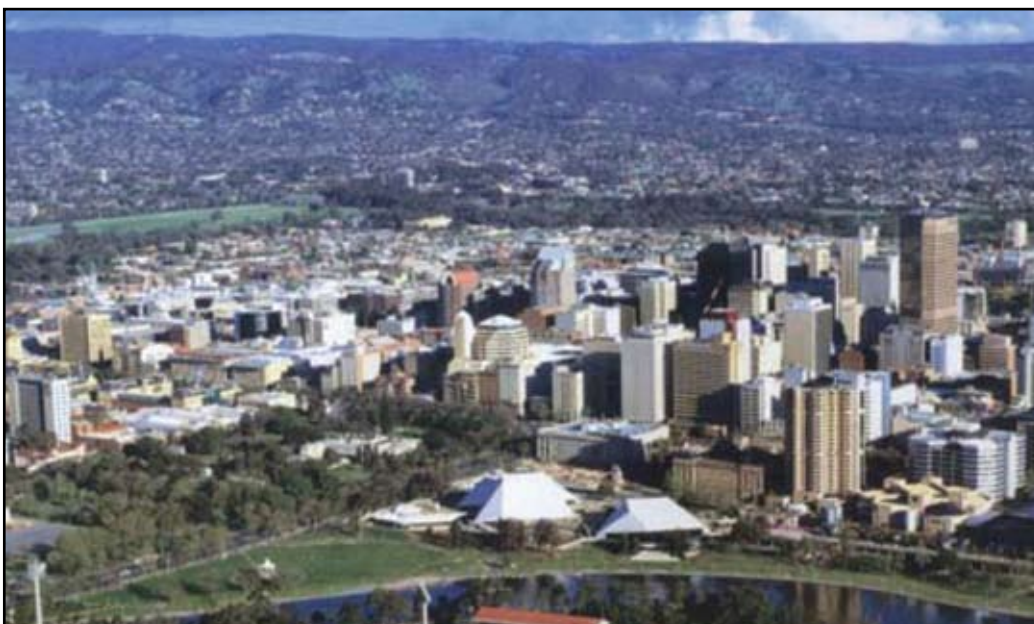
As usual, the main meeting will include visiting professor sessions each morning, young investigators presentations, basic and clinical science oral presentations, symposia, poster sessions, career development for junior players – along with the well-established social side to this great meeting. So put the dates in your diary now and start writing your abstracts! The conference abstract submission website is open (<http://www.anzbms.org.au/asm/asm2010/abstracts/req.cfm>) with abstract deadline 1 May. If you are eligible, please consider applying for the society's prestigious and generous awards - the Roger Melick Young Investigator Award, Christopher & Margie Nordin Young Investigator Poster Award, ANZBMS Outstanding Abstract Award, Christine & T. Jack Martin Research Travel Grant, Kaye Ibbertson Award for Metabolic Bone Disease and the Sol Posen Research Award. Younger researchers should also apply for ANZBMS Travel Awards.

The Programme Committee wishes you all the best in your abstract submissions. We look forwards to seeing you in Adelaide in September.

**Dr Emma Duncan-POC Chair**

## ANZBMS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES OUR SPONSORS:

Amgen  
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Surgical Synergies  
Thompson Scientific Instruments  
Wyeth







It is with much sadness that we record that Greg Mundy passed away peacefully at home with his family in San Antonio on February 25. The ANZBMS was one of the many Societies and other organizations that Greg contributed to outstandingly in a career of consistent, remarkable achievement over four decades in bone cell biology and its control by hormones and cytokines, the implications of this for osteoporosis, and most notably, for the skeletal complications of cancer. On the several occasions on which he took part in ANZBMS meetings he provided great inspiration as a role model for our young scientists.

Greg was Australian, and remained unmistakably so throughout his 35 years in the USA. Born in Templestowe, he graduated in Medicine at Melbourne University, winning Full Blues in cricket and baseball as a student. He was a very effective and lively-paced opening bowler for the University, topping the bowling averages in his last 2 years, 1964-65 and 1965-66, and playing successfully in 1966 for the Victorian Colts XI.

After 2 years at the Royal Hobart Hospital as a Resident, he began working with Professor Albert Baikie, who had taken the position of Professor of Medicine at the University of Tasmania. Baikie was a distinguished haematologist, under whose tutelage Greg began research on multiple myeloma, completing a research thesis on that subject for his Doctorate of Medicine. This provided a great background for his subsequent contributions to understanding of how that disease so profoundly affects the skeleton.

Career advice was not so readily available in those days, so Greg made his own plans, deciding that the new discipline of Clinical Pharmacology – the scientific basis of drug treatments – could be an interesting further training route. He arranged a position to do that at the University of Rochester, New York USA, and he and Helen left for there in 1970. When it became apparent that his allocated post looked like not being productive, Greg aligned himself with another Rochester laboratory, led by Larry Raisz MD, who had worked out how to grow bone in tissue culture in ways that allowed them to study how bone resorption is controlled by hormones, drugs or chemicals.

That led Greg into the field of bone biology where he was to make such wonderful contributions, and was the beginning of a long and remarkably productive association with Raisz.

His first notable scientific achievement was to show with Raisz that both malignant white blood cells and multiple myeloma cells produced activities that caused the breakdown of bone, by activating the cells responsible for this – osteoclasts. The Mundy/Raisz ‘osteoclast activating factor’ – OAF – became the byword for how blood cancers could affect the skeleton. It produced two New England Journal papers in Greg’s first year as a Fellow, and it set the scene for new thinking about myeloma particularly. In subsequent years Mundy was either directly or indirectly responsible for many of the advances made in understanding the bone complications of myeloma, and how to treat them. He made himself very available over the years to the international myeloma patient support group, where his warmth of personality and communication skills were much appreciated.

Greg rapidly became a great leader in research on the cells of bone and how they communicate with each other, and the implications of these communication mechanisms for diseases – osteoporosis and cancer. Especially over more than two decades he led many of the discoveries around how solid cancers, particularly of breast and prostate, spread to the skeleton and grew there. He was a superb lecturer, whether talking about his own research or surveying the field, and had a real skill in cutting through complexity.

When Larry Raisz moved to Connecticut in 1978 Greg accompanied him, but in 1980 moved to San Antonio as Head of Endocrinology, where he spent 25 years as a remarkably productive scientist in bone biology, and an educator who trained more than 150 students and Fellows, many of whom have progressed to successful independent careers. His research has been acknowledged by very many prestigious awards, and his leadership exemplary as President of IBMS, co-founder and President of CABS, President of ASBMR and a tireless worker for all those causes as well as those of the National Osteoporosis Foundation, the International Myeloma Foundation and the many Editorial Boards on which he served.

In 2006, after 26 years of success in San Antonio, Greg took Directorship of the Vanderbilt Center in Bone Biology, as John A. Oates Chair in Translational Medicine and Professor of Medicine, Pharmacology, Orthopedics and Cancer Biology. That Center’s rapid success and activity after such a very short time are a standing tribute to him. His illness began in September, 2008, but throughout 2009 he was full of ideas and vitality, despite increasing physical impairment, even giving featured talks in early December at the American Society of Hematology meeting in New Orleans, and then at the San Antonio Breast Cancer meeting. Consistent with the great character and determination he showed in all other aspects of his life, Greg lived through this illness with great grace and dignity, helped by his loving family.

We offer our sincerest sympathy to Greg’s wife, Helen and children Gavin, Ben and Jennifer.

**Obituary by Prof TJ Martin**

# AUSTRALIAN HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH CONGRESS, 14-19 NOVEMBER 2010, MELBOURNE



The Australian Health & Medical Research Congress

14-18th November 2010  
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre



24 Societies and Organisations involved  
Plenary Speakers for 2010:  
Prof Reinhard Fässler, Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry, Germany  
Prof Brigid Hogan, Duke University, USA  
A/Prof Vivek Mittal, Cornell University, USA  
A/Prof David Sinclair, Harvard University, USA



[www.ahmrc congress.org.au](http://www.ahmrc congress.org.au)

ANZBMS is a participating society at the AHMRC meeting this year, organised jointly by ASMR and a number of key medical research societies.

On Tuesday November 16th, we will have:

- a session on Vitamin D biology including a plenary talk from Prof Daniel Bikle, UCSF, in conjunction with MEPSA,
- poster and oral presentations (including entry into the "Best of the Best" poster competition),
- a joint session with the Matrix Biology society including a plenary talk from Dr Vijay Yadav, Columbia University, on gut-derived serotonin regulation of bone mass.

On the days either side of our sessions there will be presentations from some other excellent International speakers including Rik Derynck (TGF $\beta$  signalling), Brigid Hogan (stem cell biology and development), Vivek Mittal (angiogenesis and metastasis), David Sinclair (sirtuins and resveratrol), Mark Johnson (Wnt signalling in bone and cartilage), Reinhard Fassler (integrins and cell adhesion), Lorenz Meinel (tissue engineering) and many others.

**Dr Natalie Sims**

Keep the dates free, and keep an eye out for more news as speakers are confirmed. Details at the AHMRC website. <http://www.ahmrc congress.org.au>

Abstract submission for Oral presentation deadline: August 6th;

Abstract submission for poster presentation only (good for Honours students): September 10th.

Please plan to support and attend this exciting cross-disciplinary meeting.

## ANZBMS TRAVEL GRANTS 2010

The new criteria is listed below

Eligibility criteria:

- The applicant must be a financial member of ANZBMS for the past 12 months (or provide documentary evidence of the commencement date of employment or candidature if this has occurred within the past 12 months)
- The applicant must have made a substantial contribution to the work and be first and presenting author of the paper to be delivered at the ANZBMS Annual Scientific Meeting.
- The applicant must be employed at a level no higher than lecturer or Institutional Research Fellow.
- The supervisor must be a financial member of ANZBMS.

Website: <http://www.anzbms.org.au/resources/grants/travel.htm>

PROFESSOR  
CHRISTOPHER  
NORDIN  
TURNS 90



Professor B.E.C. (Chris) Nordin is 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 is also the World Health Organisation's calcium expert, a visiting professor of medicine and pathology at the University of Adelaide and a emeritus specialist in endocrinology at Royal Adelaide Hospital. Prof Nordin is the prime mover of a recent proposal to the Screening Subcommittee of the Australian Population Health Development Principal Committee of the Australian Health Minister's Advisory Council proposing DXA screening for all women at menopause. 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.

Happy Birthday Chris  
rom all at ANZBMS.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Australian Musculoskeletal Core Competencies project has developed a comprehensive knowledge framework that is now available in draft form for comment. It is hoped that this development will permit universities to map the competencies into their existing curricula. The AMSEC framework can be accessed via [www.amsec.org.au/deans](http://www.amsec.org.au/deans). The framework is based on building on knowledge from basic sciences and translating this knowledge into the clinical sciences. It has a heavy orthopaedic bias but does include sections on bone cell biology, calcium homeostasis, bone structure and biomechanics.

RACP Endocrinology Curriculum is currently being developed with the Education Deanery based on input from this society, the Endocrine Society of Australia and the Australian Diabetes Society. The musculoskeletal component will be applicable to trainees in subspecialties other than endocrinology and potentially forms the basis for the development of training in musculoskeletal medicine as a separate specialty.

At the end of February, a meeting was held between members of the Australian Dental Association and Prof Peter Elbeling, representing Osteoporosis Australia, and Prof Ego Seeman and myself, representing ANZBMS, to develop a common stance on osteonecrosis of the jaw and to develop educational materials for dental surgeons and medical practitioners.

The NHMRC has circulated guidelines on how to develop guidelines for comment by the society with a deadline of April 16. Briefly organizations commissioning and funding guidelines must be identified and the process used to develop the guideline described in considerable detail. There must be community consultation and participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups is regarded as desirable and special issues relevant to indigenous populations must be identified. Guidelines would be required to state a period of validity after which they would need to be revised/updated. I would be happy to forward the draft to members who might wish to comment.

Assoc Prof Nick Pocock has agreed to represent the society on the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) Standards Liaison Panel. This committee will advise the RANZCR in regard to updating Standards, last endorsed by RANZCR Council in July 2009, to provide a framework for continuous improvement of Medical Imaging practices

**Mark Kotowicz**

## THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Therapeutics Committee had had a busy 6 months with matters including writing to the PBAC and Senate Committee on the proposal by the PBAC to create a new Therapeutics group that treats all oral Bisphosphonates as equivalent to generic alendronate.

We are also moving forward with attempts to construct a test version of an Australian FRAX for validation and comparison with the Dubbo and other fracture risk calculators.

**Professor Philip Sambrook**



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Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

# DATES FOR THE DIARY

## 2010

24-28 April 2010

12th European Congress of Endocrinology

Czech Republic

Website: [http://www.endo-society.org/custom\\_apps/Events/Event.cfm?EventID=1320](http://www.endo-society.org/custom_apps/Events/Event.cfm?EventID=1320)

30 April-2 May 2010

ESA Seminar Meeting

Novotel, Wollongong

Website: [www.esaseminar.org.au](http://www.esaseminar.org.au)

19-22 June 2010

ENDO

San Diego, California, USA

Website: <http://www.endo-society.org/meetings/Annual/index.cfm>

26-30 June 2010

37th European Symposium on Calcified Tissues

Glasgow

Website: <http://www.ectsoc.org/glasgow2010/index.htm>

28-29 August 2010

ESA Clinical Weekend

Crown Plaza Terrigal Resort, Terrigal

[www.esaclinicalweekend.org.au](http://www.esaclinicalweekend.org.au)

29 August - 1 September 2010

ESA/SRB Annual Scientific Meeting

Sydney Convention Centre

[www.esa-srb.org.au](http://www.esa-srb.org.au)

1-3 September 2010

2010 ADS/ADEA Annual Scientific Meeting

Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre

Darling Harbour

5-8 September 2010

ANZBMS 20th Annual Scientific Meeting

Adelaide Hilton

Website: [www.anzbms.org.au](http://www.anzbms.org.au)

22-25 September 2010

10th International Conference on Cancer-Induced Bone Disease

Sheffield, UK

Website:

<http://www.cancerandbonesociety.org/>

15-19 October 2010

ASBMR ASM

Toronto, ON, USA

Website: [www.asbmr.org](http://www.asbmr.org)

21-24 October 2010

International Conference on

Osteoporosis and Bone Research

Shenzhen, China

Website: [www.ibms.org](http://www.ibms.org)

14-19 November 2010

Australian Health and Medical Research Congress

Melbourne

Contact: ASN Events

Email: [mo@asnevents.net.au](mailto:mo@asnevents.net.au)

2-5 December 2010

AOCE 2010 - 14th Asia-Oceania Congress of Endocrinology

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Website: [www.aoce2010.com](http://www.aoce2010.com)

## 2011

20-23 January 2011

World Congress on controversies in bone & Joint Diseases (C-Bone)

Barcelona, Spain

Website: [www.comtecmed.com/cbone](http://www.comtecmed.com/cbone)

4-8th September 2011

ANZBMS ASM

Gold Coast

Website: [www.anzbms.org.au](http://www.anzbms.org.au)

16-20 September 2011

ASBMR Annual Meeting

San Diego, California, USA

Website: <http://www.asbmr.org/Meetings/FutureAnnualMeetings.aspx>

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Abstract	1st May 2010
Early bird registration	1st May 2010
Travel Grant	1st May 2010
Roger Melick Young Investigator Award	1st May 2010
ANZBMS/AMGEN Outstanding Abstract Award	1st May 2010
Chris and Margie Nordin Poster Award	1st May 2010
Kaye Ibbertson Award on Metabolic Bone Disease	1st May 2010
Sol Posen Research Award	1st May 2010
ANZBMS/Amgen Outstanding Abstract Award	1st May 2010
Christine and T Jack Martin Research Travel Grant	1st August 2010

Award criteria available from: <http://anzbms.org.au/resources/grants/index.cfm>

*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.*