



ANZBMS

Issue 6 • May 2007

Australian & New Zealand Bone & Mineral Society

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OFFICE BEARERS:

Professor Jillian Cornish
PRESIDENT

Professor Philip Sambrook
PRESIDENT ELECT

A/Prof. Roger Price
TREASURER

Professor David Findlay
HONORARY SECRETARY

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

A/Prof. Rebecca S. Mason
Prof Geoff Nicholson
A/Prof. Matthew Gillespie
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I hope the year is going well for you and your research teams. One of the most important events for 2007 in the Society is that we have elections for a new Council. There are a number of vacancies this year as long-standing members retire. It is essential to have a representative from each state in Australia as well as one from New Zealand. We must also keep very mindful that we need to be represented by both basic and clinical scientists to maintain the missions of our society.

Election for a new ANZBMS Council.

The incoming President will be Philip Sambrook, The nomination form for positions on Council is included in this newsletter. I urge you all to take a keen interest in this process, nominating appropriate people and making sure you vote for Council members at election time.

Next our all important ASMs...

2007 Annual Scientific Meeting

9-12 September 2007 - to be held in glorious Queenstown, New Zealand. The organisation of the meeting is proceeding very well and this meeting should be a very affordable one for students, with an option for cheaper accommodation, and as there are generous sponsorships being organised, very worthwhile travel grants. Queenstown has wonderful opportunities to enjoy excellent skiing at many ski fields, jet-boating, famous walking tracks, etc., along with some of the best NZ wines to taste at beautiful vineyards: prize-winning pinot noir, sauvignon blanc etc.

Reflecting on the 2006 Annual Scientific Meeting.

The 2006 Annual Scientific Meeting was an extremely successful meeting, with good science, good company and a beautiful venue all contributing to this success. We cemented new relationships with other societies and made friends with other scientists from Asia to Europe. The Council is very pleased to announce that the Society did in fact make a small profit from this meeting, after allowing for the expenses incurred.

Increased funding initiatives have come to pass...

OA/ANZBMS Fellowship

It is with delight that I announce the first combined research initiative that we have with the combined support of Osteoporosis Australia and our society – the new fellowship in osteoporosis-related research is for post-doctoral work at recognised universities and institutions to the amount of \$65,000 per year. Funding is for 1 year but successful applicants can reapply in year 2; applications close May 1, 2007. This Fellowship has been made possible by funds received from Macquarie Bank Foundation.

Meanwhile the members of Council have been busy engaged in many other important interests of the society and these are recorded separately in the newsletter.

Have a good mid-year and look forward to meeting up in Queenstown in September!

Professor Jillian Cornish

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Abstract and early bird registration deadline – 1st June 2007

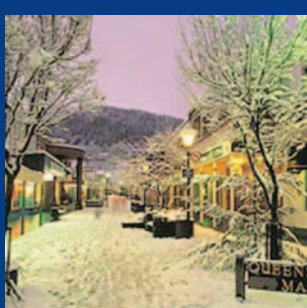
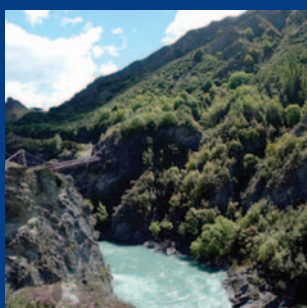
ANZBMS Awards and Grants – 1st June 2007

Council Nomination form to be returned by 15th June 2007

Christine & T. Jack Martin Research Travel Grant – 15th August 2007

17TH ANZBMS ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Queenstown New Zealand
September 9 - 12 2007.



PROFESSOR BE CHRISTOPHER NORDIN AO

Professor BE Christopher Nordin AO: MD (London), FRCP (London), FRACP (Sydney), DSc (London and Adelaide)

The ANZBMS congratulates 'Prof' or 'Chris' Nordin on his thoroughly deserved award of Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia, Australia Day 2007. It seems superfluous to say that Professor Nordin has a long and distinguished career in the field of bone and calcium metabolism, the first evidence of which is a paper published in the Lancet in 1954, entitled "A simple bone biopsy needle". The needle in question arose out of Chris' curiosity, as a House Officer at Hammersmith in 1952, to study osteoporosis. In his words "I wanted to look at the histology of the condition but found that there was no suitable biopsy trephine in existence so I approached a colleague in haematology and between us we designed the Sacker-Nordin needle". Chris' curious and innovative mind enabled him to perform some critical and foundational work, which reaches through the whole clinical and research bone endeavour today: the definition and diagnosis of osteoporosis at the tissue level, the forerunner to modern histomorphometry; the first quantitative radiological diagnosis of osteoporosis, and the first vertebral densitometry; novel methods to determine ionised and protein bound serum calcium. These achievements alone would have justified Chris' star status in the bone field, but his significant contributions have continued unabated for over 50 years, in and around the issue of osteoporosis, understanding it, debating it, treating it, preventing it, caring for its victims, educating about it. The list of publications coming from his pen, long though it might be and impressive though the numbers of citations might be, gives little indication of his influence on the field and those who populate it. This information is better discovered by chatting to the large number of people he has mentored (whether willingly or not on their part!), assisted, taught, debated with, irritated, cared for, worked with, celebrated with and shared knowledge with in the old-fashioned way. In 1981, Chris stepped down from his position as Director of the MRC Mineral Metabolism

Unit at the General Infirmary in Leeds and Professor of Mineral Metabolism at the University of Leeds, and moved to Adelaide. Rumour has it that his move to Adelaide was to avoid mandatory retirement in the UK, in which case it has so far 'bought' him an additional 26 years of working life. The entire Australasian bone field is undyingly grateful that this enthusiastic, feisty, involved man, possessed of such a huge intellect, chose to come to the Antipodes at that time. Chris' work and his frank and challenging style have enormously influenced and benefited the Adelaide calcium and bone community, with overflow across Australia and internationally, and we are grateful for that. An article in the Adelaide Advertiser on January 26, entitled "Vindication at last, says medical pioneer", relates to Chris' insistence that osteoporosis is "largely a matter of calcium deficiency". Again, in his own words "I take the view that 'calcium deficiency' may arise from low calcium intake, low calcium absorption or high obligatory loss of calcium and that treatment should be tailored accordingly. This is not to say that I attribute all osteoporosis to calcium deficiency but rather that calcium deficiency in the widest sense is always a threat to the integrity of the skeleton regardless of what other unavoidable risk factors .. may be operative. I therefore stand for selective rather than indiscriminate treatment...the better investigation and treatment of osteoporosis; a better understanding of the role of calcium in its pathogenesis; a more critical evaluation of the randomised controlled trials...the concept that calcium deficiency cannot be defined in isolation but only in relation to other nutrients - notably sodium, protein and vitamin D. I shall continue to uphold these principles." Its hard to argue against any of that! Professor Nordin, we applaud your many achievements, and particularly this latest one, which recognises you nationally. We are proud to regard you as ours and we hope to keep learning from you for a long time.

We are listening- don't give up on us!

RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT, MARCH 2007

It is with cautious optimism that we can announce that the NHMRC Research Committee has responded to our cards and letters with the granting of GRPs (Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Conditions), devoted to the evaluation of bone and joint project applications. The extent, to which these panels deliver a better outcome for grants, at least for the Australian members in our field, will be very much dependent on being able to get the right spread of expertise on these panels. Further hope for NHMRC grant success relates to there being additional real money this year, as we continue on a 5-year up-ramp of Commonwealth health and medical research allocation. Past experience tells us that extra funding is won only by vigorous lobbying, and we need to do that through ANZBMS, ASMR and in personal representation to our politicians. Current experience in the USA shows how harmful flat funding for medical research is, in terms of both current work and investigator career progression.

I was able to attend the ASMR Directors' meeting in Adelaide on March 16 to represent the ANZBMS and can report the following: The ASMR will sponsor a Professional Development Day Program later in the year, with sessions on Successful Medical Research Career, Attracting a Fellowship, How to translate discovery into clinical development and How to run a successful and productive research laboratory.

This year the sessions will be held in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, and the society is hoping to provide sponsorship for attendees from SA and WA.

Medical Research Week will be June from 1-8 this year. The invited speaker this year will be Professor Axel Ullrich from the Max Planck Institute of Biochemistry, Department of Molecular Biology, Germany. ANZBMS members are urged to support MR Week, as the flagship promoter of medical research in Australia.

The AHMRC in November 2006 was a huge success, both numerically and financially, with 31 different societies and groups participating. The next of these will be in Brisbane in November 2008. This year's ASMR ASM will be from November 11-13 in the Blue Mountains.

Let me remind you of the members of the ANZBMS Research Committee. Your input to the Society and to Council through those people, on any and all matters relating to research, is welcome. The committee is myself as chairman (SA), Prof Ming Hao Zheng (WA), Dr Natalie Sims (VIC), A/Prof Rebecca Mason (NSW), Prof Graeme Jones (TAS), A/Prof Edith Gardiner (QLD), Dr Arthur Conigrave (NSW), Dr Timothy Cundy (NZ).

David Findlay, Chair Research Committee

ANZBMS AWARDS AND GRANTS

ANZBMS Awards and grants – for ANZBMS members only
Guidelines, eligibility criteria, award amounts and application forms
<http://anzbms.org.au/resources/grants/index.cfm>

ANZBMS Travel Grants

Amgen ANZBMS 5 Outstanding Abstract Awards
Roger Melick Young Investigator Award
Christopher & Margie Nordin Young Investigator Poster Award
Kaye Ibbertson Award for Metabolic Bone Disease
Sol Posen Research Award
Christine & T. Jack Martin Research Travel Grant 2008
The deadline for all the awards - 1st June 2007

Deadline for Christine & T. Jack Martin Research Travel Grant – 15th August 2007

ANZBMS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES:

Amgen

Eli Lilly Australia

Fonterra Brands

Insight

Key Pharmaceuticals

Medtel

Merck Sharp & Dohme
(Australia)

Novartis Pharmaceuticals

Osteoporosis Australia/IOF

Sanofi-Aventis

Servier Laboratories

Surgical Synergies

Thomson Scientific
Instruments/Skyscan

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND BONE AND MINERAL SOCIETY STRATEGIC PLAN

The Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society (ANZBMS) will focus its efforts over the coming years on five strategic directions. The 2007-2009 ANZBMS Strategic Directions outlined below were developed as a consequence of an on-going review of the strategic directions by ANZBMS during 2006. Specific objectives for each strategic direction are detailed on the following pages. They will be evaluated for feasibility and further developed or changed to best meet the broad strategic directions.

Download the strategic plan:
[http://anzbms.org.au/about/
index.cfm](http://anzbms.org.au/about/index.cfm)

17TH ANZBMS ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

On behalf of the Program Organising Committee of the ANZBMS I would like to invite you all to attend the 17th ANZBMS Annual Scientific Meeting to be held in Queenstown New Zealand Sunday September 9 - Wednesday September 12 2007. You will note that we have strategically aligned and positioned this meeting with that of the ASBMR meeting which occurs in Hawaii September 16-19 2007. The timing of the 17th ANZBMS ASM meeting prior to that of ASBMR will minimize travel time between the two meetings. Also this provides a great opportunity to ski in New Zealand and enjoy the sun of Hawaii within one week.

The meeting covers a wide range of topics in the bone and mineral field from basic bone biology to clinical outcomes and bone densitometry.

Sessions will include: Absolute risks - what are the risks?, new osteoporosis therapies, G-protein coupled receptors in bone, bone stem cells, vascular calcification, arthritis and gout, biomaterials and cellular adhesion, and cancers of bone. Plenary speakers include Steven Cummings and Sevgi Rodan and a number of "local" talents from our combined countries.

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

ANZBMS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Ms Jennifer Flynn

Mr Stuart McDDonald

Mrs Mary McQuade

A.Prof Gary Misan

Dr Johannes Schuijers

Dr Louis Shulman

SYDNEY BONE GROUP MEETINGS

The 2007 meetings of the Sydney Bone and Mineral Group will commence in April with the first meeting on Tuesday evening April 17th. This year the committee has decided to hold fewer meetings followed by dinner for those who wish to stay after the presentations. Dates for future meetings will be available from: <http://anzbms.org.au/events/SBG.cfm>

Venue: Buffet Room Top Floor
Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron
33 Peel St Kirribilli
Time: 6pm for drinks and canapés
6.30pm - 8pm presentations
Parking: Available underneath,
free of charge

REMINDER

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

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

The screenshot shows the website for the Australian & New Zealand Bone & Mineral Society. The main heading is "Online Payment for Subscription Renewals". Below this, it states "Secure credit card payments for renewals". There are three numbered instructions: 1. Please have this year's Subscription Renewal Notice at hand. You will need to refer to the 'Contact Details' and 'Answers' information printed on it. 2. Payments are made via the eWay Secure Transaction Gateway where you will enter your credit card details. 3. Your credit card will be processed live and you will receive a record of your transaction via email (so please make sure you enter your email address carefully into the form below). A note at the bottom states: "NOTE: The secure payment gateway is provided by eWay. Your credit card details are not revealed to, or recorded by, ANZBMS. Credit cards accepted are Mastercard or Visa." On the right side of the page, there is a "CARDS ACCEPTED:" logo showing Mastercard, Visa, and American Express.

The 17th Annual Meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society

Sunday 9 September – Wednesday 12 September 2007
Rydges Hotel, Queenstown, New Zealand



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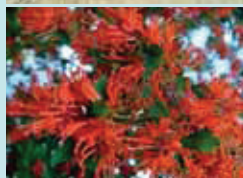
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ANZBMS membership
www.anzbms.org.au

KEY DATE
1 June 2007

Deadline for submission
of abstracts,
early-bird registrations
and hotel reservations



Invited Plenary Lectures

The Osteocyte

Mechanotransduction – the role of the osteocyte
Mechanical effects on the skeleton

Bone remodeling in response to ovariectomy

Utility of Stem cells

Bone marrow stromal stem cells

Assessment of Fracture Risk:

From Population to an Individual

Absolute risk as the goal of treatment

Identification of high risk individuals

Effectiveness of fracture prevention

Falls prevention-risk factors and RCTs

PTH action

G protein-coupled receptors

Protease-activated receptors and thrombin

Calcitonin receptor function

Post receptor events

Arthritis

Insights on arthritis from animal models

Inflammation in arthritis and gout

The role of bone in osteoarthritis

Orthopaedics

Surface chemistry modification of implants

Other topics

Cancers in bone

Immune mechanisms in bone biology

www.anzbms.org.au

DATES FOR THE DIARY

2007

26-27th May 2007
ANZBMS Clinical Densitometry Course
Auckland Hospital
Auckland, New Zealand
Website: <http://anzbms.org.au/densitometryCourse/index.htm>

14-24 June 2007
Fourth International Conference on Children's Bone Health (ICCBH-4)
Montreal, Canada
Website: www.iccbh4.org

24-29 June 2007
IBMS 17th Scientific Meeting
Montreal, PQ, Canada
Email: ibms@dc.sba.com

31st August-2nd September 2007
ESA Clinical Weekend
Christchurch
Contact: ASN Events
Website:
<http://www.esaclinicalweekend.org.au/>

2-5 September 2007
ESA ASM
Christchurch Convention Centre
Contact: ASN Events
Website: <http://www.esa-srb.org.au/>

9-12 September 2007
ANZBMS 17th Annual Scientific Meeting
Queenstown, New Zealand
Website: anzbms.org.au

16-20 September 2007
ASBMR 29th Annual Scientific Meeting
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA
Email: asbmr@smithbucklin.com

2008

8-14 March 2008
IBMS 18th Scientific Meeting
Davos, Switzerland
Website:
www.ibmsonline.org/Conferences/davos08.cfm

25-28 August 2008
ESA/SRB ASM
Melbourne Convention Centre
Website: www.esa-srb.org.au

28-30 August 2008
ADS/ADEA ASM
Melbourne Convention Centre
Website: www.ade-adea.org.au

28-31 August 2008
ANZBMS 18th ASM
Melbourne
Website: www.anzbms.org.au

THERAPEUTICS COMMITTEE

This Committee has had a busy period with issues like osteonecrosis of the jaw and the availability of new treatments and indications. ANZBMS is taking a proactive position with bodies like the PBAC that we should be the source of professional advice about bone related medications. In January our advice was sought by the PBAC about proposed changes to the availability of osteoporosis medications that would require a BMD measurement with a T score below -2.5 as well a low trauma fracture before prescription of medication is subsidised. In conjunction with Osteoporosis Australia we prepared a joint submission which argued there should be no change to the current requirements. We understand that our submission has been successful and no changes are imminent. We also approached Professor Goss in Adelaide who has agreed Peter Ebeling could do an independent audit of ONJ cases identified in their recent postal survey of oral surgeons. These results should be available shortly.

Professor Philip Sambrook

ANZBMS BMD COMMITTEE

Clinical bone densitometry training courses for both clinicians and technologists, with manufacturer specific workshops are scheduled for 30-31 March (in Adelaide), and 26-27th May in Auckland. Enrolment for the NZ course is open until April 13th. A further course is planned for Sydney, later in the year.

To date, all ANZBMS BMD courses have been modestly profitable. This reflects the Society's policy of providing affordable training for densitometry professionals, while at the same time protecting its capital base. The ANZBMS Bone Densitometry Committee has a number of initiatives in the pipeline, including collaboration with an overseas kindred organisation, and the development of an advanced densitometry training module (which includes research techniques), to be conducted at ANZBMS annual scientific meetings, beginning in 2008. The content of this module will be published toward the end of 2007.

Associate Professor Roger Price

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.