

President's Report

November 2003

During this year we held our thirteenth annual scientific meeting (International Conference for Metabolic Disease) in collaboration with the International Bone and Mineral Society and celebrating the career of Professor T J Martin, a meeting that illustrated how vibrant our Society is and how far advanced the science in the field is in Australia and New Zealand.

The Society was extremely grateful to all the international speakers and on behalf of the Society I would like to thank all of those involved, particularly Ego Seeman and the POC and LOC led by Howard Morris and Mark Forwood.

Our Fourteenth Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in Sydney for various workshops (paediatric bone sessions in conjunction with the Osteogenesis Imperfecta Society, collaborative densitometry training courses with the ISCD and a workshop on Confocal Microscopy and Imaging of Bone) and in the Hunter Valley in August 2004. Gerard Karsenty, Sundeep Khosla and Frank Rausch have accepted invitations to be invited keynote speakers. The Society appreciates the efforts of the POC and LOC led by Edith Gardiner and Chris White.

This year we held a successful joint symposium with the Royal Australian College of Physicians at their annual Scientific Meeting and we plan to continue this collaboration in future years.

In November 2004 Rory Clifton-Bligh is responsible for organising a one day symposium with other bone research societies entitled "The Clinical Applications of Basic Research in Bone" at the Australian Health and Medical Research Congress in Sydney.

Our Society appreciates our Sponsors who and continue to support the activities of our Society (Aventis, Eli Lilly, Insight-Oceania, Merck Sharpe & Dohme, Mission Pharmacal Australia, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Roche Pharmaceuticals and Servier Laboratories).

Our paediatric sub-committee chaired by Chris Cowell has identified four key areas that the Society should address -

Reference ranges for bone mineral density in young people
Management of Osteogenesis Imperfecta and in particular, the transition of adolescents to adult care and the under-treatment of adults with OI.

children and teenagers who have received bisphosphonates to audit efficacy and long-term safety and
Co-ordination of collaborative multi-centre randomised studies in paediatric bone disease.

Our Research Sub-committee chaired by David Findlay has been exploring strategies for increasing funding of skeletal research collaboration with other advocacy bodies such as ASMR and BJD. Members are encouraged to support all activities that will raise the profile of field and to be forthcoming in promoting public education of the value and significance of our research.

The Medical Affairs Sub-committee under Geoff Nicholson's Chairmanship has set up working parties to develop position statements on the -

Role of Dietary Calcium in Bone Health (Chair, Kerrie Sanders)

Vitamin D (Chair, Julie Pasco)

Ultrasound in Fracture Risk Assessment (Chair, Nic Pocock)

Management of Paget's Disease (Chair, Michael Hooper)

Bone Markers (Chair, Peter Ebeling)

Assessment and Treatment of Osteoporosis (Chair, Geoff Nicholson)

It is intended that all position statements of the Society will be endorsed by the Royal Australian College of Physicians and published.

Quality in densitometry continues to be an issue and our Densitometry Sub-committee Chair by Nic Pocock continues to be very active. There are significant differences in DEXA reference ranges

currently used in Australia for both the proximal femur and the lumbar spine which lead to differences in the diagnosis of osteoporosis and hence differences in therapeutic decisions depending on which machine a patient is scanned. To overcome these problems the Society has recommended that the Geelong Osteoporosis Study Reference Range is used in Australia for the interpretation of DEXA Scans in Caucasians. At present GOS data is only available for females and acquisition of male data is currently underway.

The Society has adopted a position that reimbursement for densitometry should be linked to use of this reference range as well as accreditation and training. The joint ANZBMS/ ANZANM/ RANZCR accreditation guidelines for laboratories providing DEXA have been available on the ANZBMS Website for some time. Accreditation is currently voluntary and at present by a self-assessment Questionnaire. Over the next five years site inspections will become part of the accreditation process. OA has made a MSAC submission on increasing access to Medicare rebates for DEXA and the PBAC is reviewing an application by pharmaceuticals companies to make therapies available on the basis of bone density results. The Society supports both applications.

Osteoporosis Australia continues to be a very active and dynamic organisation working co-operatively with our Society. A Memorandum of Understanding has been approved in principle by both the OA Board and our Council. The Osteoporosis Australia CEO, Judy Stenmark is a member of the National Arthritis and Musculo-skeletal Conditions Advisory Group (one of the national health priority areas) as are ANZBMS members John Eisman (Chair) and Nic Pocock although we do not have any direct representation unlike some other Societies in the field. The OA Medical and Scientific Advisory Committee, most of whom are our Society members, are drawing up guidelines for research funding. It is hoped that this foundation will represent a non-NHMRC source of grants for research in the field.

Osteoporosis New Zealand continues to maintain a high profile lobbying members of Parliament and other government health agencies to highlight osteoporosis as a major health issue and to improve access to treatment.

We have a good working relationship with the Royal Australian College of Physicians and I represent the Society on a Specialist Society's Board. The Memorandum of Understanding from the College should be signed in the near future as the Society and the College have together with the Endocrine Society and the Australian Diabetes Society resolved the question of the composition of the Special Advisory Committee in Endocrinology. Mark Kotowitz and Rory Clifton-Bligh will represent the Society on the SAC.

The Society has continued to be involved in the Bone and Joint Decade and at the BJD Planning Meeting in April two key BJD areas were identified; raising the profile of musculo-skeletal disease and facilitating and networking

between various interest groups e.g. scientific societies, medical bodies and allied health. The proceedings of the recently successful summit in Canberra will be published in the Medical Journal of Australia in the near future.

Our new Website (ANZBMS.org.au) was unveiled at Coolum and I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution made by Anne Kovacs (Web Publisher) and the committee chaired by Roger Price.

In regard to liaisons with international societies Edith Lowe stays on as President of APOF, Ego Seeman was re-elected to the Board of IOF, Ego Seeman and Ian Reid are on the IBMS Board and John Eisman has been appointed Editor of JBMR. Unfortunately we could not proceed with joint membership of the International Joint Bone and Mineral Society as previously planned as the promised and expected support from industry was not forthcoming.

It is also of interest to trace back the formation of our Society. The genesis of the Society lay in a series of meetings that started in Adelaide in 1978. We called those meetings the International Symposia on Bone Structure, Function and Disease. Before the formation of the Society we held five of these meetings, the first three in Adelaide and the last two in Sydney. The logo of our Society owes its skeleton to these meetings although when I moved from Adelaide to Sydney I turned the skeleton

around so it pointed to the East Coast. In the late 80's it was decided that there was sufficient interest in the field to form a Society and a Steering Committee was formed which met at the Auckland Meeting in 1990. The first meeting of the Society was held in Perth 1991 and there has been considerable growth in the Society since that time.

I would like to thank Jack Martin, our Life Members who include, as well as Jack, Jane Moseley, Don Gutteridge, Chris Nordin, Kaye Ibbertson and Sol Posen and past councilors for their support.

Jane Moseley our newest life member

A new ANZBMS Council takes over under Ego Seeman's leadership. The retiring Council can be satisfied they have handed over a vibrant Society with the roles of sub-committees and their responsibilities to Council clarified and our links and collaboration with other organizations strengthened.

Michael Hooper

The New and Old Council of the Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society

In-coming President's report

On behalf of the Society and councilors I would like to express my thanks to Michael Hooper for his contributions during his presidency and indeed as the father of the ANZBMS which began through his initiative in the 1980's

I welcome the new councilors. I see the ANZBMS major objective is to foster education in terms of teaching and research which will translate into better patient care. I welcome suggestions from members concerning issues that they feel council should address. Should members wish to attend council meetings as ex-officio members, they are most welcomed to do so. We will aim to keep members updated concerning recent advances through the newsletter and the website. Recommended publications will be posted.

The flagship of the society is its annual meeting. In addition to this there may be other educational meetings that could be held on an annual or bi-annual basis. I hope to increase funding for fellowships, travel awards and research awards so that young investigators can have the opportunity to do the research and attend national and international meetings.

Ego Seeman

2001-2003

2003-2005

President

Michael Hooper

Ego Seeman

President-elect

Ego Seeman

Jillian Cornish

Councillors
New Zealand

Jillian Cornish

NSW

Rebecca Mason

Rebecca Mason
Philip Sambrook

VIC

Geoff Nicholson

Geoff Nicholson

SA

David Findlay

David Findlay

QLD

Mark Forwood

Mark Forwood

WA

Roger Price

Roger Price

Co-opted Committees

Paediatric Endocrine Group	Chris Cowell
Densitometry issues	Nick Pocock
Advanced Trainee	Rory Clifton-Bligh
Programme Organising Committee 2003-05(Chair)	Edith Gardiner
Local Organising Committee 2004 (Chair)	Chris White

Coolum and Celebrating our National Treasure

The Coolum meeting was a great success and I would like to thank all of the members of the ANZBMS for attending and contributing actively to this international meeting. I especially thank our friends from around the world for coming to Australia and so demonstrating their love, admiration and respect for Jack Martin. Without your participation the meeting could never have achieved the global dimensions and depth of scientific content, comradery and joy that so rightly reflects the influence that Jack has in the field. The meeting would not have been possible without the very generous support of our major sponsors, The Alliance for Better Bone Health (Aventis and Proctor and Gamble), Chugai Pharmaceutical Company, Eli Lilly, MSD Australia, Servier Laboratories, with contributions from International Osteoporosis Foundation and Osteoporosis Australia. Support has also been received from Australian Dairy corporation, Boots Health Care, Diagnostic Systems Laboratories Australia, Insight Oceania, Mission Pharmacal Australia, Mayne Pharma, Medtel and Novartis Pharmaceuticals. I also thank the IBMS for their kind support, and Professor and Mrs Helen Mundy for so warmly opening their home and of course Howard Morris-POC Chairman, Mark Forwood-LOC Chairman, Jenny Blanchard, Ivone Johnson, Bonnie Robinson and Mark Stevens for their hard work in the preparation and running of the meeting.

Ego Seeman

2003 Award Recipients

The two Roger Melick 'Young Investigator Awards' were awarded to **Agatha Labrinidis** who presented data on *Inhibitors of the mevalonate pathway sensitise osteosarcoma cells to APO2L/Trail-Induced cell death*

And **Xiaofang Wang**, who presented data on *Structural basis for differences in femoral neck fragility in chinese and caucasians*

The two Chris and Margie Nordin Poster Prizes were awarded to **Nicole Walsh**, who's poster was entitled "Multiple tissue specific promoters control expression of the murine tartrate resistant acid phosphatase gene"

and **Rouha Granfar**, who's poster was entitled *Identification of RANKL regulated genes in peripheral blood mononuclear cell derived osteoclasts*

Both of these awards were sponsored by Servier.

The outstanding abstract award in the field of Densitometry, sponsored by Insight-Oceania was awarded to **Rob Will**, who presented data on *Intravenous pamidronate or oral aledronate for the treatment of Paget's disease of the Bone: results of a randomised controlled trial*

The Outstanding abstract award in the field of Calcium Nutrition sponsored by Mission Pharmacal Australia was awarded to **Amanda Devine**, who presented data on *Effects of*

habitual calcium intake and physical activity on bone mass in elderly women.

The Christine and T J Martin Award, sponsored by Merck, Sharp and Dohme was awarded to **Vicky Kartsogiannis** from St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne

ISCD ANZBMS clinician bone density education course and certification examination Coolum 2003

A successful bone density course was held at Coolum with 30 attendees and a faculty consisting of the ISCD ANZBMS liaison committee members, Nick Pocock, Roger Price, Michael Hooper, Satvider Dhaliwal and Richard Prince. This builds on a previous course held prior to the ANZBMS meeting in Adelaide last year at which nearly 40 individuals received ISCD clinician certification.

Plans are moving forward for another joint training course for both clinicians and technicians prior to next years ANZBMS meeting.

ISCD has over 3000 members world wide and is accessible through their web site at Membership gives access to the Journal of Clinical Densitometry which already has a respectable impact factor and the news letter SCAN.

Within the Asia Pacific Region courses have been run in Hong Kong, Tokyo, and Taipei as well as the two Australian courses.

We are planning a Perth clinician education course and certification exam on November 2nd 2003 at the Epslande Hotel Fremantle in conjunction with a Clinician update meeting Advances in Skeletal Medicine. For more details contact Cathy Loughbridge on 08 9346 2847 email bonegrp@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

Richard Prince

Fun Run- sponsored by Merck, Sharp and Dohme

Dear sports fans,

Our Annual MSD Fun Run/Walk for Healthy Bones must be listed in Huey's diary of events for delivery of hurricane or deluge. Despite the sub-tropical balmy weather that we are used to in the Sunshine state, our Fun Run in Coolum was once again beset by a morning of grey skies and precipitation. This lack of meteorological reliability must be why Peter Beatty changed our epithet to "The Smart State". Nonetheless, Maree Rutherford and I (with just a little help from the Hyatt activities team, headed by Grant Atkins), set a challenging 5 Km course around the Coolum paths and byways and we received a record turnout of delegates, dressed to kill (well at least one was dressed to kill and the others mostly still had their nighties on).

It seemed we had only just sounded the starter's hooter and pegged out the finish line when once again Sandra Iuliano-Burns rounded the turn into the home straight and slayed any form of opposition we had pitted against her. Hotly pursuing Sandra across the line, and representing the opposite, and much maligned, sex AND maintaining the industry reputation was Dean Comer from Aventis. Will there be any stopping Sandra? Only the 2004 Fun Run will tell, so start training now (or spike her staminade with Rohipnol!). Other notable mentions, Don Perry-Keene (self-confessed) oldest entrant, Lois Wisenberg-most elegant finish and Laura Gregory-Keen as Mustard (first to arrive at start point). As a result of our Fun Run, Osteoporosis New Zealand and Osteogenesis Imperfecta (brittle bones) Society of Australia were the recipients of \$1000 donation from Merck Sharp and Dohme. We thank MSD for sponsoring this event in this way and look forward to their continued support and sunny weather at the NSW meeting.

The Osteogenesis Imperfecta Society of Australia's Mission Statement is to care for and expand knowledge of The Brittle Boned individual and the objective of improving their quality of life. Website: www.oiaustralia.org

Mark Forwood, Chairman LOC

2004 Annual Scientific Meeting in New South Wales, 18 to 20 August 2004 at Cypress Lakes Resort, Hunter Valley

Organisation of the scientific programme for our 2004 meeting is developing at a rapid pace. The programme will provide participants the opportunity to meet and discuss the latest topics with international and national bone and mineral experts. These include Professor Sundeep Khosla of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, whose work on sex hormones and the skeleton has brought new insights into this established field and whose analysis of the leptin bone paradox has clarified this new paradigm. We will also hear the latest from Professor Gerard Karsenty, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, who has pioneered studies on both osteoblastic differentiation and neuroendocrine control of bone. In addition, we will benefit from the participation of Professor Frank Rausch, Shriners Hospital, McGill University, Montreal, whose work on osteogenesis imperfecta and other skeletal disorders and his contributions to the understanding of bone biology during growth will be of great interest to paediatric and adult clinicians. Dr Serge Ferrari, University of Geneva, will also join us to share his latest work on LRP5 mutations and osteoporosis and also on regulation of PTH activity by arrestins. Participants will also benefit from noted local speakers who will address major issues including metabolic bone disease and bone anabolic therapies. Oral, mini-oral and poster free communications will be featured throughout the meeting. In addition, the Friday morning session will have a special focus on clinical aspects of bone research.

A major attraction of this year's meeting is the option to attend satellite events prior to the Annual Scientific Meeting, as well as the Endocrine Society of Australia Clinical Weekend, which will follow the ASM and also be held at Cypress Lakes Resort. Attendance at the Annual Scientific Meeting will be facilitated by specially arranged coach transportation between Sydney and the Hunter Valley at the beginning and end of the conference.

On Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 September there will be a one-and-a-half-day Paediatric Bone Symposium with Professor Frank Rausch as keynote speaker, organised in conjunction with the Osteogenesis Imperfecta Society of Australia and sponsored by Novartis. This event is scheduled to encourage attendance of paediatric bone specialists at the ASM and to provide an excellent opportunity for non-paediatric specialists to catch up on the latest developments in the field. Chris Cowell is organising this event in association with D. Sillence, J. Batch, C Rodda, M. Zacharin and M. Hooper. The symposium will be held at a venue near Sydney Airport to allow easy access for out-of-state participants.

In response to overwhelming demand, a workshop on confocal microscopy and the imaging of bone will be held on Monday and Tuesday, 16 and 17 August. This two-day workshop will be an expanded version of the previous one-day course, which was held in Adelaide in conjunction with the 2002 Annual Scientific Meeting and received enthusiastic reviews.

In addition to excellent lectures on microscopy theory including a section on bone histomorphometry to be taught by Natalie Sims, the revised two-day course will provide registrants with ample time for hands-on experience in utilising confocal technology with bone cell biology. Damian Myers and Nick Fazallari are again organising the workshop, with local assistance from Colin Dunstan. It will be held at the Key Microscopy Centre at the University of Sydney, where a number of confocal microscopes will be available for hands-on experience.

The 2004 Annual Endocrine Society of Australia Clinical Weekend will follow the ANZBMS Annual Scientific Meeting, beginning with a Friday evening session of clinical case presentations, including a Merck-sponsored prize competition for the best presentation in metabolic bone disease by a clinical fellow. Although not a formal part of the Annual Scientific Meeting, full ASM registrants are encouraged to stay for this session, which will not incur additional registration fees. Registrants who choose this option may then spend the free Friday afternoon in the Hunter, partaking of recreational activities of various types to fill the time.

Other features of the programme are still in development. A special one-day registration package to include Thursday afternoon coach transportation from Sydney to Cypress Lakes, the Conference dinner on Thursday evening, and the Friday morning clinical sessions is planned for those who are primarily interested in the clinical aspects of bone disease, particularly Endocrine Society members and other physicians. Preparations for a bone densitometry training course to be held prior to the ASM are in progress. Please stay tuned for specifics as they become available.

The Local Organising Committee, under the capable Chair of Chris White, is taking advantage of the many benefits of the Cypress Lakes Resort in the Hunter Valley to provide another excellent meeting enhanced by the close interactions among the participants. Social events including the Conference Dinner will feature Hunter Valley wines in predictably delicious menus. The Fun Run/Walk over the rolling hills of the Valley will take advantage of the beautiful scenery, taking the pain out of the event for the less fit amongst us. Cypress Lakes Resort offers a variety of indulgences to fill that free Friday afternoon. Among all these activities, considerable time will be available for registrants to make the most of their attendance, to meet and discuss their latest findings in these most conducive surroundings. Our Annual Scientific Meeting is the most important event for our society and this meeting will provide fresh insights for all members. Start planning now to participate in our New South Wales meeting and take advantage of the lovely ambience of the Hunter Valley to conduct some of your most important work for 2004.

Edith Gardiner for the Program Organising Committee

14th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society– 2004
18-20 August, Cypress Lakes Resort, Hunter Valley
At a glance

PROGRAMME ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Edith Gardiner, Chair
Michael Hooper, Rebecca Mason, Rory Clifton-Bligh
Arthur Conigrave, Chris White

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Chris White, Chair
Edith Gardiner, Elisabeth Smith, Bronwyn Crawford
Martin Epstein

INVITED SPEAKERS

Gerard Karsenty from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas
Sundeep Khosla from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota
Frank Rauch from the Shores Hospital in Montreal

WORKSHOPS

Preceding the Hunter Valley meeting on 16 and 17 August will be three satellite events in Sydney:

Paediatric Bone Symposium

The Paediatric component of the ASM will be held in Sydney on 16-17th August to facilitate attendance of the broader paediatric community. This symposium will be held in association with the Osteogenesis Imperfecta Society of Australia. Major sponsor will be Novartis. Invited speaker will be Frank Rauch from the Shores Hospital in Montreal.

Organising Committee

Chris Cowell, Michael Hooper, D. Sillence, J. Batch, C. Rodda, M. Zacharin

Training Courses for Clinicians and Technologists in Densitometry

Will be held on 16-17th August.

Contact: Nick Pocock, University of NSW, Email: n.pocock@unsw.edu.au

Faculty

Nick Pocock, Roger Price, Richard Prince, Satvinder Dhaliwal, Michael Hooper, Beverley White

Endocrine Society of Australia-Clinical Weekend

The Endocrine Society of Australia Clinical Weekend will follow immediately after the ANZBMS ASM at the same venue, and there will be an ANZBMS/ESA shared session on Friday evening 20 August. Current plans are to have presentations of clinical cases. Further details on the ESA Clinical weekend will be available from the ESA homepage: www.racp.edu.au/esa. Convenor: Michael Hooper

ANZBMS WEBSITE:

www.anzbms.org.au

CONTACT

Contact: Conference Action Pty Ltd
Suite 104, 308 Pacific Highway (PO Box 576)
Crows Nest NSW 2065
Tel: 02 9437 9333 Fax: 02 9901 4586
Email: emma@conferenceaction.com.au

Treasurer's Report

Due to the timing of the ASM, audited accounts will not be presented at this General Meeting, but will be presented at the AGM to be held in Sydney on 14th November, 2003. The financial status of the Society remains in a sound position similar to that reported at the 2002 AGM. Membership continues its steady increase, so that we now have 412 members. Michael Hooper continues to negotiate long term partnerships with our Corporate sponsors to ensure continuity of this important source of annual income. For example, Roche Pharmaceuticals have recently agreed to continue as a Founding Corporate sponsor with a commitment to funding over a 3-year period. After 2 years of negotiations with Aventis and IBMS to provide joint membership, this proposal was finally discontinued when new marketing personnel at Aventis reviewed their marketing budget and concluded that they could no longer support the proposal to underwrite the IBMS membership for ANZBMS members. They continue to remain an annual Corporate Sponsor and Council is now working on alternative ways to develop this partnership to the benefit of our members.

At the Council meeting in Adelaide, it was agreed that a special category of travel grant for Life Members would be initiated. This was developed to recognise their contribution to the Society, and to provide the opportunity for them to continue attending the ASM where their knowledge and experience is highly valued by younger members of the Society. Life members will be able to access a travel grant of up to \$2000 towards travel and accommodation. In Adelaide we also agreed to include 2 Outstanding Abstract Awards available to all members. This was to provide a category of "travel grant" beyond that awarded in the "Travel Grant" criteria and to acknowledge the high level of clinical and basic science presented at the ASM. These awards are for \$1000 each.

The ANZBMS Secretariat was the subject of a theft earlier this year in which a laptop computer was stolen and the office ransacked. This has reduced the efficiency of this office, and Council has agreed to upgrade the office hardware in a joint purchase with the ESA

(Ivone Johnson works for both societies). The two Councils are currently reviewing a quote for equipment from the RACP IT manager and this will hopefully proceed in the near future.

RACP), Council has initiated arrangements to open an ANZegate account to allow for secure internet payment of subscriptions. With the launch of the attractive new ANZBMS website (www.anzbms.org.au), this will increase the payment options available to members. Members will be notified when this payment option becomes available.

With the birth of a 7th child in December, the overall workload of the Treasurer increased markedly in 2003. As of May, I resigned as a Councillor and Treasurer to reduce that workload somewhat, but still remain as Chairman of the LOC for the current meeting. I hope that it may be possible to continue to provide contribution to administration of the ANZBMS in the future. The acting Honorary Treasurer until a new Council is elected will be Dr Roger Price. Once again, I thank Ivone Johnson who undertakes the task of managing the accounts on a day to day basis and negotiating the GST and ASIC administration.

Finally, the Annual General Meeting will be held in Melbourne on the 10th October. The main items on the agenda will be the ratification of the Annual Financial report of the Society, and the induction of new Council members. Members are invited to attend the meeting, details of which are in the Agenda, or to dial in to the meeting via teleconference. For those unable to attend, Proxy forms will be mailed to members or made available on the website. It is important that members vote directly or by proxy to ratify the accounts.

Mark Forwood

Osteoporosis New Zealand Funding – Awareness – Lobbying

Several grant applications for funding for ONZ have been successful and we have a more stable and secure funding base, which enables ONZ to continue its advocacy work.

A few highlights for ONZ are:

- World Osteoporosis Day. ONZ are supporting a prime time television commercial which will show for two weeks - our website has been redeveloped to support this campaign;
- A press conference will be held for health reporters – highlighting latest developments in treatment;
- ‘Walk Away with Life’ - a march to Parliament will take place in Wellington;
- Buses throughout the country will carry the One Minute Test;
- ONZ will hold the second annual “You Deserve a Medal’ Awards;
- ONZ also negotiated free advertising in three leading magazines.

Finally, in New Zealand thousands of osteoporosis sufferers can now be prescribed etidronate by their GP’s, without specialist approval or recommendation. Osteoporosis NZ Inc. sees this as progress and will continue lobbying government to ensure free access to the best medications available.

Jill Cornish

IOF NEWS

Key news of relevance to members

Teaching radiologists to identify vertebral fractures

Recent studies confirm that worldwide a substantial percentage of vertebral fractures are not diagnosed in radiology reports. To improve the recognition and reporting of vertebral fractures by radiologists, IOF, in partnership with the European Society of Skeletal Radiologists and national radiologist groupings, began a new teaching programme in 2002. Multi-language teaching materials have now been produced and are available on the IOF Website:

www.osteofound.org

Orthopaedic surgeons address neglect of osteoporosis

An IOF-sponsored, multinational study of orthopaedic surgeons finds that these specialists often do not recognize osteoporosis as a cause of fractures, nor do they consistently offer appropriate treatment or

referrals. The Bone and Joint Decade (BJD), was presented in Helsinki at the annual congress of the European Federation of Orthopaedic Surgeons and Traumatologists (EFORT).

IOF-Advanced Training Course on Osteoporosis

The IOF-Advanced Training Course on Osteoporosis, taught in English by an internally renowned faculty, provides a concise and practical overview of the latest knowledge on the physiology, epidemiology, diagnosis and management of osteoporosis. The course, held annually in Lygon since 1991, trains up to 150 international participants. The next course will be held on February 3-5, 2004. Information is available on the IOF website or write to mfragnolo@osteofound.org

Osteoporosis Australia

Osteoporosis Australia continues to work to ameliorate the problems of osteoporosis in many ways. Arrangements have been made to have formal representation of the State Osteoporosis organizations on the Board of OA. Judy Stenmark, CEO of OA, along with a number of other ANZBMS and OA Medical and Scientific Committee members, will participate in the Federal Government initiative, sought by ANZBMS and OA, the National Osteoporosis Action Plan. This Committee will meet towards the end of the year.

Of particular interest to ANZBMS members, the OA Research Fund is about to call for applications for three PhD scholarships, valued at \$20,000 each and one Research Fellowship of \$50,000 in Bone and Mineral Research. The guidelines have been drawn up by the OA Medical and Scientific Committee and will be posted on the ANZBMS website. Three independent reviewers will be assigned to rank the applications. This beginning of national, non-government, research funding in this area is much applauded by the bone and mineral community.

Rebecca Mason

IOF-Servier Young Investigator Research Fellowship

This bi-annual fellowship of 40,000, generously sponsored by Servier, is available to researchers under the age of 40 for outstanding original work of international relevance. It will be awarded at the IOF World Congress on Osteoporosis in Rio de Janeiro, May 14-18, 2004.

Application forms are available on the IOF website: www.osteofound.org

Deadline: December 1, 2003.

Asian Pacific Osteoporosis Foundation

Who's Who

Professor Edith Lau
President

Professor Philip Sambrook
Vice-President

Dr Leong Keng Hong
Vice-President

Professor Ian R Reid
Honorary Secretary

RACP News

Adult Medicine

The adult medicine divisional staff have moved to the College's Phillip Street premises. The move has necessitated a change of telephone and fax numbers for the Divisional staff.

Fairlie Clifton, Executive Officer, AMD—(02) 8247 +6213

John Doyle, Administrative Assistant—(02) 8247 6216

Dianne Ellis, Admin Officer, Chapter of Addiction Medicine—(02) 8247 6214. Mary Ferguson,

Admin Officer, Chapter of Palliative Medicine—(02) 8247 6218

Fax Number: (02) 8247 6222, Postal Address: 145 Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW, 2000

Street Address: 6th Floor, 52 Phillip Street, Sydney, NSW

International Congress on Internal Medicine 2010

The College will bid for Australia to host the Congress in 2010. At this stage, the bid working group will make a submission in 2004 in Spain. Over 4000 participants are expected. It is hoped that Special Societies will contribute to the scientific programme.

Forum on General Medicine, March 20 2003

An outcome of the forum was a strong drive for the establishment of general medicine units in teaching hospitals. However others sought evidence that outcomes have deteriorated since general medicine units have been closed and disagreed with the proposal that Special Societies should promote the re-introduction of the units - regarding it rather as a training issue for the College.

There was support for the concept of "the physician within" - which acknowledges the depth and breadth of training and experience in general medicine of physicians in Australasia. It was felt necessary to counter the view that specialists can only practise in their particular speciality. These concepts should be reflected in College training, ie the requirements for basic and advanced training.

There was support for the concept of the "hybrid physician" practising both general medicine and a speciality.

Selection of Advanced Trainees

Selection on a regional basis had been piloted in NSW and Victoria last year using three groups. Discussion ensued about the need to establish clear rules before the process takes place but there was demand from trainees for these developments. Mark Kotowitz and Rory Clifton Bligh are on the SAC in Endocrinology

Role and Interaction between the College, the SACs and the Special Societies

There has been discussion on the relationships and roles of the College, SACs and Special Societies. There has been reluctance on the part of some Special Societies to sign MOUs.

The following issues/questions/points have been raised and we would welcome your comments:

- There was broad-based dissatisfaction with the current level and quality of the interaction between the College and the Special Societies. This is manifested in part by dissatisfaction with the functioning of the SACs.
- There was strong support for the SACs being conjoint committees of the College and Special Societies.
- There was the feeling that the College regarded Special Societies as 'errant children'.

Therapeutics Advisory Committee (TAC)

Appointment of new Chairman
Associate Professor Shane Carney

Activities

Establishment of a working party to draft a position paper on *Issues Affecting the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme*.

A working group to develop guidelines on 'How to write a submission to the Pharmaceutical benefits Advisory Committee for a listing' (a priority activity for the TAC).

A working party to review information on new and revised listings on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

Liaison with the New Zealand Committee about issues relating to the NZ Minister of Health's proposed ban on direct-to-customer advertising of prescription drugs.

Review of MOPS

A draft review had been circulated and comments had been received from Special Societies. The review was still in the consultation phase, with the white paper available on the web and in the RACP News.

The key issues to address are participation (mandatory versus voluntary), sanctions (for non-participation) and the expectations of MOPS.

Only 40-50% of Fellows fulfil the definition of participation.

RACP ASM - Canberra, ACT, 17-19 May 2004

ANZBMS has indicated and is interested in sponsoring a session at the 2004 ASM as we did this year.

Chain of Information Custody

I represent the College on a working group developing guidelines in regard to the 'Quality Use of Pathology'. The issue has profound implications for medical practice. It had been highlighted by a recent case in New Zealand, where legal decision found that the practitioner is required to be an active searcher for test results. Simply referring a patient back to the GP for test results is not sufficient. Comments are welcome.

Michael Hooper

Research News

1. Australian Health and Medical Research Congress, November 21-26, 2004

There has been excellent interest in this congress, with 25 societies, including ANZBMS committed to take part. Five societies are running their full annual meeting as part of the congress. The list of plenary speakers includes very impressive scientists, covering topics of sufficient breadth to make the congress of great interest to all researchers. Our members, particularly basic scientists, are strongly encouraged to plan to attend. (<http://www.ahmrcongress.org.au/>)

2. Report from the ASMR President, Moira Clay (as summarised by David Findlay) (see also <http://www.asmr.org.au/Campaign/campaign.html>)

We are now approaching the end of the Commonwealth Government funding increases for Health and Medical Research, and the question arises as to how the increase in research activity that this has brought about can be sustained. An "Exceptional Returns" forum was held recently, at which key people, representing the NH&MRC, ARC, universities, pharmaceutical companies, and eminent researchers met to create a new argument for funding, with which to go to government. The plan is to request an additional \$5 billion to be phased in over the next 5 year cycle, in order to bring Australian Health and Medical research up to a level competitive with other OECD countries. To assist this, Access Economics has been commissioned to prepare a report to show the returns that have come back from

expenditure on Health and Medical Research (see www.asmr.org.au/general/Except.pdf). The report will show that every \$1 invested in Health and Medical Research returns \$5, when measured in a number of ways that include increased wellness and decreased morbidity, and mortality, growth of the Biotech industry, etc. In addition, the report will highlight the challenges that are coming with an increasingly older population and the associated rise in chronic disease, as well as new and emerging health threats, such as SARS. Australia needs to be self-sufficient and able to meet these challenges. The AE report was launched into the Public and Political domain in late September, in order to influence decisions for next year's National Budget. In addition, a grass roots campaign will also be launched by ASMR, "Building an Investment in Our Future" by investing in Health and Medical Research. These activities are necessary because, despite the greater allocation for NH&MRC spending, public sector funding for research overall is declining. Australia currently ranks 7th amongst OECD countries.

Dr Clay expressed gratitude to the Affiliate societies, without whose support ASMR could not go effectively to government. Researchers are encouraged to further support these activities by developing the practice of contributing stories of how funding has led to significant findings, by writing to politicians and by arranging to meet and speak with their local Parliamentary representatives.

Political Campaign

ASMR is currently implementing a complex political strategy focused on ensuring a long term future for Australian health and medical research. The current phase of doubling of the NHMRC budget will soon come to an end and there is no guarantee that future increases in funding will occur, placing in jeopardy the future of this vital enterprise. The campaign is a call to action for all researchers to communicate the outcomes of their research to both the public and politicians in order to create maximum awareness of the exceptional returns of Australian health and medical research and facilitate its long term support. The key milestone for the campaign is October/November this year. This milestone represents the deadline to get health and medical research onto the agenda for the crucial 2004 budget.

The campaign launch in early October will coincide with the release of an independent economic assessment of the expenditure on health and medical research in Australia commissioned by ASMR. The report, prepared by leading economic consultancy Access Economics, is entitled "Exceptional Returns: The Value of Investing in Health R & D in Australia". It demonstrates that the returns from Australian health R & D are so extraordinarily high that the pay off from any strategic investment is enormous with future R & D gains having potentially stunning impacts. This ground-breaking report, together with the grass roots campaign, will present a compelling case to ensure future funding for Australian health R & D is addressed in the 2004 budget.

2004 NHMRC Project Grants (Broad Health area funding)

Bone Joint and Muscle Disease

Applications	104
Successful	28
% Funded	27%
Total Funding	\$12,368,513

David Findlay

Report to the ANZBMS Council on travel undertaken with funding from the Christine and T. Jack Martin Travel Grant, Sponsored by Merck, Sharpe and Dohme by Catherine Middleton-Hardie, Department of Medicine, University of Auckland, New Zealand

Last year at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society I was awarded the Christine and T. Jack Martin Travel Grant. These funds enabled me to visit several prestigious international laboratories to present my PhD research, develop new experiments and learn new methods. Also, I attended the 30th European Symposium on Calcified Tissues where I gave an oral presentation on my recent research and received a Novartis Young Investigator Award.

***Laboratory Visits - included the following:
Amgen Inc, Thousand Oaks California USA***

As my PhD has been centred on characterising an inactivating mutation in OPG, visiting Amgen, where OPG has been investigated for approximately 10 years, was ideal and gave me the opportunity to help solve some difficulties in the production and purification of the mutant OPG.

Nuffield Orthopaedic Research Centre, University of Oxford, Oxford UK

Raj Thakker is the May Professor of Clinical Medicine at Oxford University. His research group has previously identified the genetic cause of several metabolic disorders, thus the opportunity to present and discuss my OPG project with this audience was very rewarding. I was also fortunate that I could attend a prestigious lecture at Sommerville College on Skeletal Complications of Cancer by Professor Jack Martin who was on sabbatical in Oxford at the time.

Bone Research Group, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen UK

There are six major research areas within the bone research group headed by Professor Stuart Ralston. Their research into the Genetics of bone disease was of particular interest to me. A major reason to visit this group was to learn their method of RNA extraction from whole bone samples, a new important method for the bone group in Auckland.

Overall, attendance at the ECTS and the opportunity to visit the laboratories have helped me to identify points I will need to address in my PhD thesis regarding the differences between the phenotype of OPG knock-out mouse and the patients reported with OPG deficiency. Also the meeting highlighted for me the diverse range of research interests within the field of bone research. I was able to learn more about areas of research I may pursue in post-doctoral studies.

I would like to thank Merck, Sharpe and Dohme and The Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society for providing me with funds, which enabled me to visit these prestigious laboratories and attend the ECTS conference. I feel very privileged to have received this award.

Catherine Middleton-Hardie

What are we doing?

Below is a list of ANZBMS members' publications, taken largely from the period March 2003 to June 2003. It should be appreciated that the list is not comprehensive, and is not meant as a tool for competition, but is designed to give members an overview of the clinical and basic research that we are collectively involved in. Readers are encouraged to contribute to this section by sending in details of recent publications.

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REGIONAL BONE MEETINGS

Sydney Bone Meetings—2004

2nd Tuesday of each month: March, May, July, September, November

Same venue and times as last year. ie:

The Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron

Buffet Room Top Floor, 33 Peel Street

Kirribilli

(Complimentary Parking in all 3 Car Parks)

Drinks & Gourmet Canapes from 6.00 PM

3 presentations from 6.30-8.00 PM

ANZBMS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Mr Laurie Portier, Dr Nguyen Nguyen, Dr Natalie Sims, Mr Klaus Sommer, Mrs Samantha Azariah-Palagummi, Mrs Kerrie Louise Newman, Ms Pauline Kelly, Dr Bernie Brenner, Mrs Diane May Fitton, Mrs Pauline Denise Sruhan, Mr Brad Ian Morrison, Dr Francis Milat, Ms Jean McQuade, Ms Liz Bongetti, Ms Julie Milnes, Dr Roderick Clifton-Bligh, Ms Elizabeth Jean Nightingale, Miss Julie Briody.

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Critical perspectives, commentaries and reviews

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Ego Seeman

Second Asian Regional IOF Conference on Osteoporosis

Date: 16 - 18 January 2004

Venue: Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

The highlights of the meeting include keynote address on the Epidemiology, Genetics, Diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis; Meet the expert sessions, as well as the first Consensus conference in Asia

We strongly encourage scientists to submit abstracts for the free papers and posters session. There will be prizes for Outstanding Young Investigators and Best Posters. The deadline for submission of abstracts has been extended to 30 September 2003, and early bird registration will end on 31 October 2003. Please consult our websites: <http://www.osteofound.org> <http://www.apof.org/> <http://www.jococ.org/> for the details or contact our Conference Secretariat as follows:

MediMediaPacific Limited
35/F., Two Chinachem Exchange Square
338 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong
Tel: (852) 2559 5888
Fax: (852) 2559 6910
E-mail: meeting@medimedia.com.hk

Dates for the Diary

2003

November 27-29, 2003—International Conference on Progress in Bone and Mineral Research 2003, Vienna, Austria. Contact: Vienna Academy of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research Email bone2003@medacad.org

2004

January 16-18, 2004— Second Asian Regional IOF Conference on Osteoporosis Hong Kong. Website: www.osteofound.org/

March 21-25, 2004—The Third Clare Valley Bone Meeting: Bone, Putting the Pieces Together

The meeting will be cross-disciplinary, and seek to explore in some depth, aspects of bone biology, as they relate to human disease, against the backdrop of the beautiful Clare region of South Australia.

March 23-24, 2004—Bone Workshops

Davos, Switzerland Contact Website: www.ibmsonline.org/cellbiology.htm.

Www.ibmsonline.org/othertreatments.htm, Www.ibmsonline.org/bisphosphonates.htm

April 18-21, 2004 : 2nd International GH-IGF Symposium

Contact: Intermedia Convention & Event Management

(unit 11/97 Castlemaine Street)

Milton Qld 4064 AUSTRALIA

Tel: +61 7 3858 5597, Fax: + 61 7 3858 5510

Email: grs2004@im.com.au

Web: www.ghigf2004.im.com.au

May 14-18, 2004—IOF World Congress on Osteoporosis

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Www.osteofound.org

June 5-9, 2004—31st European Symposium on Calcified Tissues, Nice, France Contact

Website: <http://www.ectsoc.org>.

August 18-20, 2004 - ANZBMS 14th Annual Scientific Meeting, Hunter Valley, Cypress Lakes Resort

Contact: Conference Action

Email: emma@conferenceaction.com.au

August 16-17, 2004-Satelite Events– Sydney

Paediatric Bone Symposium

Organising Committee Chris Cowell, Michael Hooper, Edith Gardiner, David Sillence, Jennifer Batch, Christine Rodda, Margaret Zacharin

Training Courses for Clinicians and Technologists in Densitometry

Faculty: Nick Pocock, Roger Price, Richard Prince, Satvinder Dhaliwal, Michael Hooper, Beverley White

Confocal Microscopy and Histomorphometry Workshop Venue-Sydney University

Organising Committee: Damien Myers, Colin Dunstan, Nick Fazzalari

August 21-22, 2004—Endocrine Society of Australia Clinical Weekend

Cyrpress Lakes Resort

Contact: Mike Pickford mp@asnevents.net.au

August 21-25, 2004— Endocrine Society of Australia Sydney Contact Mike Pickford ASN

Email: mp@asnevents.net.au

October 1-5, 2004—American Society for Bone and Mineral Research (ASBMR)

26th Annual Meeting

Washington State Convention and Trade Center

Seattle, Washington, USA

For more information, call (202) 367-1161, email asbmr@dc.sba.com, or check our web site

www.asbmr.org

November 10-13, 2004—5th Interdisciplinary World Congress on Low Back and Pelvic Pain, Melbourne

2005

June 25-29, 2005—Second Joint Meeting of the European Calcified Tissue Society and the International Bone and Mineral Society, Geneva, Switzerland Contact Website:
<http://www.ectsoc.org>

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