I am honoured to take on the presidency of ESA and wish to thank the members of the outgoing council for their invaluable contributions to the society. I am pleased to report that ESA is in excellent financial shape and we have completed another series of outstanding meetings.

I hope to oversee a range of initiatives over the next two years. The first is the rolling out of our scholarships beginning in 2007 to be followed by a postdoctoral grant-in-aid starting in 2008. Council has a new structure with overlapping terms to ensure continuity. I intend to increase the involvement of all council members by including them in subcommittees focussing on medical affairs, RACP affairs, scientific affairs, sponsorship and meetings. Although some of these subcommittees relate to clinical matters, I want our scientist members to feel that they have a say in the running of ESA and that they are not being taken for granted. One of the major strengths of ESA is its mixture of clinicians and scientists, and it is critical that this nexus is not lost.

We will undoubtedly need to deal with a number of issues in the near future. As has been detailed in the media recently, our relationship with the pharmaceutical industry will be increasingly scrutinised by the public and I think it is time for ESA to have a formal policy on this issue, particularly regarding sponsorship of our meetings. We welcome our interaction with industry but a clear policy will prevent potential misunderstandings in the future. The RACP is undergoing a review of its governance and relationships with specialist societies, including ESA. We need to contribute to this review to ensure that ESA has a distinct voice in directing the training of endocrinologists in the future.

Finally, it goes without saying that the membership is the ESA. If you are unhappy about something that we have done, please let me or another council member know. Even better, let us know if you are happy about something we have done! We’re always open to suggestions about how to make ESA an even better organization than it is now.

Leon Bach
OUTGOING PRESIDENT’S REPORT

I write this report from a park opposite the building in which the American Constitution was written in Philadelphia. I am not sure if those esteemed individuals had as much trouble modifying their constitution as your council and President has had modifying ours. Nonetheless, both those new constitutions have been established and I am optimistic that the changes in relation to ESA will strengthen the governance of our society and allow for a more robust council. In particular, now that only 50% of the council is elected at each cycle there is more constitutional memory and continuity. I wish to thank all members of council, Ivone Johnson and our legal advisors for this effort. There are still one or two minor changes which may need to be pursued to tidy up. I confidently leave this task to the next council.

As I am currently attending the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research meeting it allows me to ponder on the ESA’s meetings. One of the immense strengths of the American Endocrinology is the large number of prizes, awards, scholarships and stipends available. This leads to the second achievement of your council over the last two years, this was to start spending some of the accumulated funds which had been diligently acquired by previous councils, by setting up PhD scholarships and fellowships. This will be a milestone for the society. I hope that as available funding increases that the number of these awards will grow over the next five to ten years.

Although Australian meetings can never compete with the size and diversity of their U.S. counterparts, our meetings play several important roles. The first of these is to allow scientific exchange and collaboration at a national level. The second is to encourage and advance junior scientists and the third is to ensure that clinicians have access to an Australian perspective in regard to diagnosis and therapy of endocrine disease. All of our meetings have been extremely successful in addressing these issues, but there still remains room for improvement.

I would like to thank the council and Ivone Johnson for all their assistance over the last two years. I have enjoyed my time as President, have honed my negotiating skills and I hope I have contributed something to the society. I wish the new council and Leon Bach all the best.

Jeffrey Zajac

AWE NEWS & INFORMATION - UPDATED AUGUST 2006

The 7th meeting of the “Australasian Branch of Women in Endocrinology” (AWE) was held on Sunday August 20th September 4th at The Gold Coast Convention Centre. The reception again was well attended with over 50 registered for the event and was generously sponsored by DSL-Australasia with the continued support of their Managing Director, Dr Sylvia Johnson.

The 2006 AWE-DSL Travel Award was awarded to Dr Rebecca Robker of the Research Centre for Reproductive Health, University of Adelaide. Helen Blanchfield from Novo Nordisk, presented the 2006 AWE-Novo Nordisk Travel Award to Dr Nichola Thompson of the Liggins Institute in Auckland New Zealand. Joe Chamoun and Emma Morgan from Abbott-Diabetes Care, attended the evening and presented the AWE-Abbott Diabetes Care Travel Award to Ms Lisa Atkin of the Childrens Nutrition Research Centre, University of Queensland. AWE-Merit certificates were awarded to Ms Jasmin Dromey (WAIMR, University of Western Australia) and Ms Rachael Augustine (University of Otago, Dunedin, NZ).

Annual AWE Travel grants of $1500 each should be available again to attend ENDO 2007 in Toronto. These awards are to assist senior PhD students and post-doctoral fellows who are AWE members (and financial members of either the ESA or NZSE), application forms will be available from the ESA website in January 2007, and the deadline for receipt of applications is April 15th 2007. The 8th meeting of AWE will be held on Sunday September 2nd 2007, in conjunction with the commencement of the ESA-SRB conference at the Christchurch Convention Centre, NZ.

Awardees and Sponsors
PHI PROFESSOR LEADING THE WAY

PROFESSOR EVAN SIMPSON

Director acknowledged for world leading research

Director of Prince Henry’s Institute, Professor Evan Simpson, has been elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science for his achievements in the field of hormone research.

Appointment to the Academy honours a career that has significantly advanced, and continues to advance, medical research.

Professor Simpson is recognised as the world leader in the area of oestrogen biosynthesis. Over the last 25 years, his research has had a major impact in a variety of fields, including embryology, endocrinology, reproduction, tumour biology, and human physiology and pathophysiology. As Head of the Sex Hormones in Action Group at Prince Henry’s, his current work is directed toward discovering new and better therapies for breast cancer prevention and treatment.

Professor Simpson has published over 350 peer reviewed articles and invited reviews and book chapters. He is one of the four most cited scientists in Australia in the field of Biochemistry and Cell Biology. He has also received numerous awards, including the Trans-Atlantic Medal and the Asia and Oceania Medal from the UK Society for Endocrinology and the President’s Scientific Achievement Award from the US Society for Gynaecological Investigation.

Professor Simpson was one of 18 new Fellows elected to the Academy, including researchers from Australian universities, CSIRO and medical research institutions.

EMERITUS DIRECTOR LEADING THE WAY AT PRINCE HENRY’S - PROFESSOR HENRY BURGER

Emeritus Director at Melbourne’s Prince Henry’s Institute, Professor Henry Burger, has been selected as the recipient of the 2006 NAMS/Procter & Gamble Pharmaceuticals Morrie M.Gelfand Leadership Award in Androgen Research.

The award recognises an individual whose outstanding research has advanced our understanding of the role of androgens in postmenopausal women.

Professor Burger said he was honoured to be selected for the prestigious Leadership Award.

“It is with great pleasure that I accept this award, which recognises many years of work by a whole team of colleagues in Melbourne, particularly the late Jean Hailes, as well as Professor’s Lorraine Dennerstein and Susan Davis,” he said.

A pioneer in reproductive endocrinology, Professor Burger has worked in the field for more than 30 years.

He has received countless accolades for his research into the management of the peri and postmenopause, female and male infertility, hirsutism and the role of the gonadal hormone, inhibin, in ovarian cancer.

Most recently, Professor Burger was elected to Honorary Membership of the prestigious UK Society for Endocrinology. He is also a past winner of the Society’s highest accolade The Dale Medal, in recognition of his world leading studies in endocrinology.

Professor Burger was honoured in the 1993 Queen’s Birthday list when he was appointed as an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (A.O.). In 1994 he was elected to Fellowship of the Australian Academy of Science (F.A.A.) and was chosen as the winner of the US Endocrine Society’s ‘Distinguished Physician’ Award in 1999.

Professor Burger is a former President of the Endocrine Society of Australia, the Australasian Menopause Society and past Treasurer and President of the International Menopause Society.

ESA IPSEN INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GRANT AWARD 2007

Aim:
To support younger members of the society to travel to international meetings, laboratories and/or clinics to further their training and knowledge in Endocrinology.

Awards:
One award of $3500 will be awarded to assist with the costs of international travel to a European destination - Deadline 1st March 2007.

One award of $3500 will be awarded to assist with the costs of international travel - Deadline 1st August 2007

Visit ESA website:
http://www.endocrinesociety.org.au/awards.htm#policy

SPONSORSHIP OF ESA

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Servier Laboratories (Australia)
2006 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING on the GOLD COAST

This year’s program, held from 20th to 23rd August, was headed by an exciting line-up of plenary speakers. The Harrison Lecturer delivered by Prof. William Crowley (USA), provided insights into genetic causes of reproductive failure and master switches regulating puberty onset. The Taft Lecture by Dr. I. Sadaf Farooqi (UK) addressed key aspects of obesity, especially lessons from monogenic causes, and the fifth Japan-Australia Lecturer, Prof. Eiichi Araki, explored oxidant stress as a main cause of diabetes complications. Our fourth plenary lecturer and domestic speaker, Prof. Peter Leedman, was particularly well received in his overarching presentation on the regulation of messenger RNA stability. The Society also recognises the valuable contribution made by the Harrison and Taft Plenary lecturers to the preceding Clinical Weekend.

Congratulations to the recipients of the following highly competitive ESA awards at the Meeting The Novartis Junior Scientist Award was won by David MacIntyre from The Dept of Endocrinology, John Hunter Hospital and the Mothers and Babies Research Centre, The University of Newcastle, who presented ‘Evidence for a Novel Mechanism of Human Myometrial Activation’. The 2006 ESA Mayne Pharma Bryan Hudson Clinical Endocrinology Award was won by Jui Ho from Human Immunology at The Hanson Institute, The Endocrine and Metabolic Unit of Royal Adelaide Hospital and The University of Adelaide. Jui presented ‘Relative Maternal Hypocortisolism in High Risk Human Pregnancy’.

Now in its third year, this clinical research Award is becoming a regular event at the Meeting. Renea Taylor, from the Centre for Urological Research, Monash Institute of Medical Research, Monash University, received the Servier Award for her published work in Nature Methods, entitled ‘Formation of Human Prostate Tissue from Embryonic Stem Cells,’ which she presented at the Meeting.

Many thanks to all the members of the Society who presented at symposia, and/or acted as chairs at the meeting. The six symposia were well attended, and also allowed an increasing clinical stream to occur throughout the meeting. The combined symposium with the Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists (AACB) on endocrine testing may herald the first of many fruitful ESA Scientific Meeting collaborations with AACB. The clinical Meet The Expert sessions presented by A/Prof. Terry Diamond and Prof. Creswell Eastman were also clearly very popular, potentially forming further precedent for subsequent years. Free-oral communication sessions and unopposed poster sessions featured at the Meeting.

Many thanks also to my colleagues and members of the Program Organising Committee, for the third year running: Anne Nelson (also the Proceedings Editor), Charles Allan, Rory Clifton-Bligh, Shaun McGrath, and Paul Williams. At the 2007 ESA Annual Scientific meeting planned for Christchurch, New Zealand, the new Program Organising Committee look forward to providing an ongoing clinically relevant stream and a robust scientific program.

By Stephen Twigg

ESA CLINICAL WEEKEND REPORT

In 2006 the Clinical Weekend was help at the Royal Pines Resort. More than 190 registrants attended. The case-based presentations from the Registrars raised the bar for subsequent year’s presenters, with a uniform outstanding level of interest and quality. I received only positive feedback on the meetings content. While it seemed unfair to single out one, Dr Lyndal Tacon from the Royal North Shore Hospital, Sydney, received the award for best presentation entitled “To sleep, perchance to dream” about a patient with challenging hypothalamic disorders.

The international invited speakers, Professor William Crowley (genetics of hypothalamic hypogonadism) and Dr Sadaf Farooqi (genetics of obesity syndromes) presented excellent plenary lectures and chimed in with invaluable commentary on related-theme cases presented by the registrars. The venue proved most satisfactory and Mike Pickford and ASN assisted with the conference organisation admirably. Next year’s meeting in Christchurch promises to be a not-to-be-missed opportunity to brush up on our clinical skills. Suggestions for that meeting should at this stage go to ESA Council via the Secretariat.

Ross Cuneo
LOC Chair

NEW MEMBERS

ESA RESEARCH HIGHER DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP
ESA will commence a PhD scholarship scheme in 2007 and the scholarship will be offered annually to either a clinical or basic science project in endocrinology. Each PhD scholarship will support a student for 3 years and will be a sum of $20 000 for salary and $500 travel grant per year.
http://www.endocrinesociety.org.au/awards.htm#schol
Application Deadline: 31st October 2006
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ENDOCRINE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Held at Gold Coast Convention Centre Gold Coast, QLD
Monday 21st August 2006

Attendance: Paul Williams, Christine Clarke, Anne Nelson, Vince Russo, Dave Grattan, Mark Hedger, Kathryn Gatford, Helen Maclean, Walter Plehwe, Duncan Topliss, Catherine Coulter, Dennis Engler, Ben Canny, Peter Leedman, Brendan Waddell, Peter Stanton, Charles Allan, Ross Cuneo, David Handlesman, Raymond Rodgers, Peter Fuller, Dennis Wilson, Frances Thomas, Steven Twigg, Ken Ho, Leon Bach, Mark McLean, Vicki Clifton, David Healy, Peter Ebeling, Timothy Cole, Elke Hendrich, Bu Yeap, Jeffrey Zajac

1. Apologies: John Casey, Evan Simpson, David Phillips

2. Confirmation of minutes: Minutes of the Annual General Meeting that was held on 5th September, 2005 were accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Leon Bach and seconded by Duncan Topliss.

3. Business Arising: Nil

4. President’s Report

Jeffrey Zajac stated that the last two years represented steady growth for the society and a number of new initiatives. Initiatives include offering members on-line payments and establishing the ESA Scholarship and Fellowships which will be advertised shortly. This Annual scientific meeting sees the inauguration of the ESA/IPSEN International Travel Grant Award.

Sponsorship

Jeff thanked the sponsors for their support this financial year and they include Servier Laboratories, Alphapharm Pty Limited, Eli Lilly Australia, Ipsen Pty Ltd, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Australia Pty Limited and Mayne Pharma Pty Ltd. ESA will also be developing a written policy on ESA sponsorship.

RACP

The RACP regularly meets with the Specialty Societies with a view to strengthening the relationships that the societies have with the College, and to provide educational support for both Fellows and Advanced Trainees. Mark McLean is the ESA representative on this committee. A major task for the RACP is to develop a clinical training curriculum for endocrinology and other specialties. The ESA will have significant input to this process and will endeavour to ensure that it is appropriate to the needs of the specialty, and as flexible as possible.

continued over
There will be a shake-up of the organizational structure and governance of the RACP. The specialty societies are to be consulted by a management consultancy group being hired by the college, and they propose to meet face to face with society reps.

Other Societies
The ESA continues to enjoy strong relationships with a number of sister societies, both nationally and internationally. This includes continued collaboration with the Japan Endocrine Society. Our relationships with ADS, SRB, ANZBMS and APEG continue to be strong and cordial, with significant collaboration with respect to Annual Scientific Meetings being developed. The ESA will also meet with the New Zealand Endocrine Society in 2007.

Committees
Sincere thanks to the following for significant contribution to the activities of the Society:

Steve Twigg and the POC (Charles Allan, Rory Clifton-Bligh, Shaun McGrath and Anne Nelson and Paul Williams) for putting together a superb scientific program. The POC Chairman for 2007-2009 is Helen MacLean.

Judith Clements, the Chair of the Local Organising Committee.

Jennifer Conn for organising a very successful Seminar Meeting and her team Duncan Topliss, Leon Bach, Helen MacLean and Leo Rando.

Ross Cuneo for organising the Clinical Weekend;

Anne Nelson also edited the proceedings;
David Phillips for editing the newsletter;
Mike Pickford and his team at ASN.

Jeffrey Zajac thanked the present Council members for the tremendous support they have given, and their work for the Society.
Leon Bach for his support in regards to ESA meetings
David Torpy for his advice with matters involving medical affairs and the College and new sponsorship initiatives.
Mark McLean for Secretarial assistance and overseeing College related matters;
Vicki Clifton for her thorough work as Treasurer;
Catherine Choong with advice regarding awards and training matters
Evan Simpson for advice regarding relationships with international societies;
David Healy for managing Clinician Affairs, and giving clinicians a voice in making ESA meetings more relevant to Clinicians.
Ivone Johnson who looks after the secretariat.

4.1 New Council
Congratulations to the new council. The four year term councillors include: President-Leon Bach, President-elect-Mark McLean, Treasurer-Vicki Clifton, Secretary-David Phillips and councillor-David Healy. The two year term councillors include: Evan Simpson, Timothy Cole, Peter Ebeling, Elke Christine Hendrich and Bu Yeap.

5. Treasurer’s Report
FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE AUDITOR
There has been a recent change in accounting standards and practice at P. Gruchy & Associates Pty Ltd and as a result of those changes, the auditors financial report is significantly different from last years report. The reasons for the difference have been detailed in the lengthy notes in the audited accounts. In summary, the differences are due to changes in how expenditure for the Annual Scientific Meetings (ASM) is reported. Previously the gross expenditure for the ASM was reported in the next financial year and it is now reported in the present financial year. That is; the gross expenditure for 2006 ASM will be included in the 05/06 financial year.

Membership subscriptions
ESA still have outstanding membership subscriptions ($13451). The secretariat has sent reminders to unpaid members requesting their contribution with no response. Members with unpaid subscriptions of greater than two years were removed from the membership list.

continued over
Society’s investments
Asgard Investment portfolio
The ESA funds are presently allocated to a number of different managed investment profiles which include 8.4% in a Cash account, 16.7% in Australian fixed interest deposits, 5.5% international fixed interest deposits, 35.7% in Australian shares, 25% in International shares, 8.3% in property. The total value of these investments is $943,774.85 and the investment had net earnings of $106,198.32 for the 05/06 financial year. This is an overall return of 12.5% for this financial year. A summary of the returns for 05/06 financial year for each profile has been mailed to each member.

PhD and Postdoctoral Scholarships

ESA will commence a PhD scholarship scheme in 2007 and the scholarship will be offered annually to either a clinical or basic science project in endocrinology. Each PhD scholarship will support a student for 3 years and will be a sum of $20,000 for salary and $500 travel grant per year. A Postdoctoral grant-in-aid will also be offered commencing in 2008 and also offered annually from then. The Postdoctoral Scholarship will be for two years and a sum of $20,000 pa. The funds for these scholarships will be derived from the Asgard Investment and will consume approximately 11% of the investment each year from 2009. Based on the presumption that most years we will have a 12% return it is likely that the investment will not be depleted significantly.

Approval for the Treasurer’s Report was moved by Cathie Coulter and seconded by Leon Bach.

6. Medical Affairs Report
The Society has provided representation, assistance and advice to various government agencies concerning a range of health-related matters. These include:
Thyroxine storage conditions and shelf life, and dosage formulations
Clinical Affairs-Cretin Prevention
New proposals for iodine supplements

7. Report on 2006 ESA Meeting Seminars*Clinical Weekend*ASM
2006 ASM, Gold Coast Convention Centre, QLD
Steven Twigg, POC Chairman, stated that the programme was good and excellent speakers attended. He thanked all the members of the POC, LOC, the proceedings editor Anne Nelson and Mike Pickford and staff. The Chair for the POC for 2007-2009 is Helen MacLean.
Clinical Weekend, Royal Pines Resort, Gold Coast, QLD
Ross Cuneo was the convenor for this successful meeting. 190 registrations were received that included 160 clinicians.
Seminar Meeting – Mantra Erskine Resort, Lorne
The convenor was Jennifer Conn. Organising committee includes: Duncan Topliss, Leon Bach, Helen MacLean and Leo Rando. This successful meeting was held on the 7th-9th April.

8. Future Meetings
ASM 2007, 2-5th September
This meeting will be held at the Christchurch Convention Centre.
Clinical Weekend 2007, 31st Aug-2nd Sept
The Clinical Weekend will be held at the Outrigger Hotel at Clearwater, New Zealand
ESA Seminar meeting 2007, 4-6th May
The Seminar meeting will be held at Sebel Lodge, Yarra Valley, VIC
ASM 2008, 25-28th August
This meeting will be held at the Melbourne Convention Centre

9. Other business
New Zealand Endocrine Society
Members agreed that the New Zealand Endocrine Society should be approached to determine their views on a possible amalgamation with the Endocrine Society of Australia. Dave Grattan, President of the New Zealand Endocrine Society, will discuss this at the NZ Endocrine AGM.

ESA 50th meeting
ESA will hold its 50th meeting in 2008
Suggestions from members welcome on how to celebrate this event.

10. Date of next meeting
3rd September 2007 at the Christchurch Convention Centre
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FUTURE MEETINGS-2007

Society for Endocrinology BES 2007
5-8th March 2007
ICC Birmingham UK
Website: www.endocrinology.org

British Endocrine Society (BES) ASM
18-22nd March 2007
SAGE Gateshead, Newcastle, UK
Website: www.endocrinology.org/SFE/conf.htm

9th Europen Congress of Endocrinology
28th April-2nd May
Budapest, Hungary
Website: www.ece2007.com

ESA Seminar Meeting
4-6th May 2007
Sebel Lodge, Yarra Valley, VIC
Website: www.esaseminar.org.au

ENDO 2007
The Endocrine Society 89th Annual Meeting
Toronto June 2-5th 2007
Website: www.endo-society.org

SSR 2007, 40th Annual Meeting of the Society for Study of Reproduction
22-25th July 2007
San Antonio, Texas, USA
Website: www.ssr.org/meetings.html

ESA Clinical Weekend
31st August-2nd September 2007
Outrigger Hotel, New Zealand
Website: www.esaclinicalweekend.org.au

ESA/SRB ASM
2nd-5th September 2007
Christchurch Convention Centre
Website: www.esa-srb.org.au

ADS/ADEA ASM
5th-7th September
Christchurch Convention Centre
Website: www.ads.adea.org.au

ANZBMS ASM
9th-12th September 2007
Rydges Hotel, Queenstown, New Zealand
Website: anzbms.org.au

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

APEG ASM
15-18th October 2007
Broome, WA
Website: www.willorganise.com.au/apeg07