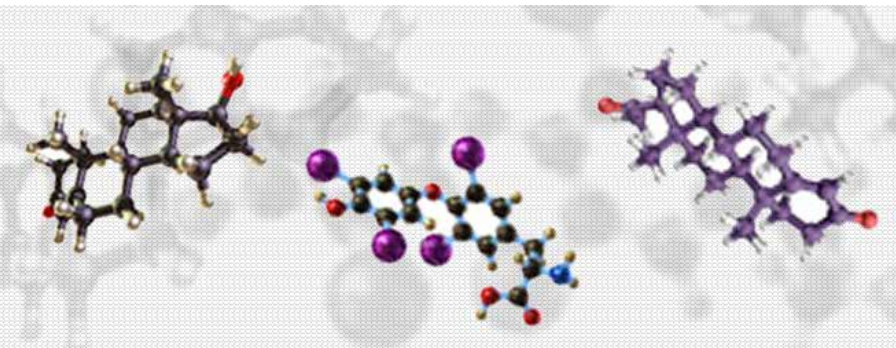




# ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014



## WHO WE ARE

The Endocrine Society of Australia (ESA) is a national non-profit organisation of scientists and clinicians who conduct research and practice in the field of Endocrinology.

The society was founded in 1958 and incorporated in 1986 in the State of Victoria. The Society is governed by the eight members of its Council who are elected every two years by a ballot of the membership in accordance with the Constitution.

## OUR GROWTH

Our membership continues to grow every year: We currently have 1051 members.

This society is strengthened by its composition of both clinicians and basic science members; and we believe that this true integration of disciplines is one reason for its continued success.

## OUR MISSION

The mission of the ESA is to be the premier society in Australia in the field of endocrinology through promoting excellence in research, fostering the integration of clinical and basic sciences, and facilitating the translation of our science to health care and clinical practice.

Key objectives to achieve these goals include the nurturing and developing the future generations of basic and clinical scientists and other health professionals, and the dissemination of new knowledge in endocrinology through our Annual Scientific Meeting and Seminars. The ESA will be proactive in shaping the research and health policies based on scientific advances in our field.

## ESA STRATEGIC PLAN

### Our vision

To be recognised as the authoritative voice for Endocrinology, Endocrinologists and Endocrine Researchers in Australia and Southeast Asia

### Our purpose

To educate about, engage in, and promote clinical practice and research in Endocrinology in the region and world-wide

### Our values

To be knowledgeable, accessible, sustainable and committed

### Our strategic directions

1. To maintain financial sustainability for the future
2. To promote the education of our current and future endocrinologists and endocrine researchers
3. To listen to our membership
4. To engage with our members, government bodies, funding bodies and the public to address and resolve issues that affect endocrinology and endocrine research
5. To promote the profile of the Endocrine Society of Australia
6. To ensure the governance of the society has continuity of knowledge and expertise

### Key areas of Priority

#### 1. Financial Sustainability

##### Objectives

- 1.1 Achieve a sufficient and more reliable income stream through investments, industry, bequests and conferences
- 1.2 Maintain a productive operating budget
- 1.3 Maintain long term financial sustainability of the scholarship programs

#### 2. Education

##### Objectives

- 2.1 Provide high quality conferences and meetings that attract international and national interest
- 2.2 Provide support for junior members, both clinical and basic scientists with membership, training, education and scholarships
- 2.3 Support continued training of high quality endocrinologists through work force planning and addressing issues affecting training

## ESA STRATEGIC PLAN

### 3. Internal Engagement: membership

#### Objectives

- 3.1 Hear the needs of our members
- 3.2 Retain and ensure sustainability of our expertise within the membership
- 3.3 Communicate and engage other endocrine based societies to increase membership both nationally and internationally
- 3.4 Ensure ESA members are assisting ESA to reach its objectives

### 4. External Engagement

#### Objectives

- 4.1 Engage consistently with the RACP for endocrinology training, secretariat business and endocrine advocacy
- 4.2 Engage with industry for sponsorship and financial sustainability
- 4.3 Engage with Government for addressing endocrine issues that affect ESA sustainability and profile
- 4.4 Engage with the NHMRC at every possible level to promote the funding of endocrine research, for endocrine advocacy and for the joint production of position statements
- 4.5 Engage with the public via the media to enhance the ESA profile and opportunities for bequests

- 4.6 Increase our presence and effectiveness on other boards and panels of institutions

### 5. Governance

#### Objectives

- 5.1 Maintain a highly skilled and motivated board
- 5.2 Source skilled, motivated and committed consultants with clearly defined roles to drive our objectives
- 5.3 Have the right committees with the right people to deliver strategic objectives
- 5.4 Educate board members in governance so our strategic ability and decision making is enhanced

### 6. Profile

#### Objectives

- 6.1 Promote Endocrinology within Australia via our branding
- 6.2 Provide education, networking opportunities and showcase our research
- 6.3 Promote our expert members both nationally and internationally
- 6.4 Be recognised as the authoritative voice for endocrinology, rare endocrine disorders and obesity in Australia and the region

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The ESA Council has had a very busy past 12 months and there has been much progress on all fronts:

### **New ESA logo and website:**

A new ESA logo has been developed, while the ESA website has been completely remodelled to incorporate the new Society identity represented by the new ESA logo. As well as a new look, greater functionality has also been incorporated. "Find an endocrinologist" is one such example whereby endocrinologists can add their name if they would like to be contacted via the ESA website for patient referrals in specific sub-disciplines of endocrinology.

### **Successful Scientific Meetings:**

The ESA Annual Scientific Meeting at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from August 24-27, 2014 attracted 706 registrants thanks to the outstanding programme developed by Associate Professor Ann McCormack and her team. Professor Sundeep Khosla from

the Mayo Clinic and Foundation delivered the Harrison Lecture, entitled "Sex steroids, bone and fat in men: the key role of estrogen", while Professor John Wass from the University of Oxford presented the Taft Lecture "Translational and clinical science in the optimum management of pituitary tumours". Professor Benita Katzenellenbogen, from University of Illinois and College of Medicine, presented her work on "Estrogen receptor signaling networks", Kevin Grove delivered a plenary on "Programming metabolic and psychiatric diseases: Effects of poor maternal diet and health", and Adrian Clark, from St. George's University of London, on "Dissecting the genetic basis of inherited adrenocortical failure".

The ESA Seminar Meeting in May 2014, Hobart, Tasmania on the theme of adrenocortical disease had 280 attendees.

The ESA Clinical Weekend in August 2014, Torquay, Victoria had 294 attendees. The two winners will be fast-tracked for submission for publication as case reports in Clinical Endocrinology (Oxford).

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT *continued...*

### **Successful Finances:**

ESA assets are now in a very healthy state with \$2.102 million (the Wynn Research Fund contains \$587,000).

ESA now awards one ESA Research Fellowship, one ESA Research Scholarship, and one Wynn Research Grant-in-Aid (each of one year duration). As a result of our healthy finances, ESA Council now proposes two new ESA grants: one ESA/RACP Fellowship; and one ESA Research Scholarship (each of one year duration).

### **RACP Alliances:**

The HWA endocrinology workforce data are inaccurate as they lack ambulatory setting projections. We plan to liaise with the RACP and State Governments to increase the number of AT positions in Endocrinology. For example, in Victoria, NSW, SA and Queensland in 2014, 175 BPTs applied for 38 APT positions in endocrinology (a ratio of ~4.5 to 1).

### **International Outreach:**

- Journal of Clinical Endocrinology (Oxford) Editorial Board – PR Ebeling, S Judd (Editors), and H Teede, W Inder, F Cameron, C Rodda
- Wiley CEN Educational Modules – S Judd
- Journal of Endocrinology – Bioscientifica (Evan Simpson)
- Journal of Molecular Endocrinology – Bioscientifica (Evan Simpson)
- EBM Case Reports – Bioscientifica (Jerry Greenfield, Warrick Inder)
- US Endocrine Society – Prof Gail Risbridger
- ICE/ENDO 2014 Meeting AMSC - Prof Peter R Ebeling, Dr Kristy Brown
- US Endocrine Society ENDO Meeting AMSC 2015-2018 - Prof Peter R Ebeling
- ISE Scientific Council - Prof Leon Bach
- Bone Reports – PR Ebeling (Editor-in-Chief)

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** *continued...*

### **ESA Task Forces:**

#### **1. Update on ESA Guideline on Androgen Replacement Therapy**

##### **Prof David de Kretser AC (Chair)**

Members: D Handelsman, BB Yeap, J Zajac, R McLachlan,  
D Lording, M Grossmann, G Wittert,  
B Stuckey, A Conway

#### **2. ESA Working Group on Endocrine Disrupters**

Call for action and nominees to be aligned with this  
important international US Endocrine Society initiative

If interested, please contact me by  
email: [peter.ebeling@monash.edu](mailto:peter.ebeling@monash.edu)



**Professor Peter R. Ebeling  
(President)**



**Prof Peter Ebeling (President)**

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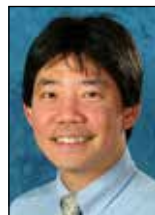
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**New ESA Council 2014-2016**

Helena Teede-President, Warrick Inder-President-elect,  
Tim Cole-Honorary Secretary, Nicollette Hodyl-Treasurer,  
Past President-Peter Ebeling

**Councillors:** Bu Yeap, Chen Chen, Belinda Henry, Ashim Sinha,  
Morton Burt, Craig Harrison

**ESA/APEG conference; seminar weekend; new committees that have been formed; Members that have been recognised inter/nationally, Life members.**

### ASM

The 2014 ESA Annual Scientific Meeting will take place at the Melbourne Convention Centre between 24th-27th August. Registration numbers look to be near record level, with 564 registered delegates as at 16th July, 2014 compared with 492 at the same time in 2013. This year there are 4 highly distinguished ESA Plenary speakers. Professor Sundeep Khosla (USA) will deliver the Harrison Plenary lecture entitled "Sex steroids, bones and fat in men: the key role of oestrogen". Professor John Wass (UK), will give the Taft Plenary lecture "Informing clinical practice: translational and clinical science in the optimum management of pituitary tumours". Professor Benita Katzenellenbogen (USA) will give a plenary lecture "Oestrogen Receptor Integrative Genomics and Signaling Networks in Breast Cancer and Endocrine Resistance" and Professor Kevin Grove (USA) will highlight his recent research in foetal programming and the brain in relation to metabolic outcomes. In addition, the ESA/ADS plenary will be given by Professor Adrian Clark on "Familial glucocorticoid deficiency".

This year's ESA Senior Plenary was awarded to Professor Iain Clarke, the mid career award to Kevin Pfgler and the

Servier Award to Anthony Bird. In addition to the annual ESA Novartis Junior Scientist Award and ESA Bryan Hudson Clinical Endocrinology Award, this year we have been able to award 3 book prizes to the highest scoring posters made possible by sponsorship by the Therapeutic Guidelines.

Other highlights at the 2014 meeting, include international speakers Anna Blasiak (Poland) participating in the joint ESA/Neuroendocrinology Australasia symposium. Symposia themes include "The fat spectrum", "Neuroendocrinology and Reproduction" and "An Update in Neuroendocrine Tumours".

For the attention of the ESA Council, the only potential concern seen by the POC this year was that there was a dramatic increase in the number of clinical abstract submissions and a reduction in the number of basic science abstract submissions. Whether this represents a new trend in activity amongst ESA members remains to be seen in future years.

Planning is also underway for the 2015 ESA ASM to be held in Adelaide from 23rd-26th August.



**Ann McCormack**, Chair POC

### **ESA Clinical Weekend,**

Torquay, 22-24 August 2014

There was very strong interest in the Clinical Weekend this year, with 60 cases submitted by advanced trainees from around Australia and New Zealand (12 chosen). Delegate registrations were on track to exceed forecasts. As a result it is anticipated that the meeting financial results will be in line with budget projections despite the loss this year of the financial support of a major pharmaceutical sponsor. I would like to thank all the advanced trainee presenters and our keynote speakers, Prof John Wass and Prof Sundeep Khosla for their contributions to the meeting. I also thank the members of the LOC for their generous assistance in organising the meeting, especially in assessing all the cases: Deepak Dutta, Vivian Grill, Kathryn Hackman and Rosemary Wong. The outstanding organisational efforts of Danielle White and Kristie McHutchison of ASN is also gratefully acknowledged.



**Shane Hamblin,**  
Chair LOC

### **ESA Seminar Weekend,**

May 2-4, 2014, Grand Chancellor Hotel, Hobart

**Clinical Theme:**  
**Adrenal Disease**

**Basic Science Theme:**  
**Steroid Action: Biology and Clinical Disease**

Overall attendance at the Seminar Weekend was excellent with 280 registrants, 240 of which attended the clinical stream. The Basic Science attendees were somewhat reduced this year and strategies to increase attendees will be discussed at Council meeting at the Annual Scientific Meeting.

Both the clinical and basic science programs were considered outstanding. Prof William Young Jr (Mayo Clinic College of Medicine) attended the clinical seminar weekend and provided invaluable input into the program. Prof Young was involved in the panel discussion detailing primary aldosteronism, the adrenal master class and he delivered a joint lecture with the basic scientists on pheochromocytoma.

## ESA SEMINAR WEEKEND (BASIC)

In addition, we thank our local plenary speakers who provided excellent lectures to both the clinical and basic science streams. This includes:

A/Prof Vicki Clifton (University of Adelaide): Glucocorticoid receptor signalling and pregnancy

A sense of local flavour was provided by

A/Prof Greg Woods (University of Tasmania): Immune recognition and Tasmanian devil facial tumour disease.

We would also like to thank all other contributors to both the Basic Science and Clinical Programs for helping create a highly successful, thought provoking and insightful meeting.

In 2014, ESA awarded 3 ESA research snapshot travel awards at the Basic Science Seminar Weekend for attendance to the Annual Scientific Meeting in August. The travel awards were received by Sakda Hewegalamulage, Ashlee Clark and Bennet Seow.



**Belinda Henry**  
(Basic Science Chair).



**Don McLeod**  
(Clinical Chair).

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ESA NEW LIFE MEMBERS



**Ken Ho**



**Jock Findlay**

## ESA MEMBERS RECOGNITION

### Recognition in Queen's Birthday Honours Congratulations to Professor Paul Alter KOMESAROFF

Professor Komesaroff from the Centre for the Study of Ethics in Medicine and Society received his AM for his significant service to ethics in medicine as a physician, researcher and philosopher.



### PHI Researcher named Hoffenberg International Medallist 2014

**Professor Rob McLachlan**, Head of MIMR-PHI's Clinical Andrology Laboratory, has been selected as the 2014 Hoffenberg International Medallist in recognition for his outstanding contribution to the field of endocrinology. Awarded by the Society of Endocrinology to a member of the scientific community outside of the UK, the medal is presented at the Endocrinology Society's BES Meeting, with the winner delivering the prestigious Hoffenberg International Medal Lecture. Professor McLachlan received his award in March 2014.



## **VALE PROFESSOR BE CHRISTOPHER NORDIN AO**

MD (London), FRCP (London), FRACP (Sydney),  
DSc (London and Adelaide)

It is with considerable sadness that I inform you of the death of Prof BEC (Chris) Nordin, a remarkable man and a pioneer in the field of bone and calcium metabolism, on October 27, 2014, at the age of 94 years.

Chris was a highly idiosyncratic enthusiast and possessed an extraordinary, broad-based, intellect. In a research career extending over some 60 years he was responsible for insights fundamental to an understanding of the pathogenesis and rational management of osteoporosis. In 1981 Chris resigned as Head of the MRC Mineral Metabolism Unit in Leeds to take up a position as Senior Research Fellow at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. The UK's loss was very much Australia's gain. Chris continued to be alert and active in research until just prior to his death—often quoting Noel Coward: 'Work is more fun than fun'.

He will be missed greatly.

**Michael Horowitz**





## TREASURER'S REPORT

**This report deals with the financial year 2013-14.  
Full details can be found in the minutes of the AGM  
at the end of this report.**

Income from membership subscriptions increased significantly by 117% from \$67,324 to \$ 146,407. This was predominantly due to ESA sending out arrears notices for members who had not kept up to date with the annual payments. It was made clear that failure to pay this year's membership fee and payments in arrears would result in termination of membership as per the Society's constitution. A small number of people declined to pay the arrears and decided to forego their membership. Proceeds from meetings were similar to 2012-2013.

The funds managed by Asgard have returned a net increase in value for the financial year from \$808,577.76 (July 1st, 2013) to 910,303.46 (June 30 2014). As of August 18, 2013, there has been a further increase in value to \$921,431.76. Funds from the Wynne estate have been invested in a separate account with Asgard. This is structured more conservatively at 30% cash/fixed interest and 70% growth assets, but has also increased significantly in value from \$533,602.71 on July 1 2013 to 579,438.47 on June 30 2014. As of August 18 2014, the value of this investment is \$586,798.59. Our aim for this account is to make at least a 5% return on this investment annually which will fund a \$25,000 scholarship annually without encroaching on the principal. In the last financial year we had a return of 9.7%.

Accounts held at the National Australia Bank include a working account balance (as of August 18, 2014) of \$188,223. We hold an additional two term deposits, combined value of \$272,309.

Overall the Society posted a net profit of \$103,370, compared to the operating profit of \$26,580 in 2012-13 (total profit minus Wynne bequest). Our total net assets have increased from \$1,858,300 to \$2,102,334.

I would like to thank the Endocrine Society of Australia, particularly the Council members and the two presidents I have served as treasurer over the last 4 years, Vicki Clifton and Peter Ebeling for their support. I would like to offer special thanks to Ivone Johnson. She has been just wonderful in her role and it has been a pleasure to work with her. It has been a privilege to be an office bearer in the Society, and I was fortunate to have the position of treasurer during a period of economic recovery where we have substantially increased our financial base. Good luck to the incoming treasurer.



**Dr Warrick Inder**

## 2013 ESA AWARD WINNERS

As usual, the competition for the annual ESA awards was fierce in 2013, with a very high standard of applications received by the society.

**We congratulate all award recipients on their success.**

### **Servier Award**

Jennifer Lo

### **ESA Mid-Career Award**

Zane Andrews

### **ESA Senior Plenary Award**

Geoffrey Tregear

### **Novartis Award**

Kevin Lee Tao-Kwang

### **Bryan Hudson Clinical Endocrinology Award**

Emily Gianatti

### **ESA/IPSEN International Travel Grant**

Christian Girgis – International

Jenna Haverfield – European

Steven Yau – International

### **Australian Women in Endocrinology**

Anju Joham

Helen Barrett

### **ESA Postdoctoral Award**

Radhika Seimon

### **ESA Research Higher Degree Scholarship**

Carmela Caputo

### **ESA Ken Wynne Memorial Postdoctoral Research Award**

Lisa Moran



*Radhika Seimon*



*Carmela Caputo*



*Lisa Moran*

**ESA Servier Award***Jennifer Lo*

*The Servier Award is made annually to recognise the best scientific paper published in the 12-month period preceding the closing date for abstracts for the Annual Scientific Meeting by an active member of the Endocrine Society of Australia early in their career.*

I would like to sincerely thank ESA and Servier for awarding me the 2013 Servier Young Investigator Award in acknowledgement of my publication titled "RAB-like 2 has an essential role in male fertility, sperm intra-flagellar transport, and tail assembly.". This manuscript was published in PLoS genetics 2012;8(10):e1002969 co-authored by Duangporn Jamsai, Anne O'Connor, Claire Borg, Brett Clark, James Whisstock, Mark Field, Vikki Adams, Tomomoto Ishikawa, John Aitken, Belinda Whittle, Christopher Goodnow, Christopher Ormandy and Moira O'Bryan.

During the course of my PhD under the supervision of Professor Moira O'Bryan in Monash University, I showed that RABL2 has an essential role in protein delivery into the growing sperm tail. This was done using Mot1 line, which contains the point mutation in the Rabl2 gene. The Rabl2Mot/Mot males are sterile as a consequence of a reduced sperm production, shorter sperm tail and decreased sperm motility. RAB-like proteins belong to a clade of the RAS superfamily. In common with RAB GTPases, RABL2 possess all five consensus motifs required for nucleotide exchange to switch between an inactive (GDP-bound) and an active (GTP-bound) state.

In its active state, RABL2 binds to a specific set of effector proteins and deliver them to the growing sperm tail. Our results also showed that RABL2 binds to several components involved in intra-flagella transport (IFT), an important mechanism in transporting proteins along microtubules. Collectively, our molecular modelling and functional data from the testes suggests the Rabl2 mutation in the Mot1 mouse line interferes with a protein interaction site resulting in the delayed conversion from an inactive to active state, and thus reduced the delivery of effector proteins into the sperm tail.

The research is supported by NHMRC postgraduate scholarship and NHMRC project grant (606445).

**Jennifer Lo**

**Novartis Award 2013**

*Kevin Lee Tao-Kwang*

*The ESA-Novartis Junior Scientist Award is given for the best presentation at the Annual Scientific Meeting by an advanced trainee or a person enrolled for a higher degree (PhD, MD, FRACP).*

One of the highlights to my PhD is undoubtedly the honour and recognition of my training under Professor Iain Clarke and Dr Belinda Henry as a scientist by being awarded the ESA Novartis Young Scientist of the Year award for 2014. Aside from the recognition, it has also provided me with the impetus to continue on with research despite the lure of clinical medicine let alone the drive to push out a thesis that has been gestating for a long time.

The research that was born out of a curiosity to see how stress affects metabolism and through our work with the

sheep model, it has been demonstrated that stress has a variable effect on weight depending on the physiological makeup of the organism. This variable effect can be marked out by cortisol response to ACTH whereby those that have a high cortisol response increase adiposity on a high energy diet relative to those that have a lower cortisol response. The differential effects to immune and psychological stress were also demonstrated in terms of changes in energy balance depending on the cortisol response.

The inter-relationship between stress, metabolism and weight was not only demonstrated in this sheep model but what was most astonishing was that these innate differences are able to mark out behavioural differences as well in terms of coping mechanisms. It was shown that high cortisol responders which are more prone to weight gain demonstrate a less proactive and more indifferent way to coping with stress. These fascinating inter-relationships were shared with the ESA and with encouragement from sources like this award, I look forward to continuing on with what is a wonderful boost to do future research.

**Kevin Lee Tao-Kwang**

### ESA Mid-Career Award



Zane Andrews

*The Mid-Career Researcher Award is designed to recognise an outstanding mid-career researcher in endocrinology.*

I was proud and honoured to receive the Endocrine Society of Australia Mid-Career Research Award for 2013. Naturally, I would like to thank my research team, collaborators and colleagues that have helped me achieve the research success that led to this award.

Ever since my university days in cold, dark and beautiful Dunedin, New Zealand I have been interested in physiology and specifically in how the brain integrates endocrine feedback signals from the body.

After finishing my PhD I travelled to New Haven Connecticut to work at Yale University. Here I became interested in a relatively new hormone at that time called ghrelin (“ghre”

= proto-indo-european root word –to grow). I was extremely lucky and privileged to work with some of the leading people and top universities in the world. It was here that I found my passion to understand how the brain perceives changes in metabolic energy states.

Ghrelin is classically known as ‘the hunger hormone’, however my recent research and others clearly indicates that it’s far more important than simply increasing food intake. It regulates stress and anxiety, cardiovascular function, neuroprotection, learning and memory, blood glucose and many new functions are being described.

In my award lecture, I hoped I conveyed the concept that ghrelin functions best under conditions of negative energy balance and that ghrelin resistance develops with positive energy balance (obesity). Thus, in the field ghrelin can be redefined as the “starvation” hormone because it serves to drastically fight off starvation.

The future challenges are to examine the neural circuits through which peripheral ghrelin regulates the diverse functions highlighted above. Many of these ghrelin-regulated circuits are also targeted by additional endocrines factors such as leptin and insulin, and the pressing issues in the field

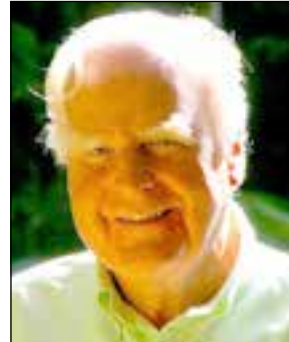
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for the next 10 years are to understand how dysfunction in these neuroendocrine circuits leads to obesity and type-2 diabetes.

Finally, I would like to congratulate ESA for on-going support to encourage both basic and clinical researchers to achieve research excellence, at all career levels. This is clearly seen through their awards, travel grants and fellowship schemes. We all benefit from a thriving and productive ESA research community so I would like to thank ESA council members and encourage everyone to continue their support of ESA to help our research community reach new heights.

**Zane Andrews**

### ESA Senior Plenary Award



*Geoffrey Tregear*

*This award recognises an outstanding research career in the field of Endocrinology in Australia.*

### 2012 Bryan Hudson Award



Emily Gianatti

*The Bryan Hudson Clinical Endocrinology Award will recognize the best clinical research presentation at the Annual Scientific Meeting by an active member of the Endocrine Society of Australia early in their career.*

I was the proud recipient of the 2013 Bryan Hudson Award for the presentation "Effect of testosterone treatment on glucose metabolism in men with type 2 diabetes mellitus". I presented data from a randomised, placebo controlled trial that I conducted at Austin Health, of testosterone treatment in men with type 2 diabetes. This trial forms the basis of my PhD which I am undertaking through the University of Melbourne, with the supervision of Associate Professor Mathis Grossmann and Professor Jeffrey Zajac. I have subsequently co-authored a number of publications relating to this trial in high impact scientific journals.

I demonstrated that testosterone treatment did not improve insulin resistance or glycemic control despite being associated with significant losses in total body fat mass and gains in total lean mass. Our observation that testosterone treatment did not reduce abdominal visceral adipose tissue or increase adiponectin levels provided novel insights into the paradox that testosterone treatment did not improve glucose metabolism despite metabolically favourable effects on total fat mass and lean mass.

I am very grateful to the Endocrine Society of Australia for this award and extend my sincere thanks. I was further supported by a RACP/Osteoporosis Australia Research Grant, a Pfizer Cardiovascular Lipid Research Grant and NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarship.

**Emily Gianatti**

## ESA/IPSEN TRAVEL AWARD



Steven Yau

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

I would like to thank the Endocrine Society of Australia and IPSEN for awarding me an International Travel Grant. This generous award supported my attendance at the 9th Joint Meeting of Paediatric Endocrinology in Milan, Italy 19-22 September 2013, where I presented an oral presentation entitled "IGFBP-2 enhances insulin signalling and glucose uptake in human skeletal myotubes".

The financial support also provided me with the opportunities to visit the laboratory of Prof Claudio Maffei at the Clinical Nutrition and Obesity Department at the University of Verona, Italy and the laboratories of A/Prof Maria Chiara Zatelli and Prof Ettore degli Uberti at the Section of Endocrinology, Department of Medical Sciences at the University of Ferrara, Italy. During both visits I was fortunately

given the opportunity to present a lecture where I discuss my PhD research findings exploring the mechanisms by which leptin regulates IGFBP-2 in skeletal muscle, the molecular pathways by which IGFBP-2 enhances insulin sensitivity in skeletal muscle, as well as examining the depot-specific effects of IGFBP-2 on adipogenesis and lipogenesis.

This oral presentation and attendance at this prestigious international meeting allowed me to further develop my research/academic career by exposing myself to international leaders in the field of endocrinology, obtaining important feedback on my research, as well as providing me with an opportunity to meet new faces and make connections that will continue to develop during my post-doctoral studies. The laboratory visits provided me with an opportunity to present an overview of my PhD project at Departmental Seminars, to discuss my research findings and to obtain critical feedback and suggestions from the leading experts in the field of childhood obesity, metabolism and endocrinology.

Once again, I am deeply appreciative for this valuable travel grant, which assisted me to travel to Italy to attend this prestigious conference and subsequent laboratory visits. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge my PhD supervisors A/Prof Matthew Sabin, Dr Vincenzo Russo, Prof George Werther and Prof Iain Clarke for their ongoing support and guidance throughout my doctoral studies.

**Steven Yau**



### ESA/IPSEN TRAVEL AWARD



*Christian Girgis*

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

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Endocrine Society of Australia for awarding me the Ipsen International Travel Grant in 2013. This grant helped me immensely in forging international collaborations and learning new experimental techniques during my PhD studies.

Initially, I travelled to San Francisco for the Endocrine Society's 95th Annual meeting (US Endo) where I presented an oral abstract titled "Vitamin D Signaling Influences Proliferation, Differentiation and Size in Skeletal Muscle Cells". This was a unique opportunity to interact with experts in the vitamin D field and receive feedback and advice on my research.

I then travelled to San Diego where I spent five weeks in the

gene expression laboratory of Professor Ron Evans at the Salk Institute. This lab is renowned for discoveries in nuclear receptor biology, in particular PPAR-gamma, RXR and the glucocorticoid receptor. At the time of my visit, there were about 20 highly experienced post-docs in this lab and it was great to draw from their specific expertise in nuclear receptor biology. The Salk Institute itself is famous for its innovative architectural design and boasts three contemporary Nobel laureates amongst its faculty.

Under the supervision of Dr Michael Downes and Dr Anne Atkins at the Salk, my project was to examine effects of the vitamin D receptor in a sub-population of muscle stem cells, called "satellite cells". These cells are critical in muscle repair and their dysfunction gives rise to sarcopaenia, a condition linked to ageing, frailty and osteoporosis. Using RNA-seq and a novel mouse model, I studied the VDR transcriptome in these stem cells and effects of therapeutic VDR activation on muscle stem cell survival and differentiation. This research has opened new avenues of research which I hope to pursue in a post-doctoral fellowship.

Once again, I express my sincere thanks to the ESA for this award. I am also grateful to my supervisors Prof. Jenny Gunton and A/Prof Rory Clifton-Bligh for their outstanding support and mentorship throughout my PhD studies.

**Christian Girgis**

## AWE TRAVEL AWARD 2013



*Anju Joham*

I would like to thank the Endocrine Society of Australia and Women in Endocrinology for the Novo Nordisk travel award in 2013. This financial support enabled me to attend the 95th Endocrine Society meeting (San Francisco, June 2013) during the third year of my PhD.

This award provided me with a valuable opportunity to present part of the results of my research from my doctoral studies to an international forum. I presented two posters at this meeting titled: Vitamin D in Polycystic Ovary Syndrome: Relationship to BMI and insulin sensitivity

*To provide financial support to younger women involved in Endocrine-related training and/or research*

Fertility and Assisted Reproductive Technology Use in women with Polycystic Ovary Syndrome: Data from the Australian Longitudinal Women's Health Study

I was able to discuss my findings with renowned PCOS researchers and received constructive feedback. It was also valuable to hear about the research being conducted by world leading researchers and to attend the informative clinical sessions presented by expert clinicians.

This award provided me with support to enable me to present my research at an international conference, meet leading researchers and also update my clinical knowledge. It has certainly enriched my PhD experience and is likely to influence my future research plans.

**Anju Joham**

## AWE TRAVEL AWARD 2013



Helen Barrett

*To provide financial support to younger women involved in Endocrine-related training and/or research*

I would like to thank the ESA for the AWE travel award, which enabled me to travel to The Endocrine Society (America) 95th meeting (San Francisco) and the American Diabetes Association 73rd meeting (Chicago) in June 2013 during the final year of my PhD. I was able to present part of the work I have undertaken during my recently completed doctoral thesis examining the role of maternal lipids and placental lipases in the settings of preeclampsia and gestational diabetes. This work will form the basis of ongoing research aiming to answer the question of whether we should be examining and potentially treating maternal lipids in diabetic pregnancy with the aim of improving pregnancy outcomes.

The AWE travel award facilitated a wonderful opportunity for me to present my work to an international audience in both oral and poster format. As a result, I was able to discuss my studies with some of the international experts in the field, with their reflections on my work proving extremely helpful, influencing the direction of my projects and providing me with contacts for the future.

**Helen Barrett**

## MEDICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Increasing demands on ESA noted

Roles include

- To develop positions statements
- Reports to government, PBAC/ TGA requests for advice
- Both national and international requests
- Need to respond to issues of day- engage with other societies/ media etc

Strategies to optimise ability to respond – data capture of the current activities

- joint member, Ashim Sinha as liaison between the Societies.
- council has co-opted John Walsh and Leon Bach to the committee.

A new strategic initiative was commenced with the US Endocrine Society Hormone Health Network focused on adaptation and provision of resources for consumers and increasingly for health professionals. To be launched at the 2014 meeting.

## ESA PARTNERSHIPS

### Clinical Endocrinology

ESA has partnered with the Journal Clinical Endocrinology, which will be our Society's journal. ESA members will have electronic access to this journal and will be able to get articles published. The editorial board can be expanded to include more Australian members.

*Clinical Endocrinology* publishes papers and reviews, which focus on the clinical aspects of endocrinology, including the clinical application of molecular endocrinology. It does not publish papers relating directly to diabetes care and clinical management. It features reviews, original papers, commentaries, cases of the month, book reviews and letters to the editor. Clinical Endocrinology is essential reading not only for those engaged in endocrinological research but also for those involved primarily in clinical practice.



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## ENDOCRINOLOGY, DIABETES & METABOLISM CASE REPORTS

ESA members benefit from ESA's recent collaboration with other leading societies worldwide and Bioscientifica, a not-for-profit subsidiary of the Society for Endocrinology. Members of ESA are eligible for a special discounted publishing fee of just £100 (in 2013) when publishing case reports in the open access publication; Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism Case Reports (submit online via [www.edmcasereports.com](http://www.edmcasereports.com))

*Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism Case Reports is a unique, open access resource that publishes and links together case reports, enabling practitioners to communicate findings, share knowledge and convey medical experiences efficiently and effectively; furthering both medical education and clinical practice. The search and browse functionality enables fluid navigation between case reports, facilitating discovery, connections and comparisons; making it the go-to resource across all the many disciplines intersecting with endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism.*

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



Endocrinology,  
Diabetes & Metabolism  
**CASE REPORTS**

## JOURNAL OF MOLECULAR ENDOCRINOLOGY



## JOURNAL OF ENDOCRINOLOGY



## AUSTRALIAN ENDOCRINOLOGY RESEARCH REVIEW

Australian Endocrinology Research Review is an independent medical update. Each edition features 10 key medical articles from global endocrinology journals with commentary from Professor Cres Eastman and Professor Duncan Topliss on why it matters to Australian practice.

It is free to receive for all Australian health professionals and is delivered by email as a PDF attachment. Sign Up here to receive the publication on a regular basis.

Website: <http://www.researchreview.com.au/au/Clinical-Area/Internal-Medicine/Diabetes-Obesity/Endocrinology.aspx>

## ESA WEBSITE

### Find an Endocrinologist

The Endocrine Society of Australia receives regular enquiries to recommend an endocrinologist with particular interests or expertise. Endocrinology is a broad field, which includes some very common conditions, but also some very rare ones. As a result, people who have rare conditions may benefit from seeing a specialist with additional experience or expertise. The Society comprises clinical endocrinologists and also scientists, who research endocrine disorders but do not see patients. Clinical members of the Society have been invited to submit their contact details and self-nominated areas of interest. Please note that the Endocrine Society of Australia is providing this as a community service to help patients find a suitable endocrinologist (considering both geographical issues and area of interest). The Society is not endorsing or recommending any of the listed clinicians or their degree of expertise.

The general public will be able to search for an Endocrinologist in this section:

<http://www.endocrinesociety.org.au/search-for-an-endocrinologist.asp>

If you would like to be listed in 'Find an Endocrinologist' Log in at the ESA homepage:

<http://www.endocrinesociety.org.au/>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Endocrine Society of Australia (ESA). At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, About Us, Membership, News, Meetings, Awards, Resources, and Contact Us. Below the navigation is a large banner featuring molecular models and the text "The Endocrine Society of Australia". Underneath the banner are three smaller images with "Read More" links: "ESA SRB AGM 2015", "ESA Clinical Weekend 2015", and "ESA Seminar Meeting 2015". The main content area is divided into three columns: "About Us" (describing the society's history and mission), "Member Login" (with fields for Username and Password), and "Strategic Plan" (announcing a plan for 2011-2013).

## PATIENT RESOURCES IN ENDOCRINOLOGY

### A partnership between ESA and the US Endocrine Society

The Endocrine Society of Australia have established an international collaboration with the US Endocrine Society to adapt patient information to the Australian setting and make them readily available.

These resources are rigorously developed, evidence based and aimed to support patients to understand their endocrine condition with the support of their doctor.

Website for resources: <http://www.hormone.org/audiences/international-resource-center/australia>

These are available in both English and Chinese.

\*This information is designed to be informative and educational. It is not intended to provide specific medical advice or replace advice from your doctor.



\*Please note that only the information on the Australian link below is adapted to national settings including medications and tests. Other resources on the US website may be helpful but may not be consistent with Australian practice.



## THE CEN EDUCATIONAL MODULES

In 2013, the Endocrine Society of Australia joined the Society for Endocrinology (UK) in adopting Clinical Endocrinology (CEN) as their Society's official journal. This was a stimulus for the Editors to activate an initiative, which had been planned for 2 years to "unlock the educational potential" of the Journal. Although the Journal's Impact factor (currently 3.4) remains the key benchmark, the Editors believe that articles published in a Society's clinical journal should also be tailored for continuing education and specialist training.

CEN Educational modules are based on articles which are in press or recently published in CEN. The module expands the paper into a topic by including: Revision Material to provide background, Take Home messages to emphasise the clinical points, Expert Commentary to integrate the material from the article into the current literature - useful for preparation of Journal Club presentations. Multiple Choice Questions (using FRACP format and standard) to test understanding of the module content.

Historical Context to provide a broader understanding of the Art and History of Endocrinology. The modules identify the components of the RACP and RCP's curricula which are covered by the module and each module has clearly defined Learning Objectives. On completion of the module, a printed certificate documenting time spent on the module can be downloaded for CPD purposes.

The modules are accessible by registering at:  
[www.wileyhealthlearning.com/cen](http://www.wileyhealthlearning.com/cen)

To date the website contains the following modules:

Module 1. Giant Prolactinoma

Module 2. Metabolic consequences of long menstrual cycles

Module 3. Pheochromocytoma crisis.

Module 4. Maternal hypothyroxinaemia and its effects on the child.

Modules completed ready to be released:

Module 5. Pubertal Gynaecomastia. (August 1st)

Module 6. Insulin autoimmune syndrome. (September 1st)

Modules 7 Fetal programming and maternal nutrition  
(October 1st)

## THE CEN EDUCATIONAL MODULES

Module 8. Bone markers, Skeletal mineralisation and Small for Gestational Age (October 1st)

Modules assigned and in preparation

Module 9. Mineralocorticoid replacement and 21 Hydroxylase deficiency and Transition care. (November 1st)

Module 10. Thyroid cancer markers and prognosis (December 1st)

Module 11. Primary Hyperaldosteronism (December 1st).

Each module is written by either an advanced trainee or a consultant endocrinologist with an interest in the particular topic from Australia or the UK. The module is then reviewed by an expert in the field to ensure balance and validity of the material. Stephen Judd is the CEN senior editor, overseeing the project. He welcomes feedback on the modules and invites anyone interested in writing a module to contact him.

[Stephen.Judd@flinders.edu.au](mailto:Stephen.Judd@flinders.edu.au)

## ESA 2015 MEETINGS

ESA Seminar Meeting 2015, 1-3 May, Novotel Manly Pacific, Sydney



The Organising Committee welcomes all trainees, endocrinologists, and interested clinicians to the 2015 ESA Seminar, in beautiful Manly, NSW. The theme is Reproductive Endocrinology, and we plan an exciting program covering the spectrum of clinical issues in this important field. Our international guest will be Professor Bradley Anawalt from the University of Washington, USA, a renowned speaker on male reproductive endocrinology. We are also fortunate to have a great depth of Australian expertise who will share their experience in didactic lectures and interactive panel discussions. Full speaker lists and session details to follow shortly.

We look forward to seeing you there.

**Don McLeod**

## ESA 2015 MEETINGS

### ESA Clinical Weekend 2015, 21-23 August, Adelaide



The Organising Committee welcomes all trainees, endocrinologists, and interested clinicians to the 2015 ESA Clinical Weekend in the beachside town of Glenelg, Adelaide. Our two overriding themes will be Reproductive Endocrinology and Thyroid Cancer. We look forward to stimulating case discussions based on presentations by our advanced trainees supported by plenaries by our international guests, Professor Richard Santen and Professor Michael Tuttle, both renowned speakers and clinicians in the fields of breast cancer and advanced thyroid cancer respectively.

We look forward to welcoming you to South Australia!

**Tilenka Thynne**

Chair, Organising Committee

## ESA 2015 MEETINGS

ESA/SRB ASM 2015, 23-26 August, Adelaide Convention Centre



The Annual Scientific Meeting of the Endocrine Society of Australia and the Society for Reproductive Biology 2015 will be held from 23rd - 26th August 2015 at the Adelaide Convention & Exhibition Centre.

**Ann McCormack,**

POC Chair

### **Sex, Steroids, Fat and Breast Cancer, 27-29 August 2015**

The festschrift for Evan Simpson will be held in August 2015 as a focused meeting: "Sex, Steroids, Fat and Breast Cancer". The meeting will be held at the iconic Uluru Meeting Place in the Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Central Australia, and will run as a satellite of the Endocrine Society of Australia's Annual Scientific Meeting in Adelaide.



# Sex, steroids, fat and breast cancer

Role and regulation of steroid hormones from cholesterol to oestrogen

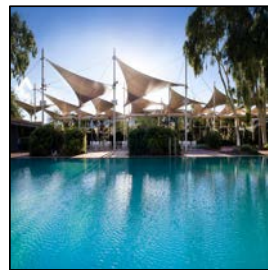
Uluru Meeting Place

August 27–29, 2015



- You are cordially invited to join us for the inaugural Sex, Steroids, Fat and Breast Cancer meeting to be held at one of Australia's most iconic locations
- Satellite of Endocrine Society of Australia ASM
- Details coming soon

Further information: [kristy.brown@mimr-phi.org](mailto:kristy.brown@mimr-phi.org)





## MINUTES FOR ENDOCRINE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MELBOURNE CONVENTION CENTRE

TUESDAY 26th August 2014  
5.00-6.00pm

#### **Attendance:**

Shane Hamblin, Duncan Topliss, Kathy Gatford, Jock Findlay, Brian Hirschfeld, Brendan Waddell, Shaun McGrath, Peter Ebeling, Tim Cole, Helena Teede, Santo Greco, Belinda Henry, Craig Harrison, Mark Cooper, Jeffrey Zajac, Bu Yeap, Leon Bach, Mathis Grossmann, Tamara Varive? David Torpy, Michael Boden, Judith Clement, Sabashini Ramchand, Dennis Engler, David Handlesman, Ashim Sinha, Ken Ho, Morton Burt, Christine Clarke, Gail Risbridger, Warrick Inder, Nicollette Hodyl, Chen Chen, Bu Yeap

#### **1. Apologies**

Vicky Clifton, Ben Canny, Peter Fuller, Walter Phlewe, Ann McCormack

#### **2. Confirmation of Minutes – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2013, Sydney Convention Centre**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting that was held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2013 were accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Duncan Topliss and seconded by Leon Bach.

#### **3. Business Arising**

#### **4. President's Report**

The ESA Council has had a very busy past 12 months and there has been much progress on all fronts:

#### **New ESA logo and website:**

A new ESA logo has been developed, while the ESA website has been completely remodeled to incorporate the new Society identity represented by the new ESA logo. As well as a new look, greater functionality has also been incorporated. "Find an endocrinologist" is one such example whereby endocrinologists can add their name if they would like to be contacted via the ESA website for patient referrals in specific sub-disciplines of endocrinology.

#### **Successful Scientific Meetings:**

The ESA Annual Scientific Meeting at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from August 24-27, 2014 attracted 706 registrant thanks to the outstanding programme developed by Associate Professor Ann McCormack and her team. Professor Sundeep Khosla from the Mayo Clinic and Foundation delivered the Harrison Lecture, entitled "Sex steroids, bone and fat in men: the key role of estrogen", while Professor John Wass from the University of Oxford presented the Taft Lecture "Translational and clinical science in the optimum management of pituitary tumours". Professor Benita Katzenellenbogen, from University of Illinois and College of Medicine, presented her work on "Estrogen receptor signaling networks", Kevin Grove delivered a plenary on "Programming metabolic and psychiatric diseases: Effects of poor maternal diet and health", and Adrian Clark, from St. George's University of London, on "Dissecting the genetic basis of inherited adrenocortical failure".

The ESA Seminar Meeting in May 2014, Hobart, Tasmania on the theme of adrenocortical disease had 280 attendees.

The ESA Clinical Weekend in August 2014, Torquay, Victoria had 294 attendees. The two winners will be fast-tracked for submission for publication as case reports in Clinical Endocrinology (Oxford).

#### **Successful Finances:**

ESA assets are now in a very healthy state with \$2.102 million (the Wynn Research Fund contains \$587,000).

ESA now awards one ESA Research Fellowship, one ESA Research Scholarship, and one Wynn Research Grant-in-Aid (each of one year duration). As a result of our healthy finances, ESA Council now

proposes two *new* ESA grants: one ESA/RACP Fellowship; and one ESA Research Scholarship (each of one year duration).

#### **RACP Alliances:**

The HWA endocrinology workforce data are inaccurate as they lack ambulatory setting projections. We plan to liaise with the RACP and State Governments to increase the number of AT positions in Endocrinology. For example, in Victoria, NSW, SA and Queensland in 2014, 175 BPTs applied for 38 APT positions in endocrinology (a ratio of ~4.5 to 1).

#### **International Outreach:**

- Journal of Clinical Endocrinology (Oxford) Editorial Board – PR Ebeling, S Judd (Editors), and H Teede, W Inder, F Cameron, C Rodda
- Wiley CEN Educational Modules – S Judd
- Journal of Endocrinology – Bioscientifica (Evan Simpson)
- Journal of Molecular Endocrinology – Bioscientifica (Evan Simpson)
- EBM Case Reports – Bioscientifica (Jerry Greenfield, Warrick Inder)
- US Endocrine Society – Prof Gail Risbridger
- ICE/ENDO 2014 Meeting AMSC - Prof Peter R Ebeling, A/Prof Kristy Brown
- US Endocrine Society ENDO Meeting AMSC 2015-2018 - Prof Peter R Ebeling
- ISE Scientific Council - Prof Leon Bach
- Bone Reports – PR Ebeling (Editor-in-Chief)

#### **ESA Task Forces:**

##### **1. Update on ESA Guideline on Androgen Replacement Therapy**

###### **Prof David de Kretser AC (Chair)**

Members: D Handelsman, BB Yeap, J Zajac, R McLachlan, D Lording, M Grossmann, G Wittert, B Stuckey, A Conway

##### **2. ESA Working Group on Endocrine Disrupters**

Call for action and nominees to be aligned with this important international US Endocrine Society initiative

If interested, please contact me by email: [peter.ebeling@monash.edu](mailto:peter.ebeling@monash.edu)

#### **4.1 Motion**

##### **Election of new Honorary Life Member on the recommendation of Council**

###### **Professor Ken Ho**

###### **Professor Jock Findlay**

Approval of new Honorary Life Members was CARRIED by members.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

##### **5.1 Audited Accounts**

Income from membership subscriptions increased significantly by 117% from \$67,324 to \$146,407. This was predominantly due to ESA sending out arrears notices for members who had not kept up to date with the annual payments. It was made clear that failure to pay this year's membership fee and payments in arrears would result in termination of membership as per the Society's constitution. A small number of people declined to pay the arrears and decided to forego their membership. Proceeds from meetings were similar to 2012-2013.

The funds managed by Asgard have returned a net increase in value for the financial year from \$808,577.76 (July 1st, 2013) to 910,303.46 (June 30 2014). As of August 18, 2013, there has been a further increase in value to \$921,431.76. Funds from the Wynne estate have been invested in a separate account with Asgard. This is structured more conservatively at 30% cash/fixed interest and 70% growth assets, but has also increased significantly in value from \$533,602.71 on July 1 2013 to 579,438.47 on June 30 2014. As of August 18 2014, the value of this investment is \$586,798.59. Our aim for this account is to make at least a 5% return on this investment annually which will fund a \$25,000 scholarship annually without encroaching on the principal. In the last financial year we had a return of 9.7%.



Accounts held at the National Australia Bank include a working account balance (as of August 18, 2014) of \$188,223. We hold an additional two term deposits, combined value of \$272,309.

Expenditure was higher in 2013-4 compared to the previous financial year by 8.8%. Meeting costs were up by 6.2%, but award costs higher. In the audited accounts, the \$27,000 noted as cost of the QEG meeting was balanced by income of the same amount – ESA acted as the receiver of sponsorship funds for the QEG group and passed this on directly (income under Award sponsorship). Secretariat costs fell in the last financial year. This was the first year we paid full rent to the RACP for premises, shared with ADS and ANZBMS.

Award expenses were reduced in 2013-4 despite offering 3 research awards. One successful candidate deferred the award until September 2014, while the administering institution of one awardee has yet to provide ESA with an invoice. These costs will clearly be deferred to the next financial year, so anticipate a substantial rise in award expenditure appearing on next year's statements. Recommendations from the recent Finance sub-committee meeting are to consider offering an additional Research scholarship for 2015. This will be discussed at Council. Applications are likely to close on October 31<sup>st</sup> 2014 – details to follow.

The ESA / APEG proposal to the PBAC regarding the funding of growth hormone for adults with proven GH deficiency has undergone a full independent review. There are significant obstacles with respect to quality of the data in the literature which may limit the likelihood of a successful application. A cost-effectiveness analysis has been performed but the details of this have not been made available to the Committee members as it has been kept confidential by the Pharmaceutical companies. A meeting with the relevant Pharmaceutical companies has been arranged for Tuesday August 26<sup>th</sup>. A total of \$1980 was spent by ESA in the last financial year towards this. We have also entered into an agreement with Wiley Blackwell Publishers, whereby Clinical Endocrinology is the official clinical journal publication of the society, until December 31<sup>st</sup> 2014, thereafter renewable every 3 years. This is at a cost of £12,000 per annum, and provides free access to all journal articles for ESA members. This is accessible by logging in through the ESA website. To date, ESA has not been invoiced.

Overall therefore the Society posted a net profit of \$103,370, compared to the operating profit of \$26,580 in 2012-13 (total profit minus Wynne bequest). Our total net assets have increased from \$1,858,300 to \$2,102,334.

I would like to thank the Endocrine Society of Australia, particularly the Council members and the two presidents I have served as treasurer over the last 4 years, Vicki Clifton and Peter Ebeling for their support. I would like to offer special thanks to Ivone Johnson. She has been just wonderful in her role and it has been a pleasure to work with her. It has been a privilege to be an office bearer in the Society, and I was fortunate to have the position of treasurer during a period of economic recovery where we have substantially increased our financial base. Good luck to the incoming treasurer.

Approval for the Audited accounts was CARRIED by members.

## **6. Medical Affairs Committee Report**

Increasing demands on ESA noted

Roles include

- To develop positions statements
- Reports to government, PBAC/ TGA requests for advice
- Both national and international requests
- Need to respond to issues of day- engage with other societies/ media etc

Strategies to optimise ability to respond – data capture of the current activities

- joint member, Ashim Sinha as liaison between the Societies.
- council has co-opted John Walsh and Leon Bach to the committee.

A new strategic initiative was commenced with the US Endocrine Society Hormone Health Network focused on adaptation and provision of resources for consumers and increasingly for health professionals. To be launched at the 2014 meeting.

7. **Report on 2014 ESA Meetings • Seminars • Clinical weekend • ASM  
ASM**

The 2014 ESA Annual Scientific Meeting will take place at the Melbourne Convention Centre between 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> August. Registration numbers look to be near record level, with 564 registered delegates as at 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 compared with 492 at the same time in 2013. This year there are 4 highly distinguished ESA Plenary speakers. Professor Sundeep Khosla (USA) will deliver the Harrison Plenary lecture entitled "Sex steroids, bones and fat in men: the key role of oestrogen". Professor John Wass (UK), will give the Taft Plenary lecture "Informing clinical practice: translational and clinical science in the optimum management of pituitary tumours". Professor Benita Katzenellenbogen (USA) will give a plenary lecture "Oestrogen Receptor Integrative Genomics and Signaling Networks in Breast Cancer and Endocrine Resistance" and Professor Kevin Grove (USA) will highlight his recent research in foetal programming and the brain in relation to metabolic outcomes. In addition, the ESA/ADS plenary will be given by Professor Adrian Clark on "Familial glucocorticoid deficiency".

This year's ESA Senior Plenary was awarded to Professor Iain Clarke, the mid career award to Kevin Pfeleger and the Servier Award to Anthony Bird. In addition to the annual ESA Novartis Junior Scientist Award and ESA Bryan Hudson Clinical Endocrinology Award, this year we have been able to award 3 book prizes to the highest scoring posters made possible by sponsorship by the Therapeutic Guidelines. Other highlights at the 2014 meeting, include international speakers Anna Blasiak (Poland) participating in the joint ESA/Neuroendocrinology Australasia symposium. Symposia themes include "The fat spectrum", "Neuroendocrinology and Reproduction" and "An Update in Neuroendocrine Tumours". For the attention of the ESA Council, the only potential concern seen by the POC this year was that there was a dramatic increase in the number of clinical abstract submissions and a reduction in the number of basic science abstract submissions. Whether this represents a new trend in activity amongst ESA members remains to be seen in future years.

Planning is also underway for the 2015 ESA ASM to be held in Adelaide from 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> August.

Ann McCormack, Chair POC

**ESA Clinical Weekend, Torquay, 22-24 August 2014**

There was very strong interest in the Clinical Weekend this year, with 60 cases submitted by advanced trainees from around Australia and New Zealand (12 chosen). Delegate registrations were on track to exceed forecasts. As a result it is anticipated that the meeting financial results will be in line with budget projections despite the loss this year of the financial support of a major pharmaceutical sponsor. I would like to thank all the advanced trainee presenters and our keynote speakers, Prof John Wass and Prof Sundeep Khosla for their contributions to the meeting. I also thank the members of the LOC for their generous assistance in organising the meeting, especially in assessing all the cases: Deepak Dutta, Vivian Grill, Kathryn Hackman and Rosemary Wong. The outstanding organisational efforts of Danielle White and Kristie McHutchison of ASN is also gratefully acknowledged.

Shane Hamblin, Chair LOC

**ESA Seminar Weekend, May 2-4, 2014, Grand Chancellor Hotel, Hobart**

***Clinical Theme: Adrenal Disease***

***Basic Science Theme: Steroid Action: Biology and Clinical Disease***

Overall attendance at the Seminar Weekend was excellent with 280 registrants, 240 of which attended the clinical stream. The Basic Science attendees were somewhat reduced this year and strategies to increase attendees will be discussed at Council meeting at the Annual Scientific Meeting.

Both the clinical and basic science programs were considered outstanding. Prof William Young Jr (Mayo Clinic College of Medicine) attended the clinical seminar weekend and provided invaluable input into the program. Prof Young was involved in the panel discussion detailing primary aldosteronism, the adrenal master class and he delivered a joint lecture with the basic scientists on pheochromocytoma.

In addition, we thank our local plenary speakers who provided excellent lectures to both the clinical and basic science streams. This includes:

A/Prof Vicki Clifton (University of Adelaide): Glucocorticoid receptor signalling and pregnancy

A sense of local flavour was provided by

A/Prof Greg Woods (University of Tasmania): Immune recognition and Tasmanian devil facial tumour disease.

We would also like to thank all other contributors to both the Basic Science and Clinical Programs for helping create a highly successful, thought provoking and insightful meeting.

In 2014, ESA awarded 3 ESA research snapshot travel awards at the Basic Science Seminar Weekend for attendance to the Annual Scientific Meeting in August. The travel awards were received by Sakda Hewegalamulage, Ashlee Clark and Bennet Seow.  
Belinda Henry (Basic Science Chair).  
Don McLeod (Clinical Chair).

**8. Future Meetings**

**ESA Seminar Meeting 2015, 1-3 May, Novotel Manly Pacific, Sydney**  
**ESA Clinical Weekend 2015, 21-23 August, Adelaide**  
**ESA/SRB ASM 2015, 23-26 August, Adelaide Convention Centre**

**9. Other business**

**New ESA Council**

Helena Teede-President, Warrick Inder-President-elect, Tim Cole-Honorary Secretary, Nicolette Hodyl-Treasurer, Past President-Peter Ebeling  
Councillors: Bu Yeap, Chen Chen, Belinda Henry, Ashim Sinha, Morton Burt, Craig Harrison

**10. Date of next meeting: Adelaide, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2015**



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Tuesday, Thursday and Friday