



ENDOCRINE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT
2011-2012

ENDOCRINE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

OUR MISSION

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

OUR PURPOSE

To nurture and develop future generations of basic and clinician scientists, endocrinologists and other health professionals.

To disseminate new knowledge in endocrinology through our Annual Scientific Meeting.

To be proactive in shaping research and health policies based on scientific advances in our field.

OUR STORY

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. Our membership continues to grow every year: We currently have 1290 members, with students and trainees making up 25% of this number. Our society is strengthened by its composition of both clinicians and basic science members, and we believe this true integration of disciplines is one reason for its continued success.

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.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Associate Professor Vicki Clifton

ESA has had a successful 2011-12 with a number of achievements. The Council has worked very hard in establishing a Strategic Plan for the society for the next 5 years and we are well underway in meeting some of the goals. We will be working towards employing an executive officer to help increase our interaction with sponsors and ensuring as a not-for-profit organisation that we are compliant with the current regulations affecting us. I think a person in this position could be a way forward for advancing ESA's profile with consumers, national and international bodies.

Our finances have stabilised since the Global Financial Crisis. Key to this result was prudent financial management by Council and expert support from its financial advisors and members. We are once again in a position to support our early career researchers in the advancement of their careers. This is an exciting time for ESA and supporting our junior scientists and trainees is one of our major priorities. We are ever mindful of our financial base and aim to increase this in the future through sponsorship and the establishment of an Endocrine Foundation.

My thanks to my colleagues on the Council who give so generously of their time and who have worked extra hard in the last two years. In particular I would like to acknowledge our outgoing member, Professor Evan Simpson who has been part of ESA Council since 2000 and whose wealth of expertise and knowledge will be significantly missed.

I would also like to thank our Organising Committees for the Annual Scientific Meeting, the Seminar Weekend and the Clinical Weekend. All of you have contributed significantly to ensuring our meetings are of a high scientific and clinical standard and a lot of fun. I also appreciate all the work that ASN has done for us in ensuring the conferences and the venues are of excellent quality.



A/Prof Vicki Clifton

President 2010-2012

ENDOCRINE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA COUNCIL AND OFFICE BEARERS 2010-2012



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ENDOCRINE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA COUNCIL AND OFFICE BEARERS 2010-2012



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INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION



This year has seen Professor Evan Simpson elected as a corresponding Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

The Royal Society of Edinburgh is Scotland's National Academy, established in 1783. It is an educational charity, which operates on a non-political, independent basis. The Society comprises recognized experts in the sciences, arts, humanities and commerce. Candidates for Fellows can only be nominated by existing Fellows, with each nomination undergoing a rigorous five-stage annual selection process followed by a ballot of the entire membership.

Congratulations to Professor Evan Simpson, Prince Henry's Institute, who has been bestowed this honour.

LAUNCH OF PCOS GUIDELINES

Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) is a chronic hormonal disorder that affects 12-18 per cent of reproductive aged women across Australia.

PCOS is an important condition associated with menstrual abnormalities, infertility, weight disorders, diabetes mellitus and consequences of excess androgen production, hyperlipidaemia and emotional well-being

In 2011 the NHMRC approved evidence based guidelines for PCOS assessment and management were launched at the ESA ASM in Perth. This substantial body of work led by Professor Helena Teede and other ESA members was the first evidence based guidelines internationally and has progressed the area of PCOS care in Australia and has been recognised internationally and is available at www.managingpcos.org.au



ESA POSITION STATEMENTS

This year has seen the development of a number of position statements in response to growing concerns by both clinicians and members of the public. These are available through our webpage <http://www.endocrinesociety.org.au/>, and we encourage everyone to read these documents.

Thyroid replacement therapy

One of the position statements regarded the use of desiccated thyroid or thyroid extract as thyroid replacement therapy.

An extract from the ESA position statement:

In general, desiccated thyroid hormone or thyroid extract, combinations of thyroid hormones, or triiodothyronine should not be used as thyroid replacement therapy.

ESA advocates the use of a high-quality brand preparation of levothyroxine. Bioequivalence of levothyroxine preparations is based on total T4 measurement and not TSH levels; therefore, bioequivalence is not the same as therapeutic equivalence. However, the only two brands of levothyroxine (Oroxine, Eutroxig) available in Australia are identical.

Importantly, therapy should be titrated after an interval of at least 6 weeks following any change in levothyroxine dose. The serum TSH level is most important, and a free T4 estimate may also be included in the assessment.

Vitamin D Health in Australian Adults

Recently published, the position statement regarding Vitamin D Health in Australian Adults can be found in the Medical Journal of Australia:

Vitamin D and health in adults in Australia and New Zealand: a position statement. Nowson CA, McGrath JJ, Ebeling PR, Haikerwal A, Daly RM, Sanders KM, Seibel MJ, Mason RS; Working Group of Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society, Endocrine Society of Australia and Osteoporosis Australia. Med J Aust. 2012 Jun 18;196 (11):686-7.

AWE 2011 TRAVEL AWARD

I am most grateful to the ESA for its AWE travel award which enabled me to attend the International Aldosterone Conference and the 93rd Annual Meeting of The Endocrine Society (Boston, June 2011) in the third year of my PhD. I presented part of my doctoral work which aims to identify novel coregulator proteins that can modulate the mineralocorticoid receptor (MR) in a tissue- or hormone-specific manner. This work may ultimately form the basis for developing tissue-selective antagonists of the MR in the treatment of cardiovascular disease.

It was a most valuable opportunity for me to present my data in an international forum and to network with leaders in the field of MR molecular biology and cardiovascular endocrinology. I was able to speak with a number of high profile researchers who provided constructive feedback on my work and offered insights into MR-related research. This experience certainly enriched my PhD journey and will have a significant impact on my future directions as I embark on post-doctoral research.

Dr Jun Yang



ESA MEETING SUCCESS IN 2011-12

COMBINED ESA/APEG MEETING

28-31 August 2011, Perth, WA

The 2011 joint Endocrine Society of Australia-Australasian Paediatric Endocrine Group meeting in Perth provided us with the opportunity to develop a program with a strong paediatric flavour on the clinical side, in combination with a strong basic science program.

The key plenaries from both Societies were unopposed in this year's meeting, providing everyone with the opportunity for some cross-fertilisation of ideas. Monday morning we were highly entertained and educated by the Robert Vine's lecturer, APEG's key plenary. Professor Stephen Simpson provided a comprehensive tour of "Graphic Nutrition – a tale of sex, cannibalism, ageing and obesity" – those who were there will appreciate the analogy provided by the Mormon marching crickets! Gregory Goodall brought us up to date with the latest research on miRNA in his afternoon plenary, and ESA and APEG symposia and oral sessions, followed by a joint late afternoon poster session rounded out a full day.

We were delighted to run strong clinical theme of polycystic ovarian disease (PCOS) through Tuesday morning, with Professor Kathleen Hoeger presenting our Taft lecture on management of PCOS in adolescence. Professor Gerald Shulman provided the joint ESA-Australian Diabetes Society plenary on Wednesday morning, discussing his use of magnetic resonance spectroscopy to delineate the cellular mechanisms of insulin resistance. We were also delighted to have Professor Ken Ho present the inaugural ESA Senior Plenary with an overview of his laboratory's studies of the endocrine regulation of body composition.

As an initiative of ESA Council, aimed at assisting our members who are applying for or reviewing NHMRC grants, this year we held a single breakfast session on Wednesday, run as a mock grant assessment panel. The feedback from participants was that this session was very helpful in shaping our grants for the future, and in understanding how the panel works in practice, and what referees can do to help provide consistent evaluation of projects.

Thanks to the programming organising committee for a wonderful program yet again: Morton Burt, Lisa Butler, Jui Ho, Beverley Muhlhausler and David Torpy. Thanks also to Craig Munns, the APEG Program Organising Chair, for his commitment to running a strong joint meeting and his assistance in fitting all of the important sessions into a busy programme! Finally, thanks to Ivone Johnson at ESA who coordinates so many tasks behind the scenes at the meeting, and the Local Organising Committee chaired by Cathy Choong, for providing us with friendly social events to encourage our networking (and fun), including the usual dancing at the Conference dinner!



Kathy Gatford
POC Chair, 2010-2012

ESA SEMINAR WEEKEND (Clinical)

April 25-27, 2012 Torquay

A stimulating and highly successful Seminar Weekend was held at Torquay, April 25-27, 2012 at which we had a record attendance of 257. This was the second in a three-year cycle during which the Endocrinology curriculum is covered. Our international speaker, Professor Larry Katznelson, Stanford, presented the Plenary Lecture on Acromegaly, and provided expert comments on interesting Pituitary Cases in a Masterclass, a new format we introduced this year. Once again, the Registrars' Quiz which we introduced in 2011, was well received and there were valuable prizes awarded. It was also a special honour to celebrate Prof David de Kretser's, AC, birthday at our Conference dinner. Prof de Kretser participated in the concurrent Basic Science Program of the Weekend, and delivered the inspiring 'Endocrinology & Society Lecture', entitled, 'From Endocrinology to Government House and Back'.

Ada Cheung, Mathis Grossmann
Mark Ng-Tang Fui, Duncan Topliss
Rosemary Wong (Chair)

ESA SEMINAR WEEKEND (Basic Science)

April 25-27, 2012 Torquay

We are very pleased to reintroduce this seminar series back into the annual repertoire of ESA meetings. The basic science stream aims to bring together early-mid career researchers, senior scientists and post-graduate students in an intimate environment that will foster presentation of recent data, mentorship, networking and collaboration.

The basic science stream of the seminar weekend incorporated the theme "Reproductive Endocrinology". We attracted a good number of registrants for the first year this scheme has been reintroduced. Participant feedback of the meeting was very positive and overall it was a successful, interesting and engaging weekend. In particular, we would like to thank our plenary speakers Prof David Grattan (University of Otago, NZ) and Prof Evan Simpson (Prince Henry's Institute).

The mentor workshop was considered to be a major highlight of the weekend and was motivating and informative for students and ECR members.

We would like to thank those that were involved including Prof David deKrester, Prof Dave Grattan, Prof Lois Salamonsen, Prof Iain Clarke and A/Prof Robert Gilchrist. Due to the positive reception of the mentor workshop this will be a major feature of the 2013 program.

Chen Chen, Tim Cole, Nicolette Hodyl

2011 ESA AWARD WINNERS

As usual, the competition for the annual ESA awards was fierce in 2011-12, with a very high standard of applications received by the society. We congratulate all award recipients on their success.

Senior Plenary Award	Dr Ken Ho
Mid Career Award	Mathis Grossmann
Servier Award	Dr Stefan Bagheri-Fam
Novartis Award	Jun Yang
Bryan Hudson Clinical Endocrinology Award	Lucia Gagliardi
ESA/IPSEN International Travel Grant	Stacey Jamieson Kevin Knower Kristy Brown



Novartis award winner Jun Yang pictured with ESA President Vicki Clifton

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR AWARDEES...

2011 Mid Career Award



Dr Mathis Grossmann

I am very grateful to the ESA to have received the 2011 Mid Career Award. In my award lecture "Low Testosterone in Men: Studies in Diabetes and Prostate Cancer" presented at the 2011 ESA Annual Scientific Meeting in Perth, WA, I highlighted current research activities of my group, which focuses on the role of androgens in the regulation of body composition, glucose metabolism

and musculoskeletal function in men. We found that men with type 2 diabetes commonly have lowered testosterone levels¹, which were independently associated with an adverse metabolic phenotype¹ and with anaemia².

The fact that androgen deprivation therapy (ADT), given to men with prostate cancer is associated with sarcopaenic obesity, visceral fat gain, and insulin resistance³ may indicate a pathogenic role of low testosterone in diabetes⁴. Conversely however, development of diabetes decreases, and weight loss increases testosterone levels, suggesting a bi-directional relationship between testosterone and insulin resistance⁵. We also found that ADT leads to microarchitectural decay of bone which is underestimated by DEXA⁶. Because of these adverse

consequences of ADT⁷, we have initiated, at Austin Health, a dedicated Men's Health clinic where all men commenced on ADT are evaluated and managed according to ESA-endorsed national guidelines⁸. Unpublished findings show that such a strategy can reduce the adverse bone and metabolic effects of ADT⁹.

In conclusion, men with low testosterone, whether associated with diabetes or consequent to ADT represent high-risk populations that require dedicated management. The extent to which low testosterone contributes to poor health outcomes, and how these can be mitigated, requires further mechanistic and interventional studies. Ongoing projects include a study of the effects of ADT on functional mobility using computerized models of gait, and several randomized controlled clinical trials, assessing the effects of i) testosterone therapy in men with type 2 diabetes, ii) bisphosphonates in preventing ADT-induced bone decay, and iii) testosterone therapy combined with caloric restriction on body composition and glucose metabolism in obese men. We are also a center for a national trial "T4DM" evaluating whether testosterone therapy can prevent diabetes in high-risk men, headed by Gary Wittert, University of Adelaide.

References: (1) Grossmann et al. *JCEM* 93:1834, 2008; (2) Grossmann et al. *Clin Endo* 70:547, 2009; (3) Hamilton et al, *Clin Endo* 74:377, 2011; (4) Grossmann et al. *Curr Opin Endo Diab* 17:247, 2010; (5) Grossmann *JCEM* 96:2341, 2011; (6) Hamilton et al, *JCEM* 95:E456, 2011; (7) Grossmann & Zajac *Endo Metab Clin NA* 40:655, 2011; (8) Grossmann et al. *MJA* 194:301, 2011; (9) (Cheung et al, ESA 2012 abs#156).

ENDOCRINE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

This work is funded by an NHMRC Career Development Fellowship (#1024139) and project grant (#1006407), as well as grants from Osteoporosis Australia, the RACP, University of Melbourne, Austin Medical Research Foundation, and the Sir Edward Dunlop Foundation.

I would like to thank my research group including my PhD students and fellows Emma Hamilton, Emily Gianatti, Ada Cheung, Philip Dupuis and Mark Ng Tang Fui, and especially Jeffrey Zajac.

There are several projects in preparation and endocrine trainees interested in a PhD or postdoc in Andrology are welcome to contact me.

I was the recipient of the Bryan Hudson Award for the presentation "Clinical and Genetic Studies in Familial ACTH-Independent Macronodular Adrenal Hyperplasia (AIMAH)" for 2011. This project arose after the Endocrinology team I was working with serendipitously discovered a family with Cushing's syndrome due to AIMAH whilst I was a first year advanced trainee at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. I was able to study this and other families with AIMAH, further as part of a PhD at the University of Adelaide.

AIMAH is a rare cause of Cushing's syndrome, and for the most part, has been considered a predominantly sporadic disease. Our studies have focused on delineating the earliest phenotypic manifestations of familial AIMAH as well as elucidating its genetic basis. Using clinical, biochemical and radiological screening

investigations, we have shown that first-degree relatives of apparently sporadic AIMAH cases may also have AIMAH – but would remain undetected without careful screening.

We surmise from this that AIMAH may have a familial basis more frequently than currently appreciated.

Our studies into the genetic basis of this condition continue. We are currently performing whole exome sequencing of affected individuals with familial AIMAH, as well as some sporadic cases.

My PhD has stimulated my research interest in endocrine genetics. I am fortunate to be able to continue our studies of familial AIMAH, as well as to have established new collaborations with clinician-researchers on this and studies of the genetics of other familial endocrine diseases.

I wish to acknowledge my PhD supervisors, A/Prof David Torpy, Prof Hamish Scott and Prof Ian Chapman; the sources of scholarship support during the PhD, Endocrine Society of Australia (January 2008 – August 2008) and NHMRC (August 2008 – March 2011); and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians for project funding.

2011 ESA Servier Award



Dr Stefan Bagheri-Fam

Dr Stefan Bagheri-Fam is a Postdoctoral fellow working with Prof Vincent Harley at Prince Henry's Institute in Melbourne. His research interests are aimed at elucidating the molecular mechanisms of testis differentiation using mouse models.

Dr Bagheri-Fam received the 2011

ESA Servier Award for the best published paper in the last 12 months. His publication appeared in the prestigious journal *Human Molecular Genetics* and was featured as the cover story (pictured). The ATR-X syndrome, an X-linked recessive disorder in males, belongs to a growing list of disorders of sex development (DSD) which affect at least 1% of all newborns. Through the generation of conditional *Atrx* knockout mice, he showed that the testicular abnormalities in boys with ATR-X syndrome (small testes with few seminiferous tubules) most likely arise by apoptosis and reduced proliferation of fetal Sertoli cells.

He also demonstrated that ATRX (a chromatin remodeling protein) promotes spermatogenesis by acting as a co-factor of the androgen receptor.

Dr Bagheri-Fam's study provides novel insights into the molecular function of a protein with known clinical significance as a cause of DSD.

Publication

Bagheri-Fam, S., Argentaro, A., Svingen, T., Combes, A., Sinclair, A., Koopman, P., Harley, V.R. (2011) Defective survival of proliferating Sertoli cells and androgen receptor function in a mouse model of the ATR-X syndrome *Human Molecular Genetics* 20: 2213-2224

2011 Bryan Hudson Award



Lucia Gagliardi

Lucia Gagliardi

I was the recipient of the Bryan Hudson Award for the presentation "Clinical and Genetic Studies in Familial ACTH-Independent Macronodular Adrenal Hyperplasia (AIMAH)" for 2011. This project arose after the Endocrinology team I was working with serendipitously

discovered a family with Cushing's syndrome due to AIMAH whilst I was a first year advanced trainee at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. I was able to study this and other families with AIMAH, further as part of a PhD at the University of Adelaide.

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ESA/IPSEN TRAVEL AWARD REPORTS



Dr Stacey Jamieson

The support of the ESA and IPSEN through this award enabled me to attend the 93rd Annual Meeting of The Endocrine Society in Boston. Having recently completed my PhD under the supervision of Professor Peter Fuller at Prince Henry's Institute, I presented a component of my doctoral studies which examined

the possible role of tyrosine kinase inhibitors as novel candidate therapies for granulosa cell tumours of the ovary.

I was also exploring postdoctoral options at the time and used the opportunity to interview with Dr Jason Carroll who heads the Nuclear Receptor Transcription Laboratory at the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Research Institute. I was offered a Postdoctoral Research Fellow position which I commenced in March 2012. My current work explores the genomic and molecular mechanisms of ER-chromatin binding and ER-mediated transcription in luminal breast cancer and aims to understand how these events contribute to disease progression and response to endocrine therapies.



Dr Kevin Knowler

I would just like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks and gratitude to the Endocrine Society of Australia and IPSEN for providing me with an International Travel Grant. With this money I was able to attend the 15th World Congress of Gynecological Endocrinology in Florence, March 7-10th.

By attending this meeting I was fortunate to be selected as 1 of 4 Under 34 Year Old scientists recognised for outstanding work from over 300 abstracts submitted. As a selected winner I had the privilege of presenting my work in a plenary session with other world leading researchers in my field. It was a great experience that has subsequently resulted in future collaborative opportunities. My presentation focused on my data demonstrating the importance that epigenetics has in the regulation of intratumoural estrogen production in the breast tumour microenvironment.

The travel funds also allowed me to visit two collaborating groups in Europe. I visited the laboratories of Professor Axel

Themmen and Associate Professor Els Berns at Erasmus MC in Rotterdam (Netherlands); and Professor Marit Bakke at the University of Bergen (Norway). During both visits I was fortunate to give Departmental Seminars and discuss my work with several other research groups at the respective institutes. My visits have strengthened our ongoing collaboration and it is hoped that future manuscripts will now be enhanced a result.

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to share my appreciation to ESA and IPSEN for the travel funds to enhance my early career research.

Thank you once again for providing financial assistance for travel to Chicago March 26-31, 2011 to attend the Congress on Steroid Research and visit Northwestern University.

At the meeting, I presented our work entitled "Metformin inhibits aromatase in a promoter-specific manner in breast adipose stromal cells." as a short oral communication and was able to share our findings and discuss them with experts in the field. These discussions led the exploration of new avenues of research and resulted in new collaborations which will allow us to quantify steroid levels in breast

tissue obtained from our clinical studies. Moreover, selected speakers were also invited to publish their work in a special issue of Steroids and received additional travel support from an NIH Young Investigator Travel Grant. The ESA/IPSEN travel award therefore not only reduced financial burden to our laboratory and allowed me to travel to Chicago, but also helped attract additional funding and resulted in a published manuscript. The meeting was also plentiful in late-breaking talks in the field of steroid metabolism as well as plenary and symposium presentations from world leaders in the field. These lectures were extremely informative and have led to the development of additional research interests within the laboratory.

During my time in Chicago, I also visited Northwestern University, where I gave a talk entitled "Oestrogen Regulation in Obesity and Breast Cancer" as part of the Women's Cancer Program Seminar Series. Prior to this talk, I met one-on-one with a number of researchers from the Department including Prof. Charles Clevenger (Leader, Women's Cancer Research Program) and Prof. Serdar Bulun (Chief, Division of Reproductive Biology Research Center). These discussions were both informative and insightful, and many possibilities of collaboration have arisen as a consequence of these.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The upcoming year promises to be as good as the last, with plans already underway for our annual clinical and scientific meetings.

2013 ESA-SRB Annual Scientific Meeting

The 2013 ESA-SRB Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in Sydney at the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre from 25th-28th August, 2013. Planning for the meeting is in full swing with some exciting international and national speakers in mind. The program is guaranteed to build on the strengths of previous meetings. Some exciting new ideas have been contributed which are hoped to enhance the meeting further.

The Program Organising Committee are:

Dr Ann McCormack (Chair - ESA)

Dr Kaye Stenvers (Chair – SRB)

A/Professor Chris Ormandy

A/Professor Rory Clifton-Bligh

A/Professor Amanda Sainsbury-Salis

Dr Sue Mei Lau

Dr Paul Baldock

Dr Charmaine Tam

The Local Organising Committee are:

Dr Charles Allan (Chair – ESA)

Dr Kirsty Walters (Chair – SRB)

}Dr Lei Zhang

ESA will again provide awards for this meeting. These include:

- ESA Senior Plenary Award
- ESA Mid-Career Research Award
- ESA-Novartis Junior Scientist Award
- Servier Young Investigator Award
- Bryan Hudson-Mayne Pharma Clinical Endocrinology Award
- ESA travel grants
- ESA/IPSEN International travel grants
- WE/ESA Australian Women in Endocrinology (AWE) travel awards

Look forward to seeing you in Sydney!

Ann McCormack

ESA Seminar Weekend (Clinical)

April 5-7, 2013

Novotel Twin Waters, Sunshine Coast

The theme for the Seminar Weekend in 2013 will be Osteoporosis and Metabolic Bone Disease, with international speaker, Professor Dolores Shoback, UCSF, who will bring the Plenary Lecture, "Osteoporosis: Hot Topics", and provide expert comments alongside Professor Peter Ebeling on interesting clinical bone cases in a Masterclass format. Prof Shoback will also present a conjoint lecture to Clinicians and Scientists on "The Calcium-Sensing Receptor in Health and Disease". Another exciting collaborative effort with the Basic Science Program will be a Debate titled, "You're fat; it's your fault" with debaters Professor Joe Proietto, Dr Spiros Furlanos, Professor Michael Cowley and Professor Brian Oldfield. Other local experts will present talks covering other aspects of Endocrinology and Diabetes.

We look forward to seeing you on the Sunshine Coast in April 2013, for what will be another popular and highly educational event.

**Ada Cheung, Mathis Grossmann, Mark Ng-Tang Fui
Duncan Topliss, Rosemary Wong (Chair)**

ESA Seminar Weekend (Basic Science)

April 5-7, 2013

Novotel Twin Waters, Sunshine Coast

In 2013 the basic science stream of the Seminar Weekend will incorporate the theme "Endocrine Regulation of Obesity and Metabolism". We will run in parallel to the clinical seminar weekend. The basic science meeting will include sessions on Control of body weight: Endocrine control of food intake, energy expenditure and metabolism, Liver and adipose secretome - novel secretory factors in type II diabetes, Early life programming of body weight and obesity and Metabolic and Endocrine Consequences of Obesity.

We are very excited to unite with the clinical weekend for a joint plenary lecture by Prof Dolores Shoback and a combined debate "You're fat: it's your fault" with Prof Joe Proietto, Prof Michael Cowley, Dr Spiros Furlanos and Prof Brian Oldfield.

A major feature of this weekend is the mentor workshop. This year we will dedicate half a day to the mentor workshop allowing ECRs to form small group discussions led by senior scientists. Students and ECRs will also have the chance to present their work as a 'Research Snapshot'.

We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Chen Chen, Tim Cole, Nicolette Hodyl, Belinda Henry (Chair)

TREASURER'S REPORT

This report deals with the financial year 2011-12.

Full details can be found in the minutes of the AGM at the end of this report.

Overall ESA posted a net profit of \$160,681, up from \$97,400 in the last financial year. Our total net assets have increased from \$1,086,683 as of June 2011 to \$1,208,324.

ESA achieved a successful year with revenue increasing 9.6%. The main source of this increase was revenue obtained from meetings, which were up by \$95 310 compared to previous years. This was mostly accounted for by the combined ESA/APEG meeting, which attracted more pharmaceutical industry sponsorship compared to our usual ESA/SRB combined meetings.

The society reconfigured the Asgard investment portfolio, which significantly reduced the associated fees. In a year of uncertainty particularly in the Eurozone, our conservative portfolio has returned a small net increase in value for the financial year from \$699,734 (June 30, 2011) to \$706,646 (June 30, 2012).

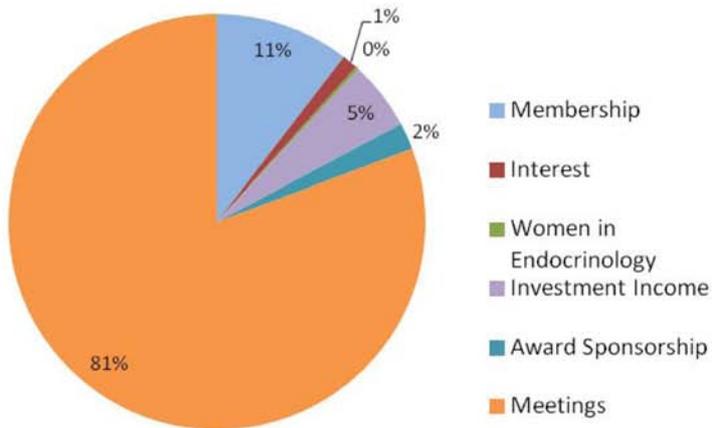
Expenditure was higher in 2011-12 compared to the previous financial year, with higher administration and meeting expenses, but still much less than in 2009-10.

The improvement in our financial situation means that we are able to again begin funding of research awards to outstanding candidates. We will offer one research higher degree scholarship (value \$20,500) and one post-doctoral award (value \$25,000) for 2013. At this point, the awards are for one year at the recommendation of the Finance sub-committee. Council will continue to monitor the financial situation to assess whether these will be ongoing.

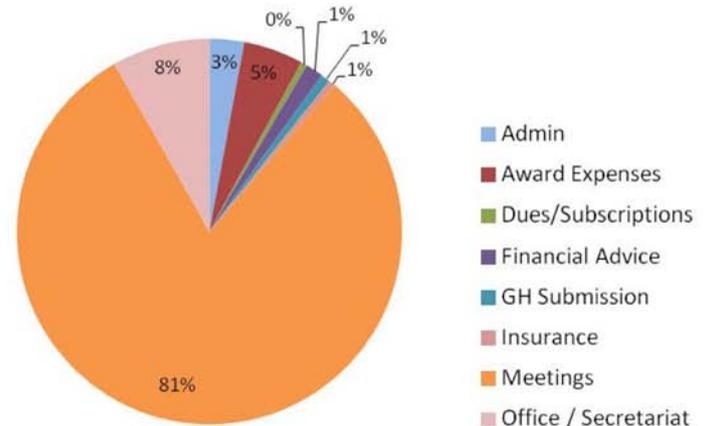


Dr Warrick Inder

Revenue



Expenditure



**MINUTES FOR ENDOCRINE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**GOLD COAST CONVENTION CENTRE, QLD
Room: Central A**

TUESDAY 28th August 2012, 4.30-5.30pm

Attendance:

Jeffrey Zajac, Rosemary Wong, Ken Ho, Leon Bach, Paul Williams, Peter Colman, Walter Plehwe, Iain Clarke, Mathis Grossmann, Gail Risbridger, Zarqa Saif, Annette Osei-Kumah, Nicolette Hodyl, Kathy Gatford, Bu Yeap, Helena Teede, Brian Hirschfeld, Kelly Loffler, Duncan Topliss, Peter Fuller, Morton Burt, Matt Doogue, Mark Hedger, Frances Thomas, Belinda Henry, Vicki Clifton, Peter Ebeling, Tim Cole, Warrick Inder, Helena Teede, Chen Chen, Belinda Henry, Roger Smith, Greg Hockings, Vicki Clifton,

1. Apologies

Ben Canny, Evan Simpson, Don Perry-Keene, Christine Clarke, Burnie Tuck, Emma Duncan

2. Confirmation of Minutes – 30th August 2011, Perth Convention Centre

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting that was held on 30th August 2011 were accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposed by Duncan Topliss and seconded by Walter Plehwe.

3. Business Arising

Nil.

**4. President's Report
ESA Council activities**

The ESA Council has had a productive year. A strategic plan for ESA was developed and Council has been busily addressing the objectives raised in the plan to address the areas of financial

sustainability, education, internal engagement of members, external engagement of Government and consumers, governance and our profile both nationally and internationally. These include improving the ESA website so that it has more links to affiliated organisations and is user friendly for the consumer. We hope to establish a formal mentor program for junior members via the ESA website providing a means by which trainees and early career researchers may connect with potential mentors in the field. We are also establishing an expertise registry. This will serve 2 purposes: 1) identifying Endocrinologists by their specialty in order for consumers to find Endocrinologists in their state and 2) identifying experts for comment on issues associated with Medical Affairs. We will ask that members provide their information for this part of the website.

We have finalised the terms of reference for each of the sub-committees and we are currently updating the 1998 version of the ESA Council Manual which provides a comprehensive guide to councillors on ESA business. As part of our profile we have hired a media officer for the current meeting here on the Gold Coast and abstracts identified as newsworthy by the POC and media office have been released to the media.

Overall there are many on-going activities derived from the strategic plan that will continue to be addressed and updated. Council intends to meet annually face to face for the purposes of updating the strategic plan. We will meet again in November 2012 in Melbourne under the Presidency of Prof Peter Ebeling.

We have a number of members who were awarded for Life Membership. They are Prof Roger Smith, Prof Evan Simpson and Dr Garry Warne. We congratulate them on their service to ESA and appreciate their wealth of wisdom and expertise.

We have sadly had a number of ESA members pass away in the last year. Prof David Healey, Dr Kenneth Wynne and Dr Alf Steinbeck. We send our condolences to their respective relatives and friends and our thoughts are with them.

ESA Finances

The Society's financial position has improved since last financial year and we have made a profit for the first time in a few years. This is a very good sign. Council re-invested funds into the Asgard portfolio last year and improvements in earnings have increased overall. We are now in a position to support an ESA Scholarship and Post-doctoral Award and these will be advertised in September of this year. Please consider applying for these awards or encouraging your junior members to apply. ESA will develop an Annual Report so that members and the public can access details of ESA financial position and business activities.

Meetings in 2012

I would like to thank Dr Kathy Gatford and the program organising committee for producing an excellent program for the meeting. Thank you also to Dr Emily MacKenzie and her team for their work on the clinical weekend and the local organising committee in Brisbane. I hope members are enjoying the program and please email us your feedback if you think we need to improve the program in any way.

Dr Kathy Gatford has completed her time as Chair of the Program Organising Committee for ESA and Dr Ann McCormack will take over the position with a NSW based committee. First of all, I would like a round of applause for the outgoing POC and thank you to all of you for doing an excellent job for the last 3 years. And welcome Ann to what is a challenging and rewarding experience.

The Seminar Meeting was a great success this year. We had a Clinical and Basic Science stream that ran in parallel at Torquay. The venue was excellent and we had 250 attendees including a contingent of 60 endocrinologists from China for the Clinical activities. The basic science program was focussed on reproductive endocrinology and we had 50 attendees. This was an excellent venue for networking for junior scientists and I encourage everyone to consider sending your junior people to next year's weekend. Thank

you to Dr Rosemary Wong and Dr Belinda Henry for organising the seminar weekend. Your efforts were greatly appreciated and we look forward to next year's meeting at the Novotel Twin Waters Resort on the Sunshine Coast.

President's thanks

I have had a great time as President of ESA for the last 2 years. The time has flown by and I have learnt a great deal about leadership and team work. I would like to thank the past Presidents, Jeffrey Zajac, Leon Bach and Mark McLean for teaching me how to lead. Your guidance has been significant in helping me decide on the directions ESA has needed to take in order to recover from the global financial crisis and move forward with due diligence. I have especially enjoyed working with ESA Council. Each of you brings a special character and skill to the board and you have all worked exceptionally hard to drive the development of the sub-committees and the new initiatives derived from the strategic plan. Thank you to Warrick, Tim and Peter for your input into the executive and your guidance on our decision making. Thank you to Nic for your efforts with the newsletter. Thanks to Belinda and Evan for your work in the development of the Basic Science Seminar Weekend. Thank you to Helen, Bu and Chen for your engagement in the subcommittees and your wealth of knowledge in all issues that have arisen during our time on Council. I would like to wish Evan Simpson well on his retirement from Council. He has been a member for Council for 12 years and he has had strong international contacts with endocrine societies all over the world. We will miss his brains trust and networking skills significantly. I would like to welcome our new council members Morton Burt and Ashim Sinha. I hope you enjoy the experience as much as I have.

Finally I want to say I would not have known anything about the running of ESA if it had not been for Ivone Johnson. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your guidance and fun! I would also like to thank Melissa Dupavillon for her support of Ivone and the society. I would also like to thank Mike Pickford, Jim Fawcett and ASN for their support and guidance throughout the year in

relation to the planning of our meetings. It is much appreciated and our meetings always run smoothly with this support.

4.1 Motion
Election of new Honorary Life Member on the recommendation of Council

Garry Warne
Roger Smith
Evan Simpson
CARRIED.

5. Treasurer's Report
Audited Accounts

Revenue increased by 9.6%. Income from membership subscriptions was essentially unchanged from 2011, with the main source of the increase being from meeting revenue (up by \$95,310). The combined ESA-APEG meeting was particularly profitable and attracted more Pharmaceutical industry sponsorship than the usual annual combined ESA-SRB meetings. This coupled with back payments for profit from previous years has resulted in new term deposits with the National Australia Bank now totalling \$296,274.

The funds managed by Asgard have been reconfigured as an Asgard Infinity eWRAP Investment Account, which has resulted in a 17.5% reduction in our fees. In a year of uncertainty particularly in the Eurozone, our conservative portfolio has returned a small net increase in value for the financial year from \$699,734 (June 30, 2011) to \$706,646 (June 30, 2012). As of August 16, 2012, there has been a further increase in value to \$724,124.

Expenditure was higher in 2011-12 compared to the previous financial year, with higher administration and meeting expenses, but still much less than in 2009-10.

We are again offering one research higher degree scholarship (value \$20,500) and one post-doctoral award (value \$25,000) for 2013.

Applications close on October 31st 2012. Last year Council had decided that a balance of \$800,000 was required in the Asgard account before restarting research funding, but this decision was overturned due to the higher than expected income from the scientific meetings. At this point, the awards are for one year at the recommendation of the Finance sub-committee. Council will continue to monitor the situation. It is important that we continue to build a strong financial base for the future and ensure that our commitment to fellowship and scholarship funding does not eat away at our capital.

ESA with APEG has committed to joint funding of a proposal to make an application to the PBAC regarding the funding of growth hormone for adults with proven GH deficiency. In the first instance, each society has pledged \$10,000 towards the cost. A task force consisting of Ken Ho, Morton Burt and Warrick Inder from ESA along with Jan Fairchild, Geoff Ambler and George Werther from APEG have met with the PBAC to discuss requirements for such a potential submission. A comprehensive literature review has been undertaken with the assistance of a paid consultant (Dr Wendy Lipworth).

Overall therefore the Society posted a net profit of \$160,681, up from \$97,400 in the last financial year. Our total net assets have increased from \$1,086,683 as of June 2011 to \$1,208,324.

5.1 Audited Accounts

Approval for the Audited accounts was CARRIED by members.

6. Medical Affairs Report – Prof Peter R Ebeling
Petition regarding endocrinologists and patients with thyroid dysfunction

ESA will direct people to the Thyroid statement on the ESA website. The Thyroid Statement and corresponding letter will go into the RACP news.

Mapping of trainees

A meeting was held with Jenny Gunton, ADS, Chair of SAC, Rory Clifton-Bligh and President of the Endocrine Nurse Society, Deidre Thorn to map out the current training positions in Endocrinology and Diabetes in Australia and future projections for growth.

Bid for Asia Oceania Congress 2014

It is proving hard to move this forward as a contact could not be found. Peter to work with International Endocrine societies and Asian Society Counterparts.

7. Report on 2012 ESA Meetings

• Seminars

Clinical – Rosemary Wong

This was the second of a 3-year cycle in the curriculum that was convened by the current organizing committee. A highly successful ESA Seminar Weekend was held with a record 321 registrants (253 Clinical, 23 Trade, 45 Basic Science), and international speaker, Prof Lawrence Katznelson from Stanford, CA, who brought the Plenary Lecture on “*Acromegaly*”. He was also the expert commentator in a “Pituitary Masterclass”. Prof David deKretser’s talk, “*From Endocrinology to Government House and back*” was very well received and he was also able to participate in the Basic Science program. It was a special highlight to have been able to celebrate Prof deKretser’s birthday at the Conference Dinner. Another item we introduced last year which again proved highly popular was the Registrars’ Quiz and valuable Prizes were won.

Delegate feedback showed a very good/excellent combined rating close to 90%, compared with the typical ASN managed conferences which give ratings of around 80%.

Financially, this conference was very successful with a profit of \$50,897.27, contributed to by the 48 Chinese delegates sponsored by NovoNordisk, as well as a good level of other trade support.

The 2013 ESA Seminar Meeting is planned for 5-7 April, at the Novotel Twin Waters, Sunshine Coast. Prof Dolores Schoback, from the University of California, San Francisco, a leading international expert in metabolic bone disease, is to give her final confirmation of acceptance to be the Plenary Speaker, the theme being Osteoporosis

and Metabolic Bone Disease. It is also intended that there will be a joint Clinical/Basic Science talk given by Prof Schoback.

We anticipate another extremely well-subscribed meeting in 2013.

Basic Science stream – Belinda Henry

The basic science stream of the seminar weekend incorporated the theme “Reproductive Endocrinology”. We attracted a good number of registrants (42) for the first year after this scheme has been reintroduced to ESA’s annual meeting repertoire. Participant feedback of the meeting was very positive and overall it was a successful, interesting and engaging weekend. In particular, we would like to thank our plenary speakers Prof David Grattan (University of Otago, NZ) and Prof Evan Simpson (Prince Henry’s Institute). Furthermore, the mentor workshop was considered to be a major highlight of the weekend and was motivating and informative for students and ECR members. We would like to thank those that were involved including Prof David deKrester, Prof Dave Grattan, Prof Lois Salamonsen, Prof Iain Clarke and A/Prof Robert Gilchrist. Due to the positive reception of the mentor workshop this will be a major feature of the 2013 program. In 2013 we will highlight the theme “Endocrine regulation of obesity and metabolism” and we look forward to interacting with the clinical program through a joint plenary lecture. The program will incorporate a social event across Saturday afternoon to foster networking. In addition, we will welcome Prof Chen Chen to the organising committee for the 2013 meeting that will be held at the Sunshine Coast in April.

Belinda Henry, Tim Cole, Nicolette Hodyl and Evan Simpson

• Clinical weekend

We have had record registrations for the clinical weekend, with registration closing more than a week before the meeting as we had exceeded the 250 seat capacity of the venue.

Prof Gudmundar Johannsson and Prof Karen Lam are the invited speakers and there was a very strong showing in the case submissions for presentation at the meeting.

• ASM

ASM have shown near record numbers of registrants and was very successful. 661 registered for this meeting with 295 abstracts.

8. Future Meetings

ESA Seminar Meeting 2013, 5-7 April, Novotel Twin Waters, Maroochydore, QLD
ESA Clinical Weekend 2013, 23-25 August, Sydney
ESA/NZSE ASM 2013, 25-28 August, Sydney Convention Centre

9. Other business

Election of ESA Councillors

Peter Ebeling-President, Helena Teede-President-Elect, Warrick Inder-Treasurer, Tim Cole-Secretary
Councillors: Bu Yeap, Chen Chen, Belinda Henry, Nicolette Hodyl, Ashin Sinha, Morton Burt and Vicki Clifton-Past President

ASMR Congress

ESA have sponsored two sessions.

ICE with European Congress of Endocrinology

Mark McLean was on the POC for this meeting. Good ESA representation is important in the future.

US Endocrine Meeting – Chicago

The International Society has called for a POC member. ESA have put forward Peter Ebeling.

10. Date of next AGM: Sydney, 27th August 2013



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Office hours: 10.00am – 4.00pm
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday