

Australian & New Zealand Bone & Mineral Society

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

#### Kiaora/Gidday!

The Council has been working hard on your behalf in the last few months. I highlight below some of the tasks we have given our attention to.

Firstly, we have been working on the strategic direction of our society and have started drafting a document, which we envisage will:

- Represent the interests of ANZBMS membership.
- Establish and maintain an appropriate resource base to enable the ANZBMS to operate as an efficient and effective organization.
- Develop guidelines and information professionals health for and consumers on bone and mineral metabolism - prevention and quality care.
- Be the medical and scientific voice bone and mineral metabolism.
- Provide leadership in national initiatives for prevention of diseases of bone and mineral metabolism and improving the care of people.
- Foster opportunities to participate in the development and dissemination of bone and mineral metabolism research and advances in clinical care and education.
- Work with all relevant stakeholders.

Secondly, we have been establishing a memorandum of understanding with Osteoporosis Australia (OA) in relation to the mutual development of a research foundation. ANZBMS has considered the adoption of charitable status to capture donations and target this income towards the development of education and research into bone and mineral metabolism. Options were considered for the best management, implementation, promotion and the value of such a fund to suit donors and fund recipients.

Considering OA already has a research fund, which targets a similar donor base and supports similar activities, ANZBMS Council, with additional advice from its members, decided that the best mechanism to promote bone and mineral research was not to create or duplicate fund raising mechanisms or to compete with that existing fund raising effort. OA, due to its common goals of advancing education, research and public advocacy for bone and mineral metabolism, was considered a natural partner to develop a research fund to financially support these initiatives. There are benefits having one Research Fund / Foundation for investment recognition, donor reducing competition and market place confusion. This one Fund will be advertised by both organizations, allowing increased development potential and capital for the fund, whilst minmising administrative charges and preventing competitive marketing. In addition, the development of an alliance between OA and ANZBMS will have consequent visibility increased for both organizations, which is important politically, since it offers the organisations the ability to speak from an expanded member base, and from both a patient advocacy and professional point of view. This is particularly important at the Federal State Government levels. and Increased financial support will allow increased research support, including scholarships and fellowships the development of further co-funded Fellowships such as developed by OA with the RACP. This is crucial to ensure that bone and mineral research is funded appropriately in a funding environment that has traditionally undefended musculoskeletal research. This MOU is an expression of intent and is intended to be the catalyst towards a legally binding document between both OA and ANZBMS parties. Maria Chilcott has already been employed, under the umbrella of OA, to take on the fundraising task.

### SYDNEY BONE And Mineral Group Meetings

The meetings for the Sydney Bone Group in 2006 will be held on the Second

Tuesday of each month from March to November except for August (ESA meeting)

and October (ANZBMS meeting).

#### Venue:

Buffet Room Top Floor Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron 33 Peel St Kirribilli

#### Time:

6pm for drinks and canapés 6 30 - 8 pm presentations

#### Parking:

Available underneath, free of charge

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT.... continued

Thirdly, we are delighted to announce a new meeting award named in honour of Professor Sol Posen. The award will be offered for the first time at this year's ASM. The award is based on the best paper published in the 18 months prior to the closing date of the award. More about this award and criteria for it are covered later in this newsletter.

**Fourthly, planning future meetings in 2007 – 2009** is well underway. Next year the ASM will be held in Queenstown, NZ, in September, prior to the ASBMR in Hawaii. We have chosen this timing so that hopefully from Australia, members can combine the travel to the 2 meetings if wished. In addition, the ESA meeting is being held in Christchurch just prior to the ANZBMS ASM. In 2008 and 2009, the ASMs will be in Melbourne and Sydney, respectively. The 2009 meeting will be a grand international one held in combination with the IBMS at Darling Harbour.

Last but certainly not least, the 2006 meeting oganising committees have been toiling hard to ensure the success of this important international conference at gorgeous Port Douglas. We look forward to seeing you to have good science, great fellowship and fun.

All the Best Jill Cornish

### ANZBMS 2006 AWARDS AND GRANTS

http://anzbms.org.au/resources/grants/index.cfm

#### ANZBMS/IOF AMGEN OUTSTANDING ABSTRACT AWARD CRITERIA

The Program Organising Committee will now award five prizes of US\$1000 to the abstracts receiving the highest score.

#### Eligibility criteria:

- The applicant must be a financial member of ANZBMS/IOF at the time of the application and be under the age of 35.
- The applicant must have made a substantial contribution to the work and be first author of the paper to be presented to the IOF/ANZBMS Meeting.
- Applicants eligible for a Young Investigator Award may also apply for an Outstanding Abstract Award.

#### Deadline: 1st June 2006

#### ANZBMS TRAVEL GRANT CRITERIA 2006

Travel grants and where possible IOF travel grants will be made available for young investigators to provide at least some support to offset travel and accommodation costs. The extent of the support will obviously be limited by the amount of applicants but we will try to help where possible.

#### **Eligibility criteria:**

- The applicant must be a financial member of ANZBMS at the time of the application and under the age of 40.
- The applicant must have made a substantial contribution to the work and be first author of the paper to be presented to the IOF/ANZBMS Meeting.
- The applicant must be employed at a level equivalent to or below a lecturer level.

#### Selection:

Preference will be given to students, research assistants and to the presenters of those abstracts that receive the highest ranking by the Programme Organising Committee. The amount allocated to each travel grant will be determined according to the number of successful applications and the funds available.

Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006

## ANZBMS 2006 AWARDS AND GRANTS .... continued

#### CHRISTOPHER AND MARGIE NORDIN YOUNG INVESTIGATOR POSTER AWARD CRITERIA 2006

#### Eligibility criteria:

- The applicant must be a financial member of ANZBMS at the time of the application and be under the age of 35.
- The applicant must have made a substantial contribution to the work and be first author of the paper to be presented to the IOF/ANZBMS Meeting.
- The applicant must be employed at a level equivalent to or below a lecturer level.

#### Selection:

The Programme Organising Committee will be responsible for selecting a short list of candidates for the award. This selection will be on the basis of abstract quality. A panel of judges will assess the short-listed presentations to select the winner.

Award Amount: \$500

Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006

#### KAYE IBBERTSON AWARD FOR METABOLIC BONE DISEASE CRITERIA 2006

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

The award is based on the productivity of the applicant, in terms of published clinical and/or basic research, in the field of metabolic bone disease. The award will be based on the applicant's best 5 papers, of which the applicant is first author, in the last 5 years. The contribution of the applicant as an author must be stated. Publications must be relevant to bone. The winner will be announced at the AGM.

• The applicant must be a financial member of ANZBMS for 2 years at the time of the application and be under the age of 40.

Award Amount: \$1000

Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006

#### ROGER MELICK YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD CRITERIA 2006

#### Eligibility criteria:

- The applicant must be a financial member of ANZBMS at the time of the application and be under the age of 35.
- The applicant must have made a substantial contribution to the work and be first author of the paper to be presented to the IOF/ANZBMS Meeting.
- The applicant must be employed at a level equivalent to or below a lecturer level.

#### Selection:

The Programme Organising Committee will be responsible for selecting a short list of candidates for the award. This selection will be on the basis of abstract quality. A panel of judges will assess the short-listed presentations to select the winner.

Award Amount: \$1000

Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006

#### SOL POSEN RESEARCH AWARD CRITERIA 2006

#### **Eligibility Criteria**

The award is based on the best paper published in the 18 months prior to the closing date of the award. Criteria includes:

- The applicant must be a financial member of ANZBMS at the time of the application.
- Research student or within of 5 years of obtaining PhD, Masters, FRACP or equivalent.
- No one paper can receive the award more than once, although applicants can submit the same paper in different years
- Applicants should be the first author.

Award Amount: \$1000

#### Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006

### ANZBMS Welcomes New Members:

Dr Leonard William Allen

Dr Rong Chen

Ms Selina Clifford

Dr Emma Duncan

Ms Alison Greig

Dr Allison Pettit

Ms Michele Robbins

- Ms Shamali Salgado
- Miss Lauren Stanford

### IMPORTANT Deadlines

Abstract 1st June 2006

Early bird registration 1st June 2006

Travel Grant 1st June 2006

Roger Melick YI Award 1st June 2006

Chris and Margie Nordin Poster Award 1st June 2006

Kaye Ibbertson Award on Metabolic Bone Disease 1st June 2006

Sol Posen Research Award 1st June 2006

ANZBMS/IOF Amgen Outstanding Abstract Award 1st June 2006

Christine and T Jack Martin Research Travel Grant 1st August 2006

### ANZBMS 2006 AWARDS AND GRANTS .... continued

#### Christine & T. Jack Martin Research Travel Grant

### Supported by a grant from "Merck Sharp & Dohme"

**Eligibility:** Any financial member of the ANZBMS with continuous membership for 12 months, or more, will be eligible to apply. Preference will be given to members in the training phase of their careers, and current members of Council are not be eligible to apply.

**Applications:** The closing date for the award for travel in 2007 is 1 August 2006. The application should include an itinerary for the proposed travel, a research proposal, a supporting letter from the laboratory where the major part of the work will be carried out, a budget and the curriculum vitae of the applicant.

Itinerary: A one (1) page proposal for travel, including meetings and laboratories to be visited. A general statement of the reason for the travel should be included. Indicate the contact person in each laboratory, and a brief purpose for each visit. For conferences, please note if you intend to present a paper or poster.

**Research proposal:** This must not exceed 3 pages (A4), including references. The proposal should include: the aims and significance of the work to be performed a brief description of methods to be used or learned and the expected outcomes (including a statement of the value of the travel / project to the applicant).

**Curriculum Vitae:** A summary curriculum vitae should be included for assessment of track record. This should include publications for the past three (3) years, and may include the name of at least one referee. This must not exceed 4 pages.

#### Supporting documentation:

Applications should include a letter of support from the head of the laboratory where the major work will be undertaken. Higher degree students should also include a letter of support/ endorsement from their principal supervisor indicating that they approve of the proposed travel / project.

**Budget:** Applications up to \$15,000 will be considered, based on merit, and funded with consideration of the proposed budget. The grant may be used for any purpose associated with achievement of the aims of the travel and research project. This includes travel and accommodation, registration at conferences and bench fees (maintenance costs) for the project to be undertaken in the proposed laboratory. A one (1) page budget proposal should be submitted.

## PAEDIATRIC BONE UPDATE: Brisbane october 20 - 21 2006

The third Paediatric Bone Update will be held in Brisbane from October 20 to 21. In keeping with the emergence of secondary osteoporosis as a major paediatric health issue, the focus of the Update will shift from that of our previous meetings to concentrate on secondary osteoporosis in children and adolescents. The Update will be clinically based and address all aspects of secondary paediatric osteoporosis including aetiology, diagnosis and management. Other topics that will be addressed over the 2 days include; the evaluation of paediatric bone health, the medical treatment of orthopaedic disorders and genetic bone disorders.

Our international speaker will be Dr Mary Leonard from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, an eminent paediatrician who has published extensively on paediatric bone disease, secondary osteopenia and bone health evaluation. We have also sourced expertise from around Australia and the meeting will to be of great interest to medical and allied health staff involved in the care of children with bone disorders.

We plan to co-locate the meeting with that of Osteoporosis Australia to facilitate 'cross fertilisation' between the adult and paediatric bone fields. Registration details and meeting program will soon be available.

## GIDEON RODAN

Gideon Rodan died peacefully at home in Philadelphia on January 1, 2006. His passing marks the loss of one who as a scientist, teacher and leader did much to transform research into the physiology of bone by applying modern methods of biochemistry, molecular and cell biology. He was well known to many members of this society over many years and many visits. The illness that lead to his death became evident for the first time at the ANZBMS Conference in Coolum in June, 2003.

Born in Bucharest, Rumania in 1934, Gideon lost his father to the tyranny that covered Europe in the following years. He and his mother survived and migrated to Israel in 1950, where after completing his high school education he studied first mathematics and then medicine at the Hebrew University. After completing his medical training and deciding upon research and an academic career he joined the Weitzman Institute as a staff scientist and completed his PhD in 1970 on physicochemical aspects of mineral metabolism. Those years were productive ones, and the value of his early research became evident many times in later years, as he came to develop functional read-outs in bone of his basic research in biochemistry and molecular biology.

After the Weitzman appointment his intention was to undertake a post-doctoral fellowship in the USA, but he was attracted to an Assistant Professorship at a new Dental School at the University of Connecticut, Farmington. He rose rapidly through the ranks to head of the Department of Oral Biology in 1978, until his move to industry in 1985. They were exciting years in Connecticut, it was a time when basic research in Dental Schools across the U.S. was at best patchy in distribution, but developments took place rapidly under the leadership of Gideon Rodan. His own research flourished in the 1970's, when with the constant collaboration of his wife, Sevgi, the group led the way in bringing cell biology to the study of bone. The Rodan's developed a clonal rodent osteosarcoma cell line that for the first time allowed studies of the molecular regulation of adenylate cyclase in bone cells in response to parathyroid hormone, together with other aspects of cell signalling, particularly the role of calcium. A constant feature of Gideon's approach to basic research was his aim to apply it to function, and maybe this was what drove him several years later when he decided to move to industry. An example from that period was his work on differential cellular signalling responses being dependent upon mechanical and electrical stimuli to cells.

Gideon Rodan was never a slave to technology in his research – if you needed a method, you sought it out and established it. What was most important to him was the thinking that went into experiments, and what a pleasure it was to have scientific discussions with him. This was a very early stage of bone science, when to most of those interested, bone cells still seemed too difficult to study. Osteosarcoma cells and osteoblast-rich cultures from rodent bone that came from the work of Wong and Cohn, provided the means to investigate control mechanisms for the first time. These might have remained as "phenomenology" were it not for the Rodan approach, of putting such new information into context with what was known, e.g. the electron microscopic evidence of Alan Boyde that bone lining cells responded to PTH by contracting. This and other data provided the means in the liberal discussions that could be enjoyed with Gideon Rodan, to lead to the concept of bone resorbing factors using the osteoblast lineage in producing their effects on osteoclast formation and activation. This was regarded at the time almost as heresy but the Rodan view was always that as long as something was testable it was reasonable to propose.

The bone research scene at the University of Connecticut was an exciting one, with collaborations across the campus at the Health Center and the Department of Oral Biology at the focus of many of them. With Larry Raisz in Medicine there were effective research collaborations over many years. One of Gideon Rodan's greatest legacies is the long list of former students and post-docs who benefited so much from his teaching, training, and leadership, always effected with the gentleness of manner that so marked the man. His journal club discussion groups at his home in Connecticut provided a key educational asset that they all appreciated scientifically as much as they enjoyed them socially. The list of trainees surely comprises another Rodan "family", in addition to his wonderful Sevgi, Aylin and Elan, and it is fitting indeed that the American Society of Bone and Mineral Research has named its mentorship award after Gideon Rodan, who set such an example to all.

Gideon's decision in 1985 to leave academia and take on leadership of the bone group at Merck came as a surprise to some of us. He seemed too interested in the unknown, maybe too purely scholarly. In the event he stayed that way, but also did all that was required of him by industry and more. Setting out to search for drugs of benefit to bone, particularly osteoporosis, he approached this by establishing first class research in bone biology, appointing excellent people, and seeming from the outset to have the ideal research position. Then with remarkable vision, perspicacity and wisdom, he took an opportunity that came his way through Herbert Fleisch, to license a bisphosphonate that had been progressing slowly in Europe. The rest is history. This became Alendronate, the first drug ever proven in a major clinical trial to prevent osteoporotic fractures, and thereby providing a stimulus that changed the bone field totally. The rest of industry applied itself eagerly to the search for ant-osteoporosis drugs, and substantial industry support came to research in the bone field. Gideon was the driver of the Alendronate development, with his laboratory carrying out first class work on bisphosphonate action, but he was also deeply involved in the planning of clinical studies and the translation of bisphosphonates to clinical medicine. There can be no doubt of the enormous impact of that development upon the field of research in bone.

Gideon Rodan was a wonderful scientist, scholar, teacher and friend, whose contributions to the bone field will always be remembered, and the ANZBMS joins with his many friends and colleagues throughout the world in paying tribute to him, and offering our sincere sympathy to his wife, Sevgi, and children, Aylin and Elan.

T. J. Martin. March 20, 2006

#### REMINDER To Pay Your Subscription Dues

ANZBMS membership subscriptions are now due. Please ensure that the Secretariat has all the correct mailing and contact details, particularly email addresses, as we rely on these to maintain contact with you and keep you informed of ANZBMS activities.

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

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE Report

This is a short report, partly because there is not a lot of pressing news and partly because you are all navel gazing and contemplating the contents of your next grant application. In terms of how those (NMMRC) grants will be assessed this year, we collectively hold our breaths. The move to a grant reviewing system that is in many respects like the NIH system arguably represents an improvement, in that it offers the opportunity for iterative improvements in applications, which are overall appreciated as containing good ideas. However, the impact of the removal of external assessors from the process remains to be seen. All the best with the grant writing process and remember to pay particular attention to the 'Significance' category! The criteria below, lifted from the NIH Criteria For Evaluating Research Grant Applications, are well worth referring to as you go:

**Significance:** Does this study address an important problem? If the aims of the application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge or clinical practice be advanced? What will be the effect of these studies on the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?

**Innovation:** Is the project original and innovative? For example: Does the project challenge existing paradigms or clinical practice; address an innovative hypothesis or critical barrier to progress in the field? Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technologies for this area?

**Investigators:** Are the investigators appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work? Is the work proposed appropriate to the experience level of the principal investigator and other researchers? Does the investigative team bring complementary and integrated expertise to the project?

To those of you who will be involved in the Grant Review Panel (GRP) process, and I hope as many ANZBMS members as possible have indicated willingness to so serve, all the best.

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

**David Findlay** 

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You may find it more convenient to use our new online Annual Subscriptions Renewal Form and secure credit card payment gateway.

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### ANZBMS CLINICAL DENSITOMETRY Training Course

Training courses for practitioners and operators involved with bone densitometry

This clinical densitometry course is intended for both practitioners and technologists. It covers the pathophysiology of osteoporosis, as well as the principles and practice of bone density and body composition measurement. The course will be repeated every 6 months.

#### **DATES & LOCATIONS:**

Future Course (registrations not open yet)Friday 20 - Saturday 21 October 2006, Brisbane

Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane, QLD

**COST:** (All costs quoted are in Australian dollars and include GST)

### \$475 - discounted price for online registrations

(\$495 if registering by mail or fax)

- Registration cost includes:
- lunch & refreshments for two day lecture course & workshops
- a copy of the course handbook on CD-ROM (printed handbook is available for \$99)
- examination fee

#### You should consider the course if:

- You have a tertiary education in a science based course, including nursing, and you have not previously received formal training for bone densitometry
- You are currently a DXA operator who has not undertaken formal training or who is seeking an advanced update of their work practices
- You are a medical specialist with responsibility for bone density testing and are seeking deeper knowledge of the technological and quality assurance aspects of bone densitometry measurements and reporting.

#### **Course Structure**

- Participants are provided with the course handbook prior to the commencement of the course and are required to read through all the material before they attend the lecture series.
- Participants then attend a two day lecture series, which will include a number of interactive sessions.
- An online multiple choice examination is held two weeks after completion of the lecture series.
- Upon completion of the course and achievement of a pass mark in the examination, participants will be awarded a Certificate of Completion in Clinical Bone Densitometry, which satisfies the requirements of radiation safety legislation in most Australian states.

#### Website: http://anzbms.org.au/ densitometryCourse/index.htm

### ANZBMS Gratefully Acknowledges:

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

#### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2006

The Annual General Meeting of ANZBMS will be held at Sheraton Mirage Resort, Port Douglas. All members are encouraged to attend the meeting at which the Roger Melick Young Investigator Award, Christopher & Margie Nordin Young Investigator Poster Award, ANZBMS Outstanding Abstract Award, Christine & T. Jack Martin Research Travel Grant, Kaye Ibbertson Award for Metabolic Bone Disease and the Sol Posen Research award.

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### 2006

Saturday 20th May ANZBMS/OA Clinical Update Day Melbourne

#### 2-6 June, 2006 IOF World Congress on Toronto, Canada Website: www.osteofound.org/wco/2006

24-27 June 2006 ENDO 2006 Boston Convention & Exhibit Center Website: www.endo-society.org

19-20th August 2006 ESA Clinical Weekend Royal Pines Resort, gold Coast Contact: ASN Events Website: www.esaclinicalweekend.org.au

### 2007

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

31st August-1st September 2007 ESA Clinical Weekend Christchurch **Contact: ASN Events** Website: http://

20-23<sup>rd</sup> August 2006 Gold Coast Convention Centre Contact: ASN Events Website:

23-25<sup>th</sup> August 2006 ADS/ADEA Annual Scientific Gold Coast Convention Centre Contact: ASN Events Website: www.ads-adea.org.au

25-26<sup>th</sup> August 2006 ADIPS ASM Gold Coast Convention Centre

15-19 September 2006 Annual Meeting, American Society for Bone and Mineral Philadelphia Convention Center Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

2-5 September 2007

ESA ASM **Christchurch Convention Centre** Contact: ASN Events Website: www.esa-srb.org.au/

10-14 September 2007 ANZBMS 17th Annual Scientific Queenstown, New Zealand Website: anzbms.org.au

Phone: (202) 367-1161 E-mail: asbmr@smithbucklin.com

#### 20-22 September 2006

Australasian Paediatric Endocrine Group Annual Scientific Meeting Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart, Website:

www.willorganise.com.au/apeg06

#### 20-21st October 2006

**ANZBMS** Clinical Densitometry Course Brisbane.

#### Saturday 21st October 2006

ANZBMS/OA Clinical Update Day Brisbane. QLD.

#### 22-26<sup>th</sup> October 2006

Combined Third IOF Asia-Pacific **Regional Conference on** Osteoporosis and 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society Sheraton Mirage, Port Douglas, Queensland Contact: Ms Ivone Johnson Website: www.anzbms.org.au

27-28th October 2006 Paediatric Bone Update

Brisbane. QLD.

#### 10-14 December 2006

Cancer and Bone society's (CABS) International Meeting on Cancer Induced Bone Disease Website: www.ibmsonline.org/cabs06.htm

ASBMR 29th Annual Scientific Meeting Honolulu, Hawaii, USA Email: asbmr@smithbucklin.com

16-20 September 2007

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