



ANZBMS

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The last few months have been another busy period for Council. We are now in the second year of a joint research fund initiative with Osteoporosis Australia (OA) to take grant support for bone research in Australia and New Zealand to a new level. During 2008, ANZBMS agreed to support the salary of the new OA fundraiser for 12 months. Maria Chilcott, who had a very productive first year in 2007, decided to move on to other challenges and has now been replaced by David Evans. Judy Stenmark and Peter Ebeling have been driving forces behind this joint venture and the research fund has been successful in securing grants from Macquarie Bank for a two year Fellowship, from the Myer Foundation for a two year Scholarship and from the Wicking Trust and Trustco for Scholarships.

have such great clinical and basic research expertise enabling the Council and Society to function effectively. We are continuing to implement the Strategic Plan for the Society, which we established over the last two years. Matthew Gillespie has been the driving force behind this initiative, which we have really appreciated. Thanks also go to Michael Hooper for his ongoing representation on behalf of the ANZBMS on the Specialty Board for the RACP.

The 2008 Melbourne meeting, held in conjunction with the Endocrine Society of Australia, was a great success with over 300 delegates. There included 121 poster presentations, 15 invited talks, 28 oral presentations and two Meet-the-Professor sessions. Matthew Gillespie and Ego Seeman were the primary organisers of the scientific programme for this meeting. Many thanks, Matthew and Ego.

I am very pleased to report on the continued success of the ANZBMS Densitometry Course to which Roger Price, Nick Pocock and Chris Schultz continue to dedicate an amazing amount of time to its running and the Course is now an established feature of the Society calendar and a revenue generator for our Society.

Looking ahead, in March 2009 ANZBMS will be combining with the International Bone and Mineral Society for a joint scientific meeting in Darling Harbour, Sydney. Our Society has been closely aligned with IBMS for a number of years, with two current Council members, myself and Matthew Gillespie, being members of its Board.

During 2008, the Society held two new events, both of which were very successful. The first was an idea of Ego Seeman's for a registrar's Bone Weekend. This was held in Melbourne in April with the support of Amgen and had about 80 registrar attendees. It is fair to say that the calibre of the program and speakers was worthy of an international meeting. Jack Martin gave an excellent speech on his research career on the Saturday evening. This speech has been videotaped and will form part of the ANZBMS archives. Then in June we held a combined meeting with the Australian Rheumatology Association in Sydney with the support of Servier. This meeting was focused on the Bone Joint Interface and was also very well attended. It is planned for both of these events to become annual fixtures.

This is second year we have had a musculoskeletal panel at the NHMRC and recent announcements of the successful grants for 2009 gives an overall impression that basic research in bone and arthritis did well, but that clinical research in this area suffered. Certainly it was disappointing to see icon studies such as the Dubbo Osteoporosis Epidemiology Study and Geelong Osteoporosis Study not supported year after year.

As many of you will know from a recent Society email, it was with regret that we advised that Professor Pierre Delmas passed away in July after a prolonged illness. Pierre was a strong supporter of ANZBMS, frequently attending our conferences. He was instrumental in supporting the 2006 combined meeting with the IOF. The Society has agreed to fund a joint scholarship in his name with Osteoporosis Australia. Another esteemed member of our Society, Greg Mundy, has also had some recent health problems and we certainly wish him well for his recovery and look forward to seeing him in Sydney for the CABS meeting.

During the early part of this year when I had some medical issues, I was tremendously supported by the members of Council, for which I am very grateful. I have been able to confidently delegate many matters to Roger Price, Rebecca Mason, Matthew Gillespie, Mark Kotowicz, Nick Fazzalari, Tim Cundy, Peter Nash and, of course, Ivone in the secretariat. The Council works very well together and we are fortunate to

OFFICE BEARERS:

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TREASURER

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- Dr Peter Nash
- Professor Nick Fazzalari
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- Dr Tim Cundy

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ANZBMS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Dr Maria Askmyr
Dr Christine Bailey
Miss Melissa Barron
Dr Chris Bertke
Ms Sharon Brennan
Dr Lynne Brothers
Dr Justin Brown
Miss Ashika Chhana
Dr Cherie Chiang
Ms Aneesha Deanasen
Dr Michael Dray
Dr Gaelle Ducher
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Ms Alyson Morse
Ms Pei Ying Ng
Mrs Emily Payne
Ms Julie Quach
Mr Simon Scott
Ms Made Suryadhi
Mr Jim Watt
Miss Iris Wong
Miss Sumwai Wong
Ms Nicole Yu
Mr Yu Zhang

2008 AWARDS AND GRANTS

all awards and grants at <http://anzbms.org.au/resources/grants/index.cfm>

Roger Melick Young Investigator Award

The Roger Melick Young Investigator Award was presented to **Jonathan Gooi**, from St Vincent's Institute in Melbourne, who presented data on "*Calcitonin attenuates the anabolic effect of PTH in vivo and rapidly upregulates sclerostin expression*"



Phil Sambrook and Jonathan Gooi

Christopher and Margie Nordin Poster Award

The Christopher and Margie Nordin Poster Award was presented to **Hasnawati Saleh**, from St Vincent's Institute in Melbourne, who's poster was titled "*IL-33 inhibits osteoclast formation in vitro through two independent mechanisms*"



Phil Sambrook and Hasnawati Saleh

Christine and TJ Martin Award

The Christine and T J Martin Award was awarded to Roger Zebaze from The University of Melbourne



Jack Martin Roger Zebaze

ANZBMS/AMGEN Outstanding Abstract Award

Two Outstanding abstract awards were presented to:

Basic:

Robert Kalak, from the ANZAC Institute, who presented data on "*Transgenic expression of human FSH in female mice has an anabolic effect on bone*"

Clinical:

Andrew Grey, from The University of Auckland, who presented data on "*Zoledronate suppresses bone turnover for at least 2 years: a randomised, placebo controlled trial*"



Phil Sambrook and Robert Kalak



Phil Sambrook and Ian Reid for Andrew Grey

2008 AWARDS AND GRANTS

all awards and grants at <http://anzbms.org.au/resources/grants/index.cfm>

Kaye Ibbertson Award

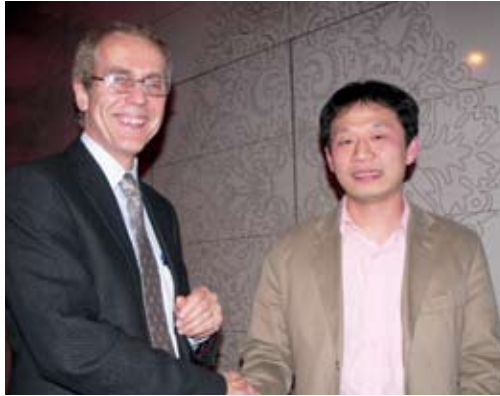
The Kaye Ibbertson Award was presented to **Paul Baldock** from The Garvan Institute in Sydney



Phil Sambrook and John Eisman for Paul Baldock

Sol Posen Award

The Sol Posen Award was presented to **Haotian Feng** from The University of Western Australia



Phil Sambrook and Haotian Feng

Wyeth Young Investigator Awards

Three young investigator awards were presented to:

Sarah Brennan, from the University of Sydney, who's poster was titled "*Role of N-linked glycosylation in setting the Ca²⁺ sensitivity of the extracellular calcium-sensing receptor*"



Philip Sambrook Sarah Brennan

Julie Quach, from St Vincent's Institute in Melbourne, who's poster was titled "*Identification of genes regulated by PTH and gp130 cytokines in differentiating osteoblasts*"



Phil Sambrook and Jack Martin for Julie Quach



Phil Sambrook and Haotian Feng

Stuart McDonald, from Latrobe University in Victoria, who's poster was titled "*Transient upregulation of certain smooth muscle-associated proteins in osteoprogenitor cells of early, soft fracture callus: implications for the fracture repair process*"

ANZBMS
GRATEFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGES:

Amgen

Eli Lilly Australia

Hologic

Immuno

Key Pharmaceuticals

Medtel

Merck Sharp & Dohme
(Australia)

Novartis Pharmaceuticals

Reckitt Benckiser

Sanofi-Aventis

Servier Laboratories

Surgical Synergies

Thomson Scientific Instruments

Wyeth

REPORT FOR THE CHRISTINE AND T JACK MARTIN RESEARCH TRAVEL GRANT 2007

I was very fortunate to be awarded the 2007 Christine and T Jack Martin Research Travel Grant at the 17th ANZBMS annual meeting in Queenstown. This award has allowed me to travel to Europe for the first time. My main destination was the Botnar Research Centre in Oxford, UK, however I also briefly visited Stuart Ralston's group in Edinburgh, and attended the ECTS meeting in Barcelona, and the Bone Research Society and British Orthopaedic Research Society joint meeting in Manchester. Overall it was a wonderful trip that allowed me to meet a lot of other researchers, and learn new experimental techniques.

Botnar Research Centre

My main destination in Europe was Dr Philippa Hulley's lab in the Botnar Research Centre, University of Oxford. Botnar is a purpose-built research facility for musculoskeletal research and is part of the Nuffield Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. It houses a number of research groups who investigate different aspects of bone and joint biology. Philippa's group studies signal transduction in osteoblasts, chondrocytes and tenocytes, with research focussing on pathological processes in osteoarthritis, rotator cuff injury, multiple myeloma, and mechanisms of bone growth in distraction osteogenesis. The interests of other research groups in the Botnar include osteoclast biology, osteoarthritis genetics, bisphosphonate mechanisms of action, tissue engineering and orthopaedic biomedical engineering.

We have recently established a collaboration with Philippa, Dr Zhidao Xia, and Professor Graham Russell aiming to develop bone cell cultures in three dimensional collagen scaffolds that provide a structure similar to the in vivo environment and are suitable for testing anabolic factors, and for investigating genes potentially involved in Paget's disease. Researchers in the Department of Materials at the University of Oxford produce scaffolds from type I collagen suitable for growth of bone cells. We believe these scaffolds have the potential to provide a better system than two dimensional cultures for examining the effects of various factors on osteoblastic cell signalling, differentiation, and matrix production. I worked with Philippa, Dao, and a postdoctoral researcher in the lab, Rachel Locklin, to set up cultures on scaffolds with primary cultures of mesenchymal stromal cells which they grow from bone marrow taken from orthopaedic surgery of patients at the nearby Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre. A major part of my PhD project has been examining differential gene expression in osteoblasts from Paget's disease bone lesions, and one of the significantly upregulated genes was the intermediate filament keratin 18. I have recently been investigating the effects of overexpressing keratin 18 using an adenoviral vector. Given the potential effects changes in a cytoskeletal protein could have on cell shape and adherence, we thought it would be interesting to examine the effects of overexpressing this protein in three dimensional cultures. I was able to efficiently transduce the mesenchymal stromal cells, and these were then grown on collagen scaffolds. These experiments exposed me to a number of new

techniques which we do not routinely perform in our lab, including confocal microscopy and cryosectioning. I also prepared some samples for electron microscopy and had an opportunity to assist with examining some of my samples using scanning electron microscopy. We are now in a position to be able to repeat much of this work in Auckland. In addition, we performed co-culture experiments using transwell plates which I also hope to repeat in Auckland. I also visited the Department of Materials on a couple of occasions, and met Asma Yahyouche, the student who is making the scaffolds for us, and her supervisor Jan Czernuszka, and saw their equipment and facilities, and the methods they use to make scaffolds.

I presented my PhD research to a group at Botnar, including Dr Matthew Kemp, an expatriate New Zealander from the MRC Functional Genetics Unit at Oxford who has extensive experience working with intermediate filaments, and this produced useful discussions. I was also fortunate to be present for the Nuffield Department of Orthopaedic Surgery research day. It was fascinating to hear the range of research going on at Botnar, particularly the genetics and bioengineering research, which is quite different from what we do in Auckland, and utilises very different methodology to most of the research I am familiar with.

I very much enjoyed my time at Botnar. It was great to get some experience in a different lab, and working in a smaller institute was nice. While Philippa's research group is much smaller than our group in Auckland, the centre is quite small and friendly, so it was easy to meet people from other groups within the department. It was great to meet the researchers from Professor Nick Athanasou's group, one of whom was also doing research on Paget's disease. I enjoyed staying in Oxford, with the extensive history, and had dinner at Christ Church one night. I also knew Dr Andrew Stockley, senior tutor at Brasenose College from when he was principal of my undergraduate hall of residence, and had dinner with him and the principal of the college Professor Roger Cashmore, a successful physicist, and very interesting and entertaining man one evening.

ECTS Meeting, Barcelona

I attended the 35th European Symposium on Calcified Tissues, the premier European bone meeting, in Barcelona, Spain, which attracted almost 2900 delegates. I presented a poster at this meeting, which yielded some interesting discussions. The scientific program was very interesting, with many excellent talks and posters. I found this meeting much more manageable, and less overwhelming, than the ASBMR meeting which I attended in 2007, as there were generally only two sessions at once, meaning you could attend a wide range of sessions. There were a number of presentations about Paget's disease, one demonstrating that patients with SQSTM1 mutations develop disease earlier, and more extensively than those without, and tend to have higher rates of complications such as bone deformity and

fractures. There was also an interesting presentation about mice with a 'knock-in' of the SQSTM1 P392L mutation, which develop lytic lesions in their limbs, and whose cells show increased osteoclastogenesis in vitro. There were also interesting sessions on osteoimmunology, osteoclast-osteoblast relationships, bone metastases and notch signalling. I also enjoyed the hot topics session, particularly the presentation about the role of microRNAs in bone formation.

One of my PhD supervisors, Jill Cornish, and my advisors Ian Reid and Tim Cundy were also at the meeting which gave me a great opportunity to touch base with them. I was also fortunate to meet Professor Roland Baron who has a research group at Harvard University in Boston who do a lot of interesting research on signal transduction in bone cells.

BRS/BORS Meeting, Manchester

At the completion of my stay at the Botnar Research Centre I attended the Bone Research Society and British Orthopaedic Research Society joint meeting in Manchester with most of the members of Philippa Hulley's research group, and a number of other researchers from the Nuffield Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. This was a much smaller and more intimate meeting than the ECTS, and there were a number of interesting sessions, including a new investigators session entitled, 'Shaping your future in skeletal biology', which, although targeted specifically at a British audience, still presented a lot of useful information about developing an academic career. There were interesting presentations on a variety of topics including osteoclastogenesis in Paget's disease, changes in sclerostin expression in osteocytes in response to loading, effects of hypoxia on osteoclasts, the effects of inhibiting Dkk1 on osteolytic bone disease in multiple myeloma, and a variety of aspects of tissue engineering. There was also ample time for poster viewing and discussion.

While this was certainly an interesting and worthwhile meeting, it certainly made me appreciate the high standard of both invited speakers and local work that is presented at the ANZBMS annual meetings. I was also reminded of what a privilege it was to receive this grant, especially considering the prestigious research travel grant, the Barbara Mawer Visiting Fellowship, awarded by the BRS is only worth up to £3000.

University of Edinburgh

I made a brief visit to the Rheumatic Diseases Unit at the University of Edinburgh, and presented my research to the group there. Unfortunately Stuart Ralston wasn't available on the days I was in Edinburgh, but I met most of the other members of the research group, and Michael Hooper from Sydney who was also visiting at the time. It was great to be able to have a look at their lab facilities and see the sorts of techniques they are using. In particular, Dr Javier Rojas and Dr Omar Albagha showed me interesting results from some of the research they are doing on mouse models of Paget's disease and related diseases.

Summary

Overall this trip was an amazing experience for me, giving me an excellent opportunity to meet scientists from all over the world, and exposing me to a number of new research techniques. Being in Europe also gave me a chance to visit some of my cousins who are currently living in London, Moscow, and northern Italy, and visit Laura Tinti who visited our lab earlier in the year from the University of Siena in Tuscany. I would like to extend a huge thank you to Jack Martin and the ANZBMS for awarding me this grant, Amgen for providing the funding, and Philippa Hulley and all the other people I worked with in Oxford for being such good hosts.



Brya Matthews
University of Auckland

IOF WORLD CONGRESS

IOF World Congress on Osteoporosis to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, December 3-7, 2008

The next IOF world congress is being held in December in Bangkok. From discussions at the board and with the committee members organising this meeting, it seems registrations from ANZBMS appear lower than hoped for. Can you please consider coming to this meeting.

IOF has been very supportive of our society in the past and one of the hopes for the future is for us to host a world congress in Australia. You will see from the program that there is a wide range of topics being discussed at the meeting and I'm sure you will enjoy the venue.

**Prof Ego Seeman, IOF board member
Member of the Committee of Scientific
Advisors**

PROFESSOR PIERRE DELMAS

It is with regret that we advise you that Professor Pierre Delmas passed away on Wednesday this week after a prolonged illness.

Pierre was known and loved by many-clinicians, academicians, administrators, and patients alike. The contributions that Pierre made to the field are legion. Pierre was Professor of Medicine at the University in Lyon, where he also headed an INSERM research unit. But perhaps Pierre's major achievement and gift to the field is the International Osteoporosis Foundation, which has become the major global organization in the field for clinicians, scientists and patients. Pierre founded the organization out of the European Foundation for Osteoporosis and steered its growth as its President, until ill health forced him to retire earlier this year. In addition, Pierre has made major contributions to almost every aspect of metabolic bone disease, and especially to osteoporosis. Pierre's work helped us understand the pathogenesis of the disease, its risk factors and its treatment. He used almost every tool available to him from biochemistry through bone densitometry to histomorphometry in an attempt to first understand the disease and then educate others at all levels, ultimately with the goal of improving the management of the disease worldwide. A special edition of Osteoporosis International dedicated to both Pierre's memory and his achievements will be published shortly outlining some of the

many components of Pierre's contributions to our field.

In addition to his seminal collection of work, Pierre will be remembered by many of his colleagues around the world for his intelligence, lucidity of thought, insightfulness, enthusiasm, and perhaps most of all for his biting wit. He was an entertaining and forceful orator and an excellent educator, much sought after as a speaker at international, national, and local meetings. Pierre gave of his time generously, and was also a strong supporter of ANZBMS frequently attending our conferences and was instrumental in the 2006 combined meeting with the IOF.

Pierre is survived by his wife, Debra, and his two children, Gauthier and Olivia. We extend our sincere condolences to Deborah, Gauthier and Olivia.



Pierre Delmas with colleagues at the ANZBMS/IOF Meeting in Port Douglas in 2006

REPORT ON STUDY LEAVE, INSERM UNIT 831, LYON 2007-2008. CHRISTINE AND T JACK MARTIN RESEARCH TRAVEL GRANT

Introduction

Like the decline of bone mass with age, my study leave had its antecedents 20 years earlier. In 1987, studying the development of microdamage in bone during doctoral studies in Brisbane was akin to being a scientific castaway. Frost's work on microdamage, circa 1960, was still equated with artifact in mainstream skeletal science, Carter and Hayes had undertaken classical fatigue studies of cortical bone and David Burr had recently published original observations on the association between microcracks and resorption cavities. Even our own attempts to engender microdamage in rat bone seemed somewhat arcane. One of few studies of microdamage in bone tissue had been published in French, and I needed education in methods of studying bone tissue. Under the guise of scientific discovery, I therefore undertook a four-week tour of France and visited the laboratory of Professor Pierre Meunier. Unfortunately, Professor Meunier was absent on conference leave, but Pierre Delmas, recently appointed Professor of Medicine at the University of Lyon, introduced me to Dr Monique Arlot, who gave me a tour of the laboratories at the Faculté de Médecine Alexis Carrel (now Faculté de Médecine Laennec), and then shared with me their methods of bone histomorphometry. Twenty years later, motivated by new techniques for investigating bone quality, and funding from the Christine and T Jack Martin Research Travel Grant, I returned, déjà vu, to Lyon to work with Pierre Delmas and Monique Arlot. Compared to the long-term professional relationships he held with his clinical colleagues and mentors, my interactions with Pierre exposed the tip of an iceberg. But that tip had clarity of purpose and insight to elucidate the pathogenesis of fragility fracture. The collaboration was aimed at studying fragility in vertebral bodies, but also sadly witnessed the departure of these two mentors; Monique to retirement and Pierre to the ravages of disease.

INSERM Unit 831

In 2007, the program grant for INSERM unit 831 (previously Unit 403) had just been renewed for a 7-year period. Pierre took the bold step of putting bone quality on the map and called the new program "Qualité Osseuse dans L'Ostéoporose" or bone quality in osteoporosis. The mission was to investigate 3 principle themes: in vitro and ex vivo study of the role of matrix properties, microarchitecture and mineralization on bone fragility; clinical evaluation of the determinants of fracture risk; and, effects of therapeutic agents on bone quality. In addition, the unit manages numerous industry contracts, and Pierre also managed a separate institute, Association Prévention des Maladies Osseuses, principally charged with management of the longitudinal cohort studies:

The OFELY cohort (recruited 1992) is a representative sample of the female population, comprising 1000 women from 30-90 years of age;

The MINOS cohort (recruited 1995) comprises of 1040 old men of 19-85 years of age of which 750 old men of more than 50 years of age were followed over 7.5 years; and,

The STRAMBO cohort (recruited 2005), a monocentric

prospective epidemiologic study of bone fragility in approximately 1000 men from 20 to 85 years of age.

The laboratory (Faculté de Médecine Laennec) is multidisciplinary enabling, in the one location, use of leading edge technologies for analyses of collagen biochemistry and in vitro study of its resorption, quantitative bone histomorphometry integrating new measurement techniques of microcracks (confocal microscopy) and osteocytic apoptosis, analysis of the degree of mineralization by quantitative microradiography and of its hardness by microindentation, analysis of maturation of mineral substance and bone matrix by Fourier transformed infrared microspectroscopy (FTIRM), analysis of bone architecture by high resolution computed tomography (micro CT and micro MRI applied in vitro and in vivo), biological markers, and biomechanical analyses of bone tissue. At Hôpital Edouard Herriot there are the clinical assessment tools for densitometry, QCT (Xtreme CT), pQCT, clinical biochemistry, and cell and molecular biology.

The Project

The principal aim of the study leave was to use these technologies to investigate the presence of microcracks and diffuse damage within the anterior cortical bone of human vertebrae, and to relate these data to the physical, biochemical and architectural characteristics of the cortex, adjacent trabeculae, and to the age and sex of the subjects from which samples were obtained. Other projects related to work in Brisbane were also undertaken concurrently.

Samples of the anterior cortex and adjacent trabeculae were bulk-stained in xylenol orange for determination of in vivo microcracks (Mdx) and then embedded in plastic and scanned using a Skyscan 1076 at a resolution of 18 μm , and sections cut for histology, Mdx and FTIRM analysis in the sagittal and transverse planes. Thick sections of this region were used for analysis of hardness, and the mean degree of mineralisation. Preliminary studies showed that the concept of a cortical shell composed of a wall of dense osteonal bone at a thickness of about 300-400 μm , is misleading. Among a range of vertebrae collected, only a small proportion demonstrated this typical characteristic, and there is a wide range from classical cortical bone, to highly fenestrated structures in which the "cortical bone" elements are indistinguishable from the adjacent trabeculae. We are investigating if this phenomenon is similar to the increase in endocortical porosity seen at other skeletal sites. Further, we demonstrated that, contrary to our hypothesis, the mean degree of mineralisation (DMB) and the Vickers micro-hardness (Hv) of the cortical bone was significantly lower than that of the adjacent trabeculae, and its mineral heterogeneity index (HI) higher. This difference between cortical and trabecular bone is not observed for the iliac crest (Boivin et al., JCEM 2003; Bone 2008) which also has a relatively low microdamage (Mdx) burden (Chapurlat et al JBMR, 2007). These differences could be the result of the different loading at the two sites. It also strongly suggests that

remodelling in the cortical bone of vertebral bodies is higher than that of the trabeculae, which could also be a result of load sharing by the cortex and its associated Mdx burden, which was observed and is being quantified.

Outcomes

Based on the laboratory projects, one paper has been submitted to Osteoporosis International (Forwood M and Vashishth D. Translational Aspects of Bone Quality: Vertebral Fractures, Cortical Shell, Microdamage and Glycation), and one abstract was presented at the ASBMR Annual Meeting in Montreal. Papers are in preparation for projects on the vertebral cortex (2), and trabecular bone (1), influence of bisphosphonate treatment on bone quality of the iliac crest (1); influence of radiation sterilisation on collagen cross-links in allograft bone (1), influence of loading mode on microdamage morphology (1).

Other outcomes include:

Competitive appointment as a Visiting Professor in the University of Lyon in 2007-2008, the only appointment made in Lyon out of 16 National appointments in France by the French Minister for Higher Education.

Invited consultant to European Commission evaluation and audit of the ERA Mobility portal for researchers, Deloitte Consultants, Paris.

Invited member of PhD Defense Jury, Dorina Ianc, Université Blaise Pascale, Clermont Ferrand.

Arthritis Australia Grant-In-Aid "Contribution of the Cortical Shell to Vertebral Fracture". Forwood MR and Delmas PD. \$15,000

Invited Lectures:

Université Jean Monnet, St Etienne. INSERM Unité 890 – Laurence Vico Director. "Si Galilée était vivant aujourd'hui: Les adaptations du tissu osseux de Pise à Brisbane"

Nestlé Research Centre, Physical Performance and Mobility Laboratories, Lausanne Switzerland. "Effective application of pre-clinical models for skeletal research".

Conclusion

The period of study leave from April 2007 to May 2008 could not have been undertaken without the support of the ANZBMS Christine and T Jack Martin Research Travel Grant. This grant, and the flexibility it affords for contribution to travel and maintenance, is a unique funding vehicle not accessible from traditional sources. The objectives of the program have largely been met, and the opportunity to spend 12 months back in the laboratory provided long-needed training in techniques for assessment of bone quality (and R & R!). The opportunity to undertake this program with a wonderful group of investigators in Pierre's laboratory, to work with them to create new collaborations and friendships in a beautiful French city was a rare opportunity. I am also full of gratitude to have the privilege of working with Pierre for the past year, and to experience at close hand his brilliance and influence, and was humbled by his strength of character and courage as he raged against the dying of the light and continued to do so until the end. It was with immense sadness that I left Lyon having watched a man so full of life, activity and intellect be gradually eroded by lung cancer.



Monique Arlot, PDD and yours truly at the retirement party for Monique, March 2008.

ANZBMS AWARDS AND GRANTS

Joint IBMS/ANZBMS Meeting, Sydney Convention Centre

Application form available from the ANZBMS website: <http://anzbms.org.au/resources/grants/index.cfm>

- ANZBMS Travel Grants
- Amgen ANZBMS Outstanding Abstract Awards
- Roger Melick Young Investigator Award
- Christopher & Margie Nordin Young Investigator Poster Award
- Kaye Ibbertson Award for Metabolic Bone Disease
- Sol Posen Research Award
- Christine & T. Jack Martin Research Travel Grant 2009

The deadline for all the awards - Friday 19th December 2008

Deadline for Christine & T. Jack Martin Research Travel Grant – 1st March 2009

JOINT IBMS/ANZBMS SCIENTIFIC MEETING

21-25th March 2009 at the Sydney Convention Centre

Now OPEN: Registration and Abstract Submission

The Society would like to remind you that the deadline for Abstract Submission is approaching for the 2nd Joint Meeting of the International Bone & Mineral Society and the Australian and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Society.

Applications are submitted online from the conference web page, www.ibms2009.com with the submission deadline of December 12, 2008. Submission instructions and guidelines can be found on the conference webpage.

Be sure to register early to receive the \$150 discount. ANZBMS Members receive an additional \$160 off of that.

Critical Dates:

12th December 2008: Early Bird Registration Deadline

12th December 2008: Closing submission date for all abstract submitters wishing to be considered for orals or plenary posters.

30th January 2009: closing submission date for all abstract submitters wishing to be considered for poster only submissions.

Scientific Program

The scientific program is in place and we are happy to announce that we have some of the top names in the bone field. Many of our speakers are regular contributors to BoneKEY®.

- Judith Adams - University of Manchester (Manchester, UK)
- Tamara Alliston University of California, San Francisco (San Francisco, USA)
- Norio Amizuka Niigata University (Niigata Japan)
- F.H. Anderson Southampton General Hospital (Southampton, UK)
- Tim Arnett University College London (London, UK)
- Paolo Bianco Unversita La Sapiena (Rome, Italy)
- Lynda Bonewald University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry (Kansas City, USA)
- Mary Bouxsein Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (Boston, USA)
- Steven Brown MRC Mammalian Genetics Unit (Harwell, UK)
- Jane Cauley University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh USA)
- Jacqueline Close Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute (Sydney, Australia)
- Steve Cummings San Francisco Coordinating Center (San Francisco, USA)
- Jian Q. Feng University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Dentistry (Kansas City, USA)
- Theresa Guise University of Virginia (Charlottesville, USA)
- Himadri Gupta Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces (Potsdam, Germany)
- David Kallmes Mayo Clinic (Rochester, USA)
- Shigeaki Kato University of Tokyo (Tokyo, Japan)
- Lance Lanyon Royal Veterinary College (London, UK)
- David Little Children's Hospital at Westmead (Westmead, Australia)
- Jack Martin St.Vincent's Institute of Medical Research (Melbourne, Australia)
- Heather McKay University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada)
- Tuan Nguyen Garvan Institute of Medical Research (Sydney, Australia)
- Sandy Paterson Tom Baker Cancer Centre (Calgary, Canada)
- Stuart Ralston Western General Hospital (Edinburgh, UK)
- Frank Rauch Shriners Hospital for Children (Montreal, Canada)
- Ian Reid University of Auckland (Auckland, New Zealand)
- Robert Ritchie University of California, Berkeley (Berkeley, USA)
- Vicki Rosen Harvard School of Dental Medicine (Boston, USA)
- Natalie Sims St.Vincent's Institute of Medical Research (Melbourne, Australia)
- Anna Spagnoli University of North Carolina Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill, USA)
- Shu Takeda Tokyo Medical and Dental University (Tokyo, Japan)
- Dwight Towler Washington University School of Medicine (St. Louis, USA)
- Andre Uitterlinden Erasmus MC (Rotterdam, The Netherlands) Yingzi Yang National Human Genome Research Institute (Bethesda, USA)

For a complete list of the speakers, topics, workshops and satellites, and for registration visit our website at www.ibms2009.com



**The Annual General Meeting of the
Australian & New Zealand Bone & Mineral Society
will be held on Friday 29th August 2008
Hilton on the Park, Melbourne, Victoria
5.00pm**

1. Welcome to ANZBMS Members

Natalie Sims, M. Seibel, Rebecca Mason, A. D. Conigrave, Gustav Duque, Rob Daly, Tuan Nguyen, Rory Clifton-Bligh, Philip Clifton-Bligh, Stella Foley, Dawn Dore, Sarah Brennan, Mahvash Khan, Julie Pasco, Margaret Henry, Sharon Brennan, Julian Quinn, Don Gutteridge, Ego Seeman, Graeme Jones, Jianming Lin, Alison Evans, Jenny Wormalk, Mira Bellon, Peter Ebeling, Sol Posen, Sonia Stanton, Roger Price, Jian Sheng Chen, P.C. Tong, Hee-Chang Mun, Maureen Watson, Brya Matthews, Lena Ling Ashika Chhana, Matthew Gillespie, John Eisman, Judy Stenmark, Nicole Walsh, Wendy Kelly, Andy Wu, Paul Baldock, Michelle McDonald, Jiake Xu, Haotian Feng, Kong Wah Ng, Ian Reid, Tim Cundy, Jack Martin, Robert Kalah, Hong Zhou, Colin Dunstan, Vicky Kartsogiannis, Dana Bluic, Jackie Center, David Findlay, Christine Rodda, Hasnawati Saleh, Julie Quach, Jonathan Gooi, Mark Forwood, Kerrie Sanders, Don Perry-Keene, Michael Hooper, Jill Cornish, Roger Zebaze, Eleanor Mackie, Richard Prince, Howard Morris, Paul Anderson, Peter O'Loughlin, Gerald Atkins, Craig Munns, Gaele Ducher, Philip Sambrook, Peter Nash, Nick Fazzalari.

2. Apologies

Mark Kotowicz

**3. Confirmation of the Minutes
Annual General Meeting, Queenstown, New Zealand
11th September 2007**

Minutes from the Annual General Meeting that was held on 11th September 2007, Queenstown, New Zealand were accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Colin Dunstan, Seconded: Tim Cundy

4. President's Report (Philip Sambrook)

The last 12 months have been another busy year for Council, which I am pleased to report on. We are now in the second year of a joint research fund initiative with Osteoporosis Australia (OA) to take grant support for bone research in Australia and NZ to a new level. During 2008, ANZBMS agreed to support the salary of the new OA fundraiser for a further 12 months. Maria Chilcott, who had a very productive first year in 2007 decided to move on to other things and has now been replaced by Mr David Evans. Judy Stenmark and Peter Ebeling have been driving forces behind this joint venture and the research fund has been successful in securing the following funding during 2008:

1. Macquarie Bank Fellowship for 2 years – Dr Charles Chen
2. Myer Foundation Scholarship for 2 years – Dr Belal Khan
3. Wicking Trust – ANZ Trustees – A/Prof Robin Daly
4. Trustco Scholarship – Rosie Meng

I am very pleased to report on the continued success of the ANZBMS Densitometry Course to which Roger Price, Nick Pocock and Chris Schultz continue dedicating an amazing amount of time to its running and the Course is now an established feature of the Society calendar and a revenue generator for our Society.

During 2008, the Society held two new events which were very successful. The first was an idea of Ego Seeman's for a registrar's Bone Weekend. This was held in Melbourne in April with the support of Amgen and had about 80 registrar attendees. The calibre of the program and speakers was worthy of an international meeting. Professor Jack Martin gave an excellent speech on his research career on the Saturday evening. This speech has been recorded and will form part of the ANZBMS archives. Then in June we held a combined meeting with the Australian Rheumatology Association in Sydney with the support of Servier. This meeting was focused on the Bone Joint Interface and was also very well attended. It is hoped both of these events will become annual fixtures.



The Society Membership has grown from 64 members in 1992, to 505 members in 2008. During the year, I have been assisted tremendously by the members of an excellent Council for which I am very grateful. I have continued to confidently delegate many matters to Roger Price, Rebecca Mason, Matthew Gillespie, Mark Kotowicz, Nick Fazzlari, Tim Cundy and Peter Nash. The Council works very well together and we are fortunate to have superb clinical and basic research expertise on the Council enabling the Society to function effectively. Our Society would not enjoy its success and smooth organisational operation without the efficient and diligent work that Ivone Johnson, our Secretariat performs. Our President-Elect is Rebecca Mason, Honorary Secretary is Matthew Gillespie and Roger Price is the Honorary Treasurer. We are continuing to implement the Strategic Plan for the Society, which we established over the last two years. Matthew Gillespie has been the driving force behind this initiative, which we have really appreciated. Thanks also to Michael Hooper for his ongoing representation on behalf of the ANZBMS on the Specialty Board for the RACP.

The 2008 Melbourne meeting, held in conjunction with the Endocrine Society of Australia, has been wonderfully supported with over 300 delegates. There are:

121 Poster presentations

15 Invited talks

28 Oral presentations

2 Meet-the-Professor sessions

Matthew Gillespie and Ego Seeman have been the primary organisers of the scientific programme for this meeting.

Many thanks, Matthew and Ego.

Our Society has become closely aligned with the International Bone and Mineral Society, with two Council members, myself and Matthew Gillespie, being on its Board. In March 2009, ANZBMS will be combining with the IBMS for a joint scientific meeting in Darling Harbour, Sydney.

Finally, as many of you will know from our recent email correspondence to members, it was with regret that we advised that Professor Pierre Delmas passed away in July after a prolonged illness. The contributions that Pierre made to the bone field are legion and Pierre was a strong supporter of ANZBMS, frequently attending our conferences. He was instrumental in the 2006 combined meeting with the IOF. The Society has agreed to fund a joint scholarship in his name with Osteoporosis Australia.

4.2 Future Meetings

4.2.2 Joint IBMS/ANZBMS ASM 2009, Sydney, 21-25th March

Early Bird Registration and Abstract Submission Deadline: 12 Dec 2008

Website: www.ibms2009.com

4.2.3 ANZBMS Bone Weekend

This was a very successful meeting with 80 registrants attending. ANZBMS have approached Amgen again. Probable date for this meeting could be in April or May 09.

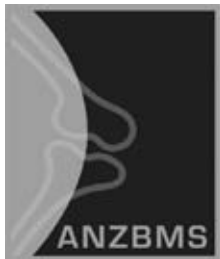
BoneJoint Interface Meeting, Sydney, June 08

This was also a very successful meeting with over 80 attending. Servier will fund this meeting again.

5. Reports of Committees

5.1 Programme Organising Committee (M. Gillespie)

The scientific program comprises three days of scientific presentations, including 22 invited plenary presentations, 2 meet the expert presentations, 30 free oral presentations from abstracts and 12 poster presentations. The first session of the meeting was held in conjunction with the Endocrine Society of Australia, and this was an ideal partnership for both societies to share effectively international speakers. In order to maximize the program and audience participation there will only be two concurrent sessions of basic



and clinical presentations. Short oral presentations have been incorporated into the major program with selected orals being delivered in relevant sessions. We have included particular emphasis upon stress fractures, the biology of the osteocyte, mathematical modeling of bone remodeling and clinical sessions on osteoporosis and metabolic diseases.

Registered attendance at the meeting as of August 29 is 287 full delegates and 19 day registrants bringing the total number of delegates to over 300. This is a pleasing outcome for the society given that there will be a joint meeting of the ANZBMS and IBMS in March 2009, and demonstrates the depth and activity of bone and mineral research in Australia.

We are grateful to our many invited speakers, but in particular to Professor John Bilezikian, Professor Mitch Schaffler, Professor Shigeaki Kato and Professor Roger Bouillon for their participation in the meeting in multiple ways. To the local presenters, thank you for your willingness to be involved and participation. The excellence of their contributions has added significantly to the scientific standard of the meeting, enhancing its breadth of interest and educational value.

The success of the ASM is, of course, due to the generous support of all our sponsors and exhibitors. We are especially indebted this year to our Platinum sponsors (Merck Sharpe & Dohme, Proctor and Gamble Pharmaceuticals, Sanof Aventis and Servier) and Gold Sponsor (Amgen) and Silver Sponsors (Eli Lilly and Company and Novartis) as well as Osteoporosis Australia and our other sponsors and exhibitors (Hologic Inc, Immuno, Key Pharmaceuticals, Medtel, Reckitt Benckiser, Surgical Synergies and Thomson Scientific Instruments).

I also thank the professional organizational team headed by Lara Birchby and Ivone Johnson for their professional approach, as well as the Local Organising Committee, chaired by Natalie Sims. This year's ASM would not have come together without their commitment and unquestioning support.

My thanks are extended to Lara Birchby (The Meeting People Pty Ltd) for all her work in controlling abstract submission, registrations and liaising with the venues used for this meeting. Also to Mark Stevens for his continued excellent audiovisual support, and to Anne Kovach for maintaining the web site for the meeting. One initiative this year is to webcast the plenary lectures

5.2 Professional Affairs Committee (M. Kotowicz)

Calcium Position Paper

The Society's Calcium Position Paper was initially rejected by the Medical Journal of Australia. After an appeal to the editor, we have been invited to resubmit and a revised document will be forwarded to the journal before the end of the week.

Musculoskeletal Curriculum

Development of a national curriculum for medical schools on musculoskeletal disorders is underway. The draft curriculum has been placed on a website earlier this month for comment by curriculum development committee members, initially. Curriculum development for the Royal Australasian college of Physicians (RACP) for Basic Physician Trainees and Advanced Trainees in Endocrinology has not progressed. The SAC in Endocrinology has nominated a working party for the Endocrinology Curriculum that has yet to meet. It would appear that curriculum development in other subspecialties currently have higher priority for the RACP.

Workforce

The Endocrine Society has been lobbying the Commonwealth Government for additional funding for training positions in Endocrinology. Currently, training positions are hospital-based and funded by State Departments of Health. As endocrinology services are largely ambulatory and generate little income for Public Hospitals there is little incentive for Health Department to fund registrar training posts. The Endocrine Society wishes to develop estimates of current workforce and increasing demands for endocrine services over the coming years. Major demands will arise from age-related disorders such as diabetes and osteoporosis and with this in mind a survey of current workforce will soon be circulated requesting members to estimate the proportion of time spent in clinical management of bone disorders.



Fellowships in Metabolic Bone Disease

The SAC in Endocrinology has given its support to this concept. Other SACs within the College have yet to be approached. The recent round of funding for the Extended Specialists Training Program (ESTP) that might support training positions in Metabolic Bone Disease does not appear to have funded any positions that might be suitable for these Fellowships.

Register MD/PHD Supervisors

The Advanced Trainee Representative on the SAC in Endocrinology has expressed the desire to set up a register of supervisors on the RACP website to assist those seeking to undertake a postgraduate degree to make contact with prospective supervisors. Members of ANZBMS will soon be circulated with a questionnaire to ascertain their research interests, contact details and to give an indication of potential projects that might be available in their department.

ANZBMS Representation on RACP Adult Division Council

Michael Hooper has been elected to the chair of this committee leaving a casual vacancy in the position for the ANZBMS Representative for the balance of his term. Professor Peter Ebeling will take on this role. The committee meets at the RACP headquarters in Sydney four times a year.

5.3 Therapeutics Committee (P. Sambrook)

The last 12 months have again been busy period for the Committee. Issues like osteonecrosis of the jaw and rare side effects of osteoporosis medication such as atypical fractures continue to dominate the media and cause concern for patients. Our website contains updated information on osteonecrosis of the jaw including a downloadable audio file that has recently been recorded in conjunction with the Australian Dental Association to provide a 'bone' perspective and information to all dentists in Australia. It has been suggested that the Society might consider setting up a Registry of patients who develop such rare side effects to provide additional information to government and industry and the Committee is considering this.

During the year, the National Prescribing Service has issued a number of documents and practice guidelines about the treatment of osteoporosis. Members of the Committee have had meetings with representatives of the National Prescribing Service and suggested it would be helpful to develop such documents in the future in conjunction with ANZBMS. This suggestion was favorably received.

The Committee has also provided advice to industry about potential new treatment indications for osteoporosis therapy in Australia including anabolic therapy, treatment of corticosteroid osteoporosis and new intermittent treatment regimens that may enhance compliance.

Recently, several members of the Committee met with for the PBAC and industry representatives to discuss a number of matters including the current PBS eligibility criteria for anti-resorptive therapy and the applicability of BMD T scores, the value of early BMD testing including case finding versus screening and the role of calcium and vitamin D in preventing fractures. The need for a high dose Vitamin D preparation was an issue that was actively discussed. It is hoped there would be further discussions with the PBAC in progressing this issue.

5.4 Densitometry sub-committee (R. Price)

Composition of the Committee

This consists of Nick Pocock and Michael Hooper as Clinical Consultants, with Roger Price (Perth) and Chris Schultz (Adelaide) as Co-Chairs. Ben Khoo (Perth, recently completed PhD in the area of structural geometry and hip fracture) has also been appointed. His main task will be to co-ordinate the "advanced" course (see below). Ms Alison Evans, Technologist-in-Charge, Bone Densitometry, Endocrine Centre of Excellence, Austin Health has been unanimously nominated for the Committee (see below).

ANZBMS Clinical Bone Densitometry Courses

During the period since the last Annual Report (Queenstown Meeting, September 2007), the following ANZBMS Clinical Bone Densitometry Courses have been run: Sydney 10-11 November-50 registrations and Melbourne 5-6th April-55 registrants.



The next Course will be conducted in (South) Brisbane on 08-09 of November 2008 at the Mater Hospital, Raymond Terrace. Please see the web link at the end of this report (under "6"), for further details, including the allocation of CPD Points.

It is the intention of the course coordinators to continue to run 2-3 courses per year in Australia and New Zealand, depending on demand. Osteoporosis New Zealand (ONZ, powered by the very effective Julie Gallagher) and ANZBMS are again teaming up to provide a Course in New Zealand in May 2009. Again, it is a pleasure to see a trans-Tasman expert faculty at work! Please check the website for further details.

Plans are also well-advanced for an international collaborative clinical densitometry course, to be run as a satellite event of the Joint International Bone & Mineral Society (IBMS, formerly ICCRH) & ANZBMS Meeting, to be held in Sydney on 21-25 March, 2009. More details will soon be mounted on the Meeting website <http://www.ibms2009.com>.

ANZBMS courses continue to run at a modest profit, reflecting the primary objective of the Society to provide a service to members and others. The registration cost is being held to below \$AUD500, despite the significant resources required to run the course, particularly the need to mount three separate "hands-on" workshops staffed by experienced technologists and clinicians – one workshop for each major DXA manufacturer. Also, there are the excellent lunches and teas (included in the price!)

The committee is indebted to the Bone Densitometry Course Faculty (see web link), who are continuing to improve the Course. The content of the Course is recognised in every Australian state, and across the Tasman. Alison Evans, who is employed by the ANZBMS approximately one day per week, continues to make an outstanding contribution and is expected to join the Committee soon. Ivone Johnson, the powerhouse behind the corporate face of ANZBMS is again thanked for her input into organising Course registrations and maintaining financial records.

Advanced Bone Densitometry Course & Book

Both of these projects have proceeded slower than planned. This is despite the huge contribution made by Nikki Culton – unfortunately a few senior contributors are lagging in their assigned contributions to the book. The advanced course is also in need of a transfusion, and this is the main task of new committee member Ben Khoo to co-ordinate contributions from a range of leaders in the area of micro- & extreme-CT & MR, structural geometry, paediatric applications, synchrotron radiation etc.

Link to BMD resources on ANZBMS website

Important aspects of bone densitometry training and practice can be found at the link <http://www.anzbms.org.au/resources/DXA/index.cfm>. This leads to several resources, including quantitative tools that can be downloaded. Any questions concerning these can be directed to anzbms@racp.edu.au.

Voluntary Site Accreditation

In radiology or nuclear medicine practices, bone densitometry units can undergo accreditation as a part of a larger exercise of overall practice accreditation (egg; NATA-driven). However, this leaves some bone densitometry practices without a mechanism for accreditation, should they wish to proceed down this path. This year, ANZBMS has trialed an accreditation process based on the prescription provided on its website, at a major Victorian practice. The lessons learned from this exercise are being used to refine the procedure, prior to "roll-out".

5.5 Research Sub-committee (D. Findlay)

For my sins, I am back as Chair of the Research Sub-committee, although no longer on Council I will make just a few brief observations. It is good to be able to congratulate Professor Matthew Gillespie on his appointment as Director of Prince Henry's Medical Research Institute. In such a position, Matthew will be an even stronger champion for Musculoskeletal Research than he has already been. Collectively, we are grateful that the joint efforts of ANZBMS and Osteoporosis Australia led to the provision of 3 new



scholarships/fellowships in 2008, funded by the ANZ Trustees/Wicking Trust, Trustco in Western Australia and the Myer Foundation. I strongly encourage vigorous competition for these prestigious awards and for other society-sponsored opportunities, such as the Christine and Jack Martin Travel Fellowship. I encourage all eligible ANZBMS members to consider these wonderful career-enhancing options and for mentors and supervisors to be advocates of these.

As always, the indicators suggest that the research being conducted by members of ANZBMS continues to be of high quality. In particular, the work presented at the ASM is excellent and exciting! However, as I have said many times, it is important to remember that the sustainability of our major funding depends largely on our success at the NHMRC and ARC, and their New Zealand equivalents, and there fore on governmental decisions. It is essential that we all support those activities that will contribute to the ongoing development of bone research, and of the careers of those involved in this endeavour. There are a number of such activities, the first being to do what we do as well as possible so that Australian bone research stays at the forefront internationally. This will mean: creating a dialogue between clinicians and basic researchers to that the clinical problems that confront us are recognized; being passionate about doing good research and thinking about its application; recognizing our global competition and also the special advantages we have in Australia and New Zealand to collaborate within and across disciplines; supporting the lobbying of government to increase its investment in health and medical research in general, and bone-related research in particular.

With regard to lobbying activities, I draw attention to recent information from the ASMR, particularly the "Launch of Access Economics Exceptional Returns II":

"The ASMR has been working hard to gather the data for a strong evidence based case for increased funding to HMR. The ASMR commissioned Access Economics report "Exceptional Returns: The Value of Investing in Australian Health and Medical Research" was launched with the help of Sir Gus Nossal at the National Press Club in Canberra on June 4. The study follows the landmark 2003 report "Exceptional returns I" and estimates the economic value of Australian Investment in HMRR&D following the recent funding increases and includes case studies of 4 specific examples of well-being returns to Australia in diabetes, dementia, cancer, and indigenous health. I am please to report that the study demonstrates the continued excellent health and economic returns on investment in the Australian HMR sector, and has been extremely well received by all stakeholders.....For full report see: <http://www.asmr.org.au/breakingnews.html>"

In the near future, we need to ensure that Musculoskeletal (MS) Research is as visible as those disciplines mentioned above. We need to ensure that MS research matches, in vigour and excellence, the dimensions of the clinical problem that MS disease represents now and is projected to become. I wish you all a good year in obtaining funding, in continuing on with your work and success in having your plentiful and high quality manuscripts published.

6. Treasurer's Report (R. Price)

At the close of the 2007-2008 financial year, the Society maintains its sound financial position, increasing its total equity from \$588,299 (2006/7) to \$602,288, as confirmed by our Auditors (P. Gruchy & Co). the total cash on hand as of 30/06/2008 was \$767,239 (\$915,516 on 30/06/2007). However, each year, this result in particular is affected by income distributions from the annual scientific meetings (ASM). This is the main reason why the figure can vary significantly from its previous year's counterpart. Following Australian accounting standards the auditors have assigned ASM revenues to the year received, and expenditure to the year when committed. Consequently, the gross income and gross expenditure in respect of each ASM will be reflected in the profit and loss account rather than simply recognizing the net profit of each meeting. What this effectively means for the just completed financial year is that, so as not to give a false impression, the income from the 2008 ASM is treated as "income in advance" during 2007/8, and shown as a liability (ie; more relevant for the current financial year). However, for the purposes of comparison with previous years the 2007 Queenstown ANZBMS ASM yielded an audited profit of \$AUD24,472. For comparison, figures for previous ASMs are; 2006 \$109,000; 2005 \$115,000; 2004 \$25,341; 2003 \$40,609; 2002 \$77,928; 2001 \$24,556 and 2000 \$100,000. The organisers and PCO of the Queenstown Meeting are to be commended for the delivery of a profitable and outstanding scientific and interactive success, at a world-class location, whilst managing to embrace significant expenditure arising from travel grants.



A society such as ours does not exist primarily to accumulate wealth; however we must build a sustainable foundation, both for the purposes of income generation and as a buffer against fluctuating market forces. This year's steady result reflects that balance, held against the ongoing provision of a raft of services to members, as discussed below.

As noted in last year's Treasurer's Report, in addition to the 'flagship' ASM, the Society supports numerous services for its members. These include the Newsletter; Website; discounted student subscriptions, reduced journal subscriptions & conference registrations; plus various scholarships and awards (Christine & T Jack Martin Research Travel Grant, Roger Mellick and Chris & Margie Nordin Young Investigator Awards, Outstanding Abstract awards, PhD scholarship, Kaye Ibbertson Award, Sol Posen Award), as well as financial support for 6 Life Members to attend ASMs. For this ASM, the Society was able to support \$18,000 worth of travel subsidies (mostly to younger members), out of a total of 500 members.

In 2006, the Society partnered with Osteoporosis Australia (OA) to set up a joint Research Fund focused on ANZBMS membership interests. The contribution from ANZBMS was \$65,455, with a further being provided \$60,000 in 2007/8. OA has an outstanding record of fundraising and support for osteoporosis and related research, and this is exemplified in the contents of this year's OA report to this Meeting. ANZBMS will continue to strive to build this partnership, contributing financially when possible.

For some years, ANZBMS has had an established and growing role in clinical education in disciplines impacted by bone. Activities include the Clinical Update Day, (held in conjunction with OA), the Paediatric Day, both traditionally run in association with the ASM, the Bone Weekends, the Clinical Bone Densitometry courses and the Biomedical Imaging courses. Though all aim primarily to provide a service, they are also profitable for the Society, or else self-sustaining. There is no doubt that the Society's educational role will grow. For example, nine BMD courses have been run at a deliberately modest profit since their inception in 2005. Next course is in Brisbane in November, followed by Sydney in March 2009 as a satellite of IBMS, plus New Zealand In May 2009

In keeping with the comments made in last year's report, the Directors maintain their resolve to stabilise the Society's income, in order to power existing services to members, as well as introduce new services and awards, particularly in support of research by younger members. In a nutshell, we wish to maintain the markedly favourable imbalance between the average return to a member versus their annual subscription. This requires that we insulate the Society's income against short-term fluctuations, arising particularly from the impact of market factors on corporate sponsorship. We remain extremely grateful to our sponsors at all levels and understand their responses to market fortunes. In turn, our sponsors understand our need to remain scientifically independent. The Society receives approximately \$50k in income per year from its interest-bearing deposits.

To date, these steadily accumulating funds have been invested conservatively (term deposits). The global financial situation last financial year prevented us from implementing a plan to invest a portion of our cash reserves in managed funds. We are guided by similar investment decisions of kindred societies. The issue of investment will be revisited this year.

Finally, on behalf of Council, I again wish to warmly thank Ms Ivone Johnson, ably supported by Ms Melissa Dupavillon, This small team – the ANZBMS Secretariat – continues to be the real talent behind the treasury, including (as noted last year) micro-managing the Society's accounts and fulfilling corporate obligations.

6.1 Audited accounts

The audited accounts were accepted by members. (David Findlay, Jack Martin).

7. Date of next AGM – end of 2009

The AGM will not be held at the time of the IBMS meeting as no audited accounts will be available. It will be held in the second part of 2009.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

2008

16-21st November 2008

4th Australian Health & Medical Research Congress
(AH&MRC)
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
Website: www.ahmrccongress.org.au

3-7 December 2008

IOF World Congress on Osteoporosis
Bangkok, Thailand
Website: <http://www.iofbonehealth.org/wco/2008/homepage.html>

2009

21-25 March, 2009

2nd Joint Meeting of IBMS and ANZBMS
Sydney Convention Centre, Australia
Website: www.ibms2009.com

25-26 March, 2009

VIII International Meeting on
Cancer Induced Bone Disease
Sydney
Website: <http://www.cancerandbonesociety.org>

10th-13th June 2009

ENDO 2009
Washington DC, USA
Web: <http://www.endo-society.org/meetings/Annual/index.cfm>

21st-23rd August 2009

ESA Clinical Weekend
Barossa Novotel Resort
www.esaclinicalweekend.org.au

23-26th August 2009

ESA/SRB ASM
Adelaide Convention Centre
Website: www.esa-srb.org.au

26th-28th August 2009

ADS/ADEA ASM
Adelaide Convention Centre
Website www.ads-adea.org.au

11-15th September 2009

ASBMR 31st Annual Meeting
Colorado Convention Center
Denver, Colorado, USA
Website: <http://www.asbmr.org/meeting/meetingsindex.cfm>

ANZBMS is a professional medical / scientific society established in 1989 to bring together clinical and experimental scientists and physicians actively involved in the study of bone and mineral metabolism in Australia and New Zealand.