

---

# The Matrix Biology Society of Australia and New Zealand



(ABN 89 195 216 316)

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

President: M.M. Smith

Vice President: G.S. Harper

Secretary: S. Byers

Treasurer: J.A. Whitelock

Public Officer: M.J. Fosang

---

## Newsletter June 2005

### Message from the president:

Dear MBSANZ members,

Plans for our 2005 annual scientific meeting at Whalers Inn in Victor Harbor, SA, are progressing rapidly and this week marks the early-bird deadline for registration (Thursday 30 June). As of this morning there were already over 50 registrations so, please register within the next few days to ensure you get your accommodation preferences. There are further details on this meeting from the conveners later in this newsletter.

Please make an effort to contact all matrix research groups in your area so they are aware of our scientific meeting. There is an extra membership form attached to the end of this newsletter for new recruits. Our meetings are particularly suitable for students to gain experience in presentation of their research.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Pan Pacific Connective Tissue Societies Symposium will be held in Hawaii in November/December this year. See further details below.

At the last MBSANZ AGM there was general support for participation in the next Australian Health and Medical Research Congress. We have been approached by the organizers to participate in the 2006 AHMRC in Melbourne in November, 2006. There are two main levels of participation in the Congress, either as a Full Member Society or Group or as a Symposium Society or Group.

Full member Societies are asked to contribute seed funding of \$8000 and hold a 2-day or more meeting (often their annual scientific meeting) during the AH&MRC. If the Congress makes a profit (as it has the last two meetings) the seed money is refunded and any additional profit is shared between the Full Member Societies. In Sydney in 2004 the Congress made ~\$40,000 profit. In Melbourne in 2002 the Congress made ~\$90,000 profit. The percentage of profit distributed is worked out on a point basis and is proportional to the number of Society members who attend the Congress. If we sign the agreement and forward seed funding by the 30 June we will increase our total points by 50%. One international and one national speaker of the Society's choosing are funded by the AHMRC per Symposium session of the Society's meeting. This is in addition to the plenary speaker on each day.

Symposium Societies are asked to contribute \$2000 seed funding. This is again refunded if the congress makes a profit, but they do not share in any additional profit made. Note: this is different from past meetings where all Groups have profit-shared. A symposium runs for a half day and the organising group is entitled to one international and one national speaker's costs. Societies can run multiple Symposia for the \$2000 seed money.

As the membership agreed in principle to be a part of AHMRC at our last AGM, we have initially agreed to be a full member society with the proviso that this full membership be ratified at our next AGM. This means we qualify for extra points (by agreeing before 30 June and hence qualify for a larger share of the profits) if we decide to have our ASM at AHMRC next year but don't lose anything if we decide to only go with a symposium membership (AHMRC will refund the difference in fees immediately).

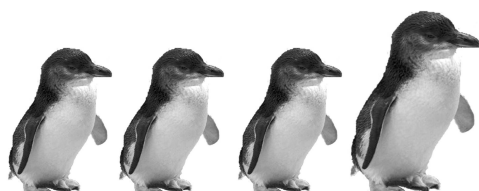
The financial advantages to our society are obvious. If we decide to stay with full membership, the organization of the MBSANZ AGM will be incorporated within the AHMRC and probably will require only a program committee from our society. I will try and attend the AHMRC meetings in Melbourne myself until we can officially nominate someone to assume this role at our AGM. I will pass any further details onto members as I receive them. I know we had an ASM in Victoria only three years before, however, there will not be a requirement for a full organizing committee from MBSANZ if we attend as AHMRC registrants. Previous AHMRC attendees have assured me that the congress is well worth it. If anyone has any comments on this issue, you are welcome to email me directly ([mobsmith@med.usyd.edu.au](mailto:mobsmith@med.usyd.edu.au)).

As President of MBSANZ, I have been asked to join the National Action Network (NAN) for the Bone and Joint Decade. The Decade is an international promotion of bone and joint health operating in 180 countries 2001 – 2010. The NAN meet by teleconference once a month to organize state and national events in association with scientific societies and patient-based groups. The international NANs will meet in Australia in 2007 and there may be an opportunity to have our ASM in the same place directly before or after this meeting to take advantage of the 200 plus international speakers who will be in Australia to attend this event. I will keep you informed as to the progress of these networks.

Regards to all,

Margaret  
President, MBSANZ

### **MBSANZ Annual Meeting Update:**



"A close encounter of the matrix kind"

Whalers Inn  
Victor Harbor, SA  
Sept 29<sup>th</sup> – Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005

Early-bird registration for the 2005 meeting closes this week on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Members who have not already done so can register and submit an abstract online at <http://mbs.mtci.com.au>.

Organisation of the 2005 meeting is well underway. A stimulating and broad ranging program has been put together by the LOC, with a range of topics representing a cross-section of the matrix field. A preliminary program will be posted on the website in late July. The following national and international speakers are confirmed:-

- Vince Hascall, USA - glycosaminoglycans in development and disease
- Robert Mecham, USA - elastin fibre assembly

- William Parks, USA - MMPs in tissue development
- Peter Rathjen, Aust. - stem cells as therapeutics
- Andrew Zannettino, Aust - bone turnover in cancer

Miranda Grounds from the University of WA is the 2005 Barry Preston Awardee and will present on her research into muscle disorders.

#### **Awards:**

##### **Student Award:**

As in past years the MBSANZ will offer the Dennis Lowther Award to the best student poster presentation at the 2005 meeting. Students intending to apply should indicate this on their registration form.

##### **Inaugural Award:**

2005 marks the first time that a “New Investigator Award” will be offered. The NIA is awarded in recognition of the excellent research carried out by Society members with up to 10 yrs postdoctoral experience. Registration and application details can be found online.

As anticipated from last years experience, MBSANZ will not hold a joint session with ComBio in 2005. However, MBSANZ will be held immediately after ComBio and members can still attend both.



For those unfamiliar with the location of our meeting, Victor Harbor is approx 1.5 hrs drive south of Adelaide. It is situated on historic Encounter Bay where Matthew Flinders and Nicolas Baudin met in 1802. An early whaling town it is now a regional eco-tourism centre known for its abundant wildlife and natural scenery. The town maintains an excellent website at <http://www.tourismvictorharbor.com.au/> outlining the history and activities available in Victor Harbor that it well worth a visit.

#### **Upcoming meetings:**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Pan Pacific Connective Tissue Societies Symposium

November 30 - December 5, 2005

Hilton Waikoloa Village, Hawaii (big island).

Conference Website: [www.shcc.org/6ppcts](http://www.shcc.org/6ppcts)

Venue Website: [www.hiltonwaikoloavillage.com/index](http://www.hiltonwaikoloavillage.com/index)

Abstract deadline is September 30, 2005. Abstracts will be published in Connective Tissue Research after the symposium. Registration is US\$500 until September 30 and US\$550 thereafter (and does not include accommodation).

Organized by Hans Peter Bachinger, Lynn Sakai and Scott Stadler of Shriners' Hospital for Children

Dear MBSANZ members, (young, old, new and established - all).

I would like to remind you about our forthcoming exciting annual MBSANZ conference which is approaching fast. Your participation is mandatory! Pencil the dates in your diary now (29th September -2 October). The venue is the cosy and delightful Whalers Inn situated in that Rio of South Australia, Victor Harbor. (sun, sand, surf, penguins and whales). The conference committee have persuaded a number of outstanding matrix biologists from the USA and Australia to present their recent research as part of a diverse and stimulating program. These include "Bob" Mecham (USA) who is using array technology to answer questions on vascular development and disease; Bill Parks (USA) who is establishing the role for MMPs in lung development and disease; Vince Hascall (USA) who as always is doing fascinating research on hyaluronan and proteoglycans; Pete Rathjen (Adelaide) who is presenting his world class embryonic stem cell research and Andrew Zannettino (Adelaide) with his new insights into the mechanisms of bone destruction in multiple myeloma. This year's very worthy Barry Preston Awardee is Miranda Grounds in recognition of her impressive research record into the cell and molecular biology of muscle disorders. We also intend to include in the program presentations from not only established group leaders but also from rising stars. To this end we are introducing a prestigious "Young Investigator Award" session specifically aimed to highlight the work of new quality researchers. As always we will have awards for the best student posters. Please check out the website <http://mbs.mtci.com.au/> for program and details of how to apply for the awards.

As has been the pattern in recent years, we are tracking with Combio and our conference will immediately follow the larger meeting with a bus laid on from the Combio venue for those of you wishing to partake of both events. Unfortunately, this year I was unable to negotiate a joint session with the Combio committee so both meetings will operate entirely independently, although we have retained official satellite status to Combio.

I would like to thank on behalf of the MBSANZ all of those companies who are sponsoring and participating in our conference. Their role is essential for the success of the conference and I encourage all delegates to interact fully with the 10 or so exhibiting companies who will be coming to our conference, many for the first time.

Finally I encourage you all to register (on-line at the website) early for the conference. This not only makes life a little easier for me and the organising committee but also saves you money, with an early bird deadline for registration and abstract submission set at June 30th.

My co-convenor Sharon Byers, the committee and I anticipate catching up with you all at what is (hopefully) going to be a very exciting and stimulating conference at both the scientific and social levels. I personally look forward to discussing the day's science with you all, over an ale or two by the log fire in the bar. So, no excuses, see you ALL at the Whalers' Inn.

Cheers,

Mark Gibson

Co- Convenor MBSANZ Annual Conference 2005

LOC:

Mark Gibson, co-convenor

Sharon Byers, co-convenor

Cory Xian

Margaret Smith

Jason White

Betty Reinboth

Rena Hirani