
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

Note from the President;

I hope everyone has settled back into research after the very enjoyable conference on Rottnest Island. I would like to again thank all our current members, the national and international guests for their participation in the 2004 meeting. On behalf of the society, I will also reiterate our appreciation to Jason and his WA team for the faultless planning and smooth-running of this event (and if it wasn't faultless and smooth running from your view, it sure seemed that way to most of us!). The presentations were of an excellent standard and all the social activities were fantastically successful. Steve and his team at The Lodge were remarkably accommodating and cordial even with the unexpected loss of some of their best rooms due to incomplete renovations.

The 2005 LOC has already geared up to run our annual general meeting in South Australia next year, probably somewhere south of Adelaide. Sharon Byers and Mark Gibson are heading the local committee and we look forward to their progress reports later in the year. A reminder to anyone who has a researcher in mind for the Barry Preston Award to forward their nomination to Sharon asap (sharon.byers@adelaide.edu.au).

I would like to collect members input into student and other scholarships to be offered by the society next year. There was discussion at the AGM about having more awards to complement the Barry Preston Award (Australian researcher) and the Dennis Lowther award (student posters) and the suggestions were;

1. Young Investigator Award type 1 – to be awarded to a researcher up to 10 years postdoc. Applications to be sent at the time of meeting registration with MBSANZ abstract and page CV to LOC for an elected “Awards” committee to decide and winner to present at the annual scientific meeting.
2. Young Investigator Award type 2 – to be awarded to a researcher up to 10 years postdoc. Applications to be sent at the time of meeting registration with MBSANZ abstract and page CV to LOC who will arrange a final selection of applicants to present at a session at the annual scientific meeting. The winner to be chosen from the presentations by an elected “Awards” committee and the winner announced at the annual conference dinner.
3. Young Investigator Award type 3 – to be awarded to any postdoc researcher presenting at the annual scientific meeting, to be decided by an elected “Awards” committee and the winner announced at the annual conference dinner.

If anyone would like to give feedback on which type of award (or any other suggestions). Could you please email Sharon or myself (mobsmith@med.usyd.edu.au) with your views by 10 December 2004.

Please introduce our society to any new members of your departments, especially the students. Our scientific meetings are a marvellous way for new matrix biologists to meet collaborators

country-wide. We have attached a current membership form to this newsletter for your convenience and it is also available from our website.

Looking forward to seeing you all again next year,

Margaret Smith
President, MBSANZ

Scenes from the 2005 MBSANZ meeting



Barry Preston award winner Lydia Sorokin (L) and LOC member Miranda Grounds (R).



Immediate past president Rik Thompson (L) and Keynote speaker Chris Overall (R).



MBSANZ 2005 convenor Jason White (L) and LOC member Dierdre Coombes (R)



BD Biosciences representative Arthur Gurjian (L) and Keynote speaker Justin Fallon (R)

Message from the Students.

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May we begin by extending our congratulations to Jason White and the other convenors for organising a fantastic meeting at the lovely Rottnest Island. I think everyone will agree that it was a great meeting both academically and socially. It was also good to see some new faces from the Western side of the continent as well as the regular East Coasters.

One of the aspects of this conference that we enjoy so much was the small size of the meeting. When attending larger conferences one never really gets the same personal attention that is possible at the Matrix Meeting where you have access to the ear of everyone present, including invited and overseas speakers. Some may think that “bigger is better” but this more intimate atmosphere fosters a wealth of discussion with both other postgraduate students as well as with department heads, professors, and principal investigators. Being able to interact with these people can be especially productive for those getting close to finishing their postgraduate studies and are looking for collaborative opportunities or possible job prospects. To be able to draw upon this pool of experience and expertise so easily is an opportunity that is exceptional and should not go to waste.

Now don't get me wrong this conference was far from being merely about seminars and taking notes, it was also a lot of fun. Between the free food, free beer, free wine, the afternoon off to watch the Footy Grand Final, and a free open air blues concert in a bus shelter at 4am (don't ask), it's hard to believe that we managed to find time to cram in any speakers at all! Rottnest Island had plenty to offer and while some may have had reservations about staying in an old prison, waking up to peacocks and quokkas and their joeys feeding in the quad was certainly a great experience. It's always great to see people, old and new, coming together and blending so well.

On behalf of the student representatives, Brad Morrison and Ainslie Roberts would like to extend an invitation to all postgrad students to please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, concerns, comments, or recommendations. We also encourage everyone to get involved and be part of this great exchange of ideas and if you run into other students who are also working in ECM let them know about our society, get them involved, the catalyst that makes this all work is a diverse and spirited membership.

Brad Morrison and Ainslie Roberts, MBSANZ Student Representatives
with special thanks to Rena Hirani and Danielle Dye.



Students celebrating the Port win at the conference dinner. L to R; Carmen Mascari, Ainslie Roberts, Mark Corvino, Rena Hirani, Fiona Zhou (all from Adelaide), Lloyd White (from Perth).

