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### EDITORIAL COMMENT

*by Associate Professor Fiona Mackie*

**Dear TSANZ Members,**

Haere mai tangata whenua.

TSANZ acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

Welcome to the 2021 edition of the Society newsletter.

2021 certainly started with the glimmer of hope of effective Covid 19 vaccinations and a return to some normality including face to face meetings only to stretch into what felt like an eternity of Covid lockdowns (yes Melbourne you are definitely the winners!) and an endless loop of Zoom meetings. However, as I write optimism prevails. 85.1 % of the Australian population over age 16 are fully vaccinated against Covid 19, an amazing achievement. Many of our members have been instrumental in assisting in the prioritisation for vaccination and 3rd dosing of our vulnerable transplant and wait list recipients and I want to particularly acknowledge the work of Steve Chadban, Helen Opdam and Helen Pilmore and members of the Australian Transplantation and Donation Rapid Response Taskforce.

### **Abstract submission date opened on December 1 and continues till February 13**

Despite having to hold our Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) virtually, 108 abstracts were submitted, 311 attended and it was acknowledged by many as a productive and successful meeting, no little in part due to the efforts of SPEC, ably chaired by Dr Lucy Sullivan and A/Professor Wai Lim and the meeting convenors A/Professor Phil Clayton and Dr Eu-Ling Neo. Next year's ASM will be held in the Adelaide Convention Centre from June 19-21, and I am sure many of us will be thrilled to attend in person. Abstract submission date opens on December 1 and continues till February 13.

On behalf of Council, I would also like to acknowledge the hard work, long hours and dedication of Nieves Piaggio, Kim Rawson, and Roslyn Davies. The way they have pivoted during Covid obtaining the best financial support for our Society to sourcing virtual platforms for ASM's to running hours long Council meetings on Zoom has been impressive to say the least. We are truly fortunate to have such a capable team. I am very much hoping 2022 will bring sorely missed opportunities for us to meet, engage and inspire each other face to face. Best wishes for the Holiday season approaching.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Associate Professor Helen Pilmore  
President, TSANZ**



Hi TSANZ members

2021 has been another hugely busy year – both in terms of TSANZ activity – and of course in terms of our daily lives and how they have been affected by the pandemic. For many of you 2021 has been even tougher than 2020 – Covid patient numbers have been high, transplant wards have been turned into covid wards and many of you have been looking after very sick patients with Covid-19. Some of you have lost patients to the pandemic – these things are really tough. I particularly feel for New South Wales, Victoria and Auckland who have all had long lockdowns - it's been a tough year.

For TSANZ though, things on the whole have gone pretty well. After cancelling the TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in 2020, we held our first and very successful ASM virtually in March. The meeting was very well attended as were the postgraduate course (PGC), and the Masterclass. I would particularly like to thank Dr Lucy Sullivan and A/Prof Wai Lim who are our outstanding Scientific Programme and Education Committee (SPEC) chairs. They did a fantastic job with this meeting. A very big thank you also to the local organisers, A/Prof Phil Clayton and Dr Eu Ling Neo who developed a wonderful ASM programme. A huge thanks also to A/Prof Chien-Li Holmes-Liew and Dr Andrea Vieceili who ran the PGC and Dr Sanda Stankovic and Dr Tracey Ying who managed the Masterclass – this was particularly successful with the largest attendance ever at 255 registrants from 61 at the inception of the Masterclass in 2017.

I look forward to seeing you all in Adelaide in 2022 where we hope to hold a face-to-face meeting. It will be great to see you all in person – we are hoping that some of the overseas speakers will actually be able to attend as well and I'm sure you are all looking forward to getting together again as much as I am. I'd like to thank in advance the local organisers for 2022, Dr Michael Collins and Dr Sanda Stankovic. It promises to be another outstanding meeting. We also have a great PGC programme organised by A/Prof Chien-Li Holmes Liew and Dr Eric Son, and a fantastic Masterclass programme being managed by Dr Chris Drogemuller and Dr Chanel Prestige.

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**We are proud to congratulate our immediate past president, Professor Toby Coates and esteemed TSANZ member Professor Carol Pollock for receiving the Office of the Order of**

**Australia (OA) in 2021. The well-deserved recognition is testament to their tireless work in the field of transplantation and the medical community more broadly.**

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There have been a number of other activities that have really been making a difference in Transplantation in our area. The TSANZ/TLRG Covid-19 Transplantation and Donation Rapid Response Taskforce continues to meet fortnightly – this committee has been crucially helpful in managing the response to the Covid pandemic in the transplant arena. I'd particularly like to thank Professor Steve Chadban who co-chairs this committee and A/Prof Helen Opdam from the donation sector. This meeting has been important in the management of many practical issues faced in the transplant sector including practice updates in donors with covid and advising on vaccination strategies in transplant recipients. We were extremely grateful to see our patients being offered a third vaccine recently.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

**Associate Professor Fiona Mackie  
Honorary Secretary, TSANZ**



It is my privilege to write my first report to you as Honorary Secretary of TSANZ, taking over from the dynamic A/Professor Natasha Rogers. 2021 has continued to be a busy and productive year for Council led so capably and equitably by our President A/Professor Helen Pilmore with the sage council and assistance of Professor Kate Wyburn (President Elect) and Treasurer Dr Nikky Isbel. It is not until I took over this role did I appreciate the volume of work carried out on our behalf by this team. Thanks also go to the hard-working team on Council: A/Professor Phil Clayton, Dr Jerome Laurence, Dr Tanya McWilliams, Dr Kavitha Muthiah, Mr Paul Robertson, Dr Lucy Sullivan and Professor Angela Webster.

2021 membership stands at 553, 54% identifying as female. Transplant Nurses' Association (TNA) and Australasian Transplant Coordinators Association (ATCA) combined members continue to be an important part of our society comprising 16% of the society. Student members have decreased slightly over the last 3 years, and we would encourage supervisors to find out whether their trainees are student members and encourage them to join. Allied health professionals, trainees and students can take advantage of reduced registration rates for the Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) and students can access reduced membership fees and incentives such as early career researcher's awards. These awards remain an important

focus of the society to encourage research and maintain opportunities for junior members. There are a number of awards available at the 2022 ASM and all eligible members are encouraged to apply.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

**Dr Nikki Isbel,  
Honorary Treasurer, TSANZ**



The current financial position of the society remains stable. As at 30 November 2021, including monies held for OTA and NIKTT projects, net assets are \$2,499,789.

Income from membership for 2020 (\$134,637) was stable compared to previous years. Income from the ASM was reduced (\$8,309) as was the total income from sponsorship (\$167,060). However, additional income through various Covid-19 financial supports, as well as the reduction in costs due to the on-line ASM meant that overall, the society was \$268,064 favourable (excluding OTA and NIKTT monies) for 2020.

Discussions are underway to re-invest the reserve funds (\$1,000,000) which are currently held in low interest paying term deposits (0.07-0.25% p.a.). A proposal has been put together by Steve Latham of Findex Financial and Advisory Services. Mr Latham has been the financial advisor for the ANZSN for more than a decade and comes well recommended. Findex is based in New Zealand and Australia and has been in operation for 30 years. The proposal has been discussed and accepted by the council. Investments will be placed in socially responsible investment funds. The suggested fund has performed well since establishment and with returns above comparator funds and the standard Australian equity market.

Ongoing work is underway to determine both the governance structure and the divestment strategy. The overall goal is to

1. maintain a reserve such that it could support society activities in adverse economic times
2. utilise the profits to support projects to advance the goals of the TSANZ.

Thanks to Nieves Piaggio and the TSANZ administrative team for their astute guidance.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS REPORT

**Professor Kate Wyburn  
President Elect, TSANZ  
Chair, TSANZ Advisory Committees &  
Working Groups**



Despite many challenges faced this year, and an ongoing inability to hold face to face meetings, thanks to the dedication and hard work of many, there has been an incredible amount of successful work carried out by the Advisory Committees and Working groups.

The advisory committees have met regularly, including the Cardiac Transplant Advisory Committee, Lung Transplant Advisory Committee, Liver and Intestinal Transplant Advisory Committee, Renal Transplant Advisory Committee, Donor Surgeons and Donor Coordinators, Paediatric Transplant Advisory Committee, and the Pancreas and Islet Transplant Advisory Committee. The Renal Transplant Advisory committee instituted a revised allocation algorithm in May through OrganMatch. The Cardiac and Lung Committees continue to work towards establishing a renewed Cardiothoracic Transplant Registry for Australia and New Zealand.

The National Indigenous Kidney Transplantation Taskforce (NIKTT) continues to make significant inroads towards delivering better outcomes for Indigenous Australians and has been granted approval for an extension of the funding agreement between TSANZ and the Department of Health to 30 June 2022.

Collaborative efforts between the Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA), Donatelif e, Australasian Transplant Coordinators Association (ATCA), TSANZ and the advisory committees have been developing national Organ Allocation and Organ Rotation Urgent Listing frameworks to align with recent updates to the TSANZ Clinical Guidelines (e.g., paediatric allocation updates, as well as pancreas allocations to include SA units, and WA heart rotations).

Thanks to many working groups and advisory committees, the TSANZ Clinical Guidelines version 1.7 was released on the 24th of September 2021. This version includes updates on malignancy in donors as well as changes in relation to Paediatric liver, lung and heart donors.

The Virtual Cross Match (VXM) Working Group continues to meet regularly to progress the introduction of VXM, the current phase of this project has been extended to 30 June 2022. The project leads presented a TSANZ webinar in October to provide an update on the transition to VXM.

A number of successful work orders were closed in June 2021, including the National Review of Paediatric kidney



transplant recipients, the Renal Allocation Working Group, the Non-Renal Allocation Working Group and Machine Perfusion Working Group, with thanks to all involved.

A number of new funding schedules/work orders have been established this year with generous assistance from the Organ and Tissue Authority, these include:

- i) Enhancing Clinical Best Practice Guidelines and Procedures (July 2021 – June 2023), a project which will focus on enhancing current processes for managing the Guidelines.
- ii) Review of Simultaneous Pancreas-Kidney Transplantation (July 2021 – June 2022), to ensure currency of SPK practices in response to evolving national and international evidence and allocation models.
- iii) Deceased Donor Kidney Allocation Algorithm Review - Phase 2 (July 2021 – June 2022) to further evolve and optimize the deceased donor kidney allocation algorithm in Australia.

The generous efforts of all involved in these groups to continue to deliver and progress the field of transplantation in Australia and New Zealand is gratefully acknowledged, as is the tireless support provided by Kim Rawson.

## SPEC REPORT

### **Dr Lucy Sullivan and Associate Professor Wai Lim Co-Chairs of SPEC**

We are almost at the end of 2021 and what a year once again!! Victoria and New South Wales...and the rest of Australia are slowly emerging from the COVID haze on the road to the calm of normality. International and domestic travels are back on the agenda, and we are hopeful that the 2022 ASM will “almost” be a normal pre-COVID face-to-face meeting involving the whole of Australia and New Zealand.



After the cancellation of the ASM in 2020, the passion and enthusiasm for networking and learning are clearly evident in 2021, with the virtual 2021 ASM an absolute success. Our 2021 ASM occurred on 14-16 March, attended by 311 virtual participants. We had a record number of registrants for the postgraduate and Masterclass meetings, with 141 and 255 virtual registered delegates, respectively.

We were fortunate that our invited international speakers from 2020 had agreed to participate in the 2021 meeting, with pre-recorded talks from our six esteemed speakers from Spain (Professor Marina Berenguer Haym), Belgium (Professor Ina Jochmans), United Kingdom (Professor Chris

Watson), Canada (Professor Megan Levings) and the United States of America (Professor Kiran Khush and Professor Timucin Taner). Our North American speakers also participated in the live Q&A following the presentations. These talks were complemented by the high quality basic and clinical science presentations, particularly from the junior members of our society. This year combined the 2020 and 2021 President’s Prize Symposiums, with Eric Son (2020) and Nathan Zammit (2021) for Basic Science, and Ahmer Hameed (2020) and Ankit Sharma (2021) for Clinical Science taking out the top awards, respectively. It was the first time ever that we had a President Prize People's Choice Award with the winners being Eric Son (2020) and Leigh Nicholson (2021) for Basic Science and Ahmer Hameed (2020) and Dylan Barnett (2021) for Clinical Science. The inaugural Women in Transplantation networking event, a joint session of TSANZ and TTS, was a huge success, with fantastic presentations from Professors Lori West and Patria Hume. The success of this event will no doubt lead to this event being a continuing fixture of future ASMs.

We would like to thank our PGC (Andrea Viecelli and Chien-Li Holmes-Liew), Masterclass (Tracey Ying and Sanda Stankovic) and ASM (Phil Clayton and Eu-Ling Neo) convenors for their tireless work and leadership in putting together excellent programs, which is reflected by the record number of attendees for this year’s meeting. We would also like to thank the local speakers and conference organisers, who are critical in the success of this virtual meeting. The social aspect of the ASM was coordinated by our two Early Career Researcher co-chairs in Tracey Ying and Eric Au. The virtual quiz was well attended and despite fierce competition, our president took out the inaugural prize of \$100. However, after multiple recounts and protests, our president was disqualified with the first prize going to “Gdog” (aka Greg Snell).

The planning of the 2022 meeting is well underway, and we are hopeful this will transition back to the fully face-to-face format at the Adelaide Convention Centre. We are delighted to announce that San Stankovic and Michael Collins have been appointed co-convenors for the ASM, Chien-Li Holmes-Liew and Eric Son as co-convenors for the Postgraduate program and Chanel Prestidge and Chris Drogemuller as co-convenors for the Masterclass program. A draft of the program, including the international speakers will be posted on the TSANZ website in the New Year.

Since the introduction of the TSANZ “Transplant Grand Rounds” in October 2020, these virtual Grand Rounds have continued to occur 6-weekly, with a mixture of basic and clinical science topics whilst ensuring a gender balance in the invited speakers. In 2021, we have had 5 excellent speakers with topics ranging from cellular therapy for viral infections through to virtual crossmatching. We are

especially grateful for the John Hopkins team comprising of Professor Dorry Segev and Dr Desai, who gave us invaluable insight into their program of transplantation using HIV+ and HCV+ donors. For those who have been unable to log on during these virtual presentations, these talks are available from the TSANZ website. Our last speaker for 2021 is from Professor Germaine Wong speaking on the “Disparity in access to transplantation and outcomes, and opportunities for change strategies” and we encourage all members to register for what would be an excellent discussion topic. We are always eager to hear from TSANZ members regarding potential topics across the transplant spectrum.

The COVID-19 pandemic has provided us an opportunity to reassess how we structure our scientific meetings and education. During these difficult two years, we have seen an increased appetite for online communication, networking and education sessions and looking ahead, a framework comprising of both face to face and online

learning may become the ideal platform. We are eternally grateful to the professionalism and work ethics of our fabulous administrative team, led by our TSANZ Executive officer Nieves Piaggio and TSANZ Administrative Officer Roslyn Davies. Without their invaluable knowledge and attention to detail to guide SPEC through the myriad of administrative and logistic hurdles, the seamless delivery of these meetings would not have been possible.

We are always looking at ways we can improve the communication to members and create innovative ways to deliver education programs cater to the needs of our diverse membership and we would appreciate any feedback and suggestions for improvement from members. Lastly, we are greatly appreciative of all council, SPEC and ECR members in supporting the programs this year and we hope to see everyone in person in Adelaide (even West Australians)!



## International Speakers



Marina Berenguer Haym



Ina Jochmans



Kiran Khush



Megan Levings



Timucin Taner



Chris Watson

During the 39th TSANZ virtual Annual Scientific Meeting, winners were announced by President, Professor Toby Coates at the Awards night on the 15th March 2021.

**The Mark Cocks Award SPONSORED BY**



This prestigious award is to recognise the life of Mark Cocks and his contribution to Transplant Australia and the wider transplant community. It has been generously offered by Transplant Australia through their Team Life program.

2021 WINNER - **Nicole De la Mata**

**TSANZ Aviva Rosenfeld Award for Excellence in Patient Care in Transplantation**

This award has been established in honour of Aviva Rosenfeld, the TSANZ Executive Officer from 1996 to 2015.

The Aviva award will recognise an outstanding clinician (including physicians, surgeons, nurses, psychologists, social workers, other allied health professionals) who has demonstrated excellence in patient care in transplantation – by putting patients/families first, involving patients in care, communicating effectively, and providing compassionate and empathetic care.

2020 WINNER - **Danielle Sweeney**

2021 WINNER - **Kathy Kable**

**TSANZ Ian McKenzie Prize for Outstanding Contribution in Transplantation**

This prestigious award recognises researchers who have demonstrated excellence and exceptional contribution in the field of transplantation.

Preference will be given to applicants who are within 10 years of embarking on their own research program either in the field of basic science, clinical research or both. The defining period for assessment will be the postdoctoral research years or a similar independent research period.

2021 WINNER - **Frank Ierino**

**The Josette Eris Memorial Award SPONSORED BY**



This biennial award, kindly sponsored by Astellas, is to recognise the life of Josette Eris and her contribution to Transplantation. The target candidate is a emerging female leader in the field of Transplantation.

2021 WINNER - **Kate Wyburn**

**KHA Awards SPONSORED BY**



2021 WINNER (CLINICAL RESEARCH) - **Darren Lee**

2021 WINNER (LABORATORY RESEARCH) - **Debbie Watson**

**TSANZ Lafferty Award**

2020 WINNER - **Mauro Sandrin**

**President Prize People's Choice Award (Clinical Science)**

2021 WINNER - **Dylan Barnett**

2020 WINNER - **Ahmer Hameed**

**President Prize (Clinical Science)**

2021 WINNER - **Ankit Sharma**

2020 WINNER - **Ahmer Hameed**

**Best Poster (Clinical Science)**

2021 WINNER - **Samuel Shun Kwan Chan**

**President Prize People's Choice Award (Basic Science)**

2021 WINNER - **Leigh Nicholson**

2020 WINNER - **Eric Son**

**President Prize (Basic Science)**

2021 WINNER - **Nathan Zammit**

2020 WINNER - **Eric Son**

**Best Poster (Basic Science)**

2021 WINNER - **Jennifer Louise McRae**

**Early Career Researchers Award (Clinical Science)**

2021 WINNERS -

**Dylan Barnett**

**James Hedley**

**Georgina Irish**

**Brenda Maria Rosales**

**Ankit Sharma**

**Karen Waller**

**Denghao Wu**

**Jinna Yao**

**Peter Daechul Yoon**

SPONSORED BY  **NOVARTIS**

**Early Career Researchers Award (Basic Science)**

2021 WINNERS -

**Peter Cuthbertson**

**Sarah Dart**

**Atharva Kale**

**Mario Leong**

**Jennifer Li**

**Leigh Nicholson**

**Moumita Paul**

**Griffith Boord Perkins**

**Jeanette Villanueva**

**Nathan Zammit**



TSANZ SPEC, with support of the council has created a new initiative in designing monthly interactive state-of-the-art educational virtual webinars which will provide a succinct overview of important clinical, translational and practical aspects of the spectrum of organ transplantation and are suitable for all members of the clinical and research community, including medical and surgical advanced trainees in transplantation. The webinars also provide an opportunity to interact and submit questions to the speakers and access to the recorded talks.



**Grand Rounds #1**

**Professor Toby Coates**

**Atypical Antibodies in Transplantation**  
Provides a comprehensive overview and clinical significance of the role of atypical antibodies in solid organ transplantation.

October 29, 2020



**Grand Rounds #2**

**A/Professor Helen Pilmore**

**Cardiac screening for renal transplantation**  
Discusses the evidence, practicality, and controversies of pre-transplant cardiac screening.

December 10, 2020



**Grand Rounds #3**

**A/Professor Ross Francis**

**Introducing virtual crossmatch in solid organ allocation**  
Discusses VXM, when and how to do, and clinical interpretation of findings to inform allocation.

February 18, 2021



**Grand Rounds #4**

**A/Professor Rob Carroll**

**Virtual Crossmatching and Flow Crossmatching practical considerations**  
Practical approach and case-base discussion of flow and virtual cross-match for organ allocation:  
- simplifying a complex decision-making process

June 21, 2021



**Grand Rounds #5**

**Professor Dorry Segev and Dr Niraj Desai**

**Expanding donor pool with increased infectious risk donors:**  
• the Johns Hopkins experience

September 16, 2021



**Grand Rounds #6**

**A/Professor Emily Blyth**

**Novel treatment of resistant CMV infection in organ transplant recipients**

October 28, 2021



**Grand Rounds #7**

**Professor Germaine Wong**

**Disparity in Access to kidney transplantation and opportunities for change**

December 9, 2021

More Grand Rounds will be presented in 2022 thanks to the support of



## TSANZ COUNCIL



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**President**

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## Joint Chairs - 2019 - 2025 A/Prof Wai Lim & Dr Lucy Sullivan



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Mrs Kim Rawson  
**TSANZ Senior Project Officer**  
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### ADVISORY COMMITTEES

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Cardiac                        | Dr Robert Larbalestier<br>ATCA Rep: Jo Maddicks-Law                       |
| Donor Surgeons & Co-ordinators | Professor Henry Pleass (Co-Chair)<br>Ms Shona Haigh (Co-Chair) & ATCA Rep |
| Liver & Intestinal             | Professor Robert Jones<br>ATCA Rep: Libby John                            |
| Lung                           | Professor Greg Snell  |
| Paediatric Transplant          | Dr Nicholas Larkins   |
| Pancreas & Islet               | Dr David Goodman<br>ATCA Rep: Paul Robertson                              |
| Renal                          | Professor Kate Wyburn<br>ATCA Rep: Luke Datson                            |
| Vascular Composite Allograft   | Dr Sharon Ford  |

### WORKING GROUPS

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Immunology Tolerance (ITWG)  | Professor Frank Ierino   |
| Review of Simultaneous Pancreas<br>Kidney Transplantation (SPK WG) | Professor John Kanellis  |
| Virtual Crossmatch (VXMWG)   | A/Professor Ross Francis |
| Xenotransplantation (XTWG)   | Professor Peter Cowan    |

### COVID-19 AUSTRALIAN TRANSPLANTATION AND DONATION RAPID RESPONSE TASKFORCE

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
|           | A/Professor Helen Pilmore<br>TSANZ President |
| Co-Chairs | Dr Helen Opdam<br>Organ Tissue Authority     |
|           | Professor Steve Chadban<br>Chair of TLRG     |



## PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE TSANZ

|                                   |                                  |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2019 - 2021 Patrick (Toby) Coates | 1999 - 2001 Mauro Sandrin        |
| 2017 - 2019 Steve Alexander       | 1997 - 1999 Jeremy Chapman       |
| 2015 - 2017 Steve Chadban         | 1995 - 1997 Bruce Hall           |
| 2013 - 2015 Geoffrey McCaughan    | 1993 - 1995 Tom Mandel           |
| 2011 - 2013 Peter Macdonald       | 1991 - 1993 Ian McKenzie         |
| 2009 - 2011 Frank Ierino          | 1989 - 1991 Kerry Atkinson       |
| 2007 - 2009 Josette Eris          | 1987 - 1989 Anthony d'Apice      |
| 2005 - 2007 Philip O'Connell      | 1985 - 1987 James Biggs          |
| 2003 - 2005 Randall Faull         | 1982 - 1985 Ainslie (Ross) Sheil |
| 2001 - 2003 Stephen Lynch         |                                  |

## HONORARY/LIFE MEMBERS

|                                    |                                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A/Professor James Biggs.AM         | Professor Emeritus Jacques Miller    |
| Dr Alex Bishop                     | Professor Anthony Monaco             |
| Professor Jeremy Chapman AC        | Professor/Sir Peter Morris           |
| Professor Anthony d'Apice          | Professor Emeritus Sir Gustav Nossal |
| Professor Bruce Hall               | Professor Ainslie Sheil              |
| Emeritus Professor Vernon Marshall | Emeritus Professor Keryn Williams    |
| Professor Ian McKenzie             |                                      |