

Newsletter

May 2006

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Adrian Sheridan

- I'd like to thank the membership for their continued support of the TSANZ ASM and the Post-Graduate Course (PGC). This year there were a record number of abstracts and attendees.
- The PGC is now a yearly course thanks to an increase in sponsorship directed to educational support. I would encourage new members or those wishing to update themselves on current issues and practices to attend.
- There are also more awards and other benefits available to the membership thanks to the generosity of our sponsors.
- The International Transplant Society meeting for Sydney 2008 has organisation well underway and I continue to encourage our members to contact Prof Chapman to volunteer services to the organising committee. Please refer to the enclosed flyer which outlines the key dates for the meeting.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Philip O'Connell

By the time this newsletter reaches you many of us will be preparing to attend the 1st World Transplant Congress in Boston in July 2006.

This is the first ever combined meeting of the American Transplant Society and the International Transplant Society and promises to be an exciting educational experience. As well as the many State-of-the-Art Symposia, the best science in the field of transplantation will be presented. Australia will be well represented at this meeting. More than 20 young investigators have been given travel awards by the TSANZ to give a presentation at this event. Against stiff competition they have had their abstract selected for presentation. One of the pleasing things was that almost all young Australian investigators who submitted an abstract had it accepted for presentation and many of these have received oral presentations. Given that there was a more than 25% rejection rate and only 600 oral presentations for the whole meeting this was a remarkable achievement by our young scientists and clinicians. This was the largest number of travel awards ever given by the TSANZ and represents a large financial commitment by the society. Nevertheless, council felt this was a worthy cause for investment as the meeting promises to be a unique

experience, bringing together the best that the American and the Transplant Society has to offer.

This will also provide an excellent opportunity to show case the best of Australian science as we prepare for the next Congress in Sydney in 2008. Preparations for this meeting are well under way and the numerous program subcommittees have all but been selected. There will be a stand at the WTC Congress promoting the Australian meeting. It will be manned by members of the Society. If you are attending the meeting in Boston and wish to help promote our meeting please give Aviva a call, or complete the enclosed form which should be faxed to the Society Office, and she will arrange a suitable time to roster you on to the stand.

Closer to home the day to day work of the Society still goes on. There has been a lot of activity within the standing committees which now are a crucial and essential aspect of the Society. There have been further discussions with the TGA about the impending new regulations for transplantation. This will prove to be an ongoing process as it is essential that the Society has its views and concerns registered prior to the drawing up new legislation.

Finally, there was good news for transplantation research in the Federal Budget. As the result of intense lobbying, by many members of the Australian Scientific Community (including members of our society) the Federal Government has committed to substantially increase medical research funding as part of its commitment to implementing the Wills Report. This should help us remain competitive with our international colleagues and add at least some security to those of us who are in the tenuous business of applying for competitive research funding.

On a final note I would like to again thank the sponsors of the Society. Their support has been instrumental in our ability to provide travel awards to so many of our younger members. We all agree that this is an essential aspect of our society and I would like to thank our sponsors in supporting us in this endeavour.



SECRETARY'S REPORT

Frank Ierino

This year's Annual Scientific Meeting continued its usual tradition of excellent science and clinical research, and was a highly interactive conference. The evaluation forms distributed at the meeting indicated that the majority of delegates agreed that this was a quality



meeting and many gained considerable knowledge. Historically, the balance of basic science and clinical content is pivotal to the success of this meeting and this point was raised in the assessment forms. The Society members should be assured that the latter point always remains a major goal each year, in addition to providing some balance in surgical and organ speciality contents. There were multiple useful suggestions and council appreciate the constructive feedback. Two new major innovations this year were the marquee and electronic posters. The general responses on the feedback forms were very positive however a larger marquee and specific time allocation to browse through the posters with a larger screen were suggested. There were too many individual comments to summarise here, but all will be considered and Council would welcome further feedback for those who did not provide comments at the time of the meeting. The Society's commitment to our young researchers was reflected in the ongoing large number of Travel Grants awarded to attend this meeting.

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons have officially recognised that attendance at the Annual Scientific Meeting will enable surgeons to gain continuing medical education points. This is a significant step, which should encourage increasing attendance by surgeons and surgical trainees. The World Transplant Congress in Boston is just around the corner and Council is pleased to announce that there were a record number of 22 International Travel Grants awarded. This underscores Councils drive to support our members and the strength and quality of work produced by the Australian Transplant Community. At the Boston meeting there will be an official stand to advertise the 2008 International Transplant Congress in Sydney and individuals attending who are able help out as an official on this stand (to be organised on a schedule that is not onerous) should contact Aviva.

Finally, there are multiple agendas that lie ahead for Council which includes support for the organization of 2008 International Transplant Congress in Sydney, developing the Postgraduate Course and education tools available to our members and continuing links with other organizations both in Australia and Internationally, particularly The Transplantation Society and all its sub-sections. Dialogue with the TGA remains a major agenda item.

I look forward to the World Transplant Congress in Boston where Australia and TSANZ members will be represented in significant numbers.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Jonathan Fawcett

I would firstly like to add my congratulations to the organisers of both the Annual Scientific Meeting and the Postgraduate Course which I think were among the best that I can remember. Financially, the society is in good shape at present as I reported to the AGM. The capital that we have invested in managed funds, instigated by past treasurer and President Steve Lynch, is growing nicely. Some of the fixed term investments will mature close to the time of the world meeting to be held in Sydney in 2008 and may have to be used to support the arrangements for this very important meeting. However, we hope that the proceeds from this meeting will repay our investment and more, in order to allow the society to have more funds in future to promote transplant related activities.

Otherwise, our balance sheet is healthy and thanks for this must go to my predecessor, David Goodman, who made the unpopular, but necessary, decision to increase annual subscriptions. This has not had a negative impact on the membership, which has grown in the last 12 months. We are thus able, with the aid also of our pharmaceutical sponsors, to meet the need for travel grants to attend important conferences. It is likely that the cost of running the annual scientific meeting will increase in coming years because it is expanding. Hiring a marquee was judged a great success and will likely be a permanent fixture. Likewise, I think we will continue to use electronic abstract submission and on-screen poster presentations, although the format of this may be modified in coming years. Obviously, this has to be paid for. These costs are modest in comparison to moving the meeting to new convention centre, which would be almost an order of magnitude more expensive. The meeting would also lose a little of its character if it left the Academy of Science.

So, thank you to the members who have swallowed the hike in subscriptions and supported the society. I look forward to seeing you all in Canberra next year, the last before the world congress in 2008.





POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION & SOCIETY LIAISON

Alex Sharland

The recent announcement of increased Federal Government support of health and medical research was very welcome. The funding allocation includes a commitment of \$28.4 million over the next 5 years to improve both rates of organ donation and the quality of transplanted organs, and an increase in funding for the National Adult Stem Cell Research Centre, as well as infrastructure funding for many research institutes and significant expansion of the NHMRC budget. The Australian Society for Medical Research, of which TSANZ is an affiliate society, was extremely active in campaigning to secure these gains and many thanks are due to the current ASMR leadership.

The next Australian Health and Medical Research Congress will be held in Melbourne from 26 Nov to 1 Dec this year. AHMRC is a large multidisciplinary meeting, sponsored by over 30 groups and societies, with over 60 international and 150 national speakers on a wide range of topics. In addition to the two symposia sponsored by TSANZ (Gene Therapy in Transplantation and Transplantation and Immunosuppressive Drugs) there are many session topics likely to be of interest to the transplantation community. These include: cytokines, immune regulation and immunity; immunotherapy; extracellular matrix and stem cell biology; organogenesis; tissue engineering; tissue banking; proteomics; genomics; translational outcomes of research. Further information about the meeting is available on the congress website: <http://www.ahmrccongress.org.au>.

The Postgraduate Course in Transplantation held immediately prior to the TSANZ ASM in March this year was the largest and most successful to date, attended by over 50 delegates. Congratulations to Nikky Isbel and Dale Christiansen for their able organisation and running of the course. From now, the course will be held yearly. Convenors for the next course will be Karen Dwyer and John Kanellis.



ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING 2007

Shane Grey & Martin Gallagher

Plans are underway for the 25th Annual Scientific Meeting of the TSANZ which will be held in Canberra, 28th – 30th March 2007, at the Australian Academy of Science with breakout sessions being held at University

House. It is anticipated that the deadline for submission of abstracts will be December 2006 and you will be advised by email of the closing date. Hence the importance of advising the Society Office of your current email address!



POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION COURSE 2007

Karen Dwyer & John Kanellis

The postgraduate course in transplantation will be held immediately prior to the 2007 Annual Scientific meeting in Canberra. Scientific aspects (transplant immunobiology, molecular and cellular mechanisms of rejection etc) will be covered on day 1 (26th March 2007). Day 2 (27th March 2007) will have a clinical focus and cover a broad range of topics relevant to transplantation.

We recommend the course to all clinical specialty trainees, young scientists embarking on a career in transplantation, physicians, surgeons, nurse specialists and pharmaceutical industry representatives wishing an update on transplantation in Australia and New Zealand.



TRAVEL GRANT REPORTS

I would like to thank TSANZ for providing me with a travel grant to attend the 8th International Xenotransplantation Congress in Göteborg, Sweden in September 2005. The conference was an enjoyable meeting with numerous world experts in the islet allo- and xeno-transplantation fields attending. I was particularly interested in the experimental and pre-clinical/clinical islet transplantation sessions.

There were two main reasons why I wanted to attend this particular conference. The first was to present original work from my PhD thesis to an international audience of experts. The second reason was to try and learn as much as possible from the wealth of knowledge and experience of the xenotransplantation experts attending this conference. This opportunity has been invaluable in the completion of my PhD thesis.

All four days of the conference proceedings contained information that I found relevant for my thesis. The most interesting presentations in the experimental transplantation section were given by Dr D Sachs (Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, USA), Dr



DKC Cooper (University of Pittsburg, Pittsburg, USA), Dr BJ Hering (University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, USA), Dr Olle Korsgren (Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden), and Dr P Cowan (St Vincents Hospital, Melbourne, Australia). Of course, the numerous parallel sessions had some very good experimental presentations as well.

Attendance and presentation of my work at this meeting has vastly improved my general knowledge of the xenotransplantation field. In addition, I was able to meet experts and see presentations where research in tolerance and xenotransplantation is encouraged to meet clinical practice. Thank you, TSANZ, for the travel award, and helping me to meet the expenses associated with this conference.

Abhilash Chandra



I would sincerely like to thank TSANZ for supporting my recent participation as an oral presenter in the Keystone Symposium – Pancreatic Islets: From Development to Transplantation, held in Taos, New Mexico USA. Islet transplantation has emerged as a possible therapy for type 1 diabetes, but many hurdles remain. This keystone meeting was an integrated program on pancreatic islet transplantation and islet developmental biology which focussed on these challenges and explored strategies on how to address them.

One highlight of the meeting was a summary of clinical islet transplantation from groups in Edmonton (Paty), Miami (Ricordi), Minnesota (Hering) and Germany (Brendel). The current insulin independence rate after islet transplantation was quoted to be 29%. Because improving successful islet engraftment is one challenge, concerted efforts are being made to increase the quality of islets by careful donor selection as well as the development of better procurement and isolation procedures. Clinically, there are problems also associated with preservation of islet function. Drugs with potential beta-cell regenerative capacity, such as exendin 4, are being tested in animal models, and also clinically. Islet engraftment may also be improved by reducing the inflammatory events after transplantation into the liver. Groups in Sweden (Korsgren) and Birmingham USA (Contreras) described their efforts to understand this response, known as IBMIR, and how they are attempting to reduce it experimentally using animal models, and also clinically.

Side-effects resulting from systemic immunosuppression during islet transplantation pose another serious problem, and less toxic strategies are required. Animal

models, where islets are transplanted into the intestinal serosa (which may act as an immunoprotective islet sanctuary) were described by the Minnesota group. Another interesting presentation showed immunoisolation of islets by encapsulation in a biodegradable coating. Studies in mice and baboons have now progressed to phase I/II clinical trials in humans (Novocell Inc.). I was fortunate to be able to present data from our lab, where we have generated local immunosuppression in a mouse model of islet allotransplantation. This strategy would reduce the amount of systemic immunosuppression required to prevent islet allograft rejection.

The supply of donor pancreata available for islet isolation is also a limiting factor. Thus, many presentations at the meeting described the development of alternative sources of insulin-producing cells. Alan Colman (ES Cell International) discussed the production of beta-like cells from human embryonic stem cells. Marvin Gershengorn (NIH) also made an interesting presentation where functional islet aggregates were derived from islet precursors in mature human islets.

It was a fantastic opportunity to be able to present our work in an international setting. I found the meeting content to be educational and was pleased to be able to meet and talk with so many experts in the field of islet transplantation.

Sarah Londrigan



Although, I have worked in fields related to xenotransplantation for more than a decade, firstly on complement regulators with Bruce Loveland and now on the Ab response to Gal with Mauro Sandrin, this was the first time that I've had the opportunity to attend an International Xenotransplantation Congress. In general, I found that it was highly stimulating to attend a conference that was dedicated to xenotransplantation and that was attended by a "Who's Who" of the field. I was also impressed at the number of TSANZ members presenting excellent work and having an impact on the field.

The opening gambit was a fine plenary session from David Sachs and David Cooper that enlightened us about the latest data for transplantation of organs from the GT KO pigs into baboons. I was surprised to hear that these transplants are not significantly more successful than transplants from the transgenic pigs containing human complement regulators. Obviously, the "Holy Grail" of knocking out GT has not quite



delivered the goods. This just means that we all have even more exciting discoveries ahead of us.

I was also impressed by the Ethics workshop that was held. Not many fields would open their congresses to potential criticism and I found it very interesting to see how professionals who research ethics view our field.

I would like to thank TSANZ and its sponsors for the opportunity to attend this meeting.

Julie Milland



MEMBERSHIP



New Members

Council welcomed the following new members:-

Dr Leon Adams
 Miss Sheren Jamal Al-Obaidi
 Dr Angela Burman
 Dr Gang (Eric) Chang
 Dr Ann-Maree Craven
 Dr Hannah Cullup
 Mr Boris Fedoric
 Dr Jaquelyne Hughes
 Ms Vicki Jermy
 Dr David Morris Joseph
 Dr Thomas William Hailes Kay
 Dr John Paul Killen
 Mr Hung-Ta Ko
 Dr Subramanian Karthik Kumar
 Mr Jair Chau Kwan
 Dr Darren Hiu Kwong Lee
 Dr Vicki Levidiotis
 Mr David Liuwantara
 Mr Nick Mabarrack
 Dr Katherine Mary McDougall
 Mr Clyde Milner
 Miss Rebecca Louise Morton
 Dr Chetana Noopur Naresh
 Dr Kathy Paizis
 Dr Wassim Rahman
 Dr Siddharth Rajakumar
 Miss Brie Eva Turner
 Dr Carolyn Louise Van Eps
 Ms Narelle Watson
 Mr John Cameron Wilson
 Mr Adam Charles Winterhalter
 Dr Muh Geot Wong

Miss Jing Jing Wu
 Dr David Tak On Yeung

Council also welcomed the following new ATCA/TSANZ member:-

Mr Paul Byrne
 Ms Alana Cresswell
 Ms Deidre Davidson
 Mrs Mary Gwendoline Goldthorpe
 Ms Catherine Hannan

Resignations

Resignations were received and accepted from:-

Ms Helmi Albrecht
 Dr Juchuan Chen
 Dr Tony Elias
 Dr Armand Keating
 Dr John Norman
 Dr Michael F Robinson
 Ms Li Ouyang
 Dr Nicole Webster
 A/Professor Peter Williamson

ATCA/TSANZ Resignations

Stephanie Durham
 Anne Robinson



SOCIETY AWARDS AND GRANTS

The Society, together with the generous support of Society sponsors, offers a number of awards and grants to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting and to attend relevant international meetings.

The awards currently available are:

- ❖ President's Prize at the ASM
- ❖ Kidney Health Australia Awards for the best clinical laboratory presentations at the ASM
- ❖ Novartis Young Investigator Awards at the ASM
- ❖ Janssen-Cilag Travelling Fellowship



- ❖ Novartis Travel Awards to attend International Meetings
- ❖ TSANZ Travel Awards to attend International Meetings

Additional awards were also presented at the 2006 Annual Scientific Meeting and they included Wyeth Young Investigator Awards and AMGEN Awards.

International Travel Awards, which provide assistance with travel/registration to meetings, are sponsored by TSANZ, Novartis, Roche and Janssen-Cilag.



OTHER AWARDS AVAILABLE

Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Australia

The Juvenile Diabetes Foundation coordinates its research efforts through several types of funding grants, each contributing to the overall goal of eradicating diabetes and preventing its complications. Information regarding Program Project Grants, Research Grants, Career Development Awards, Postdoctoral Fellowships, Innovative Grants, Travel Grants and JDRF Summer Student Grants can be found on the JDRF Website www.jdrf.org.au or by contacting Vanessa Wilson Ph:(02) 9966 0400 ext 201 Fax: (02) 9966 0172 or by email: vwilson@jdrf.org.au



Kidney Health Australia

Kidney Health Australia provides a variety of grants and scholarships to support individuals and groups in Australia undertaking research into the causes, prevention and treatment, including transplantation, of diseases of the kidneys and urinary tract. For information on all Grants and Scholarships contact Teresa Taylor Ph: (08) 8334 7555 Fax: (08) 8334 7540 Email: teresa.taylor@kidney.org.au Website: www.kidney.org.au

Free Information Line

Kidney Health Australia hosts a free information line for people with kidney disease.

The free call number is 1800 682 531.

For further information, please contact Janine Bevan – National Health Programs Unit Manager.



DIARY

TSANZ Meetings

Postgraduate Training Course of The Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand. 26th – 27th March 2007. University House, Canberra, ACT, Australia. The convenors of this course are Dr Karen Dwyer and Dr John Kanellis. For further information contact Aviva Rosenfeld

Phone: (02) 9256 5461

Email: tsanz@racp.edu.au

25th Annual Scientific Meeting of The Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand. 28th – 30th March 2007. Australian Academy of Science, Canberra, ACT, Australia. The convenors of the meeting are Dr Shane Grey and Dr Martin Gallagher. For further information contact Aviva Rosenfeld Ph: (02) 9256 5461 Email: tsanz@racp.edu.au

Other Meetings

European Renal Association – European Dialysis and Transplant Association 2006 Annual Congress.

15th – 18th July 2006. Glasgow, Scotland, UK.

Phone: +39 0521 989078 Fax: +39 0521 959242

Email: congress@era-edta.org

Website: www.era-edta.org/2005.htm

World Transplant Congress 2006. Jointly sponsored meeting of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons, American Society of Transplantation and the Transplantation Society. 22nd – 27th July 2006. Boston, MA, USA.

Phone: +1 856 439 0880 Fax: +1 856 439 1972

Email: pballinger@ahint.com

Website: www.atcmeeting.org/

16th World Congress of the World Society of Cardio-Thoracic Surgeons (WSCTS 2006). 17th – 20th August 2006. Ottawa congress Centre, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Phone: +(613) 761 5116 fax: +(613) 761 4478

Email: info@wscts2006.com

Website: www.wscts2006.com

Advances in Transplantation. 1st – 4th October 2006. Washington, DC, USA.

Website: www.contemporaryforums.com

European School of Haematology – Scientific Workshop on Biology and Clinical Applications of Mesenchymal Stem Cells. 6th – 8th October 2006. Mandelieu/Cannes, France.



Email: eshdi@chu-stlouis.fr

Website: www.esh.org

31st Australian and New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting on Intensive Care (ANZICS) Incorporating the 12th Australian and New Zealand Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care Conference (ACCCN).

12th – 15th October 2006. Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

For further information contact Conference Design.

Phone: +61 3 6224 3773

Fax: +61 3 6224 3774

Email: info@cdesign.com.au

Website: www.cdesign.com.au

The World Congress on Controversies in Obesity, Diabetes and Hypertension (CODHy). 26th – 29th

October 2006. Estrel Hotel, Berlin, Germany.

Email: codhy_reg@comtecint.com

Website: www.codhy.com

ESF-EMBO Symposium on Stem Cells in Tissue Engineering – Isolation, Culture, Characterisation and Applications. 28th October – 2nd November 2006.

Sant Feliu de Guixols, Spain.

Website: www.esf.org/conferences/lc06213

Advanced Training Course on Transplant Coordination. 20th – 24th November 2006. Barcelona, Spain.

Phone: +34 93 403 7687

Fax: +34 93 403 9920

Email: tpmproject@fbg.ub.es

Website: www.tmp.org

Xth World Congress of the Middle East Society for Organ Transplantation. 26th – 29th November 2006.

Kuwait.

Email: info@mesot2006.com

Website: www.mesot2006.com

The 3rd Australian Health & Medical Research Congress (AH&MRC)

26th November – 1st December 2006. Melbourne Convention Centre

Website: www.ahmrcongress.org.au/

27th ISHLT (International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation) Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions. 25th – 26th April 2007.

San Francisco, CA, USA.

Phone: +1-972-490-9495

Fax: +1-972-490-9499

Email: lisa.edwards@ishlt.org

Web site: www.ishlt.org

The American Transplant Congress 2007.

5th – 9th May 2007. San Francisco, CA, USA.

Phone: +1 856 439 986

Fax: +1 856 439 9982

Email: atc@ahint.com

Joint Meeting with IXA, IPITA, CTS.

15th – 20th September 2007. Minneapolis, MN, USA.

Phone: +1-514-874-1998

Fax: +1-514-874-1580

Email: info@fa-events.com

Website: www.cts-ipita-ixa-2007.org

13th Congress of the European Society for Organ Transplantation (ESOT). 29th September – 3rd

October 2007. Prague, Czech Republic.

Phone: +420-284-001-444

Fax: +420-284-001-448

Email: esot2007@guarant.cz

Website: www.esot2007.cz

28th ISHLT (International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation) Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions. 9th – 12th April 2008.

Boston Marriott and Hynes Convention Center, Boston, MA, USA.

Email: lisa.edwards@ishlt.org

Website: www.ishlt.org

The American Transplant Congress 2008.

30th May – 4th June 2008. Toronto, ON, Canada.

Phone: +1 856 439 9986

Fax: +1856 439 9982

Email: atc@ahint.com

International Congress of The Transplantation Society 2008. 9th – 14th August 2008. Sydney, Australia.

For further information contact The Meeting Planners

Phone: +61 3 9417 0888

Fax: +61-39417 0899

Email: tts2008@meetingplanners.com.au

Website: www.transplantation2008.org

The American Transplant Congress 2009.

30th May – 3rd June 2009. Boston, MA, USA.

Phone: +1 856 439 9986

Fax: +1 856 439 9982

Email: atc@ahint.com





OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST

RACP News

The following is a list of themes and deadlines for RACP News for the remainder of 2006. All material should be forwarded to racpnews@racp.edu.au

| ISSUE DATES | Booking Deadlines | Material Deadlines | Themes |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Mid Oct 2006 | 30 August 2006 | 6 September 2006 | Trainee's Edition |
| Mid Dec 2006 | 25 October 2006 | 1 November 2006 | Asia Pacific/International |



TSANZ COUNCIL

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asharland@med.usyd.edu.au

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asheridan@arcbs.redcross.org.au

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Mrs Aviva Rosenfeld
tsanz@racp.edu.au



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