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**ASSCR Annual Meeting 27-29 October**

All indications are that this year's ASSCR conference will continue the excellent scientific reputation of previous meetings while providing ample opportunity for interaction with colleagues old and new. We have four international speakers presenting plenary talks and a host of locals as well, covering topics from basic stem cell biology to clinical applications. We are also very pleased to note, that due to the very generous support of the National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia, we will have record numbers of post-graduate students and early career researchers presenting posters and orals. Based on the quality of their abstracts the future of the society looks very bright indeed. So come along for the science and connect with fellow stem cell researchers, around posters, at the trade displays, over coffee, or while sharing tapas at the conference dinner.

Looking forward to seeing you in Brisbane,

Stephen Wood and Kiarash Kosrotehrani
(Co-Chairs of the Conference Organizing Committee)

New Rules for the ASSCR

Dear Members,

I wish to give members advance notice that there will be a resolution at the AGM to adopt new Rules for the ASSCR. The ASSCR is required to update its Rules of Association to comply with new Victorian Legislation passed Nov 2012 to incorporate the requirements of the National Registry of Incorporated Associations. These changes are designed to increase transparency and accountability within associations and to comply with the requirements of the National Registry. Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV), the agency through which ASSCR is incorporated, has provided a model set of rules and given Associations two choices

1. Adopt CAV Model rules
2. Modify CAV model rules and submit to CAV by November 30, 2013. CAV will then examine the rules for compliance with the new legislation and accept or request the Society to modify any non-compliant rules.

The ASSCR Executive decided to adopt option 2. With the assistance from an expert in society governance (Paul Gargett), the Executive Committee generated a set of modified rules by comparing in detail the Model Rules from CAV with our soon-to-be obsolete ASSCR Rules. These proposed new rules have been discussed and ratified by the Ordinary Committee. There will be a resolution at the AGM on October 29 at the ASSCR Brisbane Conference to enable members to vote and adopt the new set of rules.

To comply with the new model rules (and the legislation) there are some significant changes required in the operation of the ASSCR committee structure. In particular ASSCR needs to have a **single governing committee to which all members are elected**. This means the EC (comprising the 4 elected office bearers – President, VP, Treasurer and Secretary) and OC (non-elected members) will be combined and that all members will be elected.

After much discussion, the EC and OC suggest a 9 member governing Committee, with 4 Office Bearers and 5 ordinary members. Each of the ordinary members will Chair one of 5 subcommittees. The 5 subcommittee chairs will draw up terms of reference for their individual committees and co-opt society members to their subcommittee. At the Committee meetings the Chairs will report on the activity of their respective subcommittees. The subcommittees have been drawn from the 8 current subcommittees and been combined and reduced in number. This new structure will ensure greater activity of the subcommittees, and that there will be a similar total number of Committee meetings per year but there will no longer be the separate EC and OC meetings.

The 5 subcommittees are as follows

1. Membership/Communications/Website/Newsletter
2. Policy and Translation/Ethics/ Public Policy/Clinical Translation
3. Sponsorship/Fundraising/Industry
4. Conference and Awards
5. Professional Development/JI/member trainees

The Process to comply with the new legislation is as follows

1. A resolution to adopt the new rules needs to be passed at the AGM by the majority of members
2. The new rules go to CAV for approval - if CAV do not accept the new rules then ASSCR will need to modify the rules to fit with the legislation and a new resolution by the membership needs to be passed.
3. The proposed new model rules and our current rules will be distributed with the Annual reports, with reference made between the old and new to make the required and proposed changes clear.
4. ASSCR will operate under the new rules but we are also developing a Committee Charter which describes HOW the Society operates within these rules, including terms of reference for the subcommittees, position descriptions etc
5. The first election of members to this new committee structure would occur in 2014.

There are a number of Rules OC/EC wish to draw to your attention—please see the Rules soon to be distributed with the Annual reports:

2. Purpose - these have been expanded from our current rules

8 Membership Categories

18 Register of Members. (2): availability of member list to members is a new requirement

36. Quorum at general meetings has been reduced from 25 to 20 until our membership significantly increases

44. Composition of the Committee - we are suggesting 9; 4 office bearers and 5 ordinary members

52 Election of Office Bearers and 53 Election of Ordinary Members.

The committee will be elected on a 2 year cycle so that approx 50% of Office Bearers and 50% of Ordinary members vacate each year with 50% to be elected into the positions. Because committee members can be re-elected (see 55 below), we anticipate that there will be less than 50% new incoming committee members, providing greater retention of corporate memory

54. Ballot - we would like to introduce on line voting prior to the AGM so that the new committee can be announced at the AGM and take office as the AGM/ meeting. ASN manage on line voting at a cost of \$250. However the rules still allow paper voting as currently stands in case this is needed in the future.

55. Terms of Office - 2 years with re-election for up to a maximum of 6/7 years on the Committee. Members can hold different positions and after 6 years, a committee member will be required to take a period of 2 years off the committee before seeking further re-election.

The new rules will be distributed to members at least 3 weeks prior to the AGM together with the Annual Reports.

Any recommended changes to these rules need to be made in writing to the Secretary (Michael Morris, michaelmorris@med.usyd.edu.au) at least 7 days prior to the AGM (ie by 22nd October).

Caroline Gargett,
President, ASSCR

National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia provides travel awards for early career researchers and students.

This year many students and early career researchers will be able to attend the ASSCR annual meeting thanks to the NSCFA who have provided **57** conference travel awards. Vishval Chaturvedi, a student at Curtin University in Perth is one student traveling to Brisbane to attend the meeting -

"The NSCFA award will give me an opportunity to meet fellow researchers and present my work to international experts working in the field of Tissue Engineering/Regenerative Medicine. The award back to receive from them will be extremely valuable and allow me to improve my research. The program outline suggests that it is focused specifically on stem cell biology, including the stem cell niche, which is applicable to my PhD project "Role of extracellular matrix in muscle repair and regeneration". In addition, as a result of this conference I hope to develop collaborations with other research groups with similar interests both within Australia and overseas, and make potential contacts to assist me in finding a post-doctoral position in the future. Attending the conference will also improve my depth of knowledge about the subject.

I would like to thank the ASSCR Organizing Committee and the NSCFA for providing me an opportunity to attend the ASSCR conference".

Vishval Chaturvedi
(PhD student, Perth)

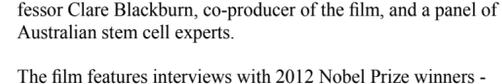
ASSCR Public Event—29th Oct Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre**Stem Cell Revolutions for students in Years 9 & 10****Sponsored by: The National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia**

Winner of the Best Documentary Award at the Vedere La Scienza Festival 2012.

This free program has been designed for delegates to gain a deeper understanding about the history and 'real science' of stem cell research and what it holds for the future. After the screening the students will be given an opportunity to have their questions answered by the University of Edinburgh's Professor Clare Blackburn, co-producer of the film, and a panel of Australian stem cell experts.

The film features interviews with 2012 Nobel Prize winners - Shinya Yamanaka and John Gurdon – and Sir Ian Wilmut, creator of Dolly the sheep, and takes the students on a journey from the earliest experiments that first revealed stem cells in the body, to the latest scientific and clinical development.

The film and panel conversation will address many aspects of how stem cell science has developed and how stem cells may affect people's lives, in particular we discuss the realities behind the hopes and fears associated with stem cell science.

**Upcoming Events****AusBiotech 2013**

**30 October – 1 November 2013,
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre**

AusBiotech are pleased to offer delegates to the Australian Society of Stem Cell Research (ASSCR) annual meeting the Academic Member rate to attend the AusBiotech 2013 conference which will be held in Brisbane on 30 October – 1 November, the day after the ASSCR conference. This rate will save delegates up to \$1050 on their registration fees.

To access this rate delegates just need to visit the conference website: <http://ausbiotech.org> select the Academic Member registration type (\$1100) and enter the code 'ASSCR' in the membership field.

19th NSW Stem Cell Network Workshop

**Innovating the Marketplace with Stem Cells
29th November, 2013
Convention Centre, Darling Harbour Sydney**

Topics include:
The workshop brings together experts from all areas of stem cell translation to discuss advancing Australian stem cell research to new levels of clinical and commercial success. The focus of the workshop is networking varied sectors and will highlight leading Australian research and commercial developments.

REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN
To register for the event:
<http://www.stemcellnetwork.org.au/Workshop/MainFrameSet.html>

Induced Pluripotent Stem (iPS) Cell Training Workshop

**30th October – 1st November 2013
(after the ASSCR meeting in Brisbane)**

The StemCore and CRA iPS Cell workshop is aimed at giving participants both practical experience with generation, identification and analysis of iPS cells (practical component); and to provide theoretical background of the fast developing field of iPS cell research (lecture component). These comprehensive training workshops provide hands-on, laboratory-based training, and includes a lecture component from Associate Ernest Wolvetang, one of Australia's leading stem cell scientists. The workshops deal with derivation of induced pluripotent stem cell lines (iPSC) and their subsequent passaging, manipulation, daily maintenance and characterisation.

These intensive training workshops are conducted under the guidance of expert stem cell researcher, Associate Professor Ernest Wolvetang, AIBN Group, in our state-of-the-art laboratory at the StemCore Facility.

See the CRA website: www.cellreprogrammingaust.com - or direct to : <http://www.cellreprogrammingaust.com/stemcore-and-cra-2013-induced-pluripotent-stem-cell-ips-training-workshop>. You will find more information about the workshop and a registration form, and also some links for reasonably priced accommodation in the UQ precinct.

Stem Cell Society Singapore Symposium 2013

"Early Human Development & Fetal-Maternal Medicine"
18 -19 November
Matrix Building Level 2 & 2M
30 Biopolis Street, Singapore 138671

DEADLINES
Poster Abstract Submission extended to: **8th October 2013**.
IMPORTANT: Online Registration Closes: **4 November 2013**

Poster abstracts can be submitted during your online registration until 8th October 2013.

11th Annual World Congress of Society of Brain Mapping and Therapeutics 2014

**17 – 19 March 2014
Four Seasons Sydney**

The 11th Annual World Congress of SBMT will bring together physicians, scientists, policy makers, funding agencies and industry to further the advances and applications in brain and spinal cord mapping and image guided therapies (operative and non-operative).

The annual conference which will host a world class program across the three days, an exhibition hall, poster displays and plenty of networking events.

The conference aim is to create a critical mass by introducing synergy amongst inter-disciplinary researchers to further understand the brain function and nervous system. It will serve as a platform from which to develop interactions between many of the stakeholders who also have extensive collaborations at national and international levels. For more information please visit the website:

<http://www.worldbrainmapping.org/11th-annual-congress/welcome-message>

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