



2015 Annual Meeting Review

Our 2015 Hunter Valley meeting was jointly held with Stem Cells Australia and the NSW Stem Cell Network. The meeting was highly successful with 300 delegates, 7 international invited speakers, 58 oral presentations, and over 120 posters.

A broad range of conference sessions covered topics including pluripotency, differentiation, bioengineering, clinical translation, stem cell commercialisation, as well as stem cell ethics and legislation.

The meeting also included the [launch of the new journal Regenerative Medicine](#), an exciting collaboration between Monash University and the Nature Publishing Group, which is now accepting submissions.

Our sincere thanks go to [all our meeting sponsors](#) whose continued valuable support helps make our meetings possible. In particular, continued strong support from the National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia (NSCFA) enabled 62 PhD students and postdocs attend the meeting. This generous support not only provides invaluable presentation and networking experience for our trainee members, but by facilitating their attendance greatly increases the vibrancy of our meetings.

Congratulations to Awardees

NSCFA funding also helped provide for the five prizes presented at the meeting. The very high standard of work presented in both the oral and poster sessions made for an intense competition, and all presenters should be congratulated for this. As announced at the meeting, the 2015 prize winners are:

Poster Award, PhD: Sarah Hemming

Poster Award, ECR: Martin Engel

Oral Award, PhD: Lizhe Zhuang

Oral Award, ECR: Jessica Frith and Christian Nefgzer.

2015 Prize Winners (left to right): Christian Nefgzer, Martin Engel, Sarah Hemming, Dr Michael O'Connor (ASSCR President). Not pictured: Jessica Frith, Lizhe Zhuang.

Thank You to the Organizers

Special thanks need to go to a range of people who contributed to the meeting's success, particularly those listed below. Thanks also to all who attended the meeting and helped make it a stimulating and enjoyable event. We look forward to seeing you again at our meeting this year.

2015 ASSCR Conference Local Organizing Committee Volunteers and Staff

A/Prof Jeremy Crook (Chair; representing ASSCR)
Dr James Chong (representing SCA)
Prof Bernie Tuch (representing NSW Stem Cell Network)
Dr Melissa Khoo (UNSW)
Prof Melissa Knothe Tate (UNSW)
Vashe Chandrakanthan (UNSW)
A/Prof Bronwen Connor (University of Auckland)
Dr Robyn Meech (Flinders University)
Margret Schuller (PeproTech Asia)
Dr Michael O'Connor (Western Sydney University)
Maree Overall (ASN Events)
Kara Tagliari (ASN Events)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & ELECTION OUTCOMES

Our Annual General Meeting held on November 10 was well attended with over 50 ASSCR members present. The meeting outlined the society's activities over the past 12 months including the development of a brand strategy to guide the society's professional and public engagement activities until at least after the 2018 ISSCR meeting in Melbourne.

Developing the ASSCR Brand

The essence of the brand strategy is:

-the ASSCR stands for:

Rigor; Accuracy; Professionalism; Trustworthiness; Approachability

-and, our public engagement will:

Inspire: through the beauty of stem cell artwork

Inform: by providing key messages and access to additional information

Empower: patients to make informed health choices

Examples of how this strategy is being implemented can be seen through our travelling Stem Cell Stories exhibition, our stem cell information video (soon to be on our website), and the [mobile-friendly public information webpage](#). We are also on Twitter and post recent stem cell papers, news, and research positions. If you have something you would like us to post, please send it through to info@asscr.org.

2015 Election Results

The results of our annual elections were also announced during the AGM. Your new ASSCR Committee for 2015/2016 consists of:

- President: *Dr Michael O'Connor (Western Sydney University)*
 - Vice President: *Prof Melissa Little (Melbourne Childrens Research Institute)*
 - Treasurer: *Dr Robyn Meech (Flinders University)*
 - Secretary: *Dr Michael Morris (University of Sydney)*
 - Membership and Communications Subcommittee Chair: *Dr Michael Doran (QUT)*
 - Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee Chair: *Margret Schuller (Peprotech)*
 - Conference and Awards Subcommittee Chair: *A/Prof Bronwen Connor (U. Auckland)*
 - Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee Chair: *A/Prof Megan Munsie (U. Melbourne; Stem Cells Australia)*
 - Professional Development and Junior Investigator Subcommittee Chair: *Dr Vashe Chandrakanthan (UNSW)*
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Thank you to everyone who nominated for positions and also to those who voted; participation in these activities is vital for maintaining the long-term strength of the society.

Thanks also go to our volunteer Election Returning Officers Drs Anna Michalska and John Haynes.

Thank You to 2014-2015 Committee Members & Subcommittee Volunteers

We would also like to extend our thanks to the large number of ASSCR members who volunteered for our five ASSCR subcommittees over the course of 2014 and 2015:

Conference and Awards Subcommittee Volunteers

A/Prof Bronwen Connor (Chair)
A/Prof Jeremy Crook
Dr Mirella Dottori
Prof Stan Gronthos
Dr Tinte Itinteang
Dr Melissa Khoo
A/Prof Kiarash Khosrotehrani
Jarmon Lees
Dr Max Lim
Dr Shiang Yong Lim
Dr Anna Michalska
Prof Bernie Tuch
A/Prof Stephen Wood

Policy Ethics and Translation Subcommittee Volunteers

A/Prof Megan Munsie (Chair)
Dr James Chong
Dr Tracy Heng
A/Prof Kiarash Khosrotehrani
Dr Rebecca Lim
Dr Jatin Patel

Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee Volunteers

Margret Schuller (Chair)
Dr Kevin Lau
Dr Heather Main
Jean Tan
Dr Nilay Thakar

Membership and Communications Subcommittee Volunteers

Dr Louise Winteringham (Chair, 2014/2015)
Dr Ana Antonic
Dr Heather Main
Dr Lincon Stamp
Dr John Haynes

JI and Professional Development Subcommittee Volunteers

Dr Vashe Chandrakanthan (Chair)
Veronica Antas
Dr Fang-Xu Jiang
Dr Heather Main
Dr Lincon Stamp

Event Invitation

The Joint 6th Margaret River Region Forum and 9th ASSCR Annual Scientific Meeting is coming up on the 4th-7th December. Registrations open 1st June. See attached flyer for more details.



Stem Cells: Fundamental
Biology and Clinical Translation

Joint 6th Margaret River Region Forum and 9th ASSCR Annual Scientific Meeting

4th - 7th December 2016
Pullman Resort, Bunker Bay,
Margaret River WA

Dear Colleague,

We are delighted to invite you to the Joint 6th Margaret River Region Forum and 9th ASSCR Annual Scientific Meeting. This conference brings together local, national and international experts, students and early career researchers in basic science, clinical research and clinical practice who share common interests in studying stem cells to understand the fundamental mechanisms of organ formation, and to develop new therapies for the treatment of human diseases.



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