



AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH

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Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research

Annual Report

2016–17 Financial Year

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10th Annual General Meeting
Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research
11 AM – Midday, 11 December 2017 Australian Eastern Daylight Time

This AGM will be held by Teleconference – Please dial in taking time differences into consideration

Please use the following information to dial in:

Australian Teleconference Toll Free Dial In Number: **1 800 896 323**

New Zealand Teleconference Toll Free Dial In Number: **0800 441 984**

Teleconference Participant Code: **5458389303**

(If you are dialling in from any other country, please contact the Secretary (m.morris@sydney.edu.au) for your dial-in number.)

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies (Melissa Little)
2. Acceptance of the Minutes from the ASSCR 2016 AGM (Appendix 1)
3. Results of Committee election process (Melissa Little)
4. Treasurer's Report, 2016–17 Financial Year (Robyn Meech)
5. Resolutions

"Be it RESOLVED that the meeting affirms the existing annual ASSCR membership fee structure (including GST) for 2017/2018:

1 year: Full membership \$120. Students \$60. Associate \$60.

2 year: Full membership \$210. Students \$105. Associate \$105.

3 year: Full membership \$290. Students \$145. Associate \$145.

New members who join the ASSCR during the year shall pay a fee equal to:

(a) the full annual subscription amount if they join between 1 August and 31 January; or

(b) a *pro rata* annual subscription based on the remaining part of the subscription year; or

(c) \$0 if they join between 1 May and 31 July or their subscription includes the following year."

6. Reports from Subcommittee Chairs and other ASSCR Activities (Michael Morris)
7. ASSCR 2017 Annual Conference and ISSCR2018 (Melissa Little)
8. Input and Ideas from Members
9. Other Business
10. Hand-Over to new Committee

President's Report: July 2016 to December 2017

As President of the Society, I am pleased to be able to present to you this Annual Report for 2016–2017. Over the past year your Committee has undertaken a large number of tasks to capitalise on a range of new opportunities and challenges. Organisation of our Annual Meetings is always a major focus of activity for the Society. Our success in attracting ISSCR 2018 to Australia required us to bring forward the 2017 Annual Meeting to May 2017. As a result, this year your Committee has organised two ASSCR Annual Meetings in parallel (2016, 2017), and also progressed the 2018 ISSCR conference. These are major achievements for the Society and have represented significant commitment from the Executive and Ordinary committee members of the Society. The meeting in December 2016 was a joint meeting held in Western Australia in association with the CCTRM. The 2017 meeting was a joint meeting with the Australasian Society for Cell and Gene Therapy held in Sydney. This highly successful meeting facilitated growing interactions between the stem cell and gene therapy disciplines. Both Societies found the combined scientific program to be very strong and there is considerable enthusiasm to have joint meetings between these two societies in the future.

ISSCR 2018 is to be held in Melbourne from 20-23 June. Planning for ISSCR has represented a large amount of effort on behalf of individual committee members. ASSCR is very pleased to be hosting this meeting and have been working closely with the ISSCR to plan several key associated events, including a public forum and a clinical translation forum, both prior to the formal meeting. A number of Australian researchers have been invited to present on the program and we will have a fabulous international line-up, including Doug Melton, Jennifer Doudna and Katherine High.

As described below, to provide similar numbers of conference Travel Awards as previous years the 2016 and 2017 ASSCR meetings have been organised with minimal external logistical support. At the same time the Committee has pursued important community and policy interactions, and also further refined the Society's operations in-line with our updated Rules. ASSCR is also working with NSCFA to deliver travel support to student members wishing to attend the ISSCR meeting in June.

As announced at the 2016 Annual General Meeting, one new member was elected to the 2016/2017 ASSCR Committee, and the Committee consists of:

ASSCR Committee Executive Members

Prof. Melissa Little (Murdoch Childrens Research Institute): President, 2016–18

Prof. Ed Stanley (Murdoch Childrens Research Institute): Vice President, 2016–18

Dr Robyn Meech (Flinders University): Treasurer, 2015–17

Dr Michael Morris (University of Sydney): Secretary, 2015–17

ASSCR Committee Ordinary Members

A/Prof. Mike Doran (Queensland University of Technology): Membership and Communications Subcommittee Chair, 2015–17

Dr Margret Schuller: Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee Chair, 2015–17

A/Prof. Megan Munsie (University of Melbourne; Stem Cells Australia): Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee Chair, 2016–18

A/Prof. Helen Abud (Monash University): Conference and Awards Subcommittee Chair, 2016–18

A/Prof. Liang Qiao (Westmead Institute for Medical Research): Professional Development and Junior Investigators Subcommittee Chair, 2016–18

Overview of ASSCR Committee and Subcommittee Activities for 2016–17

- i) Organising and holding the joint 2016 and 2017 ASSCR Annual Meetings – both meetings were held without the help of a Professional Conference Organiser.
 - Conference sponsor drive led by the Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee Chair
 - Abstract/travel award organisation led by the Conference and Awards Subcommittee and Treasurer
- ii) Organising for the 2018 ISSCR Conference, including handling sponsorship pledges, and organising the public forum in terms of its scope, audience, display of the Stem Cell Stories Exhibition.
- iii) Holding another state-based public event as part of Science Week led by the Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee Chair.
- iv) Reporting on ethical, legal and social issues led by the Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee, including: submission to the 2nd TGA public consultation on autologous cells and tissues in November 2016, which has contributed to a major revision of the rules governing the use of autologous stem cell procedures by the TGA in October this year.
- v) Management of Society finances led by the Treasurer, including investment of funds.
- vi) Continued implementation of the Society Rules (e.g., updating position descriptions and formalising assessment and approval of membership application.)
- vii) Creation of the 2017 Annual Report and organisation of the 2017 ASSCR Committee election.

2016 Joint 9th ASSCR Annual Meeting and 6th Margaret River Region Forum

Moving our 2016 Meeting from November to December enabled a joint meeting with the Centre for Cell Therapy & Regenerative Medicine to be held from 4–7 December at the Pullman Resort, Bunker Bay, Western Australia. This was the first ASSCR meeting held in Western Australia and provided a timely opportunity for closer interaction and strengthened ties with our colleagues there. The thought-provoking program and stunning location made for a stimulating meeting.

The theme of the meeting, Stem Cells – Fundamental Biology and Clinical Translation, featured sessions on genome organisation, epigenetics, single-cell studies, bioengineering associated with matrices and scaffolds, the genetics of disease, as well as immune- and organ-based therapies. A clinical session on Defining the Boundaries of Clinical Practice in Stem Cell Therapy was also held.

139 delegates attended the Meeting, with 4 international invited speakers, 58 oral presentations and 40 posters.

We congratulate the postgraduate/ECR winners of our Oral and Poster Prizes for their outstanding efforts:

Poster Award – PhD: Grace Lidgerwood

Poster Award – ECR: Isabel Hemming

Oral Award – PhD: Amy Chapman

Oral Awards – ECR: Elizabeth Ng

The ASSCR also congratulates all 32 winners of the Postgraduate/ECR Travel Awards sponsored by the NSCFA and the ASSCR.

2017 Joint 10th ASSCR/AGCTS Conference

Our 10th ASSCR Annual Meeting was jointly held with the Australasian Gene and Cell Therapy Society (AGCTS) and took place on 24–26 May 2017 at the University of Technology, Sydney. Titled Accelerating Personalised Medicine: Stem Cells, Gene and Cell Therapy. This was an opportune collaboration, given the growing national and international alignment between cell and gene therapy and provided a unique opportunity to increase interactions between our Societies.

200 delegates attended the Meeting, with 8 international invited speakers, 64 oral presentations and 75 posters. The Organising Committee developed an excellent program. Sessions included those on gene therapy, vector development and gene editing, disease modelling, regenerative medicine and bioengineering, clinical translation and clinical trials, stem cells and system biology.

A special event at the Meeting was the ethics and policy organised by our Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee: *First-in-Man Trials – Twists and turns on the road to translation*. This forum boasted distinguished panellists included Amit Nathwari (UCL), Eva Feldman (University of Michigan), Megan Donnell, Sanfilippo (Children's Foundation, Australia), Christopher Scott (Baylor College of Medicine) and Janet Macpherson (Royal Prince Alfred Hospital). Megan Munsie convened and chaired this well-received session that covered the perspectives of medical practitioners, researchers, bioethicists and patient advocates.

We again ran a Corporate Breakfast Session, this time on anti-cancer cellular immunotherapy and sourcing biological materials, which was extremely well attended.

As usual, the range and quality of the posters and presentations were outstanding. We congratulate the postgraduate/ECR winners of our Oral and Poster Prizes for their outstanding efforts:

Poster Award – PhD: Ana Rita Leitoguinho

Poster Award – ECR: Brett Kagan

Oral Award – PhD: Thomas Forbes

Oral Awards – ECR: Benjamin Cao

The ASSCR also congratulates all 28 winners of the Postgraduate/ECR Travel Awards sponsored by the NSCFA and the ASSCR.

Special mention goes to the efforts of Margret Schuller (ASSCR) and her team for their enormous effort in raising sponsorship and the excellent trade display. More than 75 companies were approached. 32 companies sponsored the meeting, with 17 being exhibitors.

<u>2016 Joint Meeting attendance:</u>	<u>139</u>	<u>Geographical breakdown of registrations:</u>	
Invited speakers	11	WA	36%
Full registrations	71	VIC	34%
Student registrations	43	NSW	13%
Day registrations	4	QLD	6%
Trade delegates and sponsor pass	10	SA	3%
ASSCR/NSCFA Award Recipients	32	ACT	2%
- Students	21	Overseas	6%
- ECRs	11		
<u>2017 Joint Meeting attendance:</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>Geographical breakdown of registrations:</u>	
Invited speakers	31	NSW	42%
Full registrations	90	VIC	30%
Student registrations	48	QLD	7%
Day registrations	3	WA	8%
Trade delegates and sponsor pass	28	SA	5%
ASSCR/NSCFA Award Recipients	28	Overseas	8%
- Students	19		
- ECRs	9		

Organisation of the 2018 ISSCR Meeting

ASSCR welcomes the international stem cell community to Melbourne for the ISSCR 2018 meeting from 20–23 June next year. As ASSCR President, I was invited to chair the scientific organising committee which also includes Professor Hans Cleavers, current President of ISSCR, and a geographically and scientifically diverse set of committee members who have worked hard to bring together and excellent scientific program. We are very proud to announce that eminent Australian embryologist and stem cell biologist, Professor Patrick Tam, will give the Anne McLaren lecture. Professor Jane Visvader has also been invited to present in the Cancer Stem Cells Plenary. The keynote address will be presented by Professor Jennifer Doudna discussing her breakthrough research on CRISPR gene editing. There will be 20 concurrent sessions throughout the meeting with each including 1 to 2 invited speakers with the rest being drawn from abstracts. Concurrent speakers from Australia will include Professor Andrew Elefanty (MCRI) and Dr Paul Simmons (Mesoblast). Abstracts open on 6 December, 2017.

The role of ASSCR has primarily been collecting the sponsorship pledges for the ISSCR bid from all organisations other than the Melbourne Convention Centre and the Victorian State Government. The Melbourne Convention Centre itself, together with the Stage Government, have provided close to \$600,000 towards the meeting while ASSCR, as the bid host, will collect in excess of \$330,000 to support the running of the event by the ISSCR. This will be completed by the second week of December and I will be present for the ISSCR Board meeting on December 1 to present a summary of income. The Society has had fabulous local support from Victoria Pope at the Melbourne Convention Centre and would also acknowledge the kind donations of all pledge sponsors, but would particularly highlight the contribution of \$60,000 from CSL as well as commitments of >\$25K each from Mesoblast, ASSCR and Stem Cells Australia.

2018 ISSCR Annual Meeting

Co-sponsored by the ASSCR

20–23 June, Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

Abstracts open 6 December 2017

Strategy for Maintaining Large Numbers of ASSCR Conference Travel Awards

Alongside these joint conference opportunities there have been a number of challenges. The most significant of these has been a decrease in travel award funding received from the NSCFA to \$20,000 for the 2016 and 2017 conferences, which the ASSCR matched with \$20,000. This combined support enabled 64 Travel Awards to be provided for postgraduate students and ECRs, plus 2 international travel awards each year. Importantly, the Travel Awards were funded while still achieving strong growth in ASSCR cash reserves.

The Society greatly appreciates continued NSCFA support at whatever level possible. Nevertheless, with this large reduction in NSCFA support, the Society will continue to pursue strategies strongly encouraging attendance at our meetings by Postgraduate students and ECRs.

ASSCR Public Engagement and State-Based Events

Hot Topics Forum

Due to popular demand, the 4th Q&A Hot Topic: Clinical Trials – The Good, the Bad and the Ugly was held on 17 August 2017 at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute and chaired by Margret Schuller. The panel and audience discussed controlled clinical trials compared to observational, evidence-based studies; the many important roles and responsibilities associated with human clinical trials; and the role of ethics and law, funding and regulation, the media, and responsibilities to patients, as well as patients' responsibility as participants in a clinical trial.

As in previous years, the feedback was positive, and delegates liked the diversity of the panel and the panel members' expertise. The event was free and of nominal cost for the Society, given that sponsorship was found (Bio-Strategy Laboratory Products and GE Healthcare Life Sciences). The summary of the panel discussion can be read on the ASSCR website. The events also provide an opportunity to recruit members.

Panel members included: Clinicians involved in stem cell clinical trials – Dr Ken Mickelwaite (Westmead Hospital) and A/Prof. James Wickham (Charles Sturt University); Biotech/translational researchers – Dr Kilian Kelly (Cynata) and Prof. John Rasko (Sydney University); Ethics/law specialists – Dr Tereza Hendl (Sydney University); Funding and regulatory specialists – Dr Tony Manderson (TGA) and Dr Tony Penna (Executive Director, the Office for Health and Medical Research); Reporters – Jill Margo (ABC AM; Health Editor, Financial Review); Patients – Dr James Wickham.

Submissions to the TGA on the regulation of autologous stem cell procedures

In March 2015, the ASSCR, under the leadership of the Policy, Ethics and Translations subcommittee, submitted its views to the TGA on potential changes to policy and practice regarding this contentious and, at present, less stringently regulated, clinical field. Our submission recommended tightening of controls in several key areas. The full report, along with those of similar Australian societies and networks, and various individuals can be found [here](#).

In August 2016, the TGA announced a second round of consultation: [Regulation of Autologous Cell and Tissue Products and Proposed Consequential Changes to the Classification of Biologicals](#)

The ASSCR again made a submission maintaining a strong and consistent position on this issue. The timing of this second round was particularly relevant in light of the recent NSW Coroner's Inquest into a ["Surgical case – "Experimental" therapy for dementia"](#), as [commented on](#) by the ASSCR.

It is very pleasing to see that after these two consultations and many years of discussion, the TGA have taken positive steps towards curbing the growth of the unproven stem cell industry with the main points as follows:

- TGA will regulate all autologous cell and tissue products (both homologous and non-homologous use; manufactured and minimally manipulated) if they are offered *outside a hospital setting*.
- Where the cells are offered in an accredited hospital they will be excluded from TGA oversight.
- Practitioners have been broadened to include dentists as well as medical practitioners.
- Advertising of 'products' is banned but 'services' that do not mention specific products can still be advertised.
- Access to unapproved therapeutic goods is still available via clinical trials and the Special Access Scheme.
- Roll out of new regulations is to occur in early 2018.

Thank you to everyone (including our former President Michael O'Connor) for working towards resolving this issue.

ASSCR Website and Communication with Members

Over the past 2 years we have used a combination of direct emails and our asscr.org webpage to communicate with members and to promote activities. Both mechanisms have been very effective. Additionally, we have created a Twitter presence (@theASSCR), which we hope will grow to provide greater visibility.

To improve connection with Members, and to better share information with the community, we have invested in the development of a new webpage hosting service and are in the process of designing a new site. This new service will allow for greater flexibility and greater content. We anticipate having the site up and running before Christmas. The basic features that are on the existing site are already embedded into this new site. We are soliciting members for content. Specific information that we would like to include are: (1) Researcher Spotlights, including biographies, (2) Increased advertising of local events, (3) Patient information, and (4) stem-cell educational content. I invite all members to contribute to this content development. If you have comments or are willing to contribute please email Mike Doran (mike@mikedoranlab.com) or Kathryn Futrega (k.futrega@qut.edu.au). We look forward to hearing from you and for incorporating your ideas into our website.

ASSCR Finances

As described in the Treasurer's Report, the Society is solvent and in a healthy financial condition. In keeping with previous years, revenue reported under the Society ABN for the 2016–17 financial year is below \$250,000 and thus the Society remains a small society as defined by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission. To our knowledge the financial statements presented here, prepared in consultation with the ASN Events financial officer, provide a true and accurate description of the Society's finances. Through the success of our 2016 and 2017 joint meetings in the Margret River and Sydney our cash reserves have increased well, placing the Society in a good position to meet the challenges of the next 2 years, including the Society's current and future liabilities, with particular regard to ISSCR2018.

Improving Committee Position Descriptions, Timelines and Handover Documents

The Committee has completed the process of developing detailed position descriptions and timelines for all its positions and many of its activities including the holding of elections, the generation of the Annual Report, and annual Membership reminders. This, together with our Rules of Association, and the continued development of a business plan is helping to clarify roles and to improve information transfer to new Committee and Subcommittees members.

2017 Committee Election Process

This year nominations were called for 4 elected Committee positions: Treasurer, Secretary and the Chairs of the Sponsorship and Industry subcommittee and the Membership and Communication subcommittee.

Single valid nominations were received for the positions of Treasurer and Chairs. Therefore, as per ASSCR rules no election will be held for these positions. An online ballot is being held for the two nominations received for the position of Secretary. The results of the election will be announced at the 2017 Annual General Meeting to be held by teleconference at 11 AM – Midday on 11 December.

Summary

ASSCR has had a very busy period of time over the past 12 months and faces a major year of activities around the ISSCR 2018 meeting. Our new committee members have shown incredible willingness to work on your behalf and great dedication to the development of researchers across the country in this space. As President, I am proud of the quality of the research being presented at our meetings and the pace at which we are embracing new research and clinical translation approaches.

I have enjoyed my first year as President and hope that I can bring the Society through the challenges of surviving through a year without an ASSCR meeting. The Society is at risk of reducing membership across this time given the lack of incentive to rejoin. I would strongly urge you to remain aligned to ASSCR across this time period to ensure that we have a robust society post ISSCR 2018. To this end, the Society will be working hard in the coming year to upgrade its website and communication lines with its members and will continue to support state-based activities wherever possible.

Finally, I would thank all of the Committee members for their hard work over the past year. I look forward to seeing you in Melbourne in June 2018.

Sincerely,



Melissa Little
ASSCR President

Committee Meeting Dates and Membership

ASSCR Committee Meeting Dates and Attendance (*July 2016–December 2017*)

This has been the second full year of the Society's new Committee structure. Under this structure, the 9-member Committee has held 9 meetings, as listed in the Table below. The ASSCR and many of its Committee Members also held 10 joint meetings with the AGCTS to organise the 2017 Joint Meeting held at UTS, Sydney.

In addition, the Committee engaged in frequent email communication throughout the year, including on the following matters:

- (i) Contract finalization for the successful bid for 2018 ISSCR Conference. The Society has set up, with the help of ASN Events, a process for receiving pledges from pledging institutions and investing them in a term deposit prior to transfer to the ISSCR.
- (ii) The Society has also invested some of its other capital in a separate term deposit. Money raised from these investments will go to support various activities, including Travel Awards for local and international postgraduates and ECRs.
- (ii) Preparing for our 4th and 5th joint Annual Meetings (with the Centre for Cell Therapy and Regenerative Medicine in 2016 and the Australasian Gene and Cell Therapy Society in 2017).
- (iii) Providing the framework for awarding Postgraduate and Early Career Researcher Travel Awards for the 2016 and 2017 meetings, sponsored by the NSCFA and the ASSCR.
- (iv) Preparing for the ISSCR2018 meeting, including the format, timing and location of the ASSCR-run public forum.
- (v) Continued improvement to the new website with an expansion of the content of the eNewsletters, and the opening of our new Twitter account (@theASSCR).
- (vi) Making submission to the second TGA call for potential changes in regulations relating to autologous stem-cell procedures (October 2016).
- (vii) Policies have been developed to respond to public enquiries and to assess Membership applications.
- (viii) A registry is being developed of companies, clinicians and researchers working in the field of stem cells and regenerative medicine in the broadest context.

Meeting Date	Attendance	Apologies	Chair	Minutes
17 August 2016	7	2	M. O.Connor	M. Morris
15 September 2016	5	4	M. O.Connor	M. Morris
2 November 2016	8	1	M. O.Connor	M. Morris
21 February 2017	8	1	M. Little	M. Morris
24 May 2017	8	1	M. Little	M. Morris
26 July 2017	7	2	M. Little	M. Morris
26 August 2017	7	2	M. Little	M. Morris
19 October 2017	6	3	M. Little	M. Morris
23 November 2017	8	1	M. Little	M. Morris

2016–17 Non-Elected ASSCR Subcommittee Volunteers

Policy Ethics and Translation Subcommittee Volunteers

A/Prof. Megan Munsie (Chair)

Dr James Chong

Dr Sarah Hemming

Dr Tracy Heng

A/Prof. Kiarash Khosrotehrani

Dr Rebecca Lim

Dr Jatin Patel

Dr Nathan Palpant

Conference and Awards Subcommittee Volunteers

A/Prof. Helen Abud (Chair)

Dr Shiang Yong Lim

Prof. Susie Nilsson

A/Prof. Enzo Porello

Prof. Andrew Elefanty

A/Prof. Mirella Dottori

Prof. Christine Wells

A/Prof. Anne Chidgey

Dr Sara Howden

Dr Thierry Jarde

Dr Nathan Palpant

Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee Volunteers

Dr Margret Schuller (Chair)

Hannah Glover

Rachel Shparberg

Membership and Communications Subcommittee Volunteers

Dr Mike Doran (Chair)

Ms Kathryn Futrega

Ms Seaky Lim

Dr Ena Music

JI and Professional Development Subcommittee Volunteers

A/Prof. Liang Qiao (Chair)

Volunteer Election Returning Officers

Dr John Haynes

Dr Anna Michalska

Dr Elizabeth Ng

2016 ASSCR Conference Organizing Committee Volunteers and Staff

Convenor: Prof. George Yeoh

Co-Convenor: Prof. Minghao Zheng

Organising Committee

Dr Cecilia Prêle (Chair)

Dr Luke Diepeveen

Ms Meredith Eddington

A/Prof. Julian Heng

Ms Leanne Hall

Dr Michael O'Connor

Prof. George Yeoh

Scientific Committee

A/Prof. Julian Heng (Chair)

Prof. Andrew Elefanty

Prof. Martin Pera

A/Prof. Jose Polo

Dr Cecilia Prêle

Advisory Committee

Prof. George Yeoh

Prof. Minghao Zheng

Prof. Geoffrey Laurent

Prof. Martin Pera

Dr Michael O'Connor

ASSCR Sub-Committee

A/Prof. Bronwen Connor (Chair, Conference and Awards Subcommittee)

A/Prof. Michael Doran (Chair, Membership and Communications Subcommittee)

Dr Margret Schuller (Chair, Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee)

Dr Robyn Meech (ASSCR Treasurer)

2017 ASSCR/AGCTS Conference Organizing Committee Volunteers

Representing the ASSCR:

Prof. Melissa Little

Dr Michael O'Connor

A/Prof. Bronwen Connor

Dr Robyn Meech

Representing the AGCTS

Dr Rose Martiniello-Wilks

Dr Jim Vadolas

Prof. Ann Simpson

Dr Samantha Ginn

Dr Margret Schuller
A/Prof. Mike Doran
Dr Robyn Meech
Dr Michael Morris

Dr Sharon Cunningham
Dr Maggie Evans-Galea
Dr Paul Gregorevic
Prof. Steve Wilton

2018 ISSCR Conference Subcommittee

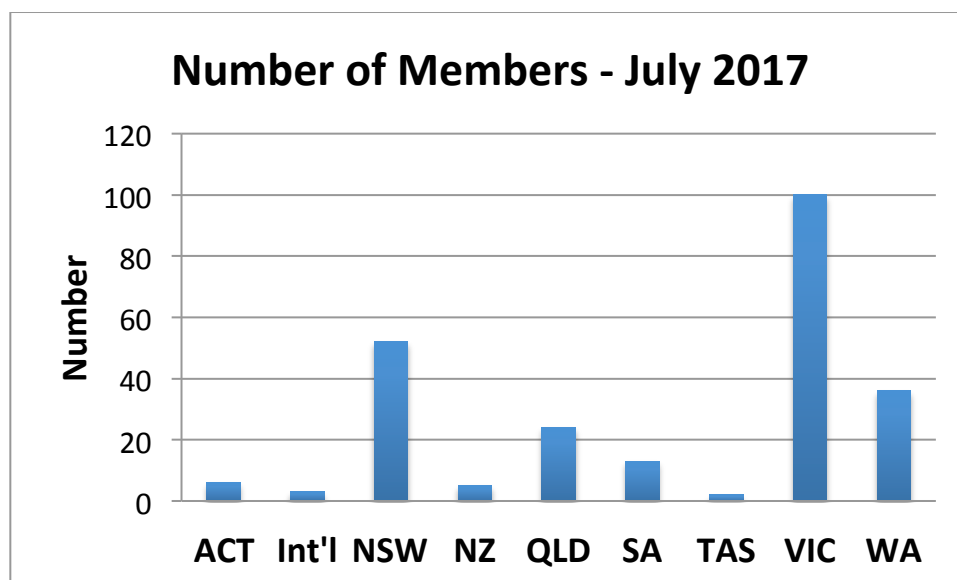
Dr Michael O'Connor (Western Sydney University; ASSCR President, 2014–16)

Prof. Melissa Little (Murdoch Childrens Research Institute; ASSCR President, 2016–18)

Memberships

ASN Events was contracted for a third 2-year period (starting July 2016) to process ASSCR Membership payments and renewals. This outsourcing allows volunteers to focus on issues relating to enhancing and expanding the reach of the Society and providing better service and opportunities to its Members. In a significant change, however, the ASSCR partnered with its joint-meeting societies in 2016 and 2017 to run the Annual Meetings largely without input from ASN Events. The anticipated savings should help to keep meeting registration costs low, provide Travel Awards to postgraduates and ECRs as the gratefully received NSCFA sponsorship diminishes, and support additional ASSCR-sponsored events.

As of 30 June 2017, the ASSCR had 246 financial Members, an increase of 20 over the last 2 years and a substantial increase over previous years (206 Members in 2014; 169 in 2013; 89 in 2012. The graph below shows the geographic distribution of our Members.



Treasurer's Report, Financial Year 2016–17

The Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research (ASSCR) is incorporated in Victoria PC 3194 (ABN:45 374 899 784) and registered as a tax-exempt *not-for-profit* charitable organisation. As a Charitable Institution the society is endorsed to access the following tax concessions: GST Concession 18 Apr 2008¹; Income Tax Exemption (since 18 Apr 2008); and FBT Rebate (since 18 Apr 2008). The ASSCR is also endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (since 18 Apr 2008).

Cash Flows were previously managed through a BankWest business account but this has been inactive since 2013. The remaining funds in this account will be incorporated into a longer-term investment strategy that was initiated by ASSCR with the establishment of a \$50,000 Term Deposit Account. The ASSCR had cash reserves of approximately \$138,987 at the end of the 2016-2017 Financial Year.

ASSCR Annual Meetings have been managed by ASN Events since 2008. In 2012 we signed a memorandum of understanding with ASN for secretariat services. Cash flows associated with membership fees, conferences and other activities are managed by ASN via an Operating Account held at National Australia Bank (NAB). The ASSCR Committee members are not signatories to this account; instead the Treasurer and ASSCR President authorize the ASN Financial Controller to make and receive payments.

All transactions processed via ASN are reported to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) by ASN Conferences acting as agent, and all GST liabilities are remitted by ASN Conferences on submission of the ASN Conferences Business Activity Statements (BAS). Currently all GST reporting occurs under the ASN Events' ABN; moreover ASSCR submits 'nil GST returns' to the ATO with respect to its own ABN (as no transactions occur outside of the ASN-operated NAB account). ASN provides the ASSCR with a quarterly tax liability summary as well as a full GST ledger annually for our records.

Income this financial year was generated by a combination of membership fees, profit share from the 2016 Annual Meeting, sponsorship, and interest earned on our bank accounts. Expenditures this financial year were student/ECR travel awards (for both 2016 and 2017 Annual Meetings), ISSCR 2018 Meeting pledge, 2017 Annual Meeting seed funds, secretariat fees, website, and committee teleconferences (see the notes to Table 2 for more details).

Breakdowns of Income and Expenditure as well as Net Equity for each year from 2014-2017 are provided in Table 2 for comparison purposes. A brief summary of our financial position as of 30th June 2017 (including financial summary of the 2016 Annual Meeting) is given below.

ASSCR Net Equity:

As of June 30th 2017, our net equity was \$138,986.34. This sum included:

- a) \$17,665.40 in our Bankwest account
- b) \$121,320.94 in our ASN managed NAB accounts (Operating and Term Deposit)

2016 ASSCR-CCTRM Margret River Research Forum (MRRF) joint meeting position:

- All expenditures and income have been reconciled; the meeting account has been closed and the ASSCR's **profit share** from the joint meeting (**\$17,639.32**) distributed back to our operating account.

Total Meeting Income: \$109,264.97

Total Meeting Expenses: \$ 73,986.33

Net Trading Position (surplus): \$ 35,278.64

ASSCR Profit Share: \$ 17,639.32

An agreement to share the profit 50:50 between ASSCR and CCTRM was negotiated between the ASSCR executive committee and CCTRM, and approved by the ASSCR President and Vice President and CCTRM Director George Yeoh.

2017 ASSCR-AGCTS Sydney joint meeting:

- Expenditures and income for this meeting (24th-26th May 2017) were not reconciled by the end of the 2016/2017 financial year and the meeting account remains open. Profit share will be distributed in the 2017/2018 financial year.

Major 2016-2017 Expenditures:

\$20,000 in support of the 2018 ISSCR meeting

\$21,924 on travel awards for the 2016 and 2017 Annual meetings

\$7,000 Seed funds for the 2017 Annual Meeting

Table 1. 2016 ASSCR-CCTRM (MRRF) joint meeting

Conference income	
Delegate registration, dinner tickets, and bus fares	\$66,519
Sponsorship/Trade income	\$42,746
Conference income total	\$109,264
Conference Expenditure	
Speakers (travel etc)	\$2,726
Venue (incl AV) and catering (incl conference dinner)	\$50,712
Charter Bus	\$4,459
Programs and Advertising	\$3,942
ASN abstract services	\$3,227
On site Admin Support	\$660
Bank Fees	\$567
Misc	\$3,128
ASSCR Membership fees collected with rego (<i>extracted from meeting income</i>)	\$5,018
Travel awards and prizes (<i>administered separately from the meeting budget</i>)	n/a
GST payable	
Conference expenses total	\$74,439
Net income	\$35,826

Table 2. Income statement 2014-2017

<i>Conference location:</i>	<i>2013 Brisbane</i>	<i>2014 Lorne</i>	<i>2015 Hunter Valley</i>	<i>2016 Margret River</i>
Financial Year ending in June:	2014	2015	2016	2017
Income				
Membership income	\$14,450	\$13,741	\$16,696	\$16,033
Annual Meeting income				
Delegate registration	\$39,359			
Sponsorship	\$68,900			
Trade/Advertising	\$21,700			
Profit share (AHMRC, Lorne, Hunter Valley, Margret River)		\$17,481	\$26,251	\$17,639
Annual Meeting income total	\$129,959	\$17,481	\$26,251	\$17,639
Interest/Other income	\$1,658	\$859	\$796	\$2,930
Sponsorship income			\$16,000	\$20,000*
Total Income	\$146,067	\$32,081	\$59,744	\$56,614
Expenditure				
Annual meeting expenses				
ASN Events Management Fees/Administration	\$27,806			
Speakers (travel/accommodation)	\$9,705			
Travel awards and prizes	\$26,177			
Venue, AV and Catering	\$37,767			
Other	\$16,288			
Annual meeting expenses total	\$117,743	n/a	n/a	n/a
Other expenses	\$127	\$8,691	\$21,614	\$21,924** \$20,000*** \$7,888**** \$7,000*****
Total Expenses	\$117,870	\$8,691	\$21,614	\$56,902
Net income	\$28,197	\$23,390	\$38,130	-\$288

Table 3. Comparison of net equity in financial years ending June 2013 - June 2016

Financial Year ending in June:	2014	2015	2016	2017
Cash assets ASN	\$61,650	\$69,807	\$121,561	\$112,388
Cash assets Bankwest	\$17,665	\$17,665	\$17,665	\$17,665
Total cash assets	\$79,315	\$87,705	\$139,226	\$130,054
Liabilities	\$1,098	-\$233	-\$48	-\$8,932*****
Net equity	\$78,217	\$87,938	\$139,274	\$138,986

Note on tables:

Table 2: Accounting is performed differently for the joint society meetings (i.e. 2014, 2015, 2016) than for standalone ASSCR meetings (2013). For simplicity, income from joint meetings is presented as ASSCR's profit share less any ASSCR-specific expenses or income. All values have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

ASSCR Income in the 2016-2017 financial year (independent of 2016 and 2017 Annual Meeting income) came from memberships, interest on our operating and term deposit accounts, and sponsorship (see below).

* The \$20,000 sponsorship payment was provided by NSCFA to support student/ECR travel awards for both the 2016 and the 2017 Annual Meetings.

ASSCR had also collected \$52,500 in pledges for the ISSCR 2018 Meeting that were held in our ASSCR accounts at the end of the 2016-2017 financial year. This amount is not included in the Income Statement (Table 2) or the Net Equity calculation (Table 3).

ASSCR expenses in the 2016-2017 financial year (independent of 2016 and 2017 Annual Meeting expenses) were secretariat fees (administration and accounting), web site maintenance, committee phone meetings, travel awards to support attendance of student and ECR members at the 2016 and the 2017 ASSCR Annual Meetings, and pledged/paid support for the ISSCR 2018 Meeting (see below).

** Travel award payments (\$21,924) were made to students/ECRs attending the 2016 and the 2017 Annual Meetings. This amount represents the portion of the travel award budget that was paid directly to awardees as flight/travel reimbursement within the 2016-2017 financial year (not all reimbursements were reconciled by June 30th). It does not include additional award items (conference dinner tickets and complimentary memberships). ASSCR pledged partial matching funds (~\$7,000 per meeting) to fund these additional award items.

*** ASSCR pledged \$20,000 in support of the bid for Melbourne to host the ISSCR 2018 Meeting. This amount was paid to ISSCR this financial year along with other pledges collected by ASSCR on behalf of ISSCR.

**** General ASSCR expenses (\$7,888) included ASN management fees, accounting, teleconferences, and bank fees.

***** Seed funding (\$7,000) provided in support of the ASSCR/AGCTS 2017 Joint Meeting will be returned prior to calculation of profit share in the next financial year.

Table 3: Net Equity = sum of Current Assets minus Current Liabilities.

***** The tax (GST) liability is negative when purchases including GST were more than received income including GST.

Appendix 1
9th ASSCR AGM Tuesday 6 December 2015 1 pm – Minutes
Pullman Resort, Bunker Bay, WA

Present: Helen Abud, Neil Andrewartha, Anna Brooks, Luke Carrol, Bronwen Connor, Shuang Cui, Diedre Coombe, Luke Diepeveen, Mike Doran, Chris Dusting, Caroline Gargett, Hannah Glover, Pritinder Kaur, Ricky Lareu, Lawrence Liew, Rebecca Lim, Melissa Little, Sam McLenachan, Robyn Meech, Michael Morris, Michael O'Connor, Adam Passman, Cecilia Prele, Liang Qiao, Sheena Regan, Rachel Shparberg, Robyn Strauss, Ken Woo, George Yeo, Ming Hao Zheng, Dandan Zhu

Apologies: Megan Munsie, Ed Stanley

Item	Discussion	Actions
1. Welcome and Apologies (Michael O'Connor)	<p>Apologies (as above).</p> <p>ISSCR2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOC reiterates that Australia has won the bid to host the ISSCR Conference in 2018 in Melbourne and thanks the hard-working bid team (see list at end of Minutes), which includes the President and ML (Vice President). • ASSCR is responsible for the collection of pledges and other agreements, including an agreement signed with the Melbourne Convention Bureau. • ML is Chair of the Scientific Program Committee. • A Public forum associated with ISSCR2018 and is under the control of the ASSCR. Organisation of this Public Forum has begun and will build on our various outreach programs: Stem Cell Stories Exhibition at SciTech, Q&A events (chaired and organised by MS), eNewsletters, and policy for dealing with patient enquiries. <p>Policy initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Society continues to actively interact with Federal Government and the TGA on the evolution of stem- 	

	<p>cell procedures, including particularly guidelines and legislation around autologous procedures.</p> <p>Meetings, membership and secretarial support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Society relies on ASN Events for secretariat support: A new MOU has been signed but one which enables joint conferences to be held without professional conference organisation without financial penalty. • The ASSCR has moved away from AHMR to tailor conferences better for our Members. • Joint meetings increase the reach of Society up to 2018 and have allowed us to gain some independence from NSCFA funds as they go down. ASSCR committed to maintain Travel Awards for Postgraduates/ECRs. • 60 new Members this year, ~40 from WA, which is very encouraging. We usually don't get as many new Members in a year. • For this 2016 meeting, the ASSCR has reduced reliance on external logistical support from ASN and relied more on volunteers from both societies. These efforts have resulted in the maximum number of registrants for the venue – our first meeting in WA. • MOC thanks the ASSCR Committee, Conference Organising Committee, other staff and volunteers for all their help over the last year. • GY comment on MOC's extremely valuable role in taking the Society forward and asks for a formal thankyou to him. 	<p>GY moves formal vote of thanks to MOC. HA second Carried unanimously.</p>
<p>2. Acceptance of the Minutes from the ASSCR 2015 AGM (Appendix 1)</p>	<p>The Annual Report, which includes the Minutes from the 2015 AGM, was distributed by email to Members on 22/11/16.</p>	<p>MOC moves motion that the Minutes be accepted. MMu seconds. Motion to approve Minutes passed unanimously.</p>

<p>3. Results of Committee election process (Michael O'Connor)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOC summarised the positions and structure of the Committee that has been operating for the last 24 months and the reasons for election of the various positions. • Elections for Secretary and Treasurer positions will be on alternate years to election of Vice President. • Elections for 3 positions in the Ordinary Committee of 5 Chairs to place this year and the other two in the following year. • There will be a change in President: Current VP Melissa Little is to begin her 2-year term as ASSCR President <p>Nominations and elections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 nominations received for VP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A/Prof Jeremy Crook (UoW) - Prof Ed Stanley (MCRI) • 3 Ordinary Committee Member positions open for nominations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chair Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee - Chair Conference and Awards Subcommittee - Chair Junior Investigator and Professional Development Subcommittee • Single valid nominations were received for each. <p>Results of Committee election process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ed Stanley elected as Vice President • Megan Munsie re-elected unopposed as Chair Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee • Helen Abud elected unopposed as Chair Conference and Awards Subcommittee • Liang Qiao elected unopposed Chair Junior Investigator and Professional Development Subcommittee 	
<p>4. Treasurer's Report, 2015–16 Financial Year</p>	<p>The full Treasurer's Report appears in the Annual Report.</p> <p>ASSCR Net Equity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 30 June 2016, our net equity was \$139,274.15. This sum included: 	

(Robyn Meech)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- increase of \$51,569 (59%) in the past 12 months- \$17,665.40 in our Bankwest account- \$121,608.75 in our ASN managed NAB operating account <ul style="list-style-type: none">• These net equity is more than sufficient to offset \$46,000 in anticipated liabilities for 2016-2018 leaving uncommitted cash reserves of ~\$93,000. These contingencies include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- \$20,000: pledged for the 2018 ISSCR meeting (this money will not return to ASSCR accounts)- \$ 7,000: seed funding for the 2017 ASSCR/AGCTS Meeting- \$19,000: travel awards for 2016/2017 Annual Meetings• Conference partnering reduced reliance on event management and associated costs and helped to maintain Travel Awards• A summary of the equity for the last 4 years is shown in the Table at the end of the Minutes. <p>ISSCR2018 pledges and other investment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As of 30 June 2016, ASSCR also held \$57,500 in pledges for the 2018 ISSCR meeting in a subaccount of our ASN-NAB account.• Pledges are now held in term deposit account, with rollover options.• \$60k of ASSCR funds are also now in rollover term deposit. <p>2015 ASSCR-NSWSCN-SCA Hunter Valley joint meeting position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All expenditures and income have been reconciled; the meeting account has been closed and the ASSCR’s profit share from the joint meeting (\$26,251) distributed back to our operating account.• The same profit-share formula will be used as that for previous joint meetings. <table><tr><td>Total Meeting Income:</td><td>\$ 220,706</td></tr><tr><td>Total Meeting Expenses:</td><td>\$ 177,236</td></tr><tr><td>Net Trading Position (surplus):</td><td>\$ 43,470</td></tr></table>	Total Meeting Income:	\$ 220,706	Total Meeting Expenses:	\$ 177,236	Net Trading Position (surplus):	\$ 43,470	
Total Meeting Income:	\$ 220,706							
Total Meeting Expenses:	\$ 177,236							
Net Trading Position (surplus):	\$ 43,470							

	<p>To ASSCR: \$26,251.30 To SCA: \$15,101.34 To NSW SCN: \$ 2,116.93</p> <p>Travel Awards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSCFA have informed us that their historically high level of support for travel awards will not be continued at least in the short-term. ASSCR is committed to assisting young investigators to attend our Annual Meeting. • Since NSCFA support has reduced so the ASSCR has committed more funds out of its reserves and will do so again next year. • The Travel Award stipend cut back in various ways but allowed 32 Postgraduates/ECRs to attend the meeting • Same strategy will be used next year but travel costs to Sydney will be less for most applicants. <p>Expenses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASSCR expenses in the 2015–16 financial year (independent of the 2015 Annual Meeting) were secretariat (ASN) and administration fees, web site maintenance, committee phone meetings, support for a Q&A Hot Topic event on stem cells, student/junior investigator presentation prizes for the 2015 CCTRM (UHU) Research Symposium at UWA, and the Illuminart Stem Cell public engagement project. <p>Secretariat (ASN Events):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASN handles many of our secretarial duties. • The money spent on the management of ASSCR affairs has been considered good value. • ASN has shown more flexibility so that we can pick and choose the assistance we require. <p>Q&A events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two highly successful events were run by Margret Schuller. • These events were free, well attended, and resulted in very little cost to the Society. 	
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	<p>Payment of overdue GST:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As summarized in the 2015 Annual report, ASSCR had overdue GST in the amount of \$1,561.00 owing to the ATO in 2015–16 financial year. This was paid on 12/10/2015 and the issue is resolved. 	
<p>5. Resolution to affirm ASSCR annual membership fees:</p>	<p>Under the Rules of Association, the ASSCR must formally review its membership fee structure at each AGM.</p> <p>The Resolution is as follows:</p> <p>"Be it RESOLVED that the meeting affirms the existing annual ASSCR membership fee structure (including GST) for 2016/2017:</p> <p>1 year: Full membership \$120. Students \$60. Associate \$60. 2 year: Full membership \$210. Students \$105. Associate \$105. 3 year: Full membership \$290. Students \$145. Associate \$145.</p> <p>New members who join the ASSCR during the year shall pay a fee equal to:</p> <p>(a) the full annual subscription amount if they join between 1 August and 31 January; or (b) a <i>pro rata</i> annual subscription based on the remaining part of the subscription year; or (c) \$0 if they join between 1 May and 31 July or their subscription includes the following year."</p> <p>The definition of Associate Members is based on the Rules 8 & 14 of the Rules of Association.</p> <p>The Society's fee structure stays low under this Resolution and appears to be low compared to other societies.</p>	<p>MOC moves motion that the Resolution to retain the current fee structure be accepted. GY seconds.</p> <p>The Resolution was carried unanimously.</p>
<p>6. Reports from Subcommittee Chairs and other ASSCR Activities</p>	<p>A large number of people and groups have contributed to the smooth running and improvements in the functioning of the ASSCR over the last year. Thanks to all involved. The following is a snapshot of some of the achievements of the Society over the last year or so.</p> <p>Joint conferences (full reports can be found in the Annual Report):</p>	

(Michael Morris)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint meetings are part of ASSCR’s deliberate and useful strategy of bringing different networks/societies together across the broad range of fields in regenerative medicine and encouraging cooperation and interaction. • Our 2nd joint conference, and 8th Annual Meeting overall was held last year with ASSCR, NSWSCN and SCA in the Hunter Valley • The conference attracted 290 delegates and had a fantastic scientific program • A great deal of thanks goes to A/Prof. Jeremy Crook (Chair; representing ASSCR) and the Organising Committee • 3rd joint conference, 9th Annual Meeting overall is held this year with Centre for Cell Therapy and Regenerative Medicine • This is the first time the ASSCR has held a meeting in WA. • We have 130 registrants, at maximum capacity for the venue, and have been able to forge closer ties to an important group working in the stem-cell space in Australia. <p>Why joint meetings?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is part of the deliberate and useful strategy of bringing different networks/societies together across the broad range of fields in regenerative medicine and encouraging cooperation and interaction. • Running joint conferences isn’t trivial and this time the ASSCR is running the meeting without the support of a professional conference organiser. • The savings will allow the meeting to run in the black, keep registration and membership costs down. • Profits can go to supporting the Society’s Members including Travel Awards, other workshops, etc. • The strategy has allowed us to be increasingly solvent and commit \$20k to ISSCR, put on public events, etc. • MOC secured \$20k sponsorship from NSCFA for Travel Awards for this year and next year. This has been supplemented by \$17k from the ASSCR + \$4k for this year and next year for international delegates. • This has been critical in bringing Postgrads and ECRs to our meetings – exposing them to the benefits of 	
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	<p>conference participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It also means our meetings attract a lot of abstracts – particularly from ECRs – and we really can choose fantastic work for oral presentations. • All of that requires lots of work from Bronwen Connor and the Conference and Awards subcommittee and Treasurer, Robyn Meech, who organised all the Travel Award judging and distribution of Awards. • Bronwen is stepping down as Chair and she really has set the foundation for running several crucial aspects of our Annual Meetings, working with ASN Events (when used as our professional conference organiser), and putting the frameworks in place for this and the next conference where we are largely running without and professional conference organiser. • We now have a large number of processes in place, thanks to Bronwen’s efforts. <p>Margret Schuller (Chair) & Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee <i>Sponsorship is crucial to running meetings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margret Schuller and her subcommittee team of Industry and Sponsorship have obtained over \$50k in sponsorship – a record for an ASSCR conference – and in the current climate that is really outstanding. <p><i>State-based events</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the first time the ASSCR has run scientific forums outside the annual meeting. • 2 have now been held at Genea in Sydney and 1 held at Victor Chang • The forums are free and held on current topics: • Australian stem cell industry business model • Stakeholders’ perspective on autologous stem cell therapy regulation • Advancing Stem Cell Therapies: Balancing science, clinical trials, regulation and consumer demand • Attendances have been very healthy: 80, 50, 60, respectively. • These forums has resulted in lots of discussion about how to engage with government and patient advocates, etc. <p>Megan Munsie (Chair) & Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee <i>Megan and her team have consistently put the views of the Society to Government and the public. Her team has:</i></p>	
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- Developed policy on a range of ethical, legal and social issues including:
- Dealing with patient enquiries.
- Dealing with Membership applications with the Committee as a whole.
- ASSCR submissions to the TGA consultation on regulation of autologous cell interventions in March 2015 and August 2016. This fraught area has seen several media exposés (SBS Insight program, 3 features on ABC programs, including 2 on 7.30 Report) including those on ASCRO's Mikael Wolfe and Macquarie Stem Cells (Coroner's Report 15 July 2016 the dementia patient Sheila Drysdale).

Mike Doran (Chair) & Memberships and Communications Subcommittee

- Mike has taken over from Louise Winteringham, who served the Society for so many years and it's been very important for someone to come in and not waste that effort, and further the work.
- Mike's team has:
 - Tidied up and expanded the website
 - Expanded the content of eNewsletters
 - Launched our new Twitter account (@theASSCR), which went live in February 2016.
 - News on the website and Twitter feed included scientific breakthroughs, stem-cell news from around Australia and internationally, notification of stem-cell related conferences and events, as well as meeting reports.
 - These changes have significantly improved dissemination of information to Members and the wider stem-cell community.

Robyn Meech, Treasurer

Robyn always has difficult and complex issues to work through. She:

- Is always on Annual Meeting organising committees.
- Has worked this year on the investment of ASSCR funds and ISSCR pledges.
- Looks after the distribution of Travel Awards.
- Assisting in reporting to reporting to the ATO, CAV, and Australian Charities and not for Profit Commission.
- Has to work with and coordinate much of the activity between ASSCR, our Events manager, and

participating Societies in joint meetings.

- Providing updated financial reports for all Committee meetings and the Annual Reports and AGMs.

ASSCR has a number of legal responsibilities and these are growing:

- The ASSCR reports to the ATO, CAV, and Australian Charities and not for Profit Commission.
- It must follow its Rules of Association but the Committee can and is continuing to refine and document our many processes. This is important for corporate memory and handovers.
- The Committee now has ToR for subcommittees and detailed position descriptions for all 9 members of the Committee.
- The Committee is committed to having a structure that encourages creativity and initiatives in a framework that brings those initiatives to fruition for direct and indirect benefit to Members.
- Hopefully the examples I've given reinforce that.

No better example of that than getting the ISSCR conference here in Oz in 2018

- MOC, ML, Caroline Gargett (former President) – and of course many others – have been responsible for the success of that bid.
- This will be a fantastic benefit to the regenerative medicine community in Australia.
- It is great for our researchers and ECRs and pushes our credentials to government
- The ASSCR will use this opportunity to reach out to the public at the same time, through for example, the Public Forum.
- There are a lot of things that can be leveraged off the back of this over the next 2 years and beyond.
- Special mention here to ML who has done a large amount of work with respect to the pledging institutions.
- MOC and ML working with MCB and ISSCR to limit our liabilities.

Thanks to all the members of the subcommittees and other volunteers

- 48 volunteers helped out on various aspects of running the ASSCR this last year or so including the:
- Elected Committee
- Subcommittee volunteers

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising committees for conferences • Election return officers • If you want to get involved please contact any of us. If you got a great idea, etc. let us know. <p>Michael O'Connor, Retiring President Michael has served as Secretary, VP and President.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He almost single-handedly put together the Stem Cells Stories Exhibition (multimedia presentation, colour posters, a 10 minute video and mobile website for general information on stem cells and stem cell tourism) • This integrated multimedia platform designed to inspire, inform and empower the public on issues related to stem cells and regenerative medicine and has featured at Questacon (Canberra, 2013–15), the Royal Institute of Australia (Adelaide, 2014), SciTech (Perth, 2015). There have been a number of articles in the press and magazines. • This herculean effort really projects the ASSCR in a good way to the public, gives us press coverage, and helps establish a Society brand, <p>Michael has also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with ML, CG and others in the successful bid for ISSCR2018. • Implemented full movement to new Rules of Association (with CG) and the higher flux of Society activity. • Guided the movement to joint meetings (with CG and ML) • Continued to source support from NSCFA (with CG) • He has left us in a strong financial position. 	
7. ASSCR 2017 Annual Conference (Melissa Little)	See below.	
8. Input and Ideas	<p>MOC again encouraged Members to get involved with running the Society by being on a subcommittee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who have volunteered have enjoyed the experience and have been able to align their interests with 	

from Members	that of the Society. • He encouraged Members to contact Committee members to express their interest and to look at the Society's website.	
9. Other Business	None	
10. Presidency Hand-Over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current President, Michael O'Connor, welcomes and hands over to incoming President, Melissa Little (ML), and the new Committee • ML acknowledges all of MOC's efforts. • Next two years will be challenging with two great events coming up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint meeting with Australasian Gene and Cell Therapy Society (AGCTS) 24-26 May, 2017 in Sydney. There is an increasing intersection in the interests of both Societies. This meeting is being held earlier in the year so as not to be so close to ISSCR2018. • ISSCR2018, 20-23 June, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. ML strongly encourages all to attend. <p>Meeting closed at 2 pm.</p>	

<u>Financial Year ending in June:</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Cash assets ASN	\$33,453	\$61,650	\$69,807	\$121,561
Cash assets Bankwest	\$17,665	\$17,665	\$17,665	\$17,665
Total cash assets	\$51,117	\$79,315	\$87,472	\$139,226
Liabilities	\$14,935	\$1,098	-\$233	-\$48
Net equity	\$36,183	\$78,217	\$87,705	\$139,274

2018 ISSCR Conference Bid Subcommittee Volunteers

A/Prof. Caroline Gargett (Monash University; ASSCR President 2012–14)

Prof. Martin Pera (Stem Cells Australia)

Prof. Alan Trounson (Monash University)

Dr Michael O'Connor (Western Sydney University; ASSCR President, 2014–16)

Prof. Melissa Little (Murdoch Childrens Research Inst.; ASSCR Vice President, 2014–16)

A/Prof. Megan Munsie (University of Melbourne; Stem Cells Australia; ASSCR Committee)

Prof. Richard Boyd (Monash University)

Prof. Andrew Elefanty (Murdoch Childrens Research Institute)

Prof. Stan Gronthos (University of Adelaide)

Prof. Richard Harvey (Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute)

Prof. Geoff Laurent (University of Western Australia)

Prof. Paul Simmons (Mesoblast)

Prof. Ernst Wolvetang (University of Queensland)

Melbourne Convention Bureau Staff

Ms Beverly Williamson

Ms Victoria Pope