



AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY FOR STEM CELL RESEARCH

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Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research

Annual Report

2015–16 Financial Year

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**9th Annual General Meeting
Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research**

1–2 pm, 6 December 2016

Pullman Resort, Bunker Bay, WA

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies (Michael O'Connor)
2. Acceptance of the Minutes from the ASSCR 2015 AGM (Appendix 1)
3. Results of Committee election process (Michael O'Connor)
4. Treasurer's Report, 2015–16 Financial Year (Robyn Meech)
5. Resolutions

"Be it RESOLVED that the meeting affirms the existing annual ASSCR membership fee structure (including GST) for 2016/2017:

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 (Melissa Little)
8. Input and Ideas from Members
9. Other Business
10. Presidency Hand-Over

President's Report: November 2015 to December 2016

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. 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.

As announced at the 2015 Annual General Meeting, one new member was elected to the 2015/2016 ASSCR Committee, and the Committee consisted of:

ASSCR Committee Executive Members, Nov 2015 – Dec 2016

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

Prof Melissa Little (Melbourne Childrens Research Institute): Vice President, 2014–16

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

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

ASSCR Committee Ordinary Members, Nov 2014 or Nov 2015 – Nov 2016

Dr Mike Doran (Queensland University of Technology): Membership and Communications Subcommittee Chair, 2015–17

Ms Margret Schuller (PeproTech): Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee Chair, 2015–17

A/Prof. Megan Munsie (University of Melbourne; Stem Cells Australia): Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee Chair, 2014–16

A/Prof. Bronwen Connor (University of Auckland): Conference and Awards Subcommittee Chair, 2014–16

Dr Vashe Chandrakanthan (UNSW): Professional Development and Junior Investigators Subcommittee Chair, 2014–16

Dr Vashe Chandrakanthan retired from his position leaving the Professional Development and Junior Investigator Subcommittee Chair position vacant until the 2016 Committee elections.

Overview of ASSCR Committee and Subcommittee Activities for 2015–16:

- i) Organising 2016 and 2017 ASSCR Annual Meetings and 2018 ISSCR Conference.
 - 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) State-based public events led by the Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee Chair.
- iii) 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; patient enquiry response process; launch of the AAS Stem Cell Revolution report.
- iv) Management of Society finances led by the Treasurer and President.
- v) Continued showing of the Stem Cell Stories multimedia exhibition.
- vi) Continued implementation of the Society Rules (e.g., updating position descriptions and formalising membership application forms and assessment/approval processes)
- vii) Creation of the 2016 Annual Report; organisation of the 2016 ASSCR Committee election.

2015 Joint ASSCR/SCA/NSW SCN Conference

Our 8th ASSCR Annual Meeting, jointly held with Stem Cells Australia and the NSW Stem Cell Network, took place 8–10 November, 2015, in the Hunter Valley. It was attended by over 290 delegates, with 7 international invited speakers, 58 oral presentations and over 120 posters. Conference sessions included pluripotency, differentiation, bioengineering, clinical translation, stem cell commercialisation, as well as stem cell ethics and legislation.

The meeting also included the [launch of the journal Regenerative Medicine](#), an exciting collaboration between Monash University and the Nature Publishing Group. As described in the Treasurer's Report, the meeting was also a great financial success, with a significant surplus going to all 3 joint partner societies. Our sincere thanks go to [all our meeting sponsors and exhibitors](#) whose continued valuable support helps make our meetings possible. Continued funding from the National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia (NSCFA), together with additional funds from the ASSCR, enabled 62 postgraduate students and postdocs to attend the meeting. These travel awards provide invaluable presentation and networking experience for our trainee members, and also greatly increase the vibrancy of our meetings by enabling large numbers of our trainee members to participate.

<i>2015 Joint Meeting attendance:</i>	<i>291</i>	<i>Geographical breakdown of registrations:</i>	
Full registrations	58	VIC	35%
SCA delegates	129	NSW	39%
Student registrations	8	QLD	6%
Day registrations	5	ACT	4%
Trade delegates and sponsor pass	29	WA	3%
ASSCR/NSCFA Award Recipients	62	SA	2%
- Students	50	TAS	1%
- ECRs	12	Overseas	10%

2015 ASSCR Annual Meeting Sponsors

NSCFA
Lonza
PeproTech
The Company of Biologists
Cynata
ASSCR
Stem Cells Australia

2015 ASSCR Annual Meeting Exhibitors

AMS Laboratories
APAF
Eppendorf
In Vitro Technologies
LabGear Australia
Lonza
Miltenyi
Merck Millipore
Pall Life Sciences
PAKAIR
Scientifix Life
StemCell Tech.
ThermoFisher

Organisation of the 2016 and 2017 ASSCR Conferences and 2018 ISSCR Meeting

The exciting announcement of Melbourne as the ISSCR Annual Meeting location (20–23 June 2018) represents a strong endorsement of the stem cell community in our region.

Organisation for 2018 is already underway with our incoming President, Prof. Melissa Little, accepting an invitation to lead the Scientific Program Committee for the meeting. The main organisational efforts currently being led by the ASSCR for the 2018 meeting include liaising with the 27 pledging institutions to receive and hold pledged funds, and preparation for the public forum to coincide with the 2018 ISSCR meeting.

To best prepare for the mid-year timing of the 2018 ISSCR meeting, the ASSCR Committee decided to alter the timing of both the 2016 and 2017 ASSCR Annual Meetings.

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 will be the first ASSCR meeting held in Western Australia and provides a timely opportunity for closer interaction and strengthened ties with our colleagues there. The thought-provoking program and stunning location promise a stimulating meeting.

In 2017 our Annual Meeting will be moved forward to 24–26 May to enable us to partner with the Australasian Gene and Cell Therapy Society meeting. Given the growing national and international alignment between cell and gene therapy this represents a unique opportunity to increase interactions between our societies.

Strategy for Maintaining Large Numbers of ASSCR Conference Travel Awards

Alongside these exciting 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 from \$50,000 per year for each of the 2013 and 2014 conferences (that enabling over 120 travel awards to be provided). Changes in the fiscal environment saw this funding reduced to \$35,000 for the 2015 conference, and \$10,000 for each of the 2016 and 2017 conferences.

The Society greatly appreciates continued NSCFA support at whatever level possible. Nevertheless, this large reduction in conference funding necessitated development of a new travel award funding strategy. The Committee has therefore pursued two approaches to enable use of Society funds in order to offer similar numbers of travel awards for the 2015 to 2017 conferences. These approaches are: i) holding joint conferences with appropriate societies to share the financial risk; and ii) coordinated use of the Subcommittee Chairs to streamline the Society's reliance on contracted logistical support for conference organisation, and thus maximise conference revenue to provide travel award funding for future conferences.

These two approaches enabled the ASSCR to fund 42 of 62 and 23 of 38 Travel Awards for the 2015 and 2016 conferences respectively (including 2 international travel awards each year), with the remaining travel awards supported by NSCFA funding. Importantly, the travel awards were funded while still achieving strong growth in ASSCR cash reserves. Continuation of this strategy in 2017 and beyond will place the Society in a strong position to maintain vibrant annual meetings through large numbers of travel grants while keeping sufficient cash reserves for the Society.

2016 ASSCR Annual Meeting

Joint meeting with the Centre for Cell Therapy and Regenerative Medicine
4–7 Dec, Pullman Resort, Bunker Bay, WA

2017 ASSCR Annual Meeting

Joint meeting with the Australasian Gene and Cell Therapy Society
24–26 May, Aerial Conference Centre, UTS, Sydney

2018 ISSCR Annual Meeting

Co-sponsored by the ASSCR
20–23 June, Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre

ASSCR Public Engagement via State-Based Events and the Stem Cell Stories Exhibition

In 2015 the ASSCR underwent a brand development process that crystallised the core Society messages currently driving our various initiatives. The ASSCR stands for: *Rigor; Accuracy; Professionalism; Trustworthiness; Approachability*, and our public engagement should *Inspire, Inform and Empower* patients to make informed health choices by providing access to reliable information. These messages are at the core of our ongoing public engagement activities such as the Stem Cell Stories multimedia exhibition, State-based public Q&A stem cell events, and organisation of the 2018 Public Forum that will coincide with the 2018 ISSCR meeting in Melbourne.

The Stem Cell Stories multimedia exhibition continues to stimulate interest within the general population and media. It now consists of colour posters, [a 10 minute video](#) and [mobile website](#) for general information on stem cells and stem cell tourism. So far ~1 million people have viewed the exhibition in person at Questacon (Canberra, 2013–15), the Royal Institute of Australia (Adelaide, 2014), SciTech (Perth, 2015) or through associated print and TV media including the ABC 7:30 Report Adelaide (2014) and [Cosmos magazine](#) (December 2014).

Additional public interactions we have pursued include: i) state-based public/professional stem-cell information events led by Margret Schuller; ii) Society submissions to the 2016 TGA public consultation on use of autologous cells and tissues; and iii) participation in the development and launch of an Australian Academy of Science report that discusses the future of the Australian stem cell industry ([The Stem Cell Revolution: Lessons and Imperatives for Australia](#)).

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 2015–16 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 2015 joint meeting in the Hunter Valley 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.

Improving Committee Position Descriptions, Timelines and Handover Documents

The Committee has continued evolving position descriptions and timelines to clarify roles and to improve information transfer to new Committee and Subcommittees members. In particular, these efforts have enabled the Committee and Subcommittees to integrate their activities in order to achieve the new travel award funding strategy described above. This information should prove highly useful to future Committees and should enable continuation of this strategy beyond 2018.

2016 Committee Election Process

This year nominations were called for 4 elected Committee positions: the Vice President position and three Ordinary Committee positions (Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee Chair; Conference and Awards Subcommittee Chair; and Junior Investigator Subcommittee Chair). Single valid nominations were received for the three Ordinary Committee positions. 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 Vice President position. The results of the election processes will be announced at the 2016 Annual General Meeting to be held 1–2 pm on 6 December.

Summary

The ASSCR is continuing to mature as the leading regional professional organisation for researchers, clinicians and industry representatives working in the stem cells and regenerative medicine field. Strategies aimed at increasing our member base – such as hosting our first WA-based conference, joint meetings with other societies, and maintaining large numbers of conference travel awards – are helping to continue growth of the Society in the lead-up to the 2018 ISSCR meeting in Melbourne, despite financial challenges.

I have enjoyed contributing to ASSCR activities and the extensive evolution of the Society over the past 6 years as Secretary, Vice President and President. Throughout the next few years the Society will have strong and expert leadership provided by our in-coming President, Prof. Melissa Little. In addition to our annual meetings, opportunities and challenges for future Committees will likely revolve around updating the Society website and expanding the impact of our newsletters.

On behalf of myself and the Society's membership I thank the Committee members for their efforts of the past year. We are excited by the opportunities the next few years hold and we look forward to seeing you at our coming meetings.

Sincerely,
Michael O'Connor, PhD
Outgoing ASSCR President

List of Committee Members and Meeting Dates

2015–16 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

Conference and Awards Subcommittee Volunteers

A/Prof Bronwen Connor (Chair)

A/Prof. Helen Abud

Dr Tinte Itinteang

Dr Melissa Khoo

Dr Gina Kusuma

Mr Jarmon Lees

Dr Shiang Yong

Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee Volunteers

Margret Schuller (Chair)

Hannah Glover

Dr Ariadna Recasens

Dr Kevin Lau

Dr Heather Main

Rachel Shparberg

Jean Tan

Membership and Communications Subcommittee Volunteers

Dr Mike Doran (Chair)

Dr Ana Antonic

Ms Kathryn Futrega

Dr John Haynes

Ms Seaky Lim

Dr Heather Main

Dr Ena Music

Thao Nguyen

Dr Lincon Stamp

JI and Professional Development Subcommittee Volunteers

Dr Vashe Chandrakanthan (Chair)

Dr Veronica Antas

Dr Heather Main

Dr Lincon Stamp

A/Prof. Fang-Xu Jiang

Volunteer Election Returning Officers

Dr Anna Michalska

Dr John Haynes

2015 ASSCR Conference 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)

Dr 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)

2016 ASSCR Conference Organizing Committee Volunteers and Staff

A/Prof. Julian Heng (Chair; University of Western Australia)

Prof. George Yeoh (University of Western Australia)

Leanne Hall (University of Western Australia)

Dr Cecilia Prele (Centre for Cell Therapy and Regenerative Medicine)

Dr Michael O'Connor (representing ASSCR)

A/Prof. Bronwen Connor (University of Auckland)

Dr Robyn Meech (Flinders University)

Margret Schuller (PeproTech Asia)

A/Prof. Mike Doran (Queensland University of Technology)

A/Prof. Jose Polo (Monash University)

Prof. Martin Pera (Stem Cells Australia)

2017 ASSCR/AGCTS Conference Organizing Committee Volunteers

Representing the ASSCR:

Prof. Melissa Little

Dr Michael O'Connor

A/Prof. Bronwen Connor

Dr Robyn Meech

Margret Schuller

A/Prof. Mike Doran

Dr Robyn Meech

Dr Michael Morris

Representing the AGCTS

Dr Rose Martiniello-Wilks

Dr Jim Vadolas

Prof Ann Simpson

Dr Samantha Ginn

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 Inst.; ASSCR Vice President, 2014–16)

ASSCR Committee Meeting Dates and Attendance (July 2015–November 2016)

This has been the first full year of the Society's new Committee structure. Under this structure, the 9-member Committee has held 10 meetings. In addition, there was frequent email communication throughout the year on matters including:

- (i) Continued preparation for the bid, and 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 is also investing 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 3rd joint Annual Meeting (with the Centre for Cell Therapy and Regenerative Medicine). In addition, our Annual Meeting for 2017, to be jointly held with the Australasian Gene and Cell Therapy Society, has been brought forward to May and preparations are well underway.
- (iii) Negotiating Postgraduate and Early Career Researcher Travel Awards with the NSCFA. The NSCFA has pledged funds for both the 2016 and 2017 meeting.
- (iv) Continued improvement to the new website with an expansion of the content of the eNewsletters, and the opening of our new Twitter account (@theASSCR).
- (v) Taking the Stem Cell Stories travelling exhibition to SciTech in Perth, and participation in the Theo Murphy Thinktank forum on The Stem Cell Revolution (July 2015).
- (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
7 July 2015	7	2	M. O'Connor	M. Morris
12 August 2015	6	3	M. O'Connor	M. Morris
24 September 2015	4	5	M. O'Connor	M. Morris
15 December 2015	7	2	M. O'Connor	M. O'Connor
12 February 2016	7	2	M. O'Connor	M. Morris
31 March 2016	8	1	M. O'Connor	M. Morris
9 June 2016	6	3	M. O'Connor	M. Morris
17 August 2016	7	2	M. O'Connor	M. Morris
15 September 2016	5	4	M. O'Connor	M. Morris
2 November 2016	7	2	M. O'Connor	M. Morris

Reports on ASSCR Activities

8th Annual 2015 Meeting – Joint ASSCR/SCA/NSW SCN Conference, 8–10 November 2015, Hunter Valley, NSW

This was the Society's 2nd joint meeting. An excellent program was developed by Jeremy Crook (ASSCR) supported by the Organising Committee. 7 international speakers were invited, with the Keynote Presentation delivered by esteemed stem-cell researcher Dr Mahendra Rao (Vice President for Regenerative Medicine at The New York Stem Cell Foundation Research Institute, and former Director of the National Institutes of Health Center for Regenerative Medicine). His presentation was followed by an inspiring presentation by Patient Advocate Adam Johnston. 6 invited national speakers also contributed to the program.

The conference featured 3 Plenary Sessions (Basic Biology of Pluripotent Stem Cells & Differentiation, Stem Cells and Clinical Translation, and Disease Modelling) and several Concurrent Sessions (Bioengineering Tissues, Ethics and Legal, Stem & Derivative Cell Epigenetics, Neural Stem Cells and Development, Stem Cell Companies – More than One Way to Get to the Market Place, plus a number of Mixed Theme sessions)

We again ran a Corporate Breakfast Session, on organoid culture and clinical models, which was extremely well attended (sponsored by Lonza and PeproTech).

We congratulate the 5 postgraduate/ECR winners of our Oral and Poster Prizes (\$500 each) for their outstanding efforts:

Poster Award – PhD: Sarah Hemming

Poster Award – ECR: Martin Engel

Oral Award – PhD: Lizhe Zhuan

Oral Awards – ECR: Jessica Frith and Christian Nefgzer

There were 120 posters from postgraduates and ECRs and the authors of 6 of the top scoring posters gave a 5 min oral presentation of their work in the Best of the Best Poster Presentations session.

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

In keeping with the ASSCR's support for students and early career researchers, Junior Investigator events included a dinner and lunchtime forum with panel discussions about career development, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The total amount raised from sponsorship, trade and advertising was over \$170,000. Special mention goes to the efforts of Margret Schuller (ASSCR) and her team for their part in raising this record-breaking amount.

A/Prof. Jeremy Crook
2015 Conference Organizing Committee Chair

A/Prof. Bronwen Connor
Conference and Awards Subcommittee Chair

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.

A/Prof Megan Munsie

Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee Chair

State-Based ASSCR Public/Professional Events

Since July 2015, Margret Schuller and her team have organised three highly successful Hot Topic Q&A events. This is the first time the ASSCR has run additional conferences and it has become an important part of our outreach program. All events were free to scientists, clinicians and the public and run at no cost to the ASSCR. The events featured panel members drawn from across Australia. The events were:

1. Stakeholders' perspective on autologous stem cell therapy regulation (1 July, 2015, 6–8 pm, Genea headquarters, Sydney; refreshments provided by Eppendorf and Miltenyi Biotec)

Panel members: Prof. Stephanie Watson (Clinician and Researcher), Dr Russell Vickers (Clinician), Prof. Richard Harvey (Researcher), Prof. Bernie Tuch (Clinician and Researcher), and Dr Peter Harman (15 years' experience working with the TGA on regulation of the In-Vitro Diagnostics industry).

This event attracted 80 participants and was timely given the TGA's consultation process on potential changes to regulation in this sector. Freelance science writer and broadcaster Leigh Dayton subsequently summarised the evening's discussion with Tony Delroy on the local ABC radio science show. The ASSCR formally submitted its views to the TGA on 3 March 2015.

2. Australian stem cell industry business model (1 September, 2015, 6–8 pm, Genea headquarters, Sydney; refreshments provided by In Vitro Diagnostics and ThermoFisher).

Panel members: Chair – Dr James Chong (Westmead Millennium Institute), Prof. Alan Trounson (Monash University), A/Prof. Jeremy Crook (ARC Centre of Excellence in Electromaterials Science, University of Wollongong), Dr Tim Oldham (CEO, Cell Therapies Pty Ltd), Dr Julian Chick (COO, Admedus Ltd), John Martin (CEO, Regeneus Ltd), Tomas Stojanov (CEO, Genea), Karen Dado (Business Development Adviser for Entrepreneurs' Programme, Accelerating Commercialisation)

This event attracted 50 participants and lively discussion ensued focussing on:

- How to strengthen relationships between private industry and universities in order to foster innovation.
- How to reverse the trend of stem-cell and related companies leaving Australia to relocate overseas.
- Establishing a national business plan for the stem-cell industry, which includes helping to guide legislation and regulation, and improve funding.

3. Advancing Stem Cell Therapies: Balancing science, clinical trials, regulation and consumer demand (31 May, 2016, 6–8 pm, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute; Level 4; refreshments provided by LONZA and bioMerieux)

Panel members: Chair – Margret Schuller (PeproTech), A/Prof. John Moore (St Vincent's Hospital, Clinical Haematology), A/Prof. John Pimanda (Adult Cancer Program, UNSW), Dr Mark Young (Australasian College of Sports Physicians, Brisbane), Dr Julian Clark (Head of Business Development, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research), Prof. Stan Gronthos (Centre for Stem Cell Research, University of Adelaide), Duncan Wallace (Executive Director and CEO of Spinal Cure Australia), Prof. Richard Boyd (CSO Cartherics Pty Ltd)

The event attracted 60 participants and focussed on a number of key areas:

- The pros, cons, expectations and realities surrounding the use of stem cells for cellular therapies.
- Challenges of commercial versus research-based stem-cell clinical trials.
- Innovation through clinical practice (and possible exploitation of patents) versus the clinical trial process.
- Recently enacted Japanese legislation for accelerating stem-cell products to market.
- Transparency of trial results to Government and regulating authorities.

Transcripts of the meetings are available from Margret Schuller (mschuller@peprotechasia.com).

Margret Schuller

Industry and Sponsorship Subcommittee Chair

Membership and Website

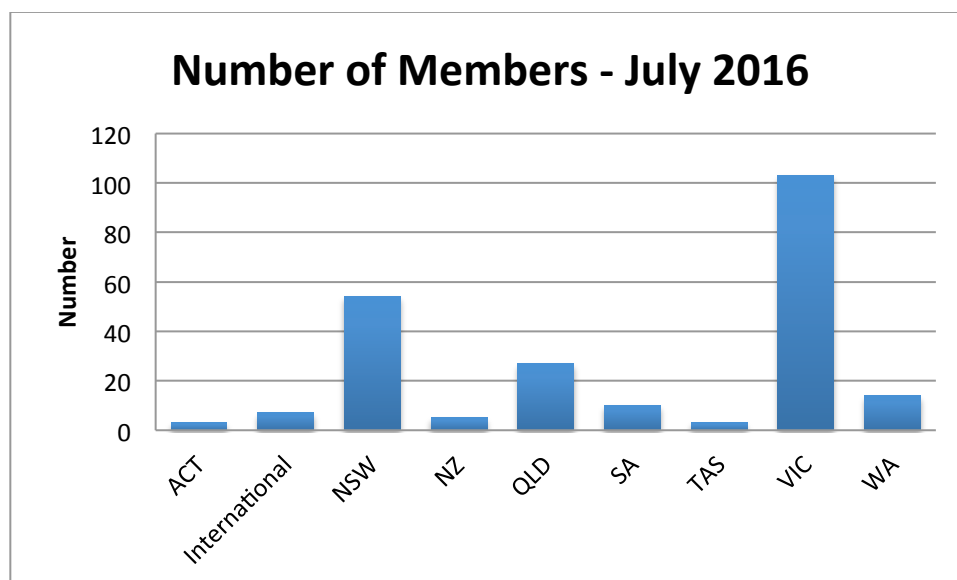
The Communications and Membership subcommittee has continued the process of updating and expanding the new website with relevant content. Our new Twitter account (@theASSCR) went live in February 2016, and together with the changes to the website has significantly improved dissemination of information to Members and the wider stem-cell community. 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.

ASN Events has been 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 is partnering 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 2016, the ASSCR has 226 financial members, the same as last year but an increase of 20 members since 2014 and up from 169 in 2013 and 89 in 2012. The graph below shows the geographic distribution of our Members.

The ASSCR is continuing the process of generating an Australasian database of stem-cell researchers, clinicians and businesses with a view to boosting membership further and improving communication.



A/Prof. Michael Doran

Membership and Communications Subcommittee Chair

Treasurer's Report, Financial Year 2015–16

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 2008; 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).

The ASSCR is in a strong financial position with current net assets of \$139,274; an increase of \$51,569 (59%) in the past 12 months. These cash reserves are more than sufficient to offset \$46,000 in anticipated liabilities for 2016 through 2018 (page 17), leaving uncommitted cash reserves of approximately \$93,000. The NSCFA have informed us their historically high level of support for travel awards will not be continued at least in the short-term. The ASSCR is committed to enabling large numbers of young investigators/students to attend our Annual Meeting so, as outlined above, a strategy has been implemented to maximise use of ASSCR conference income to support provision of travel awards.

Most aspects of ASSCR Annual Meetings from 2008 to 2015 were at least partially managed by ASN Events, with the exception of abstract and travel award ranking. In 2012 the Society signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with ASN for secretariat services, and this was renewed in 2014 and again in 2016 (with an added option of outsourcing conference organisation to other parties if/when required by conference partner societies). Through these MOUs cash flows associated with membership fees, conferences and other activities have been 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 on behalf of the Society.

An additional consequence of the MOUs is that 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 currently submits 'nil GST returns' to the ATO with respect to its own ABN (as currently no transactions occur outside of the ASN-operated NAB account). ASN now provides the ASSCR with a quarterly tax liability summary as well as a full GST ledger annually for our records.

Other ASSCR cash flows have been managed through a Bankwest business account but this has been inactive since 2013. The remaining funds in this account (\$17,665.40) will be either dispersed as 2016/2017 travel awards (see below) or incorporated into a term deposit investment strategy, initiated in 2016 by transfer of \$60,000 into a high interest term deposit account.

Income this financial year was generated by a combination of membership fees, profit share from the 2015 Annual Meeting, sponsorship from SCA and NSCFA for public engagement projects and promotional activities, and interest earned on our NAB bank account. Expenditures this financial year were on the 2015 Annual Meeting, ASN management and administrative fees, website and committee meetings, support for promotional and stem cell outreach events including the Illuminart public engagement project, and presentation prizes awarded at the 2015 CCTRM Research Symposium (see the notes to Table 2 for more details).

Breakdowns of Income and Expenditure as well as Net Equity for each year from 2013 to 2016 are provided in Tables 1–2 for comparison purposes. A brief summary of our financial position as of 30 June 2016 (including financial summary of the 2015 Annual Meeting) is given below.

ASSCR Net Equity:

As of 30 June 2016, our net equity was \$139,274.15. This sum included:

\$17,665.40 in our Bankwest account

\$121,608.75 in our ASN managed NAB operating account

2015 ASSCR-NSWSCN-SCA Hunter Valley joint meeting position (see Table 1):

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.

Total Meeting Income: \$ 220,706

Total Meeting Expenses: \$ 177,236

Net Trading Position (surplus): \$ 43,470

The formulae used to share the conference surplus proportional to each society's conference income was:

$$\text{each society's surplus share} = \text{Conference surplus} \times \frac{\text{Society Income}}{\text{total Income}}$$

$$\text{Society Income} = \text{society Sponsorship Income} + \text{society Non sponsorship Income}$$

- Sponsorship Income includes commercial and non-commercial sector grants made to a society for running of the conference:

- Non-Sponsorship Income is split according to the society membership ratio for conference delegates:

society Non sponsorship Income

= (Conference income

$$- \text{total Sponsorship Income from all societies}) \times \frac{\text{\#society delegates}}{\text{Total \# conference delegates}}$$

2018 ISSCR meeting pledges

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; these funds are not included in the Net Equity above.

Payment of overdue GST

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.

Contingent liabilities (these are not shown in the income statement below)

- \$20,000 pledged for the 2018 ISSCR meeting

- \$ 7,000 seed funding for the 2017 ASSCR/AGCTS Meeting

- \$19,000 towards travel awards for the 2016 and 2017 Annual Meetings (to complement reduced NSCFA funding for travel awards)

Table 1. 2015 ASSCR/NSWSCN/SCA Joint Meeting

Conference income	
Delegate registration	\$33,400
Sponsorship	\$129,971
Trade/Advertising	\$42,900
Misc Support	\$7,755
Conference Dinner Tickets	\$6,680
Conference income total	\$220,706
Conference Expenditure	
ASN Events Management costs	
-consultancy fee	\$13,600
-registration/abstract management	\$18,971
-exhibitor management	\$6,800
-ASN staff on site	\$3,365
Fees/Administration	\$832
Speakers (travel/accommodation)	\$8,938
Travel awards and prizes	\$13,284
Venue and AV	\$12,695
Catering and other delegate costs	\$88,299
Printing/publications	\$3,570
Misc	\$541
GST payable	6342
Conference expenses total	\$177,236
Net income	\$43,470

2015 ASSCR/NSWSCN/SCA Joint Meeting Surplus Distribution:

To ASSCR: \$26,251.30
To SCA: \$15,101.34
To NSW SCN: \$ 2,116.93

Table 2. Income Statement 2013-2016

<i>Conference location:</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013 Brisbane</i>	<i>2014 Lorne</i>	<i>2015 Hunter</i>
<i>Financial Year ending in June:</i>	<i>AHMRC</i>			<i>Valley</i>
	2013	2014	2015	2016
<u>Income</u>				
Membership income	\$12,476	\$14,450	\$13,741	\$16,696
Annual Meeting income				
Delegate registration		\$39,359		
Sponsorship		\$68,900		
Trade/Advertising		\$21,700		
Profit share (AHMRC, Lorne, Hunter Valley)	\$4,232		\$17,481	\$26,251
Annual Meeting income total	\$4,232	\$129,959	\$17,481	\$26,251
2015 meeting seed fund refund*				\$15,000
Interest/Other income	\$539	\$1,658	\$859	\$796
Sponsorship income				\$16,000
Total Income	\$17,247	\$146,067	\$32,081	\$74,744
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Annual meeting expenses				
ASN Events Management				(see Table 1)
Fees/Administration		\$27,806		
Speakers (travel/accommodation)		\$9,705		
Travel awards and prizes	\$5,064	\$26,177		
Venue, AV and Catering	\$693	\$37,767		
Other	\$527	\$16,288		
Annual meeting expenses total	\$6,284	\$117,743	n/a	n/a
Other expenses				
-ASN membership management			\$4,100	\$4,500
-Other ASN fees			\$864	\$1,466
-Other	\$660	\$127	\$3,727	\$15,648
-GST paid(overdue)				\$1,561
Total Expenses	\$6,945	\$117,870	\$8,691	\$23,175
Net income	\$10,303	\$28,197	\$23,390	\$51,569

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

Financial Year ending in June:	2013	2014	2015	2016
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

Note on tables:

Table 2: Accounting is performed differently for the AHMRC and the other joint society meetings (i.e. FY 2012, 2014, 2015) than for standalone ASSCR meetings (FY 2013). For simplicity, income from joint meetings is presented as ASSCR's profit share less any ASSCR-specific expenses. All values have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

ASSCR Income in the 2015–16 financial year (independent of the 2015 Annual Meeting) came from memberships, interest on our operating account, and sponsorship from NSCFA/SCA to support the promotional and public engagement projects. *The 2015 meeting generated sufficient surplus that the seed fund return could be categorised as retained profit rather than income earned in this FY.

ASSCR expenses in the 2015–16 financial year (independent of the 2015 Annual Meeting) were secretariat 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 support for the Illuminart Stem Cell public engagement project.

Table 3: Net Equity = sum of Current Assets minus Current Liabilities. At the end of the 2012–13 financial year (June 2013), liabilities were tax payable and event accrual for the 2013 Brisbane Conference. At the end of the 2013–14 financial year (June 2014), the current liability was tax payable. At the end of the 2014–15 and 2015–16 financial years, the tax (GST) liability was negative because purchases including GST were more than received income including GST.

**ASSCR AGM Tuesday 10 November 2015 1 pm – Minutes
Crowne Plaza Hunter Valley**

Present: Helen Abud (HA), Neil Andrewartha (NA), Ana Antonic (AA), Vashe Chandrakanthan (VC), James Chong (JC), Bronwen Connor (BC), Jeremy Crook (JC), Kathryn Davidson (KD), Mike Doran (MD), Greg Dusting (GD), Caroline Gargett (CG), Sally Gu (SG), Sarah Hemming (SH), Kevin Hendrawan (KH), Robin Hobbs (RH), Kanika Jain (KJ), David Kang (DK), Pritinder Kaur (PK), Melissa Khoo (MK), Gina Kusuma (CK), Sin Lau (SL), Loan Le (LL), Bryan Leuw (BL), Rebecca Lim (RL), Seakcheng Lim (SL), Shiang Lim (ShL), Jeffrey Looi (JL), Michael Lovelace (ML), Hai Ly (HL), Melissa Mangala (MMa), Robyn Meech (RM), Anna Michalska (AM), Michael Morris (MM), Megan Munsie (MMu), Thao Nguyen (TN), Michael O'Connor (MO'C), Jose Polo (JP), Ariadna Recasens (AR), Margret Schuller (MS), Tracey Seymour (KS), Rachel Shparberg (RS), Ed Stanley (ES), Jean Tan (JT), Joshua Tay (JT), Ken Woo (KW), George Yeoh (GY), Avani Yeola (AY), Dandan Zhu (DZ), Lizhe Zhuang (LZ)

Apologies: Geoffrey Laurent, Melissa Little, Carmel O'Brien, Bernie Tuch, Louise Winteringham

Item	Discussion	Actions
1. Welcome and Apologies (Michael O'Connor)	<p>Apologies (as above).</p> <p>MOC announces that Australia has won the bid to host the ISSCR Conference in 2018 in Melbourne and thanks the following hard-working bid team:</p> <p><i>2018 ISSCR Conference Bid Subcommittee Volunteers</i></p> <p>A/Prof. Caroline Gargett (Monash University; ASSCR President 2012–14)</p> <p>Prof. Martin Pera (Stem Cells Australia)</p> <p>Prof. Alan Trounson (Monash University)</p> <p>Dr Michael O'Connor (Western Sydney University; ASSCR President, 2014–16)</p> <p>Prof. Melissa Little (Melbourne Childrens Research Inst.; ASSCR Vice President, 2014–16)</p> <p>A/Prof. Megan Munsie (University of Melbourne; Stem Cells Australia; ASSCR Committee)</p> <p>Prof. Richard Boyd (Monash University)</p> <p>Prof. Andrew Elefanty (Murdoch Childrens Research Institute)</p> <p>Prof. Stan Gronthos (University of Adelaide)</p>	

	<p>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) <i>Melbourne Convention Bureau Staff</i> Ms Beverly Williamson Ms Victoria Pope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The list of pledging institutions and companies is substantial and is given at the end of these minutes. • The President and Vice President Melissa Little have formed a 2018 conference subcommittee whose members and role will grow as the conference approaches. • The ASSCR's responsibilities at present include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - collecting pledged funds and passing on to ISSCR - suggesting an Australian nominee for the conference scientific program committee - organising a public forum to coincide with the conference 	
<p>2. Acceptance of the Minutes from the ASSCR 2014 AGM (Appendix 1, Annual Report 2015)</p>	<p>The Annual Report, which includes the Minutes from the 2014 AGM, was distributed by email to Members on 21/10/15.</p> <p>MOC notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ASSCR is operating under new Rules of Association and governance structure, with an expanded Committee. • Heather Main resigned as Chair of the Sponsorship and Industry subcommittee and Margret Schuller was installed as per Rules. • The Society has a large number of active subcommittee volunteers who help run the Society and provide ideas. • As part of the new governance structure the Society needs to ensure corporate memory. 	<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 on the newly formatted Committee that has been operating for the last 12 months and reasons for election of the various positions. • Elections for Secretary and Treasurer positions will be on alternate years to election of Vice President. • Election for Chair of Sponsorship and Industry subcommittee required as Margret Schuller was acting Chair due to resignation of Heather Main. • Election for Chair of Communications subcommittee was because Louise Winteringham resigned. • The results of the elections were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Robyn Meech re-elected unopposed as Treasurer. - Michael Morris re-elected as Secretary. - Mike Doran elected unopposed as Chair of Communications. - Margret Schuller elected unopposed as Chair of Sponsorship and Industry. 	
<p>4. Treasurer's Report, 2014–15 Financial Year (Robyn Meech)</p>	<p>The full Treasurer's Report appears in the Annual Report.</p> <p>Current financial position</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASSCR has \$88k spread over 2 accounts \$17,665.40 in our Bankwest account; \$70,039.76 in the ASN-managed NAB operating account. • ASSCR's financial position has improved steadily from 2012 to now (see Table 3 in Annual Report). • The 2014 Annual Meeting held in Lorne in conjunction with ISCT-ANZ and SCA produced a profit of \$28k divided between ASSCR and ISCT by mutually approved formula: \$17.5k came to ASSCR. • The projected profit for the current joint Annual Meeting with SCA and NSW Stem Cell Network is ~\$32k, to be shared between the organising entities. • The table at the end of the minutes shows the profits to ASSCR from the last 3 meetings. • The Treasurer notes that not every meeting going forward will necessarily make a profit. The ASSCR Executive's outlook is not necessarily to make a profit on each meeting but to keep the ASSCR in a robust financial position. 	

- With the successful bid to host the 2018 ISSCR meeting in Melbourne, the ASSCR has pledged \$20k in support.
- \$20k is also being earmarked for moving to an investment account. The interest will be used to support various activities such as Travel Awards.

GST accounting and remedying lapsed annual business activity statement reporting:

- As a GST registered entity with an Australian Business Number (ABN) number, the ASSCR is obligated to submit annual GST returns to the ATO. In August this year we became aware that reminders from the ATO to submit annual GST returns were not being received by the ASSCR Treasurer or Secretariat because the ATO had an out-dated postal address for the Society. As a consequence, there had been a lapse in submission of annual activity statements from July 2009 (including notification of those GST returns for this period not processed by ASN Events). This has resulted in overdue returns for the period spanning 1/7/2009 to 30/6/2014, in addition to the requirement to submit a return for the current financial year (1/7/2014 to 30/6/2015).
- The President and Treasurer undertook to rectify this situation immediately with the assistance of our secretariat, ASN Events, and specifically the services of the ASN Chief Financial Controller, Kerrie Harris-Spencer.
- As there had been no ASSCR business transacted outside of the ASN-managed NAB account since mid-2012, ASSCR was eligible to submit 'nil GST returns' for the period 1/7/2012-30/6/2015.
- Financial records for the period 1/7/2009 to 30/6/2012 were collated and examined by Ms Harris-Spencer, allowing her to submit the outstanding GST returns for this period. The result being that the ASSCR paid \$1,561.00 in overdue GST to the ATO on 12/10/2015; this will appear in the 2015/2016 financial statements.
- ASSCR's contact address with ATO is now ASN's address, which will pass onto ASSCR all relevant information.
- An application has been lodged with the ATO to have any fines for failing to submit annual GST reports to be rescinded.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Treasurer thanks ASN Events for all the help with resolving this important issue. <p>Receipt of Donations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ASSCR is a registered gift recipient but to date there has been no process for accepting donations from the public (or ASSCR members). This year the President and Treasurer, assisted by ASN Events, created a ‘donate now’ system on the ASSCR website. Non-ASSCR members can donate, by creating a profile and login. Donor’s details will be recorded for tax invoice purposes and future correspondence. The donation process utilises the current payment gateway and merchant facilities of ASN Events, at no extra cost to the Society. 	
<p>5. Resolution to change ASSCR annual membership fees:</p> <p>"Be it RESOLVED that the meeting adopts the following updated annual membership fee structure (including GST):</p> <p>1 year: Full membership \$120. Students \$60. Associate \$60.</p>	<p>Under the Rules of Association, the ASSCR must formally review its membership fee structure at each AGM.</p> <p>The definition of Associate Members is based on the Rules 8 & 14 of the Rules of Association.</p>	<p>MOC moves motion that the Resolution to adopt the new fee structure be accepted. JP seconds. The Resolution was carried unanimously.</p>

<p>2 year: Full membership \$210. Students \$105. Associate \$105. 3 year: Full membership \$290. Students \$145. Associate \$145."</p>		
<p>6. Reports from Subcommittee Chairs and other ASSCR Activities (Michael Morris)</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.</p> <p>Joint conferences (full reports can be found in the Annual Report):</p> <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. <p><i>First joint conference</i> (with ISCT-ANZ and SCA), Lorne, 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Society expresses its thanks to the Co-Convenors Robert Nordon (ISCT) and Jose Polo (ASSCR) and the Local Organising Committee for this first-time venture. • This was an extremely well-attended vibrant conference with many high-profile speakers and a very high quality program. • Total number of registrants, including trade, was a record 340. <p><i>Second joint conference</i> (this year with NSWSCN and SCA), Hunter Valley, 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Again, under the considerable added pressure of running a joint meeting, sincere thanks to the Convenor Jeremy Crook (ASSCR) and the Local Organising Committee. • Running the joint conferences is not trivial and not surprisingly there were issues that cropped up in the 	

first joint conference. By and large these issues were solved this time around due to ASSCR, SCA, NSWSCN and ASN recognising them, and having this year's LOC working with all those partners to alleviate them.

- This year's conference has attracted 160 registrants through ASSCR/NWSCN and ~130 through SCA = 280-290 registrants - similar to last year at Lorne.

Sponsorship is crucial to running Annual Meetings

- Margret Schuller and her subcommittee team of Industry and Sponsorship have obtained over \$50k in sponsorship – a record – and in the current fiscal climate an outstanding achievement.
- MOC secured \$50k sponsorship from NSCFA for Travel Awards, and has secured money from NSCFA for the next 2 years. This continued support from the NSCFA comes on the back of Caroline Gargett's efforts when she was President.
- NSCFA support has been critical in bringing postgrads and ECRs to the Annual Meetings – exposing them to the benefits of conference participation.
- The ASSCR wishes to thank the NSCFA for its very greatly appreciated and continued support.

Margret Schuller (Chair) Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee

State-based events

- In addition to securing very considerable sponsorship for Annual Meetings over a number of years, MS and her subcommittee this year have organised 2 additional forums outside the Annual Meeting.
- This is the first time ASSCR has run scientific events outside the Annual Meeting.
- The 2 free forums, run at no net cost to the ASSCR, were held at Genea in Sydney on current topics: An Australian stem cell industry business model & Stakeholders' perspective on autologous stem cell therapy regulation, attracting 80 and 50 attendees, respectively, with an interstate and local panel of experts who gave their time freely.
- These events stimulated considerable discussion about how to engage with government, patient advocates, industry bodies, etc.

Bronwen Connor (Chair) Conference and Awards Subcommittee

- Many of the aspects of running the Annual Meeting fall to this subcommittee, whose tasks include liaising with the Local Organising Committee and ASN Events regarding distribution of posters, abstract judging, Travel Award judging, and the various poster and oral prizes.
- In additions to the Society's thanks to the team, thanks also to the Treasurer, Robyn Meech who worked with Bronwen's subcommittee to distribute nearly 60 NSCFA Travel Awards.
- Thanks also to the NSCFA, whose awards mean the Society receives a large number of abstracts from ECRs from which excellent science can be selected for oral presentations.

Vashe Chandrakanthan (Chair) Professional Development & Junior Investigators Subcommittee

The Subcommittee organised an additional event for this year's conference where ECRs could draw on the considerable business, commercialisation and research experience of leaders in the field of regenerative medicine.

Megan Munsie (Chair) Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee

Over the course of the year, this Subcommittee:

- Developed and is in the process of developing policies on a range of ethical, legal and social issues, including how to respond to inquiries from the public, patient inquiries, and public outreach.
- Made submission on behalf of the ASSCR to the TGA consultation process on regulation of autologous cell interventions. This again puts ASSCR views to Government and policy regulators.

Louise Winteringham (Chair) Communications Subcommittee

- After many years of ardent service to the Society, Louise is stepping down from official duties for the Society. Louise had been very largely responsible for moving the Society's newsletters to electronic format and, along with John Haynes and ASN Events, for all the considerable work in moving the Society's website and cleaning up its content. The new website will be much more tractable to change and update compared to the previous.
- Louise has also been involved in the Society's growing outreach program (see below).
- The Society expresses its sincere thanks to Louise for all her hard work over the years.

Public outreach programs – Michael O’Connor, with Megan Munsie, Louise Winteringham and Illuminart

- Tremendous strides have been made in establishing a Society brand and greatly extending its outreach to the community.
- An integrated multimedia platform has been put together dedicated to inspire, inform and empower the public on issues related to stem cells and regenerative medicine.
- This work includes further displays of the stem cell stories exhibition (at SciTech WA), foyer display projection art, a planetarium display in the making, work on external building projections (with Illuminart), and a mobile phone and devices app to guide patients and interested members of the public to understand stem cells and stem cell procedures.
- An EOI to display at Sydney VIVID was put together with Illuminart (at no cost to ASSCR) and though this was unsuccessful further work with this company may ensue as part of the public outreach program.
- These projects have reached a very large cross-section of the Australian public and have given the Society press coverage and prestige.

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

- Reporting to ATO, Consumer Affairs Victoria, and Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission.
- Applying and improving the Rules of Association.
- The Committee is also continuing to refine and document the Society’s many processes and obligations, which is crucial for corporate memory and handovers.
- The Committee is nevertheless intent on generating a flexible structure that encourages growth in the Society, stimulates creativity and initiatives, and brings those initiatives to fruition for direct and indirect benefit of Members.
- Hopefully the examples given above give credence to this vision.
- Finally thanks to all the volunteer members of the subcommittees.
- Any Member interested in being involved can contact members of the Committee.

ISSCR Conference, Melbourne 2018

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibly the best example of the Society's vision is the successful bid to host this primary international conference in 2018. • The successful bid has been due to the President, Vice President Melissa Little, immediate past-President Caroline Gargett, a host of Australia's leading regenerative medicine researchers, the Victorian Government, and key figures in the Melbourne Convention Bureau. • The conference should be of fantastic benefit to the regenerative medicine community in Australasia, including our researchers and ECRs, pushes our credentials to Government at State and Federal level, and will be used to reach out to the public. • These benefits can be leveraged over the next 3 years and beyond. 	
7. ASSCR 2016 Annual Conference (Michael O'Connor)	<p>The location of the 2016 Annual Meeting has yet to be decided but a decision is close.</p> <p>The location of the 2017 Annual Meeting will also be decided in the near future.</p>	
8. Input and Ideas from Members	<p>MOC notes the current and ongoing challenges for the ASSCR:</p> <p><i>Challenges for 2014/15</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consolidate and engage membership: e.g., 2015 joint ASSCR, SCA, NSWSCN conference - continue public engagement; e.g., Stem Cell Stories Exhibition tour, Vivid, other - continue engaging Governments; e.g., stem-cell policy and funding <p><i>Challenges for 2015/2016</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - continue building public/Government understanding of, support for, basic and clinical stem cell research for the benefit of ASSCR members and the general community - continue providing a stimulating stem cell research environment for ASSCR members - co-ordinate 2018 ISSCR pledge payments - continue pursuing business plan for the ASSCR 	

	<p><i>From the floor:</i></p> <p>AM noted that NSCFA Travel Awards for ECR Members are for Australian but not for NZ Members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is due to the rules of the Award. However, ASSCR sponsored 2 international travel awards for the current conference both of which have gone to NZ ECRs. • The ASSCR Committee is looking to expand money for awards to internationals. <p>Re: New donate function on website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What about crowd funding? • MOC notes that the public outreach - art exhibitions etc. - is there to induce people to donate. • The ASSCR is also interested in fostering relationships with patient advocates (individuals and groups), and many of these use crowd funding. • The ASSCR needs to be responsible in not overhyping the science but is realistic. Furthermore, both the Society and the advocate(s) need to be on the same page. • The Committee has begun exploring these issues but they are not trivial and need careful consideration. <p>GY thanked WA people for coming over and gaining national conference experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He strongly endorsed support for Travel Awards. <p>MOC encouraged Members to get involved with running the Society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who have volunteered have enjoyed the experience and have been able to align their interests with that of the Society. <p>He encouraged Members to contact Committee members to express their interest.</p>	
9. Other Business	Meeting closed at 2 pm.	

List of ISSCR 2018 pledging institutions and companies

Mesoblast

Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research

Monash University

Murdoch Childrens Research Institute

Genea Biocells Pty Ltd

Institute Of Molecular Bioscience

MIMR-PHI Institute of Medical Research

Cell Care Australia

Shunxi International Investment Group Pty Ltd

Sino-AUS International Stem Cell Co., Ltd

St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research

The University Of Melbourne

The University Of Queensland

Walter & Eliza Hall Institute

Australian Institute Of Bioengineering And Nanotechnology

Faculty of Dentistry

Monash University, Dept of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Children's Medical Research Institute

CSIRO

Queensland Brain Institute

The Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute

Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute

Magellan Stem Cells Pty Ltd (Melbourne)

Melbourne Stem Cell Centre

Stem Cells Australia

The Ritchie Centre

Centre for Cell Therapy and Regenerative Medicine, University of Western Australia

Comparison of Meeting Profits 2012–2014

Conference location:	2012 AHMRC	2013 Brisbane	2014 Lorne
<u>Financial Year ending in June:</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Net income	\$10,303	\$28,197	\$17,481