



**AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY FOR STEM CELL
RESEARCH**

ABN 45 374 899 784

PO Box 8159, Monash University LPO
Wellington Road, Clayton Victoria 3800, Australia

www.asscr.org

info@asscr.org

Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research

Annual Report

2019-2020 Financial year



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**13th Annual General Meeting
Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research**

Tuesday 15th December 2020, 2.00-4.00PM Australian Eastern Daylight Time
Time: Dec 15, 2020 02:00 PM Australia/Melbourne

Join from PC, Mac, iOS or Android:

<https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/98666213752?pwd=akluREd5dStodzREbW1CbFdEcZlZzZ09>
Password: 102767

Or join by phone:

Dial (Australia): +61 3 7018 2005 or +61 2 8015 6011
Dial (US): +1 669 900 6833 or +1 646 876 9923
Dial (Hong Kong, China): +852 5808 6088 or +852 5803 3730
Dial (UK): +44 203 481 5240 or +44 131 460 1196
Meeting ID: 986 6621 3752
International numbers available: <https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/98666213752>

Or join from a H.323/SIP room system:

Dial:98666213752@zoom.aarnet.edu.au
or SIP:98666213752@zmau.us
or 103.122.166.55
Meeting ID: 98666213752
Password: 102767

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies (Ed Stanley)
2. Acceptance of the Minutes from the ASSCR 2019 AGM (Appendix 1)
3. Results of Committee election process and welcome to new Committee members (Ed Stanley)
4. Treasurer's Report 2019-20 Financial Year (Clare Parish)
5. Resolutions
"Be it RESOLVED that the meeting affirms the existing annual ASSCR membership fee structure (including GST) for 2021/2022:
1 year: Full membership \$120. Students \$60. Associate \$120.
2 year: Full membership \$210. Students \$105. Associate \$210.
3 year: Full membership \$290. Students \$145. Associate \$290.
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



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7. Input and Ideas from Members
8. Other Business
9. Hand-Over to new Committee



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President's Report: January-November 2020

The beginning of this year saw us looking forward to hosting our annual conference in Melbourne, with plans for a program to promote presentations by early career researchers and for foster networking opportunities. Despite the intervention of the SARS-2 Coronavirus, which ultimately led to the cancellation of our annual scientific meeting, these ideals remain a focus for the society going forward. Like much of the country, our plans have been put on hold as we await the return of better times. In recognition of this holding pattern, the ASSCR committee extended the memberships of all current members for 12 months at no cost to ensure stem cell researchers still had a point of contact with their community.

The break from our usual focus on organising the annual conference has provided us time to reflect on how the society engages with its members. Going forward, next year will see the society sponsoring smaller regionally focused gatherings that showcase the work of new investigators, with a view to providing a platform for the presentation of science and for networking. We hope to kick off this initiative with a locally organised meeting in Brisbane early next year – details will be announced over coming months. We envisage similar society sponsored gatherings or meetings will be held across Australia and New Zealand prior to our major Annual meeting late next year. Members who are interested in contributing to organising or hosting such meetings are encouraged to reach out to our committee.

The society has been very fortunate to benefit from a new partnership with Professor Christine Wells' [Centre for Stem Cell Systems](#), which has been running a locally focussed Zoom forum "*Stem Cell Conversations*". This highly accessible format includes 2 short presentations and Q and A in a regular 30-minute timeslot. Professor Wells has generously allowed the ASSCR to piggyback on the success of this forum, enabling the society to host a national version of the event on a monthly basis. We hope this idea will continue after the COVID-19 has gone, providing an avenue to connect people between conferences and meetings on an ongoing basis.

This year has also seen the ASSCR become a member of the [Science and Technology Australia](#), a national organisation representing more than 80,000 Australians engaged in science and science based industries. The ASSCR's association with STA has been further strengthened by the appointment of Professor Megan Munsie, current chair of our Policy, Ethics and Translation sub-committee, to STA's STEM sector policy committee. We congratulate Megan on this appointment that will help provide a voice for stem cell researchers through the STA's public and government focussed advocacy activities.



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On the funding front, the society was pleased to see that a number of its members received grants from the MRFF Stem Cell Mission to support stem cell related projects spanning discovery science to clinical applications. In all, \$5.9M was awarded to 8 projects related to Parkinson's Disease, epilepsy, muscle and skin repair, autoimmune disease, macular degeneration, fatty liver disease and leukaemia. ASSCR members have also received funding to bring stem cell technology to bear on Australia's COVID-19 research effort, both as a [source of human cells](#) to study effects of SARS-2 virus on different tissue types and for [testing existing drugs](#) for anti-COVID-19 activities. The involvement of our members in contributing to this effort is a timely reminder that research can have unanticipated applications and why it is important to maintain a healthy and active scientific community.

Continuing from last year, the ASSCR has formed closer ties with the [NSCFA](#), a philanthropic organisation whose mission is to support and promote stem cell research in Australia. We are grateful to the NSCFA for supporting the attendance of students and early career researchers at our conference last year and pleased the society will continue its commitment to hosting [Metcalf prize](#) winners at future ASSCR annual conferences.

Our AGM will be held as a teleconference on 15th of December, at 2.00 PM, with attendance details to be provided. As the holding of an AGM is a legal requirement for the Society and the meeting must be quorate for voting to occur, it is imperative that members to make an effort to attend.

Finally, this is my last year as President and I would like to pay tribute to the great individuals that make up the ASSCR committee. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work with all of you and I sincerely thank you for keeping me and the society heading in the right direction. With Prof. Helen Abud taking over as President next year, I am certain the society will continue to be a valuable contributor the nation's research landscape.

As announced at the 2019 Annual General Meeting, new members were elected to the 2020 ASSCR Committee, and the Committee consists of:

ASSCR Committee Executive Members

Prof. Ed Stanley (Murdoch Children's Research Institute): President, 2019-20

Prof. Helen Abud (Monash University): Vice President, 2019-20

Prof. Clare Parish (Florey Institutes of Neurosciences): Treasurer, 2020-21

Prof. Alice Pébay (The University of Melbourne): Secretary, 2020-21

ASSCR Committee Ordinary Members

Dr. Christian Nefzger (University of Queensland): Membership and Communications Subcommittee Chair, 2020-21



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Prof. Megan Munsie (The University of Melbourne): Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee Chair, 2019–20

Dr. Shiang (Max) Lim (St. Vincent's Institute of Medical Research): Conference and Awards Subcommittee Chair, 2019-20

Dr. Grace Lidgerwood (The University of Melbourne): Professional Development and Junior Investigators Subcommittee Chair, 2019–20

From September until December 2020, Drs Aude Dorison and Jarmon Lees served on the committee as interim co-chairs for the Professional Development and Junior Investigators.

In the absence of candidates for the Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee Chair, *Dr Margret Schuller* kindly provided advice throughout the year and joined meetings as required. In addition, Drs Aude Dorison and Jarmon Lees have provided assistance in setting up the National Stem Cell Conversations in collaboration with the Centre for Stem Cell Systems at the University of Melbourne. Both attended meetings as required.

Overview of ASSCR Committee and Subcommittee Activities for 2020

- i) Organising for the 2020 ASSCR Conference, including handling sponsorship pledges, and organising the public forum. The conference was cancelled due to COVID-19
 - travel award organisation led by the Conference and Awards Subcommittee and Treasurer
 - Public forum led by the Policy, Ethics & Translation Subcommittee
- ii) Management of Society finances led by the Treasurer, including investment of funds.
- iii) Continued implementation of the Society Rules (e.g., updating position descriptions and formalising assessment and approval of membership application.)
- iv) Creation of the 2020 Annual Report and organisation of the 2020 ASSCR Committee election.

ASSCR Communication with members

The ASSCR committee communicates directly with members through e-mail, and with the broader community through its website (asscr.org) and social media profiles (Twitter). These communications platforms are used to share information about upcoming events, research and news articles relevant to stem cell science and regulation, to announce awards and publications, share photographs, and run social media campaigns. The ASSCR website (asscr.org) continues to provide information regarding the society, links to educational material for patients and the general public, advertises events such as workshops, seminars, public events, and conferences, advertises jobs and scholarships, contact forms, and snapshots of recent social media posts. The material disseminated by the ASSCR is reliant on submissions from ASSCR members, as well as associated groups.

Material relevant to stem cell research or regulation is welcome from members of ASSCR and affiliates.



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This year, the ASSCR will hold its Annual General Meeting by teleconference, and members of our society were invited to attend the AGM by email.

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 2019-20 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.

2020 Committee Election Process

This year nominations were called for 4 elected Committee positions: Vice President, Policy and Translation/Ethics/Public Policy/Clinical Translation subcommittee, Professional Development and Junior Investigators subcommittee, Conference and Awards subcommittee. Single valid nominations were received for each of the four positions. Therefore, as per ASSCR rules no election will be held for these positions. The results of the election will be announced at the 2020 Annual General Meeting to be held via Zoom on Tuesday the 15th of December, at 2.00 PM Australian Eastern Daylight Time.

Summary

2020 is certainly going to be a year that will be remembered. Despite the tribulations visited upon us by an unwelcome virus, the society is in great shape and looking forward to becoming increasingly active in years to come. As members, we have a chance to shape these activities and thus I urge you to get involved and help shape the societies future.

Best wishes for your science,

Professor Ed Stanley
ASSCR President



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Committee Meeting Dates and Membership

ASSCR Committee Meeting Dates and Attendance for 2019

Under the ASSCR structure, the 9-member Committee has held 7 meetings, as listed in the Table below and the 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM). Drs Dorison and Lees attended meetings on the 06th of October and 17th of November.

Meeting Date	Attendance	Apologies	Chair	Minutes
28 January 2020	8	1	E. Stanley	A. Pébay
10 March 2020	9	0	E. Stanley	A. Pébay
21 April 2020	7	2	E. Stanley	A. Pébay
02 June 2020	9	0	E. Stanley	A. Pébay
14 July 2020	7	2	E. Stanley	A. Pébay
25 August 2020	6	3	E. Stanley	A. Pébay
06 October 2020	10	1	E. Stanley	A. Pébay
17 November 2020	8	3	E. Stanley	A. Pébay

The Committee also engaged in frequent email communication throughout the year, including on the following matters:

- (i) Preparing for the ASSCR 2020 meeting, which was ultimately cancelled due the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (ii). Finances
- (iii) Continued improvement to the new website with an expansion of the content of the eNewsletters, and Twitter account (@theASSCR).

Memberships

ASN Events continues to serve as a contractor to process ASSCR Membership payments and renewals. As of 23 Sept 2020, the ASSCR consisted of 120 members (ACT 2, NSW 26, NZ 6, QLD 15, SA 3, TAS 1, VIC 55, WA 11 and 1 International).

Out of these 31 were student memberships, 5 were associate memberships and 84 were full memberships.

Please note that due to the Covid-19 crisis and the absence of a conference/annual meeting in 2020 all memberships were extended by 12 months free of charge.



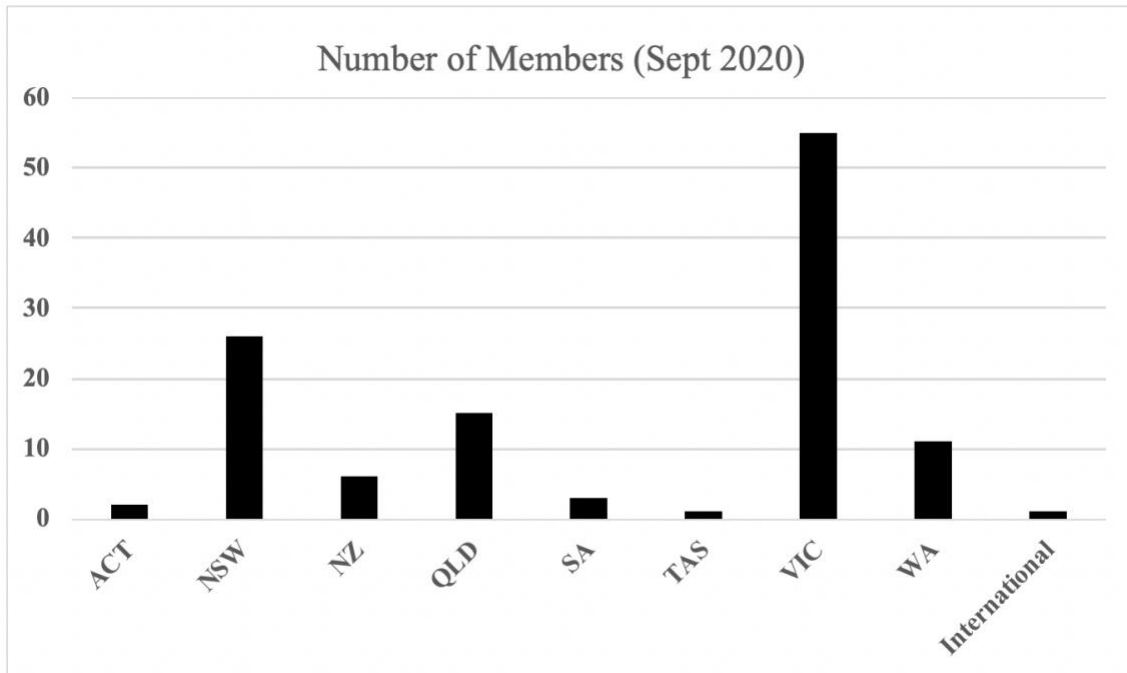
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Treasurers Report, Financial Year 2019-2020

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).

Cash Flows are managed through a National Australia Bank (NAB) Operating account. The Society held one Term Deposit account in this financial year (at NAB). The ASSCR had cash reserves of approximately \$151,958 at the end of the 2019-2020 Financial Year.

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 the NAB Operating Account. The ASSCR Committee members are not signatories to any of the accounts; instead the Treasurer and 2 elected committee members 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, sponsorship, and interest earned on our bank accounts. Expenditures this financial year were Sponsorship, Prizes and Awards, administration and consultancy fees, website, and committee teleconferences (see the notes to Table 1 for more details).

Breakdowns of Income and Expenditure as well as Net Equity for each year from 2017-2020 are provided in Table 2 for comparison purposes. A brief summary of our financial position as of 30th June 2020 is given below.

ASSCR Net Equity:

As of June 30th 2020, our net equity was **\$151,982.39**. This sum included:

- \$ 131,023.30 in our ASN managed NAB Term Deposit



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- \$ 20,934.54 in our ASN managed NAB Operating account
 - Less Liabilities \$ -24.55 #

Negative Liability of \$24.55 is GST refund due from the Tax Office for the June BAS.

2019 ASSCR-ACGTS-ISCT ANZ joint meeting (Brisbane):

- All expenditures and income have now been reconciled; the meeting account has been closed and the ASSCR's profit share from the joint meeting distributed back to our operating account (funds received March 2020).

Total Meeting Income: \$ 150,647.78

Total Meeting Expenses: \$ 133,422.13

Net Trading Position (surplus): \$ 17,225.65

ASSCR Profit Share: \$ 5,741.89

An agreement to share the profit evenly across the societies was negotiated between the ASSCR executive committee, ISCT-ANZ and ACGTS, and approved by the Society Presidents and Treasurers. The profit share for this meeting was reconciled in March 2020.

- Plans for an ASSCR meeting in November 2020 in Melbourne were cancelled due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Major 2019-2020 Expenditures:

- \$24,315 for Prizes (inclusive of support for student/ECR attendance at the 2019 joint meeting).
- \$ 4,890 in Administration inclusive of ASN Management Consultancy



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Table 1. Income statement 2016-2019

	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>
<i>Conference location</i>	<i>Margaret River</i>	<i>Sydney</i>	-	<i>Brisbane</i>
<u>Financial year ending</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
<u>Income</u>				
Annual meeting	\$17,639	\$27,696	\$0*	\$ 5,742
Membership	\$16,033	\$11,201	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,953
Interest/Other income	\$2,930	\$2,129	\$ 1,797	\$ 4,817**
Sponsorships	\$20,000	\$36,735	\$ 1,000	\$ 20,000***
Total income	\$56,602	\$77,811	\$ 11,197	\$ 39,512
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Sponsorship		\$15,000	\$0	\$
Travel awards		\$10,243	\$39,135 ^{##}	\$ 22,315 [^]
Awards			\$ 600	\$ 2,000 ^{^^}
Admin & Accountancy		\$8,850	\$ 8,446	\$ 4,891 ^{^^^}
Other expenses:	\$56,902			\$ 4,660 ^{^^^^}
Total Expenses	\$56,902	\$34,093	\$ 48,181	\$ 33,866
Net income (deficit)	(\$288)	\$43,718	(\$36,984)	\$5,646



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Table 2. Comparison of net equity in financial years ending June 2017 - June 2020

<u>Financial Year ending in June</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Cash assets ASN	\$112,388	\$186,509	\$141,422	\$151,958
Cash Assets BankWest	\$17,665	\$0###		
Total cash assets	\$130,053	\$182,750	\$141,336	\$151,958
Liabilities				(\$ 25)#
Net Equity				\$151,982



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Notes on Tables:

Table 1: Accounting is performed differently for the joint society meetings (2016, 2017, 2019). For simplicity, income from the joint meetings is presented as ASSCR's profit share less any ASSCR-specific expenses and/or income. All values are rounded to the nearest dollar.

ASSCR Income in the 2019-2020 financial year came from memberships, interest on our operating and term deposit accounts, and sponsorship.

* Due to the ISSCR in Melbourne in 2018, ASSCR did not host a meeting in the 2018-2019 financial year hence no associated profit/loss is reflected in Table 1 for this meeting.

**Interest and other income includes: (i) \$1807 in combined interest from the ASSCR operating account and term deposit, (ii) a reimbursement of \$2947.75 from NSCFA for their support of the public forum associated with the joint meeting in Brisbane and the travel expenses for Metcalf awardees to attend the meeting, (iii) donation (\$62).

*** \$20,000 sponsorship payment was provided by NSCFA for Travel awards to support Australian ASSCR members to attend the 2019 joint Annual Meeting in Brisbane.

ASSCR expenses in the 2019-2020 financial year were: travel awards to support attendance of student/ ECR members at the 2018 ISSCR meeting, secretariat fees (administration and accounting), web site maintenance, and committee phone meetings (see below).

A \$36,735 sponsorship payment was provided by NSCFA for Travel awards to support ASSCR members to attend the 2018 ISSCR Annual Meeting in Melbourne. These funds were received in the 2017-2018 financial year, with reimbursement of these awards made after the meeting, paid in July 2018. ASSCR provided an additional \$2400 to support 2 NZ ECR travel awards, collectively totalling \$39,135 and covering a total of 66 travel



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grants. This is collectively reflected in the profit (\$43,718) for the 2017-2018, balanced against the loss (-\$36,984) in the subsequent 2018-2019 financial year.

^ \$20,000 sponsorship payment was provided by NSCFA for Travel awards to support Australian ASSCR members, and \$2290 provided by ASSCR for Travel awards to support NZ ECR members to attend the 2019 joint Annual Meeting in Brisbane.

^^ \$2000 (4 x \$500) in prizes for best presentations by a graduate/ECR ASSCR member at the joint meeting in Brisbane.

^^^ General ASSCR expenses including ASN management fees, accounting, teleconferences, website maintenance and bank fees.

^^^^ Costs associated with the public event held at the State Library of QLD, in association with the joint meeting in Brisbane (November 12th 2019).

Table 2: Net Equity = sum of Current Assets minus Current Liabilities.

Negative Liability of \$24.55 is GST refund due from the Tax Office for the June BAS. Refund was received on 29/07/20.

Bank West term deposit was closed April 2018 with the funds rolled into the NAB operating account.



APPENDIX 1

**12th ASSCR AGM Thursday 14 November 2019 5.30PM
Brisbane Convention Centre– Minutes**

Present: Helen Abud (HA), Ed Stanley (ES), Clare Parish (CP), Megan Munsie (MM), Alice Pébay (AP), Grace Lidgerwood (GL), Max Lim (ML), Margret Schuller (MS), Christian Nefzger, Bronwen Connor, Jose Polo, Ngaire Elwood, Caroline Gargett, Bernie Tuch, Damian Hernandez, Maciej Daniszewski, Nathan Palpant, Michael Morris, Andrew Elefanty, Rod Dilley, Amy Chapman, Serena Gallozzi, Ruth Monk, Abbie Francis, Eva Chan, Wing Hei Chan, Tracey Heng, Jess Frith, Jarmon Lees, Nigel Kee, Cameron Mcknight, Yau chung Law, Karen Abberton, Pei Tian, Clara Poibodi, Eva Chan, Ali Motazedian, Ana Rita Leitoguinho, Freya Bruveris, Sarah Bair, Rod Dilley.

Apologies:

Item	Discussion	Actions
Welcome and apologies (Ed Stanley)		
Acceptance of the Minutes from the ASSCR 2018 AGM (Appendix 1)	The Annual Report, which includes the Minutes from the 2018 AGM, was distributed by email to Members on 04/11/19.	ES moves motion that the Minutes be accepted. MM seconds. Motion to approve Minutes passed unanimously.
Results of Committee	Results of Committee election process:	



<p>election process and welcome to new committee members (Ed Stanley)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian Nefzger elected as Chair of the membership and communication subcommittee from 2 valid nominations from the returning officer – thanks for putting name forward. • Clare Parish re-elected unopposed as Treasurer • Alice Pébay re-elected unopposed as Secretary • No nomination received for the Sponsorship and Industry subcommittee. • ES thanks Kathryn Futrega for her role and for her assistance in the transition • ES thanks Margret Schuler for all her amazing work during the last 6 years. A remarkable effort, including for this conference. 	
<p>4. Treasurer’s Report, 2018-19 Financial Year (Clare Parish)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The full Treasurer’s Report appears in the Annual Report. <p>ASSCR Net Equity: Recap of status of society – with cash reserves Financially tracking well, healthy state Inc in Vic registered for GST not for profit etc deductible gift certificate etc. Overall net equity has remained similar across past 4 financial year remaining at \$140k with some inbalance in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 years due to funds for (ISSCR) travel awards received in 1 year and paid in the subsequent financial year. Income was received from memberships, small donations, interest. Major expenses included administrative costs and awards. No profit from the ISSCR meeting 2018 No major concerns for the society moving forward in the current financial year.</p> <p>Bernie Tuch asked why we did not make a profit with the ISSCR. ES: as the ASSCR’s purpose is to promote research and science, we decided that to ensure we delivered on our mission, we would participate in the organisation of the ISSCR even</p>	<p>Report is accepted by ED. HA seconds</p>



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	without making a profit. MM added that the ASSCR, the ISSCR and the conference all served the community.	
5. Resolution to affirm ASSCR annual membership fees	<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: "Be it RESOLVED that the meeting affirms the existing annual ASSCR membership fee structure (including GST) for 2020/2021:</p> <p>1 year: Full membership \$120. Students \$60. Associate \$120. 2 year: Full membership \$210. Students \$105. Associate \$210. 3 year: Full membership \$290. Students \$145. Associate \$290.</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>	ES accepts the current fee structure. AP seconds.
6. Reports from Subcommittee chairs and other ASSCR activities	<p>Membership/Communications: GL has been growing a cohort of ECRs (5 confirmed members), would like feedback to see how the society can efficiently help ECRs in their career.</p> <p>Policy/Ethics/Translation: MM discussed the public forum held on the eve of the ASSCR conference. The forum showcased 5 speakers and was very well received and very well attended especially by the ECRs and ~150 participants. MM thanked the National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia (NSCFA) for their support, which becomes more and more important, especially as Stem Cells Australia is finishing by the end of the year.</p> <p>Conference/Award (ML): 19 travel awards were delivered to attend the annual conference. All candidates were supported, including two New Zealanders supported by the ASSCR. We also offered 4 prizes (2 posters, 2 orals, with an ECR and a student in each section).</p>	



	<p>Bronwen Connor commented on the importance of ensuring New Zealand remains well supported, represented and suggested we consider a meeting held in New Zealand in the coming years.</p>	
<p>7. ASSCR Meetings 2019 and 2020 (Ed Stanley)</p>	<p>2019: the ASSCR annual meeting 2019 is happening as we are meeting. During the organization of this meeting, we forged an even closer relationship with the NSCFA, which now ensures that the NSCFA Metcalf winners will always joins our conference as invited speakers. The NSCFA also funded all ECRs and students to join our conference, and we hope our strong relationship will continue.</p> <p>2020: our annual event will be held in Melbourne and is planned at the University of Melbourne (Keith Meyer Building). It will be a standalone meeting that will provide the opportunity to our members to present their work. The ASSCR committee is seeking suggestions from our members on the format and content of the meeting.</p>	<p>All agreed</p>
<p>8. Input, ideas from members</p>	<p>Michael Morris: Memberships are down and thus suggested this needs to be addressed if we are to have a standalone meeting.</p> <p>Rod Dilley raised the importance of ECRs in our society and in our research. It was discussed whether ECRs should organize themselves as a symposium within the meeting or be closely involved in the meeting organization (ES).</p> <p>GL added that the networking that occurs during the meeting is important, and encouraged ECRs to contact the committee to make suggestions on the format of the meeting.</p> <p>Andrew Elefanty asked what the ASSCR’s capacity is in term of bringing international speakers to boost the breath of our meeting and the capacity to use some of our existing cash reserve for this. ES responded that this is something the society already does and HA that if members have suggestions of good international speakers, it is important to send those to the committee as soon as possible so they can be planned in advance.</p> <p>Jose Maria Polo raised a potential issue of meeting attendees spreading quickly the conference as it will be held in Melbourne, which will result in losing connections and</p>	



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	<p>reduce interactions. It was suggested we ensure social events/catering be catered for longer hours on site so that people do not spread.</p> <p>MS: added that there are already companies willing to participate to our 2020 meeting. Given the budget approval systems within most organizations, we need to organize and share an advertising flyer of our event to them ASAP, so they can get organized in time.</p> <p>Michael Morris commented on the bios provided for the elections, which now tend to focus more on research than on a vision for the society. It was suggested that we encourage bios to discuss what candidates wish to do for the society.</p>	
<p>9. Other business</p>		
<p>10. Hand-Over to new Committee</p>	<p>ES thanked all committee members and welcome to the new members. Meeting closes at 06.18PM.</p>	