



**AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY FOR STEM CELL  
RESEARCH**

ABN 45 374 899 784

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

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# **Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research**

**Annual Report for 2021**

**And**

**2021-2022 Financial Statement**



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**15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research**

Held at the ASSCR/ASGCT Annual Conference main Auditorium on **Thursday 17 of  
November at 5:30-6:00pm (AEDT).**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Apologies (Helen Abud)
2. Acceptance of the Minutes from the ASSCR 2021 AGM (Appendix 1)
3. Results of Committee election process and welcome to new Committee members (Helen Abud)
4. Treasurer's Report 2021-22 Financial Year (Lincon Stamp)
5. Resolutions  
"Be it RESOLVED that the meeting affirms the existing annual ASSCR membership fee structure (including GST) for 2023/2024:  
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
7. Input and Ideas from Members
8. Other Business
9. Hand-Over to new Committee



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## **President's Report: January-November 2022**

The year commenced with the majority of our interactions with colleagues still via zoom with some uncertainty as to when we might emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic and re-connect with our scientific community again. With a new wave of COVID, we made the difficult decision to postpone our annual meeting again from March until 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at Melbourne Connect. As the year has progressed there has been considerable anticipation and enthusiasm for our upcoming meeting and many planning meetings with the Australasian Gene and Cell Therapy Society (AGCTS). We have numerous high-profile international speakers, some who will join in person and others virtually. There is also an impressive selection of national speakers attending and presentations selected from submitted abstracts. With support from the National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia (NSCFA) we have managed to award over 40 travel grants to students and ECRs to attend the meeting. We had a larger number of abstracts submitted than we anticipated, alongside many sponsors eager to interact with scientists again, so we had to more than double the space we initially had booked. We did not like the idea of having to turn anyone away so we are looking forward to a stimulating meeting with many sponsors, exhibitors, scientific breakfast sessions and vibrant poster sessions. This will be a wonderful opportunity for members to network, build links and catch up with friends and colleagues. There is great excitement to re-engage and share our science in person.

The enthusiasm of our early and mid-career researcher continues to promote activity and further local meetings supporting networking and showcasing of the work of our early career researchers are planned in Western Australia and New Zealand. These meetings are primarily driven by the society's ECR committee alongside local organisers. This builds on the success of meetings held in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney in 2021 and we plan to continue support for this model. We encourage members who are interested in contributing to organising or hosting such meetings in their city to reach out to our committee. The talent of our early and mid-career researchers is truly inspiring.

We have also been thrilled to continue our partnership with Professor Christine Wells and colleagues from across the Parkville stem cell community, running a nationally focussed monthly Zoom forum as part of their highly successful "*Stem Cell Conversations*" series. These sessions are also coordinated by our talented ECRs and we also utilised this forum to hold our 2022 ASSCR ECR Awards Symposia, where the award-winning presentations from our 2021 ECR symposia in Victoria, NSW and QLD were highlighted. These sessions have continued to be popular in attracting audiences and we thank Professor Wells and her colleagues for their generosity in facilitating the success of this forum. We plan to continue this highly successful program in 2023.



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We were delighted to see our past president Professor Melissa Little complete her term as president of the International Society for Stem Cell Research (ISSCR). The ISSCR promotes responsible stem cell research to advance knowledge and stem cell treatments and represents 4000 members globally. We congratulate Professor Little for her outstanding leadership. Many Australian stem cell researchers had the opportunity to present their work in person at the 2022 ISSCR annual meeting in San Francisco. Congratulations to Megan Munsie, Jose Polo, Sara Howden, Michal Stumpf, Jessica Vanslambrouck, Vaibhao Janbandhu, Sophie Shen and Nadia Rajab.

The society was pleased to see stem cell researchers receive awards for their exceptional achievements. This includes Pengyi Yang and Siok Tey, the Metcalf award winners, Megan Munsie for being highly commended for the Advocacy Award, Research Australia, Melissa Little for the Marshall and Warren Ideas Grant Award and Xiaodong Li for winning the Victorian Premier's Award for Health and Medical Research. It was also wonderful to see the establishment of reNEW, a partnership between University of Copenhagen, Denmark, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Australia, and Leiden University Medical Center, the Netherlands. This initiative, led by Professor Melissa Little is funded by the Novo Nordisk Foundation to support the translation of stem cell discoveries and is an enormous boost to the field. There were also many outstanding publications from stem cell researchers in 2022. We congratulate our members on their success in fellowships and grant funding, especially from the MRFF Stem Cell Mission where a broad range of projects were funded. The breadth of research involving our members and the potential impact continues to be impressive.

The ASSCR continues collaboration with the National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia ([NSCFA](#)), a philanthropic organisation whose mission is to support and promote stem cell research in Australia. NSCFA continues to support travel awards for students and ECRs from around the country to attend our annual meeting and are supporting a public forum to be held on the evening of November 15<sup>th</sup> just prior to our annual meeting. We are pleased to host the [Metcalf prize](#) winners and researchers from their Matched Funding program at our annual conference. We are extremely grateful to the NSCFA for their ongoing support.

This year we have introduced a new award, the Rising Star award to provide further recognition for our early career researchers. The inaugural winners will be announced in the final session of our 2022 Annual Conference. We thank the committee members and past presidents who judged the applications and the additional support enthusiastically provided by the NSCFA. I am delighted to announce that in 2023 the ASSCR will introduce two new awards to recognise the contribution of our members, the ASSCR President's Award for outstanding career achievement and inspiring leadership and the ASSCR Game Changer Award to recognise ideas and contributions that have transformed the field or



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contributed significantly to the community. Details of the award guidelines and application process are attached on Appendix 2.

Four key members of the ASSCR committee are finishing this year, Dr Nathan Palpant, Policy, Ethics and Translation, Dr Margret Schuller, Sponsorship/Fundraising/Industry, Dr Shiang (Max) Lim, Conference and Awards and Dr Jarmon Lee, Professional Development and Junior Investigators. I would like to pay tribute to the key contributions they have made to the committee. They have all worked tremendously hard for the society and have been tireless in their efforts to support the community to the best of their ability during the pandemic. Margret Schuller has served on the committee for 11 years.

As announced at the 2021 Annual General Meeting, new members were elected to the 2022 ASSCR Committee, and the Committee consists of:

**ASSCR Committee Executive Members**

*Prof. Helen Abud* (Monash University): President, 2021-22

*Prof. Megan Munsie* (The University of Melbourne): Vice-President, 2021-22

*Dr. Lincon Stamp* (The University of Melbourne): Treasurer, 2022–23

*Dr. Anai Gonzalez Cordero* (Children’s Medical Research Institute, The University of Sydney): Secretary, 2022-23

**ASSCR Committee Ordinary Members**

*Dr. Christian Nefzger* (University of Queensland): Membership and Communications Subcommittee Chair, 2021–22

*Dr. Nathan Palpant*: Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee Chair, 2021–22

*Dr. Shiang (Max) Lim* (St. Vincent’s Institute of Medical Research): Conference and Awards Subcommittee Chair, 2021-22

*Dr. Jarmon Lees* (St. Vincent’s Institute of Medical Research): Professional Development and Junior Investigators Subcommittee Chair, 2021-22

*Dr Margret Schuller*: Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee Chair, 2021-22

**Overview of ASSCR Committee and Subcommittee Activities for 2022**

- (i) Organisation of virtual national *Stem Cell Conversations* by the ECR committee
- (ii) Organisation of ECR local symposium winners to present online in a dedicated session of the national *Stem Cell Conversations* by committee members
- (iii) Organisation for the 2022 ASSCR/AGCTS Conference, including handling sponsorship pledges, selecting national and international speakers and organising the public forum. The conference was rescheduled to November 2022 due to COVID-19
- (iv) Travel award selection led by the Conference and Awards Subcommittee and Treasurer
- (v) Public forum led by the Vice-President and Secretary
- (vi) Organisation of the Rising Star Award for ECRs and instigation of two new awards for 2023 led by the Conference and Awards Subcommittee, President and Vice-President



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- (vii) Management of Society finances led by the Treasurer, including investment of funds
- (viii) Continued implementation of the Society Rules (e.g., updating position descriptions and formalising assessment and approval of membership application), Secretary
- (ix) Communication with members via email and social media, Communications chair
- (x) Creation of the 2022 Annual Report and organisation of the 2022 ASSCR Committee elections process, Secretary
- (xi) Nominations of members for awards, President and Vice President
- (xii) Participation in ISSCR consultation on a new standards initiative, committee.

**ASSCR Communication with members**

The ASSCR committee communicates directly with members through e-mail, and with the broader community through its website ([asscr.org](http://asscr.org)) and social media profiles (Twitter, new handle: @theASSCR). 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](http://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.

This year, the ASSCR will hold its Annual General Meeting in person at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual ASSCR Conference, main Auditorium on **Thursday 17 of November at 5:30-6:00pm (AEDT)**. 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 make every effort to attend. Members of our society were invited to attend the AGM by email.

**ASSCR's National Stem Cell Conversations**

The ASSCR's "*National Stem Cell Conversations*" is now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year and has hosted over 50 invited speakers from across Australia and overseas, bringing the stem cell community the very latest research. Held in collaboration with Professor Christine Wells and the Parkville stem cell research community, the series has been regularly attended by 50-70 persons from across Australia and provides an easily accessible forum to stay connected and engage in conversation. The National Stem Cell Conversations are moderated by Dr Jarmon Lees, Dr Marina Naval Sanchez, and we have recently welcomed Dr Osvaldo Contreras as a third moderator earlier this year. People interested in speaking at a *National Stem Cell Conversation* should contact the moderators.





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**ASSCR's ECR Award Symposium**

Spanning two sessions across March and April 2022, the ASSCR held an online event showcasing the award-winning presentations from our 2021 ASSCR ECR symposia to a national audience. Featuring 10 ECRs from across VIC, NSW and QLD, the sessions were attended by almost 200 people, allowing us to showcase the exciting research being conducted by the future leaders of the stem cell community.

**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 2020-21 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.

**2022 Committee Election Process**

This year nominations were called for four elected Committee positions: the Policy and Translation/Ethics/Public Policy/Clinical Translation Chair; the Professional Development and Junior Investigators Chair; the Conference and Awards Chair; the Sponsorship/Fundraising/Industry Chair. Single valid nominations were received for the four positions. Therefore, as per ASSCR rules no elections were held for these positions. An election will be held for the position of Treasurer and Secretary in 2023. The results of the election will be announced at the ASSCR/ASGCT Annual Conference main Auditorium on **Thursday 17 of November at 5:30-6:00pm (AEDT)**.

**Summary**

2022 is a year where we are re-connecting with colleagues and we expect our annual meeting to be a highlight for members. We have learnt of new ways to communicate during the pandemic and plan to retain the highly successful local ECR events and virtual "Stem Cell Conversations" initiated during this time. It has been a pleasure and privilege working with the whole committee in 2022 and serving as President for the last two years. There are exciting times ahead for the stem cell community and the society. As members, I highly recommend you consider the many opportunities to contribute.

Wishing you all the best in your scientific endeavours and joy in interacting with your colleagues.

Regards,

Professor Helen E. Abud  
ASSCR President





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## **Committee Meeting Dates and Membership**

### **ASSCR Committee Meeting Dates and Attendance for 2022**

Under the ASSCR structure, the 9-member Committee has held 7 meetings, as listed in the Table below and the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Chair</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
01 February 2022	9	0	H. Abud	A. Gonzalez Cordero
10 March 2022	8	1	H. Abud	A. Gonzalez Cordero
26 April 2022	4	5	H. Abud	A. Gonzalez Cordero
07 June 2022	9	0	H. Abud	A. Gonzalez Cordero
19 July 2022	8	1	H. Abud	A. Gonzalez Cordero
30 August 2022	8	1	H. Abud	A. Gonzalez Cordero
11 October 2022	8	1	H. Abud	Lincon Stamp

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

- (i) Preparing for the ASSCR 2022 meeting, which was postponed to November due the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (ii) Finances
- (iii) Implementation of the new Rising Star Award to the ECR members of the Society, such as the
- (iv) Establishment of two new awards to members of the Society, the President’s Award for outstanding career achievement and inspiring leadership and the Game Changer Award to recognise ideas and contributions that have transformed the field or contributed significantly to the community.

### **Memberships**

ASN Events continues to serve as a contractor to process ASSCR Membership payments and renewals. As of October 2022, the ASSCR consisted of 262 members (Victoria 128, New South Wales 60, Queensland 35, Western Australia 12, New Zealand 8, International 8, Australian Capital Territory 5, South Australia 5, Tasmania 1).



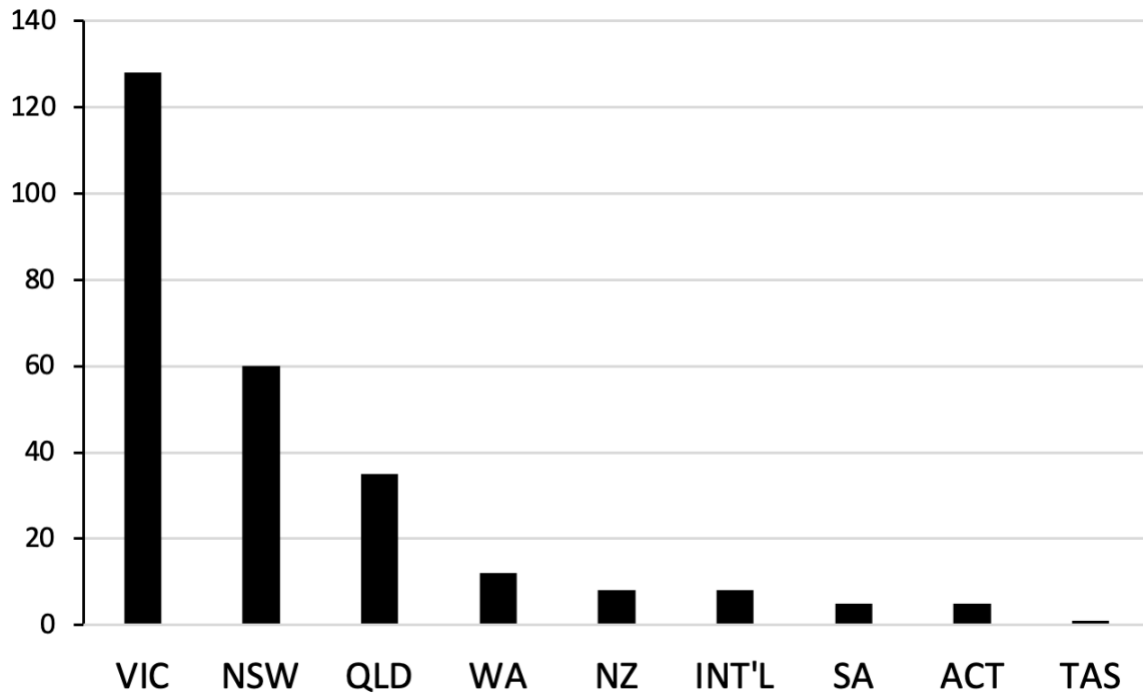
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Out of these 97 were student memberships, 11 were associate memberships and 146 were full memberships.

Please note that due to the COVID-19 crisis and the absence of the society's annual meetings in 2020, 2021 and first part of 2022 all memberships were extended by 12 months in each of these years (i.e. 36 months collectively) free of charge.

**Number of members per state**





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**Treasurers Report, Financial Year 2021-2022**

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 \$151,651 at the end of the 2021-2022 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, delegate registration fees, sponsorship and interest earned on our bank accounts. Expenditures this financial year were 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 2019-2022 are provided in Table 1 and 2 for comparison purposes. A brief summary of our financial position as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 is given below.

**ASSCR Net Equity:**

As of June 30<sup>th</sup> 2022, our net equity was **\$151,651.01**. This sum included:

- \$ 100,151.50 in our ASN managed NAB Term Deposit
- \$ 51,615.44 in our ASN managed NAB Operating account
  - Less Liabilities \$ 115.93

**2022 ASSCR ECR Satellite meeting (Melbourne):**



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- Following on from successful ECR Symposia in Brisbane (Jan 2021) and Sydney (May 2021), the Melbourne ECR symposium went ahead on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

All expenditures and income from the symposium have now been reconciled.

Total Symposium Income:	\$ 2,900.00
Total Symposia Expenses:	\$ 3,136.27
Net Trading Position (deficit):	\$ (236.27)

**Major 2021-2022 Expenditures:**

- \$ 777.05 for Prizes and awards at the ECR symposium.
- \$ 6,177 for Administration inclusive of ASN Management Consultancy
- \$ 2,145 for Catering at the ECR Symposium



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**Table 1. Income statement 2019-2022**

	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>
<i>Conference location</i>	-	<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>ECR symposia Sydney/Brisbane</i>	<i>ECR Symposium Melbourne</i>
<b><u>Financial year ending</u></b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Annual meeting	\$0*	\$ 5,742	\$0	\$0**
Membership	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,953	\$ 4,811	\$ 4,664
Interest/Other income	\$ 1,797	\$ 4,817	\$ 2,332	\$1,115***
Sponsorships	\$ 1,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 4,600	\$ 6,859****
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$ 11,197</b>	<b>\$ 39,512</b>	<b>\$ 11,743</b>	<b>\$12,638</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Sponsorship	\$0	\$	\$	
Travel awards	\$39,135 <sup>#</sup>	\$ 22,315	\$	
Awards	\$ 600	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,483 <sup>^</sup>	\$ 853 <sup>^</sup>
Admin & Accountancy	\$ 8,446	\$ 4,891	\$ 4,837 <sup>^^</sup>	\$ 6,177 <sup>^^</sup>
Other expenses:		\$ 4,660	\$ 8,742 <sup>^^^</sup>	\$ 2,620 <sup>^^^</sup>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 48,181</b>	<b>\$ 33,866</b>	<b>\$15,062</b>	<b>\$ 9,650</b>
<b>Net income (deficit)</b>	<b>(\$36,984)</b>	<b>\$5,646</b>	<b>(\$ 3,319)</b>	<b>\$ 2,988</b>



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**Table 2. Comparison of net equity in financial years ending June 2019 - June 2022**

<b><u>Financial Year ending in June</u></b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2021</u></b>	<b><u>2022</u></b>
Cash assets ASN	\$141,422	\$151,958	151,282	\$151,778
<b>Total cash assets</b>	\$141,336	\$151,933	151,282	\$151,778
Liabilities		(\$ 25)	(\$ 2,618) <sup>#</sup>	(\$115.93)
<b>Net Equity</b>	<b>\$141,336</b>	<b>\$151,982</b>	<b>\$ 148,664</b>	<b>\$ 151,651</b>



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**Notes on Tables:**

**Table 1:** Accounting is performed differently for the joint society meetings (2017 and 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 2021-2022 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.

\*\*Due to COVID-19, the joint ASSCR annual meeting scheduled for March 2022 in Melbourne was postponed until November 2022 (FY22-23)

\*\*\* Interest and other income included \$600 ECR symposia registrations, and \$515.03 in interest on our term deposit and operating account.

\*\*\*\* \$ 2,300 in sponsorship from the Melbourne ECR Symposium held in August 2021 and \$4,558.50 Grant from the Company of Biologist for the ASSCR 2022 Annual Meeting.

ASSCR expenses in the 2021-2022 financial year were: ECR symposia awards, administration and accounting fees, web site maintenance, committee phone meetings and membership subscription (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 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.

^ Prize money for best presentations by a graduate/ECR ASSCR member at the Melbourne ECR symposium.

^^ General ASSCR expenses including ASN management fees, accounting/administration, teleconferences, website maintenance, committee phone meetings and bank fees.

^^^ Other expenses includes \$2145 in catering for the Melbourne ECR symposium, \$326 for Science and Technology, Australia annual membership and general sundries of \$148.





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

# Negative Liability of \$307.37 is GST refund due from the Tax Office for the June BAS and \$2,310.32 for Accrual Event (carry forward of sponsorship funds for the ASSCR ECR symposium held in Melbourne in the 2021-2022 financial year).



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## **APPENDIX 1**

### **14<sup>th</sup> ASSCR AGM Tuesday 23 November 2021 2-4PM AEST Zoom Meeting– Minutes**

**Present:** Helen Abud (HA), Megan Munsie (MM), Nathan Palpant (NP), Alice Pébay (AP), Clare Parish (CP), Max Lim (ML), Jarmon Lees (JL), Christian Nefzger (CN), Caroline Gargett, Anai Gonzalez Cordero, Reem ALHulais, Ed Stanley, Michael Lovelace, Ana Núñez, Christine Wells Duncan Crombie, Jenna Hall, Bronwen Connor, Nadia Rajab, Louise Purton, Jacqui Schiesser, Lincon Stamp, Keren Abberton, Horace Chan, Holly Voges, Damian Hernandez, Svenja Pachernegg, Cameron McKnight, Ricky, Grace Lidgerwood, Maciej Daniszewski, Cecilia Prele.

**Apologies:** Margret Schuller (MS)



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Item	Discussion	Actions
Welcome and apologies (Helen Abud, HA)		
Acceptance of the Minutes from the ASSCR 2020 AGM (Appendix 1)	The Annual Report, which includes the Minutes from the 2020 AGM, was distributed by email to Members on 03/11/21.	HA moves motion that the Minutes be accepted. AP seconds. Motion to approve Minutes passed unanimously.
Results of Committee election process and welcome to new committee members (HA)	<p><b>Results of Committee election process:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christian Nefzger re-elected unopposed as Chair of Membership and Communications Subcommittee</li> <li>• Margret Schuller re-elected unopposed as Chair of Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee</li> <li>• Anai Gonzalez Cordero elected unopposed as Secretary</li> <li>• Lincon Stamp elected as Treasurer</li> <li>• HA thanks Clare Parish and Alice Pébay for their roles for the last four years as Treasurer and Secretary respectively</li> </ul>	
4. Treasurer’s Report, 2020-21 Financial Year (Clare Parish, CP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The full Treasurer’s Report appears in the Annual Report.</li> </ul> <p><b>ASSCR Net Equity:</b> Recap of status of society – with cash reserves The society is tracking very well and is in a very healthy state</p> <p>Revenue remains under \$250,000: hence the society is exempt from tax as a non for profit charitable organisation The society is registered in Vic for GST purposes</p>	Report is accepted by HA. AP seconds.



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	<p>Bank accounts (two: term deposit and daily operating account) are held by the NAB and managed by ASN conferences</p> <p>By the end of 2020/21 Financial year: \$148,000. Overall net equity has remained similar across past 5 financial year. \$130,000 in term deposit, \$17,000 in the daily operating account.</p> <p>Income: membership (\$5,000); interest (~\$1,000); sponsorship ~\$7,000 to support the ECR meetings; \$1,400 from registration from these meetings.</p> <p>Expenses: 1,500 for ECR awards at the symposia, \$8,000 in catering for the symposia- Overall very small loss for the Brisbane meeting (\$1,500) and for the Sydney meeting (\$2,000); bulk of expenses for administrative costs with ASN and account management \$5,000.</p> <p>No major concerns for the society moving forward in the current financial year.</p>	
<p>5. Resolution to affirm ASSCR annual membership fees</p>	<p>Under the Rules of Association, the ASSCR must formally review its membership fee structure at each AGM.</p> <p>The Resolution is as follows: "Be it RESOLVED that the meeting affirms the existing annual ASSCR membership fee structure (including GST) for 2022/2023:</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>HA accepts the current fee structure. Megan Munsie seconds.</p>



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	<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</p> <p>(b) a <i>pro rata</i> annual subscription based on the remaining part of the subscription year; or</p> <p>(c) \$0 if they join between 1 May and 31 July or their subscription includes the following year."</p>	
<p>6. Reports from Subcommittee chairs and other ASSCR activities</p>	<p>Membership/Communications (CN): extended free membership for another 12 months. 184 members, 70 students, 50% in VIC and 23% in NSW and 17% in QLD. New members thanks to the ECR symposia. New Twitter handle.</p> <p>Professional Development and Junior Investigators (JL): The ASSCR aimed to reconnect the ECR community during the pandemic: this was done via 3 symposia in QLD, NSW, VIC. These were highly successful with &gt;200 attendees over the three events. National Stem Cell Conversations also ongoing and successful. Please contact the ASSCR if you want to present during these events. HA: The ASSCR is very keen on organizing these events in other states and NZ but will need local volunteers to run those. Please make contact for these initiatives.</p> <p>Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee: HA thanks MS for all her work.</p>	



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	<p>Policy/Ethics/Translation (NP): ASSCR is a member of Science Technology Australia (link given by Megan, <a href="https://scienceandtechnologyaustralia.org.au/">https://scienceandtechnologyaustralia.org.au/</a>). The subcommittee is working on a specific panel for our meeting in March 2022.</p> <p>Conference and Awards Subcommittee Chair (ML): Proposed new award for 2022: Rising Star Award, guidelines and selection criteria described. Louise Purton: language must be inclusive of all binary and non-binary individuals.</p>	
7. ASSCR Meetings 2021 and 2022 (HA)	<p>Meeting will be held in March 2022 instead of November 2021</p> <p>Our relationship with the NSCFA continues to be strengthened. The NSCFA award winners will be presenting at our meeting in March.</p>	
8. Input, ideas from members	<p>MM thanks HA for her leadership</p> <p>Bronwen Connor: conference in 2022 is there a possibility to have a link for connection from NZ because of difficulties/impossibilities to travel.</p>	
9. Other business	<p>The ASSCR decided to extend membership by one year to all members given the COVID19 crisis.</p> <p>HA congratulates members for their success in grants and publications.</p>	
10. Hand-Over to new Committee	<p>HA thanked all committee members and welcome to the new members.</p>	



	Meeting closes at 02.36 PM.	
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## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Guidelines for ASSCR Rising Star Award**

The Rising Star Award aims to recognize distinguished contributions of ASSCR members who have demonstrated excellence in research and leadership in the early stages of their careers. The award will be instigated in 2022 and two awards will be given each year.

#### **Eligibility Requirements**

To be eligible for a Rising Star Award the applicant must be:

- 0-5 years post-PhD or equivalent of full-time in the case of significant career interruption on the closing date of the year of application.
- a current member of ASSCR and held membership for at least 1 year.
- Applicants can either self-nominate or be nominated by a current ASSCR member.

#### **Ineligible Applicants**

- Previous ASSCR Rising Star Award winners are not eligible to apply.
- Applications that do not provide all the required information will be ineligible.

#### **Awards**

- Two awards will be presented each year.
- Each award winner will receive \$5,500 in prize money (inclusive of \$5,000 international travel grant provided by National Stem Cell Foundation), a certificate and free registration for the next ASSCR Annual Meeting.





- The international travel grant should be spent within a year of receiving to attend international conference and/or laboratory visit and a report submitted to ASSCR/NSCF

#### Application Process

- Applicants are required to supply a Curriculum Vitae of no more than 3 pages (12 point font) that addresses the selection criteria and includes:
  - top five publications or presentations and a description of the key importance
  - impact of research in any area of stem cell research
  - communication, engagement and outreach activities
  - contributions to the field that demonstrate leadership
- Supply evidence of PhD completion date (e.g. letter of degree completion from University)
- Submit application to the Chair of Conference and Award subcommittee ([mjim@svi.edu.au](mailto:mjim@svi.edu.au)) by 31 August 2022
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#### Assessment Information:

- Applications will be assessed by a selection committee comprised of ASSCR President, Vice President, Past President, Chair of Conference and Awards and other executive members of ASSCR.
- Selection panel members will be required to declare any conflict of interest with individuals or institutions and if conflicts are high, will be removed from assessment of the application.
- Applications will be assessed against selection criteria, relative to opportunity.
- It is a policy of ASSCR that the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion are observed in both the composition of the selection committee and awardees.

<u>Selection Criteria</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Quality and significance of research	50
Evidence of leadership	25
Communication, outreach and advocacy	25



Announcement of awards The Rising Star Award recipients will be announced at the annual ASSCR meeting and/or the ASSCR AGM.

### **Guidelines for ASSCR Presidents Award**

The ASSCR President's Award aims to recognize the outstanding career achievements and inspiring leadership of an ASSCR member who has made an exceptional contribution to our sector. The award will be instigated in 2023.

#### Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the President's Award the applicant must be:

- A current member of ASSCR and held membership for at least 1 year.
- Applicants can either self-nominate or be nominated by an ASSCR member

#### Ineligible Applicants

- Previous ASSCR President Award winners are not eligible to apply.
- Current members of the ASSCR Committee are ineligible.

#### Award

- One award will be presented each year.
- Each award winner will receive a certificate and free registration for the ASSCR Annual Meeting and will deliver an award presentation as part of the scientific program.

#### Application Process

- Applicants can be nominated by a current ASSCR member, or self-nominated, and are required to supply a Curriculum Vitae and a statement that addresses the selection criteria.
- Submit application to the Chair of Conference and Award subcommittee by 31 August.



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### Assessment Information:

- Applications will be assessed by the ASSCR Committee
- Selection panel members will be required to declare any conflict of interest with individuals or institutions and if conflicts are high, will be removed from assessment of the application.
- Applications will be assessed against selection criteria, relative to opportunity
- It is a policy of ASSCR that the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion are observed in both the composition of the selection committee and awardees.

<u>Selection Criteria</u>
Quality and impact of research
Evidence of inspiring leadership to the sector and how their contribution has advanced the aims and objectives of ASSCR*
Service to ASSCR

### \* ASSCR aims and objectives:

- support stem cell research and encourage scientific exchange within our region
- build an active stem cell research community in Australia and New Zealand, and worldwide
- provide all interested parties with the opportunity to access information relating to scientific, medical and ethical advances in the broad field of stem cell research. A particular emphasis of The Society will be to communicate this information to the general public.

Announcement of awards The President's Award will be announced to members following the selection process

### Guidelines for the ASSCR Game Changer Award



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The Game Changer Award aims to recognize innovations, ideas and contributions that have transformed the field or contributed significantly to the stem cell community. The award will be instigated in 2023.

### Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the Game Changer Award the applicant must be:

- A current member of ASSCR and held membership for at least 1 year.
- Members are eligible at all career stages

### Ineligible Applicants

- Previous ASSCR Game Changer Award winners are not eligible to apply.
- Applications that do not provide all the required information will be ineligible.

### Award

- One award will be presented each year.
- Each award winner will receive \$500 in prize money, a certificate and free registration for the ASSCR Annual Meeting

### Application Process

- Applicants can be nominated by a current ASSCR member, or self-nominated, and are required to supply a Curriculum Vitae of no more than 3 pages (12 point font) and a one page statement that addresses the selection criteria
- Submit application to the Chair of Conference and Award subcommittee by 31 August,

### Assessment Information:

- Applications will be assessed by the ASSCR Committee
- Selection panel members will be required to declare any conflict of interest with individuals or institutions and if conflicts are high, will be removed from assessment of the application.
- Applications will be assessed against selection criteria, relative to opportunity



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- It is a policy of ASSCR that the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion are observed in both the composition of the selection committee and awardees.

<u>Selection Criteria</u>
Innovations and ideas or contributions that have transformed the field in one or more areas:
Paradigm shifting ideas that have transformed thinking
Breakthrough discoveries
Technical Innovations
Teaching and learning
Public education and advocacy

Announcement of awards The Game Changer Award recipient will be announced at the annual ASSCR meeting and/ or the ASSCR AGM.