



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 2024

and

2023-2024 Financial Statement



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Contents	Page
17th Annual General Meeting Agenda	3
President's Report	5
Committee Meeting Dates and Membership	14
Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements	15
Appendix 1: Minutes of 2023 ASSCR AGM	21
Appendix 2: Catalyst Award Guidelines	29



17th Annual General Meeting Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research

Held at the ASSCR Annual Conference main Auditorium on **Tuesday 12 of November 2024**
at **3:00-3:45 pm (AEDT)**.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies (President Megan Munsie)
2. Acceptance of the Minutes from the ASSCR 2023 AGM (Appendix 1)
3. Results of Committee election process and welcome to new Committee members (President Megan Munsie)
4. Treasurer's Report 2023-24 Financial Year (Treasure Katie Ayers)
5. Resolution and special resolutions as outlined below*

"Be it RESOLVED that the meeting affirms the existing annual ASSCR membership fee structure (including GST) for 2025/2026:

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.

6. Reports from Subcommittee Chairs and other ASSCR Activities
7. Input and Ideas from Members
8. Other Business
9. Hand-Over to new Committee

* Please review the following special resolutions:

Special Resolution #1: The ASSCR committee moves to transition the ASSCR membership to an anniversary model.

- This requires we amend Section 12 of the Charter that outlines our annual subscription

Proposed revisions to Section 12, item 5 (italics):

"12 Annual subscription model and fee structure

1. At each annual general meeting, the ASSCR must determine the cost of the annual subscription (if any) for the following year.
2. The resolution submitted to members will detail the amount payable by each level of



membership.

3. New members who join the ASSCR shall pay a fee equal to the full annual subscription amount

4. The rights of a member (including the right to vote) who has not paid the annual subscription by the due date are suspended until the subscription is paid.

5. *Memberships fees are due annually on the anniversary of when a member initially joined the society.*”

Special Resolution #2:

The ASSCR committee moves to amend **section 49** of our charter to ensure the role of Vice-President is restricted to qualified candidates who have previously served on the ASSCR committee, chaired a subcommittee, or have experience on another similar committee in an executive role.

Proposed revisions to Section 49, item 2 (italics):

“49 Who is eligible to be a Committee member?

1. A member is eligible to be elected or appointed as a Committee member if the member—

(a) is 18 years or over; and

(b) is entitled to vote at a general meeting.

2. *For the role of Vice-President, members must also have previously served on the ASSCR committee.*”



President's Report: December 2023-November 2024

What a year the Society has had! After the celebrating our 15th 'crystal' anniversary on Sydney Harbour with such a fantastic annual meeting, we have had a highly productive twelve months that has seen the Society continue to strengthen and expand its activities across the Australasian stem cell research community.

Highlights include: bringing our annual meeting to South Australia for the first time; holding in-person EMCR symposia in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland; continuing to host the monthly online national *Stem Cell Conversation* and our annual public forum; launching our revamped ASSCR website; participating in *Science Meets Parliament* and at the annual meeting of the ISCT ANZ; celebrating the success of the 2024 Rising Star winners, and the many scientific achievements of our community throughout the year. A more detailed report on our activities this year is listed below.

These many activities are only possible through the ongoing support and participation of our community and especially the dedication of the members of the 2023/2024 ASSCR Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members who have volunteered their time to support the Society during the year, and particularly the 30 volunteers on the Professional Development and Junior Investigators Subcommittee. Without your enthusiasm, ideas and dedication, our achievements this year would not have been possible.

We are grateful for the ongoing and generous support of our premier partner, the National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia. They provided \$20,000 for 22 travel awards for our 2024 Annual Meeting, co-sponsorship of the ASSCR 2024 Public Forum, and \$10,000 contribution towards the two 2024 ASSCR Rising Star Awards. We also thank the NSCFA for their generous support of the ASSCR/NSCFA 2024 public forum. The event will be held at the University of Adelaide on Sunday 10 November at 3pm, hosted by the ABC's Natasha Mitchell and feature Mark Dawson, David Elliott and myself.

We are also grateful for the ongoing support of our many sponsors without whose support we would be unable to host our regional and annual meetings.

This year, the ASSCR will hold our **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** in person at the 2024 Annual ASSCR Conference, main Auditorium on **Tuesday 12 of November at 3:00-3:45pm (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 have been invited to attend the AGM by email and through the circulation of this 2023-2024 Annual Report. Please join us at the AGM to hear more about our achievements over the last 12 months, our plans for 2025 and beyond, and your chance to share your ideas. We will also be announcing the new members for the 2024-2025 ASSCR Committee at the AGM.



ASSCR Committee for 2023-2024

As announced at the 2023 Annual General Meeting, we welcomed two new members elected to ASSCR Committee positions. The full ASSCR Committee during November 2023 to November 2024 therefore consisted of:

ASSCR Committee Executive Members

Prof. Megan Munsie (The University of Melbourne and Murdoch Children's Research Institute): President, 2022-24

Dr. Lincon Stamp (The University of Melbourne): Vice-President, 2022-24

A/Prof. Katie Ayers (The University of Melbourne): Treasurer, 2024-25

A/Prof. Anai Gonzalez Cordero (Children's Medical Research Institute, The University of Sydney): Secretary, 2024-25

ASSCR Committee Ordinary Members

Dr. Dustin Flanagan (Monash University): Membership and Communications Subcommittee Chair, 2024-25

Dr. Jennifer Hollands (Cell Therapies Pty Ltd): Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee Chair, 2023-24

Dr. Isabelle de Luzy (FightMND): Conference and Awards Subcommittee Chair, 2024-2025

Dr. Cameron McKnight (Murdoch Children's Research Institute): Professional Development and Junior Investigators Subcommittee Chair, 2022-24

Dr Michael Lovelace (St Vincent's Centre for Applied Medical Research): Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee Chair, 2022-24

In addition to my role as President, two key members of the ASSCR Committee are formally completing their services in November 2024, Dr Michael Lovelace, Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee Chair, and Dr Cameron McKnight Professional Development and Junior Investigators Subcommittee Chair. Through Michael's tireless efforts we were able to secure significant sponsorship for both our 2023 and 2024 annual meetings, and further strengthen our relationship with our sponsors. The introduction of the Exhibitors Passport and the amazing prizes he was able to arrange were a highlight for many at the 2023 meeting. Cameron assembled an amazing team of 30 junior investigators and provided outstanding leadership across all ASSCR activities in 2024. In particular, I would like to thank Cameron for his energy in coordinating the EMCR symposia, the development of the new ASSCR website, representing Australia in a new EMCR international initiative, and enlivening our communications through his graphic design skills.

This year, nominations were called for four elected Committee positions: the Vice President, Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee Chair, Policy, Ethics and Translation



Subcommittee Chair and Professional Development and Junior Investigators Subcommittee Chair. Single, valid nominations were received for the three positions with a vote required under our rules for the position of Professional Development and Junior Investigators Subcommittee Chair. The results of the election will be announced at the ASSCR Annual Conference main Auditorium on **Tuesday 12 of November at 3:00-3:45pm (AEDT)**.

Overview of ASSCR Committee and Subcommittee Activities for 2023-2024

(i) ASSCR Finances

Management of Society finances led by the Treasurer, including investment of funds and finalization of accounts from the 2023 Annual Meeting.

As described in the attached 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 2023-24 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.

(ii) 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 (X, new handle: @theASSCR).

The Communication and Membership Subcommittee Chair Dustin Flanagan, together with the Professional Development and Junior Investigators Subcommittee Chair Cameron McKnight, Maciej Daniszewski, Eva Chan ECR members and the ASSCR Executive, developed a new ASSCR website (asscr.org) which will be launched at the 2024 AGM and fully operational by Q1 2025. The website will be a one-stop-shop championing achievements from our community; providing links to educational material for patients and the general public; advertising events such as workshops, seminars, public events, and conferences; contact forms; and snapshots of recent social media posts. Importantly, it will host EMCR resources, membership information, upcoming events/job opportunities.

In 2023 year, we also set up our LinkedIn account (Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research (ASSCR)) which has been a popular method to keep members updated. These communication platforms are used to share information about upcoming events, research and news articles relevant to stem cell science and regulation; announce awards and



publications; share photographs; and to run social media campaigns. 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.

(iii) Organisation of virtual and face-to-face meetings for members, including:

All Committee members have contributed to the planning of the meeting 2024 ASSCR Annual Conference in Adelaide with a special Conference Organising Committee convened with Luke Isbel and Adrienne Sullivan and chaired by Jose Polo. We thank our South Australian colleagues for so diligently overseeing all aspects of the annual meeting preparations and securing such an impressive array of speakers.

Organising the monthly online national *Stem Cell Conversations* was led and hosted by the Professional Development and Junior Investigators Subcommittee.

This year's Professional Development and Junior Investigators Subcommittee extended the one-day local EMCR Symposia series to include all three eastern states: New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland. As a result, this series met the needs of over 95% of our membership without requiring airfare or accommodation. An all-EMCR-driven branch of the ASSCR calendar, these events offer valuable opportunities for EMCRs to develop their presentation and networking skills.

(iv) Celebrating the achievement of our members through organization of:

The ASSCR Rising Star Award for ECRs was led by the Conference and Awards Subcommittee Chair and supported by ASSCR Executive. We were delighted to announce **Holly Voges** from the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and **Simon Maksour** from the University of Wollongong as the 2024 ASSCR Rising Stars and look forward to hearing them both present as part of our 2024 Annual Meeting program.

We also developed the framework for a new Catalyst award to celebrate the success of Australasian stem cell researchers be announced at the 2024 AGM. Details of the award guidelines and application process are adapted from those previously developed by the 2022/2023 ASSCR Committee and outlined in Appendix 2.

(v) Securing funding to support our members and ASSCR activities, including:



We secured significant sponsorship from industry to support our national meeting led by the Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee Chair.

We also allocated funds from NSCFA to support Travel Awards for junior investigators (11 PhD students, 11 Early Career Researchers (ECR)) to attend the 2024 ASSCR Meeting, an activity led by the Conference and Awards Subcommittee Chair and supported by the Executive.

(vi) Providing opportunities for members to represent the Society through:

We provided support for two of our members to participate in, and represent the Society at, the 2024 ISCT ANZ regional meeting in Queenstown, New Zealand. This year speakers were Professor Bronwen Connor and A/Prof Ngaire Elwood. Reciprocal arrangements have been made to invite one member from ISCT ANZ, Prof. Simon Barry, Chief Medical Scientist, Carina Biotech to our Adelaide 2024 meeting. This new initiative established to foster greater awareness and connectivity between the two peak bodies in our region was led by the Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee Chair.

We also provided financial support for one of our members Oliver Anderson, PhD student at Monash University and the Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute (ARMI) to attend the 2024 *Science Meets Parliament* event hosted by Science Technology Australia (STA). ASSCR is a member of STA. Oliver represented the ASSCR and our community in this prestigious event in Canberra and his report can be found on the ASSCR website. This annual activity was led by the Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee Chair and it is an outstanding opportunity to elevate the visibility and understanding of STEM (and in particular stem cell science) in federal parliament, and one that the Society would like to consider as an annual activity.

(vii) Continued implementation of the Society Rules (e.g., updating position descriptions and formalising assessment and approval of membership applications) led by the ASSCR Secretary, including:

- Creation and arrangements for dissemination of the 2024 Annual Report to members.
- Organisation of the 2024 ASSCR Committee elections process.

(viii) Other opportunities:

The Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee Chair established an engagement with Science & Technology Australia's new CEO, Ryan Winn, and the policy team to advocate for



education and skills development to support the growth of the cell and gene therapy workforce including GMP manufacturing skills, and translation and commercialization of Australian-developed IP. Discussions are ongoing.

Additional details on ASSCR activities during 2023-2024 period

2023 ASSCR Annual meeting

A total of 242 delegates attended the 16th ASSCR Scientific Meeting, “Navigating new frontiers in Stem Cell Research”, held 15th – 17th November 2023 in Sydney at the Maritime Museum. This included 103 scientific delegates, 58 from trade, industry or sponsors and 45 students.

Over the 3 days, we featured 18 national and international invited speakers; 22 oral abstracts have been selected including 6 flash talks; 75 posters were selected in total.

A total of \$103,607.10 was raised from registration fees and \$108,165.88 was raised from sponsors. After expenses, a total profit of \$31,883.88 was obtained. Twenty-three early-mid career delegates received travel awards, with \$20,000 from the NSCFA. Photos from the meeting are available on the ASSCR website. Delegates and sponsors in a post-conference survey indicated high levels of satisfaction and comments on areas for improvement have been taken on board as we planned our 2024 meeting.

The success of this meeting was due to the hard work of the Conference Organising Committee led by Dr Anai Gonzalez Cordero; and the success in attracting sponsors through the efforts of Michael Lovelace, our Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee Chair.

ASSCR for ECMRs

The 2024 Professional Development and Junior Investigators Subcommittee included thirty EMCRs from across Australia who generously devoted time to help organise local symposia for their peers, draft proposals, secure sponsorships, manage ASSCR communications, assist in the development of our new website, and chair sessions for our annual meeting. As a thank you, the ASSCR Executive Committee awarded a 12-month membership extension to the twenty-five most actively contributing EMCR subcommittee members.

The EMCR Symposia series continues to prosper and garner positive feedback in all host states. Furthermore, this year’s prize purse featured free registration for the ASSCR annual meeting for the top platform presenter at each session!

Across all three host states, the EMCR Symposia series attracted over 200 registered attendees from surrounding institutions and provided 68 EMCR presentation slots that would otherwise not have fit in the ASSCR annual calendar. Additionally, each symposium



had a presentation or forum discussing alternative career options that highlighted potential support networks for EMCRs seeking job opportunities.

Attending these symposia was free for registered ASSCR members, and tickets were only \$40 for non-members, making the symposia accessible to all EMCRs. Additionally, the free registration option for ASSCR members encouraged over 30% of attendees to renew their membership or register as ASSCR members instead of paying to attend. However, a considerable subset of attendees who paid to attend cited our August 1st membership renewal date as the reason they did not become members.

As a result, the Professional Development and Junior Investigators Subcommittee proposed to the Committee that the ASSCR remove the set renewal date for all memberships and move to an anniversary model. This system makes membership renewals individualistic, with renewals occurring on the anniversary of a member's original registration. This change poses no fiscal impact to the ASSCR but allows for events outside the annual meeting, like the EMCR Symposia series, to better drive new membership in the future. This proposal was supported by the ASSCR committee members and has been included as one of the resolutions to be voted on at the 2024 AGM.

We were also able to action our 2023 goal and sought external funding support for this year's EMCR Symposia series. We developed a unique prospectus that helped us form a deeper relationship with our sponsors. In all, these events attracted over \$10,000 in funding, including ticket sales. This meant that despite increased catering costs and having a larger prize purse than in previous years, the cost per symposium to the ASSCR was reduced by over 75% from 2023 to under \$1,300 per symposium. As these symposia continue to gain traction and we build a reputation around this series, we predict increased support from sponsors and little to no cost to the ASSCR going forward. The dates for these events are chosen to align with sponsor availability and effectively assist our EMCRs in preparing for major meetings scheduled for later in the year.

Our Professional Development and Junior Investigators Subcommittee also grew the online presence of the ASSCR in 2024, continuing to drive the ever-popular National branch of the Stem Cell Conversations (SCC) series. The nine National SCCs hosted in 2024 featured eighteen talented EMCRs and lab heads from a wide range of research backgrounds. Held on the first Wednesday of each month via Zoom, the National SCC series continues to attract members from over 40 different labs across Australia online each month. This online platform allows us to showcase the outstanding research conducted by our members and provide added opportunities for our EMCR award winners, such as the Rising Star Awards. We also thank Professor Christine Wells and colleagues from across the Parkville precinct for their continued support and assistance in coordinating the Local and Developmental Biology Conversations series as well.



Over the past two years, the Professional Development and Junior Investigators Subcommittee has developed simple and easily modifiable templates to streamline the planning, communications, and housekeeping aspects of the National SCC and EMCR Symposia series going forward. This should reduce the time and effort required to run these branches of the ASSCR event schedule. These templates and transferrable databases should also allow for improved continuity between chairs and a more consistent experience for our members across all states. We hope to continue to grow these series and offer additional upskilling opportunities to our EMCR members in 2025.

Overall, the Professional Development and Junior Investigators subcommittee has been an invaluable contributor to the ASSCR's continued growth and development in 2024. They spearheaded the expansion of several valuable platforms designed to support our ever-growing EMCR membership. They continue to foster an inclusive and supportive environment for young scientists to connect, communicate, and collaborate. Moreover, their initiatives synergise with the ASSCR Meeting by enhancing membership engagement year-round, promoting registration, and strengthening relationships with our sponsors.

ASSCR ongoing and new initiatives and partnerships

The ASSCR continues our long-term 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 11th, just prior to our 2024 Annual Meeting. We are pleased to host the [Metcalf prize](#) winners and researchers from their Matched Funding program at our Annual Conference on November 13th on the now annual special NSCFA session. We are extremely grateful to the NSCFA for their ongoing support.

The Professional Development and Junior Investigators subcommittee also ran an image competition to collect relevant content captured by our membership that we could feature online. Images from this competition will be showcased on our website, providing a platform to highlight our EMCR community's skill and creativity.

Concluding statement

As we conclude our 16th year, it is time again to reflect on the vitality and strength of the ASSCR community. I thank my colleagues on the 2023/24 ASSCR Committee for their dedication and look forward to our new members joining following this year's AGM and continuing to explore new ways to build our community and its impact.

As I stand-down as President and from the ASSCR Committee, I feel privileged to have played a role in nurturing this young and vibrant professional network. From attending the



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inaugural meeting in 2007 that eventually led to the formation of the Society, to serving on the ASSCR Committee for many years as Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee Chair and then Vice-President, it has been such a pleasure to be part of this community.

Thank you to the many fabulous people I have served alongside over the years and I strongly recommend anyone interested to get involved. I look forward to continuing to be part of this wonderful Society as it proliferates and differentiates towards its 20th anniversary!

Kind regards,

Professor Megan Munsie PhD

ASSCR President

Committee Meeting Dates and Membership

ASSCR Committee Meeting Dates and Attendance for 2024

Under the ASSCR structure, the 9-member Committee has held 7 meetings, as listed in the Table below and the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM).



Meeting Date	Attendance	Apologies	Chair	Minutes
30 January 2024	9	0	M. Munsie	A. Gonzalez Cordero
12 March 2024	9	0	M. Munsie	A. Gonzalez Cordero
23 April 2024	8	1	M. Munsie	A. Gonzalez Cordero
05 June 2024	8	1	M. Munsie	K.Ayers
23 July 2024	6	3	M. Munsie	A. Gonzalez Cordero
27 August 2024	6	3	M. Munsie	A. Gonzalez Cordero
08 October 2024	7	2	M. Munsie	K. Ayers

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

- (i) Preparing for the ASSCR 2024 annual meeting,
- (ii) Finances
- (iii) Planning of new Award to members of the Society who contributed to outstanding career achievement and inspiring leadership
- (iv) Organization of the ECRs Symposiums
- (v) engagement and implementation of a new Society website

Memberships

ASN Events continues to serve as a contractor to process ASSCR Membership payments and renewals. We have 217 members (down from 267). Out of these, 69 were student memberships (down from 97), 11 were associate memberships and 137 (down from 146) were full memberships. Memberships have been extended for another 12 months.



ASSCR membership breakdown

NSW: 57

QLD: 22

SA: 12

TAS: 2

VIC: 117

WA: 3

International: 4

Total: 217

Student: 69

Full membership: 137

Associate: 11

Treasurers Report, Financial Year 2023-2024

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 total equity of approximately \$170,754.60 at the end of the 2023-2024 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 Prizes and Awards, administration and consultancy fees, insurances and society memberships (see the notes to Table 1 for more details).

Breakdowns of Income and Expenditure as well as Net Equity for each year from 2021-2024 are provided in Table 1 and 2 for comparison purposes. A brief summary of our financial position as of 30th June 2024 is given below.

ASSCR Net Equity:

As of June 30th, 2024, our net equity was **\$170,754.60**

This sum included:

- \$ 100,000.00 in our ASN managed NAB Term Deposit
- \$ 60,167.41 in our ASN managed NAB Operating account
 - Less Liabilities \$ 3,085.19
 - Inclusive of refundable deposit of \$7,502.00

2023-2024 ASSCR ECR Satellite meetings (Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane):

In 2024, the ASSCR supported three ECR symposia held in three states (NSW 26th June, QLD 23rd August, VIC 25th July). Because of the timing, only some of the costs and income from these events are captured within the 2023-2024 financial year.

2023 ASSCR Annual Scientific Meeting, Sydney, 15th – 17th November 2023:

• All expenditures and income have now been reconciled; the meeting account has been closed and the ASSCR's profit from this meeting (\$31,883.88) has been distributed back to our operating account (funds received 18th October 2024).

Total Meeting Income:	\$224,625.48
Total Meeting Expenses:	\$ 190,769.89
Net Trading Position (surplus):	\$ 34,961.66
GST (paid on behalf by ICMS):	\$ 3,077.78

ASSCR Profit: \$ 31,883.88

Major 2023-2024 Expenditures:

- \$ 1,295 for audio visual costs associated with the 2023 annual meeting



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- \$ 8,976.02 for administration and ASN management consultancy
- \$ 611.77 for marketing and advertising
- \$ 328.18 for public liability insurance
- \$ 1,440.00 for society subscriptions
- \$ 13,542.30 for venues and catering
- \$ 36,113.91 for Prizes and Awards (supported by \$ 30,000 in funds from NSCFA received 9th November 2023). This supported student/ECR attendance at the 2023 ASSCR Annual Meeting, Sydney and includes two \$5,000 prizes for the Rising Star recipients.



Table 1. Income statement 2023-2024

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Conference location	ECR symposia Sydney/Brisbane	ECR Symposium Melbourne	Melbourne	Sydney
<u>Financial year ending</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Income				
Annual meeting	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 20,476.43*
Membership	\$ 4,811	\$ 4,664	\$ 16,591	\$ 21,694.35**
Interest	\$ 2,332	\$1,115	\$ 488	\$ 3,950.03***
Sponsorships/Trade income	\$ 4,600	\$ 6,859	\$ 30,000	\$ 40,086.35****
Total income	\$ 11,743	\$12,638	\$ 47,079	\$ 86,207.16
Expenditure				
Sponsorship	\$		\$ 934	\$500^
Travel awards/Prizes	\$		\$ 38,240	\$ 35,848.45^^
Awards	\$ 1,483	\$ 853	\$ 88	\$0
Admin & Accountancy	\$ 4,837	\$ 6,177	\$ 6,629	\$8,976.02^^^
Other expenses:	\$ 8,742	\$ 2,620	\$ 4,738	\$18,2286.69^^^^
Total Expenses	\$15,062	\$ 9,650	\$ 50,629	\$ 63,553.16
Net income (deficit)	(\$ 3,319)	\$ 2,988	(\$3,550)	\$ 22,654.00

Table 2. Comparison of net equity in financial years ending June 2020 - June 2023

Financial Year ending in June	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Cash assets ASN	\$151,958	\$151,282	\$151,778	\$148,358	\$160,167
Total cash assets	\$151,933	\$151,282	\$151,778	\$148,358	\$167,669.41 #
Liabilities	(\$ 25)	(\$ 2,618)	(\$115.93)	(\$257)	+\$(\$3,085.19)##
Net Equity	\$ 151,982	\$ 148,664	\$ 151,651	\$ 148,101	\$170,754.60

Notes on Tables:

Table 1:

ASSCR Income in the 2022-2023 financial year came from memberships, interest on our operating and term deposit accounts, and sponsorship.

* \$ 20,476.43 refers here to the 2022 Melbourne Annual Scientific Meeting profit, distributed by ICMS on the 3 November 2023. The conference account for the ASSCR 2023 Sydney meeting was reconciled and profit distributed on the 18th of October 2024, therefore this is not included in the 2023-2024 financial year report.

** \$19,363.67 from online memberships, \$50 in donations and \$2280.68 in registration fees for ECR events.

*** \$3,950.003 in interest from our term deposit and operating account. Our term deposit of \$100,315.40 matured in August 2023 and was paid out with interest earnings of \$3,197.46. \$100,000 was then reinvested in a 12-month term deposit and has accrued a further \$752.57 of interest in this financial year.

**** A total of \$40,085.35 includes a \$30,000 sponsorship payment was provided by NSCFA. This included \$20,000 for Travel Awards to support ASSCR members to attend the ASSCR national meeting and \$10,000 for two Rising Star Awards (2 x \$5,000). It also includes \$1,636.36 from the NSCFA and \$1,636.36 from MCRI for the 2023 public forum venue hire as well as a total of \$8,545 sponsorship for 2024 ECR events.



ASSCR expenses in the 2022-2023 financial year were: Annual scientific meeting associated costs, awards and prizes, administration and accounting fees, insurance and membership subscription (see below).

^ Sponsorship for Oliver Anderson to attend Science Meets Parliament.

^^ This includes Travel awards for attending ASSCR meeting in Sydney in 2023 and for two prizes of \$5000 to the Rising Star recipients. Reimbursement of these awards by the NSCFA was made after the meeting, in December 2023. A collective total of \$34,363 was given to 43 awardees (including travel awards, two rising star awards as well as presentation and poster prizes) for the 2023 meeting. This total sum here also includes miscellaneous awards or speaker gifts.

^^^ Admin and accountancy includes: \$720 for accountancy fees, \$320.57 credit card fees and \$7,935.45 for ASN management fees.

^^^^ Other expenses includes: 2023 Annual scientific meeting associated expenses such as \$1,295.00 AV costs, \$162.85 for committee costs, \$147.70 for signage and stationary, \$325 for speaker gifts, \$328 for liability insurance, \$13,542.30 for ECR symposium associated costs. It also includes \$1,440 for Science and Technology, Australia annual membership.

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

Including venue deposit of \$7,502.00 for 2024 Annual meeting social event.

Current liabilities of -\$428.64 tax payable and +\$3,513.83 event accrual pertaining to ECR events outside of the current financial year.



APPENDIX 1

16th ASSCR AGM

Thursday 16 November 2023

4:45-5:30PM AEST

Meeting– Minutes

Present: Megan Munsie (MM), Anai Gonzalez Cordero (AGC), Katie Ayers (KA), Lincon Stamp (LC), Cameron McKnight (CM), Michael Lovelace (ML), Jennifer Hollands (JH), Margret Schuller (MS), Helen Abud, Jarmon Lee, Christine Wells, Silvia Velasco, Osvaldo Contreras, Andrew Elefanty, Alice Pebay, Ed Stanley, Dan Santos, Amy Hulme, Ben Lim, Emilie Wong, Melissa Mangala, Mirella Dottori, Juliana Chaves, Julia Young, Ana Antonic-Baker, Dustin Flanagan, Ritika Saxena, Nathan Palpant, Shireen Lamande, Mitchell St Clair-Glover, Pragathi Masamsetti, Sara Attinger, Queenie Yip, Cecilia Mei, Adrienne Sullivan, Marnie Maddock, Luke Isbel, Reem ALHulias, Dad Abu-Bonsrah, Jingjing Li, Jiao Jiao Li, Clifford Tebay, Elizabeth Ng, Amy McCaughey-Chapman, Holly Voges, Muhammad Shahid Javaid, Vivienne Kaiser, Janet Macpherson, Enzo Porrello, Victoria Nemeruck, Nigel Kee, Bernie Tuch, Gavin Tjin, Jenna Hall, Alejandro Hidalgo, Richard Mills, Kevin Law, Nona Farbechi, Serena Gallozzi, Alexander Sadiasa, Peter Houweling.

Apologies: Max Lim (Max L), Christian Nefgzer (CN), Deborah Aubin, Caroline Gargett.

Item	Discussion	Actions
Welcome and apologies (Megan Munsie, MM)	As per above	
Acceptance of the Minutes from the ASSCR 2022 AGM (Appendix 1)	The Annual Report, which includes the Minutes from the 2022 AGM, was distributed by email to Members on 09/11/23.	MM moves motion that the Minutes be accepted. AGC and



		Alice Pebay second it. Motion to approve Minutes passed unanimously.
Celebrating 15 th anniversary of ASSCR Highlights 2022-23 (MM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM thanked all members for attendance and reminded everyone about the 15th anniversary highlighting some key events throughout the years, such as the first meeting organised by Susan Hawes, Mirella Dottori and the first newsletter. MM also explained that committee members serve for two terms and highlighted some of the past members of the committees and welcome people to apply for a role in the committee. • MM also highlighted past meetings and the fact that we forge networks and collaborations by holding meetings together with other societies. • MM presented the committee for 2022-23 and mentioned that the annual conference is a highlight of the year. • LS the vice -president mentioned the results of the elections (see below). • MM highlighted the pictures from last year’s conference taken by Margret. The photos are on the website. MM thanked Helen Abud for the organisation of a fantastic 2022 Annual conference. 	
Results of Committee election process and welcome to new committee members (LS)	<p>Results of Committee election process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Katie Ayers is the continuous as the Treasurer and Anai Gonzalez Cordero continuous as the Secretary. • Isabelle de Luzy (Izzy) elected unopposed as Chair of Conference and Awards Subcommittee 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dustin Flanagan (Dusty) elected unopposed as Chair of Membership and Communications • LS also thanked the members standing down: Christian Nefzger who served for many years raising awareness of the society. Anja Kanupp and Max Lim, who kindly stepped back into the committee this year. 	
<p>4. Treasurer’s Report, 2022-23 Financial Year (Katie Ayers, KA)</p>	<p>KA thanked you everyone and MM for all her efforts towards the society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The society is tracking very well and is in a very healthy state for that reason we are establishing new awards and want to continue to expand benefits to our members. • The full Treasurer’s Report appears in the Annual Report. • ASSCR Net Equity: <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> <p>Bank accounts (two: term deposit and daily operating account) are held by the National Australia Bank (NAB) and managed by ASN conferences</p> <p>As of June 30th 2023, our net equity was \$148,100.60</p> <p>This sum included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ 100,315.40 in our ASN managed NAB Term Deposit • \$ 48,042.51 in our ASN managed NAB Operating account <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Less Liabilities \$ 257.31 	<p>Report is accepted by MM.</p>



	<p>• All expenditures and income have now been reconciled; the meeting account has been closed and the ASSCR’s profit share from the joint meeting (\$20,476) distributed back to our operating account (funds distributed 3 November 2023).</p> <p>Total Meeting Income: \$ 229,448.98 Total Meeting Expenses: \$ 184,399.63 Net Trading Position (surplus): \$ 45,049.35 GST (paid on behalf by ICMS): \$ 4,096.49</p> <p>ASSCR Profit Share*: \$ 20,476.43 * The profits were split equally between societies (ASSCR and ACGTS) Not accounted in the end of financial year amount.</p> <p>Major 2022-2023 Expenditures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ 1,704.54 for Event attendance of society or committee members • \$ 7,062.72 for Administration inclusive of ASN Management Consultancy • \$ 694.91 for Society subscriptions • \$ 900 for Insurance • \$38,328.05 for Prizes and Awards (inclusive of \$30,000 in funds from NSCFA received 11 November 2022). This supported student/ECR attendance at the 2022 ASSCR/ACGTS meeting, Melbourne and included two \$5,000 prizes for the Rising Star awards. <p>No major concerns for the society moving forward in the current financial year and we want new ideas to support new activities.</p>	
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<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. The membership fees will not change.</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: 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 <i>pro rata</i> annual subscription based on the remaining part of the subscription year; or (c) \$0 if they join between 1 May and 31 July or their subscription includes the following year."</p>	<p>Members presented accepted the resolution.</p>
<p>6. Reports from Subcommittee chairs and other ASSCR activities</p>	<p>Professional Development and Junior Investigators (CM): CM mentioned the fantastic year for ECRs and that the focus has been on engagement. The Stem Cell conversations online continue with success. The National Stem Cell conversations continue on the first Wednesday of every Monday. Local engagement in VIC and QLD was achieved through local Symposia with 100 attendees each. The success was possible because of members participation and organization from local ECR and members of the Subcommittees. ReNew helped with the VIC Symposium which also had lots of prizes.</p> <p>Global engagement: Global Regenerative Medicine training speaker series, a collaboration between 6 international stem cell societies. CM thanked Ritika for</p>	



	<p>the help in coordinating the talks. This is an opportunity for the rising star awards to promote the research Internationally. Osvaldo Contreras has already presented, and Grace Lidgerwood will be presenting on the 22 of Nov. CM thanked the 24 ECR volunteers that make it all possible and their huge effort. Members are encouraged to send suggestions and join the committee as volunteers.</p> <p>Membership/Communications (CN-represented by LS): LS mentioned the wonderful work that CN has been doing in maintaining our website and social accounts, including new LinkedIn account. We are advertising job positions and papers on our socials. He also highlighted that we will be updating the website in the new year.</p> <p>ASN Events continues to serve as a contractor to process ASSCR Membership payments and renewals. We have 242 members. Out of these 74 were student memberships, 13 were associate memberships and 155 were full memberships. Memberships numbers are double the numbers pre-Covid.</p> <p>Conference and Awards Subcommittee Chair (Max L- represented by MM): Izzy assisted ML throughout the year.</p> <p>We had 113 abstracts submitted; 22 oral abstracts have been selected including 6 flash talks; 75 posters were selected in total. 23 travel awards were sponsored by NSCFA and by the ASSCR (NZ members) Two Rising Star awards were awarded to Madison Paton and Jarmon Less. We announced a new President award who will be delivered on the last day of the</p>	
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	<p>conference.</p> <p>MM thanked the members of the society who review the abstracts and meeting and the reviewers for judging the conference abstracts.</p> <p>Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee (ML): ML thanked MS for her help throughout the year with the sponsorship. ML thanked the sponsors the 3 gold sponsors and the other exhibitor’s sponsors that participated and enable our research. A big thanks to the sponsors who donated prizes for the Exhibition passport.</p> <p>Policy, ethics and translation Subcommittee (JH): JH mentioned that we submitted a contribution to the Science & Technology Australia’s Submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Resources Inquiry into Developing Advanced Manufacturing in Australia. This submission addressed ‘Australian advanced manufacturing for the cell and gene therapy (CGT) sector’. We also reignited our relationship with the ISCT-ANZ society and increase our engagement with researchers that are at the translational stages. We had 2 invited speakers from each society joining the mutual annual conferences. We also have a MOU in place for activities between the two societies under consideration. ASSCR also supported Ritika Saxena, to attend Science & Technology Australia’s Science meets Parliament (SmP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM mentioned that NSCFA and reNew Melbourne now have a new status of Premier Sponsors with the society. • MM thanked the ECR session chairs which is something we introduced this 	
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	<p>year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We had a very successful Public Forum and MM thanks the speakers and the ECR presenters who were showing their “art” prior to the event. • New Game Changer award will be in place next year. • ASSCR 2024 will be held in Adelaide and program will be chaired by a local organizer committee led by Jose Polo supported by Adrienne Sullivan and Luke Isbel. • MM thanks the efforts from AGC in leading the program for the 2023 ASSCR conference. 	
<p>7. Input, ideas from members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Really liked the flash talks – keep these • Can we make abstract available well before meeting on the website or app • Can we have QR codes on people’s badges • Can we have all posters up throughout the conference • Can we invite a patient advocate to speak in one of the conference sessions. • Can we investigate strategies to attract tissue/adult stem cell researchers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MM mention that poster boards are costly but we can afford to have it for 2024. • MM can facilitate patient engagement through her contacts.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have been welcoming new members through emails. For example, MRFF awardees were invited to join the society and come to the meeting. Similar approach can continue.
<p>8. Hand-Over to new Committee</p>	<p>MM thanked all committee members and welcome to the new members.</p> <p>Meeting closes at 5:30 PM.</p>	



APPENDIX 2

Guidelines for the ASSCR Catalyst Prize

The ASSCR Catalyst Prize aims to recognise an outstanding research team from the Australasian stem cell research community who have made an exceptional impact at a national or international level in the last five years.

- Focused on impact and innovation in research and research adjacent fields
- Self-nominated by a team representative who is a current ASSCR member
- Applying teams will be assessed on contribution and impact over the past 5 years

Eligibility Requirements:

- To be eligible, the team must include at least one PhD student or ECR member (defined as less than 5 years post PhD according to ARC guidelines)
- The nominated team representative must be a current member of the Society and held membership for at least 12 months during the assessment period.
- Individual team members cannot be listed in more than one application per round.
- The outcome must have occurred in the last five years (i.e inaugural will be between September 2019 and October 2024).
- Teams must consist of three or more members.

Ineligible Applicants

- Applications that do not provide all the required information will be ineligible.
- Current members of the ASSCR Committee are not able to apply as the team representative but can be a team member.

Award

- Up to one award will be presented every two years.
- The winning team will receive \$3,000 and a certificate for each team member



- The money should be used within 12 months of receiving the award to support the teams next endeavour or the work of nominated team members by agreement amongst the team.
- The nominating team member will be required to provide a short written report to ASSCR on how the funds were expended by the team.
- Short-listed and successful teams will have their achievement featured on the ASSCR website and social channels.

Application process

- Self-nominated by a single team representative and ASSCR member
- Application must be no more than 3 pages (12 point font)
- Application must include:
 1. Overview – describe the background and approach behind the achievement.
 2. Innovation. Describe the innovation and its significance
 3. Impact. Describe the impact and reach of the innovation and how it advances stem cell science in Australasia and/or globally and when this occurred (noting 5 year timeframe).
 4. Team
 - A 2-3 sentence bio of each team member and a statement of how the team worked together collaboratively.
 - Declaration of ASSCR membership status of the nominated team representative and which team members are PhD students or ECRs (NB: only the team representative must be a current ASSCR member).
 5. Evidence of innovation and impact:
 - For example: publications, patents, trial, policies, educational resources.



- Provide a brief statement on how each piece of evidence relates to the innovation and impact.

Assessment information:

- Assessed by the ASSCR executive committee and former committee members.
- 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 and career disruption as per ARC guidelines.
- 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.

Selection criteria:

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Originality & Significance	20%
Rigor of approach (scientific or other methodologies)	20%
Impact and benefit for the stem cell community	60%

Announcement of award:

The Catalyst Prize will be launched at the 2024 AGM with applications closing on 14 February. Assessment will be conducted as described above with inaugural award winners announced by end of March 2025.



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