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AuPS Secretary

## AuPS Website

<http://auaps.org.au>

## Letter from the President.

The combined AUPS/ASCEPT/HBPC meeting in Perth was a resounding success. AuPS and ASCEPT were fully integrated and many people commented on the quality and diversity of the resulting programme. There cannot be many meetings where one can hear international experts on muscle metabolism, regulation of blood flow, treatment of epilepsy, new directions in muscular dystrophy and the use of aspirin to prevent strokes all within a day or so.

The HBPC meeting was only joint for the last day which was disappointing for those who had hoped for a fully integrated meeting but it seems that that was never the intention of HBPC. The Convention centre in Perth has a beautiful setting overlooking the Swan River and close to the city centre. Some of the lecture theatres were of bizarre shape (wide but not deep with two screens about 50 m apart) but the staff were flexible and accommodating so alternative solutions were quickly developed.

While the science was excellent the organisation is clearly more complex at a joint meeting. The three societies have different scientific cultures, varied resources and some have regularly used conference organisers whereas AuPS has not. We need to offer special thanks to the local organisers, Don Robertson and Livia Hool, who have produced an exciting meeting with a good balance of student, experienced and international presenters. Our National Secretary, Robyn Murphy, had a demanding first Meeting and her negotiating and communication skills were tested to the limit while Dave Davey's experience of meetings and understanding of the registration process was central to keeping the organisation on track. We should also thank ASCEPT, and particularly their President David LeCoulter, for recognising and helping to resolve some of the difficulties that arose.

Some of you may wonder what, if anything, the President does between meetings (apart from the usual trying to fund and run a lab, the odd lecture and practical class and, occasionally, discussing science). This has been a particularly busy year with issues relating to our international relations taking some prominence.

As President I was invited to the British Physiological Society in June at Oxford where there was a meeting between officers of the IUPS and representatives of various national societies. The background to this is that national societies pay substantial dues to the IUPS and feel that their input and control over the activities of the IUPS is less than appropriate. The IUPS has therefore instigated a review of its governance and proposed some changes in the constitution designed to give the constituent societies a greater role in the activities of the IUPS. In the last month this process has reached the stage where a formal change to the constitution has been proposed by the IUPS. However the UK Physiological Society has opposed the proposed changes on the grounds that the changes would make the governance of the IUPS even more complex and opaque and have proposed an alternative (and apparently simpler) model for the revised governance. All the member societies of IUPS have a vote and, after deliberation, the AuPS Council has decided to support the UK Phys. Soc. and has voted NO to the proposed constitutional change on the grounds that it is insufficiently radical. We await the outcome of this process.



My visit to the Physiological Society was an opportunity to see how meetings are run in the UK. There was a very large series of symposia with exceptional international experts which were the heart of the meeting. The meeting had 2000 registrants; their largest ever. There were large numbers of posters and a reasonable amount of time in the program for browsing posters while meeting up with old friends and eating and drinking. A personal disappointment was that the Communications, which used to be the main activity of the meeting, have been substantially down graded. For instance, as an invited guest of the society I was told that I could give a communication or present a poster. When I was a young lad, giving a communication at the Physiological Society was the highlight of the scientific year, so I was keen to repeat this process and duly submitted a communication. To my surprise I was told that I had not been selected for a communication but could give a poster instead. I tried pulling rank and pointing out that I was an invited guest but to no avail. So I went along to the session where my communication might have been presented.

It turns out that the current philosophy is that communications are reserved for young scientists. One can see the attraction of the policy but the net result was an uninspiring session, with very few experienced scientists present and relatively little lively or knowledgeable discussion. A particular irony was that one young presenter failed to show up, so the theatre sat around doing nothing for 15 min. This experience reinforces my view that we need to strive to keep our meeting programs flexible and, as far as possible, allow those who want to give oral presentations opportunity to do so and, of course, keep adequate time in the program so that posters and their presenters get appropriate exposure. The key strength of our society is providing the opportunity for scientist, young and old, to present their latest experiments.

Back to IUPS. There is still the possibility of submitting symposium proposals directly to IUPS via their website. I am informed that they already have 300 submissions for 100 slots so make it exciting. The AuPS had 5 submissions for the 1 AuPS badged symposium, so our nomination will go shortly to the IUPS. Finally IUPS meets in Birmingham in 2013, Rio de Janeiro in 2017 and the venue for 2021 will be chosen in 2013. IUPS last met in Australia in Sydney in 1983. Should we think about volunteering Australia as the venue in 2021 (or perhaps more realistically start positioning ourselves for 2025)? The AuPS council is supportive but none of us will be councillors then. If there are enthusiasts out there who are prepared to run with this idea please contact me or other members of Council. Similar issues apply to our membership of FAOPS which has also just met in Taiwan and has its next venue set but not for 6 years in the future. A meeting with FAOPS can probably be simply integrated with one of our normal meetings. Again specific proposals are encouraged.

David Allen  
[president@auops.org.au](mailto:president@auops.org.au)

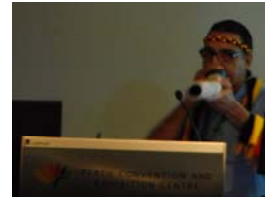




*Perth 2011 Joint AuPS/ASCEPT/HBPRCA Meeting*

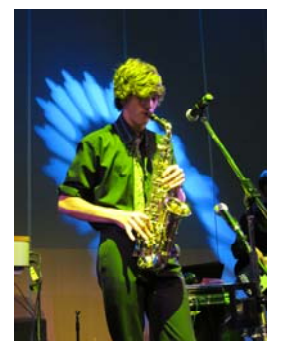
**Terrific meeting !!!**

**Welcome to country by a traditional Elder**



AuPS Invited Lecture, presented by Mark Hargreaves packed the hall and eloquently demonstrated the changes in physiology research across the last few decades.

**Conference Dinner**





### ***Student Mixer***

Monday night in Perth was by all accounts a terrific student mixer. Many thanks to Donny Camera and Thomas Ansel for their efforts organising the event.

AuPS Council is now in need of a student representative as Donny's two year term has run its course. If you fancy being in a position to advocate for students in Physiology at a National level please send your nomination to Dr Robyn Murphy (AuPS Secretary).

The Annual Scientific Meeting was awash with awards.



### **THE A K MCINTYRE PRIZE**

*Awarded to Dr Kate Murphy.*



The Prize consists of a medal and the sum of \$1000, thanks SDR



## Post-doctoral publication prize

This annual, \$500 award for the best original paper published by an AuPS member during their first 4 postdoctoral years, was awarded to Dr Joshua Edwards (UQ), who is currently at Rush University, Chicago. Supported by SDR Clinical Technology

## PhD student publication prize

The annual \$500 award for the best original paper published by an AuPS member during the course of their PhD studies was awarded to Kimberley Mellor from Melbourne University. Supported by SDR Clinical Technology

## Student Presentation Prizes



The SDR Student oral presentation prize was awarded to Daniel Chaston from ANU for his outstanding presentation titled, 'Signalling through endothelial connexin40 modulates the myogenic constriction of arteries and regulates blood pressure'.



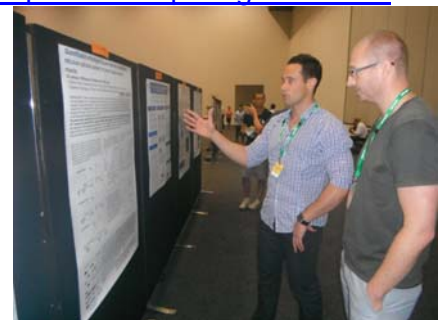
AuPS President David Allen is shown presenting the certificate to Daniel Chaston during the Closing Ceremony.

The Wiley Blackwell presentation award was to Michaela Kreissl (U NSW) for a presentation titled, 'Phosphorylation of tropomyosin – response to sarcomeric stress'.

The recipients received a certificate and cash prizes.



For details; <http://www.aups.org.au/Prizes/>



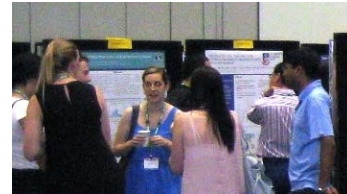
## Student Poster Prizes

The annual SDR and Wiley Blackwell poster awards went to Noni Larkins for best poster and runner up Susan Morton,



**SDR** CLINICAL TECHNOLOGY

**WILEY-  
BLACKWELL**



## Editor's Award



This inaugural award, instigated by the AuPS Editor Dave Davey and sponsored by Meadow Bank a Tasmanian Winery, was made to Travis Dutka and Roger Evans (left).

The award recognizes the best abstract and the best presented abstract both required to be submitted in a timely way well before the deadline.

Roger, an Editor of CEPP was winner of the best prepared abstract and clearly very pleased with the win.

## The Michael Roberts Excellence in Physiology Education Award

The second Michael Roberts award was presented to Dr Yvonne Hodgson (Monash University). Yvonne's presentation will be made during the Education Symposium at the 2012 Meeting of the Society.

This award, sponsored by Wiley-Blackwell, in addition to \$1,000, includes a medal and an invitation to make a symposium presentation.



Please email applications for 2012 to the AuPS secretary. ([secretary@auaps.org.au](mailto:secretary@auaps.org.au))

## News from Council

Professor Lea Delbridge and Dr Kate Murphy having completed their three year term on council welcomed the new councillors Bradley Launikonis (UQ), David Saint (U SA) and Nicole Beard (ANU)

Council also includes Garry Housley and Stewart Head, co-opted as members of the Local Organising Committee for the next scientific meeting, University of NSW, 2012. In addition Stuart Warmington was co-opted as LOC for the 2013 Melbourne meeting along with Glenn Wadley, also appointed as Associate Editor.

The secretary is working on tidying up the constitution and working rules to include the changes to the management of the Society that occurred this year. Such things as the email ballot for

councillors, the classes of membership (there is some confusion about whether membership is 'foreign' or 'overseas'), recording and photography of work presented at the scientific meeting.

Post of student representative is now open for nominations. If your student is showing leadership potential please send a nomination for this two year appointment to AuPS Secretary, by the end of January 2012.

## Awards to Members



Professor Roger Dampney has been awarded a Senior Visiting Fellowship by the Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of Bologna.

The aim of the Fellowships are "to develop interdisciplinary research by facilitating visits by distinguished scholars from abroad".

Roger will spend three months in the first semester of 2012 at the University of Bologna, where he will give some lectures and work with Professor Alessandro Silvani on the central regulation of the cardiovascular system during sleep.



### Letter of Nomination for Honorary Membership:

**Associate Professor Igor R Wendt  
Department of Physiology, Monash University.**

It is our great pleasure to present this nomination of Igor R Wendt for Society Honorary membership.

In 2012, Igor will celebrate his 40th year as a researcher, publishing physiologist and member of this Society. Igor attended his first Society meeting (then the Australian Physiological & Pharmacological Society) in 1972 as a new PhD student, presenting his work 'The energy output of rat extensor digitorum longus muscle' published in Proc APPS 3, 86-87, 1972. Muscle energetics and excitation-contraction coupling have been the enduring themes of Igor's career - pursued in skeletal, smooth and cardiac muscle types.



After completing his undergraduate and PhD studies at Monash University, Igor was awarded a prestigious NHFA Overseas Research Fellowship to take up a post-doctoral position in the legendary laboratory of Glenn Langer at UCLA, publishing seminal work characterizing myocardial  $\text{Na}^+$  and  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  fluxes. On his return to Australia, Igor held a teaching position for several years at Monash University in the Department of Physiology before taking up a new Fellowship working on skeletal muscle with George Stephenson at LaTrobe University. This partnership produced a paper in *Nature*, published in 1981. In 1983 Igor returned to Monash, initially with an NHMRC appointment and subsequently took up an academic position as Lecturer in 1990. In the Department of Physiology Igor has served as Deputy and Acting head - and in particular managed major leadership responsibility during the period when the Head of Department, Warwick Anderson, initially took on his NHMRC role. In most recent times Igor has served the University as Associate Dean (for Research Degrees). Throughout he has been a significant contributor to the development and delivery of physiology teaching in the Department at all levels.

Igor has published widely in numerous high impact and specialist physiology journals including *J Physiol*, *Am J Physiol*, *Circulation Research*, *Cardiovascular research*, *Pflugers Archiv*, *J Molecular & Cellular Cardiology*, and many others. Beyond his notable *Nature* paper he has numerous papers with citations exceeding 100, and is particularly recognized for his caffeine activation, skinned fibre work. Igor has mentored many students through his direct supervision and has provided much valued quiet advice to a generation or two of early career academics and researchers.

As a member of this Society Igor has been unwavering in his commitment to active meeting participation and trainee support. His involvement in student judging activities, his ubiquitous presence at poster sessions and his regularity and longevity as meeting attendee have been remarkable over the almost 40 years of his membership. His contribution to the Society through his scientific input and engagement in all aspects of Society life have been much valued.

It is a privilege to bring forward this nomination for Igor Wendt's Honorary membership of the Australian Physiological Society at this 2011 annual scientific meeting of the Society. In relation to pursuing the key objectives of the Society, Igor has been an exemplary role model.

Sincerely,

David G Allen  
University of Sydney

Lea M D Delbridge  
University of Melbourne

7 December, 2011



## The Royal Society of Victoria

Promoting science since 1854 and polar science since 1874

### **YOUNG SCIENTIST RESEARCH AWARDS**

### **NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR 2012**

The Royal Society of Victoria has established three prestigious prizes open to post-graduate - doctoral students in all areas of Biological, Physical and Earth Sciences. These prizes are designed to recognise good science and provide students further experience in presenting information to an audience of scientists and the general public on their particular research field. Students have the opportunity, if they wish, to participate in the Society's mentoring program, whereby they receive mentoring in their chosen field by senior scientists who are Members of the Society.

These prizes are awarded to students in their second to fourth year of their doctoral candidature at the time of application. Students should submit an extended abstract and application form by 31 May 2012. From these, the judges will select a short list of two to three candidates in each of the fields of Biological, Physical and Earth Sciences.

Each of the short-listed candidates will give an oral PowerPoint presentation (15 minutes, 5 minutes discussion) before a general audience at the Society on Thursday, 27th September 2012 commencing from 6:15 p.m. The winners are announced on the night and the monetary prize and certificate awarded.

Light refreshments follow the presentations, which are open to fellow students, friends and family as well as Members of the Society.



**Applicants must be Members of The Royal Society of Victoria. If the student is not already a Member, submit (1) an application form for membership with (2) the extended abstract (with Aims; Hypotheses; Method; Results and Conclusion) and (3) a covering letter.**

Each prize includes a certificate and a monetary prize. The Biological Science prize and Earth Sciences prize are supported by the E D Gill Fund and the Neil Archbold Estate.

Publicity will be distributed through the Science, Engineering and Medical Faculties and Post Graduate Student Offices of each of the Victorian Universities.

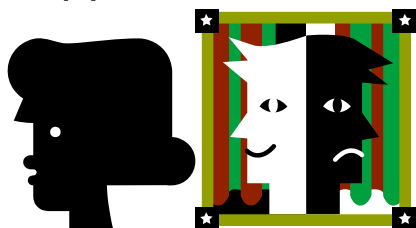
**Nominations close at close of business not later than 31 May 2012 (Executive Officer, The Royal Society of Victoria, 9 Victoria Street, Melbourne 3000)**

Enquiries to: The Royal Society of Victoria, Tel (03) 9663 5259, email: [rsv@sciencevictoria.org.au](mailto:rsv@sciencevictoria.org.au)



## WANTED

### One (1) Student Councillor



Interested in Science administration?  
Want to keep a favourite discipline alive?  
Fancy yourself in boardrooms making decisions  
on the future?  
Want to know what prizes are on offer?  
When conferences are planned?  
Have a say in your society?

Have a go on the AuPS Council  
Send your contact details to AuPS Secretary.  
[secretary@AuPS.org.au](mailto:secretary@AuPS.org.au)

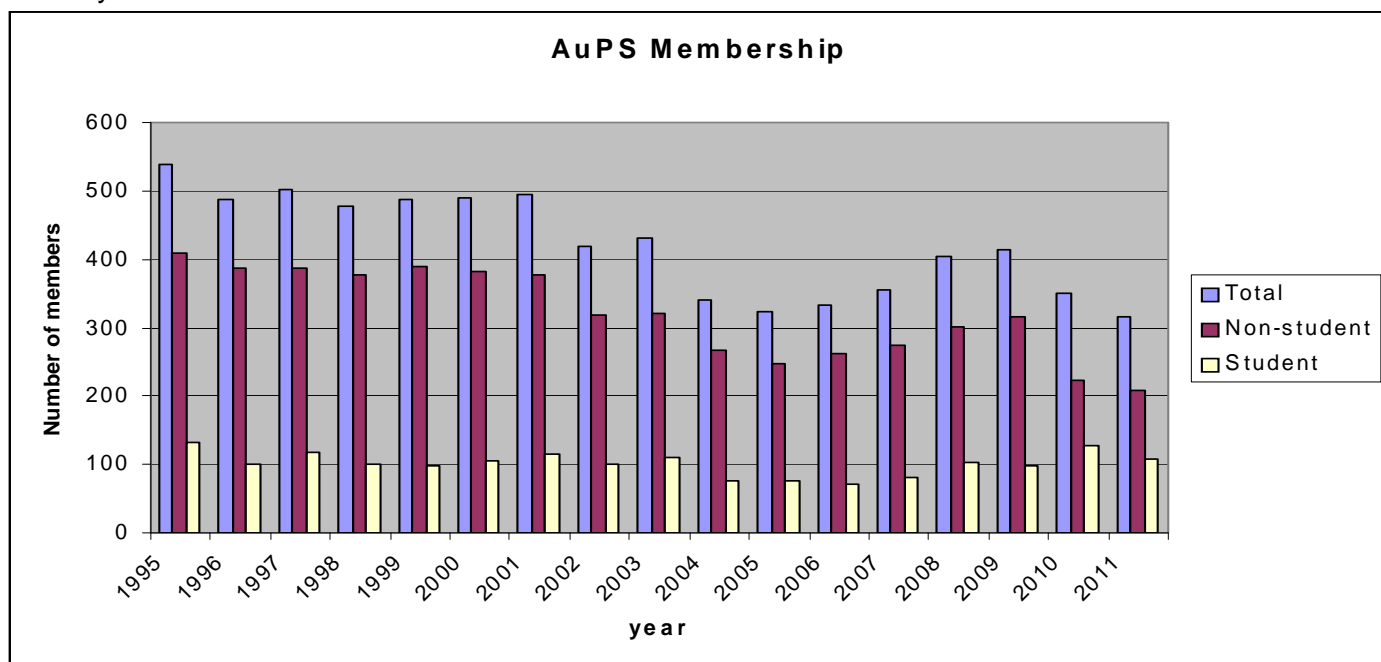
by the end of January 2012



Many thanks go to Donny Camera, the retiring AuPS Council student representative.

## Membership

This is the present membership trend as presented at the AGM (in numbers). Some consideration should be made to the way in which memberships were reported, where from 2002 (I think) only currently financial members were counted.



## What can you do to help?

Try designing a membership 'drive' poster and be prepared to circulate it through your department / school.

One of the benefits is the resource of the AuPS Proceedings (deliberately cut off version shown here)

Hits	Paper
9178	S.E. Webb and A.L. Miller (2007) Ca <sup>2+</sup> signaling and early e <i>Proc. AuPS 38</i> : 43-51.
8801	A.J. Davidoff (2005) Convergence of glucose- and fatty ac tion coupling and insulin signalling. <i>Proc. AuPS 36</i> : 45-53.
8093	D.P. Tieleman (2006) Computer simulations of transport t nels and transporters. <i>Proc. AuPS 37</i> : 15-27.
5934	A.F. Dulhunty (2006) Excitation-contraction coupling from 1-13.
4743	R.N. Subbiah, T.J. Campbell and J.I. Vandenberg (2004) I r they taught us about arrhythmias and anti-arrhythmic ther:
4419	L.C. Hool (2005) Reactive oxygen species in cardiac signal channels. <i>Proc. AuPS 36</i> : 55-61.
3936	S.B. Hooper and M.J. Wallace (2005) Role of the physico <i>AuPS 36</i> : 15-22.
3785	D.G. Allen (2004) Skeletal muscle function: the role of io <i>APPS 34</i> : 1-11.
3671	R.A.L. Dampney, M.J. Coleman, M.A.P. Fontes, Y. Hirooka, (2001) Central mechanisms underlying short-term and long <i>APPS 32</i> : 1-12.
3436	N. Suzuki and J.M. Bekkers (2007) Inhibitory interneurons ii
Hits	Abstract
2363	A.F. Dulhunty (2005) Excitation-contraction coupling from 1
2017	B.L. Julien and A.P. Bendrup (2007) Effects of a cognitv standing. <i>Proc. AuPS 38</i> : 127P.
1796	C. van der Poel, J. Edwards and D.G. Stephenson (2005) E on twitch responses in fast-twitch mechanically skinnr
1721	J.N. Edwards, C. van der Poel and D.G. Stephenson (2005) I iological temperatures reduces its ability to function
1620	J.N. Edwards, C. Van Der Poel, D.G. Stephenson (2004) Effe muscle preparations from rat and mouse incubated
1611	S.L. Keller and S.L. Veatch (2005) Seeing spots: miscibility tr <i>36</i> : 89P.
1607	M.F. Navarro-Gonzalez and C.E. Hill (2005) Novel nifedipin play a role in vascular tone of cerebral arteries. <i>Proc.</i>
1570	C.L. Curl and L.M.D. Delbridge (2003) Quantitative phase r and function of unstained viable cells. <i>Proc. APPS 33</i>
1555	T. Nguyen, B. Clare, L. Hool and B. Martinac (2005) The efi tive channels of <i>E. coli</i> . <i>Proc. AuPS 36</i> : 39P.
1555	R.M. Murphy, D.G. Stephenson, G.D. Lamb (2004) Effect o mechanically-skinned single fibres from rat skeletal r



## Meetings in 2012



Society for Free Radical Research International

16TH BIENNIAL MEETING • Imperial College London • 6-9 September 2012 • United Kingdom

Discuss the impact of the latest research, concepts and applications of free radicals and antioxidants.

For more information on the conference remember to visit the conference website  
[www.sfrimeeting.org](http://www.sfrimeeting.org)

# 17th International Congress of the World Muscle Society

9-13 October 2012 • Perth, Western Australia

For more information [www.wms2012.com](http://www.wms2012.com)

### ***First Australian Conference on Physiological and Physical Employment Standards.***

In November of 2012, the Centre for Human and Applied Physiology (University of Wollongong), in collaboration with the Defence Science and Technology Organisation, will be running the First Australian Conference on Physiological and Physical Employment Standards. This conference will be held at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra (November 27th-29th, 2012).

The focus of this conference is upon the development, implementation and justification of physiological and physical employment standards within physically demanding occupations. Scientists from around the world will present their research relating to the development of these standards, and discuss problems and solutions concerning the relationship between these standards and the optimisation of a capable workforce whilst minimising workplace injuries. The nature of this meeting, the range of keynote speakers and their presentation topics, all fall within the realms of human and applied physiology, ergonomics, occupational health and safety, and occupational and environmental medicine. For this reason, we believe that some members of the Australian Physiological Society may be very interested in attending, or even presenting a paper at this meeting.

You may visit the conference web site via the following link:

<http://www.uow.edu.au/health/AusPES2012/index.html>

This issue of AuPS News was compiled by Simon Potocnik with many thanks to the generous contributors.

The next issue of AuPS News will be distributed to members in March 2012. All contributions for AuPS News should be sent to: [newsletter@auaps.org.au](mailto:newsletter@auaps.org.au). Before the end of March.

Many thanks to Glenn Wadley for volunteering to be the Newsletter Editor (AuPS Associate editor). Glenn is also on the LOC for the 2013 Meeting in Melbourne.

