



AuPS News

December 2013

President

Prof Graham Lamb
La Trobe University
president@auaps.org.au

National Secretary

Prof Matthew Watt
Monash University
secretary@auaps.org.au

Treasurer

Dr Bradley Launikonis
University of Queensland
treasurer@auaps.org.au

Editor

Prof. David Allen
The University of Sydney
editor@auaps.org.au

IT Manager

Dr Andrew Hoy
ITmanager@auaps.org.au

Webmaster

Dr Glenn Wadley
Deakin University
webmaster@auaps.org.au

Associate Editor

Dr Glenn Wadley
Deakin University
newsletter@auaps.org.au

Student Representatives

Tahnee Kennedy
The University of Melbourne
t.kennedy2@student.unimelb.edu.au

Nicole Vargus
Charles Sturt University
nvargas@csu.edu.au

Councillors

Dr Nicole Beard
Australian National University
nicole.beard@anu.edu.au

A/Prof David Saint
University of Adelaide
david.saint@adelaide.edu.au

Dr Deanne Skelly
The University of Melbourne
deanne.skelly@unimelb.edu.au

Dr Robert Lee-Young
Baker Heart & Diabetes Inst.
Robert.Lee-Young@bakeridi.edu.au

Dr James Bell
The University of Melbourne
belljr@unimelb.edu.au

Public Officer

AuPS Secretary

[AuPS Website](#)

Presidents report 2013



I became the President at the AGM in Sydney 2009 taking over from David Adams. My appointment was for 3 years, extended for a year in 2012, and will finish at the 2013 AGM, at which the President Elect, Graham Lamb, will assume the Presidency. It's been a stimulating and enjoyable experience and I would like to use this final report to offer some thoughts on where our Society and Physiology is heading.

As I am sure you all know, in our Society the National Secretary does most of the work and I want to pay tribute to Robyn Murphy who has been an extraordinarily efficient and well-organised leader. The mainstay of our activities as a Society is the Annual

Meeting and Robyn has overseen this process with understanding of the issues, attention to detail and diplomacy. As a Society we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Robyn and, with characteristic efficiency, she has provided a detailed schedule of her activities which the incoming National Secretary Matt Watt should find invaluable.

I would also like to comment on and thank Dave Davey for his role as IT Manager since 2006. Dave has also been Editor of the Proceedings for two periods 2002-2006 and 2009-2012. Both are very substantial roles and Dave has brought to both of these activities his wide understanding of computing and his corporate knowledge of the way AuPS has operated over many decades. Dave has been the driving force behind our website and the multiple computer based activities that lie behind the membership, the payment of fees and the booking system for our meetings. He has given an extraordinary amount of his time and expertise over many years to the Society and we are greatly in his debt. Perhaps the greatest tribute to his role is that it has gradually been split into various named positions (IT Manager, Webmaster, Editor, Membership Officer, Registrant Liaison Officer), so we hope the incoming IT manager Andrew Hoy will find the task somewhat less daunting.

Whether or not Physiology as a Discipline is in terminal decline is still actively debated. On the negative side, there are very few Departments of Physiology left in the world and the Journals that cover the whole of Physiology have seen a slow decline when compared to those that specialise in particular systems. Obviously the AuPS has suffered from this trend with the neuroscientists, renal, GI, endocrine and respiratory physiologists having largely transferred their activities to more specialist societies. On the positive side, Denis Noble has made a post-retirement career of preaching that physiology will rise again to fill the need for integrative scientists in the post-genomic age. On the home front, our Society seems to have reached stable numbers but we need to actively maintain our links with the specialist physiologists by encouraging symposia in their areas and maintaining dialogue and joint meetings with other societies. The AuPS has been active in encouraging and training research students and in supporting developments in teaching and these activities are critical to maintaining our role as guardians of integrative physiology.

As President I have been involved with IUPS and with a number of international developments. IUPS is considering its role in a changing world and this is taking the form of an extended debate about the IUPS Congresses, the governance of IUPS and the fee structure. One of my most time consuming roles has been to explore whether Australia should make a bid for the IUPS Congress in 2021. The advantages for the host country are the opportunity to hear many international researchers and to present our own work in an international forum. However the disadvantages are that Australia is about as far as one can get from the main centres of research strength and, most seriously, the financial uncertainties are huge for a small society. After a lot of discussion and informal and professional advice the Council decided against making a bid. As expected, China has been awarded the 2021 Congress and the underbidder was South Korea who may well be successful in 2025. On a more positive note two of our other international activities are being actively pursued. The AuPS has an Exchange Lectureship agreement with the Scandinavian Physiological Society and so far this has resulted in 5 exchanges. In 2008 Lars Larson visited Melbourne and Greg Stuart (ANU) visited Scandinavia; Eric Richter came to Adelaide in 2010 and David Allen went to Bergen in 2011; finally Håkan Westerblad came to the UNSW Sydney meeting in 2012. I know that my own experience and Håkan Westerblad's were very positive; it is an opportunity to attend meetings and visit departments with a quite different history and philosophy to our own. A new initiative with the Japanese Physiological Society is in place and we hope that there will be a 'Japanese Physiological Society Symposium' at the Brisbane meeting in 2014 with two Japanese speakers and two Australian speakers. The format and financial arrangements are similar to our in-house symposia and this simple and inexpensive mechanism may be extendable to other countries.

NH&MRC results have been announced and the annual disappointment seems to be more widespread than ever. Last year I reported that the percentage of project grants categorised as Basic Science had, to my surprise, been gradually rising (55% in 2009, 56% in 2010, 57% in 2001, 59% in 2012); this year the figure is substantially worse at 53%. Furthermore the overall % success rate was only 19% and this was also the success rate for basic science project grants (down from 23% last year). It seems that the move to support translational research, meaning projects with an identifiable clinical outcome, is starting to bite. Furthermore, the medical research institutes have substantially higher success rates, around 30% compared to 20% within universities. Within many university basic science departments it seems that we are moving quite rapidly from a situation where NHMRC support was a reasonable expectation to one in which only occasional laboratories have support. This is especially true of younger investigators. When I first started in science, it was unusual to have external research support and departments provided sufficient research funds that the needs of a PhD student and a modest research program could be covered. Universities are going to have to think more seriously along these lines again if current trends continue.

Finally I thank the Society for bestowing on me the privilege and honour of being your President and it is a pleasure to pass the baton to the reassuring hands of Graham Lamb.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Physiology without borders...



Check out the new IUPS website: <http://iups.org/>

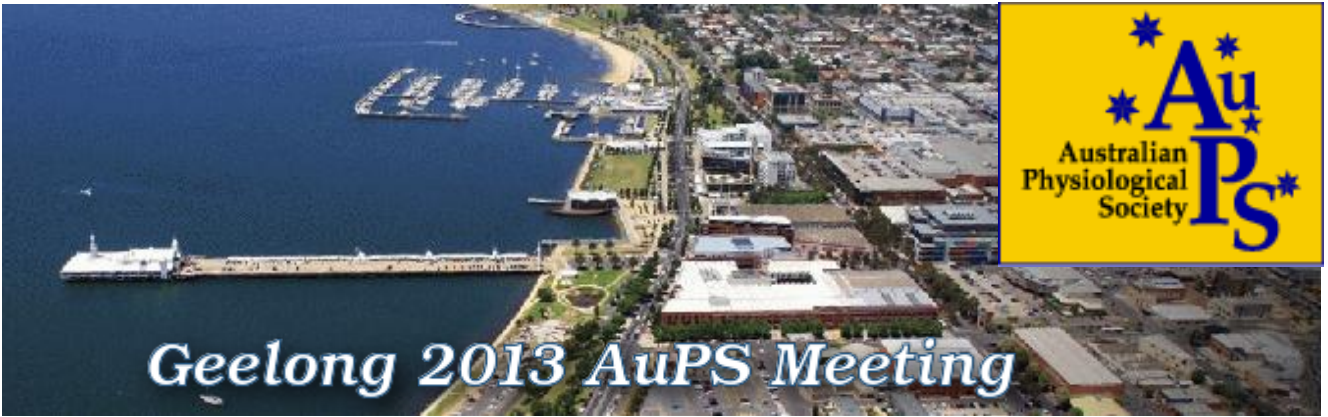
2014 Australian Physiological Society Meeting

30 November to 3 December, 2014.

The University of Queensland, Brisbane

Local contact: Dr Bradley Launikonis, b.launikonis@uq.edu.au





Geelong 2013 AuPS Meeting

Was proudly sponsored by



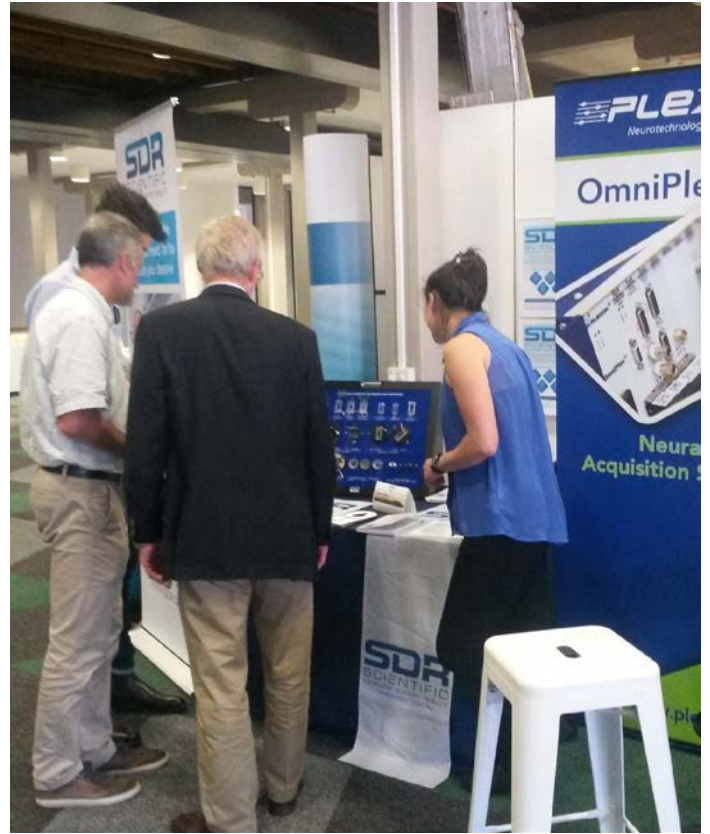
Terrific meeting!!!



AuPS invited Lecture by **Prof Gordon Lynch** (right) on muscle wasting, adaptation and plasticity opened the meeting. It was presented to a packed theatre and was chaired by **President Prof David Allen** (left). The lecture was followed by a wonderful opening reception (below)



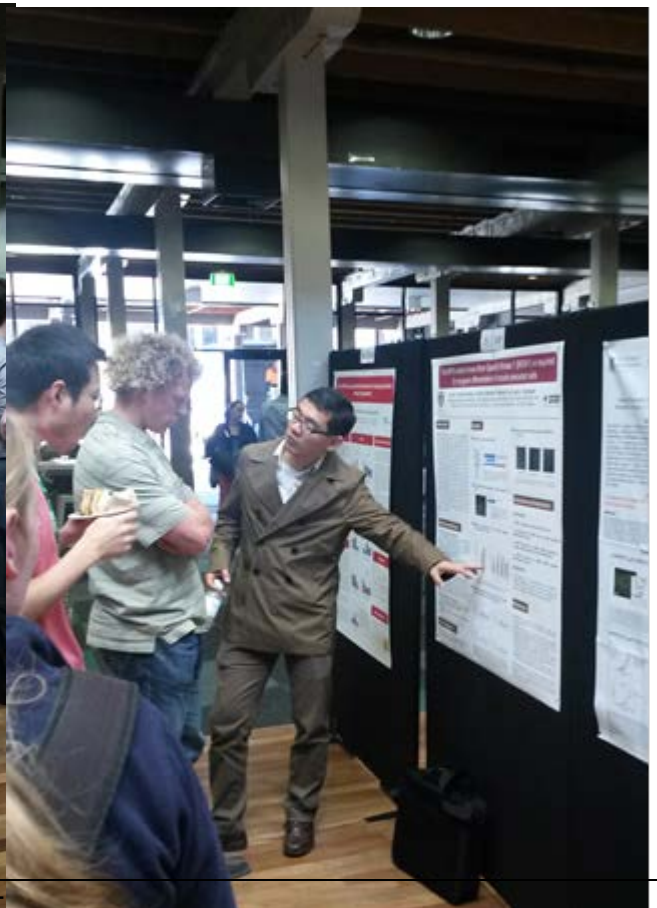
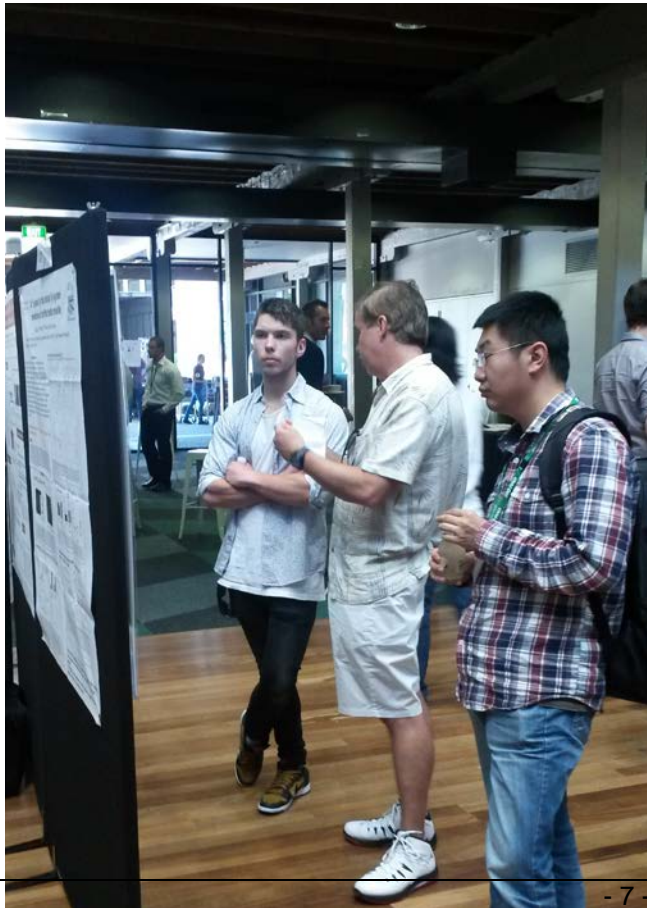
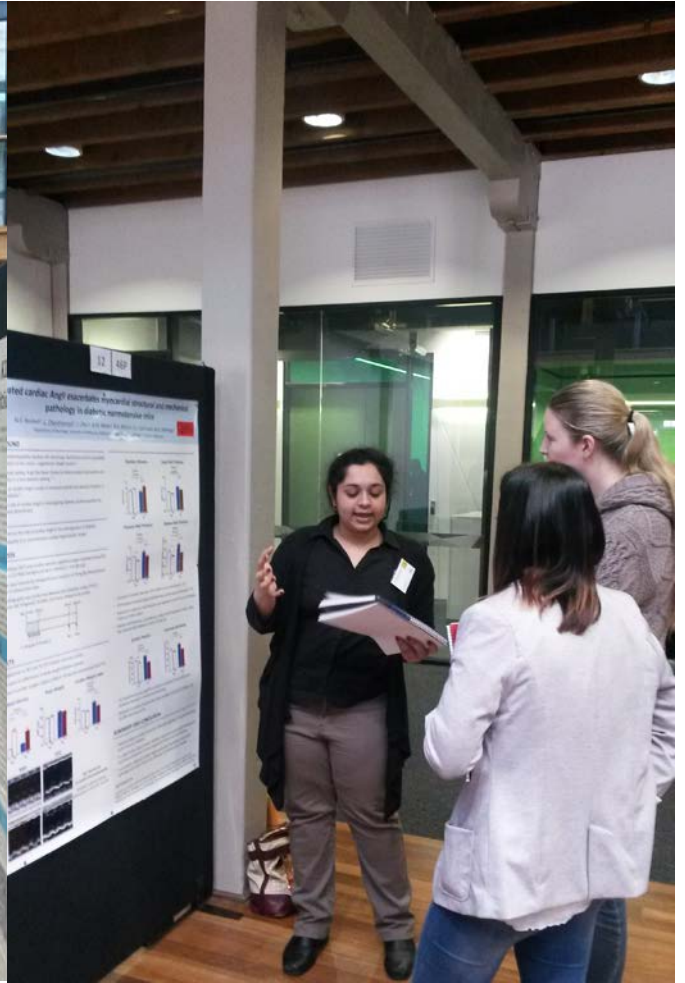
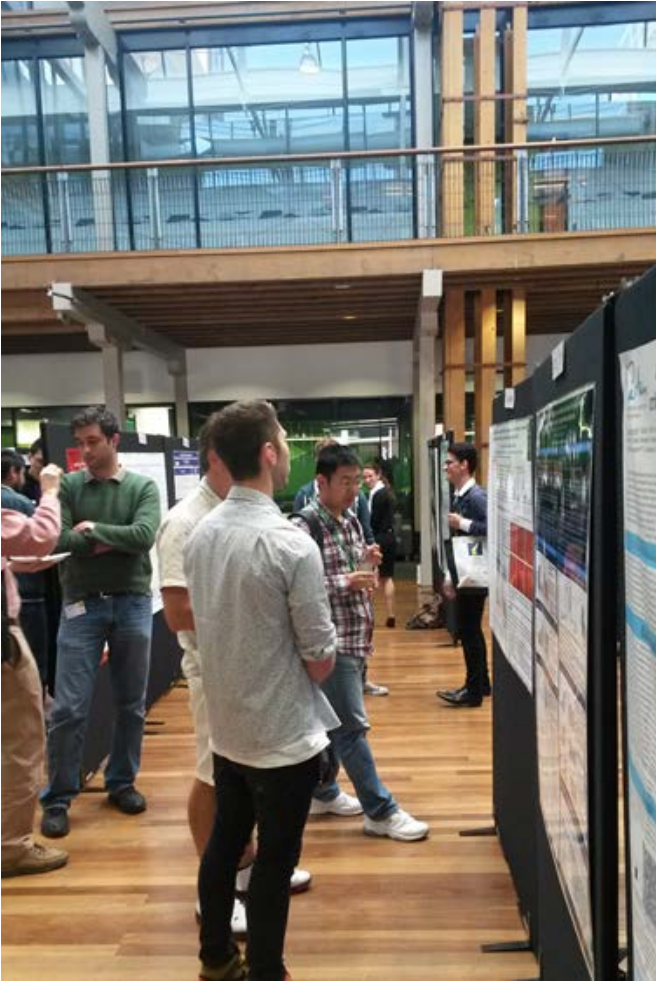
Interesting trade displays



Past and current AuPS Secretaries' catch up: From left: David Saint (2003-2007), Robyn Murphy (2010-2013), Rick Lang (1999-2002).



Great posters



Plenty of physiology discussed over delicious lunches



Catching up with colleagues



Discussing Council matters



Current and previous AK McIntyre winners



In lieu of a better collective noun, perhaps a *school of McIntyre winners* would be appropriate? From left: Dr James Bell (2012), Prof Gordon Lynch (1995), Prof Matthew Watt (2004), Dr Enzo Porrello (2013), Dr Robyn Murphy (2010 - joint), Dr Sean McGee (2010 – joint), Dr James Ryall (2008) and Dr Bradley Launikonis (2005).

Wonderful venue for the dinner



CONGRATULATIONS!!!!



Dr Enzo Porrello (left) was awarded the **AK McIntyre Prize** (donated by SDR Scientific), and posing with a very proud PhD supervisor, **Prof Lea Delbridge** (middle) and last year's winner **Dr James Bell** (right). The prize consists of a medal, certificate and the sum of \$1000. Thanks SDR.



Dr Kay Colthorpe (The University of Queensland, second from left), winner of the Michael Roberts Excellence in Physiology Education Award. This award, sponsored by Wiley-Blackwell, in addition to \$1000, includes a medal and an invitation to make a symposium presentation at next year's meeting. **Dr Robyn Murphy** (left), **Prof David Allen** (second from right) and **Dr Enzo Porrello** (right).

The Postdoctoral publication prize



The prize was jointly awarded to **Dr Bianca Bernado** (Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute, pictured 2nd left) and **Dr Wendy Imlach** (University of Sydney, absent from picture) and presented by **Steve Thomas** (pictured left) from SDR Scientific. This annual \$500 award is for the best original paper published by an AuPS member during their first 4 postdoctoral years.

The PhD publication prize

The prize was awarded to **Ms Maria Jelinic** (University of Melbourne). This annual, \$500 award is for the best original paper published by an AuPS member during the course of their PhD studies and is sponsored by SDR Scientific.

Best poster presentation prizes

Chanchal Chandramouli (The University of Melbourne, pictured far left) was awarded best poster. The prize is sponsored by SDR and consists of a certificate and the sum of \$250. The second prize worth \$100 and sponsored by Wiley Blackwell went to **Robert Barker** (La Trobe University).



Best student oral presentation prizes



Adam Hagg (pictured top) from Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute - being awarded best oral presentation by **Prof David Allen** for his outstanding presentation titled, "AAV mediated over-expression of the β 2-Adrenoceptor promotes skeletal muscle hypertrophy". The prize is sponsored by SDR Scientific and consists of a certificate and the sum of \$250. **Tahnee Kennedy** (pictured below) from University of Melbourne was awarded second prize, which was worth \$100 and sponsored by Wiley Blackwell "Investigating the effect of Heat Shock Protein 72 Induction on the Dystrophic Pathology of mdx and dko Mice".



From the archives:

Inaugural Meeting of the Australian Physiological Society in Sydney, 1960.

Thank you for the feedback to help us fill in some of the members below. We still have a few spots to fill, so if anyone else would like to contribute, please drop us a line.



- | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | 8. <u>AJ Day</u> | 15. | 22. <u>R. Rushmer</u> | 29. <u>H. Le Messurier</u> |
| 2. | 9. <u>DI Kerr</u> | 16. <u>KT Zurichy</u> | 23. | 30. <u>AK McIntyre</u> |
| 3. <u>W Simmons</u> | 10. | 17. <u>IW McDonald</u> | 24. <u>DW Lampard</u> | 31. |
| 4. <u>Barbara Denniss</u> | 11. <u>FC Courtice</u> | 18. <u>DL Wilhelm</u> | 25. <u>B.M. Johnstone</u> | |
| 5. <u>RA Westerman</u> | 12. <u>W. Burke</u> | 19. | 26. <u>MG Taylor</u> | |
| 6. | 13. <u>IS de la Lande</u> | 20. | 27. | |
| 7. | 14. <u>M. Blunt</u> | 21. <u>Geoffrey Burnstock</u> | 28. <u>Malcom Whyte</u> | |



DATE: Sunday 26 - Friday 31 October 2014. Conference opens on Sunday 26 October 1500-1800

The key international meeting on central cardiorespiratory control.

More details at OXFORD_BREATHING_MEETING or contact Paul Pilowsky: paul.pilowsky@hri.org.au

AuPS Supporters



This issue of AuPS News was compiled by Glenn Wadley and with many thanks to the generous contributors.

The next issue of AuPS News will be distributed to members in March 2014. All contributions for AuPS News should be sent to: newsletter@aps.org.au before the end of February.