



# AuPS News



December 2015

## President's report

This report comes at the end of my second year as AuPS President. I believe that the AuPS is performing well in its primary aim of promoting the advancement of the science of Physiology, providing encouragement of both research and teaching, as evidenced among other things by the highly successful meeting just ended in Hobart. It is also pleasing to see the membership numbers growing, both of Full members and Student members, and the Society finances also in a good state. I wish to thank all the members of Council for their hard work, including our outgoing councillors Rob Lee-Young and Deanne Skelly. Deanne has done an extraordinary job as Membership Officer and I am very pleased that she will be coming back to Council as National Secretary-Elect. I also wish to welcome Gary Housley and Kimberley Mellor on their election to Council, and Aaron Russell as the new Treasurer. Aaron is taking over from Brad Launikonis, and I want to particularly thank Brad for all his conscientious and thorough work as Treasurer, which has seen a continued increase in our assets over each of the last three years.

The Hobart meeting was a resounding success, the biggest meeting AuPS has ever held in Tasmania. The Council and the membership are profoundly grateful to Steve Rattigan and Renee Dwyer and the rest of the local organizing committee, and the Menzies Research Institute, for putting on a seamless scientific meeting with some particularly memorable social events. We had two outstanding plenary presentations, the first by Stefan Bröer, the AuPS Invited Lecturer and medal winner for 2015, on "Amino acid transport - Translating basic discovery into improving health", and the second by Bret Goodpaster of the Sanford Burnham Institute, Florida, on "The impact of exercise on insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes". There were also thirteen symposia covering a wide range of topics, featuring both established and early career members and ten international speakers of particular note, as well as a large number of sessions for free oral communications and poster presentations, and a teaching focused workshop. We were also fortunate to have Deanne Skelly, the winner of the 2014 Michael Roberts Excellence in Physiology Education Award, give her award lecture entitled "Communicating science: how do we teach undergraduates to become scientists?" And I doubt that there will be any attendees who can forget the wonderful conference dinner event at MONA (the Museum for Old and New Art), an Australian cultural icon. After the scenic ferry cruise up the Derwent with drinks and appetisers, conferees had over an hour to explore MONA while it was closed to the public, and then an outstanding dinner upstairs in the associated venue. Art is meant to be provocative, and it certainly was!

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### Public Officer

AuPS Secretary

It was also a great pleasure at the dinner for me to present the primary awards of the Society to very deserving members. The 2015 winner of the Michael Roberts Excellence in Physiology Education Award (supported by Wiley-Blackwell) was Julia Choate of Monash University, and we look forward to her lecture at the meeting next year. The other prizes were sponsored by SDR Scientific, a long-time supporter of the AuPS; we remain grateful to SDR Scientific for its continuing support of these prizes. The AuPS PhD Publication prize went to Anne Harasta of the UNSW, and the Postdoctoral Publication prize to Nolan Hoffman of the University of Sydney. The AK McIntyre Prize, which is awarded periodically to members of the Society who are judged to have made significant contributions to Australian physiological science over their pre-doctoral and early post-doctoral years went to Natalie Trevaskis of Monash University, whose cutting edge research on the lymphatic system and development of novel drug delivery systems made her a most deserving winner. Finally, it was a particular pleasure to see David Allen receive Honorary Membership of the AuPS, in recognition of his enormous contribution to physiological research on cardiac and skeletal muscle and also to AuPS itself as a former Treasurer and President and presently as Editor.

The annual meeting next year will be held in Adelaide at the University of South Australia from December 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>. This will be a joint meeting with the Australian Society for Biophysics, and from the large range of high quality symposia under consideration, it clearly promises to be an exciting meeting. Council plans to continue its policy of recent years of providing substantial funding to bring in leading international and non-member Australian scientists to share in and add to the high quality research presentations of AuPS members.

Council has also continued supporting AuPS involvement with Science and Technology Australia (STA, formerly known as FASTS), again sending two representatives (Robyn Murphy and Aaron Russell) to the annual Science Meets Parliament event in Canberra. This gives AuPS both a chance to understand the workings of Parliament and the lobbying system and to directly speak with parliamentarians about how important physiology, and science in general, is to Australia. AuPS also continued its involvement with FAOPS, the Federation of Asian and Oceanian Physiological Societies, sponsoring delegates attending the FAOPS meeting, which is held every four years, this year in Bangkok. We also maintain links with the Japanese Physiological Society, with plans to have a joint symposium at the Adelaide meeting, as well as with the Chinese Physiological Society, sponsoring a joint symposium at an international meeting in Beijing next September.

Finally, the low success rate for NHMRC Project grants and Fellowships again this year remains a great concern for AuPS members and all medical researchers across the country, and it is difficult to see that there will be much improvement in the next two years. I hope that AuPS members and other physiologists can find ways to fund their research and continue doing the high quality research that is so evident at the society's meetings. I feel it is appropriate for us to remember, and remind funding bodies and the whole scientific community at large, about the words of Claude Bernard, the illustrious nineteenth century French physiologist, who amongst other things was one of the first to suggest the use of blind experiments to ensure the objectivity of scientific observations. His view then is still fully appropriate today in saying: "*The scientific basis of experimental medicine is physiology*".



# A MAGNIFICENT 2015 MEETING



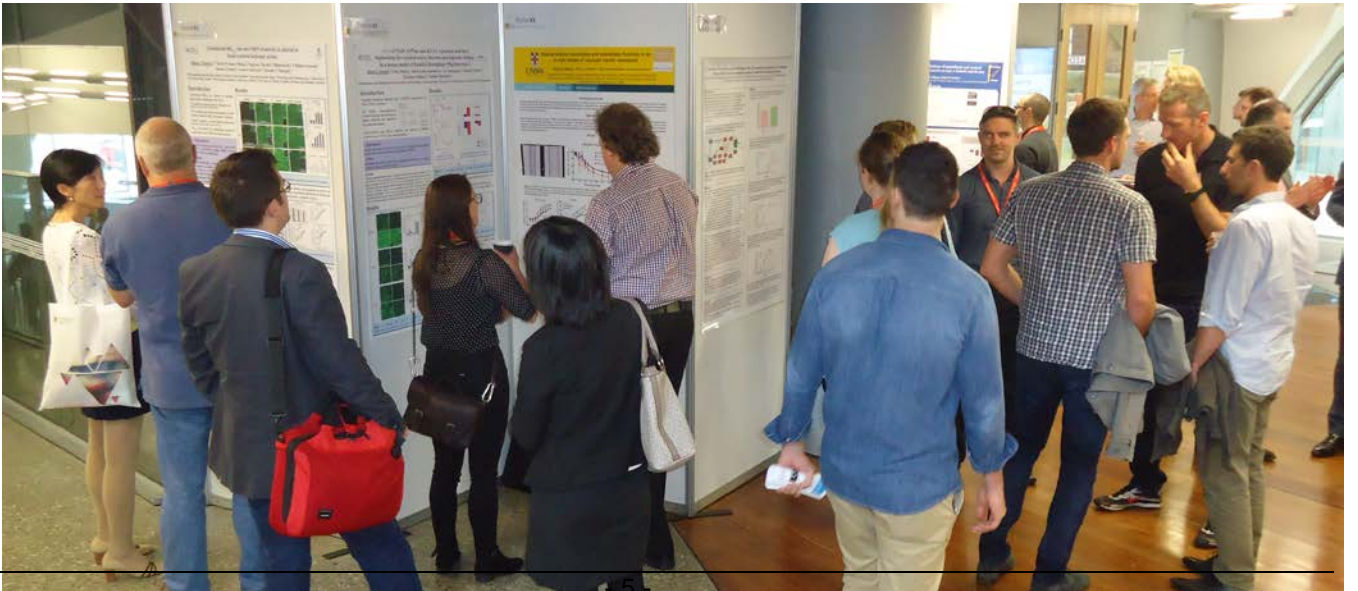
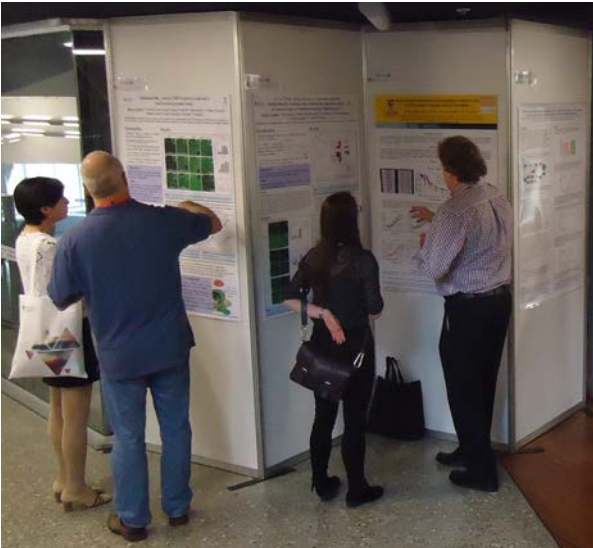
The 2015 AuPS scientific meeting officially began on Sunday night with the AuPS invited lecture by Prof Stefan Bröer "*Amino acid transport - translating basic discovery into improving health*"



## Followed by a lively welcome function



**Well attended posters, with plenty of opportunity for discussion**



## And busy trade displays



## Travelling to MONA in style











# A world class venue for the conference dinner

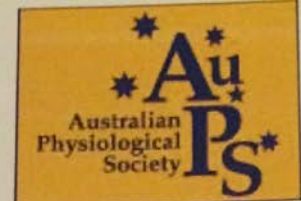


## The La Trobe crew enjoying the Museum



# Fantastic dinner at MONA





Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2015

**MAIN**  
(Alternate)

Roasted salmon steak, béarnaise, Paris mash  
& red wine jus

Beef fillet, fondant potato, spinach & watercress  
puree, truss tomato, mustard

**DESSERT**

Liquid nitro chocolate mousse

(followed by)  
Selection of cheeses with lavosh

*Moorilla Praxis Sparkling*  
*Moorilla Praxis Sauvignon Blanc*  
*Moorilla Praxis Pinot Noir*

*Moo Brew Pilsner*  
*Moo Brew Pale Ale*  
*Moo Brew Hefeweizen*  
*Moo Brew Dark Ale*

*James Boags Premium light*

MONA

## Congratulations!!!



Prof David Allen was awarded AuPS Honorary membership.

## The AK McIntyre Prize winner



Dr Natalie Trevaskis (Monash University, pictured left) being congratulated by Prof Matt Watt (right) for being awarded the **AK McIntyre Prize** (donated by SDR Scientific). The prize consists of a medal, certificate and the sum of \$1000.

## The Michael Roberts Award



**Dr Julia Choate** (Monash University, pictured left), being congratulated by Prof Graham Lamb (right) as 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.

## The Postdoctoral publication prize



Awarded to **Dr Nolan Hoffman** (University of Sydney, pictured right) and donated by SDR Scientific. This annual \$500 award is for the best original paper published by an AuPS member during their first 4 postdoctoral years.

Nolan et al. (2015) Global Phosphoproteomic Analysis of Human Skeletal Muscle Reveals a Network of Exercise-Regulated Kinases and AMPK Substrates. *Cell Metabolism*. 22(5): 922-935.

## The PhD publication prize



The prize was awarded to **Dr Anne Harasta** (UNSW). 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. (Photo taken from archives).

Harasta et al. (2015). Septal glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor expression determines suppression of cocaine-induced behaviour. *Neuropsychopharmacology*. 40:1969-78.



## Student presentation prizes



**Best oral presentation prizes:** 1<sup>st</sup> prize was awarded to **Sean Notley** from the University of Wollongong (pictured 2<sup>nd</sup> from right). The prize was sponsored by SDR Scientific and consists of a certificate and the sum of \$250. 2<sup>nd</sup> prize worth \$100 and sponsored by Wiley Blackwell went to **Anthony May** (Deakin University, pictured 2<sup>nd</sup> from left).

**Best poster presentation prizes:** 1<sup>st</sup> prize was awarded to **Cara Timpani** (Victoria University, pictured left). The prize is sponsored by SDR and consists of a certificate and the sum of \$250. 2<sup>nd</sup> prize worth \$100 and sponsored by Wiley Blackwell went to **Zhibin Ma** (University of Queensland, pictured right).



Dave Davey is the only member who can claim he had accommodation on the harbour (or is that in the harbour?) during the Meeting at Hotel Windclimber.

## Looking forward to Adelaide 2016



Local Organising Committee Chair: Prof Janna Morrison  
[janna.morrison@unisa.edu.au](mailto:janna.morrison@unisa.edu.au)

Dear Student Members,

We are excited to connect with you through social media!! A new student and early career researchers member page has been developed on Facebook! The page is titled: **Australian Physiological Society - Students and Early Career Researchers.**



The aim of this page is to provide another means to inform our student members and

ECR's about upcoming events, awards/scholarships that are available and also important registration and submission dates. We will also aim to post new information about jobs and postdoc positions that are circulated to members, as well as highlight our student member of the month with some information about their area of research and accomplishments!

**Privacy:** It is important to note that, as Facebook is a social media page, your profile will be accessible to the page administrators, Tahnee Kennedy and Nicole Vargas (your current student representatives). The page will, in no way, be used for determining awards/scholarships, council positions and the like. Also, note that while your profile will be open to page administrators, other individuals who like the page will not have access to your page, unless your privacy settings allow it.

At this time, we would love to ask you to 'like' our Facebook page if you are a student member or early career researcher!! We are very excited to open these lines of communication and hope that they will keep everyone in the loop!

Thanks for your support and we'll see you on Facebook!!

Kind Regards,  
Tahnee Kennedy and Nicole Vargas  
AuPS student representatives

The advertisement features a black background. On the left, there is a white stylized signature logo. In the center, there is a red square containing the white text "Lt" and a white stylized signature logo. To the right of the red square, the text "CREATE SHARE INSPIRE." is written in white, bold, uppercase letters. Below this, the text "After 27 years at the cutting edge of life science education, ADInstruments is bringing a new element to the table." is written in white. At the bottom left, there is a white stylized signature logo and the text "Learn more at [www.adinstruments.com/lt](http://www.adinstruments.com/lt)". At the bottom right, there is a white stylized signature logo and the text "ADINSTRUMENTS making science easier".

# Heroes come in many forms

## Professor Damian Bailey

Director of the Research Institute of Science and Health,  
University of South Wales, UK

“We are interested in how the ageing human brain functions across the spectrum of health and disease, from super-fit athletes to super-sick patients.

Our research focuses on the mechanisms that control oxygen transport to the brain, quite simply how we get the most important molecule in the world to the most important organ in the body.”

Pushing the limits of human performance to understand the ageing brain.

Photo: Normobaric chamber, University of South Wales



Read Damian's story to find out more at  
[www.adinstruments.com/heroes](http://www.adinstruments.com/heroes)

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ADInstruments design and build high-performance data acquisition systems, trusted for a wide range of life science research and teaching applications. PowerLab hardware has provided reliable and sensitive data acquisition for an entire generation of scientists and educators, and combines with LabChart analysis software and a huge range of signal transducers to offer a flexible solution for almost all types of acquisition and analysis. Typical applications include human and animal physiology, pharmacology, neurophysiology, biology, zoology, biochemistry, and biomedical engineering.





## Indian Ocean Rim Muscle Colloquium

1<sup>st</sup> announcement

# 24-26 January 2016

Asara Wine Estate Stellenbosch

### Skeletal Muscle: *An African Perspective*

The inaugural Indian Ocean Rim Muscle Colloquium was held at the University of Western Australia in 2009. Institutions in countries bordering the Indian Ocean are rich in outstanding scientists working in muscle biology. The objective of this IORMC is to expand the network of participants and the scope of the 'muscle research' presented.

The exciting scientific programme will focus on the latest and most significant developments in current muscle bioscience research and provide educational, training and collaborative opportunities at all research levels.

#### Focus of the meeting:

- Skeletal muscle myogenesis
- Stem cells and methodology
- Regeneration and tissue engineering
- Exercise myology
- Muscle model systems

#### Confirmed International Faculty:

- Prof Miranda Grounds
- Prof Jyotsna Dhawan
- Dr Yu Suk Choi
- Prof Gianni Parise
- Prof Philip Ingham

#### New Features:

Young investigator keynote:

Cardiotoxicity: Mitochondrial stress signaling - Dr Balindiwe Sishi

Workshop: Research methodology and application

**We invite all muscle scientists, from countries bordering the Indian Ocean to present their work in South Africa at the fourth iteration of the IORMC.**

**Website:**  
[www.iormc.co.za](http://www.iormc.co.za)

#### IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract submission closing date: **15 September 2015**

Early Bird Registration closes: **30 September 2015**

#### Enquiries:

- Email: [iormc2016@allevents.co.za](mailto:iormc2016@allevents.co.za) • Tel: +27 (0)21 948 9549

For specific queries related to the academic content of the program, please email: [carolaniesler@gmail.com](mailto:carolaniesler@gmail.com)

## 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 2015. All contributions for AuPS News should be sent to: [newsletter@aps.org.au](mailto:newsletter@aps.org.au) before the end of February.