

AuPS News – December 2022

AuPS President's Report

Professor Robyn Murphy

A year ago, my reflection of the preceding year was somewhat subdued, likely as I was still reeling in the recently acquired knowledge of what a pandemic can actually do to lifestyle and sheer existence. Still, glimmers of hope and promises of change emerged as the country became vaccinated against Covid-19.

As we entered 2022, reflection began across the sector and further afield. On behalf of AuPS, your Council reflected. We looked to identify positives that our Society could take from the changes imposed upon us during 2020 and 2021. Running entirely on volunteer fuel and momentum, we continued to work hard for our membership. I'd like to thank Council for the relentless willingness to engage in discussions and plan forward.

As an agile Society – AuPS was one of the first to get back to a face-to-face option for our annual meeting – but we knew 2021 wasn't easy and extended lockouts between states meant not everyone could be on the ground at the Gold Coast conference. Importantly, a key highlight of attending conferences, especially the AuPS conference, is the ability for students and early career researchers to have a platform to present their work. That was the major aim for 2022.

My reflection at the end of 2022, is thus a look of what we find ourselves doing now, and provide some perspective on the past, albeit briefly, in a number of areas.



1. Education. The Society has supported physiology educators for a long time. I recall a turning point being when the Michael Roberts Award for Excellence in Physiology Education was first made, with Phil Poronnik receiving the inaugural award in 2010. The award provided the opportunity for a named lecture at the annual conference. The Roberts lecture was first included in a symposium session, and it has now become a stand-alone lecture, with all conference attendees encouraged to attend. Support for education increased, with the membership attentively participating in the lecture and symposia. Upon our return to Adelaide in 2016, Education increased its presence in the full scientific meeting with a full symposium session as well as a free communications session on the day after the workshop. The following year, the Education workshop that was traditionally held on the Sunday

afternoon became incorporated into the main meeting. Over the years, Education stream has evolved as a 2-day component of the full conference, comprising symposium, free communications and posters. The Roberts lecture is held during these 2-days, which bookend the conference dinner. The Sunday afternoon Education workshop saw a re-emergence in 2022. Learning from Covid, the Education stream is now available as an entirely online option as well as in-person, making this highly accessible for all.

2. Flying into Hobart on 20 November 2022 was an absolute delight, for many reasons (but I won't mention the weather...). Council met, as usual, but rather than a 5-hour meeting, it was only 2 hours. Innovatively, Council had met as a zoom meeting earlier in the week and most matters dealt with over that 3-hour meeting. Previous Council members would know that Sunday afternoons could be gruelling, but our innovative and inclusive National Secretary suggested drawing on our Covid way of working, allowing half marathons to be run by those keen (and yes, 3 Council members were keen, despite the snow on Mt Wellington) and others to tidy up before the Invited Lecture in the early evening.
3. For as long as I remember, and certainly formative for my own PhD, AuPS has provided the opportunity for students to present their research in a supportive and friendly environment, enduring friendships forged and no doubt more than one "Would you go out with me?" invitations. Travel grants to assist attending the annual conference have been supported for a very long time, as have the student prizes for best poster presentations, best oral presentations, and best PhD publication. It would be remiss to not acknowledge at this point that the monetary awards for most of these prizes have been through the relationships with both enduring and new sponsors of the Society, for which we are always grateful. During the time before my Presidency, support for HDR students gained even more momentum. More recent initiatives include embedded experiences for selected students to visit a University to see new techniques and meet others; and small grants for HDR students made available on a competitive basis. AuPS has provided numerous opportunities for students to gain experiences and build their CV.
4. Still on students, over the years that I have sat on Council, it was always discussed and supported that the price for students to attend the conference would be low. This caused extra discussion when the conference dinner became an integrated aspect of the meeting (UNSW in 2012) as the price needed to increase, but still be attractive and affordable. The dinner has remained that way, and seeing the tables empty and the dancefloor full on the evening of 22 November 2022 in Hobart, I think our members appreciate this social inclusion for all. In early 2022, I received a suggestion from a member and former Councillor, that we subsidise even further the price for students to attend the conference. I shared this suggestion with Council, who fully supported it and so the price was made \$100 for student AuPS members. There were 49 student members (and another 12 non-member students) amongst the 191 AuPS attendees in Hobart. For the entire joint AuPS/ASB conference, out of 246 attendees, 89 were students. We will attempt to keep focusing on these types of initiatives.
5. ECRs are also supported, particularly by way of CV building. There is a post-doctoral publication prize and there is the highest ECR

award, the A.K. McIntyre Award. ECRs are also encouraged to submit symposia proposals – perhaps if doing it for the first time, seek a mentor to co-chair and piece together a ‘must-include’ proposal.

As AuPS President, I have been happy to be able to work for our members, however, being the President is relatively easy. I get to do the centre of stage work and proudly introduce speakers, congratulate winners and share my view. But of course, the hard yards are performed by our hard-working Council. I appreciate the two years of working with Glenn Wadley as National Secretary and look forward to the next year with Severine Lamon, and I thank them retrospectively and into the future, respectively. Danielle Hiam is our new Treasurer, which she has juggled with the duties of IT Manager that she continued to look after when Macsue Jacques took maternity leave. Kevin Watt has been instrumental in attracting new sponsors and importantly has many secured, with sponsors already committed to supporting us into the future. Adam Rose keeps an active AuPS profile on Twitter, Nir Eynon reads mountains of abstracts each year and takes on local organiser with Nolan Hoffman for 2023, Dino Previlonic looks after memberships, Brad Launikonis returning to Council offers sage advice and brings corporate knowledge, Andrew Moorhouse keeps

education front of mind for Council, as well as providing solid links with many of our Asian counterparts, while Charlotte Phelps and Carlie Bauer keep a ECR/student voice on Council. Lastly, with the efforts of Ben Perry, our appointed Associate Editor, the Newsletter legacy continues. I believe the Newsletter may have started back with Derek Laver was on Council. Happily, Derek and Dirk van Helden received Honourary memberships to the Society in 2022, which can be read about later in the Newsletter. Lastly, I extend my personal thanks and gratitude to local organiser, Renee Ross. Returning to Hobart has yet again brought smiles to many, and many is the operative word. Our members spoke with their presence in support of the location and the program, and you and your team delivered above and beyond what we could have hoped for. Renee will remain on Council, offering advice as needed to upcoming local organiser, but also ensuring our website is one that continues in its aesthetic appeal and importantly, holds onto all our important history.

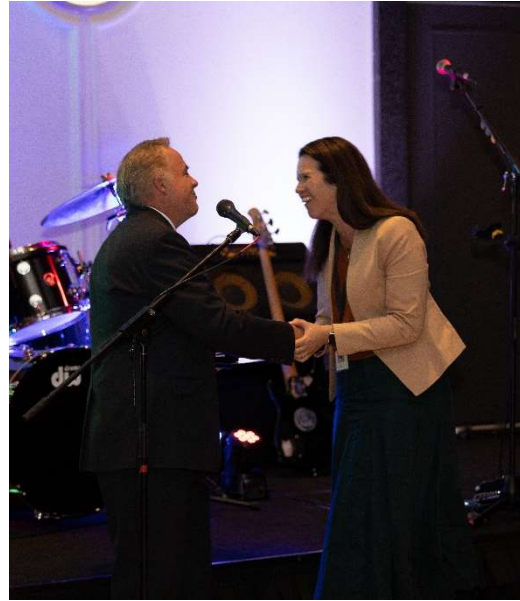
In seeing out 2022, I wish you a safe, relaxing, and happy time and that prosperity greets you from here forward.

Best wishes, Robyn

AWARD WINNERS

AuPS Conference - Hobart, Tasmania, 2022

Michael Roberts Excellence in Physiology Education Award



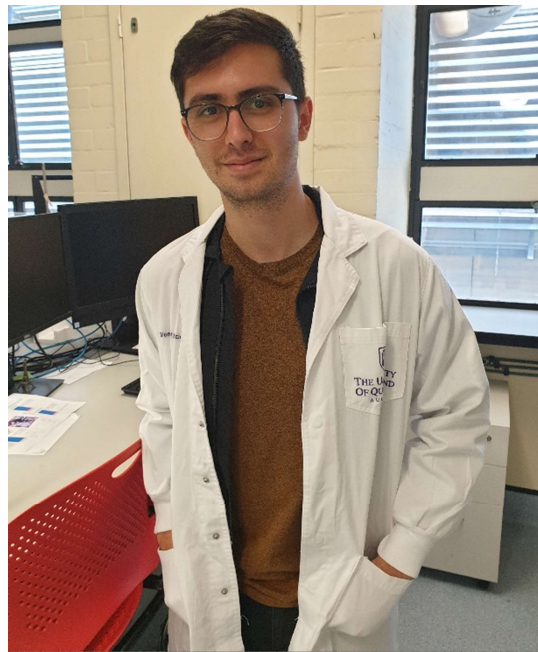
Assoc. Prof. Elizabeth Beckett
The University of Adelaide

Postdoctoral Research Publication Prize



Dr. Noni Frankenberg
La Trobe University

PhD Research Publication Prize



Dr. Aldo Meizoso Huesca
The University of Queensland

Physiology Education Grant



Assoc. Prof. Christian Moro
Bond University

Student Oral Presentation Prize - 1st place



Catherine Dimasi
The University of South Australia

Student Oral Presentation Prize - Runner up



Nykola Kent
The University of Queensland

Student Poster Presentation Prize - 1st place



Alastair Saunders
The University of Melbourne

Student Poster Presentation Prize - Runner up



Sai Yarlagadda
The University of Queensland

Honorary AuPS Membership



Professor Derek Laver and Professor Dirk van Helden
Photo by Livia Hool via Twitter (@LiviaHool)

AuPS PhD Research Training Award

This year, the AuPS PhD Research Training Award took place at Victoria University's Institute for Health and Sport from the 3rd to 4th October 2022. The purpose of this PhD Research Training Award is to support the development of student members of AuPS by providing students with the opportunity to experience a different lab setting, attend workshops on how to become a successful researcher, and build connections and networks with fellow physiologists.

Successful awardees attended presentations from experts in physiology research on topics such as career progression and finding your research niche, workshops on grant/fellowship writing and manuscript reviewing, as well as hands-on practical experience in the Victoria University exercise physiology labs. Congratulations to Saeed Nourmohammadi, Mark Renton, Catherine Dimasi, Irene Tsioutsias, and Lily Pearson who received the 2022 PhD Research Training Award!

Some of the feedback from the PhD students who attended the PhD Research Training Award:

“Academia is often perceived as a competition, but this training broke down barriers by providing an environment of sharing experiences, knowledge and comradery.” - Lily Pearson

“The AuPS PhD research training award gave me the opportunity to build my network and meet new students and academics after 2 years of border closures. I had so much fun exploring a wide range of important topics in academia, such as reviewing manuscripts, grant writing and career pathways. It was a great initiative that I encourage PhD students to apply for in future years.” - Catherine Dimasi

“I benefited substantially from the people I met and both technical and interpersonal skills taught in this Research Training course, which is timely and appropriate for my career ambition to be a collaborative and productive university research academic in physiology. Therefore, I strongly encourage other HDR students to apply for this opportunity in the coming years. I'd like to take this chance to thank AuPS for coming up with such a great idea to organise this event. What a wonderful opportunity that you guys have catalysed to bring everybody together. I am really humbled and grateful for the chance to be part of the event this year.” - Saeed Nourmohammadi



We also wish to thank the lead organiser of the event, Professor Nir Eynon, followed by co-leads Dr Cassandra Smith and Charlotte Phelps, as well as the Victoria University Student Committee – Dr Cara Timpani, Carlie Bauer, Andrew Palmer, Benazir Ali, Ryan Bagaric, and Nicholas Giourmas for contributing their valuable time in organising and facilitating this successful event.

Panel discussion session

During the event, Victoria University also hosted a new AuPS ECR initiative – a panel discussion ‘Meet the senior academics - advice for a successful

academic career’. This event was highly successful, with great attendance (over 75 registrations) and was open to all students and early career researchers across Australia.

We heard from four leaders in muscle physiology research, including Prof David Bishop, A/Prof Paul Gregorevic, A/Prof Severine Lamon, and A/Prof Traude Beilharz.

We received great feedback about this new ECR initiative:

“As an ECR I found this panel discussion very informative and I was particularly encouraged by the balance of the panel, including the gender balance and different perspectives on their research experiences/journeys.”



“The panel was engaging, the event was well directed, and, critically, the morning tea afterwards had me connecting with so many peers and even panel members.”

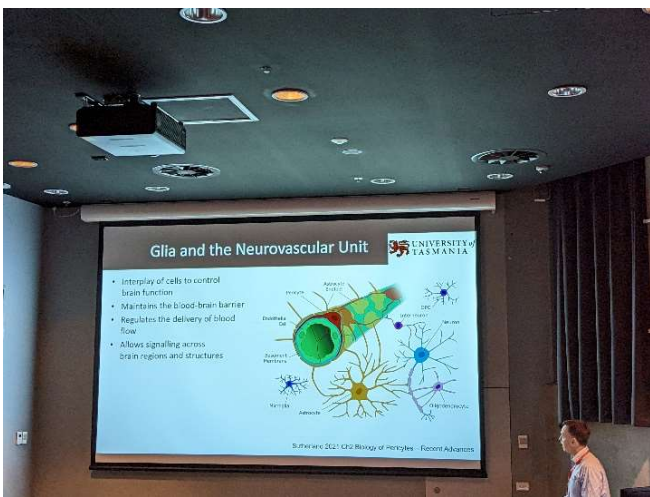
Thank you to organiser Dr Cassandra Smith who led this new initiative supported by Prof Eynon and Charlotte Phelps, and co-chairs Dr Cara Timpani and Dr Patrice Jones who did a fantastic job facilitating the discussion. We are happy to advise that this initiative has been approved to continue in future years.

If you are interested in the PhD Research Training Award, keep an eye out on the AuPS website for application details for 2023!

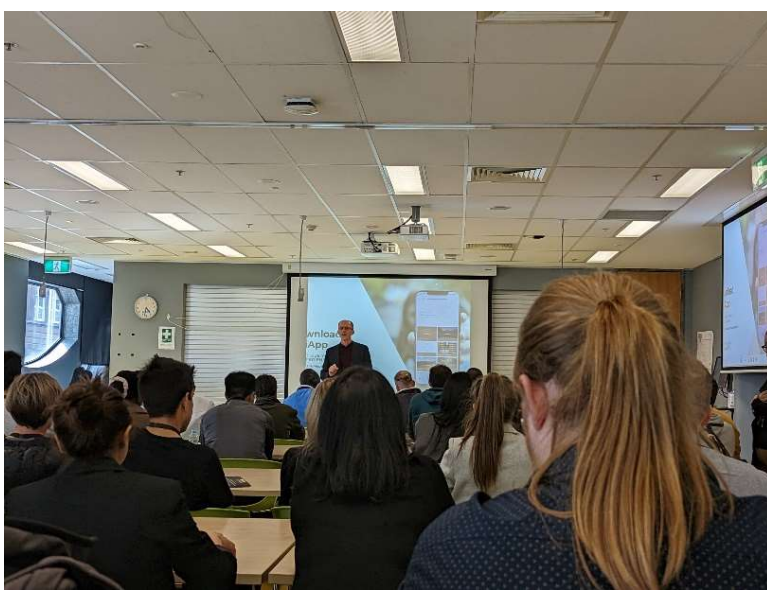
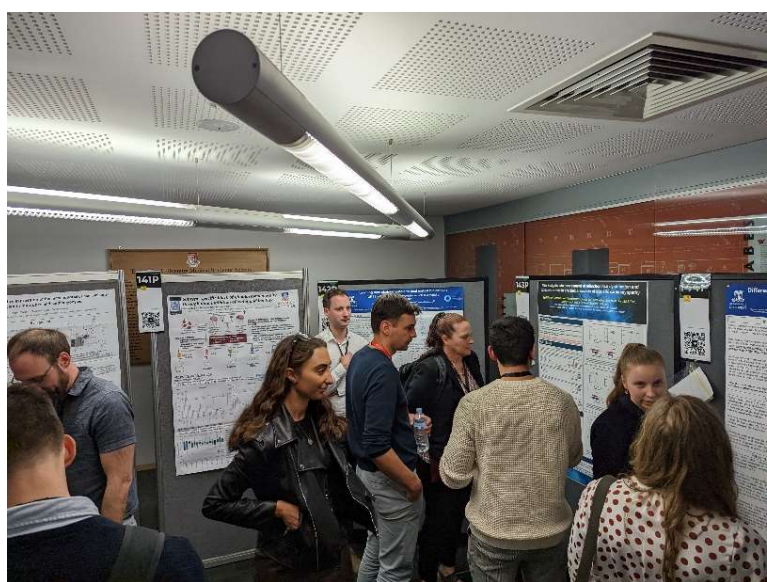
Photos from the 2022 AuPS/ASB Conference – Hobart, Tasmania



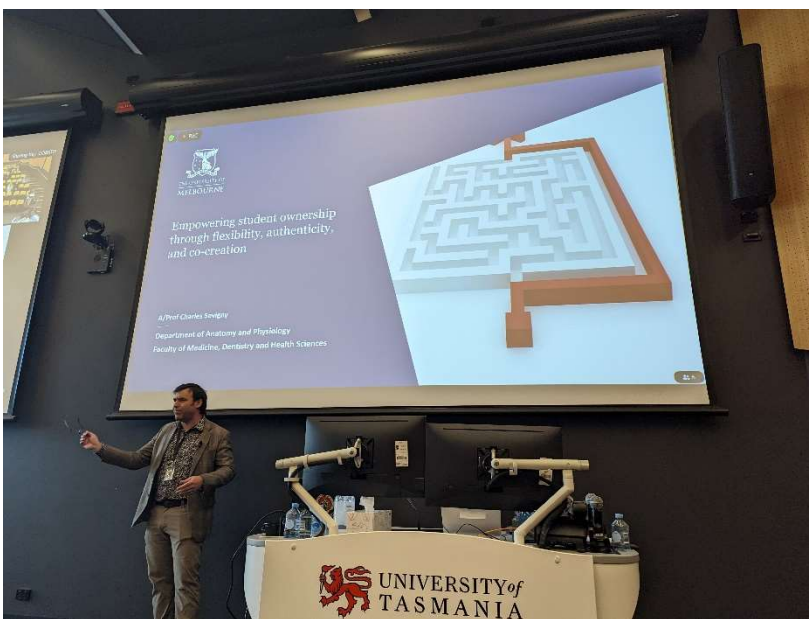
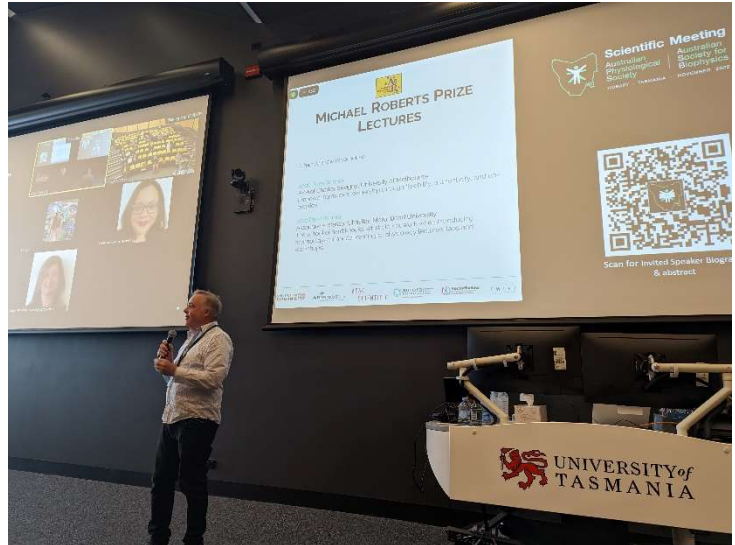


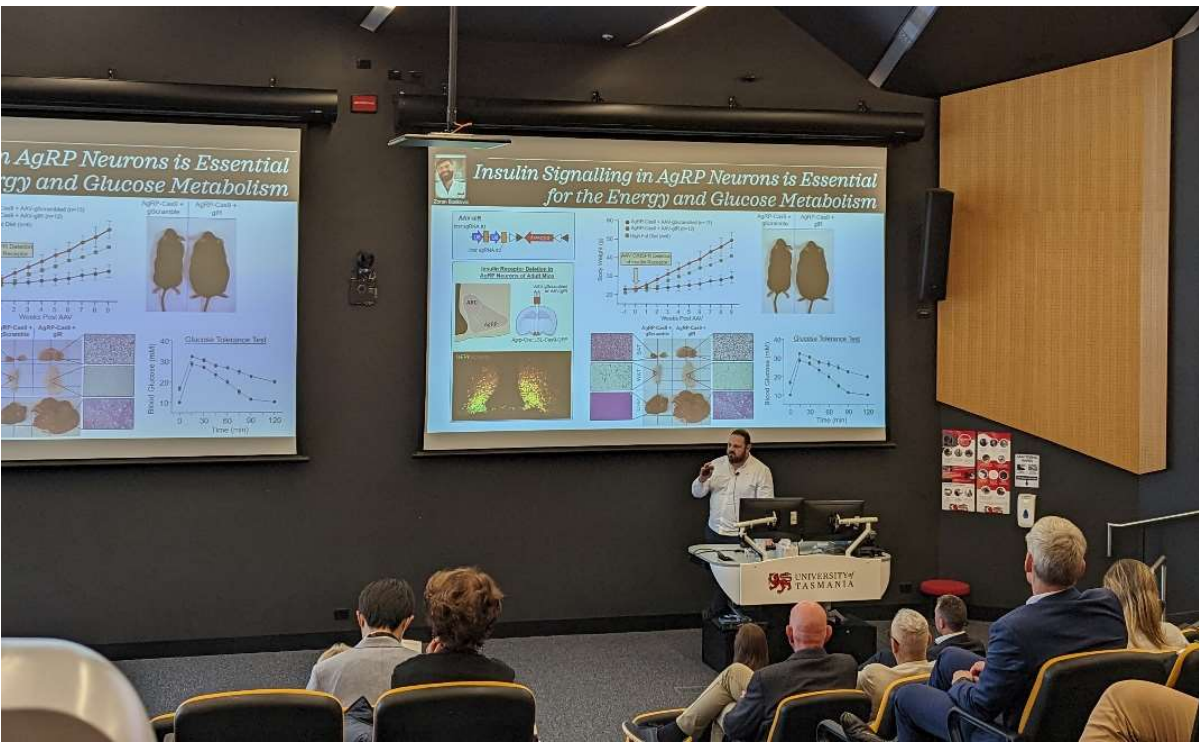
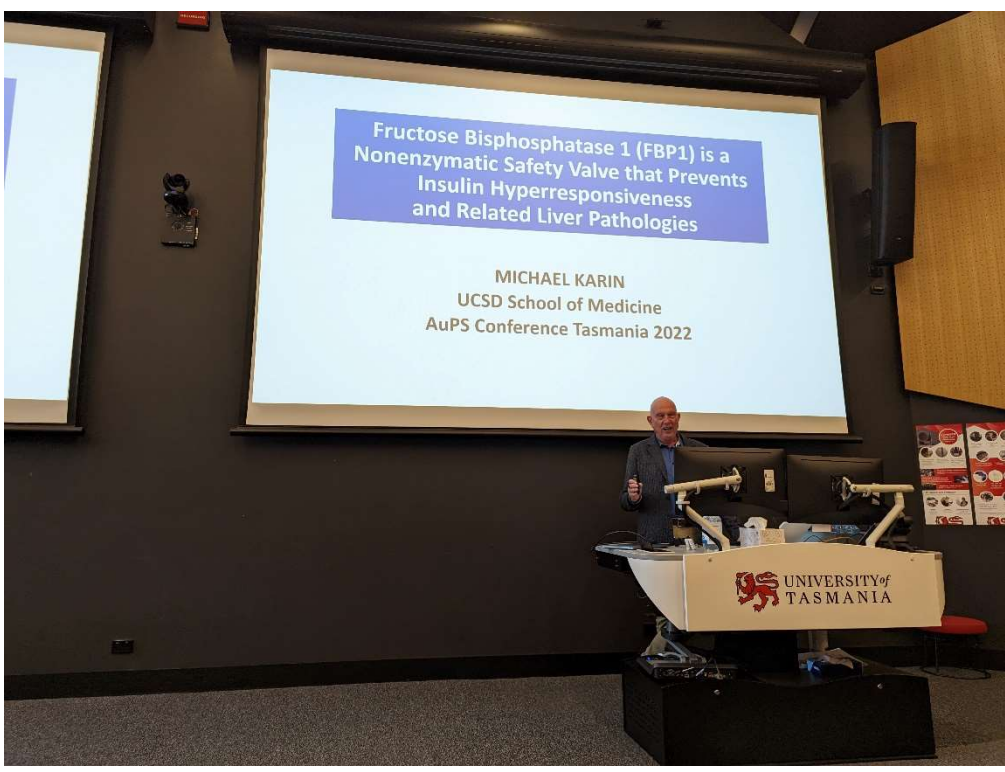


Poster Session and ECR Workshop



Thankyou to Dr. Shane Huntington OAM for the ECR workshop.





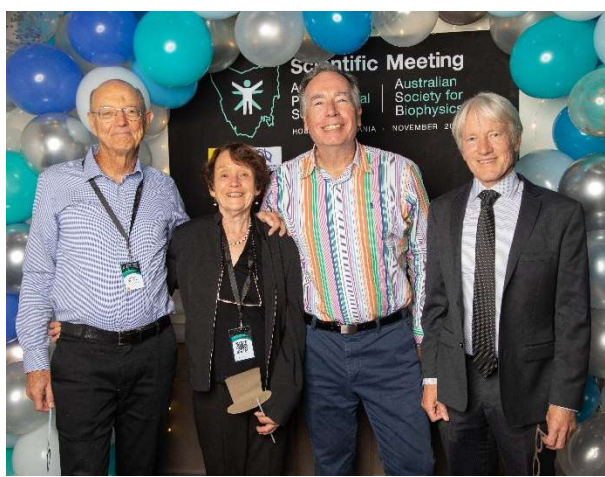
Conference Dinner

















Thankyou to the LOC Chair Dr. Renee Ross and the LOC committee: Dr Dino Premilovac, Emily Attrill, Nicole Sumargo



AuPS Council

President

Prof Robyn Murphy
La Trobe University
president@aups.org.au

National Secretary

A/Prof Séverine Lamon
Deakin University
secretary@aups.org.au

Outgoing National Secretary

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treasurer@aups.org.au

Production Editor

Prof Nir Eynon
Victoria University
editor@aups.org.au

Associate Editor

Dr Ben Perry
Western Sydney University
associateeditor@aups.org.au

Membership Officer

Dr Dino Premilovac
University of Tasmania
membershipofficer@aups.org.au

Education Officer

A/Prof Andrew Moorhouse
University of New South Wales
educationofficer@aups.org.au

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IT Manager

Dr Macsue Jacques
Victoria University
ITmanager@aups.org.au

Webmaster and Hobart LOC Chair

Dr Renee Ross
University of Tasmania
webmaster@aups.org.au

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A/Prof Bradley Launikonis
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