

AuPS News – December 2023

Outgoing AuPS President's Report

Professor Robyn Murphy

I have been honoured to serve as the President of AuPS for three years. The end of a tenure brings time for reflecting on achievements, thanking those involved in the journey and wishing well to those who follow. I will attempt to do that here, but from the outset, I want to acknowledge that most of what happens in AuPS is due to the ideas and energy of Council and strong membership. As President, it is gratifying to see results emanating from these ideas and the willingness to work hard for the Society.

My time as President began in December 2020 and whilst we were all hoping we were seeing the backend of Covid, rather we were earnestly remaining in the time when Covid would continue to dictate what could or couldn't be undertaken. In 2021, when it was uncertain if the annual meeting, planned for the Gold Coast would be held face-to-face, I was determined that it would go on. Queensland and Western Australia were open to interstate travel, but New South Wales and Victoria were locked out, but not locked down in or between their own states, and South Australians, ACT'ers and Tasmanians were limited in their ability to leave their state. I put a lot of pressure on local organisers, led by Deanne Skelly and National Secretary, Glenn Wadley, to hold a hybrid meeting. Sitting here, at the end of 2023 with the years of learning and introduction of supportive technology, that doesn't necessarily sound challenging, but two years ago the challenge was real. The huge effort from all involved resulted in AuPS leading the way as being one of the



first conferences that I heard about that offered a hybrid setting, certainly in a national setting. We called on a reasonably healthy back account and committed substantial funds for us to move forward, and..... we did it. Live sessions on the Gold Coast and from the Melbourne hub, that attracted 60 attendees. The smaller hubs in ACT, Sydney, Hobart, Perth and Adelaide also live zoomed into sessions. We had sessions being chaired in one location, and speakers from another. There was no question our international guests could join us in person, yet all were willing to find a friendly timezone and deliver their presentation 'live', allowing for interactive questions. I hope the logistics that needed to be navigating are resonating with you by now. And again, a huge and grateful thankyou to all involved in the success of the meeting. There were many highlights of the meeting, and one that I will remember is the opening symposium – a History of AuPS by four honorary members. This was live and online for all of us. I chaired this session from the

spare bedroom of our home and thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it, diligently prepared by Roger, Angela, Jack and Judith and captured for perpetuity and sharing on our website. This pushed the AuPS Invited Lecture to the Monday morning, and the celebration of delivering this lecture by Prof Matthew Watt was well received in the Melbourne Hub and beyond. I won't list more of the successes from this meeting, but I hope sufficient for each of you to reminisce on our agility and leadership in this space.

I have unwavering support for the integration of Physiology Education within the regular AuPS conference. Indeed, I don't see a differential, and I welcome the criticism of there being so many amazing sessions, where clashes of amazing talks in parallel sessions requires tough decisions to be made as to which session to attend. By placing an emphasis on quality physiology education, we align with other international societies in Europe, Asia and the USA, that I have witnessed first-hand in my tenure. I encourage continued recognition and integration and improved accessibility through prizes, awards and subsidising education members.

In addition, there has been continuous recognition of the need to support our student and early career researcher (ECR) membership. Council is currently represented by two student members, voted by our students, and two ECRs, ensuring a voice is at the table and involved in decision making about how best to support this large proportion of our membership. The large number of ECR and students attending the annual scientific meeting is a genuine strength of our Society that has been built over the years. Maybe it is just because I am getting older, but the enthusiasm and evidenced desire to be involved is more than encouraging when considering the future of physiology in Australia.

This brings me to our closest international neighbours, who have a combination of strong and rich histories in physiology and some with emerging

interest and strengths. During 2023, I attended the Japanese Physiological Society's conference celebrating its 100th anniversary in Kyoto, Japan. As President, I was asked to share views on the future of physiology. I thank Council for their insight in providing the content for this talk, which I proudly delivered and followed up with a panel discussion with the presidents of Japan, Australia, USA, and the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS). I also attended the 10th FAOPS (Federation of Asian and Oceanic Physiological Societies) meeting in Daegu, South Korea, an event held every 4 years. The next FAOPS meetings will be in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2028 and in Bali, Indonesia in 2032. I recommend that AuPS open their arms and have more cross-national attendees and offer support for these meetings. AuPS member, Prof Gary Housley, is the new President of FAOPS and so I believe stronger connections can and will be built.

AuPS was founded in 1960 after discussions beginning in 1957. The first meeting of the Australian Physiological and Pharmacological Society (APPS) was in 1960. We are proud of our history and with history, comes archives. The Society has accrued these over the years and the accrual resulted in about 50 boxes of largely unsorted materials. We have some of our history recorded on the website and we have some preserved at the National Library of Australia. The 2023 meeting provided an "archive space" where these boxes were opened and revealed, with many of the contents ferreted through, some sorted and some whisked away to another home. At the end of the meeting, the archives not identified for keepsakes have been disposed of. Rest assured, we saved a full set of conference proceedings in hard copy so that those prior to the creation of a website can be found. These should be placed at the National Library of Australia as well, the mechanism of how to do so needs to be found. I hope members left with some piece of APPS / AuPS / IUPS history that they can hang onto. Mine is a document stating the 1966 conference dinner was \$4 along with a photograph of the dinner menu.

Thank you again for widespread support for AuPS. For me as President, for our hardworking executive officers and council over their 3-year terms, which often turn into many extra years. We are in a strong place, positioning ourselves in international physiology circles. Next steps will sit amongst the resurgence of systems biology in tackling the medical

challenges of the future. That means understanding and advocating for fundamental physiological research and teaching is imperative. I leave that in the capable hands of the next generation of AuPS Leaders. In particular, I wish Prof Livia Hool your widespread support similar to what I have experienced.

AWARD WINNERS

AuPS Conference - Melbourne, Victoria, 2023

AK McIntyre Award



Dr. Justin Hardee
University of Melbourne

Michael Roberts Excellence in Physiology Education Award



Associate Prof. Pushpa Sinnayah
Victoria University

Postdoctoral Research Publication Prize



Dr James McNamara
Murdoch Children's Research Institute

PhD Research Publication Prize



Carlie Bauer
Victoria University

Physiology Education Grant



Dr Angelina Fong
University of Melbourne

Student Oral Presentation Prize - 1st place



Dale Taylor
Victoria University

Student Oral Presentation Prize - Runner up



Saveen Giri
Monash University

Student Poster Presentation Prize - 1st place



Yanie Tan
Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute

Student Poster Presentation Prize - Runner up



Ben Strahan
University of Melbourne

Best oral presentation - Education



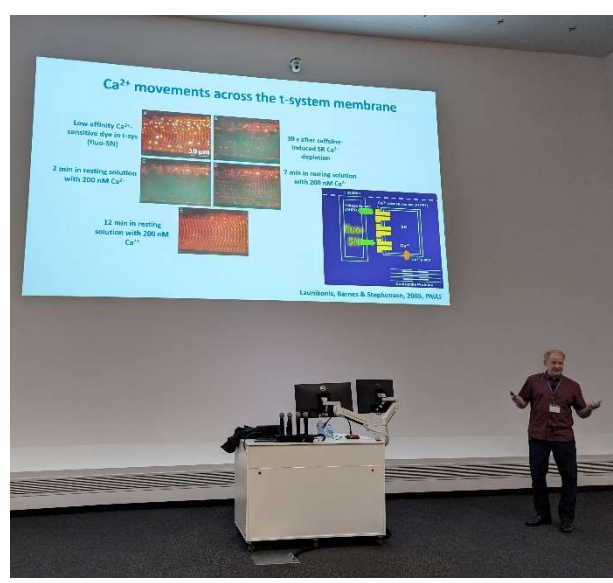
Dr Michael Leung
Monash University

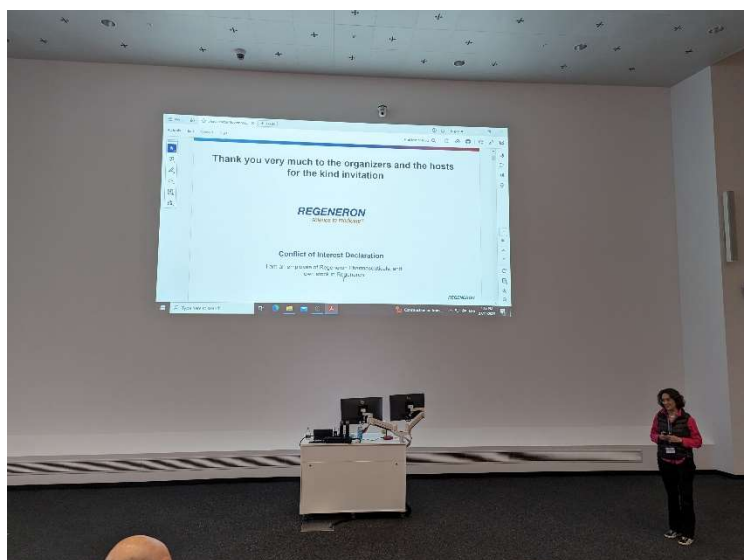
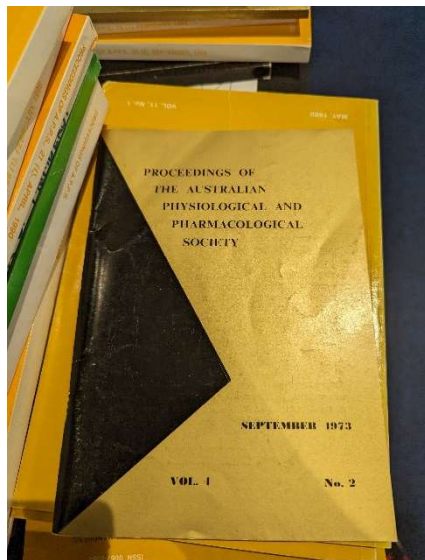
Honourary AuPS Membership

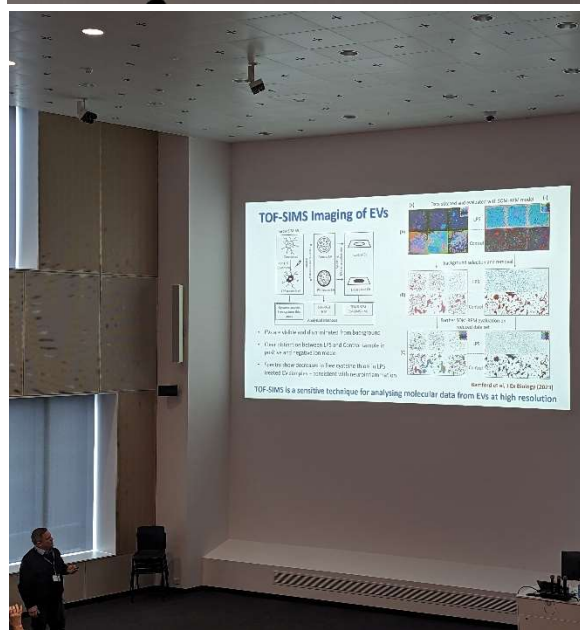
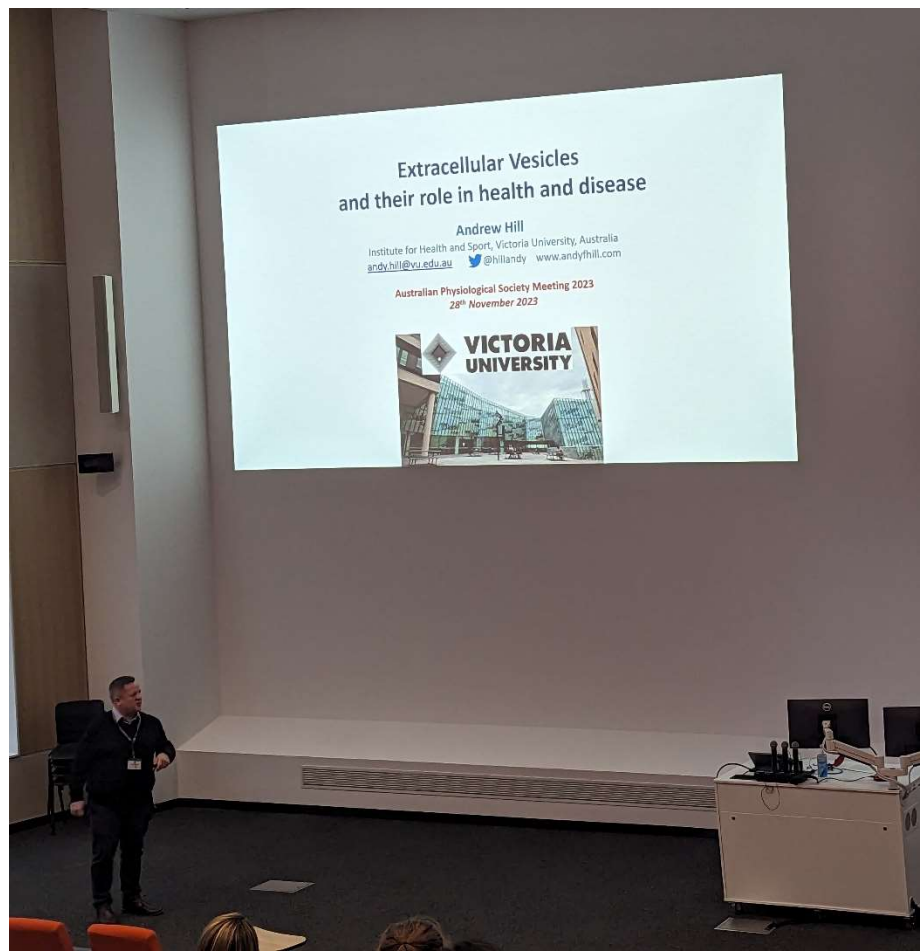
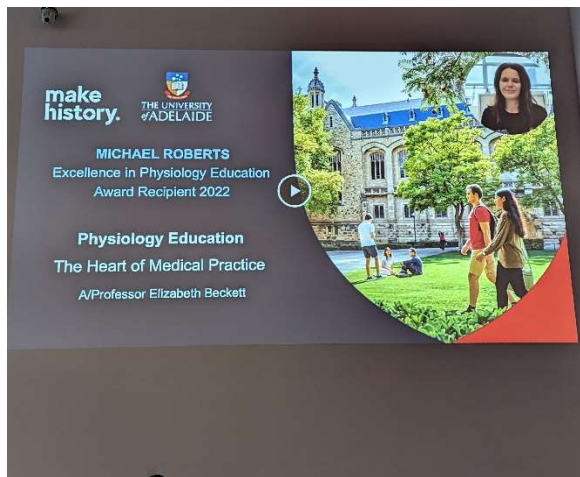


Emeritus Prof. Miranda Grounds
University of Western Australia

Photos from the 2023 AuPS conference – Melbourne Victoria







Conference dinner

Editor's note: This is a small sample of the photos from the Conference Dinner (and the photo booth), please see previous email correspondence from AuPS (sent 16/12/23) with a link for all photos.



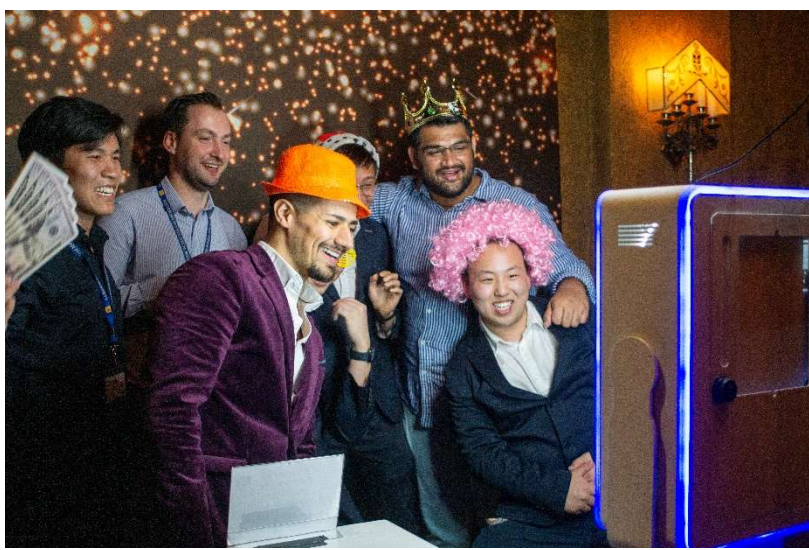


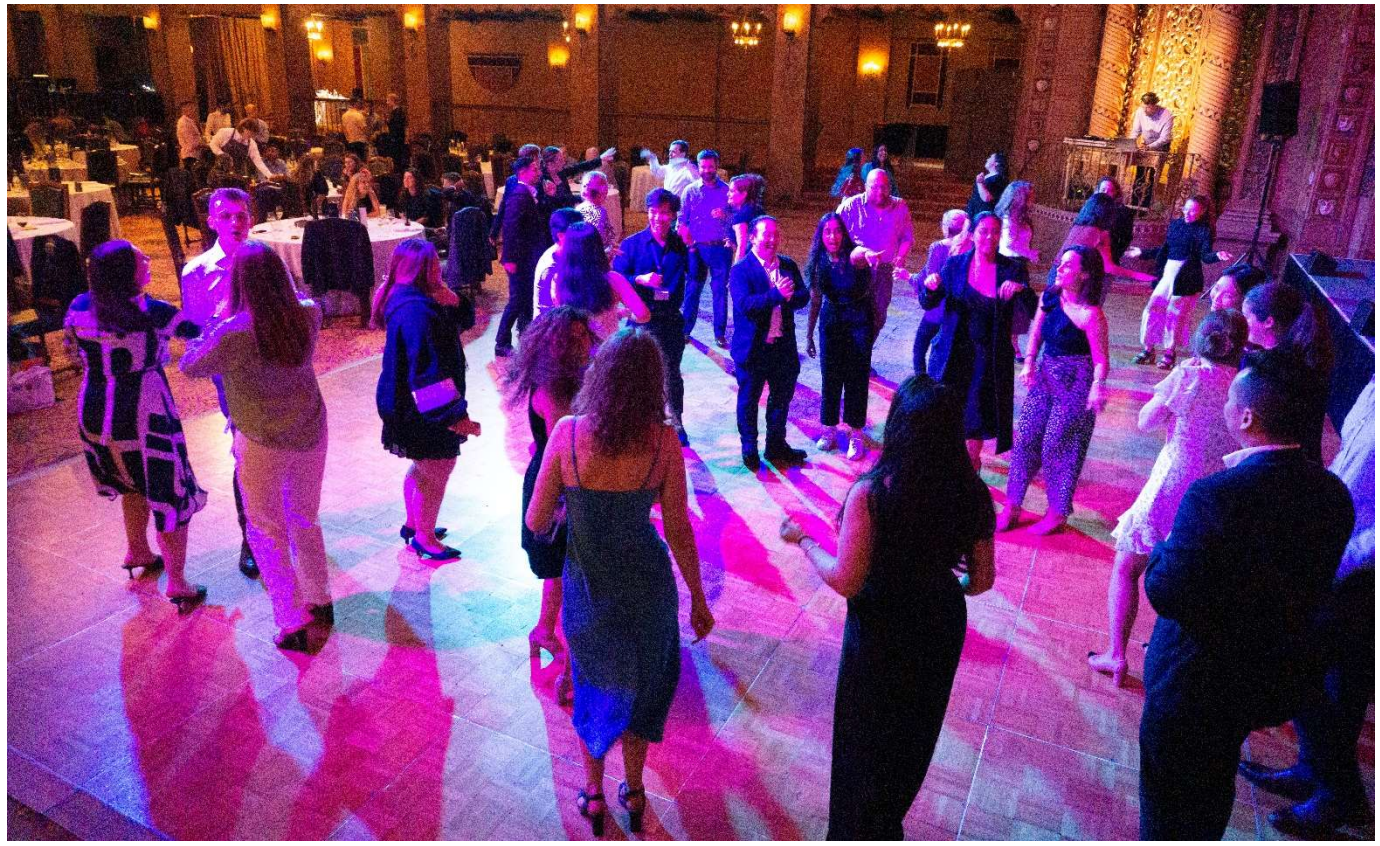














**Thankyou to the LOC Chair Dr Nolan Hoffman (ACU) and Prof. Nir Eynon (Monash)
And the AuPS 2023 Organising Committee Members:**

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Dr Mehdi Belhaj (ACU)

Dr Macsue Jacques (ARMI, Monash and VU)

Dr Patrice Jones (ARMI, Monash and VU)

Dr Elizabeth Reisman (ACU)

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This issue of AuPS News was compiled by Ben Perry with many thanks to the generous contributors. The next issue of AuPS News will be distributed to members in March 2024. Danielle Hiam will be continuing the newsletter role in 2024.

All contributions for AuPS News should be sent to: associateeditor@auaps.org.au before the end of February 2024.

Thank you to the supporters of AuPS:

