

AAS E-Newsletter

April 2014

Dear Member

We are delighted to announce that the AAS Annual Scientific Meeting 2014 will be held in combination with the annual scientific meetings of the International Society of Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy (ISCP), the High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia (HBPRCA), and the Australian Vascular Biology Society (AVBS), and in conjunction with the Cardiovascular Special Interest Group of the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists (ASCEPT). Together, these meetings are known as **STATE OF THE HEART 2014**.



This is a unique opportunity for the AAS members to exchange on current and exciting topics with colleagues from other Societies. Abstract submissions will be open soon - registration is already open!

Meeting date and venue

This joint meeting will be held in November 26-28, 2014, at the Adelaide Convention Centre in South Australia. Please make sure that the dates are in your calendar.

Program

We invite you to visit the meeting website www.iscp2014.com for preliminary scientific programmes. More details will be available soon - and a link is, of course, available via the AAS website.

Confirmed invited speakers

We are pleased to announce that renowned national and international speakers are now confirmed:

HBPRCA Invited Speakers

- Austin Doyle Lecturer: Prof. Brian Schmidt: Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the Australian National University – 2012 Nobel Prize Winner for Physics
- Colin I Johnston Lecturer: Prof. Tom Marwick: Director of the Menzies Research Institute Tasmania
- RD Wright Lecturer: Prof. Rhian Touyz: Director of the Institute of Cardiovascular and Medical Sciences (University of Glasgow)
- Professor John Chalmers, The George Institute for International Health - Guidelines
- Joint Vascular Biology session: Grant Drummond, Jennifer Gamble, Jaye Chin-Dusting, Wei Kong, Yi Zhu and Yunzeng Zou

AAS/AVBS Speakers

- Angiogenesis: A/Prof Veronique Angeli - National University of Singapore
- Immunity: Dr Laurent Yvan-Charvey: Institut National de la Sante et de la Recherche Medicale, Nice, France
- Molecular imaging of inflammation: Kevin Woollard, Imperial College, London
- HDL and microRNAs: Kasey Vickers, Vanderbilt University, Tennessee, USA
- Other AAS sessions include: Lifestyle/Nutrition, oxidative stress, novel agents for dyslipidaemia (joint session with ISCP), lipids, Young Investigator

On behalf of the Organising Committees, we look forward to welcoming you to our Annual Scientific Meeting in Adelaide!



Fatiha Tabet, Editor



And of course..... happy Easter!

Thanks to all those who have renewed - over 50 so far - but if you haven't

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE DUE BY MARCH 31

Annual renewal for AAS is due by March 31 - regardless of when you applied for membership or renewed in the previous year. Please renew now to:

- maintain your membership
- continue to receive e-news
- receive discounted registration fees at the Annual Scientific Meeting - STATE OF THE HEART 2014
- be eligible for awards and travel grants at the Annual Scientific Meeting

Full members: Annual Fee of \$60 (plus GST if Australian)
Student members: Annual Fee of \$30 (plus GST if Australian)
To renew, please click [here](#). Your user name is 'Username'

Want to join HBPRCA or pay both fees together? Please select the option for both memberships and this will automatically submit your application or renew membership.

With my very best wishes for a strong and vibrant society.

Steven Gieseg, Membership Secretary



SCOLAR 2014

The AAS organizes every year a very successful SCOLAR Program that showcases research in areas relevant to the AAS Annual Scientific Meeting.

This year the **Baker IDI** in Melbourne will host the SCOLAR Program on Friday the **21st November 2014**. A webinar will be available live from the Baker IDI. SCOLAR Program details will be available soon.

AAS TRUST REPORTS -

Natalie Blanch and Kristina Petersen made full use of their travel grants!

Thank you to AAS Trust for travel funding to enable us to attend and present posters at international conferences. We each presented posters at ESPEN (Leipzig, Germany) and the International Congress of Nutrition (Granada, Spain) and attended the European Association for the Study of Diabetes Congress (Barcelona, Spain).



The ESPEN conference was held in early September 2013 and the theme for the congress was “**Tearing down barriers – nutrition brings people together**”. The program included both updated and cutting-edge science, as well as clinical practice streams which helped to enhance our clinical dietetic skills. ICN was held in the middle of September 2013, with the theme “Joining cultures through nutrition”. The scientific program included many sessions on the effect of nutrition on vascular health. We particularly enjoyed the session on the Mediterranean diet and the PREDIMED study. The sessions included an outline of PREDIMED PLUS- the planned second study following on from PREDIMED and a talk by Dr Fitó on risk factors of cardiovascular disease. Later in our trip we visited Dr Fitó’s laboratory in Barcelona, where her research group conducts analysis of biomarkers of cardiovascular risk for the PREDIMED study. This was of particular interest to our research group as we are planning and making decisions about which biomarkers of cardiovascular risk to measure in our own diet studies.

The European Association for the Study of Diabetes Congress was held at the end of September 2013. The program included many sessions on vascular health in diabetes. We particularly enjoyed the sessions on predictors of cardiovascular disease and clinical interventions and cardiovascular outcomes. The moderated poster sessions were well attended and included many talks on nutrition and physical activity interventions and cardiovascular outcomes.

Our trip also included laboratory visits to Professor Gary Frost at Imperial College London and Professor Philip Chowienczyk at the Cardiovascular Science Division, St Thomas’ Hospital, London. Prof Frost is involved in many nutrition projects, and we were able to establish communications for future collaborations. Prof Chowienczyk conducts clinical trials using many cardiovascular risk measures including flow mediated dilatation (FMD). This was a particular interest to us as FMD is a primary outcome in many studies for our research group. Prof Chowienczyk demonstrated software that is used in their lab to analyse FMD, which we have since included in our protocols.

We would like to thank the AAS trust for the financial assistance that enabled us to travel to Europe and attend these conferences.

FEATURE ARTICLE - CATCH UP WITH DR ANNA CALKIN

Dr Anna Calkin is the Group Leader of the Diabetes and Dyslipidaemia Laboratory at the Baker IDI in Melbourne and a current National Heart Foundation Future Leader Fellow. Dr Calkin’s research interests include the identification of novel pathways regulating lipid metabolism in tissues such as muscle, liver and adipose in the setting of diabetes and dyslipidaemia. Her recent discoveries established the importance of IDOL, the novel regulator of the LDL receptor, in the regulation of cholesterol metabolism in humans. More specifically, Dr Calkin defined the IDOL-LDL receptor recognition sequence, which is a potential therapeutic target to modulate LDL cholesterol levels in humans. These discoveries were identified, in part, during Dr Calkin’s 4-years overseas training as a Heart Foundation Fellow.

In this feature article, Dr Anna Calkin describes her wonderful overseas professional and personal

experience in the US.



I have recently returned from 4 years in the US where I worked with Peter Tontonoz at UCLA. This was an invaluable experience and I cannot recommend the experience enough to any young researchers considering undertaking post-doctoral studies overseas.

Having completed a PhD at Baker IDI followed by post-doctoral studies at the Australian Centre for Blood Diseases as a NHMRC Peter Doherty Fellow, I wanted to expand my molecular biology expertise and experience research in a US laboratory. Having visited laboratories on a previous trip to the US, I secured a post-doctoral position with Peter Tontonoz at UCLA with the support of a National Heart Foundation Overseas Fellowship.

Peter trained with Bruce Spiegelman and Ron Evans and is a member of the prestigious Howard Hughes Medical Institute, which afforded me the fortunate opportunity of being part of a laboratory that was well funded. In fact, it really ran like a small institute with all the equipment we needed on a daily basis right there in the laboratory! There was a strong work ethic within the group with about half of the post-doctoral scholars being from overseas. We all knew we were there for a limited time and wanted to make the most of the amazing opportunity we had been given.

There were many highlights of my experience at UCLA. Guest speakers at weekly seminars often included Nobel laureates such as James Watson, Joe Goldstein, Randy Schekman and Bruce Beutler. Conferences were also a regular event. With many of the major conferences held in the US, they are comparatively cheap to attend and easily accessible and I was therefore fortunate enough to attend Keystone meetings as well as smaller meetings such as the Deuel Conference on Lipids and the Gordon Conference on Lipoprotein Metabolism where I was able to interact with many high caliber researchers in an informal setting. The access to mouse models and technology was also a huge advantage for my work as well as the expense of reagents and the time frame for reagents to arrive, certainly a contrast to Australia! I was also very fortunate to collaborate with a number of researchers at UCLA, which greatly strengthened my work. I have managed to continue many of these collaborations upon my return to Australia, which has put me in an advantageous position as I now have access to mice and reagents not commercially available as well as ties with high caliber researchers who are leaders within their fields which really helps when applying for grant funding.

However, it wasn't all about the science. Living overseas was a great opportunity to explore a new country and I tried to make the most of it whilst in the US. My husband and I would head off every long weekend to explore California and the surrounds and we saw some amazing places including Death Valley, Grand Canyon, San Francisco, Napa Valley, Big Sur and San Diego, and spent many a weekend skiing at Lake Mammoth. Unfortunately, we didn't see as much of the rest of the US as we would have liked but New York was definitely a highlight! There were also lots of great things to do in LA to keep us busy including hiking, visiting museums, eating at amazing restaurants and of course star spotting!!

As a whole, not only did I expand my molecular biology expertise whilst in the laboratory, but I gained valuable insight into scientific conduct, developed expertise in complex techniques, increased my collaborative ties and expanded my international profile. Overall I feel that this experience has been instrumental in allowing me to set up my own group upon my return to Australia and will maximise my opportunity for success at addressing my research goals.

However, it is great to be home and there is nowhere like Australia. I think the balance between life and family is focused on a much more well-rounded lifestyle here. I am enjoying the challenges of setting up a research group at Baker IDI and I look forward to the possibility of collaborating with some of you in the years to come.

Meetings and news from other places

[Latest IAS Newsletter](#): international news and literature summary at your fingertips. Create your own account (it's free) for access to all IAS resources.



Global Recommendations for the Management of Dyslipidemia [Slide Kit](#)

The [2nd World Congress of Clinical Lipidology](#) will take place in Vienna, Austria from 5-7 December, 2014. This extraordinary event will provide state of the art educational lectures in the field of clinical lipidology, focusing on practical lipid management including difficult to treat hyperlipidemias, genetic dyslipidemias, screening, dietary and nutraceutical approaches and case studies. Major emphasis will be given to new therapeutics, diagnosis and management of high risk patients. This congress is recognized and widely known throughout the world as an outstanding and contributing to clinical lipidology research.

The PCSK9 Forum is an independent, not-for-profit initiative which offers clinicians and scientists worldwide FREE MEMBERSHIP by simply registering at their [website](#).

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