



Dear Member,

Our Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) is less than a month away. On behalf of the Australian Atherosclerosis Society and the president of the society Prof. Stephen Nicholls, I would like to invite you to participate in our Annual Scientific Meeting in 2015, which will be held at the Western Australian Maritime Museum in Fremantle from October 21 to October 23.

A stimulating scientific and social program with plenty of opportunities to network with your colleagues is waiting for you.

With a terrific line up of invited speakers including guest International Speakers; Bart Staels (France), Bhama Ramkhelawon (USA), Jean-Sébastien Silvestre (France) and Katrina Binger (Germany), we hope you will join us to make this meeting very successful.

We trust that this year's program will make our ASM memorable and we look forward to seeing you in Fremantle.

Included in this e-News:

- More information about the Annual Scientific Meeting in Fremantle.
- Information about the SCOLAR program to come (October 16, 2015).
- Membership report
- Atherosclerosis Education Program Report- September 12th 2015.
- Update from AAS members who recently attended the International Congress on Lipid Metabolism and Atherosclerosis 2015 in Seoul.
- Feature article from the President of the International Atherosclerosis Society, Prof Philip Barter entitled: "An update on CETP inhibition".

Best regards,



Fatiha Tabet, Editor

AAS Annual Scientific Meeting 2015 – It is time to register!

Meeting Date: 21-23 October 2015

Location: Maritime Museum Fremantle, Western Australia

This year we have a terrific line up of invited speakers including guest International Speakers; Bart Staels (France), Bhama Ramkhelawon (USA), Jean-Sébastien Silvestre (France) and Katrina Binger (Germany).

Our national invited speakers this year include: Leon Adams (WA) Alex Bobik (VIC), Gerald Watts (WA), Len Kritharides (NSW), Karlheinz Peter (VIC), Peter Clifton (SA), Fatiha Tabet (NSW), Andrew Murphy (VIC), Dr Heather Medbury (NSW), Peter Meikle (VIC), Dmitri Sviridov (VIC), Trevor Mori (WA) and Stephen Nicholls (SA). The program committee would like to thank all of them for their involvement and participation.

Sessions will include discussion on:

- Nutrition (Basic and Clinical studies)
- Cellular Cholesterol Metabolism
- Lipids and Lipoproteins
- Clinical Management of Lipids
- Vascular Biology
- Clinical Perspectives including a moderated discussion
- Innate Immunity in CVD
- Reverse Cholesterol Transport and HDL
- Pharmacological Interventions
- Complications that Accelerate CVD
- Innovative Concepts in Atherosclerosis

All registrants are invited to the welcome reception and moderated poster session being held in the function room and balcony, in the Maritime Museum,

This year, the conference annual dinner will be held at the beautiful Bathers Beach House - <http://www.bathersbeachhouse.com.au/> where the awards will also be presented, for student and ECR presentations.

To find out more about our International and National speakers, please [click here](#)

The final program is now available. Please [click here](#) to download the final invitation brochure detailing the program.

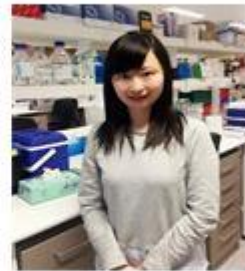
You can find all the information on the meeting including registration, travel and accommodation at the secretariat website www.yoursecretariat.com.au or simply [click here](#).

SCOLAR 2015

SCOLAR Date: 16th October 2015

Location: Heart Research Institute Sydney

On behalf of the AAS SCOLAR subcommittee, we take great pleasure in welcoming you to join the SCOLAR program, held at the HRI on 16th of October. This year, SCOLAR features outstanding NSW speakers including A/Prof Scott Byrne, Dr Ingrid Gelissen, Prof Stuart Grieve, Prof Shaun Jackson, A/Prof Michael Skilton and Dr Shane Thomas, presenting on topics such as the role of macrophages in innate immunity, lipids/lipoproteins and reverse cholesterol transport, current imaging technologies used in clinical and small animal research, role of platelets, nutrition and endothelial dysfunction in atherosclerosis and CVD. [Click here](#) to download a flyer on SCOLAR 2015.



Organising committee (left to right): Pradeep Cholan, Bronwyn Brown, Dhanya Ravindran, Sian Cartland, Mary Kavurma and Anisyah Ridiandries. Thanks also extended to Shudi Tang (middle) and to Jessica Macer-Wright (right)

If you cannot join us in person at HRI, SCOLAR will be webcast LIVE broadcasting directly to the Baker IDI, SAHMRI and Perth, so no need to miss out! [Click here](#) to pre-register for the live webcast. This link will direct you to a registration page. Once you have registered for the live webinar, the link will open the webcast catalogue page where you will see a 'Live Webcast Test Link' and the 'AAS SCOLAR 2015' live webcast link.

We highly recommend that you click on the 'Live Webcast Test Link' before 16th October, to ensure a webcast works on your system. For further instructions for the live webcam [click here](#).

For more information please contact: bronwyn.brown@hri.org.au

For any assistance registering for the live webcast, please contact Your Secretariat on +2 61 4356 0007 or admin@yoursecretariat.com.au

Membership Report

The AAS membership numbers are effective 30 September 2015

Full Australia	81
Full International	6
Student Australia	24
Student International	3
Life	5
Total Members	119

If you have not already done so, there is still time to renew your membership for 2015 to ensure you are eligible for the discounted rates to this year's ASM in Freemantle, Perth Australia and you will continue to receive all the benefits available to our members including this e-news on an ongoing basis.

To renew or check if you have already renewed simply go to www.yoursecretariat.com.au and click on the AAS logo to take you through to the membership site.

Login using your email address and password (click the "don't know your password?" link to reset your password)

Check your details are all correct and up to date and click on the "Renew/Apply for Membership

button, to renew your membership.

If you are not sure if you have renewed, your membership type and expiry date is displayed at the top of the page.

You now also have the option to renew for up to 3 years at a time, so you won't have to renew again until 2018.

If you need any assistance with your renewal please phone +61 2 4356 0007 or email admin@yoursecretariat.com.au

Atherosclerosis Education Program- Update

The Lipid Education Day was held at the Charles Perkins Centre on September 12th 2015 and was a great success. The meeting received excellent feedback from delegates.

The Lipid Education Day was filmed and the presentation were edited in line with presenter requests and made available on the AAS website webinars tab. To view the presentation, please [click here](#).

ICLA 2015

The 4th International Congress on Lipid Metabolism & Atherosclerosis (ICLA 2015) was held in Korea in September 11 and 12, 2015, and the organising committee have kindly invited three of our young investigator members to attend, and to present at the meeting. Fatiha Tabet (UNSW), Elyse Di Marco (Baker IDI) and Dragana Dragoljevic (Baker IDI) presented their recent research at the conference and wanted to thank the ICLA 2015 organising committee for the very warm welcome and for the travel awards to attend the conference in Seoul.

ICLA 2015 scientific program was great and included high quality scientific sessions with presentations ranging from basic research to clinical medicine in the field of lipid metabolism and atherosclerosis.

Fatiha Tabet, Elyse Di Marco and Dragana Dragoljevic gave excellent presentations and we are pleased to announce that Fatiha Tabet received a best presentation award. Thank you ICLA 2015.



From left to right: Fatiha Tabet, Korean traditional dancers, Elyse Di Marco and Dragana Dragoljevic.



At the welcome dinner with ICLA 2015 organizing Committee, Invited speakers and Travel Award recipients.

Feature article: An update on CETP inhibition



**Philip Barter, President of the International Atherosclerosis Society
School of Medical Sciences, University of New South Wales**

There is great current interest in the potential of inhibiting cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP) as a strategy to reduce the risk of having an atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) event. There is also much uncertainty and confusion. On one hand there is substantial evidence that CETP is pro-atherogenic and that its inhibition is anti-atherogenic. On the other hand there have been two failed human clinical outcome trials with CETP inhibitors, although one (torcetrapib) was conducted with a flawed molecule that had serious off-target adverse effects and the other used a weak inhibitor (dalcetrapib) in people in with dysfunctional HDL.

Evidence supporting the development of CETP inhibitors

Animal studies: Rabbits, like humans, have high CETP activity. Rabbits are also naturally highly susceptible to the development of atherosclerosis. Inhibition of CETP in rabbits is profoundly anti-atherogenic.

Human genetics: Three very large meta-analyses and one large cohort study of 18,245 initially healthy American women all concluded that people with CETP gene polymorphisms associated with

lower CETP mass and/or lower CETP activity had increased HDL cholesterol, decreased LDL cholesterol and a significantly reduced coronary risk. In another prospective cohort study, the Copenhagen City Heart Study, 10,261 people were followed for up to 34 years. More than 3000 had an ASCVD event and 3,807 died. It was found that two common CETP gene polymorphisms resulting in low CETP activity were associated with significant reductions in risk of ischemic heart disease, myocardial infarction, ischemic cerebrovascular disease and ischemic stroke. They also had increased longevity, with no evidence of adverse effects.

Effects of inhibiting CETP in humans: The use of CETP inhibitors in humans reduces LDL cholesterol by up to 50%, reduces apoB by up to 30%, reduces Lp(a) by up to 30%, increases HDL cholesterol by up to 180%, increases apoA-I by up to 60% and increases HDL-mediated efflux of cholesterol from macrophages by up to 50%.

Given this evidence, if it emerges that CETP inhibition does not reduce ASCVD risk, it will be necessary to rethink what we believe regarding the biology of atherosclerosis.

Effects of CETP inhibition are currently being tested in two large, randomized, double-blind clinical outcome trials: one with anacetrapib and the other with evacetrapib. There is concern that the current level of confusion and uncertainty about CETP inhibition may impact adversely on the retention of participants in these clinical trials. Any substantial loss of participants from the trials will impact on their power to answer the questions they have been designed to address. It is essential that these trials proceed to completion as planned, with minimal dropout and without early stopping for futility in order to provide an answer (one way or the other) to one of the more important unanswered questions related to strategies for reducing ASCVD risk.

Two recent references:

Barter, PJ, Nicholls, SJ, Kastelein JJP and Rye, KA. CETP Inhibition as a Strategy to Reduce Cardiovascular Risk: the Pro Case. *Circulation* 2015; 132:423-432.
Hovingh GK, Kastelein JJP, van Deventer SJ, Round P, Ford J, Saleheen D, Rader DJ, Brewer HB and Barter PJ. Cholesterol ester transfer protein inhibition by TA-8995 in patients with mild dyslipidaemia (TULIP): a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase 2 trial. *Lancet* 2015; 386:452-460.

Sincerely,

Your

Secretariat

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YOUR
secretariat

Customised Secretariat Services

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