



Australian  
**Atherosclerosis**  
Society Inc.

## Australian Atherosclerosis Society

I hope we have all survived a very busy first 3 months of the year with NHMRC deadlines and we are looking forward to getting back into the research.

We have an exciting e-News this quarter including:

- Introducing our Young Investigator Representative - co-opted on the Executive Committee
- ASM National and International Speakers Announced
- AAS Trust Award Report – Stacy Roberston
- AAS Trust Award Report - Smriti Krishna
- Upcoming Conferences
- New look AAS - Membership renewal process and website
- ACvA

### **Belinda Di Bartolo, Editor**



### **AAS Executive Committee Young Investigator Representative**

In the last newsletter the AAS Executive committee were seeking a Young Investigator to be co-opted on the committee to serve the needs of our younger AAS society members. We are pleased to announce that Ms Aliko Rasmiena has been selected as the Young Investigator representative.



Aliko is a past representative for the New Investigator Committee in the High Blood Pressure Research Council Australia (2014-2015), and student representative in the Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) assessment team.

She is now undertaking her postdoctoral work involving lipid-mediating immunity in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Department at the Monash University.

Aliko and her team will meet on a regular basis to discuss the needs of the student/early

career members of AAS. Their first meeting discussed the possibility of three yearly young investigator seminars and a young investigator symposium at the Annual Scientific Meeting in Hobart. Her committee includes Eser Zerenturk, Stephanie Paone, Man Kit Sam Lee, Hannah Burrowes and Dhanya Ravindran.

We look forward to hearing about Aliko and her team's activities in 2016!

### **Annual Scientific Meeting - National and International Speakers Announced - Hobart**

For the first time the Australian Atherosclerosis Society will be holding the ASM in Hobart, Tasmania from December 7-10th and we are pleased to announce the following speakers for the meeting which will be held in conjunction with AVBS and HBPRCA.

#### **Professor Jean Pierre Despres**



Jean Pierre Despres is a professor at the department of sciences of food and nutrition at the Laval University in Montreal, Canada. He is also director of research at the Institute of Cardiology at Laval Hospital, and director of the research center on lipidic diseases. Dr. Despres received his Ph.D. in exercise physiology from Laval University in 1984 and then pursued a post-doctoral program training at the department of medicine of the University of Toronto. He established himself as a research scholar at Laval University and was appointed

associate director of lipid research at CHUL Centre (CHUQ). He was the scientific director of the CHUQ from 1995-2000. In 1999, he also became director of research at the Quebec Heart Institute of the Laval Hospital.

Dr. Despres has published more than 320 papers in peer-reviewed journals and has written 40 book chapters in the areas of obesity, lipidology, diabetes, insulin resistance syndrome, exercise and nutrition. He has served as editor for the International Journal of Obesity and is currently on the editorial boards of several scientific journals.

#### **Associate Professor Jonathan Shaw, MD, MRCP (UK), FRACP**

Associate Professor Jonathan Shaw is Associate Director of Baker IDI and has been practising at the Clinic for the past 10 years. Associate Professor Shaw is Co-Chief Investigator of the AusDiab Study, the largest population-based study in Australia examining the natural history of diabetes, pre-diabetes, heart disease, and kidney disease. Associate Professor Shaw's research interests include the epidemiology of diabetes, diabetic complications and prevalence of type 2 diabetes in children.



#### **Professor Craig Anderson**



Craig Anderson is Director of the Neurological and Mental Health Division at The George Institute for International Health, and Professor of Stroke Medicine and Clinical Neuroscience in the College of Health Sciences at the University of Sydney and Neurologist (Director of Stroke Services) at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. He is primarily responsible for overseeing the conduct of ongoing large-scale randomised controlled trials, overviews, and observational epidemiological projects and development of a program of research in cerebrovascular disease prevention

and treatment in Australia and in low- and middle-income countries. Professor Anderson

is a specialist neurologist and geriatrician, with substantial experience and a proven record of accomplishment in the design, conduct and analysis of large-scale research projects. He has held key organisational roles in several successfully completed multi-centre clinical trials addressing major public health issues, and has Steering Committee roles in a number of ongoing, investigator-initiated studies of similar design and organisational structure.

### **AAS Trust Awards Report - Stacy Robertson**

AHA Scientific Session 2015-09-15

Orlando, Florida November 7th-11th 2015

Conference Highlights: Stacy Robertson

I am very grateful to the AAS for the travel award which allowed me to attend and present my work at the American Heart Association (AHA) Scientific Session in Orlando. This conference is the premier international cardiovascular conference attracting approximately 18,000 professional attendees, where this year the outcomes of the SPRINT trial (leading to new guidelines for managing hypertension) was announced and the new funding collaboration between Google and AHA worth \$50 million dollars was launched. So whilst the tourists went to Disneyland, I spent 5 days in the (over) air-conditioned Orange County Convention Centre listening to what's new in cardiovascular disease.

The conference began with an Early Career Research day, which highlighted the importance of mentorship, networking and forethought when planning the next step in your career.

The vast conference program cover a wide spectrum of topics, which included fantastic sessions on the use of CRISPR-Cas9 technology for producing genetic knockout models, this included and really informative 'ask the expert' session. Personally, I was interested to see the advancement in the field of non-coding RNA specifically long non-coding RNA (lncRNA) and was able to hear from leaders in this area.

I was fortunate to be awarded an oral presentation in the session 'translational studies of inflammation in acute coronary syndromes' (abstract below). The presentation was well received and afterwards I discussed my project in more detail with other presenters in the session, in particular Dr Maarten Vanhaverbeke from the University of Leuven and Dr Xin Zhou from Pingjin Hospital Heart Centre (see picture).



### **AAS Trust Award Report – Smriti Krishna**

Vascular Biology 2015: Vascular Matrix Biology and Bioengineering Workshop V & Biology of Signaling in the Cardiovascular System Workshop IV, October 18-22, 2015, Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis, Cape Cod, MA, USA.

By Smriti Krishna, Post Doctoral Fellow, Queensland Research Center for Peripheral Vascular Diseases, College of Medicine & Dentistry, James Cook University, Townsville, QLD, Australia.

In October 2015, I was lucky enough to be a recipient of the prestigious AAS Travel Award Grant from the Australian Atherosclerosis Society for the

Vascular Biology conference 2015.

The conference was held at the Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, USA. Hyannis is the historic summer home of America's first family the Kennedy's. The weather was beautiful and I enjoyed the beautiful scene of the beaches at Hyannis.

The conference Resort and conference centre at Hyannis was an excellent venue which encouraged interaction and networking and even though the conference was packed with intensive and brain storming sessions. The Matrix/Bioengineering Worksop session was outstanding which covered most up-to date topics. The pre-conference meeting for trainees was attended by around 30 early career researchers. The specific programs designed for early career researchers were a highly supportive and interactive session. The Career Development-Peer review, publication and ethics session by Maria Kowalczyk, Biology Editor, BioMed Central was one of the highlights of the session.

The Key note Lecture by Prof. Richard O. Hynes (MIT), NAVBO Award lectures by Mukesh Jain (Case Western Reserve University) and Daniel Greif (Yale University) were the highlight of the conference. I had participated in poster presentation which was very interactive one-on-one sessions and received valuable comments and suggestion from fellow scientists. I had interesting and enlightening discussions and have also received some direction for my future research. I was also happy that I could share few of my experimental protocols and tips to certain researchers who were appreciative of my expertise. I was surprised when I received an award for my abstract from NAVBO. As far as I am aware, I was the only Australian scientist present in the conference.

The conference was not just studies alone; I had also made few lasting friendships. I had a wonderful time sightseeing with few new friends I made during the stay in Hyannis. As a whole, attending the NAVBO conference was a great experience. I would like to sincerely thank the AAS Committee for my favourable consideration for travel support.

### Upcoming conference information



#### **BCVS 2016 Scientific Sessions**

Basic Cardiovascular Sciences

July 18 – 21, 2016

Hyatt Regency Phoenix,  
Phoenix AZ



#### **American Heart Association**

Scientific Sessions: Nov. 12-16 New Orleans,  
LA

Abstracts open April 20 and close June 8,  
2016.



Ziad Mallat (Chair) and Christoph Binder (Co-Chair) look forward to welcoming you to

the Fiesta Americana Condesa,  
Cancun, Mexico from March 11-14, 2017. <https://www.fusion-conferences.com/conference54.php>



### **International Congress Lipid Metabolism & Atherosclerosis (ICLA)**

To be held along with the 52nd Fall Conference of the Korean Society of Lipidology & Atherosclerosis

Conrad hotel Seoul Korea

September 9~10, 2016

Please [click here](#) to view the conference save the date brochure: and visit [www.icla2016.org](http://www.icla2016.org) for further details.

### **New look AAS - Membership renewal process and website**

With a fresh new look, and a greater focus on the Young Investigator and Student member offerings for 2016, we also look forward to bringing you a new improved website.... Due to launch in the coming weeks.

Your AAS renewals are made easy this year!

You will receive an email this week from Your Secretariat regarding your renewal for 2016 this week. If you have already renewed for 2016, you will receive an email confirming this as well. Please follow the instructions on the email you receive.

If you do not receive an email, it may be that your details need to be updated. Please email [admin@yoursecretariat.com.au](mailto:admin@yoursecretariat.com.au) with your old and new email address and your details will be updated.



### **Australian Cardiovascular Alliance**

The ACVA officially launched on Tuesday November 24th, 2015. To learn more about this important initiative, read the press release and become a member, visit [www.ozheart.org.au](http://www.ozheart.org.au)