



## 2004 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Society for Biophysics Inc.

The 2004 Annual General meeting of the Australian Society for Biophysics Inc. will be held at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle W.A. at 5.30 p.m. on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October during the Society's 27th Annual Scientific Meeting.

### Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of Minutes of 2003 Annual General Meeting (attached)
3. Business arising from these minutes
  - IUPAB proposal for e-journal*
  - IUPAB and the Academy*
  - Fluoro2004*
  - Membership fees*
4. President's Address
5. 2005 Canberra Meeting
6. Financial Report
7. Election of Office Bearers<sup>#</sup>
8. Business of which notices of motion have been given \*
9. General Business. Report on the EABS and future links to ASB
10. Close of Meeting

- <sup>#</sup> Nomination forms attached. Nominations will be accepted up to 5.00 p.m. on October 1<sup>st</sup> Since Boris Martinac will take up the Presidency at this meeting nominations are called for a vice-President as well as for Secretary, Treasurer and State Representatives
- <sup>\*</sup> Any notices of motion must have been forwarded to the Secretary by 5.00 p.m. on August 31<sup>st</sup> Although any business may be raised during the AGM, only items of which notice of motion have been given before the prescribed date may be formally voted on.
- If you cannot attend the meeting we urge you to fill in the attached proxy form and post it to the Secretary ASB, 12 Esplanade, Williamstown VIC 3016, by September 25<sup>th</sup>, or have a colleague bring it to the meeting..

## **Minutes of the 2003 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Society for Biophysics Inc.**

The 2003 Annual General meeting of the Australian Society for Biophysics Inc. was held at the University of Adelaide at 6.00 p.m. on Saturday 20th September, immediately following the Society's 27th Annual Scientific Meeting.

The meeting was opened by the President Peter Barry. Seventeen members were present (signed sheet attached to minute book)

*Apologies* were received from Ray Norton, Frances Separovic, Terry Chilcott, Brett Hambly, Paul Williams, Till Bocking, Peter Gage, Joe Kourie, Jackie Wilce and David Keys.

*Minutes of 2002 Annual General Meeting* were confirmed on the motion of Jan Anderson, seconded Christa Chritchley.

### *Business arising from the minutes*

*IUPAB proposal for e-journal.* The President reported that this was still under consideration, but in any event, ASB would incur no liability.

### *President's Address*

The President delivered the following address

"First of all I would like to reiterate the earlier vote of thanks given in the closing remarks to David Saint for all the work he has done in putting together this conference. Given that he is also the secretary of the Australian Physiological and Pharmacological Society, he was very heroic to take on the position of local secretary for our ASB meeting. I must say that, given all the other calls on his time, he has done an excellent job in terms of scientific content and general organisation. I would also like to thank members of the council for their input and those people who helped David.

I would also like to move a vote of thanks to Frances Separovic for the outstanding job she has done as ASB Treasurer over the last two years (2002 and 2003) in getting the accounts and membership roll into excellent shape. This has taken an awful lot of time and effort. She was unfortunately not able to be present at this meeting as she had a long-standing commitment as an invited lecturer to the 8th International Biophysics Summer School (14-26 Sep) in Rovinj in Croatia.

A vote of thanks should also be extended to Adelle Coster, who has done an outstanding job with our website - in both upgrading it and keeping it absolutely up-to-date. Please note, as is highlighted in the newsletters, that it is now simply [www.biophysics.org.au](http://www.biophysics.org.au) and is independent of the local server address. Also, please consider submitting any interesting and colourful images from your own work that could be included on the ASB website and send these to Adelle.

As you are aware, our periodic newsletter and other flyers are being produced in pdf format and emailed out and this is generally in smaller and more universally readable format than rtf or doc.

Similarly, our conference registration is also now being available in downloadable web-based files. Also all the current and last few years' newsletters are available on our website.

I would like to especially thank Christa Critchley, Cyril Curtain, Hans Coster and Ray Norton, for comprising the Bob Robertson Medal and Young Biophysicist Award Committees and for those others, David Saint and Boris Martinac, who assessed the Student Awards. Congratulations to those who were successful recipients of those awards.

I would like to follow Ray Norton in extolling the value of maintaining our membership of FASTS, both because of their value in lobbying politicians on behalf of science and maintaining a high profile for science in the media, but also in terms of what they offer with help to ASB Executive Office bearers and keeping us up-to-date with events, Science Meets Parliament Day (Oct 14-15) etc.

### **Australian Academy of Science and National Committee for Biomedical Sciences**

Instead of a separate National Committee for Biophysics, as I have outlined in the ASB Newsletters, there is now one new **National Committee for Biomedical Sciences (NCBMS)** under the chairmanship of Philip Kuchel, and I was asked earlier in the year to be the specific representative for Biophysics. The Committee has at least one meeting a year in Canberra and communicates at other times mostly by email. With the new arrangement, the Academy is still directly paying our subscription to IUPAB and helped to cover the cost of our Professor Cris G dos Remedios (one of the IUPAB Vice-Presidents) travelling to the IUPAB Executive meeting in France earlier this year. We are also awaiting a decision from the Academy as to whether they will provide us with a seed grant for the workshop that Ray Norton and Frances Separovic are planning to run on **Protein Structure** in early 2004.

Our subscription fees are extremely low and have been at this level for some time. The executive Committee are considering modest increases, to allow for such things as more student travel and more support for conference speakers (though the latter should normally be mainly covered by the conference registrations). In addition, we also wished to look at reduced Senior Retiree rates and Honorary Membership for distinguished long-term ASB members.

We plan to put current and future proceedings on to our website, password protected for members to download.

Last year Ray Norton proposed sending a questionnaire out to students to get feedback on how we could make the Society more useful and appealing to students and recently this was sent out by email, with responses to go back to him. He has already had a few responses, but I would like to appeal to supervisors to encourage their students to respond.

The site of the 2005 meeting is not yet set, but it would seem that it should be Sydney, Brisbane or Canberra, with a possible preference to Sydney.

The next IUPAB meeting is in France in 2005. See ASB Newsletter for more details.

Reminder for anyone planning to go to the US Biophysical Society meeting next year that Abstracts deadline for that meeting is Oct 5.

**Time and Place of Next ASB Meeting in 2004:** Boris Martinac our Vice President and President-Elect is the local conference organizer for that meeting. He is shortly to give us an

update on the meeting organization to-date. COMBIO is 26-30<sup>th</sup> Sept and ASB is to be from Thur 30 Sept – Sat Oct 2.

Also, Pierre Moens, Brett Hambly and Cris dos Remedios are organising a **Fluorescence Workshop** for Sept 2004. Pierre will shortly do a presentation on this with more details, requesting that this be under the auspices of ASB. They already have about US\$5,000 funds from IUPAB.”

This report was received on the motion of Adelle Coster and Alex Hope

#### *2004 Perth Meeting*

Boris Martinac reported on arrangements for next year’s meeting, which will be held in Perth in conjunction with ComBio, from Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> of September to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. An organising committee of three has been looking at possible venues. The Esplanade Hotel at Fremantle appears to be an attractive location. It is proposed to circularise the membership to gauge interest in a Perth meeting. The meeting will also be advertised via ASBMB and the US Biophysical Society. Christa Chritchley urged that there be a substantial allocation for student travel awards.

#### *Financial Report*

This report was tabled in the absence of the Treasurer. It is appended to these minutes. Briefly, the Society is in a healthy financial position with \$29,150.35 in its term deposit and bank accounts, compared with \$21,023.24 last financial year. This increase was due to the Treasurer putting much effort into gathering membership dues of which ~\$11,900 was collected. There was some discussion about banking costs, particularly credit card handling fees. One possibility would be to charge members for using this facility since this is now permitted. Adelle Coster suggested that members be given the option of using electronic funds transfer. The report was received on the motion of Boris Martinac and Christa Chritchley. A vote of thanks was carried with acclaim to Treasurer Frances Separovic for her hard work in getting the Society’s finances in order

#### *Election of Office Bearers*

Peter Barry and Boris Martinac continue, respectively, as President and President-elect until 2004-2006 as provided in the Constitution.

In the absence of any other nominations, the meeting elected the following office bearers.

Secretary	Treasurer
Cyril Curtain	Adelle Coster
School of Physics and Materials	School of Mathematics
Engineering, Monash University	University of NSW
Clayton VIC 3800.	Sydney NSW 2052.

Immediate Past President (co-opted to Executive)  
Ray Norton  
The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research  
NMR Laboratory

381 Royal Parade, Parkville 3052.

State/Regional Representatives  
Australian Capital Territory  
Joseph Kourie  
Department of Chemistry  
Australian National University  
ACT 0200.

New South Wales  
Pierre Moens  
University of New England  
Armidale.  
NSW

New Zealand  
Geoffrey Barnes  
Institute of Fundamental Sciences  
Massey University  
Private Bag 11-222  
Palmerston North  
New Zealand

Queensland  
Christa Critchley  
Department of Botany  
The University of Queensland 4072

South Australia  
David Saint  
Physiology Department  
University of Adelaide  
Adelaide, SA 5001.

Tasmania  
Vacant

Victoria  
David Keizer  
The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute  
of Medical Research,  
NMR Laboratory,  
381 Royal Parade, Parkville 3052

Western Australia  
Jackie Wilce  
Depts of Chemistry and Biochemistry  
School of Biomedical and Chemical  
Sciences  
The University of Western Australia

### *General Business*

Pierre Moens asked that the Australian Society for Biophysics support the Fluoro2004 Workshop to be held at the Marine Science Centre, University of New England, Coffs Harbor, NSW, Australia from Sunday 19 – Thursday 23 September 2004. Although planning for this workshop is at an early stage, broadly it will aim to provide training and practical experience in a range of optical spectroscopic techniques used in the biomedical sciences. A strong emphasis will be placed on practical issues relating to the setting up of new research equipment and methodologies, as well as the exploitation of existing equipment to expand the repertoire of data gathering for which it can be used.

The total budget from this event was estimated to be \$28,500. Income would be from IUPAB, the Australian Academy of Sciences, registrations and commercial sponsorship. The ASB was asked to supply seed funding of \$5,000 to be re-paid. The Fluoro2000 workshop ran at a clear profit and the same management team, including treasurer Brett Hambly, expects 2004 to do the same. Any profit above the seed money would be returned to ASB

The target audience will be graduate research students, young postdoctoral research fellows and recently appointed junior faculty members. The audience will be international, with significant advertising within, and participation expected from Asia, especially China, Taiwan, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia and India and underdeveloped countries of Eastern Europe.

Significant travel grants and registration waivers are planned for suitable students and young post doctoral fellows, especially for those from Asian countries and Eastern Europe where funding is limited.

A number of international faculty will be invited to participate in the workshop. Most have informally indicated a willingness to participate. They include: Prof David Jameson, University of Hawaii, Prof Enrico Gratton, University of Illinois, Prof Peter Fajer, National High Magnet Field Laboratories, Florida State University, Prof Kenneth Jacobson, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Associate Professor Paul Selvin, University of Illinois. Australian faculty who will participate include: Dr Pierre Moens, University of New England, Dr Brett Hambly, University of Sydney, Prof William Sawyer, University of Melbourne, Dr Robert Learmonth, University of Southern Queensland, Dr Ron Clarke, University of Sydney, Dr Leanne Tilley, La Trobe University.

Several commercial sponsors have already indicated a willingness to support the workshop both financially and by the loan of equipment. They include: Varian, BMG, Quantum, ISS and Molecular Probes.

Both ASB2004 and ComBio will be held in Perth the week after Fluoro2004. We have canvassed with the international speakers that if possible they proceed on to ASB2004 or both meetings following the workshop to make suitable presentations at ASB. Discussion of the proposal revolved mainly around this point, with some concern that a meeting as far away as Coffs Harbour might be preferred by some people over the Perth meeting. The consensus of the meeting was that the Society support the proposal.

#### *Close of Meeting*

The President declared the meeting closed at 6.40 p.m

**NOMINATION FORM FOR ELECTION OF AN OFFICER OF THE SOCIETY**

Position for which candidate is nominated:

Candidate details:

Name.....

Address .....

.....

Telephone..... Fax .....

Email .....

Signature of candidate .....

Nominator 1 – Name .....

Address .....

.....

Telephone..... Fax .....

Email .....

Signature .....

Nominator 2 – Name .....

Address .....

.....

Telephone..... Fax .....

Email .....

Signature .....

## Notice of Appointing Proxy Form

I would like to nominate .....

who is currently a financial member of the Australian Society for Biophysics Inc. as my proxy for the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of the Society on **October 1st 2004.**

Name of person nominating proxy.....

Date.....