



AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR BIOPHYSICS

Website address

<http://www.biophysics.org.au/>

Newsletter 2003/4

ASB News

Welcome to the **fourth ASB Newsletter for 2003**. The **ASB 2003 conference** from Sep 19-20 is about to start, with what promises to be a very interesting program.

Please note the abstract deadline of Oct 5, for those thinking of going to the US Biophysical Society meeting next year.

This interim newsletter will be followed by a longer one after the ASB conference.

With kind regards,

Peter Barry, ASB President

1. ASB 2004

The ASB Conference will run in conjunction with the **COMBIO 2004 meeting** (website: www.asbmb.org.au; 26th to 30th September) in **Perth**. **Boris Martinac**, our Vice-President (President-Elect) is the local conference organiser, with the remainder of the organising committee being Jackie Wilce and Livia Hool. The meeting is to also be in that last week in September. The committee is continuing to work on the scientific program. Any suggestions for the scope and organisation of the meeting are welcome and should be sent to Boris (bmartinac@receptor.pharm.uwa.edu.au).

2. Please periodically check our ASB Website (<http://www.biophysics.org.au/>) for any up-to-date news items

In addition for ASB members, if you have any images from your work that could be included, please consult Adelle (A.Coster@unsw.edu.au).

Meeting Reports & Other News

ASB members, please keep me up-to-date with any other news. Contributions are very welcome!

1. Science Meets Parliament Day – October 14-15, 2003. Registration deadline Sept 30. Online at: <http://www.fast.org/Fsite/SmP/registration.htm>.

2. Prime Minister's Prize for Science was awarded on September 9.

Jacques Miller was awarded the **Prime Minister's Prize for Science** for his work on **immunology**; **Howard Wiseman** was awarded the **Malcolm McIntosh Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year** for his work on **quantum mechanics** and **Chris Helliwell**, was awarded

the **Science Minister's Prize for Life Scientist of the Year** for his work in **plant biotechnology**.

3. Australian Academy of Science. 26 September 2003 is the closing date for expressions of interest from individuals, organisations or consortia wishing to convene and organise a conference in the Sir Mark Oliphant Conference series. Conferences, for which up to \$90,000 is available, are to be held between 1 July 2004 and 31 December 2005. For more information, including guidelines, go to <http://www.oliphant.org.au/>.

4. US Biophysical Society Meeting in 2004. Note abstract deadline, **Oct 5, 2003.** (see Item 4 in the following section).

5. IUPAB update The next triennial International **IUPAB Congress** is in **France**, in **2005** (see Item 8 in the following section).

Other Upcoming Events

2003

1. Joint Meeting of the Australian Physiological and Pharmacological Society (APPS) and the Physiological Society of New Zealand (PSNZ)

The meeting will be held in the Anderson Stuart and Chemistry Buildings at the **University of Sydney** from *September 29 - October 1, 2003*. For further information, see APPS website: <http://www.apps.org.au/>. Abstract and early bird registration deadline *is now passed*.

2. The Fourth East Asia Biophysics Symposium (EABS). Rescheduled from May because of SARS epidemic. It will now be held in the Grand Hotel on **November 3-6, 2003** in Taipei, Taiwan. The Symposium is mainly sponsored by the Biophysics Society of Taiwan and the Institute of Biological Chemistry, Academia Sinica. Their website is <http://www.sinica.edu.tw/~biophys/>. Japan, Korea, Taiwan and China are the original founding countries of this symposium, but countries such as Singapore, Australia and India will also participate. There will be a few invited speakers from Australia and we are hoping that this conference will foster closer links between ASB and other biophysics societies in Asia, hopefully leading to some joint meetings in the future. Submission deadline for abstracts (by e-mail only) is **NOW Oct. 1, 2003**.

2004

4. 48th Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society (USA) will be held from Feb. 14-18, 2004

The next (US) Biophysical Society meeting will be held in Baltimore, Maryland on Feb. 14-18, 2004. Further details are at www.biophysics.org. **Abstract Deadline: October 5, 2003**

5. International Conference on the Science and Technology of Synthetic Metals (ICSM 2004) in June 28 - July 2, 2004, at The University of Wollongong.

Further details at <http://icsm2004.uow.edu.au> .

Amongst the more than twenty invited Plenary and Keynote speakers will be at least 3 Nobel Laureates. A list of conference themes is given below. Note the session on Biofunctional Materials. They are particularly keen to promote awareness of this event amongst Australian researchers, particularly young researchers and students. Local organiser: Daniela Ongarato

(ongarato@uow.edu.au) ICSM 2004 Executive Officer, Intelligent Polymer Research Institute, University of Wollongong.

Registration will be limited to 1000 scientists from Australia and worldwide (including several Nobel Laureates), discussing the latest developments in Synthetic Metals with world leaders in the field. Synthetic Metals such as conducting polymers and carbon nanotubes are finding application in areas as diverse as artificial muscles, electronic noses, plastic solar cells, light emitting diodes, corrosion inhibition, biological and chemical sensors, electronic textiles and nerve cell communications.

The overall conference theme will be: **SYNTHETIC METALS: The role and impact of nanoscience and nanotechnologies.**

Conference sub-themes will include:

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| *Molecular Electronics | *Energy Materials for Conversion and Storage |
| *Inherently Conductive Polymers | *Transport Phenomena in Single Molecules |
| *Organic Magnets | *Devices: Electrolytes, Interconnects
and Packaging |
| *Organic Spintronics | *Electronic Fibres and other Unconventional
Substrates |
| *Advanced Coatings | *Organic Conductors and Superconductors |
| *Nanotubes and Nanostructures | |
| *Biofunctional Materials | |
| *Materials for Advanced Display Technologies | |

6. The 5th International Conference in Biological Physics (ICBP2004) will be held from August 23-27, 2004.

This will be held at Chalmers University of Technology & Gothenburg University, Gothenburg, Sweden, and that the call for abstract is open until May 31, 2004. Registration & Reservation form is open under their Website after September 15, 2003. More information can be found on the Conference Website: <<http://fy.chalmers.se/icbp2004>> (open July 15, 2003). The intended topics are divided in 11 subsessions: - Single molecule studies - Nanotechnology and surface science in biology - Biosensors and medical applications - Charge transfer in biomolecules, and photobiology - Structure and dynamics of biomolecules (Protein folding) - Dynamical models of DNA - Physics of subcellular structures - Modelling aspects of cell biology - Physics of the neural system - Evolution and origin of life - Complex systems in biological physics Pre-registration can be made by an email to our local agent info@inspiroevent.se <<mailto:info@inspiroevent.se>> who will also answer your questions. Pre-registration is not binding, but will entitle you to receive the second circulation including more detailed information on the program and a poster of the Conference. A satellite meeting on (physical aspects of) gene regulation, DNA-replication, and cell cycle control will take place August 20-21, 2004, at the conference venue. See further information at the Conference Web site. The Scientific Secretary is Leif Matsson, Department of Applied Physics Chalmers University of Technology & Gothenburg University SE-41296 Gothenburg, Sweden

2005

7. XXXV IUPS 2005 Congress – “From Genomes to Functions”

Advance notice of the 35th Congress of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS). This will be held in **San Diego, CA., March 31-April 5, 2005.**

Website: <http://www.iups2005.org/index.htm>.

8. IUPAB 2005 Congress.

This will be held in **Montpellier, France**, on **August 27 to September 1, 2005** as a joint meeting with EBSA (European Biophysical Societies Association). Other information may be obtained from their website: <http://www.iupab.org>.

Notices & Special Reports

National News

1. Fulbright Scholarships for study, research and collaboration in the United States.

The Fulbright Scholarship Program is the largest and most prestigious educational scholarship program in the world. The Australian-American Fulbright Commission annually provides 20 - 25 scholarships (valued up to \$A20-40,000) for Australians to visit the US, and for Americans to visit Australia. The applications for 2004 closed on the 31 August 2003.

US Fulbright Senior Specialist Program - supports Australian educational institutions in bringing US Senior Specialists to Australia for two to six week periods to collaborate on curriculum and faculty development, institutional planning and a variety of other activities. See <http://fulserv1/nav/01frame.htm> for information and application. Applications for 2004 close Friday 24 October, 2003.

2. FASTS (Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies)

September FASTS Update follows

A quick update on FASTS matters, being sent to you as President or Executive Officer of a Member Society of FASTS.

1. MPs FLOCK TO REGISTER FOR "SCIENCE MEETS PARLIAMENT"

So far 127 Members and Senators have signed up for meetings with scientists for 2003, including a number of Cabinet Ministers. They have nominated water as their number one issue for discussion, but there are at least ten Parliamentarians who wish to talk about each of the 17 priority research areas.

2. BUT HOW MANY SCIENTISTS?

Scientist registrations are trickling in, with 50 to date. If you are coming, please register as soon as possible. This helps us match scientists with Parliamentarians, and let everyone know who will be in the meetings. Presidents of a Member Society, have one complementary registration. They have the option of using this yourself, or could support the attendance of one of their colleagues, perhaps a younger scientist. You can register on-line at the FASTS web site: www.fast.org

3. BREAKFAST WITH SCIENCE - AGE LIMITS APPLY!

There will be a special breakfast for young Parliamentarians and young scientists, to enable the cabinet ministers of the future to meet the next generation of professors and heads of innovative companies. Greg Hill (Coalition) and Tanya Plibersek (ALP) have agreed to co-chair this breakfast.

4. TWO SPEAKERS FOR THE SCIENCE-INDUSTRY-FINANCE DINNER

The dinner on Wednesday night is an optional extra for people attending SmP. It will be an intriguing and engaging evening, drawing together scientists, Parliamentarians and people from industry and finance. Speakers at the dinner are: John Wolpert is the Senior Engineering Manager of the Austin, Texas-based Extreme Blue lab, an incubator of talent, technology and new business innovation. He has been a theatrical director, the owner of a high-tech marketing firm, an enterprise database developer, and a member of two IBM hot teams.

Professor Graham Macdonald joined Merck Sharp & Dohme (Australia) after 24 years at UNSW's Prince Henry Hospital School of Medicine. In 2001, he became Director of Medical and Scientific Affairs at MSD with responsibility for seeking opportunities to license in IP relating to new pharmaceutical treatments,

drug targets and platform technology. He is now External Licensing Coordinator for Merck & Co in Australia.

5. COUNCIL AGM AND BOARD

SmP will be followed by the FASTS Council meeting on Thursday 16 October at CSIRO HQ in Limestone Ave, Canberra. Council runs from 9 to 12.30, and includes the FASTS AGM.

All Presidents are invited to attend (or to nominate a proxy.) Please send names to the FASTS office: fasts@anu.edu.au. Professor Snow Barlow will succeed Chris Fell as President of FASTS at the end of the Board meeting that afternoon.

6. ELECTIONS

A new executive will be elected at the AGM, with the following positions to be filled: ice-president (2) Secretary Treasurer. Nominations should be submitted to the FASTS office. We can help you with any questions you may have about the positions.

Regards, Toss Gascoigne (Executive Director, FASTS)

Their current Executive is:

President:	Professor Chris Fell
President-elect:	Professor Snow Barlow (to be President in November 2003)
Vice-Presidents:	Dr David Denham Professor Rob Norris
Secretary:	Dr John O'Connor
Treasurer:	Dr John Rice
Chair Policy	Dr Ken Baldwin

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Job Vacancies and Notices

We have implemented a Jobs page on the ASB website, which, as indicated above, is being looked after very ably by Adelle Coster (A.Coster@unsw.edu.au). Please send notices to her.

Peter H. Barry
 President, Australian Society for Biophysics.

Sep 17, 2003

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