



AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR BIOPHYSICS

Website address

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

Newsletter 2004/4

ASB News

Welcome to the **fourth ASB Newsletter for 2004**. Very shortly many of you will be arriving at what promises to be an excellent and exciting **ASB 2004 meeting in Perth/Fremantle** from **September 29th - October 2nd**. A number of you will already be at the Fluoro 2004 Workshop and I hope that you find that workshop really valuable and interesting.

As a society, we send our congratulations to **Prof. Graeme Clark AC**, for receiving the Prime Minister's Award for Science on Sept 8 and to **Dr Jamie Rossjohn** and **Prof. Ben Eggleton** for receiving other 2004 science awards on that same evening (see **Item 4, P. 2**).

Please note new info on **ICMRBS 2005** meeting in India, with **Oct 30** deadline (**Item 6, P. 3**).

Looking forward to seeing many of you in Perth, and for those ASB members coming to the meeting, please do attend the AGM and put forward your views on ASB matters.

With kind regards,

Peter

Peter H Barry, President, Australian Society for Biophysics

1. ASB 2004

If you haven't yet checked out the most recent programme (updated Sept. 21) for the **28th Annual ASB Conference**, to be held from **29th Sept – 2nd Oct** at the **Hotel Esplanade in Fremantle**, near **Perth**, WA, please check on <http://www.biophysics.org.au/Meetings/2004/>. Note that ASB registration and open bar will take place at the Hotel Esplanade on the evening of Wednesday Sept. 29th. Two buses will take the registrants to the Burswood Resort in the morning of Thursday Sept. 30th and back to the Esplanade in the evening.

2. European Journal of Biophysics (EJB) Papers from ASB 2004

Again, we are offering an excellent opportunity for students and younger scientists, and those a bit more senior, to publish the work which they are presenting at ASB 2004 in a good quality journal, the **European Journal of Biophysics**. The manuscripts can all be submitted electronically to <http://ejb.manuscriptcentral.com/>, where the instructions for authors can also be found. The aim will be to have prospective authors from this meeting request their papers be published as a group. This does not in any way should not delay the acceptance of their papers but it is good for the profile of the ASB if they request the papers be grouped as our proceedings.

3. IUPAB Congress 2011 or 2014 bids

The decision about the possibility of ASB bidding to hold the IUPAB 2011 or 2014 in Australia will be discussed at the Perth ASB AGM. The current thinking of the ASB Exec is that this is a huge undertaking and that 2011 may be too soon.

4. Prime Minister's Prize for Science and Other Science Awards

Earlier this month, on Sept 8, the **Prime Minister's prize for Science** was awarded to **Professor Graeme Clark AC**, Head of the Department of Otolaryngology at The University of Melbourne and of the Cochlear Implant Clinic, and Director of the Bionic Ear Institute, for his pioneering work on the bionic ear. In addition, two other young scientists were recognised with major awards at the same ceremony. **Dr Jamie Rossjohn**, who leads Monash University's Protein Crystallography Unit, received the **Science Minister's Prize for Life Scientist of the Year** for his work on the shape of proteins. **Professor Ben Eggleton** from the ARC Centre for Ultrahigh bandwidth Devices for Optical Systems at the University of Sydney, who leads a research team that plans to change our (online) lives, received the **Malcolm McIntosh Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year**. In addition there were again awards to two Science teachers. It is interesting that the research areas of Professor Clark and Dr Rossjohn are very biophysical. Further information on these awards may be found at: <http://www.scienceinpublic.com/scienceprize>.

5. Tax-exempt Donations Request for the R N Robertson Fellowship

This is another reminder that donations to the above fellowship fund are tax exempt and information about making a donation can be obtained from Dr Hank Greenway (<mailto:hank@cyllene.uwa.edu.au>). For further information, see previous Newsletter 2004/2.

6. ASB 2005

The plan is that Canberra will be the venue of a combined meeting of the ASB with the **Australian Physiological Society (AuPS)**; previously APPS) in **Canberra**. **Dr Paul Smith** will now be the ASB local secretary, with help from Angela Dulhunty and others. Dates are still being discussed. At present it seems **most likely** to be in **late September**, to give people time to recover from IUPS in San Diego (March 31 – April 5) and IUPAB (Aug. 27 – Sep. 1).

7. Australian Academy of Science News

For general Academy news see their website at <http://www.science.org.au>, and for their most recent newsletter (No. 59), see <http://www.science.org.au/newsletters/aas59.pdf>. See also P. 4 of this newsletter.

8. IUPAB 2008 update

The next triennial **15th IUPAB Congress** will be in **Montpellier, France**, in **April/May 2005** (see Item 8 in the following section).

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

In addition for ASB members, if you have any images from your work that could be included, please consult Adelle (<mailto: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!

List of the Above and Other Upcoming Events follows

2004

1. ASB 2004. The 28th Annual ASB Conference will be held next week in Fremantle, near Perth, WA, from **Wed 29th Sept – Sat. 2nd Oct.** For information see [Item 1 on P. 1.](#)

2. Shanghai International Conference on Physiological Biophysics (Shanghai ICPB '04) will be held in Shanghai, China on **November 9-13, 2004.** For Current program and further details, please visit the conference web site <http://www.ssbiophysics.com.cn/sicpb/>.

3. International Congress of Nanotechnology 2004 will be held on **November 7-11, 2004** in San Francisco USA. For further information see: <http://www.nanotechcongress.com/registration.htm>



4. The Australian Health & Medical Research Congress will be held in Sydney from **21-26th November, 2004.** The conference URL is: www.ahmrcongress.org.au.

5. Medical Sciences Congress 2004 “Celebrating New Zealand Health Research” will be held in **Queenstown, Nov.30 –Dec 3, 2004.** This will be the **inaugural joint meeting of New Zealand biomedical and medical societies.** **Registration** (early bird closes on **Oct. 30**) **is now open** at <http://www.medsci.co.nz>.

2005

6. The 21st International Conference on Magnetic Resonance in Biological Systems (ICMRBS 2005) from Jan. 16 to Jan. 21, 2005 in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India. The deadline for **receipt of abstracts, registration, and housing is October 30, 2004.**

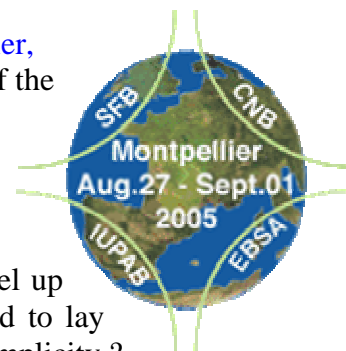
The 21st ICMRBS will bring together a broad spectrum of magnetic resonance experts focused primarily on developing an in-depth overview of the current field status and on determining new directions and cutting edges wherein magnetic resonance will have maximal impact on important biological problems. Please visit www.tifr.res.in/~icmrbs for details.

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

The web site for the 35th Congress of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (**IUPS**) has been updated and can now accept registration and housing reservations. The IUPS Congress will be held in **San Diego, CA., March 31-April 5, 2005.** For further details, see website: <http://www.faseb.org/meetings/iups2005>. **Attendees are encouraged to make their housing reservations early in order to secure your first choice of hotel room.** For further information about traveling to the US please visit: <http://travel.state.gov/visa>.

8. IUPAB 2005 Congress.

The next International Biophysics Congress will be held in **Montpellier, France**, on **August 27 to September 1, 2005** as a combined meeting of the International Union of Pure and Applied Biophysics (**IUPAB, 15th Congress**) and the European Biophysical Societies' Association (**EBSA, 5th Congress**). The French partners are the Société Française de Biophysique and the Comité National de Biophysique.



All fields of Biophysics will be considered, from the molecular level up to integrated systems and organisms. Some Symposia are intended to lay emphasis on complex systems; with motto "Biophysics: the end of simplicity ?

The Preliminary Programme and Schedule as well as general information are available on the Congress Web Site: <http://worldbiophysics2005.sfbphys.org/>
The deadline for Abstract Submission will be April 15th 2005, and late registrations will be after May 2005.

Notices & Special Reports - National News

FASTS (Federation of Scientific and Technological Societies) News

Their August FASTS Newsletter is appended to the end of this ASB Newsletter

2004 Science Meets Parliament – a reminder that this year it has been cancelled because of the federal election.

Some Information from the Australian Academy of Science

This is advance notice of an **Annual Symposium** on **6 May 2005** on "Recent advances in stem cell research and therapies".

Some other Information about National Committees of the Academy

A reminder that the **ASB** has one representative on the **National Committee for the Biomedical Sciences** (currently me) and that the **Chair** of the Committee is **Professor Philip Kuchel**, also an **ASB** member and a former **ASB** President. For other recent information see the previous **ASB Newsletter** (2004/2). The Committee met physically in **Canberra** in 2003, and communicated by email in 2004.

SOME DIARY DATES 2004, WHICH MAY BE RELEVANT, ARE LISTED

30 September. Closing date for nominations for the Edgeworth David Medal, the Clarke Medal and the Walter Burfitt Prize (<http://nsw.royalsoc.org.au/awards.html>).

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** (<mailto:A.Coster@unsw.edu.au>). Please send notices to her.

Peter H Barry
 President, Australian Society for Biophysics,
 Sept 24, 2004

ASB Council

Executive

President (2003-4)

Prof Peter Barry

School of Physiology and Pharmacology
The University of New South Wales
Sydney NSW 2052.

Phone +61-2-938 51101

FAX +61-2-938 51099

<mailto:P.Barry@unsw.edu.au>

Vice-President (President Elect)

A/Prof Boris Martinac

Department of Pharmacology
QEII Medical Centre
The University of Western Australia
Crawley, WA 6009.

Phone +61 8 9346 2986

FAX +61 8 9346 3469

bmartinac@receptor.pharm.uwa.edu.au

Secretary

Dr Cyril Curtain

School of Physics and Materials Engineering
Monash University
Clayton VIC 3800.

Phone (03) 9397 2421

<mailto:ccurtain@unimelb.edu.au>

Treasurer

Dr Adelle Coster

Department of Applied Mathematics
School of Mathematics
University of New South Wales
Sydney NSW 2052

Phone (02) 938 57048

Fax: (02) 938 57123

<mailto:A.Coster@unsw.edu.au>

Immediate Past President (co-opted to Executive)

Prof Ray Norton

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

Phone (03) 9903 9650

FAX (03) 9903 9655

<mailto:rnorton@wehi.edu.au>

Also,

ASB Public Officer

A/Prof Frances Separovic

School of Chemistry
University of Melbourne
Melbourne VIC 3010

Phone (03) 8344 6464

FAX (03) 9347 5180

<mailto:fs@unimelb.edu.au>

State/Regional Representatives

ACT

Prof Angela Dulhunty
Muscle Research Group
JCSMR,
Australian National University
PO Box 334 Canberra City ACT 2601
Phone: +61 (0)2 6125 4491
Fax: +61 (0)2 6125 4761
<mailto:angela.dulhunty@anu.edu.au>

NZ

Dr Geoffrey Barnes
Institute of Fundamental Sciences
Massey University
Private Bag 11-222
Palmerston North
New Zealand
Phone +64 6 356 9099
FAX +64 6 350 5682
<mailto:g.r.barnes@massey.ac.nz>

SA

Dr David Saint
Physiology Department
University of Adelaide
Adelaide, SA 5001.
Phone +61 (0)8 8303 3931
FAX +61 (0)8 8303 3356
<mailto:david.saint@adelaide.edu.au>

Victoria

Dr David Keizer
Structural Biology (NMR)
The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical,
Research,
1G Royal Parade, Parkville.
Victoria, Australia, 3050
Phone +61 (0)3 9345 2555
FAX +61 (0)3 9347 0852
<mailto:dkeizer@wehi.edu.au>

NSW

Dr Pierre Moens
School of Biological, Biomedical
and Molecular Sciences
The University of New England
Armidale NSW 2351
Phone: +61 (0)2 6773 3740
FAX: +61 (0)2 6773 3267
<mailto:pmoens@pobox.une.edu.au>

Queensland

Prof Christa Critchley
Department of Botany
The University of Queensland
St Lucia QLD 4072
Phone +61 (0)7 33653470
FAX +61 (0)7 33651699
mobile 0407 639394
<mailto:c.critchley@botany.uq.edu.au>

Tasmania

Dr Ian A Newman
School of Mathematics and Physics
University of Tasmania
GPO Box 252-21
Hobart, TAS 7001
Phone: +61 (0)3 6226-2422
FAX: +61 (0)3 6226-2410
<mailto:ian.newman@utas.edu.au>

WA

Dr Jackie Wilce
Depts of Chemistry and Biochemistry
School of Biomedical and Chemical
Sciences
The University of Western Australia
Crawley, WA 6009.
Phone +61 (0)8 9380 3337
FAX +61 (0)8 9380 1148
<mailto:jwilce@declan.chem.uwa.edu.au>

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1. Science Meets Parliament wins Eureka award

Dr Ken Baldwin has won the *2004 Australian Government Eureka Prize for Promoting Understanding of Science* for initiating and championing the annual FASTS' **'Science meets Parliament'**. Ken is shown receiving the award from Minister the Hon. Peter McGauran.

Ken has been an outstanding long-term contributor to FASTS. He is the Chair of the FASTS' Policy Committee and in his spare time he is a Senior Fellow and Deputy Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Quantum-Atom Optics at the Australian National University.

'Science meets Parliament' is a two-way street that has transformed both politicians' understanding of the diversity and potential of science and scientists' understanding of parliamentary processes.

This award not only recognises Ken's seminal contributions but also the hard work of the FASTS' office and the hundreds of scientists and politicians who have participated in the event over the past 5 years.

Incidentally, the next Science meets Parliament will be in March 2005. Dates will be finalised after the Parliamentary calendar is announced later this year.



2. FASTS Election Statement 2004

The FASTS' 2004 Election Statement addresses "Real Priorities" for the next Australian Government by specifying "Science and technology for Australia's social, economic and environmental benefit".

FASTS argues that science and technology lie at the heart of Australia's national development. They help:

- Deepen our knowledge of ourselves, our environment, our world;
- Establish new industries;
- Enable existing industries to develop new and improved products and processes;
- Meet future opportunities and challenges; and
- Provide a sustainable and healthy environment.

During the 2004 election campaign Australia's scientists and technologists will be carefully evaluating the commitments of our political parties and politicians. Long-term vision and long-term commitments are required if Australia is to fully capture the benefits of Australian innovations and inventiveness and meet the social, environmental and economic challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

The complete Election Statement is available at www.fastsof.org

3. FASTS' Calendar for 2004

The main events in the FASTS calendar for the second half of 2004 are shown below. The dates for Science Meets Parliament will be set as soon as the Federal Election date is announced. Note that the Annual General Meeting and the Annual Council Meeting have been re-scheduled for November 24th.

Date	Function	Venue/time
8 September	Launch of Beyond Brain Drain	Parliament House, Canberra
5 October	Exec meeting	FASTS office 8.30 am
2 November	Exec meeting	FASTS office 8.30 am
24 November	AGM & Council Meeting	Canberra
7 December	Exec meeting	FASTS office 8.30 am

4. Beyond the 'Brain Drain'

FASTS participated in an important workshop in February this year on the 'brain drain' issue. Key elements that came out of the workshop include:

- a) Recognition of the dynamics of the competitive global labour market for highly skilled intellectual workers;
- b) The relative poverty of the typical 'brain drain' rhetoric concerning what is going on; and
- c) The emergence of a large Australian diaspora of about 1 million Australians overseas – a remarkable networking and knowledge resource that needs to be tapped into.

On September 8th, a report that came out of the workshop – *Beyond Brain Drain: Mobility, Competitiveness and Scientific Excellence* edited by Dr Fiona Wood of the Centre for Higher Education Management and Policy at UNE will be launched at Parliament House.

FASTS is distributing the report which will be available after the launch on our website.

If anyone would like to attend the launch (11.30am, Wednesday 8 September at Parliament House, Canberra) would they please get in touch with Bradley Smith, FASTS Executive Director at fasts@anu.edu.au or 0408-511-261.

5. FASTS Structure and Constitution

The FASTS' Board has decided that the FASTS' structure and Constitution need to be reconsidered with a new constitution to be agreed on at the 2005 Annual Council Meeting (ACM).

A discussion paper will be circulated for debate at the 2004 ACM to be held in Canberra on the 24th of November. That discussion will inform the direction that consideration of a new structure and Constitution will take.

6. FASTS Conference in 2005 – The Governance of Science

Next year FASTS intends hosting a conference to examine some key issues on the Governance of Science.

The Board believes it is very timely for a rigorous and critical examination of the organisation and governance of science and technology in the light of significant global changes in the funding and structure of science and research over the past two decades.

Characteristics of these changes include:

- Development of new modes of knowledge production – disciplinary based research supplemented/surpassed by trans-disciplinary, problem-based research with more defined time frames and more informal networking, communication and dissemination.
- Governments increasingly linking R&D investment to economic outcomes – knowledge economies;
- Politicisation of science inputs into public policy – climate change, water;
- Scepticism and cutbacks in Government's investment in 'big science' – eg. super-conducting super-collider debate in early 1990s in USA;
- More instrumental, vocationally oriented 'user-pays', 'student choice' models of education with consequences for science as generalist degree;
- Changing academic culture – the entrepreneurial university;
- Emergence of 'triple-helix' arrangements – state, industry, publicly funded research;
- Emergence of new modes of science publication – 'open access', 'author pays'; and
- Declining membership of science societies.

These changes raise important questions including:

- What is the role and prospects of science societies?
- How does the practice of science sit with changes in accountability, transparency and institutional governance imperatives?
- Is the hierarchical structure of science, particularly academic science, a strong base for effective representation?
- How should science represent itself to scientists, community and Government in this changing political, economic and institutional climate?;
- Who are our scientists and who chooses (informal recognition in contrast to formal accreditation of professions)?

- What role and representation for the 'silent' voices in science – lab technicians, post-docs, science and technology in the VET sector, RAs, industry based scientists and so forth?

It is intended that the conference will be held in the 2nd half of 2005.

7. Government announces changes to Biosecurity Australia

The Government has announced a number of changes to Biosecurity Australia – the organisation that has oversight of trade related quarantine issues. These changes have come about due to concerns raised by FASTS and agricultural producers concerning how robust Biosecurity Australia's processes were in relation to Import Risk Assessments (IRAs).

Biosecurity Australia will remain within DFAT – we think it should be a statutory agency – but there will be stronger scientific oversight of the IRA process. It is still not clear how the new system will operate but FASTS welcomes the changes as a step in the right direction.

FASTS' concerns on Biosecurity Australia were raised in our submissions to the two inquiries on the AUS-US Free Trade Agreement (the agreement specified BA was the lead Australian agency on the bi-lateral committee established to mediate sanitary and phytosanitary measures and facilitate trade).

Our submissions generated considerable media coverage and are available on www.fast.org

8. New CEO for the Australian Research Council

FASTS would like to congratulate Professor Peter Høj on his appointment as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the Australian Research Council (ARC).

Professor Høj commences a five year term from 1 October 2004. Professor Høj was educated at the University of Copenhagen majoring in Biochemistry and Chemistry. He has a Master of Science Degree in biochemistry and genetics and a PhD in photosynthesis.

Since arriving in Australia in 1987 he has worked as a Lecturer & Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry at La Trobe University and Professor of Viticultural Science and Oenology at the University of Adelaide. In 1992 he was awarded the Boehringer-Mannheim medal by the Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Since becoming Managing Director of the Australian Wine Research Institute in 1997 he has implemented a cross-disciplinary approach to strategic research and development. The success of the Institute was recognised by an Australian Wine Industry Award in 2002.

Professor Høj is also a shared recipient of the SA Great Award (2002), Science category, for the National Wine Industry Research Cluster Pty Ltd establishment, and the Centenary Medal (2003) for service through wine research and science.

Professor Høj has extensive experience as a member of various science and research committees, including the Steering Committee for the McGauchie Review in 2003 on collaboration between universities and publicly funded research agencies and the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council.

9. Exclusive offer for FASTS Membership from NewScientist

Reed Publishing offers an EXCLUSIVE **NewScientist magazine** subscription for all members of FASTS' Member Societies.

NewScientist is the world's leading news weekly reporting on the latest developments in science and technology and its impact on the way we live.

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