



AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR BIOPHYSICS

Website address

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

Newsletter 2005/2

ASB News

Welcome to the **second ASB Newsletter for 2005**. I would like to remind you of the **AuPS/ASB 2005 Meeting in Canberra from Wednesday, Sep 28th till Saturday, Oct 1st**. See **Item 1** following and the website links for more information about the meeting. It promises to be a great meeting with a number of interesting symposia and excellent selection of national and international speakers. I hope to see you all this year in Canberra.

Also a brief reminder on the dates for the next **IUPAB Congress in France from Saturday, August 27 until Thursday, September 1, 2005** (see **Item 3** following).

With best regards,

Boris

Boris Martinac

President, Australian Society for Biophysics

1. AuPS/ASB 2005



Canberra is on track as the venue for a combined meeting of the ASB with the **Australian Physiological Society (AuPS; previously APPS)**. Dates have been set for **Wednesday, September 28th till Saturday, October 1st**. All scientific sessions will be held at the Canberra Rydges Lakeside Hotel. A number of high-profile speakers have already agreed to participate including Franciso Bezanilla (Voltage-gated ion channels), A. William Rutherford (Photosynthesis), D. Peter Tieleman (Membrane Biophysics), Owen Hamill (TRP channels), Eric Honoré (2P-domain K channels) and Masahiro Sokabe (Biophysics of Mechanotransduction). **The deadline for receipt of abstracts is Friday 29 July.** For program outline of the meeting and further details please visit <http://www.aups.org.au/Meetings/200509/>.

2. Ion Channel Modelling Workshop

This is to be held **in conjunction with the AuPS/ASB meeting in Canberra on Tuesday, Sept 27th**. More than 20 participants registered for the workshop. No further applications will be accepted. The workshop will provide an introduction to a range of techniques used for modelling biological ion channels. The main topics of the **Workshop** include Homology Modelling, Poisson-Nernst Planck (PNP) Theory, Brownian dynamics and Molecular dynamics. If you like to know more about the workshop, please contact **Prof Shin-Ho Chung** at shin-ho.chung@anu.edu.au.

3. IUPAB 2005 update

The next International Biophysics Congress will be held in **Montpellier, France, from Saturday, August 27 until Thursday, 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 and general information are available on: <http://worldbiophysics2005.sfbiophys.org/>, the Congress Web Site. **N.B. The deadline for Abstract Submission with Registration has past. Deadline for early registration without Abstract Submission is April 30th. Late registrations will be after May 2005.**



4. European Biophysics Journal (EBJ) Papers from ASB 2004

The special issue of EBJ dedicated to the ASB 2004 Meeting in Perth is on track. Several papers scheduled for the publication in the special issue have already been published online and can be seen by visiting **"Online version available"** at: <http://www.springeronline.com/sgw/cda/frontpage/0,11855,5-10103-70-1036476-0,00.html>.

5. FASTS News

On Monday, 11th of April I attended an open session of the FASTS Board meeting in Melbourne to which the Board and Executive of FASTS invited presidents of member societies. The major theme of the open session was “Research Quality Framework: Context, Issues and Consultation”. Anne Byrne from DEST spoke of the Research Quality Framework (RQF) being a Backing Australia's Ability (BAA) initiative as the Government wants greater transparency and public accountability to indicate how Australia is positioned in research efforts. The Chair, Sir Garath Roberts, will be looking at all publicly funded research agencies, not just universities and the resulting framework will determine the distribution of funding in the future. The Government’s decision to develop an Australian RQF to measure the quality of research in universities and publicly funded research agencies arising from the need for greater accountability for public investment in research and to demonstrate the quality and impact of publicly funded research will introduce a major change in the way Australian universities are funded.

6. Australian Academy of Science News

For general Academy news see their website at <http://www.science.org.au>. The Academy's latest Newsletter (December 2004 - March 2005, Number 61) is now available online. Please visit <http://www.science.org.au/newsletters/aas61.pdf>.

7. Rewarding Outstanding Australian Science

The 2005 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes are now open with a record 10 prizes to reward outstanding Australian research. The prizes cover many areas of science including new awards for leadership in science, bioinformatics research and for research which minimises the use of animals or animal products as well as for science communication and education. Enter yourself, your team or your colleagues to help promote and reward outstanding Australian science. For more information and entry details go to www.amonline.net.au or email eureka@austmus.gov.au or phone 02 9320 6483. **Entries close Friday May 13.**

8. Prime Minister's Prizes for Science

The five science prizes are awarded annually for outstanding achievements in science and science teaching. The prizes include The Prime Minister's Prize for Science (\$300,000); The Science Minister's Prize for Life Scientist of the Year (\$50,000); The Malcolm McIntosh Prizes for Physical Scientist of the Year (\$50,000); The Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Primary Schools (\$50,000); and The Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Secondary Schools (\$50,000). They are designed to highlight to the Australian community the outstanding work being done in universities, research centres and schools across Australia. **The nomination period has been extended to Friday, May 6, 2005.** Consider nominating worthy colleagues for any of the five prestigious awards and/or distribute the information amongst the staff of your organisation

9. Notice of Bob Robertson Award for 2005

This is a reminder for call for nomination for the 2005 Bob Robertson Award. **The deadline for applications for Bob Robertson Medal is closing on the 20th of May.**

Nominations should be sent to the **National Secretary, Dr Cyril Curtin**, at c.curtain@unimelb.edu.au. For eligibility criteria, application procedure and other details please visit the ASB website at <http://www.biophysics.org.au/>.

10. Notice of Young Biophysicist Award for 2005

Young ASB members, who are Ph.D. candidates, or within 5 years following the award of a Ph.D. or equivalent degree, should consider sending an application for the 2005 Young Biophysicist Award. **The deadline for the YBA applications is Friday, 29th of July** corresponding to the deadline for submission of abstracts for AuPS/ASB 2005 joint meeting. Applications should be sent to the **National Secretary, Dr Cyril Curtin** at c.curtain@unimelb.edu.au. For details of the application procedure please visit the ASB website at <http://www.biophysics.org.au/>.

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

A reminder that donations to the above fellowship fund are tax exempt. For more information contact **Dr Hank Greenway** (<mailto:hank@cyllene.uwa.edu.au>) or see ASB Newsletter 2004/2.

12. 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, from now on please keep me up-to-date with any other news. Your contributions are most welcome!

Other Upcoming Events

2005

1. ComBio 2005 in Adelaide

ComBio is the major ASBMB conference held each year, in association with Australian and New Zealand Society for Cell and Developmental Biology, the Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and the Australian Society of Plant Scientists. **ComBio 2005** is scheduled on **Sunday, September 25 – Thursday, 29 in Adelaide Convention Centre**. In addition to a full scientific programme, ComBio2005 will include activities in honour of the 50th anniversary of the Australian Biochemical Society/Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. For the information on the conference please visit the following website: - <http://www.asbmb.org.au/combio.html>.

2. 2005 International Conference on Aquaporins

International Conference on Aquaporins is scheduled on **September 10-13, 2005 in Chateau du Lac, Genval (Brussels)**. A preliminary program includes physiology of water and salt transport, cell biology and pharmacology as well as structure and function of aquaporins. For general information, registration and accommodation please visit <http://www.aquaporins2005.com/program.htm>.

3. 43rd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Biophysics Society (JBS)

43rd Annual Meeting of JBS is scheduled on November 23-25, 2005 in Sapporo, Hokkaido. More than 1500 participants from various Asian countries are expected to attend the meeting. The organizers are planning to schedule a joint Symposium between the JBS and ASB. The Symposium should provide an opportunity to strengthen scientific ties and exchange between the Japanese and Australian society.

Notices & Special Reports - National News

Some Information from the Australian Academy of Science

Population and environment – what's the connection?

The world's population is growing, and many scientists and conservationists say that the natural environment is deteriorating as a result, but the relationship between environmental problems and human population growth is complex and not fully understood. To read more about it please visit <http://www.science.org.au/nova/index.htm> .

Job Vacancies and Notices

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

Boris Martinac
President, Australian Society for Biophysics,
April 22, 2005

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