



AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR BIOPHYSICS

Website address

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

Newsletter 2005/3

ASB News

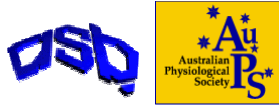
Welcome to the **third ASB Newsletter for 2005**. Preparations for the **ASB/AuPS 2005 Meeting in Canberra** are progressing well. The deadline for the abstract submission will be **29 July 2005**. The online submission and registration facility will be available shortly. For further information and update on the meeting check the website links (**Item 1** following). I hope to see you all at the meeting this year.

With best regards,

Boris

Boris Martinac

President, Australian Society for Biophysics



1. Update on ASB/AuPS 2005

A combined meeting of the ASB with the Australian Physiological Society (AuPS; previously APPS) will be held in Canberra from Wednesday, September 28th till Saturday, October 1st, 2005. All scientific sessions will be held at the Canberra Rydges Lakeside Hotel. The scientific program of the meeting includes symposia on “Ion Channel Gating”, “Functional Roles of Potassium Channels in the Vasculature”, “Membrane Protein Structure and Interactions”, “Physiology Teaching in the 21st Century – Trends, Challenges and Innovations”, “Membrane Associated Proteins that Regulate Muscle Contraction”, “Regulation of Membrane Transport, Epithelial Transport of Ions and Metabolites”, and “Ion Pump Function and Regulation”. A number of high-profile speakers have agreed to participate at the meeting. Francisco Bezanilla (“Voltage-gating in Ion Channels”), Nigel Unwin (“Structure and Gating Mechanisms of the Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptor”) and Peter Tielman (“Pores, Channels and Transporters: Computational Studies of Membrane Transport”) are scheduled as plenary speakers. This year AuPS invited speaker is Angela Dulhunty (“Excitation-Contraction Coupling from 1969 to 2005”). **The deadline for receipt of abstracts is Friday 29 July.** For further details please visit <http://www.biophysics.org.au/>.

2. Ion Channel Modelling Workshop

The workshop will be held in conjunction with the AuPS/ASB meeting in Canberra on Tuesday, Sept 27th, 2005. It 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. Two places became vacant in the workshop due to cancellations. If you are interested to sign up for it and like to know more about the workshop, please contact **Prof Shin-Ho Chung** at <mailto: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. 1298 Participants from 59 Countries will participate at the Congress. A total of 1087 communications have been scheduled for presentation in 25 Symposia and a large number of poster sessions. Some symposia are intended to lay emphasis on complex systems; with motto "Biophysics: the end of simplicity?" The full scientific program is available and can be downloaded from the Congress website at: <http://worldbiophysics2005.sfbophys.org/index.html>. Deadlines for early registration and abstract submission have passed. **Late registrations (No Abstract) are still open until the end of June.**



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

The special issue of EBJ dedicated to the ASB 2004 Meeting in Perth is still in preparation. A number of papers however, scheduled for publication in the special issue have 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. Australian Academy of Science News

Annual Report of the Academy for 2004-2005 is now available (as a 62-page PDF file) at www.science.org.au/reports/2005anrep.pdf. For general Academy news see their website at <http://www.science.org.au>.

6. ATSE Clunies Ross Award for 2006

The ATSE Clunies Ross Award has developed successfully since 1991 into one of the pre-eminent awards for scientists, technologists and innovators across Australia and has to date recognised the achievements of eighty-six outstanding people. The mission of the ATSE Clunies Ross Foundation is to advance science, its communication and application to best benefit a developing Australia and the challenges of our global environment through the promotion of the Award winners and their contributions to Australia. Nominations are now sought for the Award for 2006. Details of the Foundation and the Award, together with profiles of all Award winners are available on the website: <http://www.cluniesross.org.au>. The Nomination form is also available on this website in both pdf and Word document formats. The closing date for nominations is **Friday, 29th July 2005**. Winners will be announced at the Award presentation dinner to be held in Melbourne on Wednesday, 26th April 2006.

8. Bob Robertson Award for 2005

Nominations for the Bob Robertson Award closed on May 20. The name of the successful Awardee will only be made public at the introduction to the Bob Robertson Award lecture at the ASB/AuPS meeting in Canberra.

9. Young Biophysicist Award for 2005

This is a reminder for young ASB members, who are Ph.D. candidates, or within 5 years following the award of a Ph.D. or equivalent degree, to 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 the ASB/AuPS 2005 joint meeting. Applications should be sent to the **National Secretary, Dr Cyril Curtain** at <mailto: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!

1. Agreement between the ASB and JBS

The Japanese Biophysics Society (JBS) is organizing their annual meeting this year in Sapporo where they have planned to include in the programme a joint symposium between the ASB and JBS (see [Other Upcoming Events](#), **Item 3** following). After reading about this in the last Newsletter several of our members have expressed interest to attend the meeting. I wrote to the organizers about the interest of the ASB members and they were very pleased to hear about it. The organizers responded by expressing interest to further promote exchanges between the ASB and JBS. They have suggested drafting a mutual agreement between our societies, which would allow members of both societies to be eligible as speakers at the meetings of both societies and enjoying the rights of members of both societies. The Executive Council of the ASB is unanimously in favour of such an agreement between the JBS and ASB. The Council sees it as a positive and tangible way to foster collaborative research between scientists in Japan and Australia. At present, the members of the Executive Council of the JBS are preparing a draft of the mutual agreement.

2. 2005 Melbourne Protein Group meeting

The Melbourne Protein Group meeting is a one-day symposium that highlights exceptional scientific contributions by local students to the field of protein structure and function. The meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday July 20 at the Bio21 Molecular Science and Biotechnology Institute, University of Melbourne**. Please note that registration, which is now open, is **FREE**. You can register and submit an abstract from the following website: <http://www.lorneproteins.org/mpg.htm>. Honours/post-graduate students that are working on projects in the general area of protein/peptide structure and function are encouraged to submit an abstract for an oral presentation and/or poster. **Abstracts must be submitted online at the website above by 5:00pm Thursday June 23**. The keynote speakers for this year's MPG meeting are Dr Michael Bailey (The Scripps Research Institute) and A/Prof Jennifer Martin (University of Queensland). Six student oral presentations (10 mins) will be selected based on submitted abstracts and there will also be two poster sessions. Students selected for oral presentations will be notified by e-mail on Monday June 27. Matt Perugini and his team, who are organizing the meeting, are looking forward to seeing you at the Bio21 Institute for the 2005 Melbourne Protein Group meeting.

3. Neutrons in Biology - A Satellite Meeting of the IUPAB/EBSA World Biophysics Congress

I have received the following message from the Organizers of the "Neutrons in Biology" Satellite Meeting:

“We would like to draw your attention to a satellite meeting that is being held in Grenoble directly after the IUPAB/EBSA World Biophysics Congress on the 4-7th September 2005. The meeting will be hosted by the Institut Laue Langevin and will focus on "Neutrons in Biology". The meeting will also address other techniques that can be used in parallel with neutron methods, such as NMR, x-ray scattering, as well as various important enabling technologies. Biologists that have little or no experience in the use of neutrons for the study of biological systems are particularly welcome. Further details and web registration are available at <http://www.ill.fr/neutbio2005>.

Enquiries can be addressed to neutbio@ill.fr or Karin Sultan (sultan@ill.fr).

We look forward to meeting you in Grenoble in September,

The organisers”

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** will be held in [Adelaide Convention Centre](#) on [Sunday, September 25 – Thursday, 29, 2005](#). 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](#). Further information can be found at <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. [Registration is open until August 15, 2005](#). For other information please visit <http://www.aquaporins2005.com/program.htm>.

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

[43rd Annual Meeting of JBS](#) has been scheduled on [November 23-25, 2005 in Sapporo, Hokkaido](#). The organizers are expecting more than 1500 participants from various Asian countries to attend the meeting. A joint Symposium between the JBS and ASB that has been scheduled for the meeting and the interest of our members in attending the symposium, has prompted the Organizers to propose a mutual agreement between the JBS and ASB, which should promote scientific exchange between the Japanese and Australian society. The Local Organizing Committee in Hokkaido agreed to construct an English

version of the Meeting Profile on the web. The Japanese version of the Meeting website is currently under construction.

2006

4. 50th Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society (USA)

Biophysical Society 50th Annual Meeting will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah on February 18-22, 2006. Further details are available at <http://www.biophysics.org/meetings/2006.htm>.

5. ComBio 2006

ComBio 2006 is being scheduled to take place in Brisbane Convention Centre on September 24-28, 2006.

6. The Structure and Function of Large Molecular Assemblies

The 38th crystallographic course at the Ettore Majorana Centre will be held in Erice, Italy on June 9 to 18, 2006. The purpose and further details of the meeting can be found at <http://www.crystalerice.org/2006.htm>.

7. 17th International Mass Spectrometry Conference

The 17th International Mass Spectrometry Conference will be held at the end of summer 2006 in Prague, Czech Republic. For details please visit <http://www.imsc2006.org/>.

Notices & Special Reports - National News

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,
June 3, 2005

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