



# AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR BIOPHYSICS

Website address

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

## Newsletter 2005/6

*\*\*\* Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year! \*\*\**

### ASB News

Welcome to the final **ASB Newsletter for 2005**.

A joint Symposium between the Biophysics Society of Japan (BSJ) and ASB at the **43rd Annual Meeting of the BSJ in Sapporo** was a success. It has brought the ASB and BSJ a step closer in establishing a long-term friendly relationship (**Item 1** following).

Our Society has received a formal invitation by the Melbourne Convention and Visitors Bureau to partner with them for a bid to host the International Congress and General Assembly on Biophysics – **IUPAB 2014** (**Item 4** following).

Please also note the coming **Symposium on Malaria Protein Structure and Function** (**Item 5** following).

I would like to congratulate all of you who were successful in the recent round of the NH&MRC and ARC grants. Those of you who were not successful should not be discouraged but should keep on applying for grants. My best wishes for success to all of you who are planning to apply for grants in the 2006 round.

Finally, my best wishes to you, your families, your friends and their families for the coming Holiday Season.

I wish you happiness and prosperity in 2006!

Boris

Boris Martinac

President, Australian Society for Biophysics

### **1. ASB/BSJ 2005 Symposium**

**43rd Annual Meeting of BSJ** was held on **November 23-25, 2005 in Sapporo, Hokkaido**. Some 1500 participants from various Asian countries attended the meeting. The Meeting included a number of high quality talks and posters presented in English. A joint Symposium between the JBS and ASB was very successful. Ray Norton, Cris dos Remedios and I were invited to participate at the Symposium. In my function as a President of the ASB I was pleased to give a brief overview of the history, structure and goals of the ASB, which was well received by our Japanese colleagues. At the conference dinner later during the Meeting, the President of the JBS, Prof Shin'ichi Ishiwata, welcomed the participation of the ASB at the Sapporo Meeting. Cris dos Remedios responded on behalf of the ASB by greeting all participants present at the dinner. The ASB participation at the Sapporo Meeting presents a significant step forward towards a long-term relationship between the two societies.

### **2. EABS & BSJ 2006**

Further to the ASB relationship with other biophysical societies in the Asian-Pacific area, the **5<sup>th</sup> East Asia Biophysics Symposium (EABS) and the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society of Japan** will be held from **November 12 to 16, 2006 at Okinawa Convention Center**, located near a beautiful beach of Okinawa. The mission of EABS, which is held every three years, is to provide members of the biophysical societies of China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea and Taiwan with an international forum on the progress in pure and applied biophysics. BSJ will host the **2006 EABS in conjunction with its 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**. A special feature of the **5<sup>th</sup> EABS in 2006** is that the EABS organizing Committee has decided to expand the geographical area of participating countries to south east Asia, south central Asia and Oceania to make this congress an International Asia-Oceania biophysics forum, which will thus become a core regional center of the IUPAB. I encourage all the members of the ASB to consider participating at this important regional event, which should further contribute to bring our society closer to the biophysical societies of our Asian neighbours. Okinawa was chosen as a venue because **Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST)** is a new graduate university that the Japanese government has been keen to establish as an international center of excellence in research and education. For further details on OIST please visit <http://www.oist.jp>. Also, for further details on the EABS & JBS please check the website at <http://www.ics-inc.jp/eabs2006>.

### **3. ASB 2006**

The next year annual meeting of ASB will take place early in December 2006 in Sydney. The organizers of the Meeting are Mary Beilby and Hans Coster. Please contact Hans and Mary about what you would like to see for the 2006 meeting. Their e-mail addresses: [hcoster@chem.eng.usyd.edu.au](mailto:hcoster@chem.eng.usyd.edu.au), [mjb@newt.phys.unsw.edu.au](mailto:mjb@newt.phys.unsw.edu.au). Your feedback on the precise timing of the meeting would also be very much appreciated.

### **4. IUPAB 2014**

A proposal for the **IUPAB in 2014 in Australia** was put forward at the **15th IUPAB Congress 2005 in Montpellier** by Cris dos Remedios, representative of ASB at the IUPAB Executive Council. At our 2005 AGM in Canberra we all agreed on this proposal. As a Society we will have to start soon preparing for promoting Australia as a site for the 2014 meeting. A formal invitation has already been forwarded to ASB by the Melbourne Convention + Visitors Bureau to partner with them for a bid to host **IUPAB 2014**.

## 5. Symposium on Malaria Protein Structure and Function

The following is a notice on the upcoming [Symposium on Malaria Protein Structure and Function](#) that will be of interest to ASB members. The Symposium will be held on **Friday, February 3rd, 2006, in Melbourne**. The venue will be the Level 7 Lecture Theatre at the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

This one-day Symposium will focus on the latest methods for probing the structure and function of Plasmodium proteins. Several applications of the results of such studies will also be presented. The Symposium will provide an excellent opportunity for parasitologists from a range of different disciplines to interact with structural biologists and protein chemists. It will operate as a satellite to the Lorne Conference on Protein Structure and Function, which will commence the following Sunday (February 5th). There will also be a session on malaria at the Lorne Conference. A website for the Symposium has been established, at <http://www.wehi.edu.au/news/events/MPSF2006/>. [Registration deadline ended on the 25th November 2005](#). For further information please contact: Maureen Grant: Email: [grant@wehi.edu.au](mailto:grant@wehi.edu.au) (Ph: +61 3 9345 2336) or Tony Hodder: Email: [hodder@wehi.edu.au](mailto:hodder@wehi.edu.au) (Ph: +61 3 9345 2472). Ray Norton, Chair of the Organizing Committee, and his team look forward to welcoming you to Melbourne in February 2006.

## 6. Satellite for IBRO World Congress 2007

Cyril Curtain's proposal for a [Satellite Symposium on Metals and Membranes](#) in Neuroscience to be held in association with the [7th IBRO World Congress of Neuroscience](#) was approved by the Governing Council of IBRO at its recent meeting in Washington. Well done Cyril!

## 7. Australian Academy of Science News

For general Academy news see their website at <http://www.science.org.au>. The following is an item from the AAS President's Note of 18<sup>th</sup> of October, 2005:

### “CREATIONISM/INTELLIGENT DESIGN

An article in the October edition of Australasian Science on intelligent design summarises the Academy's statement on creationism (and intelligent design). It is a timely reminder that the Academy's statement can be found at <http://www.science.org.au/reports/creation.htm>. The Academy views with alarm the idea that 'intelligent design' be taught in Australian schools as a scientific alternative to evolution. The Academy sees no objection to the teaching of creationism in schools as part of a course in dogmatic or comparative religion, or in some other non-scientific context. There are no grounds, however, for requiring that creationism/intelligent design be taught as part of a science course.”

As scientists we should do all we can to prevent this attempt of undermining and corrupting the science education by the proponents of creationism.

## Primary Connections Stage 3 approved

The federal Minister for Science, Education and Training, Dr Brendan Nelson, recently reviewed the Stage 2 evaluation report of the Academy initiative Primary Connections: linking science with literacy and has now approved funding for a further three years to support widespread implementation of the program throughout Australia. Further information on the project and the Stage 2 evaluation report can be found at <http://www.science.org.au/primaryconnections>.

## 8. FASTS News

**Science meets Parliament 2006** will be held on Tuesday 28th of February and Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> of March. This is a little earlier than anticipated, because Parliament has a slightly different sitting schedule next year.

## 9. 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.

## 10. 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. IUPAB 2008

The next **IUPAB in 2008** will take place in **Long Beach, California**. At the Annual General Meeting in Montpellier the members of the Council have voted that the **IUPAB 2011** will take place in **Beijing, China**.

### 2. BSJ open-access journal for Biophysics

The Biophysical Society of Japan has launched **Biophysics**, an open-access journal of biophysics, which is accessible to anyone in the world. The journal is published in English to promote biophysical research in the Asian-Pacific area. **Biophysics** is an electronic journal covering a wide range of topics in biophysics, with no limitations in page number, colour figures and movies. Anyone interested in submitting his/her work to the journal can access it at [www.biophys.jp/index-e.html](http://www.biophys.jp/index-e.html).

## Other Upcoming Events

### 2006

#### 1. 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society (USA)

**Biophysical Society 50<sup>th</sup> 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>.

## **2. 31st Lorne Conference on Protein Structure and Function**

**31st Lorne Conference on Protein Structure and Function** is scheduled for 5-9th February, 2006. The program is now being finalised. All abstracts submitted have been accepted. The abstract submission link has remained open on the webpage for late poster submissions but that will be removed at the close of business on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December. Applications for the Lorne Proteins Young Investigator Awards are invited. Two satellite symposia will be held on Friday, February 3, one on **Malaria Protein Structure and Function** and another on **Protein Misfolding Diseases**. Links to these symposia are on our website. Please visit also [www.lorneproteins.org](http://www.lorneproteins.org).

## **3. Single Molecule Biology**

**Single Molecule Biology Meeting** is scheduled on March 26-30, 2006 at Churchill College, in the University of Cambridge. Run by the Royal Society for Chemistry's Chemical Biology Forum, this three-day meeting will feature all types of single-molecule experiments, and will include both techniques, which will display innovation and the application to important problems in biology. For further information please visit [www.rsc.org/SingleMolecules](http://www.rsc.org/SingleMolecules).

## **4. ComBio 2006**

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

## **5. The Structure and Function of Large Molecular Assemblies**

**The 38<sup>th</sup> 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>.

## **6. 17<sup>th</sup> International Mass Spectrometry Conference**

**The 17<sup>th</sup> 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/>.

## **7. 9th International Summer School on Biophysics**

**9th International Summer School on Biophysics** on **SUPRAMOLECULAR STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION** will be held in Rovinj (Red Island) in Croatia, 16 – 28 September 2006. A number of outstanding scientists including four Nobel Laureates will participate at the summer school. For further information please visit <http://www.irb.hr/biophysics>.

## Notices & Special Reports - National News

### Two Australians win the 2005 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine

Two West Australian doctors, Professor Barry Marshall FAA and Dr Robin Warren, were awarded the 2005 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for their discovery of “the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori* and its role in gastritis and peptic ulcer disease”.

### Prime Minister’s Prize for Science awarded to Professor David Boger

Professor David Boger FAA was awarded the Prime Minister’s Prize for Science at a ceremony held in the Great Hall of Parliament House on 5 October. The award celebrates a lifetime of achievements in the area of non-Newtonian fluid mechanics.

### 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,**  
**December, 2005**

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