



# AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR BIOPHYSICS

*Website address*

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

## Newsletter 2006/1

### ASB News

Welcome to the **first ASB Newsletter for 2006**. It took a bit longer this time for me to write the letter, because of grant writing and preparations for the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the US Biophysical Society in Salt Lake City, Utah.

I have just returned from the Meeting in Salt Lake City. It was an excellent meeting. I was particularly pleased to see and meet with a number of the ASB members presenting their recent research results at the Meeting (see **Item 1**).

The preparations for the Annual Meeting of ASB in Sydney are underway (see **Item 2**).

My best wishes for success to all of you who have been involved in grant writing in the 2006 round.

Boris

Boris Martinac

President, Australian Society for Biophysics

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

**Biophysical Society 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting** was held in Salt Lake City, Utah on **February 18-22, 2006**. The program of the Meeting included 19 Symposia, 6 Workshops, 8 Subgroup Symposia and High Profile Events including the National Lecture, Awards Ceremony, and Reception & Dance. It was an excellent meeting covering many interesting topics including “Bioenergetics”, “Permeation and Transport”, “Membrane Structure and Assembly”, “Biological Fluorescence”, “Exocytosis and Endocytosis”, “Bacterial Chemotaxis and Motility”, “Nucleosome Structure, Dynamics and Motility”, “Molecular Mechanics and Force Spectroscopy” and “Protein-Lipid Interactions”. Among the workshops and symposia I would like to mention a workshop on “Biophysics from Molecules to Cells”, and symposia on “Biophysics of Channelopathies” and “Structure–Function Relationships between Ion Channels and Ion Transporters”. The 2006 National Lecturer was Prof Kazuhiko Kinoshita from the Waseda University in Japan. Prof Kinoshita gave a talk on “Probing Nature’s Nanoscale Machines with Microscale Probes”.

I would also like to mention a discussion of the Education Committee Panel on the topic of “An Undergraduate Curriculum in Biophysics”. The questions that were discussed included:

1. Where and how should biophysics be incorporated into undergraduate curricula?
2. Is undergraduate biophysics training good preparation for graduate programs?
3. Is the job market better for biophysics graduates than for other science degrees?
4. How would outcome-based education methods work in a biophysics curriculum?

It would be interesting and important to introduce a discussion session on the Education in Biophysics in Australia at future meetings of the ASB. I would appreciate your feedback on this suggestion.

It was good to see at the Meeting excellent contributions from Australia. I enjoyed meeting and talking to a number of members of our Society, who presented their work at the Meeting. I hope to see them all again presenting their work at this year ASB Annual Meeting in Sydney. I am also very glad to report that **Frances Separovic**, our Public Officer, has this year been elected as the new **Chair of the Membrane Structure and Assembly Subgroup**. Congratulations, Frances!

## **2. ASB 2006**

This year annual meeting of ASB is scheduled for early in December in Sydney. The organizers of the Meeting are Hans Coster and Mary Beilby. 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). Since I have not yet received the news from Hans or Mary on the progress of the preparations for the meeting your feedback on the precise timing and program of the meeting will be very much appreciated. As Frances Separovic pointed to me in her recent e-mail AGM is to be held within five months of end of financial year and the financial report submitted within a month of the AGM. Therefore, it may be advisable to hold the AGM and the meeting to encompass November 30. Your comments and suggestions are most welcome.

## **3. EABS & BSJ 2006**

**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. Ray Norton will as the representative of ASB join the Steering Committee of representatives of biophysical societies from countries in Asia and Oceania at the Pre-meeting of EABS & BSJ 2006 held from April 21 to 23 in Okinawa.

I encourage all members of the ASB to consider participating at the EABS 2006 Meeting in November. This year program will cover a wide range of topics in contemporary biophysics. It is an important regional event, which should further contribute to bring the ASB 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>.

Two sessions have already been scheduled for the joint EABS & BSJ Meeting. A session on “Mechanobiology” has been jointly organized by Prof Masahiro Sokabe from the Nagoya School of Medicine and myself. Five talks have thus far been scheduled for the session. Also, a poster session is planned. If you are interested in giving a talk or presenting a poster on this or a related subject please contact me at [b.martinac@uq.edu.au](mailto:b.martinac@uq.edu.au).

Prof Hans Freeman from the School of Chemistry and School of Molecular and Microbial Biosciences at the University of Sydney has kindly provided the information on the second session on “Metal-based sensor proteins”. The session is being organized by Prof Koichiro Ishimori from the Hokkaido University. Dr. Koichiro Ishimori is particularly interested in contributions from Australian researchers who work on metal-based sensor proteins in the regulation of gene expression, phosphorylation and other biological functions. Some travel funds will be available for young scientists, but details will not be known until April. Dr. Ishimori may be contacted at [koichiro@sci.hokudai.ac.jp](mailto:koichiro@sci.hokudai.ac.jp). For further details on the EABS & JBS please check the website at <http://www.ics-inc.jp/eabs2006>.

#### **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. The proposal was agreed upon at our 2005 AGM in Canberra. As a Society we have to start soon preparing for promoting Australia as a site for the 2014 meeting. I have recently met with Glenn MacRae and Daniel Havas from the [Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre](#), who are keen to help the ASB with the organization of the IUPAB 2014 Conference. The following information kindly provided by Glenn and Daniel may give some flavour of Brisbane as a possible site for IUPAB 2014 in Australia:

#### **BRISBANE CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE**

Ranked in the **top ten** among convention centres worldwide. **Australia’s most awarded convention centre**. **A flexible centre**, providing the largest tiered plenary capacity in the

country, 21 meeting rooms of varying sizes, spacious foyers and four exhibition halls. Superbly located at South Bank, **Brisbane's creative, cultural and entertainment precinct**. Proven track record of successful international conferences.

### **A DELEGATE FRIENDLY CITY**

**Affordable destination. Perfect weather** July through to October. **International airport operates 24/7. 3 international airports in Queensland. Direct international access. Air train** linking city and Centre to Airports. **More than 13,000 hotel rooms. Well-connected** local transport network World-class restaurants. **Australia's top tourist spots** – the Great Barrier Reef, Australia's vast outback, world's best beaches and natural rainforest areas. **QLD is Australia's premier international tourist destination** – delegates appeal to combine holiday and conference.

### **BRISBANE BID SUPPORT**

The international convention team uses its wealth of knowledge to provide organizations with **free of charge** support for international bids including: writing, production, printing and freighting of **the official bid proposal** to decision makers; drafting powerpoint presentation including videos to endorse Brisbane, Australia as an enticing destination. Co-presenting of bids where required. Access to an **interest free convention loan** of up to \$10,000 provided by Brisbane Marketing and Convention industry partners (upon application). Communication with Federal, State and Local Governments to provide **letters of support**. Introduction to the Brisbane Convention Partnership (BCP), for assistance in **preparing an indicative budget** to guide a profitable outcome. provision of Brisbane Marketing's **promotional support** such as website links, development of a strategic marketing plan, promotional collateral and merchandise.

In addition to the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre invitations have been forwarded to ASB by the [Melbourne Convention + Visitors Bureau](#) as well as by the [Adelaide Convention Centre](#) to partner with them for a bid to host **IUPAB 2014**. At present however, no additional material for publication in the ASB Newsletter has been provided by either the Melbourne Bureau or Adelaide Convention Centre.

### **5. Satellite for IBRO World Congress 2007**

**The Metals, Membranes and Neuroscience IBRO satellite symposium** will be held at [Bio21 on Wednesday July 11th 2007](#). It will consist of a series of talks by invited local and overseas speakers on the field and lunchtime and mixer poster sessions. Detailed program will be ready for the next newsletter and it and how to register and submit poster abstracts will appear on the ASB Web site, with links to the IBRO site. Until then for updates contact Cyril Curtain ([ccurtain@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:ccurtain@unimelb.edu.au)).

### **6. 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:

- **New Federal Minister for Science.** Julie Bishop is the new Minister for Education, Science and Training. In an interview replayed on the Science Show, ABC Radio National, 28th of Jan 2006 Julie Bishop commented on the importance of science by saying: "I tended to do liberal art subjects at school, I wish I'd paid more attention to the physics, chemistry, basic science, and so my word for students going through primary or secondary school is: focus on the science subjects because you never know when you're going to need it and rely upon it." Further she said: "I suspect that there's not a job, there's not a

career path that you could have that would not involve some fundamental understanding of science.”

## 7. FASTS News

**Science meets Parliament 2006** is 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 this year. The ASB will be represented by three of our members at the SmP event this year. A/Prof Brett Hambly from the University of Sydney, our Vice-President, Dr Paul Smith from the ANU and Dr Pierre Moens from the University of New England, our NSW State Representative, have kindly agreed to attend the event.

## 8. 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.

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

### 1. Eureka Prizes

The 2006 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes are now open. Information and online entry forms are now available from the Museum's website at [www.amonline.net.au/eureka/](http://www.amonline.net.au/eureka/). Alert your colleagues, science communicators, teachers and students to the opportunities provided by this year's 20 prizes. Self-nominated entries are encouraged. **Entries close Friday May 5.**

### 2. 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**.

### 3. 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. 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).

#### 3. International Workshop on Single Particle Analysis

International Workshop on Single Particle Analysis, chaired by Sydney Brenner, 2002 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine, will be held from **April 16 to 22, 2006** in Okinawa, Japan. The workshop is supported by Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (<http://www.oist.jp/>).

#### 4. 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>.

#### 5. 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/>.

#### 6. 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>.

#### 7. ComBio 2006

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

### 2007

#### 1. 51st Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society (USA)

**The 2007 annual meeting of the US Biophysical Society will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, March 3 – 7**. The details of the meetings will become available at the following website: <http://www.biophysics.org/meetings/future.htm>.

## **2. 3<sup>rd</sup> International Graduate Summer School: Biophotonics '07**

**The 3rd International Graduate Summer School Biophotonics '07 is scheduled for June 2007 in Ven, Sweden.** The actual dates, topics and lectures are currently being planned. For further details please visit <http://www.biop.dk/biophotonics07/>.

## **3. International School on Mathematical and Theoretical Crystallography**

**The International School on Mathematical and Theoretical Crystallography will be held,** under the sponsorship of the IUCR, **in Havana, Cuba,** at the Institute for Materials and Reagents, University of Havana, **from the 14 to the 19 of January, 2007.** For further details please visit <http://www.cristalografia.net/havana2007/>.

## **4. 9th International Conference on Biology and Synchrotron Radiation**

Following the 8th International conference on Biology and Synchrotron Radiation held in Japan, the next conference in this series will be held in the **UK in August 2007.** The main event (13th to 16th August, inclusive) will take place at the **Manchester International Convention Centre.** This will be followed for those with special interests by a visit to Diamond Light Source (on 17th August) at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxfordshire. The sessions at Diamond will be primarily oriented towards the instrumentation and technology. For further details please visit <http://www.srs.ac.uk/bsr2007/>.

## **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,**  
**March 1, 2006**

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