



AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR BIOPHYSICS

Website address

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

Newsletter 2006/3

ASB News

Welcome to the **third ASB Newsletter for 2006**.

For the news on preparations for the [Annual Meeting of ASB](#) in Sydney please see **Item 1**.

Nominations are called for the **Bob Robertson Award**. Please consider nominating someone, whose contributions to biophysics should in your opinion be recognised by this year's Award (see **Item 2**).

I would like to draw your attention to the upcoming [Fluoro 2006 Workshop](#), which is sponsored by the ASB and ASBMB (see **Item 4**).

In the previous newsletter I have already mentioned that the Secretary General of the IUPAB, Professor F.G. Parak has sent an invitation to the biophysical societies around the world to send proposals for the topics and invited speakers for the [IUPAB Conference 2008 in Long Beach](#). Since it is important that our Society has an input into organization of this Conference I urge all members to send me proposals for the topics and invited speakers before **August 25, 2006** (see **Meeting Reports & Other News, Item 1**).

I would like to thank Hans Coster, Ray Norton, Frances Separovic, Cyril Curtain and Pierre Moens for providing news about meetings and workshops (see **Items 1, 4, 5, 7 and Other Upcoming Events 2007, Item 1**) and Saïd Bendahhou for alerting me about the [17th Ion Channels Meeting](#) in September in France (see **Other Upcoming Events 2006, Item 7**). I wish also to thank the Melbourne Convention & Visitors Bureau, Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, Adelaide Convention Centre and the Canberra Convention Bureau for expressing interest to partner with the ASB in organizing the [IUPAB Conference in 2014](#) in Australia (see **Item 6**).

Best wishes,

Boris Martinac

President, Australian Society for Biophysics

1. ASB 2006

The preparations for the **ASB 2006 Meeting in Sydney** are underway. The meeting will run from **Sunday, December 10 to Wednesday Dec 13**. Registration will commence on Sunday evening with main registration on Monday morning, December 11. Full registration is \$175 for members and \$200 for non-members. Student registration is \$75 for members and \$95 for student non-memebers, whereas registration for retirees is \$80. The Meeting will be held in the **School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of Sydney**, which is equipped with excellent rooms for lectures, poster presentations and coffee breaks. The venue will be free of charge. The School is within a short walk from Redfern Station. College accommodation at the Women's College (open to both genders out of term time) is available at present for the dates given above. Room rates are \$80 single or \$112 double with breakfast being included. Room rate for rooms with ensuite bathrooms are \$99 single or \$135 (double). Only a limited number of ensuite rooms are available. For dinner there are many restaurants in the vicinity of the university within a couple of minutes walk (down King Street Newtown). Information on deadlines for abstract submission and early registration is coming soon on the ASB website at <http://www.biophysics.org.au/>.

The organizers of the Meeting, **Hans Coster and Mary Beilby**, are putting together a program for the Meeting. Prof Art Palmer, an NMR specialist from the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, Columbia University, has been invited to give a Keynote lecture at the ASB conference. If you would like to know more about Prof Palmer's research please visit his website at <http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dept/gsas/biochem/labs/palmer/>.

If you are planning to participate at the meeting, please indicate a topic that you would like to see included in the program of the meeting. The latter would help Hans and Mary in organizing sessions and themes. Please send your suggestions directly to Hans at hcoster@usyd.edu.au.

Looking forward to seeing you all this year in Sydney.

2. Notice of 2006 Bob Robertson Award

Nominations are invited for the **2006 Bob Robertson Award of the Australian Society for Biophysics**. This year's nominations close on **Friday, the 7th of July**. The award was inaugurated in 2002 to recognise outstanding contributions to the field of Biophysics in Australia and New Zealand and to commemorate the contributions to the Society and to Australian science of Sir Rutherford (Bob) Robertson. If you would like to nominate someone for the 2006 Award please visit the **ASB website** at <http://www.biophysics.org.au/> for eligibility criteria, application procedure and other details. Nominations should be sent to the **National Secretary, Dr Cyril Curtain** at c.curtain@unimelb.edu.au.

3. Notice of Young Biophysicist Award for 2006

Young ASB members, who are Ph.D. candidates, or within 5 years following the award of a PhD or equivalent degree, should consider sending an application for the 2006 Young Biophysicist Award. **The deadline for the YBA applications will coincide with the registration and submission of abstracts deadline of the ASB 2006 Annual Meeting, which will be announced later in the year.** Applications should be sent to the **National Secretary, Dr Cyril Curtain** at c.curtain@unimelb.edu.au. For details of the application procedure please visit the ASB website at <http://www.biophysics.org.au/>.

4. Fluoro 2006

The **Fluoro 2006 Workshop** on the “**Use of optical spectroscopic and microscopy techniques in biomedical and biological research**” is scheduled for **Monday 2 - Friday 6 October 2006** at the **National Marine Science Center, The University of New England, Coffs Harbour, NSW, Australia**. The workshop will aim to provide training and practical experience in a range of optical spectroscopic techniques (including microscopy) used in the biological and biomedical sciences. A strong emphasis will be placed on practical issues and methodologies. The workshop is in particular aiming at attracting graduate research students, young postdoctoral research fellows and recently appointed junior faculty members. It is supported by the **Australian Society for Biophysics** and the **Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**. The website for the workshop is located at: <http://www.une.edu.au/fluoro/2006/>.

5. EABS & BSJ 2006

The home page for the **5th East Asia Biophysics Symposium (EABS) and the 44th Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society of Japan** to be held from **November 12 to 16, 2006** at **Okinawa Convention Center**, has officially been opened. The dates for **Abstract Submission** are **June 1 - 30, 2006**. **Early Registration** is open from **June 1 to September 30, 2006**.

The East Asian Biophysics Symposium (EABS) is held every three years under the auspices of the EABS Steering Committee. It has been providing members of regional biophysics societies of China Beijing, China Taipei, Hong Kong, Japan and Korea with an international forum on a broad field of pure and applied biophysics to promote scientific progress. This year the Biophysical Society of Japan (BSJ) is the host of the **5th EABS**, which is jointly organized with the **44th Annual Meeting of the BSJ**. A special feature of the **5th 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. This year's program will cover a wide range of topics in contemporary biophysics including Single molecule Biophysics, Cellular signal transduction, Biophysics and disease, Drug design and delivery, Systems biology, Modeling complex systems and many more. Further details about the program of the symposium can be found at the following website: <http://www.ics-inc.co.jp/eabs2006/index2.html>.

EABS 2006 Meeting is an important regional event, which should further contribute to bring the ASB closer to the biophysical societies of our Asian neighbours. Members of the ASB are strongly encouraged to consider participating at the November Symposium. Some travel funds will be available for young scientists.

6. IUPAB 2014

IUPAB 2014 in Australia is still far away. However, we have to start preparing soon for promoting Australia as a site for the 2014 meeting. As a Society we are expected to put up our bid at the next **IUPAB Conference in 2008** in **Long Beach, California**. ASB has already received invitations by the **Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, Melbourne Convention & Visitors Bureau, Adelaide Convention Centre** as well as by the **Canberra Convention Bureau** to partner with them for a bid to host **IUPAB 2014**. In particular I wish to thank **Adelle Spark** from the **Melbourne Convention & Visitors Bureau** for the following contribution she wrote for our newsletter:

“Melbourne is keen to partner with the ASB with a bid to host the IUPAB Congress and General Assembly in Australia in 2014. Here a few reasons why IUPAB 2014 would be a great success in Melbourne.

WHY MELBOURNE FOR IUPAB 2014

- Melbourne is a purpose built event city with experience in hosting major international congresses and events including the 2006 Commonwealth Games, Australian Grand Prix and the XIX International Congress of Genetics 2003
- Melbourne International Airport is open 24 hours and is curfew free. It is serviced by 23 international airlines receiving 530 international flights per week.
- By the end of 2008 Melbourne will have a brand new, six-star energy rated convention centre able to fit conference sizes from 500 through to 5,000. This will be Australia's newest and largest convention and exhibition facility all under one roof
- Melbourne Convention + Visitors Bureau (MCVB) have extensive experience and expertise in bidding for international conferences and are committed to success. MCVB are the only bureau in Australia to offer post event service which includes working towards maximising the number of delegates who attend
- Melbourne is noted as a major centre for arts and culture, sport, food and wine. As a multicultural success story Melbourne boasts over 200 different ethnic communities and 150 different languages
- Melbourne is Australia's leading centre for biological research with a worldwide reputation for excellence in many fields
- Victoria has a proactive State Government committed to fostering a culture of innovation including developing a long-term strategy to build infrastructure, grow investment, promote the industry internationally and build strong global relationships
- Australia's first Synchrotron will be the largest dedicated scientific facilities of its type in the Asia Pacific region and offering national and international scientists and industry an essential leading-edge research tool. The \$206 million facility is located at the centre of the Monash science and technology precinct and will be open in 2007.”

At this year's Meeting in Sydney we will have to decide which one of the beautiful Australian cities should be the place for the **IUPAB in 2014**, so that we can start preparing our bid together with the corresponding Centre/Bureau. This is an important event and I would like to encourage everyone to think about contributing to it.

7. Satellite for IBRO World Congress 2007

The Metals, Membranes and Neuroscience IBRO satellite symposium will be held at **Bio21 Institute at the University of Melbourne on Wednesday July 11th 2007**. It will consist of a series of talks by invited local and overseas speakers in the field, lunchtime and mixer. There will be no poster sessions at the symposium. A full registration of \$60 includes tea/coffee and lunch. Registration for students is \$40. A program summary and how to register and submit poster abstracts will appear in the near future on the ASB Web site, with links to the IBRO site. Those interested please look up the ASB website at <http://www.biophysics.org.au/>. For further details contact **Cyril Curtain** (ccurtain@unimelb.edu.au).

8. Australian Academy of Science News

- **Professor Kurt Lambeck**, Professor of Geophysics, Australian National University, has been elected as the new **President of the Australian Academy of Science** at the **Science at the Shine Dome** event (which incorporates Annual General Meeting of the Academy)

that ran from 3-5 May this year. He succeeds Dr Jim Peacock who completed his four-year term as a President. Dr Peacock has been appointed Australia's new Chief Scientist.

The [Academy's latest Newsletter](#) (December 2005 - March 2006, [Number 64](#)) is available online. To access the Newsletter and for general Academy news see their website at <http://www.science.org.au>. The following are items from the [AAS President's Note of June 5th, 2006](#):

- 6th ANNUAL ACADEMY ADDRESS TO THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

Professor Kurt Lambeck, President, Australian Academy of Science, will give the 6th Annual Academy address on sea levels and climate change on [Wednesday 23 August](#). [The address will be televised live by the ABC at 12.30pm.](#)

- SPECIAL ADDRESS TO THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

Professor Barry Marshall, Nobel Laureate, will give a special Academy address to the National Press Club on [Wednesday 12 July](#). Entitled "The scientists, the media and the decision makers", [the address will be televised live by the ABC at 12.30pm.](#)

Information on how to book these events is available from the National Press Club (www.npc.org.au, npc@npc.org.au or (02) 6121 2199).

- 56th MEETING OF NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

The Academy has been invited to select seven young Australian graduate students in chemistry to attend the [2006 Lindau Foundation Nobel Laureate meeting at Lake Constance, Germany, 25–30 June](#). The group will be led by Professor Max Crossley, and will travel to Lindau to meet with some 24 Nobel Laureates in chemistry and 500 students from around the globe. The group will participate in plenary sessions, round table debates and small group discussions within and beyond their respective disciplines. More information about the meeting is available at www.lindau-nobel.de.

- INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS – CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Academy invites applications from professional scientists to visit Europe, North America (USA, Canada and Mexico), and North-East Asia (China, Japan, Korea and Taiwan), between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008. Proposals in any fields of natural science, basic and applied, including mathematics and engineering science, will be considered.

Applicants must propose a collaborative research project, or a specific activity, which has been developed in consultation with host scientists. Under this scheme, applicants can request travel support to access international leading-edge small to medium research facilities and equipment. Support will not be provided for costs associated with the use of these facilities or when the primary purpose of the visit is to attend a conference. The duration of the visits must be between two and six weeks.

This project is supported by the International Science Linkages - Science Academies Programme established under the Australian Government's innovation statement, Backing Australia's Ability.

Applications close 14 July. Information and application forms are available on the Academy website at www.science.org.au/internat/programs.htm.

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 Conference in 2008** will take place in **Long Beach, California**. In order to prepare for the congress, the council of IUPAB will meet in September 2006 in Ottawa. At this meeting the invited speakers will be selected and proposed to the Program Committee. Secretary General of the IUPAB, Professor F.G. Parak has invited the representatives of biophysical societies around the world to help the IUPAB council to get an attractive program representing the wide spread topics of biophysics as well as the research in all parts of the world. Please send proposals for the topics as well as proposals for invited speakers **before August 25** (one week before the official deadline of August 31) to b.martinac@uq.edu.au. In proposing speakers you should not limit yourself to Australia. Please nominate scientists who you believe are the best in their fields. The ASB should not miss the chance to have its input into the organization of the Conference.

2. Nature Award

The journal *Nature* launched two new awards recognizing **excellence in mentoring in Australasian science**. There will be two awards, each of **AUS\$10,000**: one for lifetime achievement and another in mid-career. **The deadline for nominations for the awards is 31st July 2006**. The new awards are designed to recognize and reward good mentors. Candidates may be from any natural sciences discipline and will be judged by a prestigious panel chaired by Professor Kurt Lambeck, president of the Australian Academy of Science, and including Professor David Boger, Professor Paul Callaghan, Professor Suzanne Cory, Professor Adrian Lee and Nature's correspondent Dr Carina Dennis. Researchers can nominate themselves or be recommended by research team members, past or present. Each candidate must include independent testimonials from five researchers who have been mentored by the nominee. The winners will be announced by Dr Philip Campbell, Editor in Chief of Nature, at an **awards' ceremony in Australia in December 2006**. For full details and nomination forms please check: www.nature.com/nature/mentoringawards/australasia. or more information contact Carina Dennis at: naturementor@gmail.com.

3. Database of Protein Disorder

Center for Computational Biology and Bioinformatics at Indiana University and the Center for Information Science and Technology at Temple University have recently announced a

new release of **DisProt (version 3.1)**, a curated online database of disordered proteins, that provides structure and function information about proteins that do not have fixed 3-D structure under putatively native conditions, either in their entirety or in part. DisProt has become the central repository of disorder-related information. For each disordered protein, the database includes the name of the protein, synonyms, accession numbers, full-length amino acid sequence, functional narrative, location of disordered region(s) and methods used for structural characterization. If the biological function and the functional mode of each disordered region are known it is also included. DisProt was developed as collaboration between Keith Dunker's group and Zoran Obradovic's group at Temple University. DisProt Release 3.1 (March 31, 2006) consists of 438 disordered protein entries and 833 disordered regions. It can be accessed from the web at <http://www.disprot.org>.

Other Upcoming Events

2006

1. 2006 Winter School in Mathematical and Computational Biology

The ARC Centre in Bioinformatics and the Institute for Molecular Bioscience, University of Queensland will again host the annual **Winter School in Mathematical and Computational Biology**. The winter school will run from **Monday 26 - Friday 30 June 2006**. It is intended for advanced undergraduate and postgraduate students, and researchers in mathematics, IT, or science who want to learn about current problems and opportunities in computational bioscience. For more information and registration, please visit <http://bioinformatics.org.au/ws06>.

2. 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/>.

3. 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 several Nobel Laureates will participate at the summer school. For further information please visit <http://www.irb.hr/biophysics>.

4. ComBio 2006

ComBio 2006 is scheduled to take place at the Brisbane Convention Centre in **September 24-28, 2006**. ComBio2006 is a combined conference of the ASBMB, ASPS, AuPS, ANZSCDB, NZSBMB and NZSPP. The Australian Physiological Society (AuPS) joins ComBio for the first time. The programme includes over 60 Symposia with two of them on Education. The online registration form can be obtained from the ComBio website at: <http://www.asbmb.org.au/combio2006/registration.html>. The online abstract submission form is available at: <http://www.asbmb.org.au/combio2006/abstracts.html>. Please note that abstracts can only be accepted if submitted online, and if registration and payment have

been received. Early registration and abstract deadline is **Friday, 23 June 2006**. A list of the overseas speakers and their profiles can be accessed online via the ComBio2006 program page: <http://www.asbmb.org.au/combio2006/program.html>. For further information please contact Sally Jay at combio@asbmb.org.au or by phone 08 8362 0009.

5. HPBB 2006

4th International Conference on High Pressure Bioscience and Biotechnology will be held in Tsukuba, Japan in **September 25-29, 2006**. For further information please visit: <http://www.k5.dion.ne.jp/~hpbb2006/>.

6. 17th Ion Channel Meeting

The "**Canaux Ioniques**" Meeting is a yearly "rendez-vous" of scientists interested in different aspects of membrane signal transduction, with an emphasis on ion channels. The meeting is scheduled for **September 17-20, 2006 in Presqu'île de Giens, France**. It is based on the same model as the Gordon Conferences or Conférences Jacques Monod, and thus it is limited to 150 to 200 participants who stay on the same site for the length of the meeting (three days). The topics of this year's meeting include Ion Channel Folding and Early Trafficking, Voltage-dependent Calcium Channels: from Structure to Function, Synergy between Electrophysiology and Computer Models, Glutamate receptors: from Bench to Clinics, Ion Channels and Membrane Lipids and Microdomains. For further details please visit the website at: <http://congres.igh.cnrs.fr/canaux-ioniques/>.

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>. **Professor Frances Separovic, ASB Public Officer** is organizing a **Membrane Structure and Assembly Subgroup symposium** entitled "**Breaking the Barrier with Antimicrobial Peptides**". The symposium will be held **in Baltimore on March 3**. The invited speakers are: Richard Epanand, Huey Haung, Maria Luisa Mangoni, A. Ramamoorthy, Mark Sansom, Yechiel Shai, Anne Ulrich and Michael Zasloff, so it promises to be an exciting afternoon.

2. 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/>.

3. 2nd Workshop on Biophysics of Membrane-active Peptides

The "**2nd workshop on biophysics of membrane-active peptides**" is the second meeting of a series of meetings bringing together researchers from the various fields of membrane biophysics and peptide biochemistry that started with the title "Workshop on biophysics of membrane-permeabilizing and membrane-translocation peptides" in Berlin, in April 2005. The Meeting is scheduled on **April 1st-4th, 2007**. The deadline for abstract submission and early registration is **Jan 15th, 2007**.

4. 3rd 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/>.

5. 6th European Biophysics Congress

This joint meeting between **EBSA** and the **BBS** is scheduled for 14-18 July 2007 in London, UK. Further information is available at <http://www.ebsa.org/EURO2007/>.

6. 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,
June, 2006

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