

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY

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E Bulletin – May 2009

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1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the first eBulletin/newsletter of the society for 2009.

The many recent activities of the society are summarised over the next few pages, and I won't repeat them. I want to bring to members' attention 3 specific items that have been occupying my time and that of the council members.

The first (not surprisingly) is the impact on society finances of the "global financial crisis". Like all similar bodies, the society funds have suffered, although we consider that we have received wise financial advice and our paper losses have been less than most. This has led to a re-think of some of our financial priorities, but we remain committed to supporting research and education of our members. Two examples of this are the recent awarding of an ANZSN infrastructure grant (a new initiative) to the AKTN, and a forward commitment to half-fund with Kidney Health Australia an additional career development award for a renal scientist from 2010. We also remain highly indebted to the Jacquot family for its enormously generous bequest that enables us to fund many aspects of nephrology research.

Secondly, I have been closely involved in evaluating the relationship between the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and our society (and other specialty societies). Members would be aware that our office is housed in the college buildings (shared with the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand), but perhaps fewer are aware that we receive this rent-free. On the other side, the society is responsible for much of the continuing medical education of its college fellows (including advanced trainees), and the college is able to benefit from this education with minimal outlay of its funds. An additional key aspect of the relationship is the Jacquot bequest, which is administered by the College with extensive input from our society. A number of interesting and challenging meetings and conversations have taken place, and hopefully this will lead to a long-term robust and mutually beneficial

relationship. I have discussed our situation with the President of the Transplantation Society, and we are committed to maintaining our close working relationship.

Thirdly, we are soon to embark on discussions with members of the board of Kidney Health Australia towards cementing further our already close and mutually beneficial relationship. A key item in these discussions will be agreeing on a coordinated approach to funding nephrology research activities.

Thank you for being members of this dynamic and ever evolving society. I look forward to seeing many of you in Milan in late May, and in Hobart in September.

Randall Faull
President

2. HEO REPORT

The last 12 months of society activities reflect the ongoing enthusiasm and commitment our members have in the development of high quality clinical and scientific programs, forging new policies in renal medicine and reshaping the educational pathways our future trainees will take.

Special thanks must go to SPEC under the direction of Richard Kitching and Paul Trevillian for organizing an outstanding and balanced program in Newcastle last September. They ensured not only an excellent program but also a rejuvenated prize program, ensuring that high quality basic science and clinical science is acknowledged equally. It is also imperative to acknowledge the tireless efforts of Stephen May and the success of his satellite “interventional nephrology meeting” which has led to the formation of “ANZSIN”. The organizational structure of this new interest group has ensured a forum for intervention technique sharing, the recognition of interventional nephrologists working in Australia at a national and international level and potentially the development of accredited training programs. Over 40 delegates attended the Hunter Valley satellite meeting which reflects our members’ enthusiasm for this “emerging” subspecialty.

March was punctuated by one of the most successful DNT programs with a near 100% attendance. Helen Pilmore’s direction as DNT chair ensured a comprehensive program that generated much discussion and some controversy! The DNT program also highlighted the success of AKTN and the broadened activities of CARI. Fiona Brown ensured we were all transported, housed and catered for in a seamless way and Victoria’s weather, despite the state-wide fire hazard, did not disappoint.

The last 12 months have been challenging for SAC members and fellows involved in collegial matters. Clearly training at a fellowship and post-graduate level are the society’s core concerns. A curriculum has been drafted for basic training and it is important to acknowledge George Mangos and Cathy Lane for their tireless efforts. We await this document over the coming months for comment. The college’s commitment to research and the perseverance of the ANZSN in the last 12 months has resulted in a broadened use of the Jacquot bequest monies and \$627,000 was awarded this year for fellowships and project grants. The number of high quality proposals submitted is encouraging, and reflects the numerous research opportunities available Australia-wide.

KHA, under the guidance of Tim Mathew, has continued to develop novel educational programs and material for patients and doctors and lobbied for the needs of patients with renal impairment at a policy level.

Our society members have certainly been busy over the last 12 months! I am looking forward to the September ASM, in Hobart, which will boast 4 international speakers and encourage all of you to attend. Mathew Jose and his LOC will no doubt deliver an excellent meeting.

Vicki Levidiotis
Honorary Executive Officer

3. SPEC REPORT INCLUDING ASM AND NEPHROLOGY UPDATE REPORT

The ANZSN Annual Scientific Meeting in 2008 was an excellent one. I would like to thank Dr Paul Trevillian and the Newcastle ASM Organising Committee for staging an excellent meeting in 2008. In addition, I'd like to thank our three international speakers who made such an impressive contribution: Professor Lisa Guay-Woodford, Associate Professor Kam Kalantar-Zadeh and Associate Professor Asif Arif. The committee hopes to be able to continue working for you and improving the scientific and educational activities of the Society.

2009 Annual Scientific Meeting, Hobart

The Annual Scientific Meeting is being held in Hobart from Monday September 7th to Wednesday September 9th 2009. Dr Matthew Jose and the local organising committee have been working extremely hard to ensure an excellent meeting will be held. We are very happy that we have four internationally renowned speakers, they are: Professor Agnes Fogo, an expert in renal pathology, fibrosis, repair and regression; Professor Prasad Devarajan, an expert in acute renal injury with a particular interest in biomarkers of acute kidney injury; Professor Christopher Chan who is an expert in nocturnal home haemodialysis and cardiovascular disease in ESRD; lastly, Professor Ken Smith is visiting, with his interest in immune mediated renal disease. There is truly an embarrassment of riches in this year's program. Registrations are now open at <http://www.cdesign.com.au/nephrology2009/>. Early bird registration fees apply until Friday 31st July 2009. As in 2008 and 2009, there is a very low registration fee to encourage attendance at the meeting by non-medical postgraduate students in renal science.

The ANZSN Young Investigator Award is a showpiece of the ASM. The move to a dual award last year, one award for Clinical Science and one for Basic Science was, I believe, a popular and successful one. The science presented in the two hour, eight abstract session was a highlight of last year's meeting. For 2009, additional oral presentation sessions in both Basic Science and Clinical Science will replace the "Best Poster" Award session, as we attempt to showcase more of the Society's best science in greater detail.

Abstract review is a vital part of a scientific meeting. A number of members of the society will have been approached to review abstracts (the final composition of panels is determined after abstracts close). I hope that those of you that have been asked will be available to spend approximately 3 hours reviewing 25-30 abstracts for the meeting, within a time frame of 2-3 weeks in May. We realise that this clashes with the WCN, but I do ask you not to decline to review on the grounds that you are going to the WCN. We need to maintain the quality and integrity of the review process.

The weekend prior to the Annual Scientific Meeting is rapidly becoming an essential part of your visit to the ANZSN ASM. The Nephrology Update Course (Saturday 5th September and Sunday 6th September), under the direction of Dr Steve May, is going from strength to strength. We have all four international speakers giving clinical updates and a number of local experts. It is attractive to Renal Physicians, Advanced Trainees and Postgraduate Students and on the Sunday will focus on Home Haemodialysis, in collaboration with the Home Dialysis Advisory Committee (KHA). You will need to register using the application forms which are

available online at the ASM website link. For the first time we are offering a Renal Scientists' Educational Program on Sunday 6th September with Dr Greg Tesch as the key organiser. We are very keen to help train and keep our talented young scientists in renal research. There is a Nutrition Update for Renal Dietitians on Sunday 6th September, which is another great innovation that contributes to the meeting. After the ANZSN meeting, on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th September, there is the second ANZSIN Interventional Nephrology Meeting, to be held at Stewarts Bay Lodge, Tasman Peninsula.

Travel Grants and Future Meetings

Travel grant applications to attend this year's Annual Scientific Meeting (which closed at close of business, Tuesday 5th May 2009) and for the 2009 American Society of Nephrology meeting will be called for later this year. These awards are, as always, conditional upon acceptance of an abstract at the meeting. We are keen to support the attendance of young members of the society at these meetings. The society will support attendance up to 3 local meetings and 2 international meetings during their training or their time enrolled in suitable postgraduate course of study. In 2010, the Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in Perth. For future meetings, if you come across an excellent speaker at any international meeting you attend who you think might be suitable for our own meeting; please forward their name(s) to me or another member of SPEC.

ANZSN Postgraduate Meeting April 2009

A/Prof David Mudge organised another successful ANZSN Postgraduate Weekend, for Advanced Trainees and for Basic Trainees with an interest in Nephrology as a career, which featured Professor Philip Li as the international visitor. These weekends are an important feature of the training of our future nephrologists, and we thank Amgen for its ongoing support in an educationally unrestricted manner.

Terms of Reference for SPEC

Terms of reference for SPEC was drafted late last year and were considered by ANZSN Council. They are currently being finalised and following the completion of this process there is likely to be a call for expressions of interest to join SPEC later this year.

TN Neale Award 2009

An exceptional group of society members (both in terms of quality and number of applicants) were nominated for this award. The quality of the applicants is a testament to the strength of research into nephrology by members of the society. It was great to see the breadth of outstanding research, from the most "basic science" research through translational research and clinical trial to applied research in implementation and knowledge transfer. The judging committee had great difficulty in comparing the outstanding records of the applicants.

Richard Kitching

Chair, ANZSN Scientific Program and Education Committee

4. 2010 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING & NEPHROLOGY UPDATE

Perth, Western Australia, has been confirmed to host the ANZSN 2010 Annual Scientific Meeting, taking place 13th to 15th September 2010, with a Nephrology Update meeting on 11th to 12th September.

Perth is renowned for its fresh, clean and unpolluted environment, its relaxed outdoor lifestyle and its equable Mediterranean climate. The Perth Convention Exhibition Centre is situated in

the heart of the city; with its advanced technical facilities and communication infrastructure as well as first class catering and service, the centre meets all the requirements needed for an enjoyable and productive working environment and is undoubtedly an ideal host venue for the 2010 ASM.

The Local Organising Committee is already well advanced in its preparations. We have secured some outstanding visiting international speakers and we are confident that that program is full of great science and interesting speakers.

Professor Carmine Zoccali, Institute of Physiopathology of Renal Diseases and Hypertension in Reggio Calabria, Italy, and the Chairman of the European Dialysis and Transplant Association (EDTA), is an expert on cardiovascular complications in end-stage kidney disease.

Professor Thomas Coffman, Division of Nephrology, Duke University, Durham, USA, is a leader in the research into the role of the kidney in regulation of blood pressure and the mechanisms of kidney injury in disease states.

Professor Adeera Levin, from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, is well known to Australian Nephrologists because of her strong interest in clinical research into the management of chronic kidney disease and their comorbidities, especially anaemia. She is also an expert in systems based approach to improve integration and quality of care.

Professor Hans-Peter Marti, Division of Nephrology, Bern University, Berne, Switzerland, will be spending a sabbatical in Australia in 2010 and has accepted to be an additional guest speaker. His research interest is on the role of matrix metalloproteinases and related genes in the pathogenesis of interstitial fibrosis and tubular atrophy in kidney transplantation.

Paolo Ferrari
Chair, Local Organising Committee 2010 ASM

5. DNT SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

The DNT Subcommittee continues to be active. The biannual workshop was held in early March this year in Lorne, Victoria with Fiona Brown as the local organiser and Vicki Levidiotis as the programme organiser. The workshop was extremely successful with excellent feedback from attendees. Sessions were highly interactive and varied. This year we also included surgical and paediatric break out sessions which were well received. Congratulations to Fiona and Vicki for a very successful meeting. Thanks also to Dinamics for their efficient and friendly conference management service. We look forward to the next workshop which will be held in New South Wales in March 2011.

The only disappointment associated with the workshop was the frustration we had with delegates delaying registration despite a large number of reminders, in addition to people pulling out of attending the meeting with little notice. We believe the current method of place allocation for the workshop is sub-optimal and the DNT committee will be working on different methods of place allocations in order to maximise the number of people wishing to attend while still maintaining the workshop atmosphere of the meeting.

The other current activity being planned by the DNT Sub-committee is a review of CARI. This review will assist with future planning for the directions and funding of CARI. We anticipate feedback from this review later this year.

I would like to thank the current and recent members of the DNT Sub-Committee for their hard work and enthusiasm. In addition I would like to thank Aviva Rosenfeld and Louise

Deller for all their hard work in the organisation, correspondence and day to day running of the committee.

Helen Pilmore
Chair, DNT

6. RURAL GROUP REPORT

The aim of the ANZSN rural group has been to promote rural nephrology as a viable career option ultimately so that the population who live outside metropolitan areas will have improved access to renal services. In NSW alone 25% of the population lives outside the Newcastle, Sydney, Wollongong metropolitan areas.

The strategy for the group has been to have increased exposure of rural physicians in the ANZSN organization.

The group's major achievements to date have been:

- Developing a prize of \$5,000 for best rural poster at ANZSN scientific meeting to raise awareness of rural physicians;
- The use of rural physicians to co-chair poster sessions and chair sessions at ANZSN meeting;
- Using rural speakers at Nephrology Update Weekend – Murali's talk on an approach to acidosis at the Newcastle meeting scored in the top 3;
- Promoting rural lifestyle and exposure with the Amgen Rural Trainee weekend held at Coffs Harbour in 2009;
- Rural reps on all major working committees DNT, SAC, SPEC;
- Concurrent clinical – science sessions at ANZSN meeting to make the scientific meeting more relevant to rural clinicians; &
- First round of invitations to the DNT meeting go to isolated Rural Physicians.

There were seven posters from rural areas in 2009 including Nambour, Tamworth, Rockhampton, Cairns, Mildura, and Waikato. The winning posters were from Cairns and Rockhampton. Although not strictly a rural initiative ANZSN has strong support from rural nephrologists who have increased needs and opportunities to practice interventional nephrology. A measure of success is that there are currently over 40 members of the ANZSN who live and work outside the major metropolitan areas in Australia and New Zealand.

Steve May
Chair of the Rural Group

7. SAC REPORT

As 2009 rapidly moves along, the activities of the SAC Nephrology continue on in the background dealing with the challenges ahead. It is fair to say that in the last few years the workload has increased and consequently the SAC has expanded its membership.

I have taken on the role as SAC Chair from Dr Troy Kay who after two years in this position returns to the membership. Dr Cathie Lane is now the Coordinator of Advanced Training and we welcome the addition of Dr Richard Phoon and Dr Nigel Toussaint. Recently ANZSN has sought closer contact with SAC, consequently a member of Council (currently Dr Vicki Levidiotis) has joined the SAC and it is envisaged this arrangement will continue in the

future. A/Prof George Mangos steps down after his six years of service but continues his invaluable work on curriculum development and will advise the SAC on its progress.

Indeed, work on the advanced training curriculum will be a major focus in the months ahead. Many of you would have already seen presentations in its formative stages, it is anticipated that a more definitive document will be ready to be rolled out to the nephrological community in the coming months. This will bring the SAC Nephrology "into line" with many other SACs who are already utilising a training curriculum or are very close to completing one.

On a related issue, I recently attended an Advanced Training Summit held at the College which not only discussed curriculum development but importantly also addressed the issue of advanced training assessment and whether the current supervisor reports are robust enough to identify and assist in a timely manner those trainees who may be struggling with aspects of their training. Further discussions are to be had.

In the past 18-24 months, many of you would have participated in site visits conducted by SAC as part of a national update of accredited sites for advanced nephrology training. Thank you for your assistance in this important task which will continue throughout 2009/10.

Tony Elias
Chair, SAC Nephrology

8. REPORT FROM ANZSIN

The inaugural meeting of ANZSIN [The Australian and New Zealand Special [interest group] in Interventional Nephrology] was held in the Hunter Valley in 2008 following the scientific meeting. There were 41 attendees and speakers. This was an exciting, memorable and hopefully historic time. The major reason to develop an interventional group is to foster expertise and interest through on going training, credentialing and accreditation.

Arif Asif the president of ASDIN was the key note speaker. The educational program was excellent and the networking opportunities superb. Arif is keen to foster a relationship with our society and is looking at a combined membership with ASDIN.

The 2009 meeting will follow the ANZSN scientific meeting at Port Arthur and Stephen Ash is the speaker with a major interest in access. Amgen and Baxter remain the major sponsors. Tim Spicer plans to run an interventional course in Hobart prior to the Scientific Meeting.

Hope to see you there.

Steve May
Chair, ANZSIN

9. NEWS FROM KIDNEY HEALTH AUSTRALIA

Research Grants and Scholarships

A reminder that at:

<http://www.kidney.org.au/HealthProfessionals/MedicalResearchFundingProgram/tabid/633/Default.aspx> you will find all the information about applying for scholarships and grants. The closing date for seeding grant applications is June 30th and for applications for a scholarship

is Aug 30th. ANZSN and KHA have agreed to co-fund another CDA award in Nephrology through the NHMRC.

CKD “Summit”

The ANZSN and KHA are co-sponsoring a second International “Summit” on July 23rd and 24th with the title, *“Best care for Australians with CKD – the pathway ahead”*. A Steering Committee has been established (Steve Chadban, Mark Thomas, David Johnson, Matt Jose, Tony Hobbs, Anne Wilson and Tim Mathew), funds raised and a draft program is near finalisation. The meeting will be in Melbourne at the Rydges Hotel and overseas guests will include Dr Donald O’Donoghue, Head of UK Renal Services; Dr Allan Collins Head of USRDS; and Dr Adeera Levin Head of the renal program in Vancouver BC.

The aim of the meeting is to re-assess where Australia is positioned with regard to the prevention, early detection, and best management of chronic kidney disease (CKD) and kidney failure and in particular to examine ways in which the kidney sector might work more effectively with Government.

The conference will focus on all the issues affecting the delivery of best care to Australians with CKD; will systematically review CKD activities occurring in Australia; and then workshop solutions. The meeting will address the full spectrum of kidney disease from asymptomatic early CKD through to end-stage kidney failure.

There will be a facilitated workshop to identify issues and canvass solutions. The outcome will be an action plan that focuses on improving outcomes and guiding the kidney sector and government on the path ahead.

Attendance will be by invitation and consist of senior nephrologists, kidney sector health professionals, General Practitioners and representatives from Commonwealth and State Governments and jurisdictions. It is envisaged that the attendance will be limited to a total of about 100 people.

KCAT

The KCAT program is busy with workshops arranged in record numbers for 2009. There has been an increasing emphasis on practice nurse involvement in the detection and management of CKD in general practice. The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing has recently commissioned an eLearning module on CKD for inclusion in their new educational project for practice nurses. New KCAT modules have been developed for “Resistant hypertension” and “CKD in the elderly”.

If you want to run a CKD educational session through your local GP division or network let Chris Archibald know at 08 83347501.

CRC*Kidney

The project leading to a bid for a Cooperative Research Centre in “Kidney” is making good progress. Information about the CRC concept and process has been circulated twice to all nephrologists in the last couple of months. The KHA Board have agreed to underwrite the bid part of the process to completion. A bid is planned for the next round which closes about September 2009. The work programs that would form the basis of the CRC are currently under discussion and are likely to focus on renal regeneration, new therapies, public health aspects and biomarkers of CKD. It is not too late for anyone with an interest in participating in the CRC to get in touch with Robyn McLachlan (Exec Director of CRC*Kidney) at 03 9674 4234 for more information.

Albuminuria/Proteinuria Measurement and Reporting

The DNT subcommittee and KCAT have agreed to facilitate a consensus process involving all appropriate stakeholders to address the variation at the present time in the measurement and reporting of albumin and protein in the urine. The Royal College of Pathology, Diabetes Society of Australia and the RACGP will all be involved. Kevan Polkinghorne has agreed to lead the process which will begin in the next few months.

Tim Mathew
KHA Medical Director

10. THE AUSTRALASIAN KIDNEY TRIALS NETWORK

The Australasian Kidney Trials Network (AKTN) was conceived to facilitate high-quality, investigator-initiated clinical research. We aim to foster collaborative research with a focus on answering important questions about the prevention and treatment of kidney disease to improve health and quality of life outcomes.

The past 12 months has been an exciting and productive time for the AKTN with the commencement of patient recruitment for two of our trials (HONEYPOT and FAVOURED). The HONEYPOT trial is a randomised clinical trial to determine whether Medihoney™ Antibacterial Wound Gel is an effective treatment for the prevention of the infectious complications of peritoneal dialysis. This trial has secured more than \$800,000 in funding and 370 patients will be recruited over 2 years. This trial currently has 22 active sites and is recruiting well with 1/3 of the recruitment target already achieved. The FAVOURED Trial is a randomised, placebo-controlled clinical trial to determine whether the anti-platelet agents aspirin and fish oil, either alone or in combination, will effectively reduce the risk of early thrombosis in arterio-venous fistulae (AVF). This trial has secured \$1.79 million in funding and has also commenced recruitment, aiming to recruit 1200 patients requiring haemodialysis over 3 years. There are currently 22 sites which are able to recruit patients. Recruitment, although improving, is slower than we had initially calculated and we are therefore looking at involving international sites for this study in order to improve accrual rates and achieve the recruitment target without significantly increasing the duration of the study.

A third trial (HERO) is due to commence recruitment by the end of May 2009. The HERO Trial is a randomised, placebo-controlled trial to determine whether Oxpentifylline (Trental®) administration will effectively treat erythropoietin-resistant or darbepoietin-resistant anaemia in chronic kidney disease patients. The trial has secured more than \$310,000 in funding and will commence recruitment in May 2009 with the aim to recruit 110 patients over 2 years.

In addition, the AKTN is coordinating a fourth trial (BLOCADE) and has endorsed an additional trial being run by the George Institute (ACTIVE DIALYSIS). The BLOCADE trial is investigating whether carvedilol (a beta-blocker) reduces the incidence of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality in patients receiving dialysis. A pilot study will initially be undertaken to determine recruitment rates, tolerability of carvedilol and event rates. The Pilot study has secured \$755,000 in funding and will commence recruitment at the end of 2009; 100 patients will be recruited over 1 year. The ACTIVE DIALYSIS Trial is a prospective, randomised trial designed to provide definitive evidence on the benefits and costs of extending weekly haemodialysis hours beyond current standards, and has recently received a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Project Grant of \$1.25 million.

The AKTN has recently been asked to coordinate the Australasian arm of a multi-centre trial based in the United Kingdom, the PEXIVAS trial. The study is to be led by the AKTN and Dr Chen Peh, an Adelaide-based Nephrologist. We have also been approached to contribute to a trial being run in Canada in the renal transplant population. We are bridging links with

international collaborators with similar goals and are continually seeking funding through multiple sources to ensure our trials are adequately funded.

Many members of the ANZSN membership are actively involved in AKTN activities through participation in the Scientific Committee, individual Trial Management Committees or Special Interest Groups. In addition there are a large number of Principal Investigators and Research Staff involved at multiple sites across Australia and New Zealand with actively recruiting trials.

Membership of the Network is open to all physicians, epidemiologists, biostatisticians, nurses, allied health professionals and researchers involved in renal research. We are currently in the process of updating the functionality of our website <http://www.aktm.org.au>.

The AKTN gave an update on its activities and achievements at the Dialysis Nephrology Transplantation Workshop in Lorne in March and will be presenting at the ANZSN Annual Scientific Meeting in Hobart in September this year.

The AKTN staff and committee members continue to invest significant time and effort into grant applications for both infrastructure and to fund individual trial pursuits, to ensure funding for our studies is maximized.

Please contact us at the emails listed below if you have any questions about any of the current recruiting trials or questions about other opportunities the Network has to offer.

Please contact

Manager AKTN Operations Secretariat, Melissa Starfield: m.starfield@sph.uq.edu.au

Phone: 07 32406133

Chair Scientific Committee, Alan Cass: acass@george.org.au

Chair Operations Secretariat, Carmel Hawley: carmel_hawley@health.qld.gov.au

Carmel Hawley

Chair, AKTN Operations Secretariat

11. OBITUARY

Dr Andrew John Woodroffe 24/06/1945 – 24/01/2009



Dr Andrew Woodroffe, nephrologist, died on 24th January 2009 in Perth, Western Australia, after a short illness.

Although he said in his final year at school that the one thing he didn't want to study was medicine, he did, and became a leading renal physician. A brilliant student, he did as well in

the humanities and sport as in the sciences, and left Prince Alfred College with an armful of prizes. Andrew graduated from Adelaide University in 1968 after a distinguished undergraduate career and topping his final year of medicine.

He trained in Nephrology at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital under Dr Jim Lawrence before spending two years at La Jolla, California in 1975 working with Dr Curtis Wilson and Dr Frank Dixon in the area of immune complex disease and assays. Andrew returned to the Royal Adelaide Hospital in 1977 working with Tony Clarkson and established a renal research laboratory working at the forefront of immunologic mechanisms of glomerulonephritis and establishing an international reputation and continuing NH&MRC support for his work on IgA nephropathy. He supervised several post-Doctoral students in the Royal Adelaide Hospital laboratory including the current Director of the RAH Renal Unit.

Andrew served as the Honorary Executive Officer of the Council of the ANZSN from 1980 to 1984 and for a second period as a Councillor from 1996 to 2000. He left Adelaide in 1995 to become the foundation Director of Nephrology at the Fremantle Hospital overseeing very rapid growth in the dialysis population of that region. Andrew retired from the hospital in 2004 handing over to the current Director, Paolo Ferrari. Andrew is survived by his wife Claudia and children Ben, Nick and Amy.

He will be remembered by his friends and colleagues as one of the brightest nephrologists in Australia, a man of strong convictions and loyal friendships.

Kym Bannister and Paolo Ferrari

12. TRAVEL GRANT REPORTS

Florence McCreddie Day

The Royal Children's hospital hosted a symposium on polycystic kidney disease in honour of Florence McCreddie in August 2008. The key note speaker was Professor Lisa Guay Woodford who gave a fantastic talk on advances in the detection and potential therapies for polycystic kidney disease. The rest of the day hosted a range of both clinical and scientific talks and posters from kidney experts around Victoria. Overall it was an informative session which provided ample opportunity to exchange ideas and network in a relaxed atmosphere that is sure to foster future collaborations.

Elizabeth Verghese

American Society of Nephrology Renal Week

I wish to thank the Australia and New Zealand Society of Nephrology for a travel grant. I was the grateful recipient of an ANZSN Travel grant award to attend the 2008 ASN Renal week in Philadelphia. I was able to report on three poster presentations at this meeting.

The meeting, as always, was an important forum to meet the important researchers in my particular fields of interest, which include acute kidney injury, bone disease (and meta-analysis) and cardiorenal medicine. I was able to spend time talking to people interested in my work and as a result was able to receive useful peer review!

Philadelphia is an interesting city, particularly arriving the day after an historic US election. Fortunately, the week of dark clouds and drizzle was counterbalanced with vibrant art galleries, good food and welcoming people. I was able to update on a number of topics during my visit including informative experimental work on the role of vitamin D in cardiovascular health, updates on IgA nephropathy, and great debates on the utility of eGFR.

Again, I am most grateful to the *Society* for the generosity of the travel grant. These awards are vital to allowing emerging nephrologists a chance to experience nephrology at the highest level and bring a little home. I very much hope the grants continue as a source of encouragement for early career nephrologists and trainees in the years to come.

Suetonia Palmer

13. CLINICAL & SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

Visit the ANZSN website at www.nephrology.edu.au/meetings/othermeetings.asp for a list of forthcoming clinical and scientific meetings.

14. NEPHROLOGY POSITIONS VACANT

Nephrology positions are advertised on the ANZSN website at www.nephrology.edu.au/positionsvacant/index.asp

15. SOCIETY SPONSORS

The ANZSN gratefully acknowledges the support of the following companies

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