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**APPS Website**

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



## NEWSLETTER December 2003

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This newsletter was prepared by David Saint, 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2003

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## **FOREWORD**

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This will be my first attempt at a newsletter since taking over from Rick Lang in early 2003. There has been some discussion among members about the need for a newsletter in this era of electronic communication, and the consensus seems to be that there is indeed a place for a newsletter as well as emails / the website. However, rather than just re-iterate what is on the website, I will try and add commentary and snippets of news as they occur to me, or that people forward to me. I will also try and include a brief commentary on recent events and decisions by council.

David Saint.

## **STRATEGY MEETING OF COUNCIL- DEC 1**

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Council met in Sydney on December 1st to consider strategies for the future growth and development of the society. Some of the things that we decided to implement were; increased prizes for students, financial support for joint meetings with other societies and / or interest groups, a re-vamping of the special interest groups to try and broaden the appeal of the society. Following the overwhelming mandate at the AGM, council is also working towards a name change for the society. Considerations of url availability, potential confusion with other organizations and the like have resulted in Australian Physiological Society (AuPS) as the preferred name. Once initial steps are complete, the adoption of the name will need a formal vote to change the constitution. In addition, council resolved to lobby the NHMRC for the formation of a Physiology grant assessment panel, since there is a strong feeling that currently constituted panels lack the expertise to review applications with a physiology slant. Council will also start an initiative aimed at Heads of Physiology Departments in

Australia to provide a forum for discussion of matters related to Physiology education, career paths, etc. This will likely take the form of a sponsored networking / workshop, with dinner provided. There was a consensus among council that APPS needs to spend money on some of these strategic initiatives- there is no point having a society which is accumulating money and losing members, which is what seems to be happening at present.

### **2003 APPS Meeting**

The 2003 meeting of the Society was held at the Department of Physiology, University of Sydney, September 29<sup>th</sup> to October 1st. The Local Secretary was Dr Margot Day. There were 173 registrants, of which 44 were student members. The prize winners were: McIntyre Prize: Sharyn Fitzgerald, Best oral presentation: Robert Aughey, CEPP prize for oral presentation; James Ryall, Best poster communication; Rebecca Haddock, CEPP prize for poster communication; Nicole Rummery. As well as accolades to Margot, thanks to Dave Davey for assistance in the organization of this meeting and Rebecca Haddock, who organized the student function. Thanks also to all the symposium organizers and speakers for making this a very enjoyable and successful meeting.

## **FUTURE APPS MEETINGS**

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### **2004 AHMRC**

**November 21 - 26**

**Sydney Convention Centre North  
Darling Harbour, Sydney .**

Congress website  
<http://www.ahmrccongress.org.au/>

APPS has agreed to be a full participant in the 2004 AHMRCongress. This involves an "up front" financial contribution which is

refundable if the congress breaks even. If it makes a profit, APPS will get a share of that profit. Because of the venue, registration costs will be somewhat higher than an APPS only meeting. One of the misgivings that members have expressed is the increased cost involved, particularly for students. My own view is that when one pays travel and accommodation, the extra registration is a minor extra burden. Nevertheless, it is a real consideration for students, and council has made a commitment to use funds to heavily subsidize student registration, hopefully to the point where it is no more expensive than a "normal" APPS meeting. There will, of course, be the usual travel awards available to students also. I would emphasize that the extra registration gives members the opportunity to hear a range of high profile international (and national) speakers, who are funded by the congress. The congress in Melbourne in 2002 was a great success, both financially and scientifically, and I urge all members to make 2004 even better.

### 2005 Canberra

Canberra has been suggested as the venue for the 2004 APPS meeting. This will hopefully be a joint meeting with the Australian Society for Biophysics, and may also have a representative contingent from ANS.

### OTHER UPCOMING MEETINGS

A very useful listing of international meetings in physiology and related areas can be found at the FASEB Website at:

<http://www.faseb.org/meetings/>

The **American Physiological Society** is at:

<http://www.the-aps.org/>

and the **British Physiological Society** is at:

<http://www.physoc.org/>

The **Australian Society for Biophysics** meeting will be held in Perth, 29<sup>th</sup> Sept to 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct. A flyer is attached below.

**ASB**

**AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR BIOPHYSICS**

**28th Annual Scientific Meeting**

[www.biophysics.org.au](http://www.biophysics.org.au)

**29th Sept - 2nd Oct**

**Perth, WA**

**ASB 2004 will be held in Perth, overlapped with the last day of Combio 2004 ([www.asbmb.org.au](http://www.asbmb.org.au))**

Organising committee: Boris Martinac, Livia Hool and Jackie Wilce

For further information contact Boris Martinac ([bmartinac@receptor.pharm.uwa.edu.au](mailto:bmartinac@receptor.pharm.uwa.edu.au))

### **Exercise and Sports Science - 2004: From research to practice** **14 - 16 April, 2004.**

Queensland University of Technology  
(Gardens Point) Brisbane, Australia

The scientific committee is **CALLING FOR ABSTRACTS NOW** (Closing December 22) for the following conference themes:

- Exercise/Physical Activity for the management and prevention of chronic disease
- Professional clinical practice in the 21st Century

- Sports Science to improve athletic performance

Confirmed speakers include Prof. Paavo Komi (Finland), Prof. Nick Bogduk, Prof. Bruce Elliott, Dr. Anne Mannion (Switzerland), Prof. Tony Parker, Assoc. Prof. Paul Hodges, Prof. Linda Tapscott, Prof. Maria Fiattorone-Singh, Prof. Nalin Singh, Prof. Mike Marfell-Jones (NZ), Prof. Rob Newton, Prof. Adrian Baumann, Prof. Don Bailey (Canada), Prof. Tim Ackland, Prof. Andrew Hills, Prof. Greg Gass, Prof. Ian Jobling, Prof. Don Iverson, Dr Chris Gore (AIS), Dr Damian Farrow (AIS) and Dr Ken Nasaka (Japan). We also have Graem Sims who will present a session on the life of Percy Cerutti (quite timely with the 50th anniversary of the 4-min mile approaching!) as well as a number of other leading Australian scientists.

Please see the web site for further details  
<http://www.aaess2004.qut.edu.au>

Or contact:  
 David Bishop PhD MAAESS  
 Lecturer - School of Human Movement &  
 Exercise Science  
<http://www.hmes.uwa.edu.au/>

President - Australian Association for  
 Exercise and Sport Science  
<http://www.aaess.com.au/>

### **APPS ON THE WEB**

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Some time ago, the society expressed its intention to use the Web site more and more as a means of information distribution and communication between members. This has indeed happened, and has made the task of keeping in touch with members much easier. The website has now effectively replaced the paper versions of the Handbook for Members and the Proceedings, and email is now the default means of communication

with and within the society. For this reason, it's vital that members make sure that we have your correct email address - you can check your details on the website, and make any needed changes to them. If any assistance is needed, contact the Editor (Dave Davey). In particular, if you move and change your email address, please let the editor know.

Finally, if you have any material, job advertisements, achievements and awards to members, reports on the future of biomedical sciences, etc, that you believe will be of interest to members, please don't hesitate to email it to the National Secretary for distribution and or inclusion in the Newsletter.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

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Criteria for both **Ordinary** and **Students Membership** are published on the APPS Web site

Application forms for both Ordinary and Student Membership may be obtained from the National Secretary.

[david.saint@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:david.saint@adelaide.edu.au)

### **SUSTAINING MEMBERS**

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The list of our sustaining members is on our Web site.

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

Council thanks all Sustaining Members for their endorsement of the Society, and in particular both SDR Clinical Technology Pty Ltd and Blackwell Science Pty Ltd (CEPP) for their continued support of their Student Prizes for the most outstanding poster and oral presentations.

### **ODDS AND ENDS**

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Dr Fatima Shad Kaneez is moving to the University of United Arab Emirates. She tells me that this University has amazing

facilities for research. Her new contact details are:

Dr Fatima Shad Kaneez  
Faculty of Science P O BOX 17551  
UAEU, AL AIN, UAE

+9713 7064431(W) + 9713 7672136 (Res)  
+97150 7133286 (mob) +9713 7671291  
(Fax)

<http://www.fsc.uaeu.ac.ae/biology/>

Leanne Redman is now pursuing post -  
doctoral work in the Department of  
Biological Sciences Ohio University Athens,  
OH. 45701-2979 USA  
Tel: +740-593-0352  
Fax: +740-593-0300  
email: redman@ohio.edu

Jamie Vandenburg is part of an ARC  
network application on "Mathematics and  
Biology" that is being co-ordinated by the  
Dept of Maths at Sydney Uni. One of the  
objectives in the application was to do some  
modeling of ion channels both in terms of  
kinetic models as well as structural models.  
In terms of the application itself he needs to  
establish a database of all people in Australia  
who are working in this field and could  
conceivably benefit from a network being  
established. Anyone who is interested should  
contact:

Jamie Vandenberg, Laboratory Head  
Electrophysiology and Biophysics  
Program Victor Chang Cardiac Research  
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## JOBS

*(note that there are "Positions vacant" and  
"Positions wanted" sections on the A PPS  
website)*

### 1. NHMRC RESEARCH OFFICER POSITION IN ENDOCRINE CELL BIOLOGY (MONASH)

A Research Officer position supported by  
NHMRC research grant is available from  
January 2004 at Prince Henry's Institute of  
Medical Research, located at Monash  
Medical Centre, Clayton, Victoria. Newly  
graduated PhD scientists with experience in  
electrophysiology, single cell Ca<sup>2+</sup>  
measurement, and/or endocytosis/exocytosis  
measurement are encouraged to apply.  
Experience and technical skills in molecular  
biology, and in particular, quantitative PCR  
and siRNA are advantages. Skills in receptor  
study and small animal handling would also  
be useful for the project.

The remuneration will be in accordance with  
NHMRC & Prince Henry's Institute of  
Medical Research scales and will be based  
on qualifications and experience. Salary  
packaging is available after an initial three  
month probationary period. All positions in  
the Institute are on a one year contract with  
continuance based on continued funding and  
performance.

For further details please contact Dr Chen  
Chen, Tel 95944371 and email:  
chen.chen@phimr.monash.edu.au

Applications should be sent to: Dr Chen  
Chen, PHIMR, PO Box 5152, Clayton,  
Victoria 3168 and should include CV and  
contact details of 3 referees.

### 2. NHMRC RESEARCH OFFICER POSITION IN CARDIAC PHYSIOLOGY (ADELAIDE)

A Post-doctoral position supported by a  
NHMRC project grant is available in the

Cellular Biophysics Laboratory, Division of Physiology, School of Molecular and Biomedical Sciences, University of Adelaide. The focus of the research is cardiac physiology and pathophysiology, with an emphasis on the responses of the heart to chronic and acute mechanical loading. Techniques used include electrophysiology (patch clamp, tissue samples and isolated heart), quantitative gene expression studies and confocal imaging. Experience in any of these areas will be highly regarded, but more important is adaptability and a willingness to learn. Remuneration will be in accordance with NHMRC & University of Adelaide Research scales and will be based on qualifications and experience.

For further details please contact Dr David Saint, tel (08) 8303 3931, email: david.saint@adelaide.edu.au

Applications should be sent to: Dr David Saint, Physiology, University of Adelaide, SA 5005, and should include CV and contact details of 3 referees.

### 3. CHAIR OF PHYSIOLOGY THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, MELBOURNE

This Chair of Physiology was originally established in 1862 in the School of Medicine, within the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. The position underpins the outstanding national and regional reputation of the Department of Physiology. The appointee will make major contributions in the areas of research, academic leadership and professional development and contribute to teaching excellence at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

**The Benefits:** An attractive remuneration package will be negotiated.

**Employment type:** This is a full-time (continuing) position.

**Contact:**

<http://www.hr.unimelb.edu.au/jobs/> for a position description or for further information contact Professor Stephen Harrap, Head, Department of Physiology, tel. +61 3 8344 5836, fax +9349 4519 or email s.harrap@unimelb.edu.au

**Applications to:** Vice Principal (Human Resources), The University of Melbourne, Victoria, 3010, Australia (marked 'Personal and Confidential'); secure fax +61 3 8344 6080 by 12 January 2004. Quote position number B0013419 and include the names, telephone, facsimile numbers and email addresses of three referees in your application.

The University Council reserves to itself the right to make no appointment or to fill the Chair by invitation at any stage.

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