



Australian Physiological Society

THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR AUSTRALIAN PHYSIOLOGISTS

AuPS News – December 2020

President's Report:

Prof. Gordon Lynch, University of Melbourne

The year that wasn't

This year we were meant to have held the 60th anniversary scientific meeting of the Australian Physiological Society. It was to have been something special, with much deserved celebration of the Society's success and an honour for me since it coincided with the conclusion of my final year as President.

My fortuitous 'last hurrah' perhaps? Not quite!

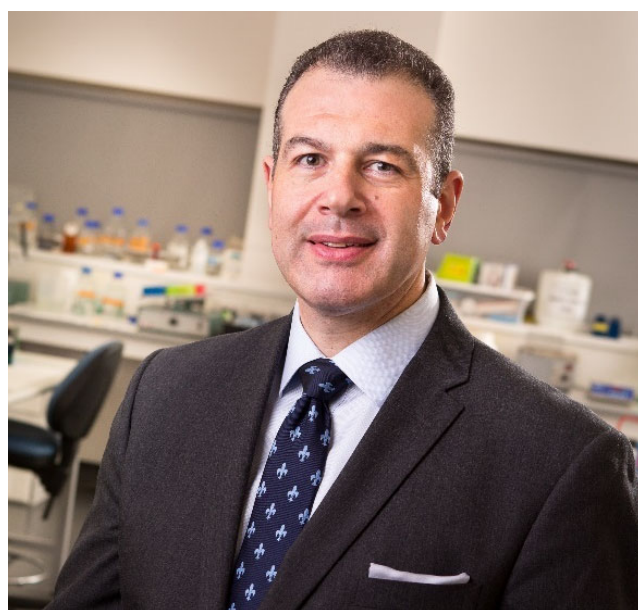
Alas, the deadly COVID-19 pandemic put the kibosh on those plans and after a year of much turmoil and upset, our jubilee meeting has now been deferred to 2021.

It is something we can all look forward to as we reset our lives after what can only be described as an *annus horribilis!*

In this final contribution to the Society's newsletter, I say farewell and thank you for the honour and privilege in serving as President of the AuPS.

The AuPS continues to evolve and for someone like me who's been a part of the Society for over 30 years, it's amazing to see how it looks today compared with how it did even just a few years ago.

My hope is that during the term of my presidency, the Society has been able to move forward and adapt according to the needs of our changing membership demographic, but at the same time not lose sight of our rich history, being especially respectful to those who have contributed to its success.



I want to thank the two National Secretaries who I've worked with during my term – Deanne Skelly and Glenn Wadley. The National Secretary is the key position in the Society and we, the membership, have been served extremely well by two very dedicated people who have done, and continue doing, a great job. So, thank you Deanne and Glenn.

I want to thank Severine Lamon for her considerable contributions, not just as an excellent Treasurer, but for her sincere efforts in helping reshape many aspects of the Society. Much of the work of Council goes unseen and unheard, but I can assure the membership that we are served extremely well by the dedicated efforts of our Councillors and Executive.

The introduction of many new funding and award initiatives has helped engage with our changing membership demographic, especially with our emerging research leaders and our specialist physiology educators. I am pleased to report that the Society is in great shape in terms of its membership and finances. It is indeed an exciting time for the AuPS and the future holds much promise.

My thanks also to Dave Davey and David Allen for their tireless work behind the scenes, helping facilitate many of these changes, smoothly and effectively. I'm grateful for their continued help and cooperation.

I'd like to thank Chris Shaw for his work as Editor of the Society's newsletter. I've worked closely with Chris over the last few years preparing different items for the newsletter and it has been a real pleasure, so thank you Chris.

I'd like to thank all the Council members who I've served with over the past three years and acknowledge them for their contributions to the Society's ongoing success. Serving on Council provides much insight into how our Society functions, how we plan our scientific conferences, and how we engage with our membership. I urge you to please consider serving on Council and contributing to the Society's future direction and success.

At our final Council meeting held in the days before the highly successful virtual Educational Forum and Student and ECR Forum, I was struck by the Council's genuine enthusiasm and commitment to work for the membership. Each Councillor is allocated a portfolio, either for membership recruitment, corporate sponsorship, website development, social media, or another responsibility. There is considerable cooperation and camaraderie among Council members and I am confident that the Society's membership and aspirations are in good hands.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to wish incoming President, Robyn Murphy, every success in the role.

Robyn has made exceptional contributions to the AuPS, serving with distinction on Council and as the Society's National Secretary. She is currently the Associate Head of the School of Life Sciences at La Trobe University and a professor in its Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Microbiology.

As President, I had the honour of introducing Robyn as the AuPS Invited Lecturer at the 2019 scientific meeting at the Australian National University, and most recently when she was one of the two keynote speakers at our virtual Student and ECR Forum.

I have absolutely no doubt that Robyn will do an outstanding job as President of the AuPS over the next three years.

Despite the havoc caused by the deadly COVID-19 pandemic and its long-term impact, I am pleased to report that the Society is in great shape and I look forward to 2021 when we can celebrate at our now deferred 60th jubilee meeting on the Gold Coast, with Deanne Kelly as the local meeting secretary.

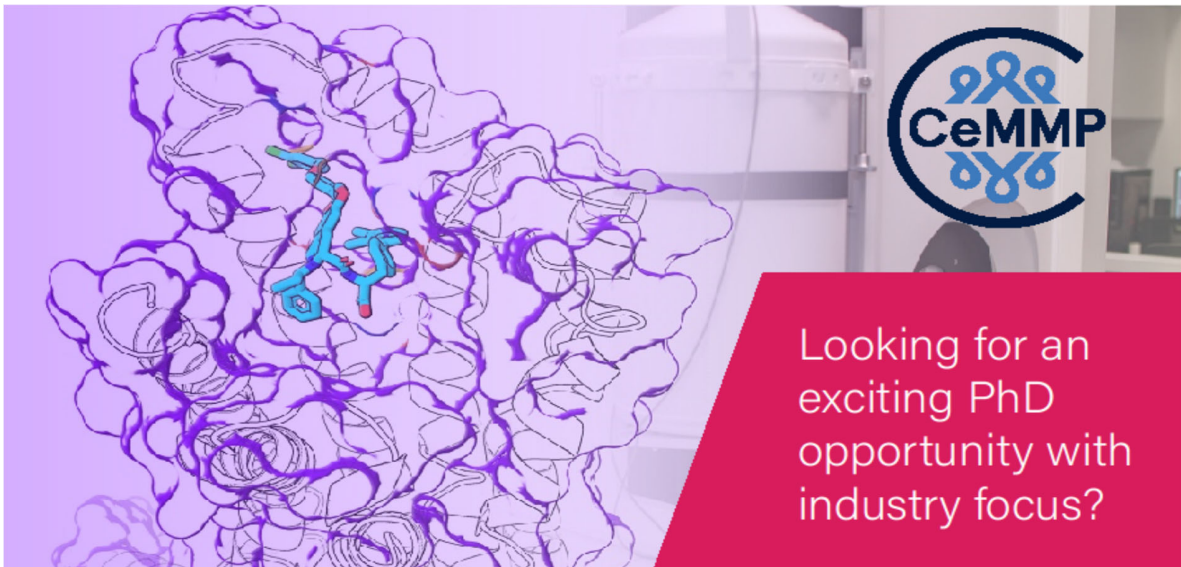
Finally, I'd like to thank the membership for their support of me over the duration of my term.

I wish the Society every success for the future.

Gordon S. Lynch

President AuPS

Professor of Physiology
Director, Centre for Muscle Research
Department of Physiology
The University of Melbourne



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Congratulations to all 2020 Prize Winners!!

The Michael Roberts Excellence in Physiology Education Award

Dr Charles Sevigny,
The University of Melbourne



Dr Charles Sevigny was awarded a medal and a cash award and will deliver a keynote lecture, alongside the 2019 winner (Associate Professor Andrew Moorhouse), at the Educational Symposium at next year's AuPS conference in the Gold Coast.

The AuPS Physiology Education Grant Winner

The AuPS Physiology Education Grant scheme was initiated this year to support early to mid-career academics and members of AuPS. The grant was established to support an education research project and will be mentored by a senior education researcher and former recipient of the Michael Roberts Prize. The applications are assessed on how the research will benefit physiology education or enhance student engagement with Physiology and the award includes \$3000 to support the project.

Dr Séverine Lamon, Deakin University

New to an academic position - bridging the gap between researchers and teachers



Summary

Academic career development relies on a combination of teaching and research skills. Often, researchers supported by competitive research fellowships for several years then transition to an academic position due to the pyramidal structure of the Australian research funding system. Transitioning from a research-only to a teaching and research role is however not instinctive and research and supervision experience are often not enough to meet students' and universities' teaching expectations. My project will be the first to describe the impact of the research-only to teaching and research transition on Australian Universities' staff and students and analyse the mediators of their experience. In addition, it will explore practical strategies, such as short courses or mentoring, which could be put in place by teaching leaders to best prepare researchers to become knowledgeable and confident teachers.

Post-doctoral publication prize

Dr Jack Darby, The University of South Australia

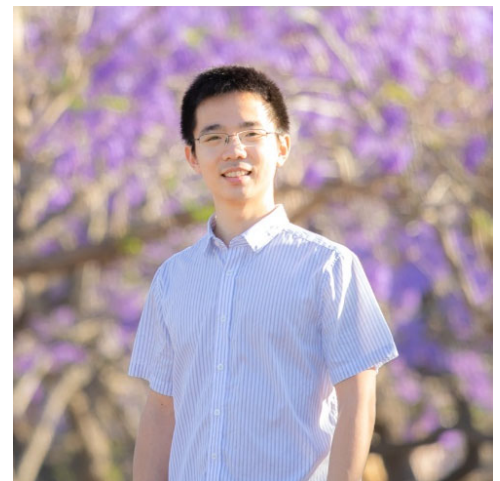
[Darby JRT et al. Umbilical vein infusion of prostaglandin I2 increases ductus venosus shunting of oxygen-rich blood but does not increase cerebral oxygen delivery in the fetal sheep. J Physiol. 2020, 598:4957-4967.](#)



PhD publication prize

Zhengxiang Huang, University of Queensland

[Huang Z et al. Dapagliflozin restores insulin and growth hormone secretion in obese mice. J Endocrinol 2020, 245\(1\), 1-12.](#)



These annual prizes are awarded for the best original paper published by an AuPS member during the course of their post-doctoral or PhD studies. Winners are awarded \$500 to be used to present work at a conference.

AUPS STUDENT AND ECR FORUM 26TH NOVEMBER 2020

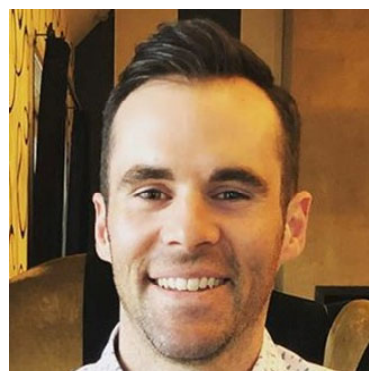


Due to the extraordinary circumstances this year we decided to postpone our annual scientific which will now be held in the Gold Coast in 2021. In order for our student and ECR members to showcase their research this year, we held the 2020 AuPS Student and ECR forum via Zoom on the 26th November. The forum was a great success with over 20 oral and video poster presentations and >100 registrants. The forum also included a welcome from Professor Gordon Lynch and keynote presentations from incoming President, Professor Robyn Murphy, and former AK McIntyre award winner, Dr Tanya Cully. Congratulation to all of those involved and the award winners!

Oral presentation prizes:

1st place: Dr Angus Lindsay, Deakin University

Stress: a novel regulator of Duchenne muscular dystrophy pathogenesis?



2nd place: Laetitia Hughes, The University of Western Australia

Altered Mitochondrial Translation Initiation Disrupts Respiratory Complex Assembly and Leads to Cardiomyopathy



3rd place: Dr Nicholas Saner, Victoria University

The effect of sleep restriction, with or without high-intensity interval exercise, on myofibrillar protein synthesis in healthy young men



Poster presentation prize:

Winner: Crystal Seng, University of Queensland

Characterising Mitochondrial Ca^{2+} across a spectrum of SR-RyR1 Ca^{2+} leak



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AU^{PS} EDUCATION FORUM: PHYSIOLOGY TEACHING AND LEARNING: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE 25TH NOVEMBER 2020

The AuPS ‘virtual’ Education Forum took place via Zoom on the 25th November 2020. The forum provided an opportunity for physiology educators to present their perspectives and findings in relation to the past, present and future of physiology. The forum had ~100 registrants from all over Australia and Prof Dee Silverthorn (University of Texas) was the keynote speaker, giving an insightful talk entitled ‘Physiology Education post-COVID, a continuing role for virtual learning platforms. The morning session also included 20 short oral presentations and was followed in the afternoon by a reflective workshop. Thanks to the organisers and all attendees for a very successful education forum!

Oral presentation prizes:

1st place: A/Prof Christian Moro,
Bond University

Employing augmented reality for the provision of stroke education



2nd place: Dr Angelina Fong,
University of Melbourne

Empowering students for group work: an integrated program of in-class face-to-face (F2F) teaching and online environment



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This issue of AuPS News was compiled by Chris Shaw with many thanks to the generous contributors.

The next issue of AuPS News will be distributed to members in March 2021.

All contributions for AuPS News should be sent to: newsletter@aups.org.au before the end of February.

Thank you to the supporters of AuPS:

