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TRANSPLANTATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

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Newsletter
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Dear Members,

We write to wish you a Merry Christmas, and to outline activities for the forthcoming 12 months within the society. 2009 will almost certainly be another busy year, again centred on our strong scientific meeting.

Nominations for the TSANZ Council

The call for nominations for the positions of President-elect and Councillors was sent to members in September. The closing date for nominations, which must be submitted in writing, is 5.00pm Friday 6th February 2009. For further information or nomination forms, contact the society office.

2009 ASM and PGC

For the first time this year, our annual scientific meeting will be held in June, in the Manning Clark Centre of the Australian National University. Our post graduate course will be conducted on 15-16 June, followed by our annual scientific meeting 17-19 June. The venue is significantly larger and superior to our previous venue at the Academy of Science, but is sufficiently close to enable accommodation at University House as usual. Additional accommodation close to the venue, in hotel or serviced apartment formats, is also available.

Our program includes an array of key national and international speakers providing a balance of clinical and basic science issues, with a particular focus on clinical issues pertinent to the physician and in parallel pertinent to the transplant surgeon, including small group breakout sessions. We seek to appeal to all 595 of our current members, be they scientist, physician, surgeon, or allied health care worker. We strongly encourage you all to submit abstracts, the closing date for which is February 27, 2009. As always, travel support and the potential to win prizes will be available, including the President's Prize, best clinical and best basic science presentations and numerous travel grants. We are, as always, grateful to

our Industry Partners - Janssen-Cilag, Roche, Novartis and Wyeth; our Corporate Sponsors – Amgen and Genzyme; and our Exhibitor - Dutec.

Given the growth in our membership, coupled with the positive experiences gained from the Sydney TTS meeting in August and our new enhanced premises at the Manning Clark Centre, we expect this to be the best ever TSANZ annual scientific meeting and hope sincerely that you will be a part of it. The specific program details will follow early in the New Year.

Feedback from TTS 2008

The TTS/TSANZ meeting held in Sydney, August 10-14 2008, was a huge success by all measures. Positive feedback has been received from around the globe. We are grateful to the local organising committee for producing such a splendid meeting and in particular, Jeremy Chapman for his superb leadership, but also to the general TSANZ membership for their enormous support of the meeting. In addition to enhancing the international reputation of Australian transplantation, further benefits will ensue. Firstly, we now provide our membership with joint membership of TSANZ and TTS, which includes free online subscription to the Journal of Transplantation, at a substantially discounted rate. Secondly, increased involvement and indeed invitation of our membership to speak at international meetings over the next year or so is already evident, and we suspect our reputation will only grow from here. Thirdly, many of our members presented superbly at the TTS meeting and we suspect the experience will only enhance their future presentations at TSANZ ASM's and also international meetings. Finally, the TSANZ will be a significant financial beneficiary of this meeting and a formal profit announcement will occur early 2009. The amount should be sufficient to enable substantial initiatives in support of research and education in transplantation for ANZ for the short to medium term.

Continuation of recent research initiatives

Last year several new research support awards were initiated by TSANZ council, including the Amgen TSANZ research grants, for one year's research into kidney-relevant outcomes following solid organ transplantation, and the Mark Cocks Award, to support the development of skills and techniques and the improvement of survival rates and patient quality of life. We are delighted to announce that both initiatives will continue into 2009, with timelines to guide applications for those grants attached at the rear of this newsletter. The topic for the 2009 Mark Cocks Award will be forwarded to members early next year. Details of other awards and prizes available to society members are also attached.

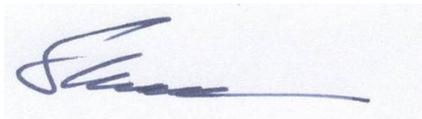
Other issues

Governance of transplantation in Australia is likely to see significant evolution over the coming year or two, with the development of the National Transplant Authority, the structure of which should be determined over the next two months. We envisage TSANZ will continue its current role in the transplantation sector largely through the work of its Standing Committees. For physician members, significant changes in the relationship between the RACP and TSANZ are currently under negotiation, as is the case for all sub-speciality societies, and we will keep you posted of any developments.

At a clinical level, changes in donation patterns have been seen and are likely to evolve further following current Government funding initiatives. These include increased utilisation of deceased cardiac donor grafts which now exceed 10% of all deceased donors in NSW, establishment of programs for non directed donation (altruistic), which has now occurred in NSW, SA and WA. Live donor liver transplantation and paired exchange kidney transplantation are further initiatives in evolution across the country. ABO incompatible kidney transplantation is now well established, with over 30 such transplants performed in Australia to date, led by the RMH in Melbourne. Thus, we are in an exciting time of organ transplantation.

We at council wish you, the largest ever TSANZ membership, a very merry Christmas and a relaxing holiday period, hopefully punctuated by plenty of transplants. We look forward to contacting you early in the New Year with an update of our program for 2009, which will include a significant change over in council ranks, and most importantly the transition of presidency from Associate Professor Josette Eris to Associate Professor Frank Ierino.

Yours sincerely



Steve Chadban
Communications Officer



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Amgen-TSANZ Research Grant Awards 2009

Objectives and Aim of the Awards

To support two clinical research projects per annum in the area of kidney outcomes following transplantation. The scope includes clinical studies of organ (kidney, pancreas, liver, heart, lung or bone marrow) transplant recipients where the focus is on kidney-relevant outcomes, such as kidney function, anaemia or bone disease.

Funding

The two awards are for \$50,000 each for one year.

Applications

The awards are open to all financial members of 12 months standing of the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ).

Reporting

Successful applicants will be required to present an annual progress report to TSANZ until completion of the project and will be encouraged to present their findings at the TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting.

Closing Dates

A. An initial 1 page letter of intent, A4 Arial 10 font, which should include an outline of the proposed project (rationale, aims, methods, expected outcome and impact) plus contact details, should be lodged with the Honorary Secretary of TSANZ by **5pm Friday 6th March 2009**.

B. The 5 best applicants will then be contacted by Friday 20th March 2009 and full applications (3 A4 pages, Arial 10 font, including rationale, aims, methods, expected outcome and impact) together with Curriculum Vitae for 1-3 investigators, will be sought with the closing date being **5pm Friday 17th April 2009**.

C. Applicants will be advised of the outcome and the successful applicants will be formally announced and presented with their award at the TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting Annual Dinner on Thursday 18th June 2009 in Canberra.





The Mark Cocks Transplant Research Scholarship

This prestigious award is to recognise the life of Mark Cocks and his contribution to Transplant Australia and the wider transplant community. It has been offered by Transplant Australia through their Team Life programme.

Objectives and Focus

To encourage members of the transplant community to study or enhance their transplantation techniques and procedures, or to develop innovations that will improve survival rates and the quality of life of patients.

Selection Criteria and Funding

The scholarship is open to all financial members of the Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ). The successful applicant will receive a grant to be used for the purpose of carrying out the Scholarship, which may include but is not limited to travel, accommodation, materials, salary and associated costs.

Reporting

The scholarship will normally have a life of 12 months. The successful 2009 applicant will be encouraged to present their findings at the TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting and at the World Transplant Games on the Gold Coast in August 2009.

Closing Date for Applications

6 copies of the application, consisting of a summary (1-page maximum) outlining the overall direction of the proposed project, and Curriculum Vitae of the applicant, should be lodged with the Honorary Secretary of TSANZ by **5pm Friday 6th March 2009**. The successful 2009 applicant will be formally announced and presented with their award at the TSANZ Annual Dinner on Thursday 18th June during the ASM in Canberra.



The Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The Society provides a number of benefits for members, which include support to attend national and international transplantation meetings and reduced fees at meetings sponsored by the society.

The eligibility criteria for each award are outlined below and will form the basis for selecting suitable applicants. If there are more applicants than available funds, TSANZ Council will use its discretion to determine the final allocation of these awards.

1. Novartis & Wyeth Young Investigator Awards to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting

Eligibility

- be a financial member of the Society at the time award is being considered
- be under 35 years of age or currently registered for a full time research degree
- have an abstract accepted for oral or poster presentation
- attend and present their abstract

Application made on abstract form

Award

- Assistance with travel/registration for this meeting
- Current value - Return airfare from city of origin plus registration fee

Closing Date

- Abstract closing date

2. Amgen Young Investigator Book Prizes

Eligibility

- be a financial member of the Society at the time award is being considered
- be under 35 years of age or currently registered for a full time research degree
- have an abstract accepted for oral or poster presentation
- attend and present their abstract

Application made on abstract form

Award

- 3 Book vouchers to the value of \$500 each

Closing Date

- Abstract closing date

3. President's Prize

The President's Prize is awarded by TSANZ to the best young investigator (under 35 years of age or currently enrolled for a full-time research degree), who is a financial member of the Society at the time the award is being considered, based on a submitted abstract and invited oral presentation in the President's Prize Symposium at the Annual Scientific Meeting. The current value of the award is up

to the value of \$2,500 to attend a scientific meeting. The money is to cover the cost of travel, registration and accommodation and should be used within two years of winning the prize. In addition there is a \$500 prize.

4. **Kidney Health Australia Awards for Clinical & Laboratory Presentations at the Annual Scientific Meeting**

The KHA has generously sponsored two awards, each to the value of \$1,000, for the best clinical and laboratory based presentations at the Annual Scientific Meeting. The awards are judged on abstract and presentation at the ASM, and all presenting financial members of the Society are eligible.

5. **Novartis, Roche and TSANZ Travel Awards to attend International Transplantation Meetings**

Eligibility

- be a financial member of the Society of 12 months standing from the date of approval of membership to the Society to the date of the meeting
- be under 35 years of age or a full time student enrolled for a higher degree (young investigator) or
- be over 35 years of age (senior investigator) in a non-clinical position
- have an abstract accepted for oral or poster presentation at a transplantation orientated meeting
- not be in receipt of a bursary from the meeting organisers and must have applied (if eligible) for such a bursary
- attend and present their abstract
- no discrimination between oral and poster presentations
- council will not score abstracts
- preference given to first authors
- Young Investigators or full time students are eligible to apply twice in a five year period
- Senior Investigators are eligible to apply once every three year
- when there are too many eligible applicants, preference given to those not previously supported

A minimum of 6 awards will be offered each year

Successful applicants must supply brief summary of meeting highlights to TSANZ office

Application form available from TSANZ office or the website

Award

- Assistance with travel/registration for the meeting
- \$2,500 to attend meetings in USA/Europe/Japan
- \$1,500 elsewhere

Closing Date

- Three (3) months before the meeting, or the closing date for abstract submission (if the latter is less than 3 months before the meeting).

6. **Janssen-Cilag Travelling Fellowship**

This award of \$5,000 is for members at an early stage in their career in transplantation who wish to travel overseas in order to further their careers in transplantation.

An emailed copy of the application should be forwarded to the Honorary Secretary by the closing date of August 31st (in the year before receipt of the award) or by February 28th. The applicant must have been a member of TSANZ for at least twelve months at the time of the application. The application should contain the following information:

- a. Full name, date of birth, private address, telephone number, fax and email, of applicant, together with address for all correspondence
- b. Details of academic record-to-date, including courses completed, year of completion and results obtained
- c. Brief description of any current or completed research work
- d. List of publications
- e. Description of proposed research programme and nature of employment (if relevant) in year of award. This should be no more than 2 pages. Please indicate the stage of negotiation etc
- f. Details of other financial support obtained or applied for in the year of award
- g. Details of travel for which the fellowship is sought (including copy of abstract if relevant)
- h. The names and addresses of 2 referees

Successful applicants will be required to submit a report to Council regarding their Fellowship, which will be published in the Newsletter.

