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TRANSPLANTATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND

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Newsletter
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COMMUNICATIONS REPORT – Steve Chadban

I write in the midst of the exciting build up to the XXII International Congress of the Transplantation Society (TTS) to be staged in Sydney 10-14 August. The structure and key components of the meeting are well and truly cemented in place and the local organising committee are working overtime to complete preparations for what promises to be a fantastic international meeting. As the host society and co-sponsor, along with The Transplantation Society (TTS), we are looking forward to major participation in the meeting by TSANZ members and in particular a healthy and disproportionate display of our scientific enterprises. Early-bird registration closes 26th May 2008 and the abstract submission deadline of 7th March 2008 is fast approaching. We strongly urge all Australian members and their associates to submit abstracts by this deadline, which can be accomplished via the web site www.transplantation2008.org. TTS 2008 represents a unique opportunity to present your work to a truly international audience on your own shores and one that should not be missed. Members of the society who submit an abstract will be eligible for a large number of awards to be provided by TSANZ, as detailed in the second part of this newsletter by the Honorary Secretary, A/Prof Peter Cowan. The best abstracts will, as always, be eligible to receive the President's Prize, which will be judged during TTS 2008 at a TSANZ President's Prize symposium to be held on Monday 11th August, 7 - 8.15 a.m. We encourage all TSANZ members do attend TTS 2008 as an opportunity to participate in the worlds premiere transplantation congress on your own shores. We will be staging our annual general meeting during the lunchtime break on Thursday 14th August. TSANZ members will be eligible to receive discounted registration fees, which can be accessed through the web site www.transplantation2008.org. We strongly encourage you to spread the word about TTS among your non TSANZ member colleagues and offer them TSANZ membership which would then entitle them to similarly reduced conference fees.

Organising and ultimately staging TTS 2008 in Sydney has taken an incredible amount of time and energy from Jeremy Chapman, his local organising committee,

and countless other members of the Australian and international transplant communities. With crunch time fast approaching, the team would welcome expressions of interest from any member of the transplantation community who has time, energy and expertise to give and whose services have to date been underutilised by the local organising committee. If you would like to help out to please contact Aviva at TSANZ tsanz@racp.edu.au

To coincide with TTS 2008 in August, the TSANZ are delighted to announce two new research funding opportunities, the recipients of which will be announced at the AGM, Thursday 14th August during TTS 2008. The Amgen TSANZ research grants will be made available to Australian researchers examining kidney outcomes following organ transplantation. Two grants per annum will be available with funding to commence January 2009. Secondly, Transplant Australia has made \$15,000 per annum available to an Australian researcher through their Team Life program, with funding also to commence in 2009. Applications are invited from all TSANZ members for both grants, with the grant application specifications attached to the end of this newsletter. I bring your attention to the timelines detailed on the announcements, to enable the winners to be decided upon and announced at TTS 2008 in August.

Beyond August 2008, several issues face the membership of TSANZ:

- Plans are well underway for the 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting, which will be coordinated by Drs Michael Fink and Hilton Gock from Melbourne. This meeting will feature an exciting program, three international guest speakers, and a shift in location from the Academy of Sciences building to The Manning Clark Centre, also housed within the Australian National University of Canberra. The Manning Clark Complex will provide a larger, state-of-the-art conference facility better suited to the growing needs of our society, but will enable our membership to continue to stay at university house should they wish. The ASM will, as always, be accompanied by a state-of-the-art postgraduate education course, planned and implemented by Drs Brendan Ryan and Wayne Hawthorne. Stature of our postgraduate course has grown in recent years. Exit surveys of participants demonstrate a high level of satisfaction with content and speaker quality. Numbers are growing and in fact the nephrology supervisory committee within the RACP has now mandated attendance at our postgraduate course as a compulsory component of training for all advanced trainees in nephrology, which is a vote of confidence in our course indeed.

- Membership of the TSANZ will, as of 2009, provide complimentary membership of the TTS which includes electronic access to the journal Transplantation.

- The Royal Australasian College of Physicians are currently in the midst of sweeping changes to their governance structures which will be of relevance to the physicians among the membership and physician trainees in particular. TSANZ council are centrally involved in this process and will fully update the membership in the next newsletter.

- TSANZ is also involved with new government initiatives promoting organ donation throughout Australia. We aim to provide full briefings in the second half of 2008.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Peter Cowan

As you know, the XXII International Congress of the Transplantation Society (TTS) will be held in Sydney in August 2008, hosted by TTS and TSANZ and organised by a very capable Committee chaired by Jeremy Chapman. It promises to be an outstanding meeting. The TSANZ Council encourages all members to attend, and reminds members that the closing date for abstract submission (**FRIDAY MARCH 7**) is fast approaching.

The TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) will not be held as a separate event in 2008 but will be merged with TTS 2008. Please note also that the TSANZ Postgraduate Course for 2008 will be merged with the TTS Course and will offer an excellent program for young clinicians and scientists.

All of the prizes and awards normally associated with the ASM – the President's Prize (PP), Novartis and Wyeth Young Investigator Awards (YIA), Kidney Health Australia Awards, and Amgen Young Investigator Book Prizes – will be presented at TTS 2008. In fact, TSANZ Council is pleased to announce that due to the generosity of our sponsors there will be an increase in the usual number of awards available to attend TTS 2008. However, the merging of the ASM into TTS 2008 does present some logistical difficulties in judging the awards, which will be dealt with as follows.

- **President's Prize**

The PP is normally awarded by TSANZ to the best young investigator (under 35 years of age and/or currently enrolled for a full-time research degree) based on a submitted abstract and invited oral presentation in the PP Symposium at the ASM. The winner receives a \$A500 cash prize and up to \$A2,500 for travel, registration and accommodation to attend a scientific meeting within 2 years of the award. The presentations of selected PP candidates will undoubtedly be spread across different sessions and days during TTS 2008, which complicates the judging process. Accordingly, there will be a special TSANZ PP session for these candidates on the morning of Monday August 11, at which the judging of the PP will take place. The full TSANZ Council will be in attendance and we urge all members to come along and provide feedback to the candidates before they present during the main body of the meeting.

- **Novartis and Wyeth Young Investigator Awards**

Any financial TSANZ member under 35 years of age and/or currently enrolled for a full-time research degree who has an abstract accepted for an oral or poster presentation is eligible to be considered for a YIA to attend TTS 2008. YIA recipients receive assistance with travel/registration to the meeting. In 2008 these awards will be judged as usual on the basis of submitted abstracts.

- **Kidney Health Australia Awards**

There are 2 KHA awards of \$A1,000 each for the best clinical and laboratory based presentations at the ASM, and all financial TSANZ members are eligible. In 2008 the KHA awards will be judged solely on the basis of submitted abstracts.

- **Amgen Young Investigator Book Prizes**

There are 3 book vouchers to the value of \$A500 each, available to any financial TSANZ member under 35 years of age and/or currently enrolled for

a full-time research degree who attends the meeting and presents an oral or poster abstract. These prizes are judged on the basis of submitted abstracts.

MOST IMPORTANTLY there will be no boxes to tick on the TTS 2008 abstract submission form regarding eligibility for the PP or YIAs. It is therefore imperative that anyone who wishes to be considered for either or both of these awards should let the TSANZ know by e-mail (tsanz@racp.edu.au) **IMMEDIATELY** after they receive confirmation that their abstract has been accepted. Notification of abstract acceptance is scheduled for **MAY 6** – put a note in your diaries.

PLEASE NOTE that the PP, KHA Awards and Amgen Book Prizes will be presented during the TSANZ AGM, which will be held on **THURSDAY AUGUST 14** during TTS 2008. A list of YIA winners will also be presented at the AGM. All members are strongly encouraged to attend the AGM, not only to recognise our prize winners but also to vote on important Society business.

OTHER PRIZES

- **The Ian McKenzie Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Transplantation**
Details of this new \$5,000 award, which is distinct from the McKenzie Fellowship, have been circulated to members recently. The closing date for applications this year is **WEDNESDAY APRIL 30, 2008**.
- **The Amgen-TSANZ Research Grant Awards**
Two one-year awards of \$50,000 each will be presented in 2008. 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. The closing date for letters of intent this year is **FRIDAY APRIL 18, 2008** and for full applications is **MONDAY JUNE 2, 2008**.
- **The Mark Cocks Transplant Research Scholarship**
This new \$15,000, one-year award is designed to encourage members of the transplant community to enhance their transplantation techniques or develop innovations to improve survival rates and quality of life of patients. The focus for the 2008 Scholarship is on quality of life issues post-transplant in children and teenagers. The closing date for applications this year is **THURSDAY MAY 1, 2008**.

Full details of these awards are can be found at the end of this news bulletin and will be posted on the TSANZ website. The 2008 McKenzie Prize, Amgen-TSANZ Awards and Mark Cocks Scholarship will all be awarded at the TSANZ AGM – another reason to attend!

Please note that the National Health and Medical Research Council is funding a survey MABEL -Medicine in Australia: Balancing Employment and Life (*The Australian Longitudinal Survey of Doctors*) which is to be conducted by researchers from the University of Melbourne and Monash Universities. Further information is available at www.mabel.org.au



Amgen-TSANZ Research Grant Awards

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 Date

A. 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 18th April 2008.**

B. The 5 best applicants will be contacted by Friday 2nd May 2008, 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 Monday 2nd June 2008.**

C. Applicants will be advised of the outcome by Friday 1st August 2008, and the successful applicant will be formally announced and presented with their award at the TSANZ AGM on Thursday 14th August during the XXII International Congress of the Transplantation Society in Sydney.

Please email all applications to Aviva Rosenfeld tsanz@racp.edu.au



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. For the 2008 Award, the focus is on quality of life issues post-transplant in children and teenagers.

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 \$15,000 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 2008 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 Thursday 1st May 2008**. The successful 2008 applicant will be formally announced and presented with their award at the TSANZ AGM on Thursday 14th August during the XXII International Congress of the Transplantation Society in Sydney.