



TRANSPLANTATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

newsletter december 2009

Editorial Comment

Dear Members,

Well 2009 has flown by, and here we are in December already – time for one last Newsletter to bring you up to date with TSANZ business. I'm sure you will be interested to read about the ongoing expansion of the Society and its national roles. Apart from anything else, this highlights the importance of a regular newsletter, and from now on I will endeavour to circulate a quarterly report.

On behalf of TSANZ Council, I would like to wish all members a restful Christmas break and a happy and productive New Year.

Peter Cowan

President's Message

Our Society's membership continues to remain very healthy, and has now grown to almost 650 members. Council is now working hard to support the needs of our members and look forward to the immediate and long-term future of the Society. At this point I would like to congratulate Michael Fink for his election to Council as the standing Surgical position on Council. This much-awaited addition will provide the necessary depth on Council and key input from the Surgeons.

As our Society grows, so do our responsibilities and requirements to sustain our activities. There are many challenges for Council, however providing for the needs of a broad membership is an ongoing

priority. Joint memberships with the TTS, ATCA and the TNA are examples of moves to facilitate broad involvement and engage key members. TSANZ has multiple specialty transplant areas, which I will not go over in detail, and the extent of our Society's work reaches out to clinicians (transplant physicians, surgeons and intensive care physicians), scientists, research students, trainees, donor coordinators, transplant nurses and other stakeholders which include the community in general.

To summarise the work of Council, there are two very broad areas – first, education and the science of clinical transplantation and research, and second, issues relating to the Governance and Advisory (guidelines, policy and quality assurance) areas of transplantation in Australia. These areas have resulted in a rapid expansion and increase in the level of work by TSANZ Council and its Standing Committees. It is most important that this new era for TSANZ evolves with considered thought to the Society's structure.

A recent major event was the strategic planning meeting for TSANZ. I believe this was a pivotal meeting and following requested input from the entire membership, Council met with immediate past Presidents of TSANZ to review and outline a plan for TSANZ's future. From this point, I plan to write a discussion paper with an executive summary, and distribute this to the membership in the near future for further consideration and discussion

at the Annual General Meeting next year. Everyone needs to be thanked for the process. I am confident this will result in changes that will shape TSANZ in a positive and effective manner for the future.

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You will hear about Council's activity throughout this Newsletter, so I will not go over every aspect. However, there are three areas of activity that I would like to mention, which include TSANZ's work in association with the National Transplant Authority, ongoing plans for the Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course as our feature event for the year, and finally TSANZ's "home" at Macquarie Street Sydney.

TSANZ's main interacting body with The Australian Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation Authority ("the Authority") has been the Standing Committees which is ably chaired by Peter Macdonald. The structure and activity of the Authority is taking shape from the national point of view, and at multiple levels, including all the way down to individual hospitals. The work on National Guidelines for acceptance of potential transplant recipients has occupied a significant portion of the time, and further work is expected in the area of allocation of organs and auditing. Overall, this is a very positive initiative and places TSANZ as one of the key advisory bodies. The extent of the work needed by the Standing Committees to continue this development and maintain the policies and guidelines will need a long-term funding strategy to support this critical activity. Much of the work in the past has relied on goodwill, however the extent of work needed will not be possible without external funding sources. Presently, the National Authority has provided this funding.

Every aspect of TSANZ's activity is important, however the education and science is core business which has been present from the beginnings and remains one of the two key areas that unifies our multi-disciplinary Society. The Annual Scientific Meeting and Postgraduate Course is our premier event which I believe has maintained an excellent atmosphere at the new venue. You will hear about the plans for Canberra in this Newsletter. The change to the new site has been very successful in many ways and we anticipate that this will remain the site for some time. The site is very functional and allows us to keep the cost of the meeting at a reasonable level. The other issue is the timing of the meeting, and at present, mid-year is the spot. Unfortunately no single date will be agreeable with everyone. The very nature of our multi-disciplinary Society with its Membership having roles in many other Societies and organizations will make the decision about the timing of the meeting a "balancing act" and will require some compromise. Mid-year is the current time, but will come up for discussion at the Annual General Meeting.

I would also like to highlight the developing Postgraduate Course. The long-term vision for our

course is a "curriculum" in Transplantation which will be nationally recognised by professional organizations. However, this vision will take some effort and planning, but I believe this will be worthwhile.

Finally, our "home" continues to be under constant review. At this stage we remain at Macquarie Street, but we (TSANZ) and our co-residents, ANZSN, are continuing dialogue and negotiations with the RACP, to determine the financial relationship with the College. I will update you further as this working party continues its meetings.

You will be hearing from me again soon regarding the Strategic Plans and look forward to an exciting new era for TSANZ.

Frank Ierino
President, TSANZ

Secretary's Report

There were two major changes to the Society in 2009 - the move from the National Academy of Sciences to the Manning Clark Centre and a constitutional alteration to TSANZ council for Transplant Surgical representation. The move to the Manning Clark Centre provided much needed extra room for concurrent sessions and venue with the appropriate capacity for our growing Society. Drs Hilton Gock and Michael Fink organized an outstanding scientific and social program for the first meeting in this new venue which was agreed by all to be a great success. The second major change was a motion moved and passed unanimously at the AGM to have permanent surgical representation on Council. Three nominations were received for this position and the subsequent ballot led to the election of Dr Michael Fink to this position, who has now joined the council.

The TSANZ council met on two subsequent occasions, face to face in September and by teleconference in November. In September the council met for a planning day to consider future directions for the society and to plan what to do with the profits made by the highly successful TTS meeting, held in Sydney in 2008. The council, led by A/Prof Frank Ierino considered a variety of changes including the possibility of establishing an endowment fund, into which donations and investment could be made to enable the society to become more financially independent into the future. A/Prof. Frank Ierino is currently finalising a discussion paper with all the suggested recommendations considered at the meeting, and this will be distributed to the membership in the

near future. The council continues to keep transplantation science and education and advocacy as its key functions. Pleasingly there has been no drop in membership since the 2008 TTS meeting. There has been a healthy influx of combined Transplant Nurses Association/ TSANZ members. The council also provides representation on a number of scientific organizations including the Australian Society for Medical Research. There will likely be an increasing role for TSANZ in liaison with the speciality colleges, with increasing requests for input from TSANZ into curriculum development and training. The recommendations from the planning meeting and strategic direction proposals will be formally presented and discussed with the membership at the next AGM in Canberra in June 2010.

On the administrative front, Aviva Rosenfeld continues to provide outstanding administrative support with Louise Deller and has been joined by Paula Galea in the Sydney office.

The society exists in no small part for the benefit of its members and we are indeed fortunate to be able to offer a large range of travel awards and grants to further Transplantation science and training in Australia and New Zealand. The membership is reminded of the upcoming American Transplantation Congress (San Diego, May 1-5th 2010) and the International Transplantation Society meeting (Vancouver, August 15-19th 2010). The full details and application forms for these grants may be downloaded from our website

(<http://www.tsanz.com.au/awardsandfellowships/index.asp>). These awards close 3 months before the meeting, and the attention of members is drawn to the fact that the result of abstract submission for some transplantation meetings may sometimes not be known at this time point. Junior investigators are eligible to apply twice in a five year cycle and senior investigators are eligible to apply once every 3 years. The council strongly encourages the membership to take advantage of these generous awards and urges members to consider application.

Toby Coates
Honorary Secretary, TSANZ

Standing Committees

National Transplant Authority Project

1. Development of nationally uniform eligibility guidelines and allocation protocols for organ transplantation in Australia and New Zealand.

The Standing Committees continue to work on the development of this policy. Since the last newsletter, an initial draft document was placed on the TSANZ website for one month prior to a public consultation forum which was held in September. The subsequent feedback has been incorporated into further revision of the policy document. Professional medical writers (Ampersand) have been employed to facilitate further revisions of the document.

The revised schedule for further development of this policy is for completion of the 2nd draft by March 2010 followed by a further round of public consultation including another public consultation forum which has been scheduled for the last week of April 2010. Following the forum, it is expected that the final version of the policy will be completed before the end of June 2010.

2. Development of Audit Mechanisms to monitor adherence to the National Eligibility/Allocation Policy

TSANZ was approached originally by the Department of Health to develop audit mechanisms for the new National Eligibility/Allocation Policy. The intent was for this task to be completed over the 2-3 year period following endorsement of the National eligibility/Allocation Policy. Dr Gerry O'Callaghan (Medical Director of National Organ & Tissue Authority, NOTA) has advised Peter Macdonald that the audit development would now be undertaken by the NOTA. This will occur in parallel with the development of a National Clinical Information System (NCIS), also within the NOTA. A Steering Committee for the development of the NCIS has been established under the chairmanship of Jeremy Chapman. The Chairs of the individual Organ Standing Committees were informed of these developments at a follow-up teleconference and all agreed that it was more appropriate for NOTA rather than TSANZ to develop these audit mechanisms.

Peter Macdonald
Chair, Standing Committees

Education & Science Report

There are a number of very exciting local and international transplant meetings in the upcoming year. Please see the details of these below and be aware of TSANZ funding available for young presenters at these meetings.

American Transplantation Society 1-5 May 2010, San Diego USA
<http://www.atcmeeting.org/2010/index.cfm> (closing date for travel award applications: 1st Feb 2010)

TSANZ June Canberra 23-25 June 2010, Manning Clark Centre, ANU Campus, Canberra, ACT
www.tsanz.com.au/ (abstract submission deadline: late Feb 2010)

XXIII International Congress of The Transplantation Society, 15-19 August 2010, Vancouver, Canada
<http://www.transplantation2010.org/index.html>
 (abstract submission deadline: 5th Mar 2010; closing date for travel award applications: 15th May 2010)

Australian Health and Medical Research Congress 14-19 November 2010, New Melbourne Convention Centre
www.asmr.org.au/Conferences.html (dates TBA)

Steve Alexander and Peter Cowan

Membership

Since the last newsletter, Council welcomed the following new members:

TSANZ
 Tatjana Banovic, Elise Tu.

ATCA/TSANZ
 Kathe Beyerle, Espedito Faraone, Andrea Goltz, Anne Griffiths, Chris Inglis-Simons, Andrea James, Janice Langlands, Paula Lyons, Katherine

Macleod, Shona McDonald, Linda McGeown, Amy Partanen, Graeme Pollock, Liz Rothwell, Shakira Spiller

TNA/TSANZ

Phillip Bettens, Michelle Burton, Kristie Campbell, Linda Colefax, Kerry Dole, Fiona Egan, Anne-Maree Hockings, Bernadette Madigan, Catherine, O'Driscoll, Natalie Robertson, Merran Spargo, Philippa Street

Since the last newsletter, Council has accepted the following resignations:

Kelvin Lynn, John Moran, Rajan Ramanath, Trixie Shinkel, Alicia Stein, Gayathri Sundaram, Paul Tan

Society Awards and Grants

The Society, together with the generous support of Society sponsors, offers a number of awards and grants to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting, Postgraduate Training Course and to attend relevant international meetings.

The awards currently available are:

President's Prize at the ASM

Kidney Health Australia Awards for the best clinical & laboratory presentations at the ASM

Novartis and Wyeth Young Investigator Awards at the ASM

Amgen Young Investigator Book prizes at the ASM

Janssen-Cilag Travelling Fellowship

Novartis, Roche and TSANZ Travel Awards to attend International Meetings

Check the TSANZ website for details:
<http://www.tsanz.com.au/awardsandfellowships/index.asp>

Calendar of Events

2010 Meetings:

World Congress of Internal Medicine 2010 in Conjunction with RACP Physicians Week

March 20, 2010 - March 25, 2010

Melbourne, Victoria

For further information contact:

Tour Hosts Conference & Exhibition Organisers

GPO Box 128

Sydney Australia 2001

Phone: +61 2 9265 0700

Fax: +61 2 9267 5443

Email: wcim2010@tourhosts.com.au

Website: www.wcim2010.com.au/

23rd Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Hypertension 2010 (ISH 2010)

September 26, 2010 - September 30, 2010

Vancouver, Canada

Conference Organizer

Sea to Sky Meeting Management Inc.

Ph: +1 604-984-6455

Fax: +1 604-984-6434

Email: kazia@seatoskymeetings.com

Website: www.VancouverHypertension2010.com

American Transplant Congress

San Diego Convention Center

San Diego, California, USA

May 1 2010 - May 5 2010

Website: www.a-s-t.org

TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting

Manning Clark Centre

ANU, Canberra

June 23, 2010 – June 25, 2010

Website: www.tsanz.com.au/meetings/index.asp

TSANZ Post Graduate Training Course

Manning Clark Centre

ANU, Canberra

June 21, 2010 – June 22, 2010

Website:

www.tsanz.com.au/meetings/postgraduatetrainingcourse.asp

XXIII International Congress of The Transplantation Society

Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

August 15, 2010 - August 19, 2010

Congress Secretariat: International Conference Services Ltd

Phone: (604) 681 2153

Fax: (604) 681 1049

Email: fts2010@meet-ics.com

Website: www.transplantation2010.org

TSANZ Council

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