



TRANSPLANTATION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Newsletter February 2011

In This Issue

Editorial Comment	1
President's Message	1
Secretary's Report	2
Treasurer's Report	2
Standing Committees	3
Education & Science Report	3
Membership	3
Awards and Grants	4
Scholarship Report	4
Calendar of Events	5
TSANZ Council	6
Standing Committee Chairs	6

The 2011 TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting promises to be another excellent meeting. The conveners of the meeting, Robert Carroll and Christine Russell, have prepared a diverse scientific program with a supporting social program. Council has reviewed the outline of the program and we have re-structured the President's Prize Award. The top laboratory abstracts and the top clinical abstracts will be presented in the same session, however, the laboratory and clinical abstracts will be judged separately. We will have two President's Prizes awarded; one for the best laboratory abstract and presentation, and a second President's Prize for the best clinical abstract and presentation. The eligibility criteria for the investigators remain unchanged. The change to the President's Prize was considered to be a positive move, which acknowledges and promotes the diversity of research in the respective areas by our young investigators. The Manning Clark Centre is a functional venue for the Annual Scientific Meeting and is rapidly being accepted as the established new home for our scientific meetings.

Editorial Comment

Dear Members,

Happy New Year and welcome to the February Newsletter. This edition contains updates in several areas, including changes to the President's Prize at the ASM to recognise both basic science and clinical research, a major upgrade to our website, the move to online membership renewal, and new initiatives in education and research.

I look forward to seeing you all at the ASM at the end of June.

Peter Cowan

President's Message

TSANZ Council and supporting members have been working behind the scene in a number of key areas since the last Newsletter.

Everyone should remember our high profile Postgraduate Training Course that will be held at the usual time prior to our Scientific Meeting. The conveners for the Course, Wai Lim and Henry Pleass, have been supported by the TSANZ Education and Research Sub-Committee, which is Co-Chaired by Peter Cowan and Steve Alexander. The contributing members of the Education and Research Sub-Committee are listed on our website.

The TSANZ website will undergo a major upgrade and a section of this development will soon be in place, with online subscriptions. Further development will follow which will provide a fresh face for our website. The new website should be easy to navigate and a useful tool for all members.

Although it has taken some time, the plans for the financial assets of TSANZ is taking its final shape. Council has been very mindful of responsible and secure use of our assets, in a global financial climate which continues to fluctuate. Scott Campbell has worked diligently and will outline the final model for the financial plans, but essentially

this will be the establishment of an endowment fund for educational purposes and, importantly, each year a portion of the TSANZ assets will be used for core TSANZ membership activity which will focus on education, research and administrative development – some examples of these items include TSANZ workshops and upgrading the website. This will be outlined in detail at the AGM.

Peter Macdonald will report on the work of the Standing Committees. The National Eligibility Guideline and Allocation document has been the main agenda item. TSANZ remains a very close collaborative partner of the Organ and Tissue Authority; this aspect of our business is at the forefront of our work on transplantation governance in Australia.

We shall see you all at the TSANZ Scientific Meeting later this year.

Frank Ierino
President, TSANZ

Secretary's Report

This year's Australia Day Honours have again seen prominent members of our society recognized for their contributions to the field and practice of transplantation. Three society members received Honours. Greg Snell OAM, Medal of the Order of Australia, for service to medicine in the field of respiratory science, to education, and to professional organizations. Tony d'Apice AM, Member of the Order of Australia, for service to medical research, particularly in the fields of nephrology and immunology, through leadership roles in the development of organ transplantation science, and as an academic and author. Bill Rawlinson AM, Member of the Order of Australia, for service to the medical sciences as a clinician, educator and researcher in the disciplines of virology and pathology. I'm sure the members of the society join the Council in congratulating Greg, Tony and Bill on their awards.

On the international stage Professor Jeremy Chapman AM was also awarded the prestigious David M. Hume Memorial 2011 award from the National Kidney Foundation of the United States. The Hume Award is the highest honour given to a distinguished scientist-clinician in the field of kidney and urologic diseases. It is bestowed upon an individual who exemplifies the high ideals of scholarship and humanitarianism in an outstanding manner. Our society is fortunate to count Jeremy amongst its active members and as a past-president.

Several items need to be drawn to the attention of the membership, including subscription payments and joint subscriptions, which we hope will shortly be payable via the TSANZ website.

TSANZ Council is very conscious of the need to return as many benefits to members of the society as possible. This year the Society has introduced co-sponsorship with The Transplantation Society for the Mentor:Mentee basic science, which will allow members of the society to present work and develop contacts at the XII TTS Basic Science Symposium (www.bss2011.org) in Cape Cod, Massachusetts (June 11-14). Funds will be provided for the both the Mentor and their Mentee to attend this meeting, which will be scheduled just before the TSANZ ASM in Canberra. The other very important society award is the Ian McKenzie Award for outstanding contribution to Transplantation and members are urged to consider nominating a colleague or themselves.

Finally, I would like to give advance notice of a new initiative for the Society this year, which will be the TSANZ special workshop to be held in Adelaide in combination with the Australian Society of Immunology meeting, 11-15 December, 2011. The theme of the workshop will be based around Immune Tolerance/ Luminex detection of antibodies (www.asi2011.org). The ASI has invited one of the world's preeminent transplantation clinician-scientists Professor Megan Sykes as a plenary speaker.

As always, the best place for up to date information about our society and details including deadlines for these and other awards are available on the website (<http://www.tsanz.com.au>).

Toby Coates
Honorary Secretary, TSANZ

Treasurer's Report

Many of you will have noticed that you have not yet received your Subscription Notice for 2011. We anticipate that they will arrive shortly. A lot of work has gone into setting up an online payment system that should make payment a lot easier than previously. This is very close to completion, and it seemed worth waiting for this before sending the accounts. The other good news that you will notice when your account arrives, is that the subscription has not increased from the excellent low cost and high value for money of 2010.

Council has continued to discuss strategies to return valuable benefits for members from the windfall that came from TTS profits. We will run a special work-shop in 2011 (see Secretary's Report) with some of the proceeds. It is anticipated that the

money will be invested securely, and steadily drawn down to fund a series of programs over the coming years.

Scott Campbell
Treasurer, TSANZ

Standing Committees

National Transplant Authority Project

In line with its agreement with the AOTA, TSANZ has developed a Consensus Statement regarding nationally uniform eligibility criteria for organ transplantation and the allocation of organs from deceased donors. The Consensus Statement went through two rounds of public consultation before finalisation and was submitted to the AOTA in June 2010. The Statement identified several areas of controversy which have been noted by the AOTA and which will need to be addressed in future iterations of the document. The AOTA has also indicated its desire to develop the Consensus Statement into formal Guidelines that will be endorsed by the NHMRC. TSANZ has expressed its concern that the slow pace of Guideline development may prevent the rapid incorporation of important new clinical evidence that prompts changes in eligibility criteria or allocation protocols. TSANZ has been given assurances that it will retain the capacity to rapidly implement changes to the Consensus Statement should this be required.

Overall feedback from the AOTA regarding the Consensus Statement has been positive and they have indicated their intention to implement the recommendations and protocols of the Consensus Statement across all jurisdictions in 2011. The timing of implementation is yet to be finalised.

The next step will be to develop audit mechanisms and audit reports that will allow the AOTA (and the general public) to monitor adherence to the Consensus Statement. A meeting between TSANZ Council member, senior representatives of the AOTA to discuss implementation and auditing of the Consensus Statement is expected to take place before the end of March 2011.

Peter Macdonald
Chair, Standing Committees

Education & Science Report

Annual Scientific Meeting 2011

The ASM will be held in Canberra on June 29 to July 1, preceded as usual by the Postgraduate Training Course. The ASM 2011 will include international speakers Prof Peter Heeger from the USA, Prof Edward Geissler from Germany, and

Prof Nigel Heaton from the Kings Liver Unit, UK. This year's theme revolves around immune monitoring and minimization/managing the complications of immunosuppression. From a surgical perspective the focus will be on the impact of deceased donor and extended criteria organs.

This year will also be the inaugural TSANZ 5km Fun Run, starting and finishing at University House on the morning of Thursday June 30. Participants will be given a free Donate Life T shirt and water bottle. It is hoped everyone will participate either walking, running, or just standing on the course and directing participants. This year will be relatively low key but a high participation rate will guarantee future fun runs.

Abstract submission is now open and will close on Friday February 25. An important change will be made to the format of the President's Prize this year. Council has long recognised the difficulty of judging scientific against clinical presentations, so separate prizes will be awarded for best scientific and best clinical. There are checkboxes on the submission page to reflect this change.

AHMRC Special Symposium at AHMRC 2010

TSANZ sponsored the symposium "B cells and antibodies in transplantation" at the AHMRC Congress in November in Melbourne. Our keynote speaker Prof Lori West and national speakers Shane Grey and Toby Coates presented excellent talks to a small but appreciative audience. Prof West visited several groups while in Melbourne, and gave a well-attended talk at the Royal Children's Hospital.

Membership

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

TSANZ

Cristina Baleriola, Ivo Bergmann, Rathika Krishnasamy, Tony Kwan, Malcolm Lawson, Aislin Meehan, Angus Ritchie and Katherine Stuart

TNA/TSANZ

Jayne Amy, Elvira Geddes, Michelle Glasel, Maree Jarrett, Elaine Kennedy, Bronwyn Laughlan, Tracey Mackay, Joanne Maddicks-Law, Jennifer Moore, Marie Mulhearn, Colleen Munro, Alison Piodomani, Margaret Porra, Myra Sgorgini and Anne Warger

ATCA/TSANZ

Rani Martin, Sandra Thompson and Jodi Vuat

RESIGNATIONS

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

Kelly Burgoyne, Lucinda Hickman, Betheia Lele, Tanya Morris, Wendy Moule and Lisa Shelverton

Society Awards and Grants

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 on the TSANZ website:

<http://www.tsanz.com.au/awardsandfellowships/index.asp>

Mark Cocks Transplant Scholarship Report

Germaine Wong

Despite the survival and quality of life advantage of kidney transplantation compared to being on dialysis, transplant recipients are at risk of developing a diverse range of metabolic disease: diabetes mellitus, hypertension and obesity, which impacts significantly on patients' cardiovascular outcomes and overall life-expectancy. There is an urgent need for interventions to reduce the risks of development of these co-existing co-morbidities and to prevent the potential fatal cardiovascular events after transplantation. With the generous support of the Mark Cocks transplant scholarship, my team and I have designed, developed and commenced a feasibility study of cardiac rehabilitation and exercise training program for our kidney and kidney pancreas transplant recipients. The program includes four-hour weekly strength and cardiac training, and a weekly one-to-one nutrition assessment and consultation by our dietician over a period of six weeks. Since the commencement of our program in October, 2010, we have recruited a total of 13 kidney and 4 kidney pancreas transplant recipients into the program. Of which, three participants have completed their follow-up assessment, demonstrated improvement in both muscle strength and physical activity and in the overall quality of life. Given the ideal infrastructure support by the Sydney West Area Health transplantation service and the start-up funding by the Mark Cocks transplant scholarship, a timely delivery of the proposed program of research is expected.

Call to Participate

Payment Preferences Survey

The world in which a physician practices medicine is changing rapidly. Increasing accountability, decreasing autonomy, a changing work-life balance, a depletion of the medical workforce, and many other challenges impact upon your daily work. One – often related – change involves the payment mechanisms of healthcare provision. Policy makers are increasingly examining and/or implementing schemes that alter the scope and criteria of payment. Next to Salary, Fee for Service, Prospective Payment and Capitation, new forms are introduced such as Pay for Performance, Shared Savings, etc. In the end how care providers are paid, and will be paid in the future, depends on the negotiation and preferences of multiple stakeholders (physicians, policy makers, etc.). At present we scarcely know which are those preferences, how stakeholders value various payment system effects, which tradeoffs they make and how these choices differ between stakeholder groups.

Three Universities are currently organizing a survey study across Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Europe, and the US to shed light on these issues. Physicians, policy makers, and other stakeholders are invited to express their preferences for payment systems and payment effects. The Transplantation Society of Medicine and Surgery lends its support to this study and encourages all of its members to participate. It will take about half an hour of your time to fill out the survey. In exchange you will receive a detailed study report explaining the study findings, with comparisons across health systems and across stakeholder groups.

You can access the survey online through:

<https://websurvey.kuleuven.be/index.php?sid=38156&lang=en>

(When your surname begins with the letter A – I)

<https://websurvey.kuleuven.be/index.php?sid=61934&lang=en>

(When your surname begins with the letter J – R)

<https://websurvey.kuleuven.be/index.php?sid=17456&lang=en>

(When your surname begins with the letter S – Z)

We are looking forward to the results of this study.

Thank you very much for your participation!

Calendar of Events

TSANZ ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Manning Clark Centre
ANU, Canberra
29th June, 2011 – 1st July, 2011
Website: www.tsanz.com.au

TSANZ POST GRADUATE TRAINING COURSE

Manning Clark Centre
ANU, Canberra
27th – 28th June, 2011
Website: www.tsanz.com.au

VIRUSES IN MAY

Carrington Hotel, Katoomba
Blue Mountains, NSW
12th – 14th May, 2011
Website: www.rcpa.edu.au/Continuing/VIM.htm



TSANZ Council

A/Professor Frank Ierino

President
frank.ierino@austin.org

A/Professor Peter Macdonald

Vice President & President Elect
 Standing Committees Chair
pmacdonald@stvincents.com.au

A/Professor Patrick (Toby) Coates

Honorary Secretary
Toby.Coates@health.sa.gov.au

Dr Scott Campbell

Treasurer
 Nephrology SAC Rep
scottb_campbell@health.qld.gov.au

A/Professor Steve Alexander

Education & PGC Curriculum
stephena@chw.edu.au

Professor Peter Cowan

Communications
 Education & PGC Curriculum
 Liaison with Scientific Societies
Peter.cowan@svhm.org.au

Professor Geoffrey McCaughan

RACP Liaison
 Membership Benefits, Awards & Grants
g.mccaughan@centenary.usyd.edu.au

Dr Michael Fink

Surgical Representative
mafink@unimelb.edu.au

Ms Francesca Rourke

ATCA Representative
fran_rourke@health.qld.gov.au

Ms Aviva Rosenfeld

TSANZ Executive Officer
tsanz@racp.edu.au

Ms Sommer Twycross

TSANZ Administrative Officer
Sommer.Twycross@racp.edu.au

TSANZ Standing Committees

Chairperson – Peter Macdonald

Cardiac:

Dr Paul Jansz
pjansz@stvincents.com.au

Cornea:

Dr John Males
jmales@eye.usyd.edu.au

Donor Surgeons & Coordinators:

Professor Richard Allen
transplant@med.usyd.edu.au
 Ms Tina Coco
tina_coco@health.qld.gov.au

Liver:

Professor Jonathan Fawcett
j.fawcett@uq.edu.au

Lung:

Professor Greg Snell
G.Snell@alfred.org.au

Paediatric:

Dr Steven McTaggart
steven_mctaggart@health.qld.gov.au

Pancreas & Islet:

A/Professor John Kanellis
john.kanellis@med.monash.edu.au

Renal:

Dr Scott Campbell
scottb_campbell@health.qld.gov.au

Tissues:

Ms Anne Cowie
acowie@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

Xenotransplantation:

Professor Peter Cowan
peter.cowan@svhm.org.au