Dear ANZSCDB members,

As you recover (hopefully) from yet another hectic grant writing season, it is with pleasure that I share with you again the news of the Society. It is hard to believe that it is the end of April already, and for many of us this means grant reviewing and GRP work. With NHMRC funding schemes undergoing massive changes, this is a particularly important year for various funding schemes. We wish all ANZSCDB members the best of luck with their scholarship, fellowship and project grant applications.

In 2016 many of you participated in a poll about the future of ComBio, which is the combined annual meeting of several Societies including our own. The proposal was to hold ComBio every two years and that each society would hold their own annual meeting in the alternate years. With 94% of ANZSCDB members in favour of this change, the three societies decided that ComBio would be held biennially after the 2018 meeting. This means that the subsequent ComBio will be in 2020, and in 2019 we will have a stand-alone ANZSCDB meeting. The ANZSCDB executives are currently discussing the shape of this meeting but I welcome any suggestions that members might have. We will keep you posted about any developments in this area.

That brings me to the ComBio 2018 meeting, which will be held at the International Convention Centre in Sydney from 23-26 September. The meeting program is already looking great, thanks to our own (immediate past Secretary of ANZSCDB) Annemiek Beverdam, the Program Chair of ComBio 2018. This year the International Society of Differentiation is also joining us at ComBio, sponsoring several international speakers. Please join us in Sydney, for what promises to be an outstanding meeting. And importantly, please don’t forget to ‘tick’ the ANZSCDB box when registering for the meeting.

As always, the Society's Newsletter (thanks to our tireless Secretary Michael Samuel) provides a forum for all Members of our Society. We are always looking for brief profiles of our members for the Newsletter, so whether you are a student, an ECR, a new PI setting up her/his lab or a more seasoned cell and/or developmental biologist with a story to share, please write to us.

Sharad Kumar
Key Dates

3rd–7th June 2018: 20th International Vascular Biology Meeting, Helsinki. Registrations are now open, and close on 20th May.

31st August 2018: 28th Annual Combined Biological Sciences Meeting, The University Club, University of Western Australia. The WA branch of the ANZSCDB will hold their annual meeting here in conjunction with several other WA societies.


ComBio2017 pictures are now available! Click HERE to see them.


25th June 2018: Organoids Are Us: A Wnt signalling symposium, featuring organoids, cancer research, infectious diseases and stem cells. Doherty Institute Auditorium, Cnr. Royal Parade and Grattan Street, Melbourne. Please direct queries to Elizabeth Vincan or Maree Faux.
ANZSCDB Corporate Member News:

We would like to thank the following corporate sponsors. Please visit their websites below and peruse their advertisements at the end of this newsletter.

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Awards

We congratulate our President, Professor Sharad Kumar, on his AM, Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division, for his “significant service to medical research in the field of cancer and cell biology, as a scientist and author, to medical education, and as a mentor”.

Read more about Sharad’s award [here](#) and [here](#). You can also find out more about his lab’s current research in this recent article in [The Lead](#) and on the [CCB](#) and [UniSA](#) sites.
**Member Publications**


ANZSCDB State Meeting Reports

10th Melbourne Cell and Developmental Biology Meeting

This annual meeting is a hub for the cell and developmental biology community in Victoria and offers opportunities for students and ECRs as well as new and established group leaders to present their best work and establish new connections.

The program this year featured 16 talks selected from abstracts ranging in topic from embryogenesis to stem cell differentiation, ciliopathies and signalling. complemented by outstanding plenaries from ANZSCDB President’s medallists – Prof. Melissa Little (awarded 2015) and Prof. Peter Currie (awarded 2017). Melissa Little spoke about the development of kidney organoids and their potential applications in disease modelling and regenerative medicine. Peter Currie, a self-declared ‘movie guy’, presented his stunning work on the live imaging of stem cell interactions during muscle regeneration in zebrafish.

We are proud to announce that presentations at the meeting were balanced for gender and career stage, and represented a range of tertiary institutions around Victoria. In keeping with previous years, the quality of abstract submissions was high. In total there were 107 registrants, 30 poster presentations, and 16 talks selected from abstracts. Prizes were awarded for best student and ECR talks and posters. Danni Ratnayake (ARMI) took out the student talk prize with her presentation on stem cell-macrophage interactions in muscle regeneration, and Lucas Dent (Peter Mac) won the ECR talk prize with his presentation on Pix/Git mechanosensors in epithelial morphogenesis. If we had presented a fashion award, Gary Hime would have won it with his pink polo shirt / tan suit combo. Honourable mentions for the talks go to student Akram Zamani (UoM), and postdoc Sam Manning (Peter Mac). Thanks to our talk judges Dagmar Wilhelm, and Rob Bryson-Richardson for their efforts on the day. Poster prizes were awarded to students Meg McFetridge (Monash) and Mustafa Hamimi (ARMI) and postdoc Kieran Short (Monash). Thanks to our poster judges Gary Hime, Kynan Lawlor, Ian Smyth and Bert de Groef.

Finally, thanks to ANZSCDB and our sponsors The Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience (UoM), The Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute (Monash), Eppendorf, The Centre for Stem Cell Systems (UoM), ThermoFisher Scientific, Genesearch, and Scientific Equipment.

The MCDB Organising committee 2017, Alex Combes, Seb Dworkin, Cristina Keightley, and Ben Rollo

(photos overleaf)
Top: Prize winners Lucas Dent, Danni Ratnayake, Meg McFetridge & Mustafa Hamimi.

Middle: Conference organisers L to R Ben Rollo, Alex Combes, Cristina Keightley and Seb Dworkin with Peter Currie (centre).

Bottom: Social catch up after the meeting.
Keeping up to date

Thanks to Megan Wilson and Leonie Quinn, the ANZSCDB has a Facebook page for news updates and is also on Twitter as @ANZSCDB.

Please engage with us via social media for society news and updates and tag us in your work-related posts.

Would you like to contribute to the ANZSCDB newsletter?

Please send items to Michael Samuel, the society Secretary.

The newsletter will be published approximately every three months and distributed to all ANZSCDB Members via e-mail.

Please ensure that your submissions are no more than 100 words and have been fact-checked.

The Secretary would like to thank Sarah Boyle for assisting with the assembly of this newsletter.
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