



# The Society for Free Radical Research AUSTRALASIA

## NEWSLETTER (November 2016)

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### News items wanted

Please send any news items or articles for the newsletter to the Secretary ([sfrasecretariat@gmail.com](mailto:sfrasecretariat@gmail.com)). Also, we have redeveloped the Society website ([www.sfra.org](http://www.sfra.org)), and are looking for any news, notices, links and other items of interest to Society members that can be added.

## Presidents Report

Dear Fellow SFRR(A) members,

The last 18 months or so has been quite busy for the Executive and with the next annual meeting held at Griffith University, Gold Coast; it is timely that we send out the newsletter to inform the membership of recent events and news.

The Executive has played a role in ranking abstracts and individual applications made to meetings held in Europe (SFRRE) and the USA (SFRBM/SFRRI). I am pleased to say that SFRR(A) put forward two nominees for the 2016 Trevor Slater award (Professors Kettle Stocker and) and both went onto the ranking process after the initial screen. The outcome of this award will be announced at SFRRI. More recently, Professor Stocker was recognised as a fellow of the Swiss academy of Sciences and a fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences. Dr Anitra Carr was recently awarded a four year Sir Charles Hercus Fellowship from the Health Research Council of New Zealand and has joined the Centre for Free Radical Research as a Principal Investigator within the Centre for Free Radical Research at the University of Otago.

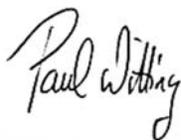
I am excited to confirm that the next scheduled conference for our members will be the 2017 SFRR Japan/Australasia conjoint to be held in Japan with Professor Junkan Yamamoto attending our 2016 meeting to tell us more details of this congress.

In terms of the Society our total membership has remained unchanged over the last two years (2016: 79 and 2015: 82) and this has meant that finances have also remained largely unchanged. The Executive is continuing to negotiate sponsorship through a contractual agreement with the publisher of Free Radical Research (Taylor and Francis); this process has met several stumbling blocks and I have spent a great deal of effort in navigating the best outcome for the society. I am hopeful that we can come to terms in the near future.

Finally, I wanted to take this opportunity to recognise the contribution of two long-standing members Dave Pattison and Care Hawkins both former members of the Executive. Clare and Dave and their children are relocating to Denmark where Clare will be taking on an academic-research position in Copenhagen. Clare joined the Heart Research Institute and SFRR(A) in 1997 – the first meeting Clare attended was held in Dunedin organised by Mike Murphy, memorable to many when Clare as a PhD student sprinted off the stage after giving her talk. Dave became a member a year later in 1998, when he joined Peter Lay's group at the University of Sydney, with his first conference a joint meeting in Melbourne with the Australian Radiation Society.

With SFRRI preceding the annual meeting at Griffith many of us will be travelling extensively late in the year and I hope that we can meet up to celebrate all things free radical on the Gold Coast.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wilby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## Conference Reports from SFRRRA meeting Christchurch, Nov 2015



**Applicant 1** – *Mr Johannes Weijman, University of Otago – Dunedin, New Zealand.*

It was a pleasure to attend the 2015 SFRRRA conference in Christchurch, to which the travel award greatly helped me. As a student in the first year of my PhD, the conference provided an excellent and succinct way for me to gain insight into a broad range of free radical research topics. It helped me greatly appreciate the field in general in many regards and set the scene for how my own research fits into the field. I very much enjoyed the broadness in scope from the very chemical to molecular to the physiological and beyond. The highlight of the conference for me was the dedicated session on peroxiredoxins. Working within the area myself it was very refreshing to get an outside view of it, especially from Leslie Poole's talk on her work on peroxiredoxins. Outside of peroxiredoxins, I enjoyed hearing from both Wim Koppenol and Victor Darley-Usmar, who along with excellent talks kept everyone on their toes with their questions. Additionally, the plenary lecture was a sight to behold, delivered with much vigour from Raman Kalyanaraman. I was very appreciative of being able to present my own work at the poster presentation and talk to everyone there, especially Christine Winterbourne. This was the first opportunity I have had to discuss my work with people outside my department so was an important learning step for me. Last, but by no means least, thanks to all the people at the University of Otago, Christchurch for being very friendly and helpful to us all.

**Applicant 2** – *Dr Ayenachew Bezawork-Geleta, Griffith University, Gold Coast, Australia.*

It was a great pleasure and honour to have partial support from the SFRR Australasia in assisting my attendance at the Joint Meeting of the Societies for Free Radical Research Australasia and Japan, Dec 7-10, Christchurch, New Zealand. A total number of 50 orals and 60 poster presentations were given. The presence of delegates from Japan Free Radical Society gave the conference unique features. The scientific program was a rich mix of formats, ranging from keynote sessions featuring many well-known in their ground break free radical research to short talks by early-career scientists. There were several scientific highlights of the meeting. Particular interest includes a rally of talks by Ghassan Maghzal and Christopher Stanley on Trptophan metabolism and by Mike Berridge and Jiri Neuzil on horizontal transfer of mitochondria. The conference had also enabled participants to build networks during tea breaks and conference dinner. I also managed to make new contacts with relevant research interests. The closing ceremony at Ilex, Christchurch Botanical gardens, was magnificent. Again I am extremely grateful to SFRRRA for the opportunity to attend and present my work at such an enjoyable and international meeting.

**Applicant 3** – *Ms Rinky Parakra, University of Otago – Dunedin, New Zealand.*

The Society of Free Radical Research Australasia (SFRRA) organizes one of the finest gatherings for national/international researchers working in the free radical field. I am grateful to the SFRRA for



providing me travel award through which I was able to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting of Society of Free Radical Research Australasia and Japan (7-10<sup>th</sup> December), held at University of Otago, Christchurch, New Zealand. This was my first experience where many eminent national/international speakers were present and I was impressed by the high standards of research they were presenting. The main aim of the conference was to share the latest scientific findings, techniques used and knowledge acquired in the field of free radical. The conference comprised of three full days of presentations along with two poster presentation sessions. The diverse areas of presentation and the questions arising enhanced my level of thinking. I personally enjoyed the presentations of Prof. Mike Davies and Prof. Rafel Radi. Dr Peter Nagy's presentation about molecular mechanism of H<sub>2</sub>S signaling was very impressive and I could hear his talk for more hours. I presented a poster entitled "Investigating peroxidase reaction mechanism of human cytochrome c". I had

intense discussion with other students and this is helping me to design my experiments. I discussed about my issues of making liposomes with Prof. Rafael Radi, who has published many articles and review on cytochrome c. I have read his papers and this conference gave me a great opportunity to discuss science with him and importantly talk about a recent paper he had published. Prof. Dr. Willem Koppenol who did his PhD with cytochrome c, was convinced by my results which gave sort of relief and a boost to work more. Apart from conference, I enjoyed the pleasant beauty of Christchurch. We went kayaking and it was much fun as it was my first time doing this. The conference dinner at Ilex, Christchurch botanical gardens was amazing and picturesque. The Thanks-giving speech by Prof. Tony Kettle was a highlight of the event. Again, huge thanks to SFRRA for providing me financial support in the form of "Young Investigator Travel Award" to attend this conference and I am looking forward to attending future free radical conferences (coming up December 5-7 2016).

**Applicant 4** – Ms Leila Reyes, Heart Research Institute, Sydney, Australia.

Last December, I was given the opportunity to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> SFERRA Joint Meeting in Christchurch. I had the privilege of presenting my preliminary results from my first year as a PhD student where I developed an *in vitro* cell culture model of myeloperoxidase-derived oxidant cardiac myocyte damage that is of relevance to myocardial ischaemia reperfusion injury (heart attack). For my efforts, I was humbly presented with a Travel Award at the Conference Dinner held at the Ilex in the

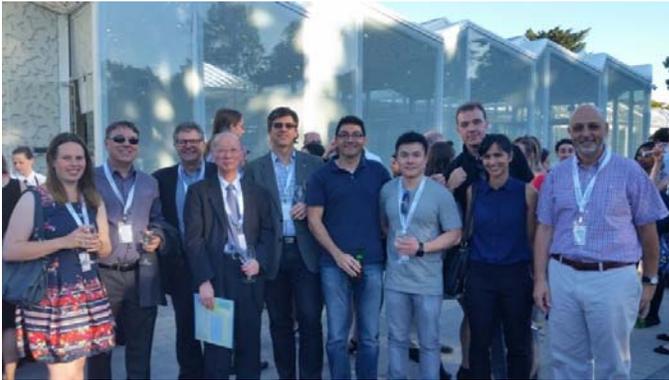


beautiful Christchurch Botanical Gardens. To have received the award means a lot to me since this was my first time attending a conference. By being at the conference, I was able to gain a rewarding experience where I was not only able to present my work, but also meet other like-minded scientists and listen to great talks. The chance to meet other scientists in similar fields and discussing my work with others provided me with inspiration for my PhD. But most of all, hearing the extraordinary career of Prof. Christine Winterbourne was for me the highlight of the conference. Her achievements and her work left me motivated and inspired to continue pursuing a career in research. Overall, it was an enjoyable experience and I would like to thank the committee for organising such a great conference. A special thank you as well to my supervisors, Prof. Clare Hawkins and Dr. Ben Rayner for their support and encouragement.

**Applicant 5** – Ms Kelly Gardiner, Heart Research Institute, Sydney, Australia.

As a PhD (Medicine) student entering the third year of candidature, attending the 7th Joint Scientific Meeting of the SFRR-A&J in Christchurch was a wonderful opportunity to meet and learn from some of the leading minds in redox chemistry – scientists whose research I have been following and citing for the past three years! It was also a valuable opportunity to meet some of the other students and learn about each other's experiences. This is the third consecutive SFRR Meeting that I've had the pleasure to attend and it was as educational and exciting as I have come to expect. I was given the opportunity to present a poster and the quality of the work that I saw throughout these sessions was exceptional. The social aspect of the sessions was also very positive, allowing for diverse and dynamic discussion. The SFRR community provides such a positive experience for both learning and collaboration. The amount that I have learned is equalled only by the amount of new questions and ideas that have emerged as a result of this energetic and enlightening Meeting. I would like to warmly thank the SFRR Committee for providing me with a Travel Award. It is an honour to be so well supported and encouraged by the Committee. Thank you! I am very much looking forward to the next Meeting.

## Selected 2015 Conference Photographs





## Treasurer's report (2015)

### **1. Comments:**

Membership numbers are down from 2014 due primarily to the joint meeting with the Peroxidase conference. I would like to thank all those current financial members that have made the effort to pay their membership fees to the Society for 2015.

*REMINDER:* The registration fees for attending the meeting in Christchurch included 2016 membership fees for SFRR(A). For those that have not attended the Christchurch meeting, the 2016 SFRR(A) membership fees are due by end of the year (Full, A\$40/NZ\$45; Student, A\$20/NZ\$22).

Membership forms and payment details will be available on the website ([www.sfrra.org](http://www.sfrra.org)) or by contacting Dr Ghassan Maghzal ([g.maghzal@victorchang.edu.au](mailto:g.maghzal@victorchang.edu.au)) or the secretary (Dr Andrew Bulmer; [sfrrasecretariat@gmail.com](mailto:sfrrasecretariat@gmail.com)).

### **2. Summary of Australian Accounts (1/11/14-31/10/15)**

<b>Opening Balance (1/11/14) of Australian accounts:</b>	<b><u>\$55,662.84</u></b>
Cheque Account Bearing Interest:	\$9,312.62
Term Deposit	\$46,350.24
<b>Total Income:</b>	\$8,420.93
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	\$6,389.19
<b><u>Income – Expenditure:</u></b>	<b><u>\$2031.72</u></b>
<b>Closing Balance (31/10/15) of Australian accounts:</b>	<b><u>\$57,694.56</u></b>
Cheque Account Bearing Interest:	\$9,576.93
Term Deposit	\$48,117.63

### **3. Summary of BNZ Account in New Zealand**

<b>Opening Balance (1/11/14) of New Zealand account:</b>	<b><u>NZ\$4,155.60</u></b>
<i>Deposits</i> - Membership fees: Payments for 2015	NZ\$89.00
Interest on NZ current account	NZ\$6.40
<b>Total NZ Income (1/11/14 – 31/10/15):</b>	<b>NZ\$95.40</b>
<i>Expenditure</i> - Travel awards (2 @\$500)	NZ\$1000
<b>Total NZ Expenditure (1/11/14 – 31/10/15):</b>	<b>NZ\$1000</b>
<b><u>Income – Expenditure:</u></b>	<b><u>-NZ\$904.6</u></b>
<b>Closing Balance (31/10/15) of New Zealand account:</b>	<b><u>NZ\$3,251.60</u></b>

# MINUTES OF 2015 AGM

Held 12:30 pm, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015

University of Otago, Christchurch, New Zealand

Chair: Paul Witting (President); Minutes: Andrew Bulmer (Secretary)

Meeting opened – 12:35 pm

1. Apologies – Prof Margreet Vissers
2. Approval of Minutes from 2014 AGM - Accepted by Clare Hawkins (CH)
3. President's Report

- Taylor Francis and sponsorship

Paul Witting (PW) summarised the society's current agreement with Redox Report and recent sponsorship discussions with Taylor and Francis (Free Radical Research). Discussions indicated charging the society a levy (per member), which would be equal to the amount provided by the publisher, with no net (financial) gain, however, included online access to the journal. It was acknowledged that most members would already have access to this journal, via their institution.

Michael Davies (MD) then indicated that a fixed number of subscriptions can be purchased, less than the cost of the sponsorship, indicating a profitable arrangement (\$2000-\$3000) is possible. Steven Geisig (SG) indicated that \$2000 is not that much, PW indicated we could reduce the number of subscriptions that could be purchased to possibly increase profitability and would enquire further into this. Mark Hampton (MH) asked how subscription payment and sponsorship would happen practically. For example, would the SFRRRA make the payment for a set number of subscriptions, with sponsorship funds then being transferred to the society. MD indicated other societies (SFRR Asia) access their membership list, provide email addresses to publisher and the members do not need to pay directly. Christine Winterbourne (CW) asked whether there is anything else in it for SFRRRA/publishers. PW indicated that the society would need to advertise the 'lead' journal for the society, possibly on the website. MD indicated that Redox Report is also a Taylor and Francis journal, therefore, it should be no problem to have 2 sponsoring journals. CH indicated that it would be great to ask the membership should ask any members. Roland Stocker (RS) asked whether could we advertise meetings on the journal/publisher webpage. RS also indicated that an appropriately trained person should manage the process (contractual organisation) and that an exit clause should allow for discontinuation of the sponsorship arrangement. SG asked whether a special edition in FRR would be available. The outcome of this discussion was that this may cost money. Gus Magzhal (GM) mentioned we have 50 non-student members. If the fee was 60 pounds (GBP) funding per membership. Surplus funds could be used to support ECRs. PW put forward a motion to further pursue sponsorship with Taylor and Francis. response was unanimous. MD abstained from voting due to a conflict.

- Meeting Schedules 2016 (date to be advised) and 2017 (Japan, Australia, China)

Jiri Neuzil (JN) gave brief overview of 2016 SFRRRA plans, indicating that the date is not yet fixed due to a competing Griffith University conference to be scheduled in Nov/Dec. Dec 6-8 was indicated possible date for SFRRRA 2016. PW indicated that MEPSA was approached in 2015 MEPSA. However, this society had a change in executive in 2015, causing delayed communication. Therefore MEPSA could not join the 2016 meeting. The SFRRRA executive will, therefore, not move ahead with a joint MEPSA meeting in 2016. CH indicated that the Australian AAS/VSBM/HBPRA might be planning a meeting in Dec and could be worth considering joining.

PW summarised joint SFRRRA/J business meeting, with SFRRJ happy to continue the current association between societies. Yorihiro Yamamoto (YY) accepted an invitation to host a meeting outside Tokyo, possibly in early September (although a date closer to December will be explored). Other possibilities including combining with SFRR Asia in (Xian) China, or possibly a meeting in Sydney. JN indicated he would not prefer a September meeting, his and others teaching responsibilities. CW wondered whether SFRRRA participation would represent a small contingent in China. MD indicated SFRR Asia meetings numbers have always been 150-200. Kevin Croft (KC) supported a meeting in China. CH asked whether SFRR Asia would be willing to have SFRR Australasia contributors on their organising committee. RS confirmed that we should consider whether approaching SFRRAsia would ensure that SFRRRA is appropriately represented and benefited.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

- GM presented the treasurers report and asked whether we should keep NZ profits in NZ. If not ~\$4K would be need to be drawn out of the term deposit. CH and CW indicated expenditure relating to attendance at international. MH indicated that is very useful to have an NZ account to reduce transfer costs. RS was in favour of leaving profits in NZ and indicated that the society wanted to increase the number of international travel awards, we should we decrease the value to \$800. Recipients could levy supporting funds allow successful applicants to attend. SG indicated support for additional support for ECR researchers and travel awards. CH was supportive of money coming out of term deposit. More international awards were proposed possibly 3 Australian and 3 New Zealand recipients. Agreed that funds from any profit should remain in NZ.

#### 5. Secretary's Report - Presented by Andrew Bulmer (AB)

- Update of SFRRRA membership list – update contact details ([sfrasecretariat@gmail.com](mailto:sfrasecretariat@gmail.com) or inform conference organisers)
- Please encourage non-attendees to contribute via membership
- SFRRRI/SFRBM 2016 meeting (November 16 - 19, 2016 San Francisco, CA, USA) – Proposal Deadline January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- Call for Nominations for the SFRRRI Trevor Slater Award Lecture 2016 SFRRRI/SFRBM Meeting in San Francisco, 16-19 November 2016. Deadline for nominations 15 January 2016. Please nominate candidates for the Trevor Slater Award Lecture, return completed nominations to Giovanni Mann by email.
- Call for Nominations for SFRRRI and SFRR-Europe Award Lectures at SFRRRI/SFRRE Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal in June 2018.

#### 6. Travel Awards for 2015 - Presented by AB

- 10 applicants – 7 awarded – 6 accepted
  - Ayenachew Bezawork-Geleta
  - Kelly Gardiner
  - Amandeep Kaur
  - Leila Reyes
  - Rinky Parakra
  - Johannes Weijman

7. Election of Executive for 2017-2018

- Confirmed to occur at the 2016 meeting at the Gold Coast. Attendees were encouraged to plan whether they would like to nominate in advance.

8. Other Business

- Number of student travel awards and criteria for awards in 2017

PW put forward to the society that 6 International Student Awards are made in 2016 and obtained consensus from attendees.

32 attendees, including Paul Witting, Ghassan Magzhal and Andrew Bulmer

Meeting closed at 1:30 pm

## Dates for your diary

### 2016

#### November 16-20, 2016

Society for Free Radical Research International Biennial Meeting and 23rd Annual meeting of the Society for Redox Biology and Medicine (SFRBM)

Location: Hyatt Regency Embarcadero Hotel, San Francisco, California, USA

Further information: [www.sfrr.org](http://www.sfrr.org) or <http://www.sfrbm.org/sections/annual-meeting/23rd-annual-meeting>

#### December 5-7, 2016

Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine (Australasia)

Location: Gold Coast, Australia

Further information: <http://www.sfra2016.org/>

### 2017

#### March 16-17, 2017

SFRBM Regional Redox Symposium

Location: University of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama, USA

Further information: <http://sfrbm.org/meetings/regional-symposium/>

#### March 19-24, 2017

Gordon Research Conference - Oxidative Stress and Disease

Location: Renaissance Tuscany Il Ciocco Lucca (Barga), Italy

Further information: <http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=12919>

#### June 21-23, 2017

Oxygen Club of California, World Congress (and Society for Free Radical Research Europe) Meeting

Location: Radisson Hotel, Berlin, Germany

Further information: <http://occ-2017.com/>

#### September 14-15, 2017

Special Meeting of the International HNE-Club - Reactive Oxygen Species and Lipid Peroxidation in Human Health and Disease

Location: Graz, Austria.

Further information: [http://users2.unimi.it/HNECLUB/?page\\_id=1531](http://users2.unimi.it/HNECLUB/?page_id=1531)

#### November 29-December 2, 2017

Society for Free Radical Biology and Medicine 24th Annual Meeting

Location: Baltimore, MD, USA

Further information: <http://sfrbm.org/meetings/2017-annual-meeting/>

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**Society for Free Radical Research (Australasia)**  
**2017 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM**

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Fees:** Note: All delegates of the 2012 SFRR(A) meeting in Brisbane are financial members of the Society for 2013.

Full Membership Aus\$40 / NZ\$45       Student Membership Aus\$20 / NZ\$22

Electronic Funds Transfer

Account name: SFRR Australia  
Account number: 06 2284 10178136  
Commonwealth, Univ of Sydney, NSW (BSB: 06 2284)

**OR**

Account name: SFERRA  
Account number: 02 0800 0858347 000  
BNZ, New Zealand (BKNZNZ22)

Please tick the appropriate box above to indicate category of membership. For payment please make an electronic funds transfer (preferred option) to the account detailed above.

Alternatively, please send a cheque payable to “Society for Free Radical Research (Australasia)” to Dr Ghassan Magzhal, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, Lowy Packer Building, 405 Liverpool St, Darlinghurst, NSW 2010, Australia.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Student membership only - ask your supervisor to complete the declaration below)

*I confirm that the above applicant is at present a student under my supervision.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Institution:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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