Issue 9

The Committee 2011/12

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WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

Spring is in the air - a magnificent day to signal the arrival of September – one can only hope it lasts!

Change is also in the air, with the 2011/12 AIMS Tasmanian Branch (see above) elected at the recent annual scientific meeting held at the Salamanca Inn in Hobart. Thank you to out-going committee members Brett Eastley and Ginette Sheehan for their commitment and contributions to the Branch. At the same time we welcome Rob Hayes and Mike Morse onto the committee and look forward to their involvement and new ideas.

The Tasmanian Branch has been lucky to have had (and continues to have) many individuals who volunteer their time to AIMS and are engaged in professional development, advocacy for medical scientists and continuing education. I would especially like to acknowledge the fantastic work of Michelle McPhie, who is stepping down from the role of Chair of the AIMS Tasmanian Branch after six years. We are fortunate however that Michelle has agreed to continue on as part of the committee and as Vice-Chair, which should ensure a smooth transition. Michelle, on behalf of all AIMS members in Tasmania we thank and applaud you on a job well done.

The new committee has already begun planning for a number events for the next twelve months. The first of these is the AIMS Travelling Oration which will be held on Saturday 19th November – keep an eye out for more details in the next few weeks.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by email (Murray.Adams@utas.edu.au) or phone (6324 5483) if you have any suggestions or ideas of how we can make our Tasmanian AIMS branch even better.

Finally, go the Eagles during September! ☺ *Cheers, Murray*

Bowen Zhang (*Left*) and Natasha Betts (*Right*) receiving their awards from from Richard Hanlon of AIMS.

Biomedical Science 4th Year Case Study Presentations and Awards

The Bachelor of Biomedical Science student presentations and awards were held on June 2nd 2011 in the School of Human Life Sciences. Approximately 40 students, staff and representatives from pathology laboratories around Tasmania attended the very enjoyable and successful evening. The standard of the presentations was excellent, with Gareth Harvey receiving the award for Best Oral Presentation. Rajeswari Raja Rajan was the recipient of the Best Poster. These awards were kindly sponsored by Diagnostic Services Pty Ltd (DSPL) and the Northern Tasmania Pathology Service.
Other award winners on the night were:

AIMS Derek Smith Award for Best First Year Student: **Natasha Budgeon**
AIMS Gary Peace Prize for Most Improved Second Year Student: **Bowen Zhang**
AIMS FJ Brown Award for Best Third Year Student: **Natasha Betts**
CSL Immunohaematology Best Student in Haematology: **Natasha Betts**
AACB Best Student in Clinical Chemistry/Immunology: **Natasha Betts**
DSPL Prize for Overall Excellence in Biomedical Science: **Jennifer Bennett & Gareth Harvey**

A Final Word (well almost) …

Dear AIMS Members,

I have been Tasmanian Branch Chair since 2005 and have found the experience very rewarding. Meeting other like-minded branch chairs has been great for the exchange of ideas. I have also enjoyed a "behind-the-scenes" look at what AIMS does on a national scale, the AIMS Board regularly responds to government decisions and looks out for our best interests as medical scientists.

I will remain on committee as Vice Chair, being part of AIMS in Tasmania is something I am very passionate about. I've been on committee since I graduated so it I would find it strange not to have that connection.

I do believe that it is time for a change in leadership. Murray is very enthusiastic and has some wonderful ideas that I feel he can truly bring to fruition better as Chair of the Branch. I wish Murray all the best and I know he has the full support of the committee.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all our past and present members of the committee. Everyone is so busy it's great to see members still willing to give up their valuable free time to be involved. I'd also like to thank the delegates of our various meetings throughout the year, without your loyal attendance we would not have a branch at all!

Michelle McPhie

AIMS/AACB Tasmanian Branch Annual Scientific Meeting

There was a wonderful venue and even better setting just behind Salamanca Markets for this year's combined AIMS/AACB Tasmanian Branch Annual Scientific Meeting. The theme of the meeting was ***"The Other Taste of Tasmania".*** A packed program, an array of local and interstate speakers, a magnificent dinner and an excellent attendance were features of this year's meeting. For the sake of good taste, no photos of the floor show on Saturday night have been included….

Danielle Bresnehan and Michelle McPhie.

The program for the meeting included a diverse range of talks covering topics such as arsenic, selenium, food additives, electrolyte status in athletes, venoms, chillies and Jack Jumpers. If that wasn't enough, the 2011 AACB Roman Lecturer Dr Geoffrey Kellerman reflected on the history of the AACB and the evolution of laboratory medicine in Australia. We were also fortunate to have the AIMS National President A/Prof Tony Woods, who delivered two very different talks; a thought-provoking update and proposed model for the registration of medical scientists in Australia, and a highly entertaining presentation on the potential therapeutic applications of venoms. If that wasn't enough, there was transfusion practice and red cell antibody case studies, the effect of food additives on behaviour in children, and case studies from recent UTAS graduates. Finally, Dr Ken Sikaris and Dr Kathy Cook were back once again to warn everyone of the dangers of fructose and vampires.

Rob Hayes talks to Elvis Costello and Angus Young, *aka* Dale Kunde and Dom Geraghty.

AIMS National President, A/Prof Tony Woods at the podium.

The committee extends their thanks to the local and interstate speakers, the sponsors of the meeting (Biorad, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Abbott, CSL Immunohaematology and Helena Laboratories) for their support and everyone who attended. We look forward to an even better meeting in 2012.

Finally…..

Congratulations to Danielle and Mike Morse on the arrival of Rhys. Unconfirmed rumors suggest that young Rhys (*right*) has been signed for life to Swansea City FC….