



# The Australian Society for Parasitology Inc

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## From the President's Desk

A new year provides new opportunities for the ASP. The term of the current Executive began after the highly successful Annual Scientific Meeting in Fremantle. The ARC Research Network for Parasitology is now in full operation and it has initiated schemes to further develop research within the discipline of Parasitology. It is important that all members of the Society embrace the Research Network and fully support its aims.

Efforts to enhance collaboration between the ASP and other professional Societies were boosted by the recent request of the Australian Society for Microbiology to hold a joint scientific meeting in Brisbane in 2006. After significant considera-

tion it was decided that the membership of the ASP would be better served by not holding a joint meeting with the ASM, mainly because of concerns about the cost of holding a joint meeting and the necessary higher registration fee for members. However, we have accepted the invitation to participate in development of "Parasitology" streams within the ASM, which will provide a valuable opportunity to enhance the profile of the Society and its members.

The ASP was represented by three members (David Jenkins, Simon Reid and Nick Smith (on behalf of the Network)) at the recent Science meets Parliament event in Canberra. The event was conducted over two days and provided an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of Parasitology in Australia and to better understand the function of the government in establishing priority areas. The priority areas identified by most politicians were climate change and water, which provided an opportunity to discuss issues of relevance to many in the Society. In future years we would like to encourage representation from a cross-section of the different "disciplines" in the ASP such as medical, veterinary, environmental and conservation to name a few.

The recent ABC serial called "Body Snatchers" shows the depth of interest the general public has in the weird and wonderful world of parasites. I think it is important for the Society to further develop its outreach to the general public to harness this interest. One opportunity to achieve this is the proposed "Intimate Aliens" exhibit by the Queensland Museum. I think it is important that the ASP assist staff in the museum to reinvigorate the concept and see it through to completion.

**Simon Reid**  
President

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**Bancroft-Mackerras Medal Conve-  
nor:**  
Carolyn BEHM (address above)

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# News from the ARC/ NHMRC Network for Parasitology

An Email list of Network Participants has been put together and newsletters posted on 23/11/04, 14/01/05, 21/01/05, 31/01/05, 11/03/05, 31/03/05 and 1/4/05, giving information about grants, the Network Travel/Workshop fund, positions vacant, conferences etc. If you are not already on the mailing list but would like to be, please send your email address to [nick.smith@uts.edu.au](mailto:nick.smith@uts.edu.au).

An organising committee for the Conference to launch the Network has been established. It is Emanuela Handman (Chair, WEHI), Alan Cowman (WEHI), Graham Brown (University of Melbourne), Geoff McFadden (University of Melbourne), Marshall Lightowlers (University of Melbourne), Maureen Grant (WEHI), Marian Carvino (University of Melbourne) and Nick Smith (UTS). Organisation of the meet-

ing is progressing well and information will be rolled out via the email list and will also appear on the Network website soon.

**The Conference will be held at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research on July 7 and 8, 2005.**

The Network has recently awarded funding to four applications for researcher exchanges/workshops:

[1] Ray Norton and colleagues, to organise and host a workshop on "Malarial Protein Structure and Function" in February, 2006;

[2] Kieran Kirk and Geoff McFadden, to finance the exchange of a student, Rose-lani Henry, and a postdoctoral fellow,

Kylie Mullin, between their laboratories in Canberra and Melbourne to learn new technologies related to the expression and transfection of genes for putative malarial membrane transport proteins;

[3] Kate Mounsey (Menzies School of Health Research), to travel to Roger Prichard's lab at McGill University's Institute for Parasitology in Canada to learn and apply novel techniques for expression of *S. scabiei* drug resistance genes;

[4] Akin Adisa (Latrobe University), to travel to Guy's Hospital, King's College London, to work with world leaders (Dr Lawrie Bannister and Dr Anton Dluzewski, working in the laboratory of Prof Graham Mitchell) in electron microscopy of *Plasmodium* to resolve the ultrastructure of the Golgi apparatus of the malaria parasite.

Congratulations to all involved

**Nick Smith**

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## From the Editor

Conferences, conferences, conferences! This issue is packed with advertisements and invitations to an assortment of national and international meetings. The centre pages are devoted to the ASP2005 meeting, which will be held as part of the WAAVP 2005, in Christchurch, New Zealand. Please note that the ASP Council has moved to assist society members attend the conference by providing a registration subsidy. You will find an application form on

page 18 of the newsletter.

A meeting to mark in your diaries is the one-day symposium in August 2005 at Westmead Hospital, Sydney to mark the retirement of John Walker, who has given many years service to Australians and Australian parasitology. Well done John- we wish you a long and happy retirement.

Planning for ASP2006 is well underway. The organizing committee, led by Tom Cribb, has just negotiated to hold the conference at Legends Hotel on the

Gold Coast.

Due to space constraints, I have been forced to omit some regular columns from this issue, like the FASTS news. I would urge you to visit the FASTS website ([www.fasts.org](http://www.fasts.org)) to read about some of the recent activities of the Federation, including the Science meets Parliament hypothetical and the recent newsletters.

Until next issue.....

**Malcolm Jones**



## Closing Dates for Nominations for ASP Awards

Bancroft-Mackerras Award - December 31<sup>st</sup> 2005 (for award in 2006).

Invited Lectureships Travel Grants - December 31<sup>st</sup> 2005.

JFA Sprent Prize - Call for applications closed for 2005 round. Next round to be announced Issue 2, 2007.

JD Smyth Travel Awards - December 31<sup>st</sup> 2005.

ASP Fellowships - before next mid term Council meeting (April/May 2005)

See announcements in this Newsletter or visit the ASP website for more information : [www.parasite.org.au](http://www.parasite.org.au)





# Minutes of the Mid-Term Council Meeting of the Australian Society for Parasitology Inc.

Friday 1 April 2004

University of Technology Sydney, NSW

## Present and Apologies

*Present:* Simon Reid (SR), Ian Whittington (IW), Rob Dobson (RD), David Piedrafita (DP), Geoff Grossel (GG), Carolyn Behm (CB), John Ellis (JE), Malcolm Jones (MJ), Glenn Anderson (GA), Shelly Walton (SW), Charles Gauci (CG), David Jenkins (DJ), Julie-Anne Fritz (JF), Michelle Power (MP), Rebecca Traub (RT), Nick Smith (NS), Ryan O'Handley (RO).

*Apologies:* Nick Sangster (NS).

## Minutes of Previous Meeting

No Changes to the Minutes of last Meeting

*Motion:* The Minutes of the last meeting be accepted (DJ/MP). Unanimous

## Business Arising from February 2004 end-of-term Council Meeting

Intimate Aliens was discussed and Council decided to be pro-active in working with the Queensland Museum to get it up and running again in light of the recent publicity received through the "Body Snatchers" series that was broadcast on ABC.

*Action:* DJ to follow up with Questicon and MJ to speak with Rob Adlard at the QLD Museum.

History of Parasitology in Australia (see separate agenda item).

Roberts Tick Collection (see separate agenda item).

## Business Arising from 2004 mid-term council meeting

No business was discussed

## Reports

### President's report

Written report was provided  
ARC/NHMRC Research Network for Parasitology is in full operation and it is important for members of the Society to embrace the Network and fully support its aims.

ASP-ASM collaboration – Australian Society for Microbiology requested holding a joint meeting with ASP in Brisbane in 2006. After careful consideration it was decided that a joint meeting with ASM would not occur due to

concern about the cost of holding a joint meeting. However, ASP has accepted an invitation to participate in the development of Parasitology streams within ASM. SR asked for comments from the council regarding joint ASM and ASP meetings. There was concern regarding about the dilution of Parasitology due to the large size of ASM and that ASM Parasitology was directed more towards clinical microbiology. It was suggested that members of ASP should be identified that may be most interested in supporting ASM and that we identify subject areas. The possibility of an overlapping ASM-ASP meeting was discussed.

*Action:* SR to discuss with NS the ARC/NHMRC Research Network facilitation Clinical Parasitology in ASM. Members of ASP with an interest in Clinical Parasitology were to be identified and contacted by council members.

Science Meets Parliament – SR, DJ, and NS represented ASP at Science Meets Parliament. (see separate agenda item)

*Motion:* Presidents report be accepted (RD/DJ). Unanimous.

### Treasurer's report

Written Report Presented

Expenses have exceeded income to date, however IJP royalties, which are paid in April, was not included.

Sprent Prize account –concern was raised that the interest currently paid by the bank was insufficient to cover the cost of the Sprent award.

*Motion:* That the treasurer investigate more suitable accounts for investment of the Sprent Prize fund and invest a portion of the working account (SR?DP). Unanimous

WAAVP Subsidy – A claim form has been created and will be published in the newsletter and the website. The form must be submitted within 30 days following the conference and will apply to those who pay full conference registration.

RD discussed the fact that there was a large sum of money in the working account that was earning 1.7% interest. He suggested a portion of this could be transferred to an account that earns a higher rate.

*Motion:* To transfer \$150,000 from the ASP working account to an IPAC account (RD/DJ). Unanimous.

*Motion:* To accept the Treasurer's Report (SR/IW). Unanimous

## Secretariat/Incorporation Secretary report

Oral report given

Current memberships stands at 358 members including 27 fellows.

Suggested a more proactive approach in the nomination of fellows.

We have had some problems with notifying international applicants that their memberships have been approved despite contacting them through mail or email.

No issues to report with the Secretariat.

*Motion:* to accept the Secretariat/Incorporation Secretary Report (IW/CG). Unanimous

## International Journal for Parasitology Editor's report

Written report submitted by Nick Sangster and presented by JE.

2004 was a good year with 139 publications from 438 submissions. Submissions from North America are increasing, indicating that the policy to increase exposure in North America is paying off. Online downloads per month peaked in March 2004 with 21,000.

Impact factor – Increased for 11<sup>th</sup> straight year to 2.88

Nick Sangster's tenure expires in January 2006 and due to the increased workload cannot continue. Due to the workload of the Editor, the issue of paying the Editor was raised.

Office of IJP was discussed with regard to how web submissions may change the role of the Editor, Dep. Editor and Secretary.

*Action:* NS and JE to provide suggestions regarding the issues facing IJP at next meeting.

*Motion:* To accept IJP editor's report (CB/DJ). Unanimous.

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## Newsletter Editor's report

Oral report Presented

WAAVP Conference, ICOPA, and Net-



work Launch to be advertised.

MJ stressed that news reports and stories of interest are valued and that we need to encourage submissions from all institutions.

The format was changed from A5 to A4 format and has been well accepted.

The Expert Database was discussed and it was decided to provide a link to this on the website and to promote it with the Parliamentary library.

*Action:* DJ to contact the Parliamentary Librarian regarding our Expert Database.

*Motion:* To accept the Newsletter Editor's Report (JE/RT). Unanimous.

### Archivist's report

Oral report presented.

CB has received a number of enquires for ASP Abstracts prior to 1990, which are housed in the Archives of the Academy of Science. CB will provide council an estimate of the cost to copy these abstracts.

CB mentioned conference organizers should send PDF files of conference abstracts to the Archivist.

*Motion:* To accept Archivist's report (MP/RD). Unanimous.

### Webmaster's report

No formal report given.

Council discussed the webmasters position and various scenarios for who should take over from Russ Hobbs. It was agreed that due to the increasing importance of the ASP Website, that the Webmaster position be made a non-voting position on council.

*Motion:* To propose a constitutional change at the next AGM to increase council by 1 non-voting member in the position of Webmaster (SR/GA). Unanimous.

*Action:* RO to arrange advertising of this motion in the Newsletter

### ARC/NHMRC Network report (Nick Smith)

Written report presented

The Network Management Committee held its first meeting on December 9, 2004. The position of Network Administrator will be advertised on April 2. NS will travel to Europe and Canada to discuss joint initiatives. Official network agreement will be finalized soon. Funding has been awarded to four researcher exchanges/workshops.

*Motion:* To accept ARC/NHMRC Network report (RO/SR). Unanimous.

### Conference Reports

#### Fremantle

180 attended conference, which should be close to breaking even.

#### WAAVP

Written report presented by JE.

A room has been requested for ASP Council meeting on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October 10 am to 6 pm.

The AGM is scheduled for Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 7:30-9:00 pm. To attend, members will have to forgo social outings on that free afternoon that include dinner.

*Action:* SR to talk to Nick Sangster about options for AGM. Council must organize application procedures; advertise student travel grants, plan student prizes.

#### Queensland 2006

SR to obtain confirmation from Tom Cribb about the actual dates of conference for July 2005.

#### 2007 Conference

NS to look into possibility of hosting the meeting in Sydney while IW will look into hosting 2008 meeting in Adelaide.

#### Awards

##### Bancroft Mackerras Medal

CB reported 1 application has been received

#### Fellowships

Nothing discussed

#### Invited Lectureship Travel Grant

Nothing discussed

#### JD Smyth Travel Award (formerly Overseas Postgraduate Travel Awards)

SR reported 2 awards made from the last round of submissions.

#### Student travel to New Zealand

Confirmed that ASP covers students Registration and half the airfare.

Special student travel awards to MAM 2004. Reports are currently being completed.

3 students will be eligible to attend the next meeting MSPTM meeting as one student was unable to attend this year and will therefore be allowed to attend next year.

#### Sprent Prize

RO reported that 7 applications were submitted for the Sprent Prize.

Sprent oration will be made at AGM in

New Zealand.

### Correspondence

SR reported that Ross Andrews wrote a letter thanking the Society for their support of the Roberts tick collection

*Action:* RO to contact Ross Andrews regarding the work that has been done so far and to arrange an article for the Newsletter.

The International Trust for Nomenclature sent a letter to SR requesting funding.

*Action:* SR to contact Ian Beveridge and Dave Spratt to get more information about the activities of the trust and to get their advice on whether to provide funding and at what level. A decision will be made at the next Council meeting.

### 10. Other Business

a) History of Parasitology in Australia  
SW to investigate further and SR to contact Ian Beveridge.

b) Science Meets Parliament

SR and DJ suggested that specific ministers and MPs could be targeted through setting up appointments before hand. It was agreed that both who will be going to Science Meets Parliament and strategic plan be discussed at the next meeting to ensure we are prepared regarding specific issues and to increase our effectiveness at lobbying parliament.

c) Student Travel Reimbursement – Article XII

• Council discussed the rewording of Article XII of the constitution to remove some of the restrictions for student travel reimbursement.

*Motion:* To present an amended Article XII to be voted on at the next AGM (SR/DP). Unanimous.

*Action:* RO will circulate the amended Article XII to be considered at the AGM to council and for publication in the newsletter

d) Continued Student Exchange with Malaysian SP.

Council agreed this should continue and DJ was to follow up for next meeting

e) Intimate Aliens

Council agreed that a sub-committee should be created in order to address the reestablishment of Intimate Aliens. DP agreed to serve on the committee and SR was going to contact Nick





Smith and Rob Adlard regarding their participation. It was suggested the ARC/NHMRC Network administrator also be involved.

f) Quorum for Meeting at Christchurch

Based on the response from council, there will be a quorum for the meeting in Christchurch.

g) Other items

DJ brought up the issue of media monitoring

Council discussed how to keep membership lists current and up to date. It was agreed that a list of email addresses for ASP members provided to the Executive Secretary would be useful.

**Action:** MJ to send RO list of current and lapsed financial members and look into sending list of current members email addresses. JE to see if a list of ASP members was provide by the RGSQ as part of the monitoring of online IJP subscribers.

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:04 pm**

## ASP student at the Malaysian Society for Parasitology and Tropical Medicine

*Each year, the ASP Council awarded prizes for the best two oral presentations at the Conference. The winners of the 2004 award was Vanessa Glennon and the runner-up was Gabriela Muñoz. Part of the award is an all-expenses paid trip to attend the Conference of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine. Vanessa could not attend the conference this year due to prior commitments. Gabriela was able to go and here she reports on her experiences in Malaysia.*

This year, XLI Annual Scientific Seminar of Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on March 10-11<sup>th</sup>. The focus of this meeting was molecular parasitology, natural medicine, control of parasites and general parasitology. This year there was a special emphasis on "Natural Products and the Management of Tropical Diseases". The opening session was on this topic and 5 panellists talked about their research and experiences in this area. They talked

about the many diseases in animals (including humans) and the vectors (e.g. insects) that attack plants and animals affecting the health of the animals and the economy of a country. To fight against these diseases many chemical products have been produced for a long time. However, many of these products can generate secondary effects on animals or can contaminate the environment. For such reasons the use of natural products can bring not only relief to diseases but also these products are "kind" to the environment. However, this task is not easy because modern medicine has become more effective and widely used. Thus, Dr. Zakiah Ismail gave a talk about "Safety and efficacy evaluation of herbal medicinal products". Dr. Ismail focused on some key steps to integrate traditional and complementary medicine. These steps are based on quality control and consideration of the patient beliefs and their medical history to produce a safe and efficient treatment. Dr. Napsah Mahmud talked about traditional and complementary medicine in managements of ailments and well being and a program that is in progress in Malaysia to integrate both disciplines. Dr. Shahidah talked about the Malaysian experience in clinical trials using herbal

medicine and Dr. Mosaddegh focused on a research program on biological effects of medicinal plants from Iran. This interesting panel discussed about the issues in using natural products in medicine but they also gave the steps for solutions and the use of natural products as effective tools against diseases.

The student competition was in the second day. Five students participated: three were from the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak. (UNIMAS), one was from University of Malaysia (UM) and one from The University of Queensland (UQ). The committee to select the winners consisted of 3 people from Indonesia (to be impartial!). Mr. Paul Cliff Simon Divis (UNIMAS) won first place with the topic "Molecular methods to identify *Plasmodium knowlesi* in monkeys", Miss Lau Tiek Ying (UNIMAS) won second prize with the topic "Molecular detection of *Plasmodium* spp. in archival blood films", and I received the third prize for my presentation "Endoparasite communities of 5 fish species from Lizard Island".

The meeting was well-organized, with a friendly environment and interesting topics. Congratulations to the organizing committee, and special thanks Dr. Indra Vythilingam who organised the student competition.

What I did after the meeting?... Only two things that I really like: one is to know about historical places and secondly, shopping! (after all I am a woman). I had 3 extra days to travel around the city. I saw the beautiful "twin towers of Kuala Lumpur", which are the highest buildings of the world (I read that on a postal card). I looked out the Moorish-styled High Court building and I went to the National Historical Museum. I also visited Malacca (or Melaka) to know the most relevant places of this historical city where Malaysia began as a country. I visited the St Paul's Church, the Temple of Cheng Hoon Teng and



the oldest Chinatown (300 years old) in Malaysia. On my tours around the city I met nice people and also ate lots of nice food! (mostly Chinese). Then, I spent the last day shopping. In Kuala Lumpur there are several malls and markets... I am not sure if I went to all of them but maybe almost all of them.... enough for the couple of days that I had for sight seeing. The only thing that I can say is that "everything is very inexpensive!!" Food, clothing, cameras, etc, are at least 3 times cheaper than in Australia... This is good to know if you are going to Malaysia.... take money to shop.

I had a great time in Malaysia. I really appreciate the opportunity to attend the meeting and to learn more about other people in another countries. I want to thank the Australian Society for Parasitology and Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine that funding this trip to Malaysia.

**Gabriela Muñoz**



*Gaby (right) pictured here with other student prize winners at the MSPTM meeting*

## News from the *International Journal for Parasitology*

### Web submission available from 1 May 2005

Visit us on-line at <http://ees.elsevier.com/ijpara/> to submit your papers to the IJP.

Full Instructions to Authors are available, together with a tutorial for first-time users.

For further information about the Journal, visit our homepage:  
<http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ijpara>.



# Vic State News

## University of Melbourne Veterinary Science Werribee

The 2005 New Year brought mayhem to Werribee, just as everyone was returning to work from the Christmas/January break feeling refreshed and enthusiastic. Record rainfall, centred around Werribee, ensured that those able to get through the flooded streets and freeways to reach work were confronted with the task of helping to clear the offices and labs of water and water-damaged items. Needless to say that it was quite entertaining (for some) to see postgraduate students and supervisors alike forming a great team determined to sweep the water out of the parasitology corridor. Ian Beveridge even managed to recruit an eminent visiting U.S. professor (Rob Campbell), gumboots and all, to help mop up.

Congratulations to Marshall Lightowlers and his collaborators for successfully obtaining a grant from the Wellcome Trust *Animal Health in the Developing World* initiative. The research project titled *Optimisation and field testing of a practical vaccine against Taenia solium cysticercosis in pigs* will enable further development of the group's new recombinant vaccine for pigs which is expected to play an important role in controlling the transmission of *Taenia solium* and reducing the number of cases of human neurocysticercosis. The 5 year research project has a budget of more than \$1.8M and, in addition to the work being carried out at Werribee, includes components to be undertaken at the Prins Leopold Instituut voor Tropische Geneeskunde in Belgium, University of Dschang Faculty of Agriculture in Cameroon, Departamento de Microbiología y Parasitología UNAM in Mexico and the Universidad San Marcos in Peru.

Ninoska Donaires-Mendoza, supervised by Marshall, recently travelled to Lima, for a brief visit, to continue her work on identifying recombinant oncosphere antigens to detect human exposure to *Taenia solium*.

Shookoofeh Shamsi travelled to Heron Island to collect fish parasites with Tom Cribb and co. and also managed to attend a game fishing competition in Port Stephens. Aaron

Jex (from Tom Cribb's group) visited Werribee to work with Robin Gasser on genetic analysis of cockroach nematodes.

Ian Beveridge is jointly supervising (with the Department of Zoology) Lisa Evans who has recently undertaken a PhD on ectoparasites of bats. Welcome Lisa.

## Department of Primary Industries Attwood

Our staff have come back refreshed following their well earned Christmas break, with the Nematode Vaccine Program progressing along nicely.

The Parasite Culture Unit - Paul Presidente, Carolyn Walker and Lawrie Fulton - continues to make leaps and bounds in the areas of *in vitro* culture and *in vivo* recovery of *Haemonchus contortus*. Together with Jody Zawadzki, PCU are making great inroads into the development and application of Larval Development Assay for its use in RNA interference. Debbie Donald, Jody Zawadzki and Paul Presidente will represent the team at the forthcoming WAAVP meeting in New Zealand, where they will report their exciting research on Signal Sequence Trapping, RNAi, and *H. contortus* culture, respectively. The team put in a lot of effort to ensure the reports to MLA/AWI were of the highest standards, with great reviews received, well done Paul Presidente, Steve Binos, Debbie Donald and Jody Zawadzki. Congratulations to Jody on her appointment as Project Leader for the MLA/AWI and DPI funded projects.

As part of the Novartis Vaccine Project, Carolyn Bath and the team are evaluating the latest advances in Baculovirus expression systems using Gateway® recombinational technology, which we hope will expedite the time required to express recombinants in this system (PS Congratulations to Carolyn on her recent engagement to Ashley). Jennifer Sexton, Project leader for the Novartis Vaccine Project, is finalising the requirements for the upcoming Project Review meeting to be held at DPI-Attwood in April.

On the student front, Dimitra Pakouta, who was co-supervised by Mark Sandeman at La Trobe University, received a H1 for her studies on

Glutathione Peroxidases in *H. contortus*, congratulations!! Dimitra has taken a break from studies and we are very pleased that she has taken up a 12-month position with us to work on the Novartis Vaccine Project. Sia Nikolaou, co-supervised with Robin Gasser at the University of Melbourne, is completing the final touches on a third publication to come from her studies on signalling pathways in *H. contortus*, as she juggles with her thesis commitments.

Other news, Alison Bant has given birth to a healthy baby boy, Owen, and we look forward to the return of Nina Gatt from her maternity leave stint in the not so distant future.

Kind regards to all our colleagues from all of us in the Nematode Vaccine Program, Molecular Biology, DPI Attwood.

For any queries contact Dadna Hartman, Molecular Biology, DPI-Attwood, (03) 92174 286, Dadna.Hartman@dpi.vic.gov.au

## University of Melbourne Centre for Animal Biotechnology

The theme at CAB for the past few months has been cultural exchange.

In December last year, Els Meeusen visited Belgium in December to examine a PhD thesis. CAB has also played host to two international scientists, Parviz Kavakeb, from Tehran, Iran and Jorge Gonzalez from the Canary Islands, Spain in the early months of this year. Parviz is completing his PhD on the granule proteins of *Toxoplasma gondii* and while with us, cloned and expressed one as a recombinant protein for downstream use in an ELISA diagnostic. Human toxoplasmosis is an increasing problem in Iran and the development of a cheap diagnostic test for it is important. Jorge worked with Jill Pleasance on real-time PCR techniques to measure cytokine expression in ruminant animals infected with helminth parasites, and with David Piedrafita on *in vitro* killing assays for *Haemonchus*. Most importantly, Jorge also introduced us to the best of Spanish food! In other news, Vern Bowles and Hatchtech were given a great write-up in Melbourne's newspaper 'The Age' at the end of March: Hatchtech, a company spun out of Melbourne University by





Vern Bowles from the Centre for Animal Biotechnology was recently successful in raising \$2.9 million for commercialisation of its research into novel ovicides for controlling head lice.' Congratulations Vern! Also due for congratulations are PhD student, Simone Beckham, working on cathepsin B of *Fasciola hepatica* and her supervisors, including Rob Pike, David Piedrafita and Terry Spithill. Simone is due to submit her thesis any day now. We wish her well.

### La Trobe University

#### Parasite Control Laboratory

From Mark Sandeman: This time I am writing from Terry Spithill's new lab at The Institute of Parasitology at McGill University in Montreal. Of course everyone immediately assumes I am swanning around enjoying my 3 month sabbatical in exotic places but I have been here since January and, although it is now a balmy 12 degrees, most days it was -20°C when I arrived in my summer gear from Oz. This made staying in Terry's centrally heated house overlooking the St Lawrence a necessity and then of course I was forced to participate in Terry's long evening sessions of drinking red Australian 'none of that weak french stuff' wine. This rather spartan existence was leavened by the occasional trip to Ontario for more wine or for a look at an even more frozen Quebec City or Ottawa. Thus the days have passed and my occasional contacts with the troops at home have been rewarded with dismay as I tried to explain my inability to get much done over here. I of course exhorted the said troops to get on with their work and try to send some more samples as the ones I already had were unaccountably aging rather quickly. They duly knuckled down and with the assistance of some poor addressing and a certain courier company the samples arrived only 3 weeks after they left. The Mass Spectrometer had some trouble finding anything left but with the help of some very fancy software I was able to differentiate some ill defined biomarkers. The paper writing was fraught with similar pressures as small but very important parts of the necessary data went missing or was never loaded onto my laptop. Despite this limitation some papers have almost been written and probably would have been had less Australian wine been available. Despite all these problems I am off next week to walk up some fairly tall hills in Peru and should with a bit of

luck be completely uncontactable even for rather desperate sounding La Trobe students who unaccountably have found my mobile number and need my immediate assistance. Meantime Jozef Verduyze has arrived and is demanding I take him for a beer at some local establishment so that is about the end of my report. Don't try and contact me again until May when I should have recovered sufficiently to accept limited forms of communication.

### La Trobe University Malaria Labs

A new influx of Honours students have freshened the place up a bit. Natsi Payne and Ashbag Emerson-Webber are working on *P.falciparum* AMA1 and MSP2 respectively with Mick Foley and the gang in his lab. The two Jemma's (Bridges & Richards) have also commenced honours in Leann Tilley's lab to study membrane lipids and EMP1 trafficking in *P.falciparum*. We're all confident that by the end of the year many publications and great honours projects will be the result of their labours. No pressure guys! Akin Adisa in Leann Tilley's lab has scored travelling fellowships from the ASP network and The Journal of Cell Science to visit a lab in the UK so congratulations to him. Lastly but by no means least, Mick Foley in collaboration with Robin Anders (La Trobe) and Ray Norton (WEHI) were awarded a 5 year NIH grant to study the structure, function and immunology of a couple of the most promising malaria vaccine candidates so congratulations should go to all involved there – especially Kathy Parisi who photocopied and printed everything multiple times on very strange paper of unorthodox dimensions and coped admirably with the ensuing paper jams.

Compiled by Charles Gauci

## SA State News

### Aquafin CRC-Tuna Health (University of Tasmania-Port Lincoln & SARDI) University of Tasmania- Port Lincoln

This new project, concentrating on health of southern bluefin tuna (Australia's most valuable cultured finfish) and its links with husbandry practices, is funded by the Aquafin CRC and FRDC with support from the tuna industry. Principal investigator is Barbara Nowak (School of Aquaculture, UTas)

and co-investigators are Colin Johnston and Marty Deveney (Aquaculture SA, PIRSA, Adelaide). The project, which began in mid-2003, is housed alongside industry in the office of the Tuna Boat Owners Association in the Port Lincoln marina.

In the second half of 2003, casual technician Tom Bayly (now of Ajka Pty Ltd) sampled harvest tuna and mortalities for parasites and abnormalities, the results of which are now in press. Newer UTas expats on the Eyre Peninsula in SA, postdoc Craig Hayward and PhD student Hamish Aiken, have been exceptionally busy over the past year investigating parasite epidemiology in tuna over a full season. They are writing up reports now just as another hectic season starts. Barbara, a frequent visitor to the tuna health lab, travels from Launceston about once per month. Consultant veterinary epidemiologist on the project, Angus Cameron (AusVet), has also visited on several occasions. Last year, Craig and Hamish also hosted parasitological visits from various other guests, most notably including Iva Dykova (Czech Republic) and Brian Jones (WA).

Hamish and Craig have also been actively sampling other species of tuna for comparison, with funds awarded by the Aquafin CRC. After the tuna harvest season ended in 2004, Hamish and Craig travelled to work with collaborating scientists to investigate parasitism in Atlantic bluefin tuna (arranged by Paco Montero, University of Valencia, Spain) and Pacific bluefin tuna (arranged by Yoshifumi Sawada, Kinki University, Japan), respectively.

Another very busy season of tuna sampling is expected this year. 2005 also got off to a colourful start - UTas entered a float in the annual Tunarama parade in Port Lincoln, dressed in matching Tuna Health Project t-shirts. Project members welcome new collaboration with Nathan Bott (see below), now working with Kathy Ophel-Keller at SARDI, Adelaide. This year, there'll also be 3 Honours students joining the project - one working on histopathology of gill parasites (Martin Kreusemann), another on microbiology of tuna (Shafiya Naeem), and a third on the immune response in tuna (Cameron I'Anson). A fourth Honours project is now being organised for a student to be based at UQ, to be supervised by Rob Adlard and Tom Cribb, studying taxonomy of



didymozoids from southern bluefin tuna.

### **SARDI-Tuna Pathogen Diagnostics**

As mentioned above, Nathan Bott has joined the Aquafin CRC, developing Real-Time PCR probes to detect parasites of southern bluefin tuna from environmental and netting samples. Nathan (formerly from Tom Cribb's UQ lab) has continued the mass exodus of UQ people to South Australia, taking up a Research Officer position at SARDI at the Waite Campus.

Nathan is working with Kathy Ophel-Keller in the Field Crops Pathology Diagnostics group (yes! that's right! Field Crops!!) and collaborates heavily with Barbara Nowak, Craig Hayward and Hamish Aiken from UTas. He's visited Port Lincoln several times already for intrepid adventures on and off the water, the highlight of which was helping UTas with their float in Port Lincoln's annual Tunarama parade.

The focus of the project is currently to develop gene probes for the blood fluke, *Cardicola forsteri* and the monogenean, *Hexostoma* sp. The first few months of the project have been dedicated to sequencing every available parasite of tuna and just about any other fish parasite that colleagues have donated. Species-specific primers are currently being developed for initial trials on environmental samples from Port Lincoln and several other control sites. The search for the intermediate host of *C. forsteri* is also high on Nathan's (and Craig's) priorities, though so far it remains elusive.

As well as getting his project underway, Nathan has been learning about beneficial soil bacteria, root destroying fungi and nematodes from his new lab mates as well as spreading the many virtues of marine parasitology to any who will listen! Oh! And there's also that PhD thesis from UQ days to contend with.

### **Australian Water Quality Centre**

Paul Monis visited Murdoch University in December for an ARC Linkage grant funded project to meet with Andy Thompson's group. Paul's project on *Cryptosporidium* survival in environmental water continues with good success. The first paper from this project on the effect of temperature on oocyst infectivity is accepted for publication in *Applied & Environmental Microbiology*.

Recently Paul Monis also travelled to Newcastle to present a progress update for this project to the research committee of the Water Services Association of Australia, who are major stakeholders in the study. For real-time PCR aficionados, Paul's group have a paper in press in *Analytical Biochemistry* that describes an alternative dye to SYBR Green.

Check out:

<http://authors.elsevier.com/sd/article/S0003269705000904>

The new dye wipes the floor with SYBR Green - and for fans of *Giardia*, there is a little bit in the paper about using DNA melting curve analyses to differentiate the main assemblages.

### **IMVS- Queen Elizabeth Hospital**

Andrew Butcher and the clinical parasitology laboratory continues to be inundated with specimens from the African migration program. The majority of new arrivals are from refugee camps in North-Western Tanzania on the border with Rwanda and Burundi. A wide range of protozoan and helminth parasites are being detected with approximately 50% of individuals infected with *Schistosoma mansoni*. In Australian laboratories, it is normal to find a 5%-10% positive rate in routine faecal parasite screening tests, which primarily consists of *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium* and *Dientamoeba fragilis* infections. When we include the refugee screening work, we find our daily positive rate escalates to over 50% with the majority of specimens containing multiple parasites. This has certainly made the routine parasitology lab a lot more interesting and is improving the skill level of the staff. Once the workload returns to its normal level, we will attempt to collate the results of the migration-screening program and present this at a local meeting.

### **SA Museum/University of Adelaide**

Ian Whittington was successful in winning 2 ARC Discovery grants in late 2004 so the start of 2005 has been very hectic getting both new projects underway (phylogeny of capsalid Monogenea using morphology and molecules; biology and ecology of monogeneans infecting the southern fiddler ray). New Honours student Lizzie Perkins (co-supervised with molecular geneticist, Steve Donnellan) recently joined the Marine Parasitology Laboratory at The Uni of Adelaide and is busily generating

numerous sequences of capsalid, and other, monogeneans. She decided to make her Honours year more challenging by falling off a horse and breaking her arm over Easter and is becoming adept at one handed lab work and typing! Honours student Julia Lackenby has completed her fecundity experiments on skin flukes of kingfish and has 3 weeks left to write up her final report! The PhD students in the Marine Parasitology Laboratory continue to be very busy and many are in the final year of their projects. Kate Hutson has had another successful collecting trip for kingfish along the Eyre Peninsula and soon her field work will be complete. Rissa Williams is currently in Arno Bay running trials using potential drug treatments to control monogenean infections on kingfish. Allan Mooney is finishing the last of his experiments on lifecycle parameters of *Zeuxapta seriola* and will soon be on the road to writing up. He is looking forward to not counting thousands of eggs each week. David Schmarr continues his work on parasites of the slimey mackerel. Vanessa Glennon, Leslie Chisholm and Ian Whittington had a recent trip to Fremantle, WA to collect monogeneans from various species of rhinobatid elasmobranchs for Vanessa's project. Thanks to colleagues at the Centre for Fish & Fisheries Research at Murdoch University and trawler skipper "Buddah" down at Mandurah, it was a very successful trip. Vanessa has also been occupied writing papers and now has 3 accepted for publication.

Keen fisherman Brad Smith recently joined the Marine Parasitology Laboratory as a Research Assistant for 3 months and has spent most of his time on a boat catching, tagging and releasing kingfish for population studies in Spencer Gulf. He has also developed a keen eye for spotting monogeneans; we'll make a parasitologist out of him yet!

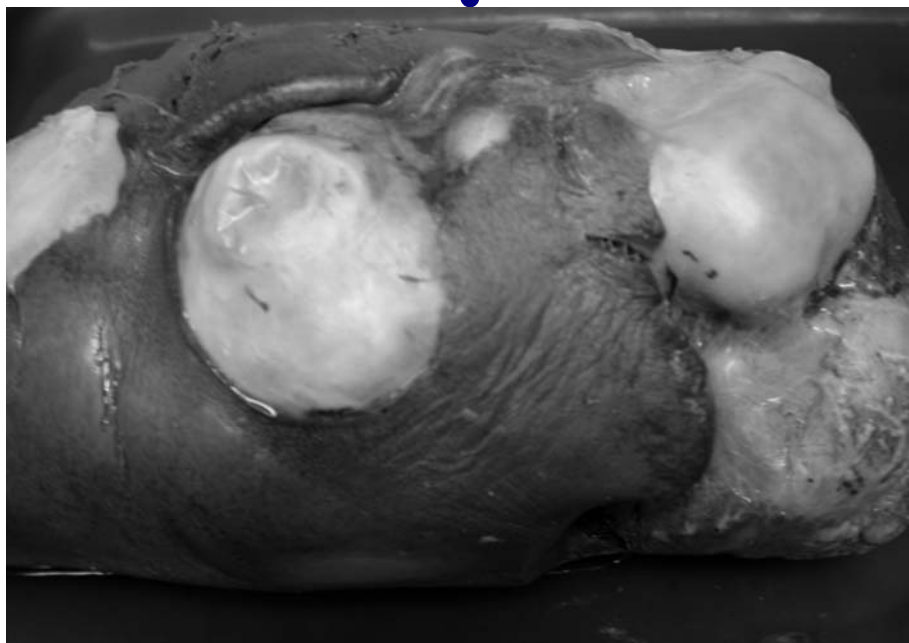
Seems like only yesterday (2001) that the Whittington group hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> *International Symposium on Monogenea (ISM4)* in Brisbane. Four years later, ISM5 is being held in Guangzhou City in China in August. Congratulations to Allan, Lizzie and Vanessa who have each won Student Registration Waivers to attend ISM5.

### **SARDI**

Workload from SARDI programs





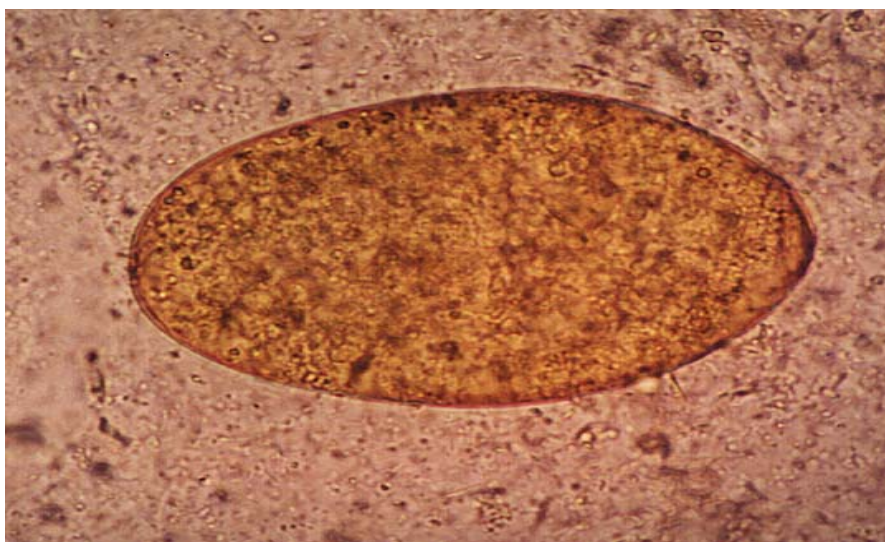


*Hydatid cyst encountered by SARDI staff.*

seemed to peak leading into the Christmas holiday break and there were long days required to process perishable specimens. The New Year began with a decline in laboratory workload to a more comfortably managed volume, with opportunities to catch up on reports and other paperwork. The SARDI group has satisfactorily established its new MLA appointee, Paul Blackburn, to the Straun Research Centre in southeast SA. Paul will control field operations for the prime lamb production study from a laboratory more centrally located to the program. Joan Lloyd (Manager Animal Health at MLA) visited in December for an update on the program. Field and laboratory work for this and other sheep programs were centred on weaning that led to the busy period late in 2004 with most on-farm trials terminating in March 2005. Ian Carmichael and Richard Martin were presented with achievement awards in recognition for their performance and accomplishments at a corporate gathering in December. Needless to say, celebrations went well into the night! Also in December, several SA parasitologists lunched with Lesley Warner and Malcolm Jones, and Ian Beveridge dropped into the SARDI laboratory for his customary pre-Christmas visit. He returned for a laboratory reunion in March 2005.

Micko recently attended the Kangaroo Island field day for a presentation

of parasite data from the island's feral cats. Di Barton has been successful in obtaining a small grant in conjunction with the South Australian Museum to support her studies on pentastomes of Australian reptiles. With this money, Di is already touring university libraries and east coast museum collections seeking these strange parasites from reptilian hosts.



It was a great delight to receive our first ever laboratory record of *Echinococcus* in a sheep in January. These specimens are rarely directed to our laboratory these days and the liver cysts (see image) are textbook quality.

*Compiled by Ian Whittington from contributions gratefully received from Paul Monis, Andrew Butcher, Leslie Chisholm, Mick'O, Craig Hayward & Nathan Bott.*

## NSW State News

In this ASP newsletter we welcome a section within the NSW news called "From the clinical parasitology bench", thanks to Graham Robertson (Concord Hospital) who kindly provided the title. There is also a focus on Malaria research being undertaken by Prof. Nicholas Hunt and his team at Sydney University.

### From the Clinical Parasitology Bench....

#### Concord Hospital

As the world gets smaller through increased travel from cheaper air fares, and as the worldwide food trade expands by opening new markets, the risk of exposure to parasites becomes higher. The clinical parasitology bench receives specimens from symptomatic patients requesting a parasite analysis but for much of the time we process specimens with little or no clinical information. Hence it is always a good idea to review what is being reported

both locally and internationally.

This week on the ProMED-mail we have reports of an outbreak (28 cases) of Diphyllorhynchiasis from Brazil (Sao Paulo). This infection is caused by *Diphyllorhynchium latum* (broad or fish tape worm). The suspected source is salmon used in the preparation of sushi and sashimi, although this still needs to be confirmed. The adult worm can



grow to 3-10 metres long, can live up to 25 yrs and has mature proglottids that are broader than long (2-7 x 10-12mm). The characteristic egg is moderately large (58-75µm by 40-50µm) with a thin shell and inconspicuous operculum and a small knob at the abopercular end (see picture, previous page). Confirmation of this infection is by the detection of proglottids or eggs in a stool. More information for sushi eaters can be found in *Diagnostic Medical Parasitology*, L Garcia ASM press 2003 or the *Atlas of Human Parasitology* Ash and Ortel, American Society of Clinical Pathologists Press.

#### **St Vincent's Hospital, Institute of Laboratory Medicine**

St Vincent's is a major public hospital and a principal referral hospital, which specializes in heart/lung transplantation; bone marrow transplantation; cardiology; cancer; HIV medicine; respiratory medicine; mental health; and drug and alcohol services. The Hospital has a long-standing reputation for treating the highest acuity and complex patient loads, attracting referrals on a state-wide and national basis. St Vincents is a teaching hospital of the UNSW and has academic associations with the Australian Catholic University, Sydney University and the University of Technology, Sydney

The Microbiology department has research interests in clinical parasitology with several staff members conducting research on various parasites. Damien Stark, a senior hospital scientist in the department, is currently in the final stages of his Ph.D. conducted in association with UTS on the often neglected protozoan parasite *Dientamoeba fragilis*. Damien has investigated prevalence, genotyping and clinical relevance of *D. fragilis* infections in an Australian population. This has included development of a diagnostic PCR assay for the detection of *D. fragilis* from stool samples. Rashmi Fotadar is currently completing a MSc. at UTS investigating the molecular epidemiology and incidence of *Entamoeba histolytica* infections in the homosexual community in the inner city areas of Sydney, Rashmi is differentiating *Entamoeba* species using various molecular methods. The Microbiology department offers a wide range of diagnostic parasitology tests including conventional and new molecular based methods.

#### **Molecular Immunopathology Unit, Department of Pathology, School of Medical Sciences, University of Sydney**

The primary interest of the research group is the pathogenesis of severe malaria, in particular the cerebral and lung complications. The majority of studies are carried out using mouse models of malaria pathogenesis, though some collaborative work is done on post mortem material from child victims of cerebral malaria in Malawi and adults from Viet Nam. The team comprises Professor Nicholas Hunt (Group Leader), Dr Helen Ball (Rolf Edgar Lake Fellow), Chris Austin (Research Assistant) five PhD students Sapan Parekh, Jenny Miu, Silvia Weiser, Leia Hee, James McQuillan and Jessica Breedon (Laboratory Assistant).

The research is undertaken with major collaborators including Dr Tailoi Chan-Ling (Department of Anatomy and Histology, U. Syd) Professor Roland Stocker, (UNSW), Professor Caroline Rae (Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute, Sydney) Professor Georges Grau (Marseille), Dr Terrie Taylor, (Malawi) Dr Isabelle Medana (University of Oxford), Professor Jacob Golenser (Hebrew University Jerusalem) and Drs Alan Watts and Andrew Mitchell, Apollo Life Sciences, Sydney.

*Role of indoleamine dioxygenase in malaria* : Some time ago we showed that the enzyme indoleamine dioxygenase (IDO) was strongly expressed in the brains of mice with cerebral malaria, much earlier in the course of infection compared to other mice infected with strains of malaria that do not cause cerebral complications. IDO is the first, and rate-limiting, enzyme in the kynurenine pathway of tryptophan metabolism. We later showed that products of this pathway, including the potentially neuroexcitotoxic compound quinolinic acid, were elevated in the cerebrospinal fluid of children and adults with cerebral malaria. We believe that the expression of IDO in endothelial cells by interferon is a tissue protective response in malaria infection, which may become skewed in some cases and contribute to symptoms of cerebral malaria.

*Brain metabolism in cerebral malaria*: In both humans and mice there is an increase in the concentration of lactate in the brain in cerebral malaria. A com-

mon interpretation of this observation is that the blood supply to the brain is obstructed during malaria infection, leading to a hypoxic state and thus to the accumulation of lactate. We are investigating this and other possible mechanisms using the murine model.

*Roles of chemokines in malaria*: We and others have shown that certain chemokines, and their receptors, are involved in the pathogenesis of cerebral malaria in the mouse model. We are extending these studies to our newly-established murine model of malaria-induced lung complications, and also investigating their relevance to human cerebral malaria.

*Lung complications in severe malaria*: Adults with severe malaria may exhibit lung complications that have striking similarities to Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome. This area has been little studied. To investigate lung pathogenesis we have established a mouse model that mimics the features of the human disease.

#### **Institute for the Biotechnology of Infectious Diseases**

##### **University of Technology Sydney**

It has been a hectic start to the year for IBID with the arrival of new Honours students and PhD students. Catherine Macalpine is doing an Honours project with Kate Miller and John Dalton on the immune response to co-infection with *Toxoplasma gondii* and *Fasciola hepatica*, David Agapiou is doing an Honours project with Kevin Broady on heme and immunoglobulin binding proteins of *Ixodes holocyclus* and Ana Porta Cubas is doing a project with Liz Harry and Lyndal Thompson on the role of the A ring in bacterial replication. Two of our Honours students from last year have chosen to continue on to PhDs with IBID – Catherine James has won an AWI scholarship to work with Mary Davey and David Witcombe on drug resistance in nematodes while Mike Lees has won an IBID scholarship to work with Nick Smith and Nicky Boulter on the role of the P2X<sub>7</sub> receptor in *Toxoplasma gondii* infection. Phoebe Peters and Adeline Koay have also started PhDs with Liz Harry and her group to work on DNA replication in bacteria. David Xu has joined John Dalton's group as a research assistant and we have also welcomed a visitor from Egypt – Fayez Salib is here for a year to work with John Dalton on *F. hepatica*. Sadly we have recently farewelled Peter





Collins and Marilyn Katrib. Peter returned to Dublin after spending the final year of his PhD here with John Dalton while Marilyn has accepted a position at UNSW after working with Nick Smith for the last couple of years. We wish them both well. Michelle Gleeson is also leaving us (but hopefully only temporarily) to await the birth of her second child in mid-April.

Our members have continued to get out and about with Nick Smith attending Science meets Parliament in March, John Dalton was a Plenary speaker at a conference at Khon Kaen University in Thailand - "Understanding Tropical Diseases - Molecular research paves the way" and Sheila Donnelly and Colin Stack are heading off to the Keystone conference "Helminthology - an integrated approach" in Colorado where Sheila has been asked to give a talk. Sheila will then continue on to present at the annual Woods Hole Immunoparasitology conference in Boston. Nicky Boulter is also heading overseas soon to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Toxoplasmosis to be held in Corsica in May.

Congratulations to Margarita Villavedra, Robert Raison, Kevin Broady and Michael Wallach who are celebrating after the CRC they are a part of - Atlantic Salmon Aquaculture Subprogram: development of an AGD vaccine: phase II - was recently funded for 3 years.

#### Macquarie University

Since that last update, Quach Truong (PhD student CRC for Biotechnology) presented a poster on his first years work on *Cryptosporidium* proteomics at the annual Lorne Protein Conference. This conference is Australia's largest gathering of protein scientists, with very few people combining proteomics tools with parasitology!. Despite this Quach was able to make valuable contacts for his future work in this area.

Nichola Hill (PhD student Marsupial immunology group) has begun her field-work of trapping possums at Taronga Zoo and has started building her library of samples for parasite testing. Nichola has also been using the latest imaging techniques to catalogue the variety of eggs and cysts that she is observing in faecal samples. Inger Vilcins, also a PhD student in the marsupial group, continues to collect, photograph and identify her marsupial ectoparasites. Nichola and Inger will be presenting their work at the WDA conference in Cairns in late June.

#### Faculty of Veterinary Science University of Sydney

The first quarter of 2005 has seen staff changes occurring within the Parasitology section. Henry Collins, who has been lecturing Parasitology to Vet students for the past 25 years retired on the day of his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Henry was farewelled with a drinks session, a large profiterole cake and a bunch of goodies including binoculars, New Zealand wool socks, a hiking vest and a journal to aid in his walking adventure around the UK. In his time Henry made some major contributions to the Vet degree and he will surely be missed.

Dave Emery has joined the group as a parasitology lecturer. Dave's parasite immunology background will be of major benefit to the host parasite research being undertaken by Kate McMaster and Tony Rowe. Janina Demela, a PhD student from Hanover, who has been with the group for almost 18 months investigating the pharmacology of anthelmintics will leave us in May to return to Germany to complete her thesis. That will not be the last we see of Janina as she will be passing through Sydney on her way to WAAVP.

Congratulations go to Anna Kabaila, Eloise Cotton and Ellen Dovey who were each awarded the Australian Society for Parasitology Undergraduate prize for the top three students who excelled in the third year Veterinary Parasitology course. In Nick's absence Michelle Power (state rep) represented the society at the awards ceremony and presented the students with their certificates. The

three prize winners can be seen pictured below with Leo Jeffcott (Dean) and Michelle.

Nick Sangster is currently in England attending the British Society for Parasitology conference. On his way to the UK he detoured through China where he presented 7 talks in 6 days at the China Agriculture University in Beijing. The IJP Editorial Office continues to hum with the sound of Maria pounding at the computer keyboard, busily processing the large number of manuscripts being submitted to the journal. She emerges occasionally for a cup of coffee and a breath of fresh air. Deputy Editor John Ellis has been seen in the corridors while he takes on the editorial duties during Nick's absence. April is set to be an especially busy month, with work being done to finalise the new web-based submission system which will go live from 1 May. Perhaps we need an IJP web-based submission launch party!

Compiled by Michelle Power

## Queensland News

#### Queensland University

Earlier this year, Tom Cribb and Terry Miller spent two glorious weeks looking for digenean parasites of fish in the Maldives. They saw surprisingly little damage from the Asian Tsunami, although they encountered lots of flotsam in the ocean from islands that were damaged by the waves.

Retiree Bob Lester, as well as scanning the literature (if not the sea) for Perkinsus and isopods, has developed an interest in haemogregarines during 2 weeks on Lizard Island with Lexa Grut-



ter's group. He is even taking blood films with him on his 'holiday' in the UK. (Every day's a holiday for a retiree, he says.)

### Central Queensland University

The parasitology group continues to focus on worms in rats as the major theme with a minors in snakes and snails. Haylee Weaver is continuing her tireless search for *Zygomys* and *Pseudomys* across Queensland, Eridani Mulder remains enthusiastic in her quest for rats and pythons in the Northern Territory, despite the close proximity of crocodiles and Lee Barnett, amazed at the variations on a cercarial theme found on the local mud flats, is undaunted by the local biting insect population. We are looking forward to the Capricornia Medical Science Conference at Rydges, in June, which will include a National Workshop on *Strongyloides* and a general parasitology session. We lament the demise of ecology, including wildlife parasitology, at CSIRO and the general decline of resources to support fundamental taxonomic research in Australia. Consequently we are unable to report project funding support from internal or external granting agencies.

### Queensland Institute of Medical Research

The Human Hookworm Vaccine Initiative was given a second round of funding from The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The foundation awarded \$USD 22 million to the Sabin Vaccine Institute to develop a vaccine against *Necator americanus*. The grant is administered by the Sabin Institute and the work is conducted as a multi-site project with laboratory work in the U.S. (George Washington University), Brazil (CPqRR, Belo Horizonte) and Australia (QIMR, Alex Loukas' group). Phase I clinical trials are now beginning with a recombinant protein from the infective larva. The group is now planning to develop additional antigens including the haemoglobin-degrading proteases that were discovered at QIMR.

Louise Randall from Chris Engwerda's lab has won a scholarship to attend the Wood's Hole Course in Parasitology in June this year. Louise has only just returned from Malaysia, where she and Najju Ranjit (from Alex Loukas' lab) attended the wedding of Padma Sivadurai, who completed her Honours with Malcolm Jones last year.

News from Don McManus' lab: Li

Yuesheng, who was awarded a NHMRC Career Development Award in 2004, is currently in China, where he is assessing new vaccine candidates in buffalo in collaboration with Don McManus and Don Hahn. Meanwhile, our infectious diseases clinician Paul Bartley has been awarded his PhD for a project on schistosomiasis, artemether and liver fibrosis. Geoff Gobert has won a NHMRC Travel Award to work with Paul Brindley at Tulane University in the second half of 2005. Geoff will be continuing his studies on an adult schistosome microarray he and Don developed in Collaboration with Agilent Corporation. The oligonucleotide microarray incorporates approximately 19,000 probes designed from the *Schistosoma japonicum* and *S. mansoni* EST datasets.

### Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries Applied Animal Biotechnology (ARI, Yeerongpilly).

Fun was had by all at Jan-Maree Murphy and Glen Hewitson's wedding in Warwick in March! Glenn Anderson has left DPI&F and is working for Ancare Australia (based in Sydney) - we wish him luck on this new career path. Glenn's tenured position will be advertised as a Research Scientist (Molecular Parasitologist) so it may be worth while keeping an eye on the Primary Industries job list on <http://jobs.qld.gov.au/Organisation/default.asp>. Donna McKenzie finished and was fortunate to land a position with the Army Malaria Institute at Enoggera. With 2 from the *Eimeria* group leaving, Jan Maree insists that it is NOT her. Danielle Nottage from Gatton UQ is helping Jan-Maree out by undertaking an 'industrial placement' during this semester. Also, Constantin Constantinoiu (Romania) has taken up a UQ postdoc with Wayne and Glen Coleman working on *Eimeria* antigen localisation. Jan-Maree and Anthea Bruyeres are slogging away developing *Eimeria* diagnostics in Glenn's RIRDC project now taken over by John Molloy. Lyle is finishing up soon (MLA bovine venereal diseases ending) and is transferring to ARI's rumen ecology group (so not too far away). Ala and Lyle held a workshop late March to plan future directions and projects in this area (attended by producers, MLA, UQ Vet school staff and field sampling veterinarians). Wayne is still busy designing animal facilities at Gatton (and many free lunches). Tadeja (Botany Honours)

supervised by Ala and Diana L (IPM group) is nearing the end of her project and is beginning to write up (analysis of entomopathogenic fungi). Cathy is still 'ticking' away with Wayne's tick cell cultures. John and Glenn's liver fluke project finished, so Sita Balshaw left and has taken up a PhD scholarship based at SARDI in SA. Her bench-cote art and her stories will be missed by all. Louise (TFC), Wayne and Ala have been busy with the new CRC for Beef Genetic Technologies planning projects in bovine tick resistance.

### Integrated Parasite Management group (ARI, Yeerongpilly)

Many people travelling of late, which is probably just as well as the parasites have not been terribly accommodating in Queensland this season. Diana Leemon travelled to Tasmania to visit Dean Metcalf and Canberra to visit Richard Milner to discuss spore production and culture techniques towards the establishment a fungal spore production facility at ARI. Trevor and Tina Lambkin have left the darkling beetle laboratory in the capable hands of Steven Rice and Justin Bartlet while they sun themselves on Sicilian beaches and later visit Nancy Hinkle at the University of Georgia to discuss darkling beetle projects. Peter James travelled to Sydney to attend the Australian Wool Innovation Mulesing Workshop while Rudolf Urech has been in China doing absolutely nothing but enjoying himself.

All of the ectos seem to have been in short supply in the field. Sheep lice populations have failed to accommodate, particularly the ones with putative resistance to IGRs, causing delays in biopesticide and IGR resistance assays. Rudolf Urech and the beef feedlot team are now working towards mass rearing of *Spalangia* for later augmentative releases in feedlots and hoping they will do a lot better than the fickle houseflies, which have failed to accommodate in the dry conditions. In contrast, Stacy Hook has found in her first effort to establish a wax moth colony for nematode rearing that there is always more than enough moths!

Although the endos have also been in lower numbers than usual with the dry summer, Maxine Lyndal Murphy is buoyed by the fact that submissions to

.....Continued page 19





**From Science to Solutions**

**WAAVP  
2005**

**From Science  
to Solutions**

**Christchurch  
New Zealand  
16-20 October 2005**



The 2005 conference is only a short time away and members are encouraged to make their arrangements to attend. Some key dates include May 15 deadline for sending abstracts - only a few weeks away! We do need this time to review the abstracts, organise the papers into streams, co-ordinate the programme and notify authors. We will do our best to ensure that all authors who wish to present a paper are able to do so. Nick Sangster, Chairman of the Scientific Committee has been busy co-opting people to organise symposia to run during the conference. As a result there are 16 symposia covering a wide range of areas, 3 workshops and a teaching symposium. The list of symposia and workshops can be viewed on the conference website (<http://www.waavp2005.org.nz>). This is in addition to the 7 general plenary papers which include a wide range of world experts in their respective disciplines. As for previous conferences, the major sponsors will also present an interesting range of international speakers in their sponsor's symposia which occur throughout the programme.

Another key date is 31st July when "earlybird" registration closes - after this time the cost of registration increases

We believe the website is very comprehensive and should answer most queries, especially with the numerous links that have been provided. Accommodation available ranges from internationally rated multistar hotels to backpacker style options. A number of rooms have been held in the hotels which are located near the conference venue but please act early to secure one of these. These hotels will only hold these block reservations until 1st September so please ensure you have booked before this time if you require this accommodation. Bookings are on a first-in basis. Please also check to see if you require a visitors visa to visit New Zealand - many countries are exempt but not all. If you do, please allow plenty of time for this to occur.

Another initiative we are offering for this conference is an organised pre-conference tour which will take delegates from Auckland in the north down to Christchurch in time for the conference. It will visit the main tourist sites en route. Details are on the website.

October is spring in New Zealand and the spring flowers should be in full bloom over the time of the conference. A variety of accompanying-people options are available that will make delegates envious of their partners activities. The Wednesday afternoon will also offer a range of options for delegates to visit local areas and participate in a range of activities.

The organisers are confident you will enjoy your trip 'downunder' to New Zealand and we are sure the conference will be stimulating and scientifically rewarding.

**Bill Pomroy, Chairman of the Local Organising Committee**

**Deadline for Abstracts— 15 May 2005**







The ASP Conference will be held in conjunction with WAAVP 2005 in Christchurch, New Zealand. For all information on the conference, please visit the WAAVP 2005 website:

<http://www.waavp2005.org.nz>

**From Science to Solutions**

## Important Information for all ASP members.

ASP Council agreed to provide a registration subsidy for all ASP members of at least 6 months duration who attend WAAVP 2005. Terms and conditions of the subsidy and an application form can be found on page 18 of this newsletter.

ASP Council will also provide travel assistance for full-time students to attend the conference. To be eligible for travel assistance, students must be full-time and must provide certification of their enrolment status. In addition, all students must give an oral presentation or poster at WAAVP 2005. Travel Subsidies will be handed out at the Annual General Meeting of the ASP (currently it is planned that the AGM will be held in the early evening of Wednesday 19th October).

To qualify for assistance to attend WAAVP 2005, please complete the form and send it to the Executive Secretary of the ASP (address below).

It is planned to hold the AGM immediately after the Wednesday afternoon free-time. At the meeting, we will also have orations from the President and the JFA Spent Prize Recipient.

### STUDENT Certification for ASP Travel Assistance to WAAVP 2005

**PLEASE NOTE: WAAVP also provides reduced registration fees for fulltime students AND requires certification from students of their enrolment status. To receive subsidised registration fees from WAAVP, please follow the instructions on the conference registration forms and send appropriate certification directly to the conference organisers.**

I.....certify that I am a post-graduate student enrolled at  
.....and that I am enrolled as a full-time equivalent student.

I further certify that I have registered as a full student registrant at the conference. My presentation is entitled:.....  
.....

Name of Principal Supervisor.....

Name of Head of Department.....

Department/ School.....

Institution.....

City/State/Post Code.....

Signature of Student..... Signature of Head of Department.....

Send Completed form to:

Dr Ryan O'Handley,  
Executive Secretary of the ASP,  
School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences,  
Murdoch University, Murdoch WA 6150  
(email: [r.oandley@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:r.oandley@murdoch.edu.au))













# Conference Program Schedule

Sun 16 Oct	
3.00 - 7.00	Registration (Main Foyer)
7.00 - 9.00	'Welcome Down Under' Function

	Mon 17 Oct Registration	Tues 18 Oct Registration	Wed 19 Oct Registration	Thu 20 Oct Registration
7.00-8.30				
8.30-10.00 Hall A	8.30-9.00 Maori Welcome (Mihiri) 9.00-9.15 Official Opening (NZ Chair) 9.15-9.30 Presidential Address 9.30-9.45 Mayoral Address 9.45-10.00 Awards Announcement  Pfizer General Plenary Veterinary parasitology in the context of modern epidemiology Roger Morris (NZ) 	8.30-9.15 Vaccines against veterinary helminths Wayne Hein (NZ) 9.15-10.00 General Plenary #4 Will technology provide solutions for drug resistance in veterinary helminths? Georg von Samson-Himmelstjerna (GER)  Functional Genomics Plenary 10.15 Helminths John Gilleard (UK) 10.40 Protozoa Johnathan Wastling (UK)	8.30-9.15 General Plenary #5 A decade of discoveries in veterinary protozoology Milton McAllister (USA) 9.15-10.00 General Plenary #6 Disease management in aquaculture Melba Reantaso (USA)  Pfizer Plenary 10.15 Andy Weatherly (UK) Functional Genomics Plenary 10.40 Ectoparasites Steve Barker (Aust) 	8.30-9.15 General Plenary #7 Cell adhesion in medical & veterinary haemoprotozoa Brian Cooke (AUST)  9.15-10.00 'Special Award' Plenary  Refreshment Break
10.00-10.15	Refreshment Break	Refreshment Break	Refreshment Break	Refreshment Break
10.15-11.00			Room 1 : Workshop #4 Room 2 : Symposium #4 Rooms 3,4,5 : Oral Sessions #6	
11.00-12.00	AgriTech NZ Symposium 	Intervet Symposium 	Novartis Symposium 	Fort Dodge Symposium 
12.00-1.30	AgriTech NZ Luncheon + Poster viewing Rooms 1 : Symposium #1 Rooms 2,3,4,5 : Oral Sessions #1	Intervet Luncheon + Poster viewing Rooms 1 : Symposium #2 Rooms 2,3,4,5 : Oral Sessions #3	12.00-1.00 Novartis Luncheon 	Fort Dodge Luncheon + Poster viewing 
1.30-3.00	Refreshment Break	Refreshment Break	1.00 Touring - Coaches leave for optional afternoon tours around the Canterbury region. Prior booking via the 'Activities Booking Form' will ensure a place on one of many activity options ~ including Jetboating, Winetasting, High Country Golf, Mountainbiking, Harley Motorbike Tour, Wildlife Boat Cruise, etc.	Room 1 : Workshop #5 Room 2 : Symposium #5 Rooms 3,4,5 : Oral Sessions #7  Refreshment Break
3.00-3.30				
3.30-5.00	Room 1 : Workshop #1 Rooms 2,3,4,5 : Oral Sessions #2  Transition Break	Room 1 : Workshop #2 Rooms 2,3,4,5 : Oral Sessions #4  Transition Break		
5.00-5.15				
5.15-6.00	General Plenary #2 Tick & fly control ~ solutions for the future Rosemary Peter (SA) 	Room 1 : Workshop #3 Room 2 : Symposium #3 Rooms 3,4,5 : Oral Sessions #5 	Australian Society for Parasitology AGM ~ specific time to be confirmed  Wed. Dinner ~ own arrangements	3.30-5.00 WAAVP General Assembly  5.00-6.00 Free time
6.00-7.00	 Bayer Symposium	 Merial Symposium		6.00-7.00 Pre-Dinner Cocktails
7.00-9.00	 Bayer Reception	 Merial Reception		7pm-1am Gala Dinner
		9.00-11.00 Veterinary Teaching Forum		

THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR PARASITOLOGY INC  
ABN 65 979686 445

Cheque #

Office use only

## REQUEST FOR WAAVP 2005 REGISTRATION SUBSIDY

ASP will refund \$200 by cheque to financial ASP members who have paid full registration for the WAAVP 2005 conference. Offer expires 21/11/2005.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Attach a copy of your WAAVP 2005 registration receipt. 2. Please print legibly in the boxes below. 3. Sign and date your request. 4. Give this request form to the ASP treasurer at the conference (ASP - AGM) so payment can be made immediately or submit request before 21/11/2005.

To qualify for the registration subsidy claimants must have been a financial member of ASP for a minimum of 6 months prior to the start of the WAAVP 2005 conference. Claimants must also be an author of a poster or oral presentation given at the conference. Offer expires by COB 21/11/2005.

Note: If the claimant's employer or another person (sponsor) paid the claimant's conference registration fee then the \$200 refund cheque must be made payable to sponsor that paid the registration fees.

Name and Address of Claimant	
Contacts: phone no. and email address	
Name and Address of Payee, i.e. sponsor. (If same as Claimant write AS ABOVE)	
WAAVP Abstract title	
Authors	

### CERTIFICATE OF CLAIMANT

I certify that the information given above is true and correct.		
	Signature of Claimant	Date

#### Office use only

WAAVP 2005 receipt sighted	
Membership valid	
Abstract & authorship sighted	
Signature of Treasurer	Date



....From Page 14

the Wormbuster laboratory have not decreased, suggesting that more clients are basing their drenching decisions on worm egg counts. Maxine is continuing her work on the effects of plant extracts on Helminths, meeting strange men on the side of the road to be guided to secret enclaves of plants with mystical anthelmintic properties. Arthur LeFeuvre has been literally singing the praises of the new Wormboss.com.au website. Debate continues to rage as to whether truly terrible singing is a sales booster! If you don't know what we are talking about, just visit the website!

#### Tick Fever Centre (Wacol)

Louise Jackson continues to work on improving the frozen and chilled forms of the tick fever vaccine with Russell Bock, Taryn Fletcher and Susan Robinson. The main aim of the work is to make the vaccine more robust and easier for the cattle producer to use by investigating alternative diluents. They have just finished an infectivity trial in 90 head of cattle on-site at TFC, Wacol and will be heading west to Wandoan in late April to do an expanded vaccine trial in 400 steers. Meanwhile Taryn is busy in the lab keeping cultures of *Babesia bovis* and *Babesia bigemina* ticking over and trying to get *B. bigemina* to grow in a serum-free medium. Four scientists from Indonesia are currently visiting TFC to be trained in tick fever diagnosis as part of a trial sponsored by MLA through Biosecurity Australia.

Compiled by Glenn Anderson

## ACT News

#### Australian National University

The Behm lab welcome four new students this year. Tim Sloan-Gardner will be completing his honours with the lab working on chemosensation in *C. elegans*. Alison Knight is a new PhD student and former winner of the Australian Society for Parasitology prize in 2002. She comes from an immunological background, but will now be working on an MLA funded project investigating the role of nematode-specific genes ... Suzannah Hetherington returns to us as a joint PhD student with the Research School of Biological Sciences. She will

be working on a developmental biology project using *C. elegans*. And finally, Paul Lloyd a former honours student also returns as a joint PhD student with the Research School of Chemistry. His project involves crystallising the 3D structure of nematode-specific proteins. The lab has now reached its capacity with seven students in total!

Compiled by Julie-Anne Fritz

## WA News

#### Murdoch University

The parasitology team at Murdoch University has and will have an array of visitors from abroad. Merle Olson from the University of Calgary in Canada spent last week with us to discuss collaborative research, but most importantly the formation of a new biotechnology company in Perth. The group will host long-term visits from two other Canadians later this year. John Barta from the University of Guelph has been awarded an Endeavour Australia Fellowship to work with the group on the link between *Cryptosporidium* and gregarine protozoa. Lydden Polley from the University of Saskatoon will undertake his sabbatical at Murdoch working on the development of on-line teaching aids for parasitology, as well as enjoying the delights WA's vineyards have to offer. Murdoch also hosted a visit by Dr Derrick Robinson from the University of Bordeaux in March to assist Natalie Giles undertake fluorescence and ultrastructural studies of *Trypanosoma brucei* as part of her PhD thesis. Natalie is studying the effects of new tubulin-binding compounds on trypanosomes, which was the focus of a recently completed ARC-Linkage project. Derrick was inspirational in his advice and technical expertise. He also managed to rack up an enviable list of social events with several blonde's who shall remain nameless! Derrick was also able to help, or unable to refuse, Jill Meinema (blonde#1) in her attempts to characterise a new species of *Trypanosome* that she has isolated from some Gilberts' potorros in Albany.

Andy Thompson will be attending the Keystone Symposium "Drugs against Protozoan Parasites" in Copper Mountain, Colorado, along with Colette Sims from Epichem, from 9-14 April, where we will present data on our new leads

with anti-trypanosomal activity. Andy is an invited speaker at the COST 2nd Annual Conference on "Apicomplexan parasites in the post-genomic era" in Beatenburg, Switzerland, from 8-11 May, where he has been asked to discuss the group's work on the molecular ecology of enteric protozoan parasites; and exploiting laboratory models for studying gene expression. Andy will also visit the Institute of Parasitology in Zurich, and present a seminar at the Swiss biotech company Cytos in Zurich.

Professor John Edwards, Dean of the School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences here at Murdoch University and Rebecca Traub visited a number of key veterinary schools and biotechnological institutes throughout India in January. During this time Rebecca had the opportunity to meet with many potential research collaborators and to plan for an upcoming project to study the epidemiology of cystic echinococcosis in India. Rebecca is an invited speaker at the FECAVA (Federation of the European Companion Animal Association) Conference in Amsterdam from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> April and will be presenting preliminary results of the ARC-Linkage (Bayer, Leverkusen) project on the epidemiology of canine gastrointestinal parasitic zoonoses in temple and rural communities in Thailand. She also plans to visit as many "cafes" as possible (heh heh!) which will undoubtedly lead to inspiring ideas for her next grant application! Immediately after the conference, Dr Norbert Mencke of Bayer HealthCare, Animal Health Division, who is also a co-investigator on the ARC-Linkage project, will be accompanying and hosting Rebecca at the Bayer head-quarters in Leverkusen. Rebecca will also be visiting Christian Epe, Thomas Schnieder and Georg von Samson Himmelstjerna at the University of Hannover and will be giving a presentation of her work to both staff and students.

Simon Reid recently travelled to PNG and Fiji to review his ACIAR project on zoonoses. The focus of the project, in parasitic terms, was on the epidemiology of *Trichinella* and *Angiostrongylus* in the South Pacific. The work done in PNG by Ifor Owen was probably the highlight. He quite nicely showed that *Trichinella papuae* was present in farmed crocodiles (sourced from the wild as juveniles) and that the source of infection was from infected pig meat fed to them





in the villages where they were caught. He is now working further to examine the people of the region to see if there is any suggestion of human infection. Simon also recently attended Science meets Parliament on behalf of the ASP, along with David Jenkins and Nick Smith. This was a fascinating event and one that gives a unique insight into the inner workings of the Federal Government. Every Australian should visit the Parliament at least once and view Question Time. It is amazing how such a boring concept can be so entertaining, almost addictive!

Nivethitha Parameswaran, a recent veterinary graduate recently commenced her PhD under Andy Thompson and Ryan O'Handley and will be researching the epidemiology of *Toxoplasma gondii* infection in Western Australian marsupials. The two aims of the project are to ascertain seroprevalence of *T. gondii* among wild populations of marsupials in areas of W.A. and identify any occurrence of vertical transmission among macropods within both wild and captive populations. Rob Steuart has also just started his PhD at Murdoch University and is working on a project under Ryan O'Handley and Andrew Thompson for the Environmental Biotechnology CRC. The project will be a comparative proteomic study of *Giardia duodenalis* from different assemblages and hosts. It is hoped that some host or assemblage specific proteins will be identified. Clare McKay is a new honours student and will be studying the molecular epidemiology of *Babesia* and microfilarial infections in semi-domesticated dogs residing at temple communities in Bangkok, under the supervision of Peter Irwin, Una Ryan and Rebecca Traub.

Ms Caroline Wielinga will soon join our group as a research assistant and will be assisting Andy and Rebecca with the molecular characterization of a number of diverse and varied parasites. Caroline has strong background in molecular biology, biochemistry and immunodiagnosics. Rebecca recons she may now have a social life again!

#### The Department of Agriculture

Summer in Western Australia is hard on sheep worms, so Brown Besier found it necessary to abandon Albany to find people who wanted to talk about them – firstly in deep Georgia where a group of helminthologists from Southern US

states debated *Haemonchus* control measures, and then in Merida, a city in the Yucatan region, at the Novel Approaches to Livestock Helminth Control. The latter was an excellent opportunity to discuss cutting-edge approaches to worm control, although it has to be said that encouraging news was thin on the ground (the beer good, but the tequila best avoided). All the more reason to continue with Sheep CRC research – with many colleagues in other institutions - into better sheep worm detection techniques (Dieter Palmer, at the South Perth laboratories), and nutritional supplementation to enhance worm immunity (Greg Hood, at Albany). A new project on the horizon involving Brown Besier and a fair-sized cast – including Malcolm Knox and John Steel in NSW and Ian Carmichael in South Australia - concerns investigating the “targeted treatment” concept: identifying and treating sheep affected by worms, not necessarily those with the largest worm burdens. We plan to enlist the assistance of Jan van Wyk from the University of Pretoria, who with his experience of the FAMACHA system for identifying *Haemonchus*-affected sheep will spend a month in WA in May, which hopefully will lead to an ACIAR project. Locally, Rob Woodgate has been active as a key player in the national release of the Sheep CRC's WormBoss on-line worm management program (with Project Leader Arthur le Feuvre's inimitable WormBoss song on continuous play during the whole 2-day sheep expo!). Rob now has other things on his mind – congratulations to him and Kylie on the safe arrival of Michael Woodgate - a potential new parasitologist?! And to prove it's not only worms we get involved with, Di Evans has been flat out in her role as a member of a national Australian Wool Innovations panel trying to balance welfare and parasite control, by assessing potential measures to replace the mulesing procedure.

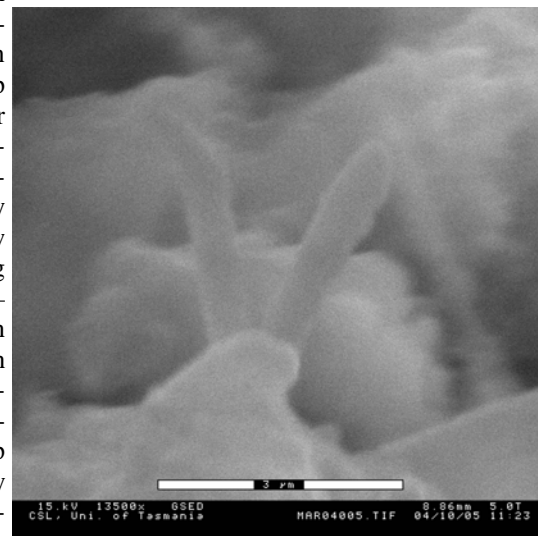
Compiled by Rebecca Traub

## Tasmania News

**Subject:** Easter's coming (well, actually come and gone-Ed!). Spot the bunny (photo this page).

**Author:** Robert Gurney, CSIRO Marine Research, Hobart, Tasmania. Rabbit ears? Not really. These small

structures are called retinacula and perform an unknown function in parasitic barnacles (Rhizocephala). With the help of Dr David Steele, at the University of Tasmania, Robert managed to photograph these retinacula from the cuticle of the parasite's reproductive organ (externa). This particular barnacle parasitizes the rough



rock crab, *Nectocarcinus integrifrons*, in Western Port in Victoria. I'm trying to put a name to this parasite – I don't think *Sacculina bugsbunneyi* will do.

#### University of Tasmania

Amoebic gill disease in cultured Atlantic salmon continues to be the core focus of marine parasitology research at the School of Aquaculture. A raft of new ASP members have been floating around the states salmon farms. PhD students Kally Gross, Carley Bagley and Melanie Leef are about to disembark the good ship AGD, good luck girls, whilst new PhD's Rebecca van Gelderen, Renee Florent and Matthew Jones take over the oars. Renee is looking at potential drugs for treating AGD in salmon and trout. In vitro studies look promising and Renee will spend the winter testing the drugs on the fish. We will hear more about the other topics of research in future newsletters.

Compiled by Geoff Gossel

## NT News

#### Berrimah Veterinary Laboratories

Eridani Mulder from CQU braved the humidity to continue her studies into the interactions of water python and rat parasites at Fogg Dam, outside of Darwin. Eridani appreciated the air condi-





tioning of the vet lab to complete her dissections. Veterinary officers from East Timor visited the Berrimah Veterinary Laboratories to continue a training program for animal health officers in the field of veterinary parasitology and laboratory techniques. The travel was supported by the AQIS East Timor Quarantine Support Program. One of their main areas for focus is blood parasites. The officers are keen to establish their own laboratory building for veterinary testing.

#### Menzies School of Health Research

Members of the Scabies Laboratory Research Group have joined with members of the Healthy Skin Project and headed to remote areas of East Arnhem Land in search of scabies mites.

The Healthy Skin Project involves

partners from the MSHR as well as the Northern Territory Department of Health and the Murdoch Children's Research Institute in Melbourne. Communities involved in the project include Gapuwiyak, Galiwink'u, Milingimbi, Yirrkala and Ramangining. Once a year a Healthy Skin Day is organised which aims to treat all members of the community for scabies on a single day. The program then returns regularly to screen all children up to 15 years of age to monitor the rates of scabies and *Streptococcus* carriage on the skin, and treat as necessary.

The lab members have also been keeping a keen eye out for infested dogs while they are there, but holding them still long enough to scrape their skin for mites is (as always) a challenge!

Compiled by Shelley Walton



Adult *Oncocerca volvulus*. Courtesy, TDR (WHO/TDR/OCP)

## Position Vacant

### ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

(Parasitology/Tenure-track)

The Department of Pathobiological Sciences at Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine (<http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu>) invites applications for a tenure-track position at the Assistant or Associate Professor level for an outstanding **Parasitologist** with a strong background in contemporary approaches to biology. This position is intended to strengthen the departmental and school-wide priority research emphasis on infectious disease research and to complement the efforts of the LSU Center for Experimental Infectious Disease Research, which is supported by a NIH COBRE program grant. The Department has an emphasis on the pathogenesis of infectious disease, with extramurally funded programs in viral pathogenesis, bacterial pathogenesis, parasitic diseases, vector-borne diseases, molecular diagnostics, and host immune responses to disease. The Department has recently hired several new faculty members and is in a strong growth phase. The School of Veterinary Medicine has modern research laboratories enhanced by centralized core facilities offering DNA synthesis and sequencing, real-time PCR and microarray analyses, laser capture microdissection, fluorescence and electron microscopy, laser confocal microscopy, flow cytometry and cell sorting, proteomics, and BL-3 laboratory suites. The Department has close ties with the Tulane Regional Primate Center, the LSU Agricultural Center and the National Hansen's Disease Center. The School of Veterinary Medicine is an active participant in Louisiana State University's Information Technology and Biotechnology initiatives. We seek candidates who use innovative and interdisciplinary approaches to investigations of major animal and human parasitic diseases. **Required Qualifications:** Ph.D., D.V.M., or equivalent degree in an area related to disease pathogenesis at the cellular and/or molecular level; some postdoctoral training; record of excellence in research. Successful applicants will be expected to establish outstanding independent research programs that will attract continued extramural funding and to participate in the teaching mission of the department. An excellent start-up package and incentive program is available for this position. Title and salary will be commensurate with qualifications and credentials of the applicant.

Review of applications will begin April 15, 2005, and will continue until candidate is selected. Please send curriculum vitae (including e-mail address), a brief statement of current and future research interests to: Dr. David G. Baker, Search Committee Chair, Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine, Louisiana State University, Ref: #002486, Baton Rouge, LA 70803 or E-mail: [dbaker@vetmed.lsu.edu](mailto:dbaker@vetmed.lsu.edu).

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## Nominations for Bancroft-Mackerras Medal

The Bancroft-Mackerras Medal may be awarded to a member of the Society who, in the opinion of the selection committee, has made an outstanding contribution to the science of parasitology, particularly in work published during the last five years.

Nominations should be made by a proposer and seconder, and should consist of:

- A detailed statement of nomination describing the nature of the "outstanding contribution to the science of parasitology" for which he/she has been responsible. The statement should be signed by the proposer and seconder, or each may submit a separate statement.
- A *curriculum vitae* including a list of all publications.

Note that the Medal is intended for members whose research program has been productive during the last five years. The permission of the nominee is not required and the nominee need not be aware of the nomination.

Nominations should be sent direct to the current ASP President. Detailed information on nomination and selection procedures is given in the By-Laws of the ASP Constitution. Nominations are due each year at the end of October.

## Nominations for ASP Invited Lectureship Travel Grants

To complement the scientific presentations at the Scientific Meetings of the ASP, overseas researchers of international reputation in a field of parasitology may be invited to attend and present their work. The invited speaker's expertise must be common to a discipline or symposium conducted at the Scientific Meeting. The visitor must be nominated by a member of the Society.

The Society will provide a travel grant to

assist in the finance of the trip. The support will be based on an economy class direct return airfare from the recipient's home city to Australia, the necessary interstate travel and reasonable living expenses based on actual costs. Registration at the Scientific Meeting will also be included.

The total value of the lectureship will be determined by Council but it is expected that the recipient, or his/her Australian sponsor, will also seek to provide additional or alternative financial support.

Applicants must include the following information:

### Details of visiting specialist

An up-to-date *curriculum vitae* must be attached to the application. The following details should be supplied:

- Date and place of birth
- Present nationality (and former nationality, if applicable)
- Present position held
- Full address of employing institution, including phone, fax and Email numbers
- Detailed evidence of expertise in relevant discipline (list of publications, etc.).

### Details of Australian nominator

- Name of member organizing the visit, including full address, phone, fax and Email numbers
- Details of all other applications which have been made for financial assistance towards travel/accommodation costs. Total value of other contributions must be included.

### Details of program

The program should normally last a minimum of 2 working weeks and cover at least 2 States or Territories. Details should include:

- Date of visit
- Program being arranged, including institutions to be visited (with dates) and the purpose of each visit (lecture, seminar, workshop, research discussion, etc)
- Aims, rationale and likely benefits of visit
- Contribution to be made at Society's Scientific Meeting

Applications plus supporting documentation should be sent to the ASP President by the end of December in the year preceding the Conference. Applicants should check with the Conference Organisers for details of

conference theme, symposia, workshops, etc. before submitting an application.

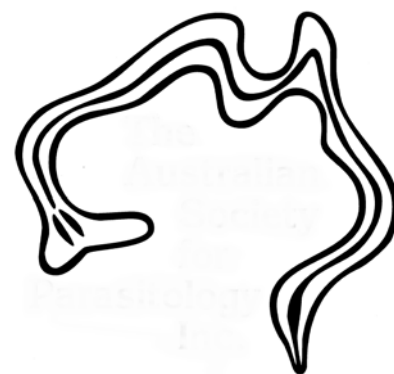
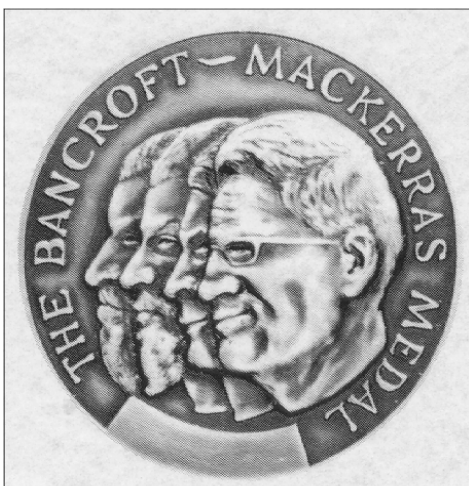
## JD Smyth Travel Awards

These awards are specifically designed to assist postgraduate students travel internationally to conduct research and/or to present their research at international conferences. Applicants must be members of the ASP Inc. of at least 6 months standing and enrolled in a postgraduate degree at an Australian university.

Four scholarships will be awarded each year and applications will be considered in two rounds with closing dates in June and December of the preceding year. Each scholarship will be up to the value of, but not exceeding, \$A2000. For research-based proposals, applicants should nominate the international laboratory they intend to visit, the purpose of the visit and the time frame. A short, abstract-length (approximately 250 words) proposal of the techniques and skills to be gained should be attached.

For travel that primarily involves attendance at a conference, applicants must nominate the conference, supply an abstract and justify their attendance at a recognised international conference preferably though not exclusively held outside of the Australasian region.

The award will only be made once proof is received of acceptance of the abstract by the conference organisers. If the student does not attend the conference the ASP funds must be returned to the Society. On return from the Conference a short report must be written to the Council detailing the student's experiences. Applicants should apply to the current ASP Secretary giving details of the conference, their research and supervisor's support plus an abbreviated c.v. and conference abstract, as outlined on the accompanying application form. The application must not number more than 6 pages including the c.v. and abstract. Applications must be received by the next due dates of June 30th or December 31<sup>st</sup> each year.



---

# Application form for JD SMYTH Travel Award

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Phone: ..... Fax: .....

Email: .....

University: .....

Enrolled Degree: .....

## Supervisor's Certification

I hereby affirm that the above-named person is a bona fide postgraduate student under my supervision.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

---

## Laboratory Details (for research applications)

Laboratory to be visited .....

Address .....

.....

Purpose of Visit .....

.....

.....

---

## Conference Details (for applications to attend conferences)

Conference Title: .....

Venue: .....

Conference Address: .....

Title of Abstract (*Please attach a copy of the abstract*):

.....

.....

Author(s) .....

Awards will only be paid on receipt of proof that the abstract has been accepted.

---

**For all applications: Attach statement justifying attendance, budget (include all other support), brief curriculum vitae  
[application not to exceed 6 pages]**





# Conferences

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN CONGRESS OF  
TROPICAL MEDICINE AND  
PARASITOLOGY**



**5-7 MAY 2006  
HORIZON HOTEL  
BANDUNG, INDONESIA**

**A collaboration between  
PETRI – P4I – APNI and  
ASEAN Federation of Parasitology and  
Tropical Medicine**

**Theme:**  
**Management and Control of Tropical  
Diseases in the Alleviation of Poverty**

**ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

**Advisory Board**  
Dean, Padjadjan University School of Medicine  
Chairpersons of PETRI - APNI – P4I  
Dr. Indra Vythingam of ASEAN Federation of  
Parasitology and Tropical Medicine

**Chairperson** Prof Dr. Ridad Agoes, MPH  
**Deputy Chairman** Dr Hadi Yusuf, SpPD  
**Secretary** Dr Bachti Alisjahbana SpPD  
**Ast. Secretaries** Dr. Titi Sudigdo Adi, SpMK  
Dr. Djaenudin Natadisastra, SpPark  
**Scientific** Dr. Dr Dede Gunawan, SpS  
Dr. Arto, SpPD  
Dr. Susy Tjahjani, Mkes  
Dr. Ambar Sulianti, M.Kes  
**Treasurer** Dr. Tinni R. Adnan, SpPark  
Dr. Dr, Neneng Syarifah

**PARTICIPANTS**

Policy makers, Individuals and professionals in  
Government and non-government  
Organizations, Research Institutions,  
Universities and Companies involved in :  
research, product development , practitioners  
and students

**TERMS FOR PAPERS**

The Seminar will be conducted over two days.  
There will be oral presentations and poster  
sessions. Presenters are invited to submit  
abstracts, not exceeding 250 words before 15  
February 2006. Font style: Times New Roman  
Font size : 11, single space,

**REPLY TO**

**DR BACHTI ALISJAHBANA, SpPD**  
**DEPT. OF INTERNAL MEDICINE,**  
**HASAN SADIKIN GENERAL HOSPITAL,**  
**JALAN PASIRKALIKI 190,**  
**BANDUNG 40161, INDONESIA**







## INVITATION

Dear Colleagues,

The organizing Committee takes great pleasure in inviting you to the Second ASEAN Congress of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine which will be held in Bandung, Indonesia from 5-7 May 2006. The theme selected for the seminar is 'Management and Control of Tropical Diseases in the Alleviation of Poverty'. This theme is chosen in view of the importance given to the developing countries in their struggle to alleviate poverty.

For centuries poverty and the struggle to fight it symbolize many of the nation countries in Asia. Many infectious, nutritional and non-infectious diseases are associated with poverty. Major research and development are geared toward the alleviation of poverty. We hope the Congress will provide opportunity for the exchange of scientific ideas and provide a forum to discuss important advances in this field.

Your presence and support is required to make this Second ASEAN Congress in Bandung a memorable one.



## OBJECTIVES

1. To create a platform for discussion among the Policy makers, Managers, Academicians, Researchers and students in matters related to finding control and cure as well as prevention in the management of Tropical diseases.

2. To encourage research and development in the field of Parasitology and tropical diseases

3. To encourage exchange of knowledge and ideas in the different aspects of research pertaining to Tropical Diseases.

## SCOPE AND TOPICS

The seminar will include a Panel Session by guest speakers and oral/poster presentations by participants.

Important topics that will be addressed are :  
Health aspects of poverty, Tropical Diseases, Vector Control, Urban Pest Control, Parasites of Animals and Humans, Nutritional Disorders, Allergy, Zoonosis, SARS, AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Avian Influenza, Emerging and Reemerging Diseases.

## REGISTRATION FEES

BEFORE before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006:

Local Participants	Rp. 550.000,-
Overseas Participants	US\$ 100
Students	Rp. 400.000,-

AFTER 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006:

Local Participants	Rp. 600.000,-
Overseas Participants	US\$ 125
Students	Rp. 450.000,-

Participants are requested to complete the attached registration form and submit before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006. Please make your cheque/bank draft payable to:

Bank BCA Cabang Juanda  
Ac.No.: 0161308659  
Attn: Dr. Ridad Agoes

## CORRESPONDENCE

All inquiries and correspondence should be directed to

Prof. Dr. Ridad Agoes  
Tel : 62-22-2501229, E-mail: agoes@elga.net.id  
Fax: 62-22-2516428  
Dr. Hadi Jusuf  
Tel : 62-22-2033144, Fax : 62-22-2033144

## REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Prof/Dr/Mr/Ms)

Mailing \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Tel/Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

I intend to:

☐

attend the seminar,

☐

present a paper :

☐

Oral presentation

☐

Poster presentation

☐

I wish to reserve Accommodation

# ICOPA XI

## 11<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Parasitology

Medical Parasitology   Veterinary Parasitology  
Control   Genomics   Proteomics   Glycomics  
Diagnosis   Epidemiology   Ecology   Vector Biology  
Evolutionary Biology   Immunology   Physiology  
Biochemistry   Signalling   Modelling   GIS  
Biodiversity   Systematics.



**6 -11 August 2006**

**SECC Glasgow**

**Scotland UK**

**<http://www.icopa-xi.org>**



Registration for the IXth International Coccidiosis Conference has opened. All participants who wish to present papers should register and submit abstracts by 10 June 2005.

For more information, visit: [www.facta.org.br/icc](http://www.facta.org.br/icc)



# ASP Conference– Benchmarking Gold Coast, Queensland 2006, July 2-6 2006



The 2006 Conference of the ASP will be held at Legends Hotel on the Gold Coast. Legends is right in the heart of Surfers Paradise and is about 1 hr from Brisbane airport or 35 minutes from Coolangatta airport. A full scientific and social programme is being organised and more information will be available soon.

It is planned to hold the conference dinner in Q1 (the world's tallest residential building– tall building in picture above), just a stone's throw from Legends Hotel.

The focus of the conference will be Benchmarking Parasitology in Australia– the present state of parasitology knowledge and research and prospects for the future.

More information on the conference will be published in the August and December issues of the newsletter and on the ASP website: [www.parasite.org.au](http://www.parasite.org.au).



The programme for the 1st International Conference of the Journal of Travel Medicine and Infectious Disease (10-11 November 2005 - London, UK) is now finalised and features an impressive line-up of invited speakers reviewing advances in all aspects of travel medicine.

Invited presentations include:

**Sir Liam Donaldson**, Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health, UK: *Global health: The wider context.*

**Dr David Heymann**, Executive Director, Communicable Diseases, WHO, Switzerland: *Emerging infectious diseases & travel medicine,*

**Professor Sir James Underwood**, President, Royal College of Pathologists, UK: *Pathology without frontiers,*

**Professor Pierre van Damme**, Professor of Epidemiology, University of Antwerp, Belgium: *A review of the long-term protection of hepatitis A & B vaccines,*

**Professor Jay Keystone**, Professor of Medicine, University of Toronto, Canada: *Travel medicine - How does a travel practitioner keep up to date*

**Professor Elaine Jong**, Professor of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, USA: *New developments in the field of travel-related vaccine - preventable diseases.*

These are supplemented by a number of submitted oral papers covering new and thematic research and a poster programme for which abstracts will be accepted until 22 July 2005.

Organized by Travel Medicine and Infectious Disease / Elsevier this two-day conference will consider recent advances in the prevention of infectious disease including vaccine-preventable diseases and malaria prophylaxis as well as the treatment of the unwell returning traveller; migrant medicine with its concomitant public health implication and the significance of respiratory borne diseases and travel with particular reference to SARS and avian flu.

For further details visit: <http://www.travelmedicine.elsevier.com> or contact [s.peters@elsevier.com](mailto:s.peters@elsevier.com)





# Special Parasitology Symposium

## Who is winning the parasitology war?

Presented by

**Centre for Infectious Diseases and Microbiology – Public Health, Westmead Education & Conference Centre, Westmead Hospital, NSW**

Friday 19 August 2005

The recent TV series 'The Body Snatchers' has highlighted some of the measures employed by parasites in a bid to take us hostage. How is it that parasites have an army of mechanisms with which to invade us - whilst our bodies are equipped with only very limited defense? Why have some attempts to treat parasitic infections been successful whilst others have failed? At this one-day symposium some of Australia's leading parasitologists will uncover a four-decade search for the truth behind parasitic infections and bring you up-to-date with parasitology in Australia today.

The symposium marks the retirement of **Dr John Walker**, a distinguished parasitologist, who has been Head of Parasitology at the Centre for Infectious Diseases and Microbiology since 1987 and whose career has spanned nearly forty years.

**Registration: \$176 (inc GST) includes refreshments, lunch and celebration afternoon tea.**

Contact: Judith Holford (Education Officer), Phone: +61 2 9845 5541

Email: [judithh@icpmr.wsahs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:judithh@icpmr.wsahs.nsw.gov.au) Website: [www.cidmpublichealth.info](http://www.cidmpublichealth.info)

## Symposium on Malarial Protein Structure and Function

February 3, 2006

A 1-day Symposium on Malaria Proteins will be held on Friday February 3, just before the 2006 Lorne Conference on Protein Structure and Function, with selected speakers also contributing to a session on Malaria at the main Lorne Protein conference. This 1-day Symposium will describe the latest methods for probing the structure and function of malarial surface proteins, many of which are important vaccine candidates or therapeutic targets. Several applications of the results of such studies will also be presented. The Symposium will provide an excellent opportunity for parasitologists from a range of different disciplines to interact with structural biologists and protein chemists. The venue will be the Level 7 Lecture Theatre, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, 1G Royal Parade, Parkville. For further information, please contact Ray Norton ([ray.norton@wehi.edu.au](mailto:ray.norton@wehi.edu.au)).

(A website for the workshop will be set up soon and a 1-page flyer will be distributed).



## Parasite Culture 5



I found this work by Gerard ter Borch (circa 1653-55) entitled *The Family of the Stone Grinder* on the website <http://bio.univet.hu> using a link from the comprehensive site maintained by David Gibson of The Natural History Museum. My thanks to both webmasters. Note the mother applying a time-honoured (but no doubt ineffective) method of louse control. The original painting is hung at Staatliche Museen, Berlin (bpk Berlin / Gemä Ide-galerie, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. Photo Jörg P.Anders).



# ASP EXPERT DATABASE

The expert database is an initiative of the ASP Council and has been in existence for over 2 years. The aim of the database is to encapsulate all of the parasitological expertise available in Australia on one CD Rom.

This database can be utilised to quickly find appropriate people to comment on current issues or as a source of information for members looking for expertise in certain areas.

To ensure the privacy of these records is protected, they are not placed on the web site and information is only distributed to bona fide requests after permission is sought.

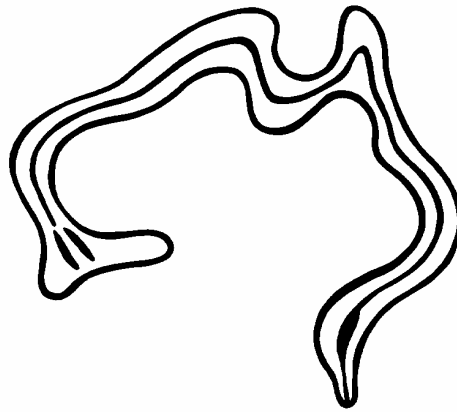
If you have not registered on this database, please complete the following and email to the current database custodian, Lois Small, at [lois.small@nt.gov.au](mailto:lois.small@nt.gov.au).

Title	Last name	First name	
Position			
Institution and Address			
City	State	Post code	Country
Phone number	Fax number	Mobile phone	
Email address			
Speciality area			
Parasite group			
Host group			





**Secretariat:** ASP Inc c/- RGSQ,  
237 Milton Road, Milton QLD 4064  
Fax: (07) 3367 1011 Email: rgsq@gil.com.au  
**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**  
**Tax Invoice ABN: 65 979 686 445**



**the australian society for parasitology inc.**



**CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

If you have changed your address, title or name; or if there is a mistake in your mailing label, please fill out the details below and send them to:

ASP Secretariat,  
c/- RGSQ  
237 Milton Road  
Milton QLD 4064



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(if possible, please enclose the old mailing label)



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