

AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES



Newsletter

www.racp.edu.au/asid

October 2006

ASID Council 2006/2007

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A/Professor Philip Jones

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ASID Meeting 2007

Hotel Grand Chancellor

Hobart, Tasmania

Visit one of Australia's most picturesque cities

22 – 24 March 2007

Keynote Speakers

Professor Scott Hammer

Division of Infectious Diseases, Columbia University Medical Centre, USA

A/Professor Kieren Marr

Infectious Diseases Program, University of Washington, USA

Professor Allison McGeer

Departments of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology and Public Health
Sciences,

University of Toronto, Canada

Professor Ruth Bishop

Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Royal Children's Hospital and
Department of Paediatrics, University of Melbourne, Melbourne

Professor Ian Frazer

Centre for Immunology and Cancer Research, University of Queensland,
Brisbane

A/Professor Andrew Carr

St Vincent's Clinical School, University of NSW, Sydney

A/Professor Greg Woods

Department of Pathology, School of Medicine, University of Tasmania,
Hobart

Professor Frank Fenner

John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University,
Canberra

Abstract Online Submission Now Open

Submission Deadline: 19 January 2007

For all further information:

View <http://www.racp.edu.au/asid/asm.htm> or

contact +61 2 8204 0770 or

conferenceinfo@ashm.org.au

ASID President's Report

The past few months have been rather busy for the ASID Council Executive with negotiations regarding the change in Conference Organisers, reassessment of potential ASID funding options and development of a 3-5 year ASID Strategic Plan, key areas of focus. Below is a brief update on these and other important issues that will be discussed at the forthcoming ASID Council meeting.

1. Contract with ASHM Conference Organisers: As most of you will be aware, the 2007 ASID Annual Scientific Meeting will be organised by the ASHM Conference Organising team. A three year contract has been developed with ASHM to provide these services. David Looke and Tom Gottlieb have done a great job ensuring the Contract is appropriate from a legal and financial perspective. We look forward to signing this Contract in the next few weeks.

2. 2007 ASID Annual Scientific Meeting: The 2007 ASID meeting will be held in Hobart, Thursday 22nd – Saturday 24th March. Alistair McGregor and his team have pulled together a very interesting program that includes an appropriate mix of outstanding overseas and local speakers. The Macfarlane Burnet speaker will be Professor Scott Hammer from Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, New York, who is a world-renowned expert in HIV medicine, the current Chair of the ICAAC Program Committee and an editorial board member of the New England Journal of Medicine.

3. Other key issues for discussion at the November ASID Council meeting include:

- Development of a 3-5 year ASID Strategic Plan.
- Establishment of an ASID Guidelines sub-committee to identify key clinical areas that could benefit from the development of Australasian Clinical Practice Guidelines and help progress this important area of ASID's activity.
- Consideration of an ASID Research Fund to facilitate the handling of research funding from various industry and philanthropic sources to encourage collaborative research among ASID members and Special Interest Groups.
- Development of an Infectious Diseases curriculum in conjunction with the RACP I.D. Specialist Advisory Committee. There have been a number of changes in the RACP's template for this initiative, such that progress has been slow and frustrating. Dr. Emma McBryde has kindly agreed to lead this initiative and will be contacting a range of ASID members for their input.

So, there is the current update.

Regards,

Lindsay Grayson

ASID 2007 Hobart, Tasmania, March 22-24

Planning for the 2007 ASID Annual Scientific Meeting is well under way. Major themes of the meeting include HIV medicine, new developments in vaccines, current issues in infection control, infections of the central nervous system and fungal infections. We will be joined at the meeting by a number of eminent guest speakers from North America and Australia, including Professors Scott Hammer (who will deliver the Macfarlane Burnet Oration) Kieren Marr, Allison McGeer, Ian Frazer, Andrew Carr, Ruth Bishop and Frank Fenner. The venue for the meeting is the Hotel Grand Chancellor located on Hobart's renowned and picturesque water-front, and all accommodation venues are within easy walking distance. March in Hobart is characterised by settled weather with mild days and pleasantly cool evenings. A range of social events has been planned to make the most of the location, the weather and Tasmania's fine food and wine. We are looking forward to seeing you in Hobart in March.

Alistair McGregor
For the Organising Committee

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Virology MasterClass 2006

A two-week advanced course in Medical Virology, the "Virology MasterClass" was held in Adelaide from 10th-21st July 2006. This course was hosted by the School of Molecular and Biomedical Science at the University of Adelaide, the Infectious Diseases Laboratories of the IMVS and the Hanson Institute.

The course covered virus structure and replication, principles of pathogenesis, epidemiology and prevention of virus infections, and then dealt systematically with the major virus diseases of humans. It was made up of morning lectures, practical bench work in the afternoons, workshops and case scenarios. The course was held in the Benham Lecture Theatre and Molecular Life Sciences Building during the mid-year break.

There were nearly 150 enquiries from Australia, Asia and the Middle East, but numbers attending were restricted to 30 because of limited capacity in the practical classes. The attendees included consultant and trainee pathologists, university academics, PhD students, and virologists working in industry. In particular, the course aimed to provide a comprehensive overview of theory and practice in Virology for individuals whose background in the discipline was fragmented.

There was uniformly enthusiastic feedback, and many participants commented on the breadth and quality of the presentations, the opportunity to expand their skills and understanding of virus diseases, and the networking with other virologists. In view of the interest and feedback received, there are plans to repeat the course next year.

ASID REPRESENTATIVES ON NATIONAL AND STATE COMMITTEES

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
Communicable Diseases Network Australia	Dr Dominic Dwyer
Australian Society for Medical Research	Dr Stephen Kent
Victorian Advisory Committee on Infection Control (VACIC)	A/Professor Denis Spelman
VICNISS Hospital Acquired Infection Surveillance Program Advisory Committee	A/Professor Denis Spelman
VICNISS Hospital Acquired Infection Surveillance Program Advisory Committee	Professor Lindsay Grayson
Multi-resistant Organisms Expert Advisory Group	Dr Thomas Solano
Dept Health & Ageing National Influenza Planning Action Committee (NIPAC)	Dr Dominic Dwyer
ATAGI working group for zoster vaccine	Dr David Looke
Therapeutic Guidelines Working Group	Professor Lindsay Grayson
Australian Health Disaster Management Policy Committee's Clinical Advisory Group	Professor Lindsay Grayson
NSW Intravenous Immunoglobulin User Group	Professor Andrew Lloyd

NSW Health Department reports

- **"Reducing the Burden of Multiple Resistant Organisms (MROs); Proceedings of the MRO Summit convened by NSW Health"** is available at www.health.nsw.gov.au.
- **"NSW Health Model for Single Ethical Review of Multi-centre Research"** is available at www.health.nsw.gov.au/healthethics.

Lucy F Falkiner Fellowship

A Fellowship of the Medical Foundation, University of Sydney, and the Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, New York.

Application Details - Medical Graduates of the University of Sydney who wish to undertake postgraduate study or research in medicine at the Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York are invited to apply for the 2007 Lucy F Falkiner Fellowship.

The Lucy F Falkiner Fellowship award of \$US8,000 is available for up to 3 months study/research undertaken at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in 2007.

Written applications for the Lucy F Falkiner Fellowship should be in the form of a letter addressed to the Manager, The Medical Foundation, and include the following attachments:

- An outline of the research/training program to be undertaken during your stay at the Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, NY. Include the aim of the program and identify new skills/knowledge that will be acquired during your stay that will improve the understanding and/or treatment of a particular disease(s) in Australia upon your return. (max 2 pages).
- A letter from a senior member of the Faculty at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, NY confirming sponsorship for your research/training program, stating the period of your stay at the Hospital.
- Two (2) letters of recommendation from colleagues/ members of your Society supporting the application.
- A copy of your curriculum vitae.

Visa requirements: The successful applicant(s) is (are) responsible for obtaining all relevant documentation for the trip.

If not drawing a salary/ per diem /or other allowance, the successful applicant may apply for a visa waiver. This may be obtained upon entry to the United States, or prior to travel. All applicants must contact the US Embassy to obtain up-to-date advice on visa requirements.

If the successful applicant will be earning a salary in the United States, if staying on, or if she/he is an enrolled student in the USA, a visa must be obtained **before** travelling.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA CONSULATE GENERAL, SYDNEY MLC Centre, Level 10, 19-29 Martin Place, Sydney (02) 9373-9200
 After hours emergencies: (02) 4422-2201
 Non-Immigrant visa inquiries (24 hrs – charges apply) 1902 941 641
 1800-687-844 (9:00am-5:00pm - charges apply) 1800 687 844
 Web: <http://sydney.usconsulate.gov/consular/visas.html>

Applications close: 1 November 2006 - Forward applications to:
 The Medical Foundation, Edward Ford Building A27
 The University of Sydney NSW 2006
 Tel: 02 9351 7315 Fax: 02 9351 3299
 Email: wmarceau@med.usyd.edu.au
<http://www.medicalfoundation.usyd.edu.au/awards/lucyfalkiner.shtml>

Applications will be assessed by the Medical Foundation for recommendation to the Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, NY. www.nyp.org.

Infectious Diseases Specialist Accreditation Committee Update

1. Training governance

We are aware that there is some confusion amongst trainees and supervisors about the relationship between the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP), the Infectious Diseases Specialty Advisory Committee (ID SAC) and the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases (ASID) in regards to infectious diseases training. While all three groups have a particular interest in education in Infectious Diseases medicine in Australia and New Zealand, their roles and responsibilities are very different.

The statutory authority to train physicians in Australia and New Zealand lies with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians – the College is made up of Fellows who elect a Council which then appoints a Board of Censors. Reporting to the Board of Censors are Committees for Physician Training in both adult and paediatric medicine; reporting to those Committees are Specialty Advisory Committees representing the disciplines of medicine recognised within the RACP and it is these bodies which provide policy advice and which directly supervise trainees.

The Infectious Diseases Specialty Advisory Committee in Australia is just one of a number of SACs. It currently consists of seven appointees:

- Mike Whitby –Appointed by the RACP (Chair)
- Tom Gottlieb – Appointed by the RACP
- Cheryl Jones – Appointed by the RACP

- Lindsay Grayson – Appointed by ASID as current President
- Philip Jones – Appointed by ASID as immediate Past President

- Peter Ravenscroft – Appointed by the Committee for Physician Training (Adult)
- Mike Starr – Appointed by the Committee for Physician Training (Paediatrics)

- Tim Blackmore (ex-officio)-representing the NZ ID SAC

- Sebastian Van Hal – Advanced Trainee Representative.

The ID SAC has responsibility for both adult and paediatric trainees in Australia. While ASID is well represented on the Committee, the SAC is totally ruled by the by-laws, guidelines and precedents of the RACP and its governing committees. However, neither the RACP nor ASID has a role in creating training positions or in appointing trainees to those positions. This is entirely the responsibility of individual hospitals and Health Departments within the relevant jurisdictions. The ID SAC however, does accredit training positions as acceptable for Infectious Diseases training .

A similar system exists in New Zealand where the current Infectious Diseases SAC consists of (all appointed by the RACP):

- Tim Blackmore – Chair
- Mark Thomas
- David Murdoch
- Keith Grimwood, paediatrics representative

- Iwona Stolarek, Committee for Education representative

The Joint Committee of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and Royal College of Pathology of Australasia for dual training in Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology is similarly constituted. It however, differs from the ID SACs in that it is responsible for trainees both from Australia and New Zealand. The Chairmanship of this Committee rotates every two years between the Chairman of the ID SAC in Australia and the Chief Examiner in Microbiology, RCPA..

The current members of this Committee are listed below.

- Mike Whitby – Chair – IDSAC Australia
- David Gordon – Chief Examiner of Microbiology RCPA

- Tim Blackmore – Chair—ID SAC New Zealand
- Tom Gottleib – RACP Representative
- Philip Jones –ASID Representative

- David Mitchell – RCPA Board of Education Representative
- Wendy Pryor – RCPA Registrar for Board of Censors
- Susan Taylor – RCPA New Zealand Representative

- Sebastian Van Hal – Advanced Trainee Representative

Again, while this Committee provides policy advice and directly supervises dual trainees, it remains bound by the by-laws, guidelines and precedents of both Colleges and to the principles of the written agreement between the Colleges on joint training. The Committee is not responsible for creation of training positions or appointment of trainees to them, although does approve such positions as accredited in either Infectious Diseases or Microbiology for training under the Joint Committees auspices.

2. Deadline for Supervisors' Reports

Supervisors' reports must reach the College by 15 October 2006. It is the responsibility of the trainee to ensure that their report is completed by their supervisor, signed by both parties and then submitted to the College by the due date.

3. Project reports

Projects must be received at the College by 15 September 2006 to be assessed in time for the ID SAC Australia meeting to be held in mid November 2006. Trainees must remember that to enter the final year of advanced training, one project report must have been received and assessed as satisfactory by the ID SAC.

4. Training Approvals for 2007

Please remember that supervisors for Infectious Diseases training in Australia must have completed the first part of the Supervisor's course of the RACP. A list of accredited supervisors is available on the trainee's website (<http://www.racp.edu.au/members/training/supervisors.cfm>).

Michael Whitby
Chair, ID SAC Australia

Lindsay Grayson
President ASID

Tim Blackmore
Chair, ID SAC New Zealand

AWARDS OFFERED TO ASID MEMBERS

• **Frank Fenner Award for Advanced Research in Infectious Diseases 2007**

ASID is offering this Award of \$5,000, which is open to Australian and New Zealand citizens who have performed original research in Infectious Diseases, who have been enrolled in or completed an MD or a PhD programme in the previous seven years, and whose Full or Associate membership has been ratified at an ASID AGM. The Award will not be granted on the basis of research for which a previous award has been received. Previous winners may not apply, but previous unsuccessful applicants are encouraged to apply if they are still eligible.

Applicants should submit to the ASID secretariat, 145 Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000, **4 (four) copies** of:

- letter of application;
- a record of original research consisting of 5 – 10 papers published not more than 7 years prior to the closing date for entries, along with list of publications and summary of research; applicant's contribution to the research must be specified and other authors must be listed (in the case of multiple authors, the contribution of the applicant should be clearly defined);
- any unpublished manuscripts suitable for publication, and based on work performed over the same period;
- current CV (include date the degree was awarded);
- letters from two referees who are ASID Full members.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 10 November 2006.

• **John Forbes Developing Nations Travelling Scholarship 2007**

This Award could be awarded **either** to ASID Australian or New Zealand members (whose Full membership has been ratified at an ASID AGM), wishing to visit centres in PNG or other countries in the Indian-Pacific rim for teaching or research related to infectious diseases, **or** for physicians or scientists from PNG and the Indian-Pacific rim, at the invitation of a full ASID member, to visit centres in Australia or New Zealand and/or attend appropriate meetings. The Society reimburses for a return full economy airline ticket and travel insurance, as well as itemised reasonable living expenses, up to the value of \$3,000. Previous winners may not apply.

Applicants should submit to the ASID secretariat, 145 Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000, **4 (four) copies** of:

- letter of application
- current CV;
- details of the focus of the work to be undertaken;
- a tentative itinerary of your proposed trip, if available;
- any further documentation you may wish to submit in support of your application.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 10 November 2006.

• **AstraZeneca Travel Scholarships (2) 2007- 1st award**

AstraZeneca will sponsor two travel scholarships for 2007.

The first award is open to Australian or New Zealand ASID members (whose Full or Associate membership has been ratified at an ASID AGM), who are studying in Infectious Diseases and/or Microbiology, to encourage their participation in a major international meeting. Graduates in relevant training programs who have completed training and are now enrolled in research programs leading to a higher degree are also eligible.

The applicant must have submitted an abstract for an appropriate overseas conference, and receipt of the award will depend on the acceptance of this abstract for presentation. AstraZeneca has agreed to award two scholarships of up to \$5,000 each towards the cost of airfares, registration and expenses for the successful applicants. Previous winners may not apply.

Applicants should submit to the ASID secretariat, 145 Macquarie Street, Sydney, **4 (four) copies** of:

- letter of application;
- letter of support from a Full member of ASID;
- current CV;
- a tentative itinerary of proposed trip, if available;
- copy of abstract;
- evidence of acceptance of abstract for presentation at an international meeting.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR FIRST AWARD: 10 November 2006.

• **ASID International Travel Award 2007**

This award includes an economy class return airfare to attend an international infectious diseases meeting, accommodation and registration up to the value of \$5,000. All advanced trainees who are training with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and whose Associate membership has been ratified at an AGM are eligible to apply (except previous winners) and are judged on the basis of their previous year's Project Report submitted to the RACP. Letters are sent to all I.D. trainees registered for the RACP 2006 training year, inviting applications for this Award.

Applicants should submit to the ASID secretariat, 145 Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000, **4 (four) copies** of:

- letter of application;
- copy of previous year's Project Report submitted to RACP;
- a statement, signed by the supervisor, outlining the contribution of the trainee to the project.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 10 November 2006.

• **ASID ASM Council Scholarships 2007 (2)**

The ASID Council will fund two scholarships for the Annual Scientific Meeting in Hobart, Tasmania, 22-24 March 2007. Applicants must be ASID members whose Full or Associate membership has been ratified at an ASID AGM, who are currently enrolled full-time in a PhD or MD at the time of the meeting and who are receiving an NHMRC scholarship or similar. Previous winners may not apply.

Applicants must have had their abstracts accepted for presentation at the Annual Scientific Meeting 2007. Note: Those who have submitted abstracts for 2007 will receive advice re their allocation by Friday, 9 February 2007.

The value of the award is up to \$1,500 for travel, registration and accommodation costs to attend the meeting. (Receipts required to claim reimbursement of actual expenses.)

Applicants should submit to the ASID secretariat, 145 Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000, **4 (four) copies** of:

- Letter of application, with details of study currently being undertaken;
- current CV;
- abstract(s) accepted for presentation at the ASID ASM 2006.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 16 February 2007

• **ASID ASM Advanced Trainees Research Award 2007**

This Award is seen as a means of recognising and rewarding the valuable contribution made by Advanced Trainees in the field of Infectious Diseases who are Associate members and whose ASID membership has been ratified by an ASID AGM.

On the basis of abstracts submitted for this Award, applicants will be selected from oral presentations given at the Annual Scientific Meeting by advanced trainees who are training with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and whose Associate membership has been ratified at an ASID AGM. The prize will be awarded based on the best oral presentation. The judging panel will be chosen from three senior delegates attending the Meeting. Previous winners may not apply. An award will not be granted on the basis of research for which a previous award has been received. Applicants must specify their personal contribution to the research and list other authors.

The value of the 2007 ASID Annual Scientific Meeting Advanced Trainees Research Award is \$2,000 and will be awarded at the Annual Scientific Meeting in Hobart, Tasmania.

• **ASID ASM Best Poster Award 2007**

The ASID Annual Scientific Meeting Best Poster Award 2007 will be chosen from posters presented by ASID members at the Annual Scientific Meeting (whose Full or Associate membership has been ratified at an ASID AGM). This award will be determined by selecting 4-6 posters for a brief oral presentation during the Meeting. Previous winners may not apply.

The judging panel will consist of a small group of senior delegates who have no association with the posters. The final choice is based primarily on the merits of the poster supported by the oral presentation.

The value of the 2007 ASID Annual Scientific Meeting Best Poster Award is \$1,000 and will be awarded at the Annual Scientific Meeting in Hobart, Tasmania.

MEETINGS, SYMPOSIUMS, COURSES, 2006

9th Asia Oceania Congress of Sexology

Bangkok, Thailand

1 – 4 November 2006

Contact: cverapol@ratree.psu.ac.th

Website: www.cottisa.org

CIDM Public Health Symposium Series 2006

"New approaches to antibiotic resistance and infection control in critical care"

Westmead Hospital, Wentworthville, New South Wales

3 November 2006

Contact: Judith Holford MSc, Education Officer
CIDM – Public Health, ICPMR, Westmead Hospital,
Box 533, Wentworthville NSW 2145.
Phone (02) 9845 5541 Mon.-Wed.
Email: Judith@icpmr.wsahs.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.cidmpublichealth.info

Clinical Research (Infectious Diseases) Course

Royal Melbourne Hospital, Melbourne, Australia

10 & 11 November 2006 and 8 & 9 December 2006

Contact: Brad Atkins
Phone: +61 3 9810 3185
Email: b.atkins@soe.unimelb.edu.au

Website: www.soe.unimelb.edu.au/iid

Pandemic Preparedness and Response Forum

Rydges Jamison Hotel, Sydney, Australia

13 & 14 November 2006

Contact: IBC Conferences
Phone: +61 2 9080 4307.
Email: enquiries@informa.com.au

Website: www.informa.com.au/pandemics06

Varicella Zoster Virus Workshop

Organised by National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance

The Darlington Centre, The University of Sydney, Darlington Road, Camperdown, N.S.W.

16 & 17 November 2006

Contact: Ms Joanne Perkins
Phone: +61 3 9845 1433
Email: joanep3@chw.edu.au

14th National Symposium on Hepatitis B and C

St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia

18 November 2006

Contact: Eleanor Belot
Phone: +61 3 9288 3580.
Email: Eleanor.belot@svhm.org.au

Website: www.svhm.org.au

The Australian Health & Medical Research Congress 2006

Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre, Melbourne, Australia

26 November – 1 December 2006

(See back page for more details)

Contact: ASN Events
Phone: +61 3 9863 7867,
Email: congress@asnevents.net.au

Website: www.ahmrcongress.org.au

MEETINGS, SYMPOSIUMS, COURSES, 2007

The Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases

Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart, Tasmania

22 – 24 March 2007

Contact: ASID Annual Scientific Meeting 2007
Locked Mail Bag 5057, Darlinghurst NSW 1300.
Phone: +61 2 8204 0770 Fax: +61 2 9212 4670

Website: www.racp.edu.au/asid/asm.htm

17th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases and 25th International Congress of Chemotherapy

Munich, Germany

31 March – 3 April 2007

Contact: AKM Congress Service,
PO Box CH4005 Basel, Switzerland
Email: info@akm.ch

Website: www.eccmid-icc.org

R.A.C.P. Congress 2007

Melbourne Convention Centre, Melbourne, Australia

6 – 10 May 2007

Contact: congress@racp.edu.au

Website: www.racp.edu.au/asm/index.htm

4th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

22 – 25 July 2007

Website: www.ias2007.org

25th International Congress of Pediatrics (ICP)

Athens, Greece

25 – 30 August 2007

Contact: C & C International S.A.
Conventions & Congresses
16, Paradisou Street, 151 25 Athens – Greece
Phone: +30 210 6889 100; Fax: +30 210 6844 777
Email: icp2007@cnc.gr

Website: www.cnc.gr

ICAAC 2007

47th Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy

Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

17 – 20 September 2007

Contact: American Society for Microbiology
1752 N Street, NW, Washington DC, 20036-2904, USA
Email: icaac@amusa.org

Website: www.icaac.org

5th World Congress of the World Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases (WSPID)

Bangkok, Thailand

15 – 18 November 2007

Contact: Kenes International / WSPID 2007
17 Rue du Cendrier, PO Box 1726
CH-1211 Geneva 1, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 908 0488; Fax: +41 22 732 2850
Email: wspid@kenes.com

Website: www.kenes.com/wspid

Annual Scientific Congress of the Asian Pacific Society of Respiriology

Gold Coast Convention Centre, Queensland, Australia

29 November – 4 December 2007

Contact: Department of Thoracic Medicine
Royal Adelaide Hospital Chest Clinic, 275 North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000
Phone: + 61 8 8222 5376; Fax: + 61 8 8222 5957

ASID SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Paediatric Infectious Diseases Special Interest Group (ASPID)

“MANAGEMENT OF PERINATAL INFECTIONS” (edited by P.Palasanthiran, M.Starr & C. Jones.)

Please note the emendation is now available from ASID secretariat.

The book (with emendation) can be ordered through the secretariat by downloading an order form from the ASID website – click on “Resources”. (\$35.00 including GST and postage.)

Mycology Special Interest Group (MIG)

The first Australian & New Zealand **Antifungal Guidelines Consensus Meeting** is being held at the Hilton Hotel, Brisbane, Australia, on 8 November 2006. (Details on ASID website).

Contact: Catherine Hamilton, ALLG Project Officer, Centre for Biostatistics & Clinical Trials,
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Locked Bag 1, A'Beckett Street, VIC 8006
Email: Catherine.hamilton@petermac.org, Phone +613 9656 1143 Fax +61 3 9656 1420

Hospital Infection Control Special Interest Group (HICSIG)

Healthcare Infection Control Special Interest Group (HICSIG) Update - John Ferguson (Convenor), Tony Allworth (Secretary)

The group is still alive (just) but does require interested members to get involved.

At the inaugural SIG meeting in Wellington, April 2006, a number of potential functions for the group were discussed. These included:

- Convene symposium at annual ASID meeting (initial priority).
- Commencing from existing national and state approaches, develop specific practical IC Technical Reports (eg. MRSA screening), seeking endorsement from ASID prior to issue.
- Provide advice on infection control related issues either to ASID Council or through ASID Council to other authorities, institutions and organisations.
- National IC Guidelines: scope to become involved in revision of these.
- Facilitate collaborative research.
- Provide advocacy for Infection Control.

There are several current priorities: organisation of the ASID 2007 HICSIG session, assembling a representative SIG membership of ASID members and other key stakeholders and the holding of a teleconference meeting in November to discuss the ASID meeting and general future strategies.

ASID 2007 Sessions

There will be a HICSIG general meeting on one lunchtime and several infection control-related sessions. Keynote speaker Alison McGeer from Canada will be examining the North American *C. difficile* situation (along with Tom Reilly). At the Friday afternoon session, she will commence with an examination of SARS and influenza-related respiratory issues. We then plan to have a forum (around 60 minutes) on hospital MRSA control to explore the emerging consensus with brief presentations from three regions about their approaches to key elements of control. Alison McGeer will also give her perspective. The plan is to provide a question guide to each presenter so that similar elements are addressed in their talks. Open discussion will then ensue if time allows. That discussion could obviously continue onto website forums or email discussions.

Membership

If not already a member, then please take a moment to register at the website www.hicsiganz.org. Instructions for registration will be emailed to you shortly. A separate HICSIG email discussion list for HICSIG is not currently maintained. I would suggest that the existing well-subscribed forums OZBUG, AICAlist and the Paediatric SIG list are used for this purpose.

Member Survey

When you have registered, logon with your new user name and password and go on to take the short member survey by selecting the 'Survey' link on the home page. For those members already registered, also please take the survey. It is essential that we build up knowledge of the membership and its specific interests.

Website (www.hicsiganz.org)

The website is still under construction. It uses tikiwiki software (similar to wikipedia) which enables all members to add/ edit existing content (within some limits). Most of it is intuitive, however if you run into a problem, then pose a question on the FAQ and I will attempt to post a solution/explanation. Perhaps its most useful initial function will be as a clearing house, a place where we can assemble topic-based materials from sources such as: published literature links or pdfs, other key documents available on the net and draft documents in circulation. It can also be used to accumulate a list of relevant website links (see Directories). It also provides the ability to host threaded discussion forums and conduct customised surveys. It also provides a wide range of other functions (most are not turned on).

Teleconference

Notice of the teleconference date and agenda will be provided via OZBUG soon. Topics to be discussed will include:

- ASID 2007 HICSIG session;
- the relationship of HICSIG with AICA (Convenor is to meet soon with the AICA Executive). It is envisaged that interested AICA members will be welcomed as HICSIG members;
- the revision of existing consensus surveillance guidelines that were formerly developed under the auspices of AICA (National Advisory Board), National Safety and Quality Council and the ACHS.
Most of these documents are accessible at the following website: http://www.safetyandquality.org/internet/safety/publishing_nsf/Content/former-pubs-archive-hcai-definitions. Perhaps the highest priority should be given to consideration of MRO Screening and surveillance recommendations.

BOOK REVIEW



Tropical Infectious Diseases Principles, Pathogens, & Practice. Second Edition.

Richard L. Guerrant, David H. Walker and Peter F. Weller

Elsevier Churchill Livingstone 2006 Philadelphia, PA

ISBN –13 978-0-443-06668-9

Volume 1 pages 1-883

Volume 2 pages 884-1721

This book is an up-to-date and comprehensive text about tropical infectious diseases and more. Following the index there are a variety of colour photographs. There are then three distinct sections: (1) Principles and General Considerations, (2) Pathogens and (3) Practice: Approach to the patient in The Tropics. A CD-ROM that contains the full text plus an image bank, allowing the images from the text to be downloaded, accompanies it.

Section one contains fifteen different chapters dealing with diverse topics such as “Host-Parasite Interactions”, “Epidemiology and Biostatistics”, “Nutrition and Micronutrients in Tropical Infectious Diseases” and “Host Genetics and Susceptibility to Infection.” Animal and plant poisons in the tropics and chemotherapy are also addressed. An interesting chapter “Social and Cultural Factors in Tropical Medicine: Reframing Our Understanding of Diseases” examines this central irony of 21st century medicine: the persistence of morbidity and mortality due to infectious diseases years after effective vaccines, cures, suppressive treatments and preventive strategies have been discovered. Realities such as the brain drain, stigma and civil conflict are discussed.

Section two, Pathogens, covers bacterial, viral, fungal and parasitic pathogens of the tropics. Each pathogen specific chapter follows a standard comprehensive format with an introduction, discussion about the agent, epidemiology, disease, pathogenesis and immunity, diagnosis, treatment, prevention and control. These chapters deliberately cover the latest developments in immunity, pathogenesis, genetics of virulence and new molecular approaches to diagnosis and control. They contain many tables, maps, clear and consistent life cycle diagrams and numerous black and white figures. The figures include clear schematic diagrams, photos of pathology and radiology and scanning electron micrographs. Some of these are particularly good such as scanning electron micrographs of various stages of malaria parasites and the effect of praziquantel on a *T.solium* scolex. New pathogens in this volume include Nipah and Hendra viral infections, and within “Respiratory Tract Viral Infection” SARS and metapneumoviruses.

Section Three, Practice: Approach to the Patient in the Tropics, contains eighteen excellent chapters. The approach to patients with particular clinical syndromes such as eosinophilia or cutaneous lesions is very practical with numerous tables and algorithms. The chapters on Ocular Diseases and Anaemia are especially comprehensive and useful. “Approach to the Patient with HIV and Coinfecting Tropical Infectious Diseases” addresses the interactions between HIV and a variety of tropical infections. It is remarkably comprehensive with more than 700 references. This section includes “Health Advice for International Travel” and “Travel Related Health Concerns Associated with Extremes of Environment.” New chapters include “Distinguishing Tropical Infectious Diseases and Bioterrorism” and “Tropical Infectious Disease Concerns in Pregnancy”. A further welcome addition is a chapter on “Delusional Parasitosis.”

The Editors’ stated aim is to provide a state of the art well referenced text covering the latest developments and, in addition, practical and clinically relevant information. They have successfully achieved this. The authors are top experts in their fields. The Editors comment that 60 of their 229 authors are from outside the United States. It does seem a shame that just less than half of the non-Americans are from Latin America, Asia or Africa. There are two Australian authors.

Because of the many authors there is some variation in the depth that topics are addressed. For example “Typhoid Fever” spans twenty-one pages while “Schistosomiasis” is covered in only eight. Similarly “Ocular Disease” is forty-seven pages long while “Neurologic Disease” is only eight. The book could also be criticized for being too North American in its focus in some chapters. This is particularly true of “Migrant, Immigrant and Refugee Health” which is largely restricted to American medical screening issues for immigrants and refugees. A few other chapters include lines such as “performed in very few specialized labs in the nation.” Fahrenheit rather than Celsius is used in a section on global climate change.

The weaknesses are very minor when compared to the many strengths of this text. It is remarkably complete and provides the latest information a specialist may require plus practical clinical information. All Infectious Diseases Departments should have this book and ideally all ID Physicians also.

***Reviewed by Joan Ingram, Infectious Diseases Physician
at Auckland District Health Board and Diagnostic Medlab, Auckland.***

Book available from: ***Elsevier Australia, Locked Bag 16,
St Peters NSW 2044. Ph: 02 9517 8953 Fax: 02 9517 2249 www.elsevier.com.au
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30 Groups and Societies involved, over 60 international speakers, over 150 national speakers
 Plenary speakers: Richard Flavell (Howard Hughes Medical Institute), John Bergeron (McGill University)
 Rudolf Jaenisch (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
 Joe Nevins (Duke Institute for Genome Sciences and Policy)










ASID is co-sponsoring with ASHM a one day symposium on viral drug resistance and immune escape in HIV and Hepatitis viruses at the Australian Health and Medical Research Congress in November 2006. We have Prof Doug Richman from San Diego, an expert in drug resistance and immune escape speaking as well as a stellar line up of local talent. The congress is involving many medical societies, some of which have overlapping interests with infectious diseases. Please come along and register, at least for the day, to support this event.
www.ahmr.congress.org.au

ID Registrars Annual Training Conference 2006

It is again time for the Annual Registrars Training Conference. The details of this weekend are as follows:

Dates : **18-19th November 2006**
 Venue : **Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide**
 Cost : **\$30**

Please email the following details to Marjoree.Sehu@imvs.sa.gov.au :

Name :
Position :
Institution :
Email :
Phone No :
Dietary Restrictions / Needs :

To facilitate the organising of a dinner venue, please let us know if you would like to join us on Saturday Night.
 Attending Saturday Night dinner: **Yes / No**

Alternatively you can fax us at 08 8222 3543 marked *For the attention of Marjoree Sehu or Morgyn Warner.*

Funding for travel assistance is available from ASID. Please notify the Organising Committee if this is required.

The closing date for registration is **27th October 2006.**

We look forward to seeing you in Adelaide.
