

AUSTRALASIAN
WOUND & TISSUE
REPAIR SOCIETY

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AWTRS
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Australasian Wound & Tissue Repair Society

Volume 3, Issue 1, April, 2009

Society News

Welcome to the first AWTRS newsletter for 2009. It's been a busy start to the year and many of our members will be breathing a sigh of relief now that the NHMRC/ARC deadlines have past and their projects have been submitted. We will keep our fingers crossed for a successful year of funding for Wound & Tissue Repair Research across Australia. Unfortunately over the last 5 years the success rate for wound-related research has only been 0.5 % of the total research budget however it is important that we continue to keep trying to increase our share of this funding pool.

Several of our members have also been working tirelessly to put together a Wound Management Innovation Cooperative Research Centre submission. This application lead by Profs Zee Upton and Helen Edwards at QUT, brings together basic researchers, biomaterial scientists, epidemiologists and nurse practitioners from all around Australia to highlight the problems of Wounds in Australia and has the potential to significantly improve Wound Management for future generations.

The outcome of the application, which is for more than \$80M over 8 years will be known in June/ July of this year and we wish them all the best with their submission.

Another important recent event was the National Wound Awareness Week run by the Australian Wound Management Association 30th March—3rd April 2009. Spearheaded by writer Bryce Courtney the aim of the week of seminars, public meetings, media releases and distribution of materials was to raise the awareness of the general public of the problems associated with chronic non-healing wounds which AWMA describe as the "Elephant in the Room" that no one wants to know about. Included in their aim is to gather as many signatures as possible for the petition to help raise awareness of wounds with policy makers and government ministers. We therefore ask everyone to please go to the website: www.elephantintheroom.com.au to sign the online petition to help change Government policy.

These are exciting times and we will look forward to what the rest of 2009 has to bring.

**A/Prof Allison Cowin
President AWTRS**

Indo-Australian Discussion Meeting on New Biomedical Devices Delhi India, March 5-6, 2009

A workshop on Biomedical Devices and related technologies was recently held in Delhi, India between Indian and Australian researchers. The focus of the program was to bring together researchers from the two countries to encourage development of collaborative research programs in this important field. The Australia Delegation consisted of 12 speakers, including speakers from each of the mainland states, and covered 8 Universities plus CSIRO. The Indian Delegation included speakers from 14 Institutes and International Centres from many locations in India.

Prior to the workshop, three areas were identified of particular clinical need in India which were orthopaedics, wound management and cardiovascular devices. Four AWTRS members were included as part of the Australian delegation: Professors Allison Cowin from Women's & Children's Health Research Institute, SA, Laura Poole-Warren from the Graduate School of Biomedical Engineering at UNSW, David Leavely and Tim Dargaville both from the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation QUT.



The Program comprised 4 sessions of Oral presentations plus discussions and the various presentations provided a good illustration of the capabilities available from the different groups. This was an important learning component for both Delegations, and allowed the opportunities for collaborations based on combining different capability and skill subsets to emerge.



The delegates also got to visit several research institutions in Delhi including the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), the Stanford-India Biodesign Centre, the Centre for Biomedical Engineering and the Indian Institute of Technology. These site visits allowed more informal discussions between delegates, research fellows and students to occur and the inspection of the wide range of facilities helped all present to see the range of activities where collaborations could be possible.

It is hoped that in the future new collaborative opportunities will emerge in these key areas including the development of novel bioactive wound dressings and that the new alliances forged could lead to more extensive project proposals and future joint initiatives.



The Australian Delegation

(B) Hans Griesser John Ramshaw Tim Dargeville Laura Poole-Warren Justin Cooper-White Justin Withers

(F) Glenn Edwards Hala Zreiqat David Leavesley Jerome Werkmeister Greg Dusting Allison Cowin

EXPAND YOUR RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS THROUGH THE AWTRS WEB SITE

The AWTRS consists of numerous researchers from basic scientists through to clinicians, the majority of whom are actively involved in many different aspects of wound and tissue repair research. To promote collaboration between the different facets of wound and tissue repair research, the AWTRS is offering our members the chance to add their research interests and a link to their own website to the AWTRS website (www.awtrs.org).

Benefits of having an AW&TRS member's research directory on the web site:

1. Establishing a research contacts database will facilitate collaborations in wound and tissue repair research.
2. Help to expand your research collaborative network with colleagues and others working in the areas of wound and tissue repair.
3. Have you ever had a really interesting result but do not have the expertise in the laboratory to follow it up? The useful links researchers' page will allow you to search and contact the most suitable researcher with the appropriate expertise.
4. Enable students and postdoctoral scientists who would like to work in the field of wound research to search for potential laboratories to work in.

How do I go about adding my name, research interests and web page link to the AWTRS web site?

1. Become an AWTRS member (or renew your membership for 2009).
2. E-mail Rachaelm@chw.edu.au with these details:
 1. Your name.
 2. No more than 5 key words that best describe your research.
 3. Your research page web URL.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Research Profile: UWA Chronic Wound Research

Prof. Mike Stacey of the University of Western Australia established a unique research group for chronic wounds at Fremantle Hospital 20 years ago. This is one of the few centres worldwide capable of undertaking both clinical and laboratory-based research on human subjects with chronic wounds. Dr Hilary Wallace has worked with Mike Stacey for the last 14 years to maintain the strong links between the clinic and laboratory and to develop collaborations with other research groups – most recently with Prof. Zee Upton’s group at Queensland University of Technology (Institute for Health and Biomedical Innovation) and Tissue Therapies Ltd. Over \$3 million funding has been obtained from both government and industry to support the research of the group – with a trend towards more NHMRC funding in recent years.

Mike Stacey was a key figure in the establishment of the Australian Wound Management Association (AWMA) as the inaugural President from 1994-1998 and committee member until 2000. He was the founding President of the World Union of Wound Healing Societies (2000-2004) and Co-convenor of the First World Wound Healing Congress, Melbourne (September 2000). Hilary Wallace is a founding committee member of AWTRS (since 2007) and together with Mark Fear (McComb Foundation) is co-convenor of the 2nd AWTRS conference to be held in Perth from 22-24 March 2010.

Basic research is integrated into the services provided by the leg ulcer clinic and vascular laboratory, and is carried out in excellent laboratory facilities provided at the hospital by the University of Western Australia. The team of research nurses is critical in facilitating the clinical component of the research (including sample collection) and in encouraging patient participation – the latter being crucial for the success of each project. The team is also lucky to have a dedicated Vascular Research Registrar – to obtain invasive patient samples such as tissue biopsies and to provide high level clinical support.



(L to R) are Dr Hilary Wallace, Ms Lorraine Linacre, Ms Jan Edwards, Ms Sue Hoskin, Prof. Michael Stacey.

Research Profile: UWA Chronic Wound Research (con)

The group's findings over 20 years have had a major influence on the understanding of the basic biochemical abnormalities that are present in non-healing chronic wounds. With the absence of suitable animal models of chronic venous ulceration, an "in vivo" standardised model of "non-healing" and "healing" ulcers has been developed to reduce the variability between wounds. "Non-healing" ulcers are those that do not reduce in size in 3 months, despite out-patient compression therapy. Patients with "non-healing" ulcers are admitted to hospital for 2-weeks strict bed rest prior to skin grafting. The reduction in venous hypertension due to prolonged leg elevation induces observable signs of healing in most cases. Samples (wound fluid and biopsies) are taken on admission to hospital (non-healing) and after 2 weeks (healing).

Using this model Naomi Trengove was the first to show that healing may be impaired by excessive inflammatory mediators (IL-1, IL-6 and TNF- α) rather than inhibited by a deficiency of growth factors. Sim Yoeh-Ellerton found that iron (ferritin) levels were elevated in wound fluid from non-healing ulcers compared to healing ulcers and that levels of 8-isoprostane and antioxidants were higher in chronic wound fluid compared to acute wound fluid - suggesting that an environment of oxidative stress exists in chronic wounds which may be related to iron deposition in the skin

Hilary Wallace used the results of the studies on inflammatory cytokines and MMPs to hypothesise that gene polymorphisms may be risk factors for the development of venous leg ulcers. Results of a case-control study showed that the risk of venous leg ulceration is elevated in carriers of polymorphisms in the promoter of the TNF- α gene (TNFA-308A) and in intron 10 of the BAT1 gene (c insertion, *2), linked genes located in the central major histocompatibility (MHC) complex. Recent Q-PCR results from Anastasia Isakova suggest that the haplotype containing TNFA-308A and BAT1 intron 10*2 increases TNF- α mRNA expression in the ulcer edge, but not in normal skin. A current project is analysing the results of fine-mapping of this region and looking at the associations with disease severity.

As we speak, a project is nearing completion on the clinical and genetic risk factors for the development of leg ulceration after deep vein thrombosis (Jan Edwards), and another is starting on the risk factors for seating-acquired pressure ulceration in wheelchair-bound paraplegics (Jillian Swaine). A clinical trial of VitroGro (Tissue Therapies) for the treatment of venous leg ulcers is to take place. So there is always plenty to do at Fremantle – never enough time to go out for coffee

Hilary Wallace



AWTRS 2010 ~ *Crossing the Boundaries*

22-24 March, 2010 ~ Perth Western Australia



The Australasian Wound and Tissue Repair Society invites you to join us for our 2nd Conference. AWTRS 2010 is a full 2-day program; the theme is Crossing the Boundaries – a challenge to learn from colleagues across a range of disciplines. Invited speakers are exceptional researchers from Europe, UK, USA, Canada and Australia – in the fields of cell biology, immunology, tissue engineering, cellular biomechanics and more.

AWTRS 2010 is an opportunity for discovery and networking that should not be missed. AWTRS 2010 is followed by the Australian Wound Management Association (AWMA) 2010 Conference, Journey into New Frontiers, with attractive reciprocal membership discounts.

Conference sessions are held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, where, along with an exciting Scientific program, you will enjoy Perth's sunny autumn days and balmy evenings. Please put the dates in your diary now! Register your interest in the meeting online to receive conference updates.

Convenors:

Dr Hilary Wallace, *The University of Western Australia*

Dr Mark Fear, *McComb Foundation*

Secretariat: awtrs@mtci.com.au

Confirmed presenters include:

Professor Jeffrey Hubbell

(Switzerland)

Tissue engineering

Professor Paul Martin (UK)

Wound healing and inflammation

Professor Fiona Wood

(Australia)

Systemic responses to skin injury

Professor Prue Hart (Australia)

The skin immune system

Research themes include:

- Inflammation & immunity in wound healing
- Systemic responses in wound healing
- Fibrosis and scarring
- Advanced biomaterials & biotherapeutics
- Microorganisms and wound healing
- Pre-clinical models of injury & repair
- Chronic wounds

Upcoming Wound & Tissue Repair Meetings 2009

Matrix Biology Society Meeting—Barossa Valley, SA 11th—14th October, 2009

Topics to be covered at this meeting are:

- Wound healing and tissue remodelling
- Skeletal development
- Extracellular matrix assembly
- Stem cells and tissue engineering
- Matrix turnover
- Metastatic disease
- Cartilage/bone/dentin
- Extracellular matrix abnormalities



Further details are available on the ASN Events website <http://www.asnevents.com.au/mbsanz/>

8th Pan Pacific Connective Tissue Societies Symposium

Joint Conference of 8th Pan-Pacific Connective Tissue Societies Symposium (PPCTSS), 41st Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Connective Tissue Research (JSCTR), and 56th Annual Meeting of the Japan Matrix Club (JMC)

Concurrent meeting:

Yokosuka International Conference on Cancer Microenvironments (YICCM)
June 4 (Thur) – June 7 (Sun) 2009,
Shonan Village Center
<http://www.shonan-village.co.jp/svc/>

Sponsorship:

The Japanese Society for Connective Tissue Research
Japan Matrix Club
International Society of Matrix Biology
High-Tech Research Center, Kanagawa Dental College

Upcoming Wound & Tissue Repair Meetings 2009



ETRS/WHS

The European Tissue repair Society & The Wound Healing Society are holding their 5th Joint Meeting in Limoges, France in 2009 from August 25-29.

The venue for the meeting will be the Faculty of Law and Economic Sciences buildings in the centre of Limoges. Limoges is a medium-sized city on the banks of the river Vienne in South-West France. The city is easily accessible by train (3 hours) from Paris (Gare d'Austerlitz). The city is also easily accessible by road and Limoges has a small international airport (Limoges—Bellegardes) which has flights to various European cities as well as connections to Paris and Lyons. Limoges is particularly well connected to the UK with flights to London (Stansted), Liverpool, Nottingham and Southampton.

The meeting will have a mix of basic science and clinical presentations and we hope there will be a strong Australian flavour to the meeting, including several invited speakers.

Important dates to remember for the meeting are:

- **October 2008** — Call for Abstracts
- **March 1st, 2009** — Abstract deadline
- **April 15th, 2009** — Notification of abstract acceptance
- **May 20, 2009** — Hotel booking deadline
- **June 1st, 2009**—Registration deadline



Further information about the conference can be found at the conference organiser's website at <http://www.objectif-congres.com>—there is a button for the conference at the top of the screen for those who don't feel like getting out their French-English dictionary.

Upcoming Wound & Tissue Repair Meetings 2009



5th
JOINT MEETING OF
THE EUROPEAN TISSUE REPAIR SOCIETY
&
THE WOUND HEALING SOCIETY



AUGUST 25th - 29th 2009
LIMOGES - FRANCE

With the participation of
The Australian Wound Management Association
The Japanese Society for Wound Healing
&
The Australasian Wound & Tissue Repair Society

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Alexis Desmoulière, Limoges - France
Sabine Eming, Cologne - Germany
Boris Hinz, Lausanne - Switzerland
David Thomas, Cardiff - UK
Adrian Barbul, Baltimore - USA
Jeffrey Davidson, Nashville - USA
Robert Kirsner, Miami - USA
Ian Darby, Bundoorra - Australia
Michael Woodward, Heidelberg - Australia
Kazuo Kishi, Tokyo - Japan

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Tuesday, August 25th, 2009

14:00-18:00
Registration
18:00-19:30

Opening Ceremony and Honorary Guest Lecture
Welcome reception

Wednesday, August 26th, 2009

9:00-10:30
Plenary Session
11:00-12:30
Parallel Sessions
14:30-18:00

Poster and Parallel Sessions
Concert and Wine and Cheese Cocktail

Thursday, August 27th, 2009

9:00-10:30
Plenary Session
11:00-12:30
Parallel Sessions
14:30-18:00

Poster and Parallel Sessions
Gala Dinner

Friday, August 28th, 2009

9:00-10:30
Plenary Session
11:00-12:30
Parallel Sessions

Excursion Tour and Free Evening

Saturday, August 29th, 2009

9:00-10:30
Plenary Session
11:00-12:30
Parallel Sessions
14:30-15:30
Plenary Session
15:30-16:00

Awards and Closing Remarks

October 2008

Second announcement and Call for abstracts

March 1st, 2009

Abstract deadline Accepted abstracts will be published in
Wound Repair and Regeneration

Please, return reply card to receive further informations and registration form.

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Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation

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Health Research Institute**





Australasian Wound & Tissue Repair Society 2009 Membership

1 YEAR membership

Ordinary Annual Membership \$50

Student Annual Membership \$25

Corporate Membership \$350

NEW 3 YEAR membership option

Ordinary Annual Membership 3 years \$140

Student Annual Membership 3 years \$70

MEMBERS' BENEFITS INCLUDE:

AW&TRS Quarterly Newsletter – contains news of upcoming meetings, extensive coverage of meetings and workshops, research highlights, job adverts and much more.

Free subscription to AWMA Journal “Wound Practice & Research” – one of the primary sources of information for Medical, Nursing, Allied Health, Wound Care Practitioners and Wound Research Scientists throughout the Australasia-Pacific region.

Reduced subscription rates to the leading wound research journal: subscribe to Wound Repair and Regeneration for just 76 GBP.

The chance to add you Research Profile with a brief description of your research and a web link to the AW&TRS web site – AW&TRS members can add a brief researchers profile and web link to AW&TRS web site, which means not only will other researchers be able to see what you do but you can look for specialists to collaborate with in the area you are interested.

Advanced notification of the AW&TRS biennial meeting as well as focus meetings.

Significant discounts on registration rates for the AW&TRS conferences – members are entitled to a discount from the regular registration rate.

Travel Awards for young AW&TR investigators at AW&TRS biennial meetings – details of these travel awards will posted on the web site prior to meetings.

Young Investigator Awards at AW&TRS biennial meeting – details of these awards will posted on the web site prior to meetings.

To join as a **NEW** member or **RENEW** your membership for
2009 go to www.awtrs.org and
click on the membership link