As the year draws to a close I would like to say thank you to all AWTRS members for their support of this society. I’d also like to thank everyone who attended the 2nd AWTRS conference held in Perth in May. Despite the massive hailstorms and flooding which meant the conference dinner had to be rescheduled, the conference itself was a resounding success with over 120 delegates from all over Australia. The meeting opened with the highly entertaining Masterclass, which consisted of a relaxed afternoon of presentations by some very enthusiastic early career researchers followed by a lively debate on science as a career. The conference itself was two days of fascinating presentations by both international and national presenters. The next AWTRS Society meeting we hope to make bigger and better by combining it with the ASDR in Sydney so please keep May 2012 reserved in your diaries.

Our first Society AGM was also held in Perth during the conference and included elections for all executive positions. While it was sad to see a few committee members step down from their positions I would like to say that they, along with the other members, have done a wonderful job in getting the society off the ground and organising two conferences in the past 3 years. We have an excellent AWTRS committee with a few new members who are committed to furthering wound research in Australasia. We also have a new appointment of an early career representative on the AWTRS committee and we welcome Nadira Ruzehaji (SA) to that position. On behalf of the new committee, I know that we are looking forward to working on your behalf over the next two years.

2010 was a successful year for wound research in Australia with the start of the new Wound Management Innovation CRC. We congratulate all those involved in the CRC which was awarded $27.5M over 8 years from the federal government. This CRC aims to improve wound healing and quality of life for people with wounds, and provide cost-effective wound care that lessens the burden on the health system. This is the first substantial funding ever received for wound management research from the Australian Government and hopefully reflects a change in attitude towards this important area of research. “The research in the CRC will be led by AWTRS members Professors Zee Upton (QUT), Professor Helen Edwards (QUT) and Professor Rob Short (University of South Australia). It is exciting times and we will look forward to hearing all the new developments that arise from the CRC over the coming years.

I’d also like to congratulate everyone who was successful in their grant submissions this year and commiserations to those who just missed out. While NHMRC and ARC grant outcomes may have been disappointing for many members this year it is important to not be too disheartened with the system. Unfortunately with the government not providing any substantial increase in funding to research there is just not enough dollars to go around and with only a 23% success rate with the NHMRC this year many grants scoring in the fundable range narrowly missed out. All we can do is to keep submitting grants and hope that we all get “lucky” next year!

Well done to all our student members who obtained their PhDs, Masters or Honours degrees this year. This is a major achievement but just the start of your exciting careers and we wish you all the very best for your futures-hopefully in wound and tissue repair research.

On behalf of the society I wish you all the best for the festive season, and hope that 2011 will be a successful year for you all.

A/Prof Allison Cowin, President, AWTRS
The 20th Annual Congress of the European Tissue Repair Society was held from 15-17 September 2010 in Gent, a beautiful medieval city in Belgium. The location of the congress was “Het Pand”, a former abbey in the historical centre of the city. The congress covered a diverse range of specialities, including i) plenary sessions on burns, fibrosis and scar formation, infection, stem cells and tissue regeneration, ii) free presentations and iii) a number of practical workshops. One day was held in parallel with the clinicians meeting, which encouraged presentations of a translational nature. In fact translational medicine was a major theme of this 20th anniversary meeting. Dr Hilde Beele headed the local organising committee and the scientific committee.

Fernando Larcher from Madrid, Spain, described his work on a skin-humanised mouse model, where human “skin”, comprising layered keratinocytes and fibroblasts, was grafted onto immunodeficient and streptozotocin-induced diabetic mice given insulin implants. This new model appears to be a reliable method to identify and test wound healing agents. There was some discussion on the potential of adipose stem cells (40-fold higher numbers than in bone marrow) and evidence of how, in humans, lipofilling of human skin grafts improves elasticity and body contouring. Similarly, evidence was provided that stem cells (bone-marrow-derived) provide better repair of cartilage than current techniques, especially in the presence of a scaffold. Other interesting presentations covered the vital role of anti-inflammatory M2 macrophages that persist in the later stages of healing and the disadvantages of too much angiogenesis during healing.

The Young Investigator award session produced some very high quality work. Justin Crawford, who is supervised by an ex-patriot Australian, David Gorman, now in London, Canada, explained how periostin is produced by keratinocytes and moves to the dermis to stimulate fibroblasts in hypertrophic scarring. Vincent van der Veen from the Netherlands spoke about a multipotent stem cell population, that resembles adipose-derived stem cells and is present in burn eschar, suggesting that removal of this eschar may retard healing.

And, of course, it’s difficult to go to Belgium without tasting some of the 60-odd styles of Belgian beer.

A/Prof Chris Jackson, Sutton Arthritis Research Laboratories, Kolling Research Building, Royal North Shore Hospital

The conference venue: Het Pand in Gent, venue for European Tissue Repair Society meeting.
The Centre for Children’s Burns and Trauma Research (CCBTR) at the University of Queensland, Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Royal Children’s Hospital (RCH), and Queensland Children’s Medical Research Institute (QCMRI) was established in 1999 by Professor Roy Kimble. Our ultimate goal is to improve the quality of lives of children suffering from burn injury, specifically by preventing burn injury, improving acute burn treatment, reducing hypertrophic scarring, and providing better scar treatments.

The CCBTR consists of both laboratory-based scientists and clinicians, including burn surgeons, pathologists, psychiatrists, burn nurses, occupational therapists, and social workers. Since establishment, the CCBTR has successfully undertaken a number of research projects, covering pre-clinical and clinical trials and laboratory-based studies, and generated a wealth of knowledge in burn care, including the mechanisms of paediatric burn injury in Queensland, optimal first aid for burns, optimal treatments for acute burns both non-surgically and surgically, development of novel acute burn treatments, novel approaches to pain management, and improved treatment for hypertrophic scarring.

One of the difficulties in burn care and the burn research field in general has been the lack of suitable animal models for burn-induced scarring similar to human hypertrophic scars. Moreover, due to the heterogeneous nature of burns and subjective approaches in diagnosis and outcome, many clinical studies cannot be adequately compared. To bridge this knowledge gap, for the past 6 years the CCBTR has successfully established and characterised a porcine partial thickness burn model. The burns created in this porcine model, the wound healing process, and resulting scars from these burns resemble the deep dermal partial thickness burns and subsequent hypertrophic scars seen in humans. In this porcine model, the deep burn is relative large (~ 40-50cm²), has a uniform pale appearance, takes more than 3 weeks to completely re-epithelialise and heals with significant scarring, just like human burns. Using this model, the CCBTR has successfully conducted many pre-clinical trials, including examining the effects of Vitrogro®, a variety of first aid treatments including cool running water, different burn dressings, the effect of conservative surgical debridement on burn wound healing, and investigating the safety of silver dressings. Retrospective analysis further identified the existence of microscopic inflammatory foci in these porcine scars, suggesting a possible mechanism for hypertrophic scarring in human burns. The findings from many of these studies have been transferred into clinical practice and led to changes in burn care practice in the RCH burn centre. Some studies have initiated further clinical trials.

LtoR - Ashley Liu, Margit Kempf, James McMillan, Robyn Goodall, Belinda Wallis, Tona Gillen, Leila Cuttle, Jessica James-Chadwick, Roy Kimble, Xue-Qing Wang
Through these trials the CCBTR has also accumulated extensive knowledge in burn care and burn wound healing, and perfected the assessment of wound healing and scar outcome through use of semi-objective, standardised measurements which minimise human subjective error and bias. This porcine burn model is not only useful for pre-clinical trials of novel burn agents, but more importantly offers valuable knowledge for better burn care clinically and for improved clinical trials. Based on our extensive experience with this porcine deep burn model, in the future we will also develop other porcine wound models, including partial thickness burn and excision models. These models will also be ideal for sub-clinical testing of promising wound healing products developed by our group or others.

A few years ago, the CCBTR also developed a foetal burn model, in which foetuses healed deep dermal partial thickness burns without scarring, in contrast to burns in post-natal lambs which healed with significant scarring. Using the samples from this model, fetuin-A was identified as a major component of foetal skin, indicating that fetuin-A may be partially responsible for the scarless healing in foetal skin. Further investigation reveals that fetuin-A indeed promotes wound re-epithelialisation and may also reduce scar formation in models in vitro. Future studies will focus on further characterisation and involvement of this molecule in burn wound healing in vivo and in vitro models, and on the development of unique, novel burn treatments which will significantly improve the outcome of burn wound healing with minimal scarring.

Research of the CCBTR has also focused on understanding the mechanisms behind, and developing effective treatment for hypertrophic scarring, which is the most common adverse outcome for paediatric burns. We are currently developing novel burn grafting treatments for patients with large burns or those requiring scar reconstructions, through the use of interdisciplinary tissue engineered (TE) human cell constructs. These novel skin constructs utilise human cells seeded onto either natural biomaterial-based (gelatin or collagen) or artificial polymers moulded into specific templates as biodegradable scaffolds. The grafting outcome using different porous polymer films and various surface modifications is being examined in murine burn and excisional models. Another approach has been to identify cytokines and growth factors that may influence re-epithelialisation and scarring outcomes in cultured human fibroblast and myofibroblast cells and wound tissue. Once identified, beneficial growth factors alone or in combination will be applied to wounds using a novel delivery system that slowly releases exogenous growth factor(s) into the wound.

Check out our website:

Leila Cuttle, Xue-Qing Wang and James McMillan
CCBTR
Congratulations to all members on their publications in 2010. Below is just a small a snapshot of some of the many publications by our members in 2010. If you would like yours added for future updates please send details through to ian.darby@rmit.edu.au


Waters JM, Lindo J, Arkell RM, Cowin AJ. (2010). Regeneration of hair follicles involves the actin cytoskeletal protein Flightless I Journal Investigative Dermatology DOI:10.1038


AWTRS Travel grants

**Purpose**
The AWTRS has established a scheme to assist AWTRS members in presenting at any wound and/or tissue repair meeting whether national or international.

**Nature of the support**
The AWTRS Committee will set the amount of funding each year depending on society finances so the total amount available may vary from year to year. In 2011 we have available $3000 in total grants. Grants of $1000 will be awarded for international conferences or $500 for national conferences. Moneys can only be spent on travel to the conference, accommodation and registration.

**Eligibility**
Full-time postgraduate student currently enrolled at a recognised higher education provider or early-career researcher with less than 5 years post-doctoral experience.
The applicant must be a financial member of the AWTRS for at least one year prior to submitting their application. Thereafter, applicants will not be eligible if they have been awarded a Travel Grant from the Society during the previous TWO years.
Meetings for which grants are sought must have a substantial wound and/or tissue repair content and the applicant must give evidence of active participation in the meeting (e.g. Poster or Presentation).
Applicants must be willing to provide a report of the conference for the AWTRS newsletter within 1 month of the conference end date.

**Applications**
Applications must consist of:
A CV no longer than 2 pages that must include the following details:
Name of applicant
Current position (i.e. student, postdoc)
Institution
Supervisor
Education background (highest previous qualification/date of award/institution and current degree being pursued if applicable)
List of publications
Grants and awards
A letter of support from the applicants’ supervisor.
Statement of eligibility covering the above criteria.
Members should support their application with a description and date of conference, the cost of travel, registration and accommodation and a personal statement highlighting the value to their research/development in attending the conference.
A copy of the submitted abstract

**Submission details**
Applications should be submitted by e-mail to Dr Rachael Murray (rachaelm@chw.edu.au) by no later than September 16th 2011 (with Subject ‘AWTRS Travel Application’).
What was/is your PhD on?
I started out my research career doing a PhD in the Biochemistry Department at the University of Leicester in the UK studying the proteasome and some of its regulators that mediate the cleavage of antigen for presentation by immune cells.

What made you choose this area?
I had just spent a sandwich year as part of my undergraduate studies working for the World Health Organisation developing a simple, cheap and reliable assay to detect Human Chorionic Gonadotrophin or the pregnancy hormone as it is often known and I wanted a complete change. And dare I say it - it was interesting and seemed like a good idea at the time!

What are you working on at the moment?
Looking at how macrophages migrate into a wound and ways to reduce their numbers in a wound.

What do you enjoy most about being a researcher?
And what would you like the least about it?
As they say on the A-team ‘I love it when a plan comes together’ - when that good idea pans out and the experiment confirms the theory. What do I least like? The NHMRC....

What is your perfect Saturday night?
Bottle of wine and some good company.

What is your favourite meal?
One that is cooked by someone else! At the moment chicken, chilli and basil with noodles.

What is your favourite getaway spot?
At the bottom of the sea bothering fish, preferably in tropical warm waters such around Lady Elliot Island.

Is there something that you dream of doing one day?
I quite like travelling and there are so many places left to see.

At the moment I am reading
Far too many books. I read rather fast and can if left alone read two in a day, which can get quiet expensive. I love reading and like to share so hear are some of the good ones I have read recently Sister by Rosamund Lupton, The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer, The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo trilogy by Steig Larsson and The Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton.

At home I cook
If I have to...

What innovation or invention would you not be without?
My iTouch as I like to listen to a few tunes while I work.

What innovation or invention would you like to see created?
A teletransporter so I could pop back to England in no time to visit friends and family without having to do the 24 flight from hell. Or self-cloning so the other me could work and I could go to bother the fish.

I often wonder...
Why I didn’t do marine biology and move up to Northern Queensland to work in the warm waters of the Great Barrier Reef. It’s a good job macrophages are fascinating little cells.
Upcoming Conferences 2011

First International Pediatric Wound Care Symposium
ISPeW
Rome, 27-29 October 2011
ANGELICUM Congress Center
Pontificia Universitas San Tommaso D’Aquino

IMPORTANT DATES

Abstract Submission and Registration open December 2010

Deadline for abstracts submission 20 April, 2011

Early Registration Deadline 20 May, 2011

Symposium dates 27-29 October, 2011
Wounds International 2011

GLOBAL WOUND CARE CONFERENCE

• 1–3 FEBRUARY 2011
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA
CAPE TOWN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE

INFORM
EDUCATE
IMPROVE

An international conference for healthcare professionals to share experiences across the global wound care community

Online registration and further programme details are available at: www.woundsinternational.com/events.php

Developed by Wounds International in association with the Wound Healing Association of Southern Africa and supported by both the World Unions of Wound Healing Societies and the World Alliance for Wound and Lymphedema Care.
Gordon Research Conferences

Tissue Repair & Regeneration
June 5-10, 2011
Colby-Sawyer College
New London, USA
NH Chair: Michael Galko
Vice Chair: Sabine A. Eming
Link: http://www.grc.org/

Symposium on Advanced Wound Care - Spring (SAWC/WHS)
April 14 - 17, 2011 Dallas, TX, USA

Link: http://spring.sawc.net/
The 21st Annual conference of the ASBTE will be held in Queenstown, New Zealand from April 27-29th, 2011.

April is a fantastic time of year to be in Queenstown and the timing is conveniently placed directly after the Easter holiday period and during the academic term break.

We are also pleased to announce that the conference website is now live at ...
www.conferencequeenstown.co.nz/asbte

Please take a look at the site for conference dates, venue, travel and contact information, and more. We will be posting new information regularly, with announcements regarding registration and calls for abstracts in due course. Please block off these dates in your 2011 calendar, and we look forward to seeing you all for another great meeting of the ASBTE in Queenstown.

Kind regards,

ASBTE 2011 Local organising committee:
Tim Woodfield, George Dias, Michael Mucalo

Contact:
Dr Tim Woodfield
E-mail: tim.woodfield@otago.ac.nz
Keystone Symposia on Tissue Repair

Extracellular Matrix and Cardiovascular Remodeling

Organizers: Merry L. Lindsey & Thomas K. Borg, January 23 - 28, 2011 • Granlibakken Resort • Tahoe City, California, USA

Lung Development and Repair

Organizers: Brigid L.M. Hogan, Ross Metzger and Edward E. Morrisey
February 6 - 11, 2011 • Hilton Santa Fe/Historic Plaza, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

Link: http://www.keystonesymposia.org/
Upcoming Conferences 2012

AWTRS 2012

Sydney, May 21-24, 2012 - 3rd Meeting

Australasian Wound & Tissue Repair Society

www.awtrs.org
Australian Wound Management Association Conference 2012
18–21 March 2012, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre
www.awma2012.com

Harbouring Wound Care:
Integument, Integrity and Innovation

Who should attend?
The AWMA 2012 Conference will aim to bring together people from a range of disciplines who contribute to improving wound management, from therapeutic innovation to delivery of care.
Healthcare professionals including:
• nursing
• medical
• allied health
• emergency personnel
• anyone interested in the field of wounds, wound care and maintaining skin integrity

Conference Theme
The theme for the AWMA 2012 Conference is:
“Harbouring Wound Care: Integument, Integrity and Innovation”.
An holistic approach to the complexities & diversity of skills that encompass wound management. To motivate and stimulate passion in the art of wound management, to seek to be innovative, and to spend quality time with like minded clinicians.

Sponsorship and
Exhibition Opportunities
A comprehensive trade exhibition will be held in conjunction with the Conference. The exhibition will cover a wide range of products and services in the field of Wound Care. There are also a variety of sponsorship opportunities available within the Conference. Any companies wishing to participate as a sponsor or to promote their products/services within the trade exhibition are encouraged to contact the Conference Managers for details: awma2012@arinex.com.au

AWMA 2012 Conference Managers
arinex pty ltd
GPO Box 128,
Sydney, NSW 2000
Tel: + 61 2 9265 0700
Fax: + 61 2 9267 5443
awma2012@arinex.com.au

Mark these dates in your diary!
Abstract Submissions Opens: May 2011
Early Bird Registration Opens: June 2011
Abstract Submissions Close: September 2011

Register your interest today at www.awma2012.com
JOIN Australasian Wound & Tissue Repair Society

Australasian Wound & Tissue Repair Society

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 Heath, 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 go to www.awtrs.org and click on the membership link.
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