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<http://auaps.org.au>

Letter from the President

Democracy in action. Most of you will be aware that the NHMRC budget was under threat in the recent budget. Authoritative leaks from government sources suggest that a cut of 16% over 4 years was being considered.



Given the NHMRC budget is M\$ 715 currently, this suggests cuts of M\$ 29 per year or roughly 60-70 project grants per year. This clear threat to medical research produced a very active campaign spear headed by the ASMR and FASTS (AuPS is affiliated to both). Many letters were written to Ministers and MPs, large demonstrations were mounted in the capital cities and, importantly, the media gave considerable prominence both to the threat and to the campaign against it.

Now that the budget has been released we know that the campaign was successful. NHMRC budget was increased from M\$ 715 this year to M\$ 746 next year (4.3% - slightly better than inflation). ARC and CSIRO budgets were also maintained and University funding had small increases for regional universities but otherwise more-or-less unchanged. So it does seem that the campaign and the obviously positive response from the community persuaded the government to make the cuts elsewhere. Obviously there is a message here for future years. This year the threat was explicit and the response was coordinated and effective. In future years we should be proactive in arguing for improved funding for tertiary education and research. Our arguments are very

powerful – even the Treasury accepts that investment in tertiary education gains returns of around 12% and the famous Access report found that the returns on investment in medical research were even greater. Thus even a fiscally-strapped government faced with developing Australia beyond its commodity-driven boom can be persuaded to see the benefits of growth in these sectors.

If one accepts that Australia needs to reverse its deficit (or at least the argument that it would be political suicide for the Labour party not to), then we need to be thinking about other ways to reduce government spending. Are you aware that Australia has a National Chaplaincy Program which send chaplains to schools to provide spiritual guidance to our children? Given that not all school can provide a full program of science education this would be my personal favourite for reduced funding. I find it hard to believe but this program costs around M\$ 600 per year, almost as much as the NHMRC funding. Furthermore, in the budget it was announced that this program would receive an extra M\$ 222. Which make me realise how far I am from understanding the political pressures on our government.

As your President, I have been invited to attend the UK Physiological Society in Oxford (perks of the office I hear you cry). The main reason for this invitation is that IUPS will be holding its next meeting in Birmingham, UK in 2013 and planning is well under way. IUPS and the host society are keen that other national societies feel involved in this process and my invitation to Oxford includes attending one of these planning meetings. If you have an idea about how IUPS should organise its meetings and want to

have your views transmitted to IUPS, please let me know and I will do my best to pass on your ideas. More particularly, if you want to nominate your favourite scientist to present a lecture at this meeting, you can personally make a nomination going to their website and following the prominent Nominate button <http://www.iups2013.org/>.

On the local front, plans for AuPS Perth 4-9 Dec are well advanced and it will be a joint meeting with ASCEPT and HBPRCA. I hope that record numbers of our members and their students will attend what will be a stimulating and varied meeting.

David Allen

president@auaps.org.au



Perth 2011 Joint AuPS/ASCEPT/HBPRCA Meeting

AuPS Meeting: 4 - 7 December 2011 Full joint Meeting: 4 - 9 December 2011

Venue: [Perth Convention Exhibition Centre](#) 21 Mounts Bay Rd. Perth. WA 6000

Abstract Submission and Registration

Abstract Submission and registration will **open** on Monday 1 August and abstract submission will **close** on Monday 3 October (Midnight).

Early bird registration will close on Monday 10 October (Midnight).

Registration Fees

	Early bird	After Oct 10th
Full member	\$550	\$715
Full non-member	\$770	\$935
Student member	\$275	\$385
Student non-member	\$412	\$522

Membership of AuPS

The subscription is currently \$100 per annum for full members and \$60 per annum for overseas members. Student members are charged \$100 on joining and this provides membership for up to 4 years.

Any non-members are encouraged to apply for membership well in advance of registration closing dates.

We encourage our AuPS members who know fellow non-AuPS physiologists who might be interested in joining the society to pass on this newsletter or application procedures to colleagues.



On line application procedure

You can apply for Ordinary or Student Membership of AuPS on line at <http://aups.org.au/About/Membership/Application/>

Information you will need

For ordinary membership

Name of a member who is willing to sponsor your application

For student membership

Name and email address of your research supervisor

Name and email address of your Head of Department (or Discipline or School)

Conference Dinner

Note that the conference dinner will be held on **Wednesday 7 December**, to allow participation from members of all three societies.



Student Mixer

On Monday night (5th December) the student social event will be held. This is currently being organised along with opportunities to talk to invited speakers about career options and overseas postdoctoral possibilities.

A fee of \$15 will secure you a place on for the Monday night gathering.

For more information contact Donny Camera or Thomas Ansel.

donny.camera@rmit.edu.au

Travel Awards

Students travelling to the meeting should apply for travel grants. The AuPS Council has committed funds and you may be eligible for up to \$250 towards your travel costs.

Flights and Accommodation

Flights to Perth can be costly and also the accommodation. Please book early and make significant savings. Fares are available at the moment for less than \$200 one way.

More details regarding accommodation etc can be found here;

<http://aups.org.au/Meetings/201112/>



Awards

PhD student and Postdoctoral publication prizes

A reminder about the annual Australian Physiological Society PhD student and postdoctoral publication prizes. Details concerning eligibility, how to apply and where to send applications can be found by following the links below. The crucial details are that the prizes are worth \$500 each and the publication must have been published (on paper or online) between 30th September 2010 and 1st October 2011.

The application deadline is **31st October 2011**. Prize winners will be announced at the next AGM (Perth 6th Dec, 2011).

PhD student prize: <http://aups.org.au/Prizes/PhDpublication.html>

Postdoc prize: <http://aups.org.au/Prizes/PostDocPublication.html>

AK McIntyre Award

THE A K McINTYRE PRIZE SPONSORED BY SDR CLINICAL TECHNOLOGY

This prize, named in honour of the Society's first President, is awarded annually to members of the Society who are judged to have made significant contributions to Australian physiological science over their pre-doctoral and early post-doctoral years.

Applicants must be financial Ordinary Members of the Society, and must normally have completed their doctoral degree not more than 5 years prior to the time of their application (although they may apply during their 6th postdoctoral year). They must be proposed by two financial members of the Society, who should each provide a statement of not more than 500 words summarising their achievements. The applicant should also provide a curriculum vitae and a list of published works, including conference proceedings. The application deadline is **31st October 2011**. The prize winner will be announced at the AGM.

The Prize consists of a medal and the sum of \$1000.

More information can be found on the following webpage:

<http://aups.org.au/Prizes/McIntyre.html>

Last year's award was jointly won by Drs Sean McGee (Deakin University) and Robyn Murphy (La Trobe University)

AuPS Council Elections

The next Annual General Meeting (to be held in Perth, 6th December 2011) will see three new Councillors appointed.

Robyn Murphy was nominated as National Secretary in December 2010 and as she was an existing Council member her Councillor role needs to be filled.

Kate Murphy and Lea Delbridge were both elected as Councillors in 2008, and so their terms also finish at the next AGM. We are greatly appreciated the work that Kate and Lea have performed on the Society's behalf.

In the next few months, the National Secretary will seek nominations for three regular Councillor positions and hold an email ballot of the Membership.

Please take the time to consider offering your services to the AuPS Council

Meetings in 2011



The Scandinavian Physiological Society

2011: 12-14 August: Bergen, Norway. <http://tinyurl.com/sps2011>

Fetal and Neonatal Physiological Society



an invitation to join us at the
**Fetal and Neonatal Physiological Society
2011 meeting**
Palm Cove, Australia
10th to 13th July
inquiries to Suzie Miller: suzie.miller@med.monash.edu.au

enquiries to Suzie Miller: suzie.miller@med.monash.edu.au

61st Meeting of Nobel Laureates in Lindau, Germany, 26 June - 1 July, 2011

An advertisement for the Australian & New Zealand Obesity Society's Annual Scientific Meeting. The background is a photograph of a modern building complex with a large arched structure. The text is overlaid on the left side, and a circular logo on the right celebrates 21 years of ANZOS.

Australian & New Zealand Obesity Society's
Annual
Scientific Meeting
Adelaide, South Australia - October 20 - 22, 2011
National Wine Centre of Australia
www.anzos2011.com

ANZOS • CELEBRATING 21 YEARS • ANZOS • CELEBRATING 21 YEARS • ANZOS

AuPS Supporters



This issue of AuPS News was compiled by Simon Potocnik with many thanks to the generous contributors.

The next issue of AuPS News will be distributed to members in September 2011. Please send your contribution for AuPS News to: newsletter@auaps.org.au by the end of August, 2011.