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AuPS Website
<http://auaps.org.au>

AuPS McIntyre Prize co-winner 2010.

Dr Sean McGee

Has the direction of your research changed in the last year (ie since winning the McIntyre award)?

Our core projects have remained pretty constant over the past couple of years, however we've gained some technology platforms and expertise over the past 18 months that has seen us involved in a number of collaborative projects in areas I haven't worked in before, such as cancer, neurodegenerative diseases and even biological psychiatry. It's been a challenge to get up to speed on some of these projects so that I can contribute at an intellectual level, but it's been enjoyable to work in new areas.



What's the best thing about your lab at the moment?

It definitely has to be the people and the location. Everyone in the lab is not only great at what they do, but they are also great people and we have a lot of fun. We're also located at Deakin in Geelong, so many of us live on the coast and enjoy the lifestyle that comes with that.

What do you consider your best work?

I think our finding that the class IIa histone deacetylases are substrates for the AMP-activated protein kinase, which in turn regulates muscle glucose metabolism, is our best work to date. This finding was made when I was a post-doc in Prof. Mark Hargreaves lab and a couple reputable labs from the Salk Institute have recently found that this same signalling axis regulates glucose metabolism in the liver. I think over time this pathway will be revealed as an important one in energy homeostasis.

What do you do to relax?

If I'm not hanging out with my kids, which sometimes isn't so relaxing, I like to get out in the ocean, be it surfing or ski paddling or even kayak paddling on the river. I also get out on the road bike a bit.

Which part of research makes it most enjoyable for you?

There are a number of things I enjoy about research. It's nice to see people develop in their roles and I like the relative creativity involved in conceptualising new ideas and designing studies to bring them to life. But I think the rush of new findings and data is something that is hard to beat.

Is your research direction now the one you prefer or do you see it changing?

At the moment I really like the research space we're in, as we have some exciting niche areas that very few people are working on. However, as we are all forced to adopt more comprehensive and holistic approaches, I guess scientists are better equipped now more than ever to transition to different research areas. I can't see us changing in the short to medium term, but who knows in the long term.

Call for Abstracts and Registration

Australian Physiological Society Annual Scientific Meeting Perth Western Australia

A joint meeting with the Australian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists and the High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia.

4th-7th December 2011

Venue: Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre

Closing Date for Abstracts 3rd October 2011

Early Bird registration closes 10th October



International and keynote speakers include:

AuPS Invited Lecture: Mark Hargreaves University of Melbourne

AuPS Plenary Speaker: Robert Balaban National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, USA

British Pharmacological Society Speaker: Roland S. G. Jones. University of Bath

Japanese Pharmacological Society Speaker: Naruaki Nakaya

Naohiko Anzai. Dokkyo Medical University School of Medicine, Japan

Annamaria de Luca. University of Bari, Italy

Igor R. Efimov. Washington University in St. Louis, USA

Julia Gorelik, Imperial College London, UK

Michael A. Hill, University of Missouri, USA

Michael Joyner, Mayo Clinic, USA



Full details of the 17 symposia can be found on the AuPS website

For full meeting information, including up to date Program Information, Prize details, Registration and Abstract submission go to the website:

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

AuPS local organizing committee:
Professor Don Robertson
(don.robertson@uwa.edu.au)



Conference Dinner

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

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.

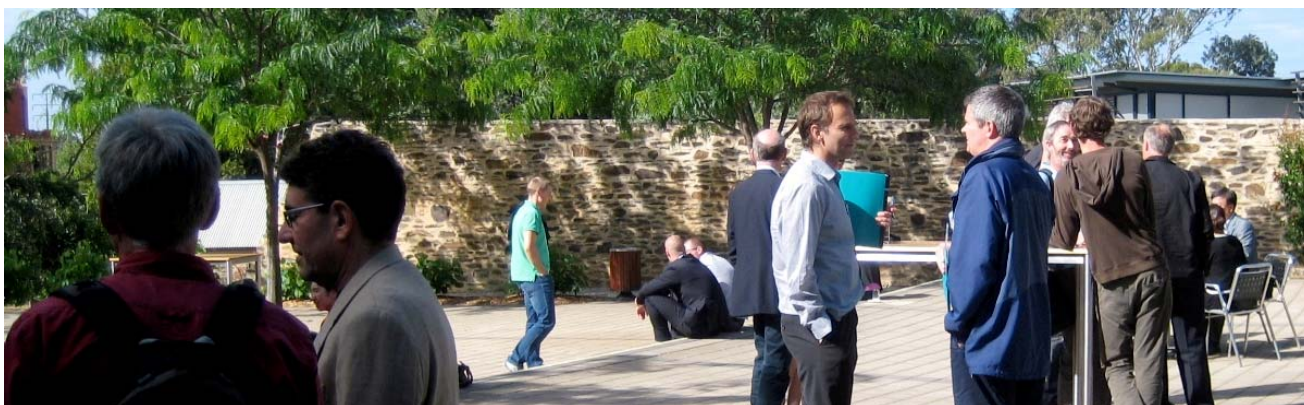
Flights and Accommodation

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

More details regarding accommodation etc can be found here;
<http://aups.org.au/Meetings/201112/>. This will be updated as offers become available.

A new easier way to have your Institution pay your registration

see News from council



AK McIntyre Award

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://www.aups.org.au/Prizes/McIntyre.html>

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 1st October 2010 and 30 September 2011.

The application deadline is **31st October 2011**. Prize winners will be announced at the next AGM.

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

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

WE THANK THE SPONSOR OF THESE PRIZES, SDR CLINICAL TECHNOLOGY

Student Presentation Prizes



Prizes are presented at each meeting for the best graduate student presentation (oral and poster) in physiology and related disciplines.

First and second prizes are normally awarded in both categories.

Only persons who have been approved as Student Members will be eligible for Student Prizes.



Student presenting authors need only indicate they wish to be considered for the presentation prizes when they submit their abstract through the on-line system.

For details; <http://www.aups.org.au/Prizes/>

Supported by SDR Clinical technology and Wiley-Blackwell

The Michael Roberts Excellence in Physiology Education Award



The second year of an annual award bestowed by the Australian Physiological Society in memory of Professor Michael Roberts.

The award will recognise AuPS members who have demonstrated a sustained performance of excellence in the delivery of physiology education at the tertiary level.

Recipients of this Award receive a medal, a cash award of \$1,000 sponsored by Wiley Blackwell and an invitation to deliver a keynote lecture at the Educational Symposium at the forthcoming AuPS University of NSW Meeting in December 2012.

Applications for the second year of the award are now open.

Deadline for applications is 30th September 2011.

Eligibility and selection criteria can be found at: <http://www.aups.org.au/Prizes/Roberts.html>

The award is open to ordinary financial members of the Australian Physiological Society who are actively engaged in physiology education.

Candidates should provide a single page argued case for their nomination and a Curriculum Vitae.

Evidence of achievement and impact could include letters of support from colleagues familiar with the teaching environment, detail of sustained high level teaching evaluation, student recognition, awards, success in obtaining substantial educational research funding and publications.

Please email applications to the AuPS secretary. (secretary@aups.org.au)



2011 AuPS Student Mixer

Monday December 5th, 7pm

ONLY \$15 with registration!!!

For details, please contact:

Donny Camera: donny.camera@rmit.edu.au

Thomas Ansell: 10309876@student.uwa.edu.au

Editor's prizes (New in 2011)

For the Perth meeting, the Editor is offering two prizes.

Best abstract: The definition of "best" will be entirely up to the Editor. Criteria likely to be of some importance are: interest, novelty, presentation, appropriate use of illustrations.

Best prepared abstract: The one that requires the least work to process. Reading the instructions will be of assistance.

Requirements: Submitting author must be a member of AuPS (provisional members included). Abstract must be **submitted on or before 23 September 2011**. *Note that this is before the published deadline.* Submitting author must reply to any queries from the Editor in a timely manner

Prizes: Each prize will consist of one bottle of a premium Tasmanian wine.

No contest: The decision on the winner of each prize will be entirely that of the Editor. No correspondence concerning the choice will be entered into.

News from Council

Meeting Registration - Now even easier.

3rd Party Credit Card Payments

Applicants for membership and meeting registrants often want the amount due to be paid by an administrative officer or supervisor. In the past the only way this could be done was the person making the payment to fax the card details to the Society's I.T. Manager or Treasurer. There are security risks associated with transmitting card details this way, and the process is an additional burden at the busy period leading up to a meeting deadline as well as delaying the process of recording the payments which in turn delays the applicant from registering at the member rate, and/or prevents abstract submission.

When someone applies for membership they are issued with a tax invoice emailed as a PDF file. This invoice provided the means of faxing payment details. Now it also contains URL, username and password that anyone wishing to make the payment can use to make an on-line payment that will immediately be recorded in the applicant's database record. This method is preferred over faxing.

When registering for the meeting, the registration form contains a "Will be paid by" field, where the choices were Credit Card, Direct Debit and Cheque. An additional choice "3rd Party" has been added. When the registrant has completed the form and proceeds to step 2, they can request that a tax invoice is emailed to them. If they have selected "3rd Party", the tax invoice will include URL, account number and authentication key that can be used by anyone to pay the registration fee by credit card.

Again this is the fastest way to have the registration marked as complete in the database, freeing the registrant to submit an abstract.

David F. Davey

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 greatly appreciate the work that Kate and Lea have performed on the Society's behalf.

*The National Secretary is now seeking nominations for **three regular Councillor positions**. Nominations are due 6 October 2011 and the election date will be 25 October 2011. Newly elected Councillors will assume their 3 year positions from the 2011 AGM.*

Simon Potocnik has been the Associate Editor of the Society for the past 4 years. Nominations are also called for Associate Editor, noting that this appointment is made directly by Council. The main role of the Associate Editor is to put together the quarterly Newsletter.

Please take the time to consider offering your services to the AuPS Council. If you would like to know more, please feel free to contact any current Councillors – contact details can be found on the website (<http://aups.org.au/About/council.html>) or in the Newsletters.

AuPS Secure web server. If you ever wondered about the security of the AuPS web site.

If you use our website in any way that requires a username and password, such as consulting the membership database, registering for a meeting or submitting an abstract, you will be directed to 'secure.aups.org.au'. This site is only accessible using the "https" (secure hypertext transfer protocol). Use of this protocol involves the verification of the destination address by way of digital certificate purchased by a certificate authority, and all traffic between your browser and the AuPS server being encrypted with 128 bit technology, the industry standard believed to be totally secure.

This change resulted from a decision to move our credit card service to Westpac, after many problems with NAB that it seemed would never be overcome. Westpac's "PayWay" system only communicates with our server using an https channel.

As more members use wireless technology when they connect to the internet, protecting against eavesdropping through encryption is valuable when usernames and passwords are transmitted. The use of a digital certificate also ensures that when you use the AuPS server you can be assured you are really connected to it and not some rogue site masquerading as AuPS.

The adoption of the secure server does not mean that we collect credit card data. When you make a payment to AuPS by credit (or debit) card, our server passes you on to Westpac with the basic details of the transaction (name, email address, phone number, the amount due and an invoice number). Beyond that the card information you provide goes directly between your browser and the Westpac server, also protected by a digital certificate and encryption. When you finish with Westpac and return to the AuPS site, the basics of the transaction are

communicated to our server: success or failure, the invoice number, amount paid, the date and time of the transaction, the card type and a transaction number, but not the credit card number.

Note that the use of digital certificates and encryption technology protects you against "man-in-the-middle" attacks and fraudulent websites. It does not protect against malware that may have made its way onto the machine where you run the browser. That remains a serious vulnerability that you must protect against using mechanisms suited to your environment.

The newly published AuPS privacy policy can be viewed at;
<http://aups.org.au/About/privacy.php>

Postcard from Madison



Greetings from the Midwest of the USA!

My family and I are having a fantastic experience in Wisconsin's state capital, Madison; spending the last 2 years at the University of Wisconsin. UW-Madison is a huge (>930 acre) campus on the side of beautiful Lake Mendota. The 163 year old university has a long history of quality research, being in the top 5 of all universities in the US for government funded grant income for the last ~25 years, and with total research expenditure last year just tipping over the US\$1 billion mark!

I am currently a Research Fellow in the Department of Comparative Biosciences within the School of Veterinary Medicine. In social settings, when I tell someone where I work, I have to quickly add that I am not a Vet to avoid long stories of sick cats, cows and hamsters. I work in the relatively young lab of Dr Troy Hornberger investigating the regulation and function of the mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) in skeletal muscle, and more specifically mTOR's role in mechanically-induced increases in protein synthesis and muscle mass. It has been a rewarding time for a physiologist learning new molecular biology techniques that can be applied in both cell culture and *in vivo*. My work here has included demonstrating genetically that skeletal muscle mTOR, independent of PI3 kinase/Akt signalling, is necessary and sufficient to induce skeletal muscle hypertrophy, and that mTOR kinase activity is required for this (Goodman et al., *Mol Biol Cell*, 2010).

In addition, we developed an *in vivo*, non-radioactive methodology for determining rates of protein synthesis in whole muscles (and other tissues) using western blots, and at the single fiber level using immunohistochemistry (Goodman et al., *FASEB J*, 2011). While the research continues to move forward, and as the next sub-zero winter begins to loom large in our minds, we do miss Australia, friends, colleagues and our families.

Craig Goodman
Department of Comparative Biosciences
University of Wisconsin-Madison
cgoodman2@wisc.edu

Australian Animal Welfare Strategy and National Implementation Plan 2010–14



**AUSTRALIAN
ANIMAL
WELFARE
STRATEGY**

SUPPORTED BY THE
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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 December 2011 after the Perth meeting. All contributions for AuPS News should be sent to: newsletter@ups.org.au.

Position of Newsletter Editor (AuPS Associate editor) is up for grabs, with lots of help from me. It takes a few hours 4 times a year and you get to know the terrific members of the society and help to contribute to council.