Greetings from the e-news desk. Just a short update before our Annual Scientific Meeting. You are reminded to register NOW (if you haven’t) – see below for information about the ASM to be held this year with the AAS.

See also information about Franco-Australian Travel Grants and details about our 2014 ASM. Feedback is also sought concerning a statement on Home Blood Pressure.

This time next month our Annual Scientific Meeting will have concluded and there will be a new Executive Committee. So don’t forget to make your vote count!

Rob Widdop, Secretary

President’s Message

Our Annual Scientific Meeting is just around the corner. The program showcases members – both old and new (in membership years) - and provides a great opportunity to interact with our Australian Atherosclerosis Society (AAS) colleagues. With bumper numbers of abstracts and attendees, these interactions might be quite interesting! We look forward to welcoming you to the Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute.

And in 2014, after careful consideration, the Executive has agreed to hold the 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting in Adelaide as part of the International Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy Meeting - again in conjunction with the AAS but also with the cardiovascular interest group from ASCEPT (Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology). Please put November 26-28 in your diaries now.
Home blood pressure – your thoughts please

A team of HBPRCA members (Jim Sharman, Faline Howes, Geoff Head, Mark Nelson, Barry McGrath, Michael Stowasser, Markus Schlaich) along with Alison Wilson and Paul Glasziou has developed a draft home blood pressure statement and some resources for general practitioners. This group has also been liaising with the National Heart Foundation (NHF). The hope is that the final document will be endorsed by both the HBPRCA and the NHF and made available as an open source document on both websites and published.

All members of HBPRCA are invited to comment. Please click the links below to see any documents.

- Home BPConsensus Statement_29 Oct 2013
- Appendix A_Instructions for Patients 29 Oct 2013
- Appendix B_Home BP diary 29 Oct 2013
- Appendix C_Assessment Algorithm 29 Oct 2013
- Home BP Electronic diary 29 Oct 2013

Please use track changes or make your changes really obvious (in red) and return all comments and suggestions to the HBPRCA Secretariat by Friday November 22.

The Executive would like to thank Jim for leading this project, and also to thank all members of the writing panel for their time and expertise. And in anticipation, thank you to all HBPRCA members for their comments.

Jaye Chin-Dusting, President

Thank if you have (162 so far..), but if you haven’t ….

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION CLOSES TODAY (NOVEMBER 15)

Click here to register, or here for more information.

Over 180 abstracts (136 HBPRCA and 50 AAS). Great list of invited speakers. Great friends and colleagues.

Bonjour, comment allez-vous?

Funder can….. and knows how to stretch a travel grant

The HBPRCA-Servier Travel Grant which I was privileged to receive allowed a variety of activities in Europe in May and September 2013. In May I gave a plenary lecture at the European Congress of Endocrinology on Aldosterone, Mineralocorticoid Receptors and Hypertension; taught postgraduate students (How to write an abstract/scientific paper/review; What you should get out of your PhD, etc) for an exhausting week in Padua; and spent two weeks working/lecturing in the laboratory of Maria-Christina Zennaro in Paris. In September I spent a week in Scotland, lecturing in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee on Why low-dose Mineralocorticoid Receptor Antagonists should be included in First-line Therapy for all Hypertensives, and a week in Paris back in the laboratory, in discussions with the start-up Impeto, Professor Pierre Corvol and Dr Andre Ullman, and will return to Paris in December for an invited lecture at the Cardiovascular Clinical Trialists Forum. I believe I have profited very much from being able to spend quality time in Europe, and would like to thank very sincerely both the HBPRC and Servier for their support.
Will it be your turn in 2014? Franco-Australian Travel Grant Applications are now open

To facilitate an ongoing association with the European Council for Cardiovascular Research (ECCR), the HBPRCA Executive is making a one-off call for early career researchers (<10 year postdoc) to apply in the current round of applications to attend the annual scientific meeting of the ECCR 2014 (usually in Nice, October; to be confirmed).

It is expected that successful applicants will participate in the ECCR meeting as well as visit a French laboratory for scientific discourse (e.g. meet researchers; present seminar etc.). Before you apply, please be sure that you have agreement from the overseas laboratory that they will host your visit.

To apply you must be a current member of HBPRCA and complete the online application form. Please be sure you have agreement of the host laboratory before you apply.

- The deadline for applications is 31 December 2013 – for travel during 2014
- Click here to sign in, renew if needed, and complete the online application form
- Applications will be judged by a panel of the HBPRCA Executive Committee and notification expected to be made within 4 weeks of the application deadline.
- The degree of support is anticipated to be ~AUD$2,500 towards expenses
- It is anticipated that 2-3 applicants will be supported by this initiative
- The successful applicants will be required to write a feature article (in English) with photos for the e-news!!

The online application requires:

1. Applicant details – a short CV, including current position, year of PhD award, research experience, publications in the last 5 years
2. ECCR meeting – research area/topic, potential title of presentation
3. Host laboratory - details of host researcher(s) and your anticipated activities at host laboratory
4. Outcomes – description of potential outcomes (immediate and longer-term) if awarded funding

We would like to thank Servier Laboratories for their continued support of this program.

Chris Reid, HBPRCA International Liaison

2012 Early Career winner: Max Lim reports on BHS

I am both honored and delighted to have received the High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia 2012 Early Career Oral award which gave me the opportunity to attend and present my research at the British Hypertension Society 2013 annual scientific meeting. The meeting was held on a usual British summer’s day (meaning rainy) at Greenwich University (London) – a scenic location with Greenwich Park and the Royal Observatory to the north overlooking the River Thames at the south. This year’s meeting was well-organized and well-attended by delegates and continues
to develop the two tracked themes, that is, research and hands-on hypertension sessions. The meeting started with an overview presentation entitled “Device management of hypertension beyond renal denervation” by Dr. Mel Lobo, followed by a stimulating debate on renal denervation by two experts in the field: Dr. Mark De Belder and Professor Darrel Francis. This year, the Sir George Pickering Lecture was delivered by Professor John Hall, hailing from the University of Mississippi (USA). Professor Hall is an internationally renowned physiologist and his lecture title was “Pathophysiology of hypertension in obesity and metabolic syndrome”.

In addition to the scientific program, the meeting also provided plenty of opportunities to meet and greet other delegates and speakers. Like HBPRCA, BHS continues to support and encourage research students, early postdoctoral fellows and nurses with an opportunity to present their work and be recognized with the awarding of prizes. Congratulations to the winner of this year’s BHS Young Investigator Oral Prize, Dr Amy Burchell from the University of Bristol, for her presentation titled “MRI is a safe and effective imaging strategy in the investigation of resistant hypertension”. Through the BHS/HBPRCA exchange program, Amy will be participating and presenting her work at the HBPRCA 2014 annual scientific meeting. I was also delighted to receive a thoughtful and beautiful memento (an award certificate enclosed in a Portrait of London hardback book) presented to me by the BHS President Professor Tony Heagerty.

Making the very best of the opportunity I had been given to travel and present my research findings, I was delighted to visit three world leading research institutions: the MRC Centre for Regenerative Medicine (University of Edinburgh), the BHS Glasgow Cardiovascular Research Centre (University of Glasgow), and the National Heart and Lung Institute (Imperial College London). These ‘extra-activities’ have resulted in many fruitful research discussions, potential collaborations and the ability to learn new experimental techniques, all of which will greatly benefit and enhance my ongoing research career.

And so, drawing the report to a close, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the HBPRCA for giving me this valuable experience, and I would encourage all students and early career researchers to present their best work at the next meeting and compete for the rewarding prize.

2014 – 2016 Executive Ballot now open

Another three years is drawing to a close, and so it is time to elect the 2014 - 2016 Executive. The Constitution requires one member from each State, with no more than 5 from any one State. On that basis…, congratulations to Janna Morrison and Anne Barden who are elected unopposed. And Queensland… someone will be co-opted.

It’s terrific to see that so many members from NSW, VIC and TAS are keen to join the Executive and so a ballot is required. This has been set up within “survey monkey” which records details of who votes (only allowing one vote per member) and randomises the names so that “donkey votes” are of little value.

The nominees are:

- Jaye Chin-Dusting (VIC)
- Rob Widdop (VIC)
- Clive May (VIC)
- James Bell (VIC)
- Francine Coehlo-Marques (VIC)
Meetings/Grants/Special Events/News of interest

APCH 2014 Abstract Submission Deadline Extended

If you haven’t submitted an abstract, there is still time!

We have received several requests for an extension of the abstract submission deadline. In order to accommodate these requests, we are pleased to announce that the abstract submission deadline has been further extended to 30 November 2013.

Submit your abstract and contribute to the scientific program at APCH 2014 in the following topics:

- Atherosclerosis
- Combination Treatment
- Epidemiology of hypertension and metabolic disorders
- Membrane Transport
- Pharmacoeconomics
- Transplantation
- And much more! » View the complete list of abstract topics here.

Extended abstract submission deadline: 30 November 2013
We look forward to welcoming you to Cebu!

In keeping with the three rings of the IUA logo, Red for Arterial, Yellow for Lymphatic and Blue for Venous, there will be major components related to Cardiovascular disease, Haemostasis and Thrombosis, Vascular and Endovascular Surgery, Vascular Imaging, Lymphatic disorders and Phlebology. The 2014 program will bring together internationally renowned keynotes from Australia and overseas. All of the speakers are internationally recognised for their expertise in research and practice related to the conference theme.

Acknowledgements
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