Greetings from the e-news desk. Well the ISH/ESH meeting in Athens has just flashed by and we are already looking towards State of the Heart 2014 in late November (read on). However, it would be remiss of me not to highlight some fabulous achievements and interactions related to ISH/ESH meeting (photos below). Firstly, HBPRCA members scooped the major awards with the following all being acknowledged at the meeting:

ESH Bjorn Folkow Award- Garry Jennings
ISH Robert Tigerstedt Lifetime Achievement Award- John Funder
ISH Paul Korner Award- Geoff Head
ISH New Investigator Oral Presentation Award- Lucinda Hilliard
ISH New Investigator Poster Award (runner-up)- Katrina Mirabito
(well done to Kate Denton and team since both Lucinda and Kat are from her lab!)

And not forgetting, as previously mentioned in an e-news: AHA Council for High Blood Pressure Research, Irvine Page – Alva Bradley Lifetime Achievement Award 2014- Brian Morris.

Secondly, the HBPRCA and the European Council for Cardiovascular Research (ECCR) hosted two Joint Breakfast Workshops on themes of great interest to both Councils (RAS; hypertension co-morbidities), which were well-attended despite the early starts. These workshops provide a great opportunity for our early career researchers to be formally acknowledged in an international meeting. It was also pleasing to see that many HBPRCA members also attended an ECCR dinner on the Saturday night and these scientific/social interactions continue to strengthen links between our Councils. Those HBPRCA members who were still around on the last night and were not jaded/sick/double booked attended a smaller Aussie dinner, in the tradition of ISH meetings, and were not disappointed. Anyone
interested in the panoramic views of Athens including the Acropolis should ask Geoff Head for a selection of photos!

Finally, there are many reports in this e-news from recipients of travel grants from the Foundation for High Blood Pressure Research, as well as from Susie Mihailidou and Louise Burrell who hosted a very successful RAAS satellite meeting.

Please take the time to read these reports which really show the vibrancy of the Council and, importantly, its members. Enjoy! Rob Widdop, Secretary

In this issue

- President’s Message
- Ambulatory BP monitors available
- Membership renewal reminder
- ISH/ESH reports – Awardees, YI travel grant recipients, RAAS satellite
- Meetings and other news

President’s Message

A reminder that the 2014 Annual Scientific Meeting will be held in Adelaide as part of the International Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy Meeting – again in conjunction with the Australian Atherosclerosis Society but also with the International Australian Vascular Biology Society and the cardiovascular interest group from ASCEPT (Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology). Please put November 26-28 in your diaries now and plan on attending State of the Heart 2014.

Young Researchers get together – November 25, Adelaide
Francine Marques and the Young Researcher Committee have put together a great New Investigator Symposium on November 25 (starts 4pm) at the University of South Australia. It will be followed by a HBPRCA-funded social function, so please put this in your diary and plan on being in Adelaide for this great get together. All student/early career members of HBPRCA, AAS and AVBS will be welcome – and there’s no registration fee. Please register via this link – there is no registration fee.

1600 Career discussion Professors Jim Sharman, Stephen Harrap and Manny Noakes plus ……

1715 Presentation skills Professor Jim Sharman

1815 Social function

Ambulatory BP monitors available
A small number of ambulatory Welch Allyn BP monitors are still available – donated by Bristol-Myers Squibb to HBPRCA, these are now free to a good home. Any member interested in receiving one or more should email the Secretariat by the end of May with a request outlining the desired number, who will be using them, what for and how often. Monitors will be distributed after review of all applications.

Jaye Chin-Dusting, President

And the Award goes to….
ISH Robert Tigerstedt Lifetime Achievement Award to John Funder. This award was originally endowed by Merck Sharp & Dohme International in 1974. The award is presented to a person whose achievements reflect distinguished contributions in research, teaching or clinical activities relating to the aetiology, epidemiology, pathology or treatment of high blood pressure and successful mentorship of younger colleagues.

ISH Paul Korner Award supported by the High Blood Pressure Research Foundation, to Geoff Head. This award was endowed by the High Blood Pressure Research Foundation in 2013 to honour the late Paul Kroner, an internationally renowned expert in the field of hypertension with a special interest in the neuroscience of blood pressure. The award is presented to a person who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to research on hypertension in the broad field of neuroscience.

ISH New Investigator Oral Presentation Awards, Supported by Daiichi-Sankyo, to Lucinda Hilliard. These awards were established in 2012 to encourage New Investigators and recognise excellence in scientific contribution at the ISH Biennial Scientific Meetings and will be awarded to New Investigators judged from a group of finalists to have given the best oral presentations.

ISH New Investigator Poster Presentation Awards, Supported by Daiichi-Sankyo, to Katrina Mirabito (runner-up). These awards were established in 2012 to encourage New Investigators and recognise excellence in scientific contribution at the ISH Biennial Scientific Meetings and will be awarded to New Investigators judged from a group of finalists to have given the best poster presentations.

ESH Bjorn Folkow Award – Professor Garry Jennings, considered a person who has carried out important original research on pathogenesis of hypertension. This award was established with the collaboration of AstraZeneca in recognition of the contribution made by Bjorn Folkow to cardiovascular physiology and pathophysiology.

Thanks if you have (216 so far..), but if you haven’t ….

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS WERE DUE BY MARCH 31
Annual renewal for HBPRCA is due by March 31 – regardless of when you applied for membership or renewed in the previous year. Student members are required to renew their membership, even though no membership fee is payable. We have around 125 members who still haven’t quite got around to it, so please renew now to:

• maintain your membership
• continue to receive e-news
• receive discounted registration fees at the Annual Scientific Meeting
  o November 26-28 2014. Adelaide Convention Centre
  Combined Annual Scientific Meetings of
  ▪ High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia
  ▪ Australian Atherosclerosis Society
  ▪ Australian Vascular Biology Society
  ▪ International Society of Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy
  in conjunction with the Cardiovascular Interest Group of the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists
be eligible for awards and travel grants at the Annual Scientific Meeting

Full members: Annual Fee of $125 (plus GST if Australian)
Student members: No fee payable, but you must renew

To renew, please click here. Your user name is usually your email usually

Want to join AAS or pay both fees together? Please select the option for both memberships and this will automatically submit your application or renew membership.

With my very best wishes for a strong and vibrant society,

Janna Morrison, Membership Secretary

Annual Scientific Meeting 2014

STATE OF THE HEART 2014
26-28 November 2014- Adelaide Australia

Don’t forget that for the HBPRCA ASM is part of State of the Heart 2014 - the annual scientific meetings of the International Society of Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy (ISCP), the Australian Atherosclerosis Society (AAS), the High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia (HBPRCA), and the Australian Vascular Biology Society (AVBS) will be held as one, in conjunction with the Cardiovascular Special Interest Group of the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists (ASCEPT CV-SIG).


Abstracts Open August 1
Accommodation bookings – special rates available, see website for details and book ASAP. With 400 delegates expected, rooms will disappear.

Confirmed speakers

Wednesday 26th November

- Jennie Gamble, Grant Drummond, Jaye Chin-Dusting, Yi Zhu, Yunzeng Zou, Wei Kong (China-Aus Vascular Biology)
- Tom Marwick (HBPRCA Colin I Johnston Lecture)

Thursday 27th November

- John Horowitz (ISCP Henry Neufeld Lecture)
- Veronique Angeli (AVBS Session: Angiogenesis)
- Harvey White (ISCP Plenary Lecture)
- Oliver Soehnlein (Joint Session: Inflammation)
- John Chalmers (ISCP/HBPRCA Session: Treating High Blood Pressure)

Friday 28th November
HBPRCA members hopped onto planes and attended several international meetings – the International Society of Hypertension/ESH meeting, Putting the A back into RAAS and then Aldo and Endocrine meetings. Read reports from Young Investigators who received Foundation for HBP Research travel grants, marvel at our award winners and drool at the photos….

Mahkala Kammy, University of Melbourne writes …. Due to the generosity of the High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia and the Young Investigator Travel Award, I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the 2014 Joint Scientific Meeting of the European Society of Hypertension (ESH) and International Society of Hypertension (ISH) in Athens, Greece, to present my research. The conference had a great balance of basic and clinical research as well as thought-provoking debates and symposiums in a gorgeous location steeped in history. I received great feedback for both of the posters that I presented and this has been invaluable in adding depth of knowledge to my research. Additionally, as the conference was attended by many experts in the field of hypertension and cardiovascular disease, it provided the opportunity to build research networks that will help me to obtain post-doctoral employment and establish collaborations. I enjoyed the experience and thank HBPRCA for this opportunity. I also strongly recommend all HBPRCA members to apply for future grants and awards to experience a similarly amazing experience.

Suang Koid, St Vincent’s Institute of Medical Research was honoured to have received a Foundation of High Blood Pressure Research Young Investigator Travel Award to present her research at the joint ESH-ISH scientific meeting held recently in Athens. “The meeting provided a great opportunity for me to learn about recent developments in the broad field of hypertension. A common theme at the meeting was the role of the immune system in hypertension; in his presidential lecture Professor Schiffrin gave an up-to-date summary of the immune mechanisms underlying hypertension. The highlights of the meeting for me were the sessions about experimental hypertension and the renin-angiotensin system. The casual nature of the oral and poster sessions encouraged discussion, which provided me with feedback on my work, and the opportunity to expand my professional network. In addition, I had the chance to meet again with colleagues and friends met at previous HBPRCA meetings and at the ISH Sydney 2012 Scientific Meeting, and attended a casual dinner with members of the HBPRCA and the European Council for Cardiovascular Research (ECCR), where I enjoyed lively conversations. I also met some of the members of the ISH New Investigator Committee. Attending this meeting was a very fulfilling experience and I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to share my research with experts in the field in such a friendly atmosphere. The meeting also provided a welcome break from the Melbourne winter!”
And Martin Schultz, University of Tasmania says he was lucky to receive a Foundation for High Blood Pressure Research Young Investigator Travel Award to attend and present his research at the International Society of Hypertension (ISH) meeting in Athens, Greece in June 2014. “My presentation, titled ‘Exercise Hypertension’ was scheduled in the joint ECCR and HBPRCA breakfast session, which was a fantastic forum for me to deliver one of my first invited presentations to a significant international expert audience. My work was well received, and during the conference I was able to meet with multiple experts in the field of hypertension research which will aid my career into the future.

Whilst in Europe, I was also able to attend two institutions in the United Kingdom (Imperial College London and Cardiff Metropolitan University) to develop research collaborations and exchange of ideas. I returned home with several projects and am excited about sustaining ongoing international collaborations.

I sincerely thank the foundation for this award and their commitment to supporting young researchers in the field of hypertension. I encourage other young members of the HBPRCA to consider applying for these opportunities in the future.”

Francine Marques, Federation University Australia, says the ISH 2014 in Athens was a fantastic opportunity to present her work and network, so is very grateful to the Foundation for High Blood Pressure Research for the support. “I participated in several meetings and events for the ISH New Investigator Network, discussed my research with colleagues, and established new collaborations. My two talks were well received by my peers, especially the one at the Austin Doyle Award session. Although I did not receive the award, I got very positive feedback from several people. Besides the meeting, Athens and the islands are also incredible beautiful and full of history, and the food is great, so I had a fantastic experience overall! Thank you, Foundation for High Blood Pressure Research!"

Penny Veloudi, University of Tasmania presented to a packed auditorium. “Having received a Young Investigator Travel Award from the Foundation for High Blood Pressure Research, I was able to attend the Joint Meetings of the International Society of Hypertension and European Society of Hypertension, held in Athens, Greece. The meeting was an international event with a huge number of participants (more than 6000), jointly organised by the Hellenic Society of Hypertension. Sessions covered recent developments in hypertension and also other conditions related to hypertension, such as diabetes mellitus, obesity, heart failure, peripheral arterial disease, etc. The meeting also provided a great opportunity to attend an exhibition of the latest technology in assessing various parameters of cardiovascular health.

I am currently in the first year of my PhD study at the Menzies Research Institute of Tasmania, University of Tasmania, where I am studying the role of Blood Pressure Variability in target organ damage. A number of sessions were extremely interesting for me and I enjoyed the opportunity to hear about new ideas from great researchers of the field. This will help my project by implementing new ideas and exploring new options.

It was a great opportunity for me to present at both the oral and poster sessions of this conference, one of the largest scientific event on hypertension worldwide. At the same time, it was really encouraging and rewarding to be among the 10 finalists who presented their poster for the ISH New Investigator Committee Poster Presentation Award in Clinical Science. I have networked with a number of investigators and exchanged valuable ideas that will help me develop my project further.”
I would like to thank the Foundation for High Blood Pressure Research for its part in making it possible for me to attend this excellent meeting and I look forward to another 2 years of great research experience as a student member of the HBPRCA.”

Joon Lim, Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute wrote a thesis. Given he took his entire family with him (yes, he has a wife and kids!) we are wondering where he found the time. The International Society of Hypertension conference is a multidisciplinary, scientific meeting that features plenary and award lectures, workshops, oral and poster sessions, on-site career services and exhibits featuring an array of equipment, supplies and publications required for research laboratories and experimental study. The conference aims to bring together scientists that represent academic institutions and university as well as government agencies, non-profit organizations and private corporations. The meeting is comprised of nearly 14,000 scientists and exhibitors and provides an ideal opportunity for scientists to present and discuss research outcomes and future visions.

Participation: Our laboratory has shown that the Obesity related hypertension is caused by neurogenic alteration of leptin signaling pathway. Furthermore, our results indicate that the hypertension is likely mediated by an overactive sympathetic nervous system driven by neurons in the brain located in the Dorsomedial Hypothalamus and Ventromedial hypothalamus. Our current research aim has been to elucidate the chemical nature of these neurons to determine the mechanisms responsible for this form of hypertension.

This particular conference was of interest to me as it was not only a unique opportunity to communicate our findings to a group of international world-renowned experts but it was also a means of critical feedback. I presented an oral presentation entitled: “Altered downstream regulation of Leptin on haemodynamic and renal sympathetic nerve activity in high fat fed rabbits” which received continuous interest during a two hour presentation phase from numerous physiologists and pharmacologists with and without backgrounds in neuroscience. The one on one interaction and discussion led to positive suggestions as to how best to continue to unravel the overactivity of neurons within this brain region.

Benefits: It is vital to present and engage with researchers not only within Australia but to communicate directly to a wider international audience which was an opportunity made available by this particular forum.

It is necessary to note that although hypertension affects one third of Australians and is a major contributor to cardiovascular disease, recommended treatments do not typically account for a contribution by the sympathetic nervous system. This study is relevant to all hypertensive patients as the underlying mechanism is an over active sympathetic nervous system.

Thank you: I would like to personally acknowledge the generosity of sponsorship and to thank The FOUNDATION FOR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE RESEARCH whose generous support allowed me to evolve and share my work with my peers. This has greatly enhanced my research capabilities by way of further contributing to my understanding of the type of research possible and necessary so that the mechanisms responsible for generating high blood pressure can be determined.

Enayet Chowdhury, Monash University, comments “Owing to the generosity of Foundation for High Blood Pressure Research in providing me with a travel award, I was able to attend and present my research findings at the International Society of Hypertension Scientific Meeting 13-16 June 2014 in Athens, Greece. The conference attracted numerous internationally renowned scientists in the field of hypertension research. There were several scientific sessions by these researchers which were both interesting and stimulating. I attended several of these sessions. I have come back home with many new ideas which I am planning to integrate in my future research work. The Travel Grant allowed me to present my research as an oral communication in the conference titled as, “Progression of renal function in elderly treated hypertensive patients: findings from 2nd Australian National Blood Pressure Study”. I received a number of positive and useful comments on my work. I also had a chance to meet with renowned researchers in the field of hypertension (ed – the ones in the photo?). Overall, I am immensely grateful to HBPRCA for providing me the opportunity to attend this conference. Without the Travel Grant my attendance in this conference would not be possible. Thank you.”
Rachel Climie, University of Tasmania, also escaped Hobart – and is already planning to do so again in 2016. “I recently received a Foundation of High Blood Pressure Research Young Investigator Travel Award to attend the recent International Society of Hypertension (ISH) meeting. I am so grateful to the Foundation for this award and the opportunity to meet with my colleagues in Athens. I attended the Pulse of Asia Symposium where I presented two posters (and won a prize for one of the posters!) and was able to discuss my work with other researchers that also work in central blood pressure. I attended a breakfast session on exercise hypertension and heard about all the latest findings in blood pressure research from a number of international experts at ISH itself. All in all it was a great conference and great experience and I am looking forward to ISH in South Korea in 2016!”

Monalisa Padhee, Monash University found time for dinner, oops, sorry, networking with Aussie colleagues at Orizontes Lycavitou” located on Lycanetus Hill, Athens. I am delighted to share my personal experience attending the joint Meeting of the European Society of Hypertension (ESH) and International Society of Hypertension (ISH) held in Athens, Greece from June 13-16 in 2014. I would especially like to thank the High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia (HBPRCA) for providing me with a ‘Foundation for High Blood Pressure Research Young Investigator Travel Award’ that provided me with the necessary financial support to attend the meeting. The conference not only covered broad areas in the field of hypertension but also included a range of other diseases associated with hypertension such as coronary heart disease, obesity, heart failure and hence brought together a variety of professionals including clinicians, research scientists, and epidemiologists. This opportunity provided an excellent platform for me to share recent findings and developments in the field. I attended the meeting as an invited speaker by the HBPRCA-ECRR (European Council for Cardiovascular Research) to present on the topic ‘In vitro culture and embryo transfer alters the regulation of blood pressure in early postnatal life’ in a Workshop entitled ‘Co-morbidities of Hypertension’. During the meeting I also presented two abstracts entitled “In vitro embryo culture: a periconceptional manipulation that leads to altered baroreflex sensitivity in early postnatal life” and “Different effects of embryo transfer and in vitro culture on the phosphatidylinositol-3 kinase (pi3k) signalling pathway in the heart in fetal and postnatal life” in the late breaking sessions as oral presentations. I enjoyed this opportunity as it helped me to present my research to an international audience and get some valuable feedback on my findings and the direction of my research. The other highlights of the meeting included many interesting plenary sessions, meet the expert sessions as well as training sessions organised by industry that were very informative. The poster sessions and events such as new investigator mentor sessions, presidential dinner as well as the informal dinner of the HBPRCA at the conference presented me with great opportunities for networking. The knowledge I have gained from the conference has certainly helped my research and future career development and I would like to thank HBPRCA for this opportunity.

Cardiovascular and Renal Research Group, Department of Physiology, Monash University were very privileged and excited to each receive a Foundation for High Blood Pressure Research Young Investigator Travel Award to present our research at the 2014 ESH-ISH meeting, held in Athens, Greece. World-renowned researchers and clinicians, young investigators and students travelled from all over the world to attend the meeting – from 87 countries in total. The scientific program covered the latest cutting-edge advances in basic research in blood pressure control and hypertension development, as well emerging diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to treat hypertension in the clinic. Excitingly, we were both nominated in New Investigator Award Sessions at the meeting. Lucinda was the winner of the International Society of Hypertension New Investigator Committee Oral Presentation Award for her presentation entitled “Pharmacological angiotensin type 2 receptor stimulation modulates acute renal function in female but not male spontaneously hypertensive rats”. And Katrina was the runner-up of the International Society of Hypertension New Investigator Committee Poster Award for her poster entitled “Pressor responsiveness to angiotensin II in adult female mice is enhanced with age: Role of the angiotensin type 2 receptor”.

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We were also very fortunate to attend the “Putting the A back into RAAS” official satellite to the ESH-ISH meeting in the very beautiful and relaxing Santorini. This provided the perfect opportunity to meet, greet and hear from colleagues and leading researchers from our own immediate research field – the renin-angiotensin aldosterone system – and discuss our latest research projects and break-throughs. Both the RAAS satellite and ESH-ISH meetings also provided invaluable opportunities to socialize with other delegates. This included a cocktail party in Athens held by the ISH New Investigator Committee during which Katrina took part in the inaugural mentorship program.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the Foundation for High Blood Pressure Research for their financial support and this fantastic opportunity.

Inaugural Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System Meeting: Putting the A back into RAAS
Santorini, Greece, 10-12 June 2014 – Official Satellite to 2014 ESH/ISH Meeting
Athens, Greece
(and endorsed by HBPRCA).

Susie Mihailidou and Louise Burrell
say “It is with great pleasure that we write this report for our E-News on behalf of our Organising Committee members: Anthony Ashton, George Bakris, Robert Carey, Mark Cooper, Kate Denton, Carlos Ferrario, Toshiro Fujita, Peter Fuller, John Funder, Stephen Harrap, Frederic Jaisser, Colin Johnston, Martin Reincke, Michael Stowasser, Rob Widdop, Morag Young and our fabulous Secretariat, Jennifer Seabrook.

As the pictures show, this is a fantastic location and we had a great time both in enjoying the views but also the science, with new friendships and collaborations established from such a focused meeting.

Over 50 delegates from 14 countries attended – Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States. We thank our sponsors, European Society of Endocrinology, the COST Network, Daiichi Sankyo, Attoquant, DiaSorin, Mitsubishi-Tanabe and Servier.

We developed a program that included presentations from leaders in this field as well as young investigators and students. Clinical and basic research into regulation of RAAS in the brain, vessels, kidneys, heart and bone were presented, as well as novel therapeutic targets for cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndrome, kidney disease and aging. New techniques for both research and clinical diagnostics were also presented which facilitated discussion for collaborations. This was a great opportunity for young researchers to interact with the who’s who of RAAS.

Dreams do come true and we encourage members of the HBPRCA to continue to be adventurous and plan such events, which make great memories!”

Meetings and other items of interest
Central Cardiovascular and Respiratory Control: Future Directions (CCRCFD) Conference.

The CCRCFD organising committee is pleased to announce that abstract submissions will open from July 16th for the 2014 CCRCFD conference. As always this conference provides a relaxed forum for presentation and discussion of the latest research in the field of central cardiovascular and respiratory control. The two-day conference will be held on the 15-16th September at the AMREP theatre in Melbourne.
More information about abstract submission and registration can be found on the following website: http://aabpmc.org/main/page_upcoming_events_crcfd.html

We look forward to receiving your abstracts and seeing you in September!

**XXVI Congress of the International Union of Angiology 10-14 August 2014 in Sydney, Australia**

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.

**AHMRC CONGRESS 2014**

Registrations and abstract submission are now open for the 53rd ASMR National Scientific Conference. The ASMR NSC with its theme of "Transdisciplinary Research" is being held within the Australian Health and Medical Research Congress from Sunday 16th to Wednesday 19th of November 2014 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

**ASCEPT 2014**

A joint venture between the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists (ASCEPT) and the Molecular Pharmacology of GPCRs (MPGPCR) meeting. The theme for the meeting will be “Therapeutic Agents and Drug Targets: GPCRs and Beyond”.

The conference will bring together world-class experts, early career researchers and students all actively engaged in either academic or industrial pre-clinical and clinical pharmacology with a large number focused on GPCR research – we anticipate that there will be approximately 350-400 attendees at the meeting from Australia, New Zealand as well as Asia, Europe and the United States.

**SALT REDUCTION**

For all the latest news about salt reduction – research, public awareness campaigns, activities, click here for the George Institute for International Health website.
Acknowledgements

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