



**AUSTRALASIAN SOCIETY FOR STEM CELL  
RESEARCH**

ABN 45 374 899 784

PO Box 8159, Monash University LPO  
Wellington Road, Clayton Victoria 3800, Australia

[www.asscr.org](http://www.asscr.org)

[info@asscr.org](mailto:info@asscr.org)

# **Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research**

## **Annual Report**

**2017-2018 Financial year**



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**11<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research**

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2018, 2.00- 4.00pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time**

**This AGM will be held by Teleconference –**

**Please dial in taking time differences into consideration**

Please use the following information to dial in:

Australian Teleconference Toll Free Dial In Number: **1 800 896 323**

New Zealand Teleconference Toll Free Dial In Number: **0800 441984**

Teleconference Participant Code: **545 838 9303**

(If you are dialling in from any other country, please contact the Secretary  
([apecbay@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:apecbay@unimelb.edu.au)) for your dial-in number.)

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and Apologies (Melissa Little)
2. Acceptance of the Minutes from the ASSCR 2017 AGM (Appendix 1)
3. Results of Committee election process and welcome to new Committee members (Melissa Little)
4. Acceptance and comments from incoming President (Ed Stanley)
5. Treasurer's Report 2017-18 Financial Year (Clare Parish)
6. Vote on changes to membership regulations (page 10, Annual Report)
7. Resolutions  
"Be it RESOLVED that the meeting affirms the existing annual ASSCR membership fee structure (including GST) for 2019/2020:  
1 year: Full membership \$120. Students \$60. Associate \$120.  
2 year: Full membership \$210. Students \$105. Associate \$210.  
3 year: Full membership \$290. Students \$145. Associate \$290.  
New members who join the ASSCR during the year shall pay a fee equal to:  
(a) the full annual subscription amount if they join between 1 August and 31 January; or  
(b) a *pro rata* annual subscription based on the remaining part of the subscription year; or  
(c) \$0 if they join between 1 May and 31 July or their subscription includes the following year."
8. Reports from Subcommittee Chairs and other ASSCR Activities
9. ISSCR2018 (Melissa Little)
10. Input and Ideas from Members
11. Other Business
12. Hand-Over to new Committee



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## **President's Report: January-December 2018**

As President of the Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research, I am pleased to be able to present to you this Annual Report for 2017-2018.

The major activity of the Society for this reporting year has been to host the International Society for Stem Cell Research meeting held at the Convention Centre in Melbourne 20-23 June, 2018. This was a major success, not only for our Society but for the ISSCR. The meeting was very well attended from a meeting not held in the US with final attendance figures just shy of 2,900 delegates drawn from over 20 different countries. Not surprisingly, but gratifyingly for ASSCR as the host society, we had a record number of Australian delegates (561 in total), with a very high proportion of Australian Plenary (6.7%), Concurrent invited (8.6%) and abstract-selected (19.8%) speakers from our own research community.

Your ASSCR Committee played a major role in supporting the ISSCR meeting and significantly contributed to its success. ASSCR involvement in the bidding, planning and execution of ISSCR 2018 dates back through three prior Presidents (>5 years) with Professor Caroline Gargett developing the bid in her term as President and A/Prof. Michael O'Connor taking on the role of local organisation in his term as President. My own contribution to the fundraising for the meeting and the organisation of the scientific agenda in my role as Chair of the Scientific Organising committee spanned more than 3 years; such is the nature of bringing together such a meeting. ASSCR's role did not stop at raising the funds to bring the meeting here. Together with the support of the National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia, a total of ~\$39,000 (\$36,735 from NSCFA + \$2400 from ASSCR) in travel support was provided to ensure that student and ECR members could attend the meeting. Under the passionate vision and direction of A/Prof Megan Munsie, in her role as Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee Chair, our Society also co-hosted with the NSCFA a wonderful public event on stem cells at Deakin Edge on the evening prior to the formal start of the meeting. A detailed report of this event can be found under the report from this Subcommittee. As President, I would note that this event was a highlight of the week. During the week of the meeting, ASSCR was also fortunate enough to have support from the Melbourne Convention Bureau to engage Science in Public as our media liaison team. With the able support of Tanya Ha and Niall Byrne from Science in Public, the events of the meeting and the researchers presenting at the meeting were highlighted in media across Australia, ensuring visibility of the progress and excitement around stem cell research to the broader community.

As a Board member of the ISSCR, I can attest to the enthusiastic feedback I have had from ISSCR for the scientific quality of the meeting, the professionalism of the venue and the



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attention from the media. As President, I was immensely proud to see our very own A/Prof. Megan Munsie receive the ISSCR Public Service award, highlighting the incredible contribution she has and is making to ethics and policy in this field worldwide. I would thank all the ASSCR members whose high quality scientific presentations showcased the excellence of Stem Cell research in this country. I would note also the hard work of Kat Futrega, our Membership and Communications Subcommittee Chair, and the many other Society members actively Tweeting during the meeting. From my perspective, there was a general excitement around the translational advances now being made in this field and it was fabulous to see the tangible engagement from the corporate and venture capital sector. I certainly hope that this was a learning experience for all the ASSCR member who attended. A full report is provided below.

In 2019, ASSCR will return to holding an annual national scientific meeting. As in the past, this is proposed to be a joint meeting. Prof. Ed Stanley, in his role as Vice President, has been actively engaging with both the Australasian Society for Cell and Gene Therapy, with whom we held a joint scientific meeting in 2017, as well as the Australian chapter of the International Cell Therapy Society to hold a tripartite scientific meeting on 13-15 November 2019. Details are yet to be finalised. We would note that Melbourne will again host a major international meeting in 2019, this time the Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Cell and Gene Therapy Society. For the interest of our members, this meeting is scheduled for 29 May to 1 June 2019.

Finally, in this report, you will see the updates from the various subcommittees working on your behalf as well as the announcement of the Annual General Meeting. As this once again does not coincide with our annual scientific meeting, the AGM will be held by teleconference. Please note that the holding of an AGM is a legal requirement for the Society and the meeting must be quorate for any voting to occur. Hence, I would urge you as members to put this in your diary for Tuesday 4 December, as per the details on page 3 of the report.

As announced at the 2017 Annual General Meeting, three new members were elected to the 2018 ASSCR Committee, and the Committee consists of:

**ASSCR Committee Executive Members**

*Prof. Melissa Little* (Murdoch Childrens Research Institute): President, 2017–18

*Prof. Ed Stanley* (Murdoch Childrens Research Institute): Vice President, 2017–18

*Assoc. Prof. Clare Parish* (Florey Institutes of Neurosciences): Treasurer, 2018–19

*Assoc. Prof. Alice Pébay* (University of Melbourne): Secretary, 2018–19

**ASSCR Committee Ordinary Members**

*Dr. Kathryn Futrega* (Queensland University of Technology): Membership and Communications Subcommittee Chair, 2018–19



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*Dr Margret Schuller*: Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee Chair, 2018–19

*A/Prof. Megan Munsie* (University of Melbourne; Stem Cells Australia): Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee Chair, 2017–18

*A/Prof. Helen Abud* (Monash University): Conference and Awards Subcommittee Chair, 2017–18

*A/Prof. Liang Qiao* (Westmead Institute for Medical Research): Professional Development and Junior Investigators Subcommittee Chair, 2017–18

### **Overview of ASSCR Committee and Subcommittee Activities for 2018**

i) Organising for the 2018 ISSCR Conference, including handling sponsorship pledges, and organising the public forum in terms of its scope, audience and display of the Stem Cell Stories Exhibition.

- travel award organisation led by the Conference and Awards Subcommittee and Treasurer  
- Public forum led by the Policy, Ethics & Translation Subcommittee

ii) Management of Society finances led by the Treasurer, including investment of funds.

iii) Continued implementation of the Society Rules (e.g., updating position descriptions and formalising assessment and approval of membership application.)

iv) Creation of the 2018 Annual Report and organisation of the 2018 ASSCR Committee election.

### **ISSCR 2018, Melbourne Australia**

The ASSCR committee is pleased to report that the International Society for Stem Cell (ISSCR) Annual Meeting 2018 held in Melbourne, Australia (20-23 June) was an absolute success. This great feat was underpinned by the enthusiastic contribution of almost 2,900 attendees from around the world, including scientists, physicians, advocates, patients, exhibitors, sponsors, science communicators and high school students.

Some statistics for you: Overall, the ISSCR meeting hosted 2,832 delegates. Of these, 561 were from Australia, accounting for 21% of all registrations - just tipping the US delegates who came in at 532. A wonderful turnout was from Asia including 218 from China, 309 from South Korea, and 360 from Japan. Invited speaker demographics was 46.2 % female and 8.6 % Australian. When including abstract selections, Australia reached 14.7% with a combined total of 23 speakers.

Highlights from the meeting include:

- The week took off with a Public Forum "Stem Cell Research – Now and in the Future". See report below.



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- The ISSCR Public Service Award was presented to A/Prof Megan Munsie (Uni Melbourne) for her many years of public outreach and advocacy to policy makers regarding issues with stem cell science and its translation to the clinic.
- The ISSCR Award for Innovation was presented to Prof Michele De Luca and Prof Graziella Pellegrini (Uni Modena, Italy) and their team for pushing the boundaries of basic stem cell science, gene therapy and surgical methods to treat rare debilitating skin diseases.
- The Patient Advocate Session from Daniel Feller featured a beautiful stem cell story in the hope to find a cure for a rare genetic disease, Usher Syndrome, for a young boy named Harry (Genetic Cures Australia).
- Prof Jennifer Doudna (Uni California) gave an inspirational closing Keynote Address highlighting the importance of basic science and her contribution to the discovery of CRISPR-Cas systems and the future of gene editing.
- The overall gender balance for speakers at the meeting came in at 43.6%, with 51.4% of concurrent symposia speakers (including those selected from abstracts) being women.
- The sophistication of the methods to derive tissues and organoids including cardiac, kidney, intestine, liver, blood, brain, muscle, skin, and eye from stem cells was showcased in many oral and poster presentations.
- We are closer than ever to stem cell clinical trials for Parkinson's, demyelinating disease, blindness, diabetes, leukemia and other cancers.
- Students and early career researchers shared their research and professional experiences with the public, senior scientists and each other throughout the week – and even had a blast at the Junior Investigator Social Event!
- Victorian high school students took social media by storm! - relaying stem cell science to the 'twitter-verse' - follow them @VICSciSquad
- The winners of the ASSCR Stem Cell Image Contest were presented with their prizes at the ASSCR booth (sponsored by ThermoFisher) – images can be viewed on our website.

Thank you to all of you who were participated in the meeting.

**Travel Awards to Support ASSCR student and early career researchers to attend ISSCR in Melbourne June 2018.**

We were very pleased that many of our student and early career members had the opportunity to attend the ISSCR meeting held in Melbourne in June. This was greatly facilitated by awards provided by ISSCR, ASSCR and the generous support of the National Stem Cell Foundation. Students and early career members submitted abstracts that were assessed and ranked by reviewers nominated by the ISSCR. Awards were given based on



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ranking in this process. Several of these awardees were selected to deliver oral presentations. We were able to offer 67 student and early career researchers (ECRs) the opportunity to attend ISSCR due to the amazing support of the NSCFA. Awards were provided to trainee scientists from all over Australia with applicants from Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Gold Coast and Melbourne. 2 awards, supported by ASSCR were provided to members from New Zealand. There was quite an even split between awards to PhD students and early career researchers. There were many enthusiastic replies and considerable excitement amongst the recipients. Several recipients provided meeting reports to their laboratories and institutions and Rebecca Lee and Ken Woo provided testimonials for the National Stem Cell Foundation Newsletter.

The list of awardees is provided below:

Benjamin Cao	James Spyrou	Joe Yasa
Alison Conquest	Gautam Wali	Luke Carroll
Kathryn Davidson	Maciej Daniszewski	Prasanna Weeratunga
Melanie Domingues	Agnieszka Arthur	Serena Gallozzi
Thomas Duncan	Kynan Lawlor	Simranpreet Kaur
Hananeh Fonoudi	Rachel Shparberg	Maria Kasherman
Thomas Forbes	Timothy Tracey	Hannah Glover
Claire Homan	Jarmon Lees	Ken Woo
Thierry Jarde	Anna Boss	Amanda Ton
Genevieve Kerr	Shayanti Mukherjee	Abbas Shafiee
Anja Knaupp	Eva Tomaskovic-Crook	Ingrid Knarston
Santhosh V Kumar	Nadia Rajab	Dandan Zhu
Ana Rita Leitoguinho	Thao Nguyen	Anthony Cutrupi
Jingjing Li	Shen Heazlewood	Kathryn Futrega
Hong Kiat Lim	Gavin Tjin	Stuart Emmerson
Xiaodong Liu	Hue La	Rebecca Lehmann
Cameron McKnight	Damian Hernandez	Nona Farbehi
Ali Motazdian	Johana Tello Velasquez	Grace Lidgerwood
Edwige Roy	Aida Shakouri	Yinghong Zhou
Kiryu Yap	Gina Kusuma	Huan Ting Ong
Alexander Combes	Amy McCaughey-Chapman	Rhian Stavely
Gonzalo Perez-Siles	Anushree Balachandran	Paul Kallyanashis

**ASSCR Public Engagement and State-Based Events**

*From PhD students Freya Bruveris and Ana Rita Leitoguinho from Murdoch Children's Research Institute, and Early Career Researcher Dr Jennifer Hollands from The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health.*



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The ASSCR PET Sub-committee in partnership with the National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia facilitated Australian stem cell researchers to take their science out of the laboratory and into the public arena. A free public forum - *Stem Cell Research: Now and in the Future* - was held in conjunction with the 16th Annual Meeting of the [International Society for Stem Cell Research](#) (ISSCR). The public forum featured stem cell scientists sharing their research and answering questions from a crowd of over 300 people curious about stem cell research. Before the panel discussion began, 20 early-career researchers were on-hand to explain their science, and the ASSCR *Stem Cell Stories* photography exhibit showed how stem cells can look under the microscope, giving an appreciation for how these cells can be studied.

Australia has a long history and record of achievement in stem cell science, and the panel of leading Australian researchers explained how they use stem cells to understand normal and abnormal biological processes. Speakers included:

- Professor Susie Nilsson from the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation opened the session by discussing her work to improve bone marrow transplantation, the oldest clinically approved stem cell treatment, which has its roots in Australian research.
- Associate Professor James Chong from the University of Sydney and member of ASSCR PET subcommittee is researching how stem cells can be used to treat heart disease.
- Dr Michael O'Connor of Western Sydney University is using stem cells to study the lens and the process by which it forms cataracts.
- Associate Professor Pritinder Kaur of Curtin University was the first to isolate skin stem cells from human skin and demonstrate their ability to regenerate large areas of epidermal tissue.
- Professor Melissa Little from Murdoch Children's Research Institute and President of ASSCR discussed her work on using stem cells to model the kidney development and disease.

The session was moderated by Associate Professor Megan Munsie, Clair PET, and provided the audience an opportunity to ask of questions about the stem cell field, and the potential of this science to treat and cure disease. Questions focused on how technology might speed up stem cell research, the future of stem cells in the clinic, and the status of stem cells in clinical trials

For more information see <http://www.stemcellsaustralia.edu.au/News---Events/News/Learning-about-Stem-Cells-Down-Under.aspx> including a link to the video of the night. This blog was also featured by ISSCR and ASSCR on their respectively websites.



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**ASSCR membership**

ASSCR membership is available to professionals and students working in the stem cell or related fields. The ASSCR provides several categories of membership which can be paid for 1-, 2- or 3-years periods. Full members are entitled to nominate for subcommittees of the Board and nominate for committee positions as these become available. They are also entitled to vote at the AGM. Student members hold equivalent rights to Full members but for a reduced fee. The Board has been discussing two issues pertaining to membership moving forward

- i) The purpose of associate membership and appropriate fees for this membership category and
- ii) The implementation of a more formal process of membership evaluation at application.

i) We would propose that ASSCR define the category of Associate membership as applying to those individuals within companies and/or corporate sponsors of the Society who wish to have a more formal relationship with ASSCR. Associate members would not be able to hold a position on the Board of the Society nor would they have a capacity to vote. Associate membership fees would be as for full membership.

The aim of the ASSCR is to support stem cell research and encourage scientific exchange in order to build an active stem cell research community in Australia and New Zealand. The Society does not wish to appear to actively advocate on behalf of any specific corporation claiming to provide a stem cell product. In the past, the society has been faced with situations in which applications for membership have come from individuals with clear commercial affiliation with organizations either providing unproven stem cell treatments to humans or engaging in direct to consumer marketing of stem cell products. In order to maintain the integrity of the Society, it is proposed that ASSCR formally implement a screening process as is in place within the ISSCR. This will involve the following application requirements:

1. An applicant must indicate their involvement in stem cells in order to determine the appropriate category of membership (full, student, associate). Within this section, the applicant will also be asked whether they have any association with an organization; including but not restricted to a commercial provider, research institute, clinical service, cell bank or biotechnology company; that has or is providing cell-based therapies to human subjects, either within a clinical trial or not.
2. An applicant can choose to either provide an endorsement from an existing member or choose to be reviewed for approval by the Membership Committee.



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3. An applicant must provide a CV.
4. The membership committee will review all applications for membership with respect to any activities associated with the delivery of cell therapies to humans. The membership committee reserves the right to request additional information. The Executive committee reserves the right to refuse membership of any category.
5. Renewing members will be subjected to the same membership requirements, evaluated at the time of renewal.

We propose that these changes to ASSCR membership be presented, discussed and voted on at the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday December 4, 2018.

**ASSCR Website and Communication with members**

The ASSCR uses a number of communication mechanisms including a website, e-mail, and social media platforms. E-mail is used to communicate directly with ASSCR members, while social media platforms (Twitter @theASSCR, Instagram) are used to reach a wider audience. Social media accounts are based on opt-in following by users around the world. Twitter is often used to share information about upcoming events, research and news articles relevant to stem cell science and regulation, to announce awards and publications, and share photographs from events. A new ASSCR website was set up about 1 year ago ([asscr.org](http://asscr.org)) and provides information regarding the society, links to educational material for patients and the general public, advertises events such as workshops, seminars, public events, and conferences, advertises jobs and scholarships, a contact page, and snapshots of recent social media posts. The material disseminated by the ASSCR is reliant on submissions from ASSCR members, as well as associated groups. The website was used in the lead up to the ISSCR 2018 conference to run a photo competition, as well as to advertise stem cell related events occurring around that period. Social media was also used leading up to and during ISSCR 2018 to share stories and pictures with the public.

Over the next year, the website, email and social platforms will be used to advertise the upcoming annual scientific meeting. This meeting is to be held jointly with the ASSCR, AGCTS and regional ISCT in Brisbane during November 2019.

Any material relevant to stem cell research or regulation is welcome from members of ASSCR and affiliates.

**ASSCR Finances**

As described in the Treasurer's Report, the Society is solvent and in a healthy financial condition. In keeping with previous years, revenue reported under the Society ABN for the



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2017–18 financial year is below \$250,000 and thus the Society remains a small society as defined by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission. To our knowledge the financial statements presented here, prepared in consultation with the ASN Events financial officer, provide a true and accurate description of the Society's finances.

**2018 Committee Election Process**

This year nominations were called for 4 elected Committee positions: Vice President, Chair of Policy and Translation/Ethics/Public Policy/Clinical Translation; Chair of Professional Development and Junior Investigators; Chair of Conference and Awards.

Two valid nominations were received for the position of Vice President and an online ballot is being held for these two nominations. The results of the election will be announced at the 2018 Annual General Meeting to be held by teleconference at 2-4PM on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December. Single valid nominations were received for all three Chairs. Therefore, as per ASSCR rules no election will be held for these positions.

**Summary**

As you can see, ASSCR has had a very busy period of time over the past 12 months. Our new committee members have shown incredible willingness to work on your behalf and great dedication to the development of researchers across the country in this space. As President, I am proud of the commitment shown by these individuals who volunteer a substantial amount of their time on your behalf. It is a very exciting time for stem cell research and hence all the more important to maintain a vibrant and committed professional society. Hence, I commend your active involvement, as Society members, in forthcoming events.

Sincerely,

Professor Melissa Little  
Outgoing ASSCR President



## Committee Meeting Dates and Membership

### ASSCR Committee Meeting Dates and Attendance for 2018

Under the ASSCR structure, the 9-member Committee has held 8 meetings, as listed in the Table below and the 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Meeting Date	Attendance	Apologies	Chair	Minutes
25 January 2018*^	12	1	M. Little	L. Hill
06 March 2018^	9	1	M. Little	A. Pébay
10 April 2018^	10	0	M. Little	A. Pébay
29 May 2018^	7	3	M. Little	A. Pébay
03 July 2018^	9	1	M. Little	A. Pébay
21 August 2018^	7	3	M. Little	A. Pébay
01 October 2018^	7	3	M. Little	A. Pébay
05 November 2018^	7	3	M. Little	T. Barber

\* additional attendees: Michael Morris (previous ASSCR Secretary), Robyn Meech (previous ASSCR Treasurer)

^ additional attendee: Trish Barber (MCRI), project Manager for Melissa Little.

The Committee also engaged in frequent email communication throughout the year, including on the following matters:

- (i) Preparing for the ISSCR2018 meeting, including the format, timing and location of the ASSCR-run public forum.
- (ii) Providing the framework for awarding Postgraduate and Early Career Researcher Travel Awards for the ISSCR2018, sponsored by the NSCFA and the ASSCR.
- (iii) Preparing for our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (with the International Society Cell & Gene Therapy (ISCT) and the Australasian Gene and Cell Therapy Society (AGCTS) in Brisbane, 13-15/11/19).
- (iv). Finances
- (v) Continued improvement to the new website with an expansion of the content of the eNewsletters, and Twitter account (@theASSCR).
- (vi) Review of membership categories

### Memberships

ASN Events was contracted to process ASSCR Membership payments and renewals. In July 2018, the ASSCR consisted of 200 members (ACT 6, International 1, NSW 41, NZ 7, QLD 26, SA 10, TAS 1, VIC 92, and WA 16). The adjacent graph shows the geographic distribution of our Members.



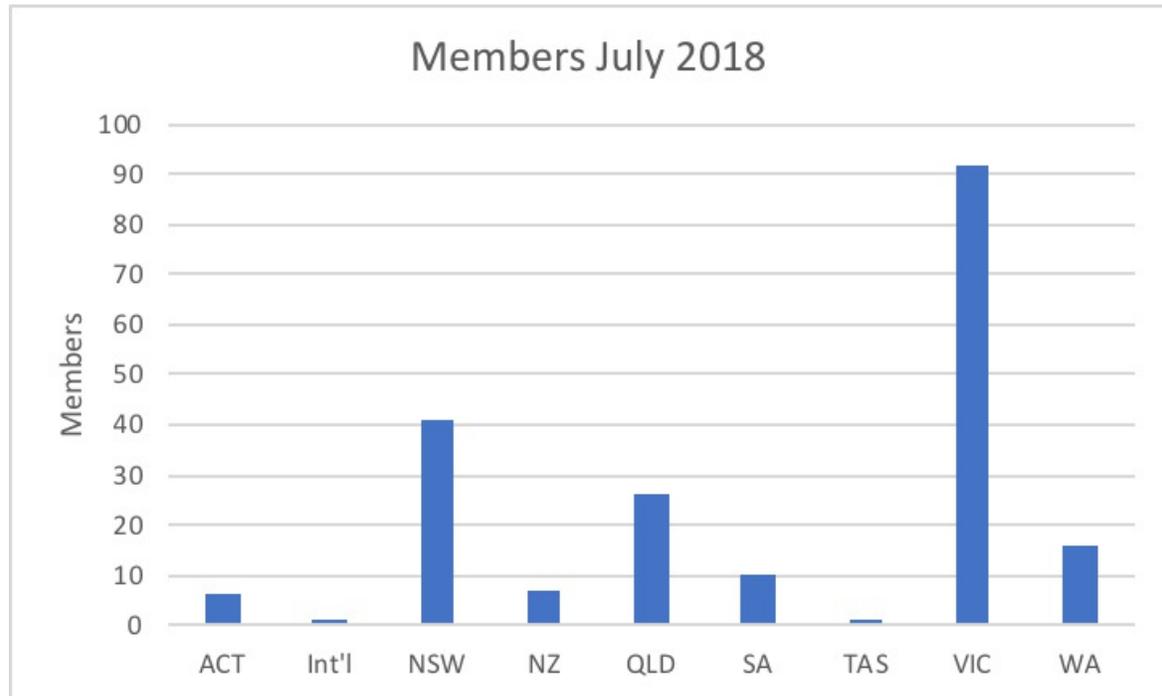
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As an official sponsor of the ISSCR this year, the ASSCR committee managed to facilitate ASSCR member eligibility for ISSCR travel awards and provide >\$36K of additional awards to our members, ensuring a bumper involvement of Australian scientists at all levels of career to be involved in the meeting. Travel awards were supported by ASSCR and the National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia (NSCFA). Eleven ASSCR members were also awarded oral presentations or poster teasers at the ISSCR.



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## **Treasurers Report, Financial Year 2017-2018**

The Australasian Society for Stem Cell Research (ASSCR) is incorporated in Victoria PC 3194 (ABN:45 374 899 784) and registered as a tax-exempt not-for-profit charitable organisation. As a Charitable Institution the society is endorsed to access the following tax concessions: GST Concession 18 Apr 2008; Income Tax Exemption (since 18 Apr 2008); and FBT Rebate (since 18 Apr 2008). The ASSCR is also endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient (since 18 Apr 2008).

Cash Flows are managed through a National Australia Bank (NAB) Operating account. The Society held two Term Deposit accounts in this financial year (at Bank West and NAB), with the former closed in April 2018 and the funds rolled into the NAB Operating Account. The ASSCR had cash reserves of approximately \$158,812 at the end of the 2017-2018 Financial Year.

In 2012 we signed a memorandum of understanding with ASN for secretariat services. Cash flows associated with membership fees, conferences and other activities are managed by ASN via the NAB Operating Account. The ASSCR Committee members are not signatories to any of the accounts; instead the Treasurer and 2 elected committee members authorize the ASN Financial Controller to make and receive payments.

All transactions processed via ASN are reported to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) by ASN Conferences acting as agent, and all GST liabilities are remitted by ASN Conferences on submission of the ASN Conferences Business Activity Statements (BAS). Currently all GST reporting occurs under the ASN Events' ABN; moreover, ASSCR submits 'nil GST returns' to the ATO with respect to its own ABN (as no transactions occur outside of the ASN-operated NAB account). ASN provides the ASSCR with a quarterly tax liability summary as well as a full GST ledger annually for our records.

Income this financial year was generated by a combination of membership fees, profit share from the 2017 Annual Meeting, sponsorship, and interest earned on our bank accounts. Expenditures this financial year were Sponsorship, Prizes and Awards, administration and consultancy fees, website, and committee teleconferences (see the notes to Table 2 for more details).

Breakdowns of Income and Expenditure as well as Net Equity for each year from 2015-2018 are provided in Table 2 for comparison purposes. A brief summary of our financial position as of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018 (including financial summary of the 2017 Annual Meeting) is given below.



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ABN 45 374 899 784  
PO Box 8159, Monash University LPO  
Wellington Road, Clayton Victoria 3800, Australia  
[www.asscr.org](http://www.asscr.org)  
[info@asscr.org](mailto:info@asscr.org)

**ASSCR Net Equity:**

As of June 30th 2018, our net equity was **\$182,749.60**. This sum included:

- \$62,206.53 in our ASN managed NAB Term Deposit
- \$96,606.35 in our ASN managed NAB Operating account
  - Plus Other Current Assets of \$27,278.35<sup>#</sup>
  - Less Liabilities \$3,759.09<sup>##</sup>

<sup>#</sup> Profit share of the joint ASSCR/ACGTS joint meeting held in Sydney (2017), with funds received on 30 July 2018.

<sup>##</sup> Net GST payable to the ATO for the period 1 Apr – 30 June, remitted on 27 July 2018.

**2017 ASSCR-ACGTS Sydney joint meeting:**

- All expenditures and income have now been reconciled; the meeting account has been closed and the ASSCR's profit share from the joint meeting (\$27,695.81) distributed back to our operating account (funds received 30 July 2018).

Total Meeting Income:	\$156,320.00
Total Meeting Expenses:	\$ 95,932.33
Net Trading Position (surplus):	\$ 60,387.67

ASSCR Profit Share:	\$ 27,695.81
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An agreement to share the profit, proportionate to number of delegates from each society (ASSCR and ACGTS), was negotiated between the ASSCR executive committee and ACGTS, and approved by the Society Presidents and Treasurers. The profit share for this meeting was reconciled in July 2018.

**2018 ISSCR meeting:**

- No ASSCR meeting was held in 2018 due to the ISSCR meeting in Melbourne in June 2018. An additional pledge of \$15,000, from ASSCR to ISSCR, was made in the current financial year (in addition to the original pledge of \$20,000 in January 2017).



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**Major 2017-2018 Expenditures:**

- \$ 15,000 pledge to ISSCR for the 2018 annual meeting.
- \$10,242 for Prizes and Awards (inclusive of \$9,285 in funds from NSCFA received in the previous financial year) to support student/ECR attendance at the 2017 ASSCR/ACGTS meet, Sydney.
- \$ 7,356 in Administration & Management Consultancy



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**Table 1. 2017 ASSCR-ACGTS joint meeting (Sydney)**

<b><u>Conference income</u></b>	
Delegates registration fees	\$ 73,555.00
Sponsorship/Trade income	\$ 68,765.00
ASSCR Seed Funds	\$ 7,000.00
ACGTS Seed Funds	\$ 7,000.00
<b>Conference income total</b>	
<b><u>Conference expenditure</u></b>	
Venue hire (incl catering) Funds	\$ 49,972.80
Abstract books Funds	\$ 9,071.38
Conference Dinner (incl buses)	\$ 16,030.00
Speaker expenses	\$ 10,875.00
Prizes	\$ 5,000.00
Misc.	\$ 4,983.15
<b>Conference expenses total</b>	
<b>Net income</b>	
	<b>\$ 60,387.67</b>



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**Table 2. Income statement 2015-2018**

	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
<i>Conference location</i>	<i>Lorne</i>	<i>Hunter Valley</i>	<i>Margaret River</i>	<i>Sydney</i>
<b><u>Financial year ending</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Annual meeting	\$17,481	\$26,251	\$17,639	\$27,696
Membership	\$13,741	\$16,696	\$16,033	\$11,201
Interest/Other income	\$859	\$796	\$2,930	\$2,129
Sponsorships		\$16,000	\$20,000	\$36,785*
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$14,600</b>	<b>\$33,492</b>	<b>\$56,602</b>	<b>\$77,811</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Sponsorship				\$15,000**
Travel awards (2017)				\$10,243***
Admin & Accountancy				\$8,850^
Other expenses:	\$8,691	\$21,614	\$56,902	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$8,691</b>	<b>\$21,614</b>	<b>\$56,902</b>	<b>\$34,093</b>
<b>Net income (deficit)</b>	<b>\$5,909</b>	<b>\$11,878</b>	<b>(\$288)</b>	<b>\$43,718</b>



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**Table 3. Comparison of net equity in financial years ending June 2015-June 2018**

<b><u>Financial Year ending in June</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>
Cash assests ASN	\$69,807	\$121,561	\$112,388	\$186,509
Cash Assets BankWest	\$17,665	\$17,665	\$17,665	\$0 ^^
<b>Total cash assets</b>	<b>\$87,472</b>	<b>\$139,226</b>	<b>\$130,053</b>	<b>\$186,509</b>
Liabilities				(\$3,759) ^^
<b>Net Equity</b>				<b>\$182,750</b>



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**Notes on Tables:**

**Table 2:** Accounting is performed differently for the joint society meetings (2015, 2016, 2017) and no ASSCR meeting was held in 2018 due to the ISSCR meeting that was held in Melbourne. For simplicity, income from the joint meetings is presented as ASSCR's profit share less any ASSCR-specific expenses and/or income. All values are rounded to the nearest dollar.

ASSCR Income in the 2017-2018 financial year (independent of the 2017 Annual Meeting income) came from memberships, interest on our operating and term deposit accounts, and sponsorship (see below).

\* A \$36,735 sponsorship payment was provided by NSCFA for Travel awards to support ASSCR members to attend the 2018 ISSCR Annual Meeting in Melbourne. (Note, reimbursement of these awards was made after the meeting, paid in July 2018 and therefore not reflected in 2017-2018 financial year expenditure). An additional \$50 (anonymous) donation was made to the society, amounting to \$36,785 in Sponsorships.

ASSCR collected \$322,545.45 in pledges on behalf of ISSCR for the 2018 ISSCR Meeting (Melbourne). These funds were held in our ASSCR accounts and were balanced against ISSCR expenses (-\$322,500) by the end of the 2017-2018 financial year. This amount is not included in the Income Statement (Table 2) or the Net Equity calculation (Table 3).

ASSCR expenses in the 2017-2018 financial year (independent of 2017 Annual Meeting) were: a pledge to the ISSCR for the 2018 Meeting, travel awards to support attendance of student/ ECR members at the 2017 ASSCR/ACGTS joint meeting, secretariat fees (administration and accounting), web site maintenance, and committee phone meetings (see below).

\*\* \$15,000 pledge to ISSCR for the 2018 Annual meeting in Melbourne.

\*\*\* Travel awards for student and ECRs to attend the 2017 ASSCR/ACGTS joint meeting, Sydney. Funds for these awards were received in the previous financial year (with \$9,285 from NSCFA and the remaining \$957 from ASSCR).

^ General ASSCR expenses including ASN management fees, accounting, teleconferences, and bank fees.

**Table 3:** Net Equity = sum of Current Assets minus Current Liabilities.

^^ Bank West term deposit was closed April 2018 with the funds (\$17,665.40) rolled into the NAB operating account.

^^^ Outstanding Tax Payable (GST) as of 30 June 2018. Remitted 27 July 2018.



## APPENDIX 1

### 10<sup>th</sup> ASSCR AGM Tuesday 11 December 2017 11 am Minutes – Teleconference

**Present:** Helen Abud, Luke Carroll, Shuang Cui, Mike Doran, Ngaire Elwood, Kathryn Futrega, Pritinder Kaur, Melissa Little, Robyn Meech, Michael Morris, Megan Munsie, Margret Schuller, Rachel Shparberg, Bernie Tuch, Christine Wells

**Apologies:** Caroline Gargett, Michael O’Connor, Nathan Palpant, Alice Pébay, Ed Stanley

Item	Discussion	Actions
1. Welcome and Apologies (Melissa Little)		
2. Acceptance of the Minutes from the ASSCR 2016 AGM (Appendix 1)	The Annual Report, which includes the Minutes from the 2016 AGM, was distributed by email to Members on 27/11/17.	BT moves motion that the Minutes be accepted. PK seconds. Motion to approve Minutes passed unanimously.
3. Results of Committee election process (Melissa Little)	<p><b>Results of Committee election process:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alice Pébay elected as Secretary from 2 valid nominations from the two returning officers – thanks for putting name forward.</li> <li>• Clare Parish elected unopposed as Treasurer</li> </ul>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kathryn Futrega elected unopposed as Chair Membership and Communications Subcommittee</li> <li>• Margret Schuller re-elected unopposed as Chair Industry and Sponsorship Subcommittee</li> </ul>	
<p>4. Treasurer’s Report, 2016–17 Financial Year (Robyn Meech)</p>	<p>The full Treasurer’s Report appears in the Annual Report.</p> <p>Thanks to RM from ML, and thanks from RM to Committee.</p> <p><b>ASSCR Net Equity:</b> Recap of status of society – with cash reserves Inc in Vic registered for GST not for profit etc deductible gift certificate etc. Managed through ASN secretariat RM doesn't manage any of the funds through ASN – authorises transfers Managed our meetings since 2008 – interact differently with time – last 2 meeting different. Income 2 meetings in financial year but only one reconciled Expenditure ECR travel awards \$35k contribution to ISSCR Put seed money into 2017 meeting Net equity ~\$139k in ASN and term deposit and bankwest – that has agreed to be closed. P16 – 2016 joint meeting – no PCO but abstracts essentially managed in Perth by CCTRM and a long time to reconcile - \$35k profit and we get half that.</p>	



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	<p>2017 not reconciled – joint meeting with AGCTS managed account. Told that everything has pretty much been reconciled except publishing of abstracts \$60k profit mark and profit share agreement not fully done</p> <p>Travel Awards for both meetings: No longer receiving all money from NSCFA \$20k from them and \$17k from us + international</p> <p>Comparative table from year to year – tells us how we are tracking on overall capital and meeting profit. And going well – income up but expenditure up for this year and so in the negative for this year by a bit.</p> <p>List of expenses are similar to other years for ASN...</p> <p>Bottom line nett negative income from ISSCR and slightly less meeting profit.</p> <p>Pretty much in the same position as last year – with \$1k.</p> <p>RM will need to be in a loop with the new treasurer to move forward.</p> <p><b>Travel Awards:</b></p> <p><b>Expenses:</b></p> <p><b>Secretariat (ASN Events):</b></p> <p><b>Q&amp;A events:</b></p>	
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<p>5. Resolution to affirm ASSCR annual membership fees:</p>	<p>Under the Rules of Association, the ASSCR must formally review its membership fee structure at each AGM.</p> <p>The Resolution is as follows:</p> <p>"Be it RESOLVED that the meeting affirms the existing annual ASSCR membership fee structure (including GST) for 2017/2018: 1 year: Full membership \$120. Students \$60. Associate \$60. 2 year: Full membership \$210. Students \$105. Associate \$105. 3 year: Full membership \$290. Students \$145. Associate \$145.</p> <p>New members who join the ASSCR during the year shall pay a fee equal to: (a) the full annual subscription amount if they join between 1 August and 31 January; or (b) a <i>pro rata</i> annual subscription based on the remaining part of the subscription year; or (c) \$0 if they join between 1 May and 31 July or their subscription includes the following year."</p> <p>The definition of Associate Members is based on the Rules 8 &amp; 14 of the Rules of Association.</p> <p>The Society's fee structure stays low under this Resolution and appears to be low compared to other societies.</p> <p>MD do we need to think about mechanisms to get members when ISSCR is coming.</p>	<p>MM moves motion that the Resolution to affirm the current fee structure be accepted. HA seconds.</p> <p>The Resolution was carried unanimously.</p>
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	<p>We have no control over what ISSCR does – to give discounts to ASSCR and failed.</p>	
<p>6. Reports from Subcommittee Chairs and other ASSCR Activities (Michael Morris)</p>	<p>A large number of people and groups have contributed to the smooth running and improvements in the functioning of the ASSCR over the last year. Thanks to all involved. The following is a snapshot of some of the achievements of the Society over the last year or so.</p> <p><b>Joint conferences</b> (full reports can be found in the Annual Report):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3<sup>rd</sup> joint conference, 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting overall is held this year with Centre for Cell Therapy and Regenerative Medicine</li> <li>• This is the first time the ASSCR has held a meeting in WA.</li> <li>• We have 130 registrants, at maximum capacity for the venue, and have been able to forge closer ties to an important group working in the stem-cell space in Australia.</li> <li>• Many new members from WA for the first time thanks to George Yeoh and providing membership.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOC’s vision. No PCO.</li> <li>• MS on sponsorship to WA.</li> </ul> <p><u>Organising Committee</u> Dr Cecilia Prêle (Chair)</p> <p><u>Scientific Committee</u> A/Prof. Julian Heng (Chair)</p> <p><u>Advisory Committee</u> Prof. George Yeoh</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting with AGCTS</p>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ML’s vision and command</li> <li>• 200 people</li> </ul> <p><i>Representing the ASSCR:</i></p> <p><i>the AGCTS</i></p> <p>Prof. Melissa Little Martiniello-Wilks Dr Samantha Ginn Dr Sharon Cunningham</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our team!</li> </ul> <p>Why joint meetings?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is part of the deliberate and useful strategy of bringing different networks/societies together across the broad range of fields in regenerative medicine and encouraging cooperation and interaction.</li> <li>• The savings without PCO allow the meetings to run in the black, keep registration and membership costs down.</li> <li>• Profits go to supporting the Society’s Members including Travel Awards, other workshops, etc.</li> <li>• The strategy has allowed us to be increasingly solvent and commit \$35k to ISSCR, put on public events, etc.</li> <li>• It also means our meetings attract a lot of abstracts – particularly from ECRs – and we really can choose fantastic work for oral presentations.</li> <li>• All of that requires lots of work from <b>Bronwen Connor and Helen Abud and the Conference and Awards</b> subcommittee and <b>Treasurer, Robyn Meech</b>, who organised all the Travel Award judging and distribution of Awards.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Representing</i></p> <p>Dr Rose</p>
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	<p><b>Margret Schuller (Chair) &amp; Sponsorship and Industry Subcommittee</b> <i>Sponsorship is crucial to running meetings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Margret Schuller and her subcommittee team of Industry and Sponsorship have obtained huge amounts in sponsorship – and in the current climate that is really outstanding.</li> <li>• Also run an additional state-based event.</li> <li>• These forums has resulted in lots of discussion about how to engage with government and patient advocates, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>Megan Munsie (Chair) &amp; Policy, Ethics and Translation Subcommittee</b> <i>Megan and her team have consistently put the views of the Society to Government and the public. Her team has:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed policy on a range of ethical, legal and social issues including:</li> <li>• ASSCR submissions to the TGA consultation on regulation of autologous cell interventions in March 2015 and August 2016.</li> <li>• This has finally borne fruit.</li> <li>• Organisation of public forum for ISSCR 2018.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mike Doran (Chair) &amp; Memberships and Communications Subcommittee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike is stepping down as Chair.</li> <li>• But Mike’s team has:</li> <li>• Moved our website to make it more flexible.</li> <li>• Launched our new Twitter account (@theASSCR), which went live in February 2016.</li> <li>• News on the website and Twitter feed included scientific</li> </ul>	
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	<p>breakthroughs, stem-cell news from around Australia and internationally, notification of stem-cell related conferences and events, as well as meeting reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These changes have significantly improved dissemination of information to Members and the wider stem-cell community.</li> </ul> <p><b>Robyn Meech, Treasurer</b> Stepping down as Treasurer after 5 years Robyn always has difficult and complex issues to work through. She:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is always on Annual Meeting organising committees.</li> <li>• Has worked this year on the investment of ASSCR funds and ISSCR pledges.</li> <li>• Looks after the distribution of Travel Awards.</li> <li>• Assisting in all reporting.</li> <li>• Has to work with and coordinate much of the activity between ASSCR, our Events manager, and participating Societies in joint meetings.</li> <li>• Providing updated financial reports for all Committee meetings and the Annual Reports and AGMs.</li> </ul> <p><b>No better example of that than getting the ISSCR conference here in Oz in 2018</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ML, Caroline Gargett, MOC (former Presidents) – and of course many others – have been responsible for the success of that bid.</li> <li>• This will be a fantastic benefit to the regenerative medicine community in Australia.</li> <li>• It is great for our researchers and ECRs and pushes our credentials to government</li> </ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ASSCR will use this opportunity to reach out to the public at the same time, through for example, the Public Forum.</li> <li>• There are a lot of things that can be leveraged off the back of this over the next 2 years and beyond.</li> <li>• Special mention here to ML who has done a large amount of work with respect to the pledging institutions. An incredibly fraught issue!!</li> </ul> <p><b>Thanks to all the members of the subcommittees and other volunteers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50 volunteers helped out on various aspects of running the ASSCR this last year or so including the:</li> <li>• Elected Committee</li> <li>• Subcommittee volunteers</li> <li>• Organising committees for conferences</li> <li>• Election return officers</li> <li>• If you want to get involved please contact any of us. If you got a great idea, etc. let us know.</li> </ul> <p>Thanks to MM and to RM from ML and all.</p>	
<p>7. ASSCR 2017 Annual Conference and ISSCR2018 (Melissa Little)</p>	<p>Timely to have this meeting Fabulous meeting with no secretarial support and great scientific meeting Ed discussing new options with AGCTS again</p> <p>ASSCR to ISSCR – responsible for bringing meeting to Oz \$320k in pledges and on track to bring the meeting to Melbourne ISSCR board meeting last week ML there ISSCR pleased with how things are shaping up and abstracts open – please put them in.</p>	



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	<p>Assisting ISSCR with clinical session and public forum through MMU NSCFA sponsoring Monday 18 June public forum 4.30 panel discussion and school students art exhibition with our MOC images. Don a t-shirt and talk to students, have a booth and talk about careers. Panel Discussion – Julia Mason – 5 speakers current and future applications with particular areas – blood skin eye heart kidney (ML!) Heavily curate the talks and research in these organs basic research through drug discovery to clinical MMu keen to moderate Will write up with PET committee and happy for input from members.</p> <p>High school forum Ethics focus session at ISSCR on Wed 20 – regulation of expectation and clinical use.</p> <p>PK – cool story on skin might be useful. SC and gene therapy to cure child’s skin issue.</p> <p>ML Chair of organising committee – plenary talks Patrick Tam and concurrent invited speakers.</p>	
<p><b>8. Input and Ideas from Members</b></p>	<p>PK Great to have ASSCR to WA – and happy to assist. RM – if you’re a member get \$10 off ISSCR membership. Satellite meetings are abounding and at least advertise to our membership and how we support them more formally. Marie ANZISCT new pres. Maybe join with them – and international soc meeting is in 2019 – discuss with Ed. MS conversation with RM needs guidelines wrt supporting these meetings. Will forward emails of how to support these interactions.</p>	
	<p>None.</p>	



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9. Other Business		
10. Hand-Over to new Committee	Meeting closed at midday.	

<b><u>Financial Year ending in June:</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2016</u></b>
<b>Cash assets ASN</b>	\$33,453	\$61,650	\$69,807	\$121,561
<b>Cash assets Bankwest</b>	\$17,665	\$17,665	\$17,665	\$17,665
<b>Total cash assets</b>	\$51,117	\$79,315	\$87,472	\$139,226
<b>Liabilities</b>	\$14,935	\$1,098	-\$233	-\$48
<b>Net equity</b>	<b>\$36,183</b>	<b>\$78,217</b>	<b>\$87,705</b>	<b>\$139,274</b>