

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Annual ASBTE Conference	1
2015 AGM	2
Committee members	2
Conference Awards	3-4
ASBTE conference photos	5
Student reps	6-7
Award of Excellence	8
Spotlight on conferences	9-10



Annual Conference in Sydney NSW

The 24th Annual ASBTE conference was held in Sydney at Doltone House, Darling Island Wharf from 8 – 10 April, 2015. The conference was held in conjunction with the 5th International Symposium of Surface and Interface of Biomaterials. This joint meeting was attended by 225 delegates from 19 different countries. Thirty five percent of the delegates were students ensuring the pipeline of biomaterials researchers across Australasia is in good shape.

The joint meeting contained 4 plenaries, 16 keynotes, 120 short talks and 47 posters. Highlights of the ASBTE program included the opening session on stem cells that showcased clinical perspectives and translation from research to the clinic. The Student and ECR lunch session was also a highlight to hear people in industry and academia share both their career path after their PhD and tips they wish they had received earlier in their careers.

Congratulations to the student and ECR award winners and also to those who were highly commended. Thanks to the support of over 20 sponsors the world-class science was accompanied by relevant exhibitors for biomaterials research as well as good food and an inspiring view. Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting, contributed to the science and supported the society.

Lisbeth Grøndahl and Megan Lord

The Annual General Meeting of the Society



ASBTE President addressing the AGM

The Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held during the ASBTE/ISSIB conference. The Annual General Meeting of the ASBTE was an opportunity to review the past year, where the society has maintained a reasonable budget position while again being able to support a large number of students and young investigator members by providing lab travel and conference travel awards. A new ASBTE committee and new ASBTE student representatives (see details below) were elected at the AGM. In addition, Laura Poole-Warren and Justin Cooper-White were confirmed as delegates to the International Union of Societies for Biomaterials Science and Engineering (IUSBSE), while

Kate Fox was confirmed as delegate to the advocacy body Science & Technology Australia (STA). Further topics of discussion included strategies to maintain a healthy budget position and opportunities to host future international meetings. The next AGM will be held at the World Biomaterials Congress in Montreal, Canada (18.-22. May 2016).

Introducing this year's ASBTE committee



Tim Woodfield (President)



Helmut Thissen (Vice-President)



Bryan Coad (Executive Officer)



Penny Martens (Treasurer)



Veronica Glattauer



Travis Klein



David Nisbet



Tony Weiss

Ordinary members

2015 ASBTE Annual Conference Awards

Student Oral Award in Biointerfaces



Congratulations also goes to Katrin-Stephanie Tuecking from the University of Siegen, Germany, on receiving the Student Oral Award in Biointerfaces for her presentation **“Infection signalling with bacterial enzyme-responsive polymers in vesicles and nanoporous silicon membranes”**.

ANFF-SA Award for Best Research in the Micro/Nano Area



Congratulations to Mohammed Hossain from the University of South Australia for receiving the ANFF-SA Award for Best Research in the Micro/Nano Area. Mohammed presented a poster at this years conference on his work, **“Investigation of Natural Antifungal Compounds for Surface Coatings”**.

Student Poster Award



Congratulations to Stephanie Lamont-Friedrich from the University of South Australia for Best Student Poster on **“Micro-patterned arrays for investigating the contact-killing mechanism of antifungal surfaces”**.

People's Choice Poster Award



We would also like to congratulate our People's Choice Poster Award winners Alexandra Rodriguez (left) and Katharina Schirmer (right). Katharina, from the University of Wollongong, presented **“A Cytocompatible Method for Embedding Wires or Fibres into Hydrogels”**. Alexandra, from the Australian National University, presented **“Self-assembling peptide hydrogels for tissue repair in the central nervous system”**.

Photo credits:

Special thanks to Kumar Bishwajit for supplying all of the conference photos in this newsletter.

2015 ASBTE Annual Conference Awards (continued)

Travel Award



Congratulations to Thomas Michl and Brooke Farrugia on taking out the ASBTE 2015 travel awards. Thomas received the award for domestic travel. Brooke will be travelling internationally for her research.

Conference Travel Awards



Congratulations to all our ASBTE Conference Travel Award winners: *Conor Horgan, Ferdinand Wagner, Gabriella Lindberg, Jason Marroquin, Justine Roberts, Martina Abrigo, Catlin Langford, Christoph Meinert, Robyn Aston, Rui Li, Behnaz Aghaei Ghareh Bolagh, Thomas Michl, Ulises Aregueta, Alex Patton, Yinghong Zhou, Zetao Chen, Dhee Prakash Biswas, Javad Jafari, Terence Hartnett, Steffen Cosson, Aurelien Forget, Khoon Lim, Anitha Sudheesh Kumar*

ECR Oral Award



We would like to congratulate Clementine Pradal from the University of Queensland who won the ECR Oral award for her presentation on **"Polyrotaxane hydrogels for tissue engineering applications"**.

Student Oral Award in Biomaterial Science

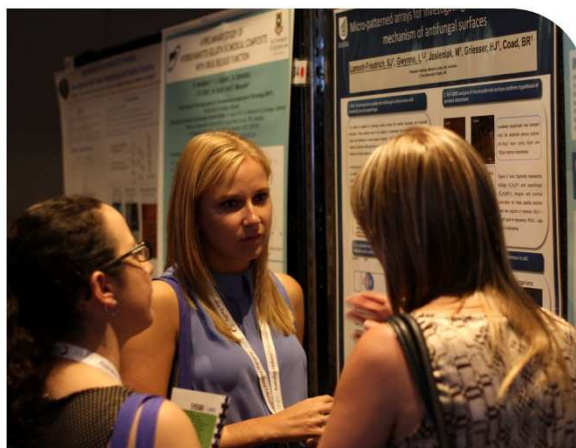


Congratulations to Alexander Patton from the University of New South Wales who took out the Student Oral Award in Biomaterial Science for his presentation on the **"Fabrication of and cellular response to standalone PEDOT based conductive hydrogels"**.

ASBTE Website www.asbte.org

Any member wishing to supply news items, links, PhD scholarships, job listings, or other relevant information to the **website** should contact the Executive Officer (Bryan.Coad@unisa.edu.au)

Sydney Conference Photo Gallery



2015/16 Student Reps

My PhD at the Australian National University focuses on drug delivery out of hydrogel tissue engineering materials, specifically for applications in nervous tissue regeneration. This year was my first ASBTE conference, and I look forward to more involvement within the society. You can contact me at kiara.bruggeman@anu.edu.au



ACT: Kiara Bruggeman



NSW: Sally Yunsun Kim

I am a second year PhD student in the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Sydney. My current research is focused on the targeted delivery of stem cells to the lungs for the regeneration of tissue after injury. I am a registered pharmacist and worked in the community for a number of years but I could not resist the desire to pursue further research. My M.Phil project was about formulation of silk-based carriers for drug delivery to the lungs. As a student representative of ASBTE in NSW, I look forward to organising gatherings that provide exciting opportunities to network with other researchers. Please feel free to contact me at skim3542@uni.sydney.edu.au

I am a first year PhD student at La Trobe University and CSIRO Materials Science and Engineering in Melbourne. I am materials engineer (Univale- Colombia) and I worked for a couple of years in the development of medical devices for cardiovascular engineering using the electrospinning technique. My PhD project is focused on the use of controlled living radical polymerization for the surface modification of electrospun nanofibers. I am the new ASBTE student representative for Victoria and I am looking forward to help students to share their ideas, work and experiences. Feel free to contact me at Lina.Duquesanchez@csiro.au if you have any question or suggestion about how to improve our social network here in Victoria!!



VIC: Lina Duque



SA: Stephanie
Lamont-Friedrich

I'm completing an Honours degree in Nano- and Biomaterials at the Ian Wark Institute, University of South Australia. I have a double Bachelor's degree in Medical Science and Business and Technology, majoring in Microbiology, from Flinders University. I am currently focusing on antifungal surface coating for biomedical devices implanted into the human body, developing anti-mould surfaces for use in air filtration systems, and antifungal surface coatings for water filtration systems. I attended my first ASBTE conference this year, and found it to be a very rewarding experience, developing my communication and presentation skills, whilst networking, socializing and learning. I am very excited to be the South Australian ASBTE student representative. I look forward to providing students with a platform to share their projects, ideas and suggestions, whilst also organizing events that allow for socialization and networking. Please feel free to contact me at lamsj005@mymail.unisa.edu.au.

Student Representatives (continued)

I'm a Ph.D. student at Menzies Health Institute Queensland, Griffith University with particular interests in bone grafts, tissue banking, and orthopaedic research. I'm based in the Gold Coast and Brisbane, where I work in collaboration with the Queensland Bone & Skin Bank. I graduated from Griffith University in 2013 with a Bachelor of Health Science, First Class Honours, where I studied the transcriptional regulation of osteoblast differentiation. I then worked as a research assistant in Mark Forwood's lab, on a project exploring novel therapeutic approaches for stress fracture healing. After cultivating great interest in orthopaedics, I'm eager to utilise approaches from both basic and clinical sciences to optimise the mechanical and biological quality of bone allografts. I'm passionate about bones, science policy, and believe that public engagement in science has never been more important. Contact athena.brunt@gmail.com



QLD: Athena Brunt



QLD: Christoph Meinert

I am a third year PhD candidate in the Cartilage Regeneration Laboratory located at the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, the Queensland University of Technology's largest interdisciplinary research institute. Utilizing custom mechanical stimulation bioreactors and 3D chondrocyte culture systems centred on biomimetic hydrogels, I am working towards progressing our understanding of chondrocyte mechanotransduction, its involvement in the pathogenesis of osteoarthritis, and how we can employ mechanical stimuli to improve the quality of tissue-engineered constructs for the treatment of focal cartilage defects. Throughout my membership in the society, the ASBTE has provided me with excellent professional support and inspiring annual conferences which introduced me to fruitful collaborations and research opportunities. I look forward to contributing to the success of this society in my role as ASBTE student representative. Please contact me at christoph.meinert@qut.edu.au to find out how we can help you advance your research related to biomaterials and tissue engineering.

I am a second year PhD student at the University of Otago. I hold a M.Sc. in Biotechnology (Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden) and have previously worked at a medical device company with focus on using soft biomaterials for revascularization in patients with cardiovascular diseases. My passion for exploring motivated me to expand my skill set, and I am now studying dynamic interactions of cells and soft biomaterials and their effect on chondrogenesis. My research aims to use sophisticated molecular, chemical and architectural designs to bioengineer viable tissue constructs for replacement or regeneration of damaged cartilage tissue. As a new ASBTE student representative I hope to provide other students with a good platform for networking and opportunities to meet and interact with experts of the field. If you have any questions regarding the society and its activities to support young researchers, please contact me at Gabriella.Brown@postgrad.otago.ac.nz



NZ: Gabriella Brown

ASBTE Award of Excellence winner — Rolfe Howlett

The ASBTE Award of Excellence recognises a member who has made a significant contribution to the Society and has an outstanding record in developing, maintaining and promoting the goals of the Society.



Professor C. Rolfe Howlett, B.V.Sc., Ph.D.,
MACVSc, MRCVS, FBSE.

Rolfe Howlett was a co-founder and has been president (1991-1992 and 1993-1994) and vice-president (1992-1993 and 1994-1995) of the Australian Society for Biomaterials (now 'and Tissue Engineering'). He was the first Australian to be awarded the title Fellow of Biomaterial Science and Engineering, in 1996, from the International Union of Societies for Biomaterials Science and

Engineering (IUSBSE). He was liaison delegate to the IUSBSE from 1994-2008. He has also organised a number of international and national conferences, the most significant being the World Biomaterial Congress in Sydney in 2004 (approx. 2300 delegates) where he was Chair of the Committee and the Congress.

Rolfe is considered an international and national authority on tissue reactions to medical devices and their component materials. His particular research focus was in the field of orthopaedic materials. He has served as a pathology expert on the Therapeutic Device Evaluation Committee and its many sub-panels for the Federal Minister of Health for 10 years.

His many other roles have included Visiting Professor to the Universities of Oxford, London and Alabama. He retains his close involvement with the University of New South Wales after his retirement. He remains a consultant to companies developing medical devices, particularly for cardiovascular and orthopaedic devices.

Since 1976 he has also been involved in histopathological diagnosis of diseases in companion animals. He is considered a reference point for difficult skeletal cases in Australia.

Rolfe has continuously made significant contributions to the Society since its formation.

ASBTE on LinkedIn



The ASBTE group on LinkedIn provides the latest news and discussions for society members. If you are a LinkedIn member, search for "ASBTE - The Australasian Society for Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering" in groups and request to join the group. Or type in the following web address: www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=6512061

If you are not a member of LinkedIn, start by registering today. It's free! au.linkedin.com

Spotlight on Conferences

Please check the Web to get further information and also details on due dates

Conference	Location	Dates	Website
 International Society for Biomedical Polymers and Polymeric Biomaterials International Society for Biomedical Polymers & Polymeric Biomaterials (ISBPPB)	Orlando, United States	July 8 – 10 2015	http://isbppb.org/conferences-workshops/
Gordon Research Seminar on Collagen followed by Gordon Research Conference on Collagen	New London, NH, USA	July 11-12, 2015, July 12-17, 2015	https://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=14697 https://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=12175
25 th International Society of Biomechanics	Glasgow	July 12 – 16, 2015	
Biomaterials & Tissue Engineering Gordon Research Conference -- Regenerative Engineering and Functional Materials Integration	Girona, Spain	July 19-24, 2015	
Gordon Research Seminar on Elastin, Elastic Fibers and Microfibrils followed by Gordon Research Conference on Elastin, Elastic Fibers and Microfibrils	Biddeford, MA, USA	July 25-26, 2015 July 26-31, 2015	https://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=14713 https://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=11199
ICANM 2015: International Conference & Exhibition on Advanced & Nano Materials	Ottawa, Canada	August 10 – 12 2015	
XXIV International Materials Research Congress	Cancun, Mexico	August 16 – 20, 2015	
7th Symposium on Biodegradable Metals	Carovigno, Italy	August 23 – 28, 2015	
 27th European Conference on Biomaterials 27 th European Conference on Biomaterials	Kraków, Poland	August 30 – Sept. 3, 2015	http://www.esb2015.org/
ECOSS 31: European Conference on Surface Science	Barcelona	August 31 – Sept. 4, 2015	http://www.ecoss2015.org
 2015 4th TERMIS WORLD CONGRESS Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society World Congress 2015	Boston, USA	September 8 - 11, 2015	www.termis.org/meetings_worldcongress.php
 World Conference on Regenerative Medicine	Leipzig, Germany	October 21-23, 2015	http://www.wcrm-leipzig.com/
BIOMED 2015 - 21st International Biomedical Science and Technology Symposium	Antalya, Turkey	October 21-23, 2015	

Spotlight on Conferences

Biofabrication 2015	Utrecht, Netherlands	November 7-9, 2015	www.biofabrication2015.org
2015 Chinese Biomaterials Congress	Haikou, Hainan, China	November 19-22, 2015	http://www.csbm.org.cn/en/index.php?a=art&id=134
2015 MRS Fall Meeting & Exhibit	Boston, MA, USA.	Nov. 29 – Dec. 4, 2015	
 6th International Conference on Mechanics of Biomaterials and Tissues	Waikoloa, Hawaii, US	December 6 – 10, 2015	
Pacificchem 2015	Honolulu, Hawaii, US	December 15 – 20 2015	
 January 5 th – 7 th 2015 LONDON, UK	The O2, London	January 5-7, 2016	https://www.regonline.co.uk/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1521686
XXVI National Conference, Society for Biomaterials & Artificial Organs (India)	IIT Delhi	Jan-Feb 2016	http://www.sbaoi.org/index1.htm
2016 MRS Spring Meeting & Exhibit	Phoenix, Arizona	March 28 – April 1, 2016	
 10th World Biomaterials Congress	Montreal, Canada	May 17 - 22, 2016	wbc2016.org
 Tissue Engineering International & Regenerative Medicine Society TERMIS-EU Conference 2016	Uppsala, Sweden	June 28 - July 1, 2016	http://www.termis.org/meetings_europe.php
2016 TERMIS-AP Conference	Tamsui Town of New Taipei City	September 3-7, 2016	
2016 TERMIS-AM Conference	San Diego, CA	December 11-16, 2016	
ASBTE and BiTERM (2017)	TBA	TBA	
Society for Biomaterials (USA) 2017	TBA	TBA	
2017 TERMIS-EU Conference	Davos, Switzerland	June 26-30, 2017	
ESB 2017	Athen, Greece	September 3-7, 2017	
2017—TERMIS-AP	Nantong, China	September 21-24, 2017	
2017—TERMIS-AM	Charlotte, NC	December 2017	