



Australian  
**Atherosclerosis**  
Society Inc.



## Joint ASM of the HBPRCA, AAS and AVBS, November 27- 30<sup>th</sup> 2019, Stamford Grand Adelaide

Based upon feedback from our members, the coming together of like-minded groups of clinicians and researchers provides a superior conference experience, higher levels of education and excellent networking opportunities for all delegates. This was certainly the case again this year and the program was bigger than ever with a dedicated Young Investigator (YI) / Early Career Researcher (ECR) symposium which also incorporates the highly successful SCOLAR program, that the AAS have been running for many years, as well as a Clinical Evening Dinner Symposium, and even a beach run. This coupled with 165 abstracts, an impressive line-up of invited guest speakers, both international visitors and home-grown experts, and generous awards for students and YI / ECRs awarded at the Conference awards dinner, this joint meeting was a clear success.

Special thanks go to all the program managers, Francine Marques, Brad Broughton, Anna Calkin and Andrew Murphy, for putting together this impressive program, all the abstract reviewers, and numerous others who helped in so many ways, we thank you for attending and providing feedback on the meeting, as we get ready to plan the next one!

**Program Managers (left to right): Francine Marques and Brad Broughton (HBPRCA), Anna Calkin (AAS) and Andrew Murphy (AVBS)**



This year we went paperless with a fully online program and abstracts, as well as a native APP available on google play and the App store. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive on this move, from the vast majority.

[Click here](#) to view the online program including all speaker biographies.



The meeting kicked off with a very successful Joint Young Investigator Symposium that was organised by representatives of the YI / ECR group from all societies and special congratulations go to Rachel Climie (HBPRCA), Belinda Di Bartolo (AAS) and Kristen Bubb (AVBS) for the development of this program. This symposium was supported by The International Society of Hypertension.



*From left to right, Belinda Di Bartolo, Kristen Bubb, Rachel Climie*

Sessions included a panel of experts listed below, who helped the delegates to explore their career options, as well as groups discussion on hot topics such as “How to get your first grant, how to get the most out of an international placement, work-life balance in science and the use of social media for community engagement

#### Career Panellists:

Grant Drummond - La Trobe University

Stephane Laurent - INSERM, Paris, France

Anastasia Mihailidou - Northern Sydney Local Health District / Macquarie University

Mary Kavurma - Heart Research Institute

Christina Bursill - SAHMRI

Finally, the SCOLAR program, (Stroke, Cardiovascular, Obesity, Lipids and Atherosclerosis Research Training Program) which AAS have run for many years was open to all societies and we would like to thank the presenters, for their engaging talks:

“The role of exercise and vascular disease”- Julian Sacre (University of Melbourne),

“The role of smooth muscle cells in vascular inflammation and atherosclerosis” - Ashish

Misra (The Heart Research Institute) and “The influence of microbiota in vascular health”

- Connie Wong (Monash University)

The Joint Opening Plenary kicked off at 4.30 on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>, after the YI / ECR symposium after a welcome by the 3 Society Presidents:

Professor Michael Stowasser, HBPRCA, Dr Christina Bursill, AAS and Dr Simone Schönwaelder, AVBS.



An entertaining opening session saw presentations arguing the importance of High Blood Pressure (Stephane Laurent and Jaye Chindusting), Lipids (Edward Fisher and Kerry-Anne Rye) and Inflammation (Katey Rayner and Andrew Murphy) which was followed by the official welcome reception for the meeting.



Wednesday morning drew quite a few delegates out onto the Glenelg Pier for an early walk / run, a great initiative by Rachel Climie.

## International Guest Speakers:

We were very fortunate to hear from the following international keynote invited speakers throughout the meeting:

RD Wright invited Lecturer: Prof. Stephane Laurent, Paris Descartes University, France, pictured here with Professor Michael Stowasser, President HBPRCA



Dr Katey Rayner, University of Ottawa, USA, pictured here with Dr Peter Psaltis, SAHMRI



Prof. Edward Fisher, NYU, USA, pictured here with Professor Simone Schönwaelder, President AVBS



**National Invited Speakers** - In addition to the international invited speakers we also heard from several other esteemed national HBPRCA, AVBS and AAS invited speakers:

**AAS Invited speakers:**

- Dr Welma Stonehouse, CSIRO
- Dr Peter Psaltis, SAHMRI
- Dr Ashish Misra,
- Prof. John O'Sullivan

**HBPRCA Invited Speakers:**

- Prof. Markus Schlaich
- Prof. Stephen Harrap
- Prof. Len Arnolda



Colin I Johnston Lecturer: Prof. James Sharman



Austin Doyle Lecturer: Prof. Melissa Little



BIHS Award winner: William Hunt, Leicester, UK



AHA Award winner: Adam Straub, Pittsburgh USA

### AVBS Invited Speakers:

- Shaun Jackson
- Sabine Kossman
- Xiangjian Zheng
- Alex Bobik
- Kate McArthur
- Grant Drummond
- Emma Gordon
- Xuri Li
- Edwin Hawkins

## Clinical Evening Satellite

A dedicated evening clinical dinner was held on Wednesday night, hosted by the AAS Clinical Council, which was both well attended and well received by delegates. AAS thanks its sponsors of this stand-alone meeting.



*From left to right, Gerald Watts, Brendan McQuillan, Richard O'Brien Stephen Nicholls*

## Conference Awards Dinner



A major highlight of the Joint ASM as always, was the Conference Awards Dinner, at which a plethora of awards were given. It was fantastic to see all the award winners recognised by their peers from around Australia, and, it was great to see how many of the awards went to women this year - almost a clean sweep bar 2! This was a real tribute to all three societies and the future of women in science.

# Award winners

The AAS winners from the 2018 Joint ASM are pictured below, with AAS President, Dr Christina Bursill



AAS Student Poster winner - Dhanya Ravindran



AAS Student Oral winner - Amy Searle



AAS ECR Poster winner - Nisha Schwarz



AAS ECR Oral winner - Adele Richart

The AVBS winners from the 2018 Joint ASM are pictured below, with AVBS President, Dr Simone Schönwaelder

AVBS Student Poster winner - Olivia Cooney



AVBS Student Oral winner - Sanuri Liyange



AVBS ECR Poster winner - Kristen Bubb



AVBS ECR Oral winner - Emma Solly





# AVBS Achievement and Career Development Award winners

Congratulations go to Arnold Ju (left) and Xiaowei Wang (right) pictured with Simone Schönwaelder, President AVBS, receiving their awards. It should be noted that there is usually only one award each year, but these two applicants were too hard to split, congratulations to you both!



**The HBPRCA winners from the 2018 Joint ASM are pictured below, with HBPRCA President, Prof. Michael Stowasser**



Student Poster award – Yan Wang



Student Oral award winner and AHA nominee Tara Scott, who will be visiting the AHA in the USA next year to present.



Early Career Researcher Poster award – Yugeesh Lankadeva



Early Career Researcher Oral award winner and BIHS Nominee Quynh Nhu Dinh who will travel to the BIHS meeting in the UK to present in 2019.

## Additional HBPRCA Awards Presented:



Robert Vandongen award - awarded to the highest scoring abstract from WA– Jacquinta Affandi

## HBPRCA Paul Korner Medal

Prof Paul Korner was one of the founders and a former president of the HBPRCA (1987–1989). He devoted a large part of his career to researching the causes of essential hypertension, with a special focus on underlying neural and cardiovascular mechanisms.

A senior scientist (>20 years post-PhD) who is an active researcher and has made a significant contribution to hypertension and the HBPRCA receives the Paul Korner Senior Scientist in High Blood Pressure Research Award. Only current HBPRCA members who attended the ASM were eligible.

A one-page nomination by a HBPRCA member is submitted, outlining the contributions to high blood pressure research and the HBPRCA, and to mentoring of basic or clinical researchers in high blood pressure. Self-nominations will be accepted. A subcommittee of the Council evaluates and judges.



**The 2018 inaugural HBPRCA Paul Korner Medal winner, went to a well deserving Professor Stephen Harrap, congratulations Steve!**

## **Inaugural Jaye Chin-Dusting Award**

Prof Jaye Chin-Dusting was the second woman to be elected as the president of the HBPRCA (2011—2016). As a founder of the Australian Cardiovascular Alliance, Prof Chin-Dusting was deeply concerned with the funding available for cardiovascular disease, which affects particularly those in the early- and mid-stages of their career.

During her presidency of the HBPRCA, she also established the young investigator subcommittee of the HBPRCA, to improve training, networking and opportunities for early and mid-career high blood pressure researchers.



The highest ranked abstract for which the first author is a mid-career scientist (between 5—20 years post-PhD) and current HBPRCA member receives the Jaye Chin-Dusting Mid-career Scientist in High Blood Pressure Research Award and books hand-picked by Prof. Chin-Dusting to the value of \$250.

**Congratulations to go Bradley Broughton on winning this award!**

## **Inaugural Judith Whitworth Award for women in High Blood Pressure**

Prof Judith Whitworth was the first woman to be elected as the president of the HBPRCA (1999—2001). Throughout her career, Prof Whitworth not only contributed to a major way to high blood pressure research herself, and to the mechanisms involved in steroid-related



hypertension, but broke numerous barriers and paved a path for women in research, clinical practice and policy making. The highest ranked abstract for which the first named author is a woman receives the Judith Whitworth Women in High Blood Pressure Research Award. Only current HBPRCA members are eligible. The awardee receives a certificate and a \$250 prize.

**Congratulations go to Hamdi Jama!**

**Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to the High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia.**

As if all that were not enough cause to celebrate, it was also the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the HBPRCA, with all HBPRCA members receiving a commemorative pin at the meeting. So, from the 2018 HBPRCA Council here's to the next 40 years!



And last, but by no means least, all three societies are extremely grateful to our generous education partners, without whom these high-level meetings would not be possible.



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