In the final weeks of 2014, I think there has not yet been time to reflect. A busy year and now remembered for the awful events that have unrolled in the last few days. On a medical front, certainly the swinging of the debate around co-payment have highlighted a concerning lack of federal strategy around health. For the CSANZ, a productive year with an early and very successful combined meeting with the World Congress of Cardiology and a number of exciting developments in important large projects particularly CME and work in preparation for the ACOR registry. To all we wish a happy and safe holiday season.

Some short news items from recent Board meetings:

The International Clinical Cardiovascular Genetics Conference was held in Brisbane from 6-9 August this year. A/Prof John Atherton was Convenor and Prof Chris Semsarian was Programme Chair. They and their committees are to be congratulated on a successful meeting. The Board has supported a second Genetics Conference pending budget considerations and this is currently planned for Brisbane in May 2016.

We are working with the ACC, ESC and the Asia Pacific Society on strengthening our relationship with these organisations. In particular with the ACC, there have been a number of potential advantages identified including access to ACC membership for discounted price, access to educational materials, access to registry templates and access to suitable question banks to use as a trainee assessment examination.

Discussions are ongoing about formative evaluations of cardiology trainees. The STC and Board support the introduction of a formative exam in the second year of training.

Organisation is already well underway for CSANZ ASM 2015 with international speakers now confirmed and the draft programs coming together for all streams.

CSANZ has signed a MOU with the Heart Foundation that identifies the roles and responsibilities, working relations, processes for information exchange and facilitation of co-operation between the two parties.

The CPD committee is working on documenting CPD governance, policies and procedures in bringing the CPD program towards accreditation.

And on a final note from Finance, we have clawed our way back to breaking even. In great part due to the earlier concerns that profit from the last ASM would be substantially reduced not being realised thanks to the attentions of the WCC organising team. The budget for the next financial year is currently forecasting a loss. This is due to a number of large and ongoing expenses including the development of our own CME program and contributions to ACOR. Expenditure is being carefully scrutinised and there has been an increase in annual subscriptions made for Fellows to support this.
To our members and their families,
the Editor and staff wish you all
a safe and happy
Festive Season
Holiday Closure

The CSANZ will be closed from Tuesday, 23 December 2014 and will re-open on Monday, 5 January 2015.

New and Updated Position Statements

The following new Position Statement has been uploaded to the CSANZ website.

*Operator and Institutional Requirements for a TAVI Program*

[Click here to view this document](#)

The following Position Statements have been updated on the CSANZ website.

**Clinical Practice:**

*Prevention of Accidental Exposure to High Voltage Electric Shocks During the Preparation for Burial of Deceased Persons with Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators (ICDs)*

[Click here to view this document](#)

**Training and Competence:**

*Diagnostic Cardiac Catheterisation and Coronary Angiography*

[Click here to view this document](#)
Australasian Cardiac Outcomes Registry (ACOR)

Following on from our successful “Registries: What is the way forward?” session at ANZET14 in August, the capacity of ACOR has been bolstered significantly by the appointment of two full-time staff members, Ms Lin Turnbull, CEO and Ms Stephanie Johnston, Manager – Marketing and Communications. We are continuing work on the development of two separate registries, the Cardiac Devices Registry (CDR) and the Cardiac Procedures Registry (CPR).

Cardiac Devices Registry

The funding and relatively tight timelines of the CDR have meant that this has progressed significantly since August. A Steering Committee, chaired by Prof David Brieger, was established and met for the first time in September. The Committee consists of consumers, manufacturers and clinicians, including 2 cardiac surgeons. The Registry potentially includes anything which goes into the heart and stays there i.e. stents, valves, arrhythmia devices. Details regarding device insertion, device removal, and device related complications, including those that do not require insertion or removal (e.g. stent thrombosis) will also be included. A brief Case Report Form has been developed including clinicians, patient demographic and device identification details, and device related complications. Participation in the CDR will be linked with participation in the CPR (with the exception of surgical devices).

Cardiac Procedures Registry

The focus this year for the CPR has been on site engagement. A number of sites with existing databases have been concerned that entering data for the CPR will be an additional burden to cath lab staff. We have managed to work around this by ensuring that data from home-grown databases can be extracted into the Registry.

Queensland Health is developing a state-based registry. The database is congruent with ACOR and it is anticipated that these data will populate ACOR allowing hospitals to benchmark themselves against national rather than just state based data.

The Victorian Cardiac Outcomes Registry (VCOR) executive has expressed a willingness to facilitate a similar approach.

The Client Service Agreement has been revised to include the Cardiac Devices Registry, the Cardiac Procedures Registry, and potentially other registries for which the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) will be the Service Provider.

This is an exciting time for the development of ACOR. As we move in to the New Year we will be contacting more sites across Australia and New Zealand. However, if you have any queries in the meantime feel free to contact Lin Turnbull, CEO, lin.turnbull@acor.net.au or (02) 9226 7994.
Applications are called for the CSANZ Travelling Fellowships for travel grants to enable investigators to attend the 64th Annual Scientific Session of the American College of Cardiology to be held in San Diego, California, from 14-16 March, 2015. The Fellowships are intended to provide an opportunity for investigators in the early stage of their research career, to present at a major international conference.

CSANZ wishes to acknowledge and thank the Eastern Heart Clinic and Amgen Australia for providing the funds for the Travelling Fellowships.

The conditions are:

1. The Fellowships are valued at $3,000 each.
2. The top ranked candidate will be awarded the CSANZ McCredie/Wilcken Travelling Fellowship.
3. At the time of application, applicants must be current financial FCSANZ, Associate or Affiliate Members of the Cardiac Society, with preference given to those attending their first meeting.
4. The work must have emanated from Australia or New Zealand.
5. Applicants must have an abstract accepted for presentation at the ACC meeting and must be the first or senior author of the accepted abstract. In some circumstances, consideration may be given to a co-first author or someone who has made a substantial contribution to the work (see item 6).
6. Applications must be accompanied by a letter from the supervisor or Director of the laboratory or service from which the work has emanated, clearly detailing the specific contribution made by the applicant towards the work being presented.
7. Preference will be given to those who have not previously been awarded CSANZ travelling scholarships.
8. Conditions apply to successful applicants not domiciled in Australia or New Zealand.*
9. Late applications will NOT be considered.

Applications should be emailed to the Honorary Secretary at info@csanz.edu.au and must include:

a) copy of submitted abstract(s) and ACC notification of acceptance
b) brief curriculum vitae (maximum 1 page)
c) supporting letter from the supervisor or Director

CLOSING DATE
9 February, 2015

Please note: if applicants have not received email confirmation of receipt of their application within 1 week of submission, they should contact the Secretariat at info@csanz.edu.au immediately
Abstract submissions open
22 November 2014
Abstract submissions close
7 March 2015
Registrations open
18 March 2015
Earlybird registrations close
22 June 2015
Key Dates

Registrations open
Earlybird registrations close
Fellows’ Prize submissions close
Standard registrations close
ANZET 2015

20 March 2015
12 June 2015
29 June 2015
17 July 2015
11 - 13 August 2015
I wish to convey my appreciation to the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand for the support to travel to the recent European Society of Cardiology Congress in Barcelona (August 31-Sept 3rd 2014). This award provided me with an important opportunity to present my research to an international audience, as well as update my clinical and epidemiological knowledge.

My presentation was presented in the poster sessions, and was entitled “Long-term outcomes in patients with and without diabetes following an incident myocardial infarction: a population-based study”. This research forms part of the larger body of my PhD work investigating the epidemiology of diabetes in coronary heart disease patients in WA. The ESC is somewhat unique in that the posters sessions are very well attended, and every presenter is afforded the opportunity of discussing their study with a Fellow of the ESC. Apart from this opportunity, I was also able to exchange ideas and discuss my research with a number of other European fellow researchers in this forum.

Attendance at the daily sessions enabled me to update my knowledge across a number of areas and particularly in relation to my PhD topic. It has also been of great benefit that I was able to relay some of the key emerging research themes and results from the Congress to our research group at UWA on my return.

I once again thank CSANZ for this support, and reiterate the valuable benefits that this award provides.

Lee Nedkoff  
Cardiovascular Research Group  
(School of Population Health)  
The University of Western Australia
1. **At the time of application**, applicants must be current financial FCSANZ, Associate Members or Affiliate Members of the Cardiac Society, with preference given to early career applicants attending their first meeting.

2. The work must have emanated from Australia or New Zealand.

3. Applicants **must** have an abstract on a topic relevant to Heart Failure, accepted for presentation.

4. Applications must be accompanied by a letter from the supervisor or Director of the laboratory or service from which the work has emanated, clearly detailing the specific contribution made by the applicant towards the work being presented.

5. Preference will be given to those who have not previously been awarded a CSANZ Travelling Scholarship.

6. Conditions apply to successful applicants not domiciled in Australia or New Zealand.

7. Late applications will **NOT** be considered.

8. The Scholarship is valued at up to $3,000

9. Successful recipient must agree to present in the next CSANZ Heart Failure Council Programme during the CSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting:
   i. A summary of the highlights of the meeting and an overview of the top 5 Heart Failure papers they attended at the ISHLT Conference.
   ii. An oral presentation of their abstract.

10. Successful recipient to email the Heart Failure Council Secretary at info@csanz.edu.au confirming availability to present in the next CSANZ Heart Failure Council Programme (See item 9).

Applications should be accompanied by:
   a) copy of submitted abstract(s) and official notification of acceptance;
   b) brief curriculum vitae;
   c) supporting letter from the supervisor or Director;

Applications should be emailed to info@csanz.edu.au

**CLOSING DATE**

13 February, 2015

**Please note:** if applicants have not received email confirmation of receipt of their application within 1 week of submission, they should email info@csanz.edu.au immediately.
I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand for awarding me a CSANZ travelling fellowship to attend the 2014 European Society of Cardiology (ESC) conference in Barcelona.

This support from CSANZ enabled me to present and share our research findings to a large international audience. Our research (SEARCH-AF) encompassed screening for unknown atrial fibrillation in pharmacies using an iPhone handheld ECG. 1,000 people over 65 years were screened, identifying 1.5% with unknown AF, all with stroke-risk scores high enough to warrant anticoagulation therapy (i.e. CHADS-VASc ≥2). Cost-effectiveness analysis indicated that screening with the iPhone ECG was well within a range that would be considered fundable. That is, the incremental cost-effectiveness ratio per quality adjusted life year gained was $5,988, compared to the willingness to pay threshold of <$43,000. The audience was very engaged in the presentation, with question time exceeding 10 minutes, where only 5 minutes was allotted.

Attending the ESC conference has been the highlight of my PhD candidature. It provided me the opportunity to meet and network with international experts in my field, and discuss potential future collaborations and ideas. Although it was a little overwhelming attending such a large conference, it was exciting to feel I was part of it. Even watching the continual stream of thousands of international delegates filing in and out of the metro to the conference centre was an experience to be cherished. Every day I was able to attend numerous presentations specific to atrial fibrillation and came away from the conference feeling up-to-date, with renewed motivation to build on my research.

I thank CSANZ for this exceptional opportunity.

Nicole Lowres
University of Sydney
Criteria for CSANZ Heart Failure Council
Travel Grant for the
European Society of Cardiology—Heart Failure Meeting
23—26 May, 2015, Seville, Spain

1. **At the time of application**, applicants must be current financial FCSANZ, Associate Members or Affiliate Members of the Cardiac Society, with preference given to early career applicants attending their first meeting.

2. The work must have emanated from Australia or New Zealand.

3. Applicants **must** have an abstract on a topic relevant to Heart Failure, accepted for presentation.

4. Applications must be accompanied by a letter from the supervisor or Director of the laboratory or service from which the work has emanated, clearly detailing the specific contribution made by the applicant towards the work being presented.

5. Preference will be given to those who have not previously been awarded a CSANZ Travelling Scholarship.

6. Conditions apply to successful applicants not domiciled in Australia or New Zealand.

7. Late applications will **NOT** be considered.

8. The Scholarship is valued at up to $3,000

9. Successful recipient must agree to present in the next CSANZ Heart Failure Council Programme during the CSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting:
   i. A summary of the highlights of the meeting and an overview of the top 5 Heart Failure papers they attended at the ESC Heart Failure Meeting
   ii. An oral presentation of their abstract.

10. Successful recipient to email the Heart Failure Council Secretary at info@csanz.edu.au confirming availability to present in the next CSANZ Heart Failure Council Programme (See item 9).

Applications should be accompanied by:
   a) copy of submitted abstract(s) and official notification of acceptance;
   b) brief curriculum vitae;
   c) supporting letter from the supervisor or Director;

Applications should be emailed to info@csanz.edu.au

**CLOSING DATE**

23 March, 2015

**Please note:** if applicants have not received email confirmation of receipt of their application within 1 week of submission, they should email info@csanz.edu.au
Travelling Fellowship Update

I was honoured to have received a CSANZ travelling fellowship in support of my attendance at the recent European Society of Cardiology Congress 2014 held in Barcelona, Spain.

Barcelona is a beautiful city and it was a fantastic experience to be able to present my work, an investigation into gender-tachycardia interactions in atrial fibrillation and their effect upon platelet function, in such an environment.

Having a background in basic science, it was work from this part of the health research spectrum that naturally drew my attention. A presentation on the use of nanoparticles in targeted delivery of drugs in models of ischaemia/reperfusion injury was particularly fascinating, as was a presentation on the importance of subcellular localisation of cAMP-dependent signalling and the effect this has on the development of cardiomyocyte hypertrophy.

While having virtually unlimited access to free coffee was a distinct highlight (great coffee in Barcelona), the opportunity to engage with other researchers from across Europe was a particularly enlightening experience to have had. It not only provided an opportunity to explore cutting edge research into cardiovascular disease and to discuss concepts that may impact upon my own research, but also (due to the recent submission of my PhD thesis) allowed me to begin exploring potential postdoctoral opportunities that may be available in Europe.

My deep and heartfelt thanks go to CSANZ for supporting me in this endeavour.

Nathan Procter
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, The University of Adelaide

9th Annual Conference
March 13—14, 2105
Sydney, Crowne Plaza, Coogee Beach
www.acnc.net.au
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On the pulse

For information regarding submissions for On the pulse please email info@csanz.edu.au Views expressed in On the pulse are not necessarily the views of the Cardiac Society or its Board.

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Tasmania:
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Forthcoming Meetings

**NORTH AMERICA**

**ACC15**
15 - 16 March, 2015
San Diego, California
www.cardiosource.org/acc

**AHA15**
7—11 November, 2015
Orlando, Florida
www.scientificsessions.americanheart.org/

**EUROPE**

**ESC Congress 2015**
29 August - 2 September 2015
London, UK
www.escardio.org

**ASIA PACIFIC**

**CSANZ New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting**
4 – 6 June 2015
Auckland, New Zealand

Contact details:
The Conference Company
Phone: 64 9 360 1240
www.csanz.edu.au

CSANZ2015
13 - 16 August, 2015
Melbourne, Australia
Contact details:
The Conference Company
Phone: 64 9 360 1240
www.csanz.edu.au

ANZET15
11 - 13 August, 2015
Melbourne, Australia
Contact details:
The Conference Company
Phone: 64 9 360 1240
www.csanz.edu.au

A more comprehensive list of meetings and events can be viewed on the Society’s website
www.csanz.edu.au