



on the pulse

Volume XXIV No 4  
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## *New Cardiac Technology in Australia - Towards a Better System for Access, Evaluation and Funding*

*Editorial by Dr Michael Ward*

**T**he landscape for new cardiac technologies in Australia has rapidly devolved in the past 10 years. Currently there are a number of routinely used devices in everyday Cardiology practice which are not reimbursed as well as an increasing number of emerging technologies competing for attention. If the long running saga with the catheters used for AF ablation is anything to go by it is quite likely that many of these devices will never be funded, despite the hopes of clinicians, industry and patients alike. Even devices with proven outcome benefits such as the pressure wire remain unfunded so what hope do we have that even more expensive technology with less tangible outcome benefits will ever be reimbursed. Devices currently in use but awaiting approval or reimbursement include pressure wires, AF ablation catheters, bio-absorbable stents, TAVI valves, MitraClip, Left Atrial appendage Closure devices, Renal Sympathetic Deinnervation Catheters, Sheathless

Guides, Guideliner, IVUS and OCT catheters as well as many other less frequently used but still valuable tools in day-to-day practice.

Similarly the role out of new generation oral anticoagulants suggests that the stalling of availability by regulatory bodies is dictated by the costs rather than the innovative risks involved. While government agencies conveniently sit their hands shuffling decisions from committee to committee, we see current state of the art practice get more and more out of reach for many patients in Australia.

Paradoxically and ironically, as the private sector cannot be expected to fund these technologies indefinitely, care in private hospitals may soon be measurably inferior to that in the public sector. Industry can no longer afford to support the market role out of new technologies particularly as regulatory bodies become increasingly more fickle and unpredictable in the decision-making process. Consequently, new technologies are being largely supported by departmental slush funds, charitable donations or the patients are being asked to foot the bill. Penetration of the market is highly variable depending on local or state-based conditions, creating marked inequity in access and large variations in the accepted indications and usage of individual devices. Requirement for local ethics approval and/or funding mean that delays in starting can be quite prolonged or indefinite for technologies which are openly available in other centres.

This situation is unsustainable. To move forward all parties need to acknowledge the validity of major

concerns expressed by others and attempt to collaborate in the development of strategies to coordinate the assessment of new technologies so that the cost-effectiveness in the Australian health environment and value to the outcomes of our patients can be realistically assessed in few designated centres, while maintaining equity of access to these technologies not just the patients at the hospitals chosen as assessment centres. While assessments should be carefully undertaken, efforts should be made to streamline the assessment process with centrally coordinated funding and ethical assessment, and milestones defined for the acceptance and ultimate funding of valuable technologies so that Australian patients do not end up receiving third world medical care. In addition access in these trial periods should be coordinated electronically to allow the most suitable patients to receive the new devices and drugs but prevent concentration of the selection process in the hands of a few.

Cardiology will be competing for the ever scarcer health dollar with expensive advances in all branches of medicine. It behoves us to coordinate and optimise our approach for the long term benefit of our patients.

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Call for Applications:

- Travelling Fellowship to 2013 ACC Meeting
- CSANZ / CSL Biotherapies Interventional Fellowship Award



## On the pulse

A publication of  
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Views expressed in “on the pulse” are not necessarily the views of the Cardiac Society or its Board.

<b>Issue Dates</b>	<b>Copy Deadline</b>	<b>More information</b>
March 2013	10 February 2013	Christine Boyle
June 2013	10 May 2013	christine.boyle@csanz.edu.au
September 2013	10 August 2013	Tel: +61 2 9256 5453
December 2013	10 November 2013	

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*Michael Ward  
Editor*

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*To our members and their families,  
the Editor and staff  
wish you all a safe and  
happy Festive Season.*

## CSANZ OFFICE

### *Holiday Closure*

*The CSANZ will be  
closed from Monday,  
24 December, 2012  
and will re-open on  
Monday, 7 January  
2013*



The December issue of the World Heart Federation **Heart Beat** is now available at <http://emailing.cobweb.ch/t/ViewEmail/r/6982A75B1421E99B/158861F218D16FC1E89F0E32AAFB68BFT>

#### **Highlights include:**

- Detect a possible abnormal heart rhythm by doing the DIY Pulse Test
- “Make a health heart your goal” - encouraging women and girls to take care of their heart
- Interview with Dr Prakash Raj Regmi MD, President of the Nepal Heart Foundation.
- News from WHF Members
- Advocacy News

# Paul Korner (1925 - 2012)



**P**aul Korner was born in 1925 in Moravská Ostrava in Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic). At age 13, Korner, along with his mother, father and brother, fled to England to escape the Nazis. After spending a year in England, the family emigrated to the safety of Australia.

He graduated from Medicine at the University of Sydney in 1951, having taken some time out from his medical studies to finish a BSc (1946) and an MSc (1947). Korner went on to the Kanematsu Research Institute at Sydney Hospital in 1952, the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London, in 1954 and then on to Harvard.

Upon his return to Australia he took up a senior lecturer position at the University of Sydney (1956–60), followed by the offer of foundation chair in physiology at the University of New South Wales (1960–68), the foundation Scandrett professor of cardiology at the University of Sydney (1968–74) and then the director of the Baker Medical Research Institute in Melbourne

(1975–90). During Paul's directorship, the Baker became the premier institute in Australia dedicated to cardiovascular research and earned an international reputation for excellence in research on hypertension and atherosclerosis.

He is the author and co-author of some 330 papers, chapters and other published works. He has had a distinguished career, both nationally and internationally.

In 1970 Prof Korner was awarded the R T Hall Prize, the Society's most prestigious award to a senior investigator and in 1977 he gave the Kempson Maddox Lecture entitled "The circulation in hypertension" at the Melbourne Annual Scientific Meeting.

Paul was an inspirational leader and scientist and fostered the careers of many of the country's most esteemed scientists and academics. His book on the causes of hypertension is an enduring contribution in the field. In October, he was due to receive the Medal for Outstanding Achievement from the International Society for Hypertension.

He is also admired for his scientific contributions in the fields of physiology, circulatory control and hypertension, as evidenced by numerous national and international awards and his appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1990 for his services to medicine. Paul was also a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science.

Even after his retirement, Paul continued to take an active interest in cardiovascular research and mentoring the next generation of cardiovascular scientists. He continued to attend the weekly seminar series at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, named in his honour, where young scientists within the Institute present the work they are carrying out. Afterwards he would invariably ask the most pertinent questions. Although he would often be tough in his questioning, it was driven by a desire to make good science even better.

A leader in cardiovascular research. Paul was a great scientist, an inspirational mentor and wonderful friend. Paul is survived by his wife Jennifer, children Nicholas, Anthony and Harriet, and six grandchildren.

*The Society would like to thank Professors Garry Jennings and Bob Graham who have kindly contributed to this vale.*

*The Foundation for High Blood Pressure Research is collecting tax deductible donations for a prize to be awarded for excellence in research at meetings of the International Society of Hypertension (c/- Professor S Harrap, Dept Physiology, Melbourne University, for more information email [jkelly@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jkelly@unimelb.edu.au)*



The Cardiac Society of  
Australia and New Zealand



## Named Lecturers

**R T Hall Lecturer**

**Kempson Maddox Lecturer**

**Basic Science Lecturer**

**Gaston Bauer Lecturer**

**Cardiovascular Nursing Lecturer**

**Hossein Ghofrani**

**Peter Macdonald**

**Roland Stocker**

**Gary Nicholls**

**Jim McVeigh**

## Key Dates

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Deadline for receipt of abstracts	07 March 2013
Registration opens	21 March 2013
Earlybird registrations close	13 June 2013



## **ANZET13**

7th Annual  
Australia & New Zealand  
Endovascular Therapies Meeting

**7 – 8 August 2013**  
Gold Coast Convention Centre

[www.anzet.com.au](http://www.anzet.com.au)

### **International Faculty:**

**Robert Byrne**

ISAR Centre, Deutsches Herzzentrum  
Munchen, Munich

**David Cohan**

Director of Cardiovascular Research  
Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute

**Timothy Henry**

Director of Research  
Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation

**Mark Monaghan**

Consultant Clinical Scientist  
King's College Hospital

**Evelyn Regar**

Interventional Cardiologist  
Erasmus Medical Center

## ACC Scientific Sessions 2013



Applications are called for the **CSANZ Travelling Fellowships** for travel grants to enable investigators to attend the 62<sup>nd</sup> **Annual Scientific Session of the American College of Cardiology** to be held in San Francisco from 9-11 March, 2013. 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.

### The conditions are:

1. The Fellowships are valued at AU\$3,000 each.
2. The top ranked candidate will be awarded the CSANZ McCredie/Wilcken Travelling Fellowship.
3. Applicants **must** be FCSANZ, Associate Members 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.
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 sent to the Honorary Secretary, (CSANZ 145 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW

2000 AUSTRALIA), or email to [info@csanz.edu.au](mailto:info@csanz.edu.au) and **should** include:

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

### Closing Date:

**5pm FRIDAY**

**18 JANUARY, 2013**

**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](mailto:info@csanz.edu.au) **immediately**.

\* Conditions apply, please contact the Secretariat.



**WORLD HEART  
FEDERATION®**

**World Congress  
of Cardiology**

Scientific Sessions 2014 | 4-7 May 2014  
Melbourne, Australia



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

# CSANZ / CSL Biotherapies Interventional Fellowship

Applications are invited for an Interventional Fellowship Award, which has been generously provided by CSL Biotherapies. The award is specifically designed to assist a young Member of the Society to undertake training or research in interventional cardiology at an overseas centre.

The award is valued at AU\$30,000 and to be used to provide salary support for a research / training position relevant to Interventional Cardiology in an overseas institution.

Applicants should be citizens or permanent residents of Australia or New Zealand and should be eligible for medical registration in Australia or New Zealand. Recipients will

currently be undertaking, or have completed within the last 5 years, advanced training in Cardiology recognised by the RACP/CSANZ Subspecialty Training Committee (STC) in Cardiology.

Application information must include:

- Detailed plan of the proposed research and training programme
- Specify if this is a funded or unfunded position
- Track record, eg noting highlights of career to date including examples of grants, awards, invited presentations and clinical leadership

- Research output, eg. publications, book chapters, abstracts presented
- Details of the Supervisor and Host Laboratory/Institution
- Two (2) written references
- Curriculum Vitae

Applications should be submitted to the Honorary Secretary, CSANZ, 145 Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia or email to [info@csanz.edu.au](mailto:info@csanz.edu.au)

**Closing Date:**

**5pm Friday**

**1 February 2013**



Cartoon provided by Dr Tau Boga, Wellington Hospital, New Zealand

## NORTH AMERICA

### ACC13

9-11 March, 2013

San Francisco, USA

[www.accscientificsession.cardiosource.org/ACC.aspx](http://www.accscientificsession.cardiosource.org/ACC.aspx)

### AHA2013

16-20 November, 2013

Dallas, Texas

[www.scientificsessions.americanheart.org/](http://www.scientificsessions.americanheart.org/)

## EUROPE

### ESC Congress 2013

31 August—4 September 2013

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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

### ESC Congress 2014

30 August—3 September 2014

Barcelona, Spain

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

## ASIA PACIFIC

### CSANZ New Zealand Regional ASM

7-8 June, 2013

Wellington, New Zealand

[www.csanz2013.co.nz](http://www.csanz2013.co.nz)

### ANZET13

7-8 August, 2013

Gold Coast, Queensland

Secretariat:

The Conference Company

Phone: 64 9 360 1240

[www.csanz.edu.au](http://www.csanz.edu.au)

### CSANZ 2013

61<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting

8-11 August, 2013

Gold Coast, Queensland

Secretariat:

The Conference Company

Phone: 64 9 360 1240

[www.csanz.edu.au](http://www.csanz.edu.au)

A more comprehensive list of meetings and events can be viewed on the Society's website [www.csanz.edu.au](http://www.csanz.edu.au)

**Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology 2013 Congress**  
19th Asia Pacific Congress of Cardiology (19th APCC)  
21-24 February 2013 • PEACH, Pattaya, Thailand

Organized by:

 **WORLD HEART FEDERATION**

**APSC 2013**  
21-24 February 2013  
PEACH, Pattaya, Thailand