



on the pulse

Towards an ANZ Cardiovascular Clinical Trials Network

Editorial by Professor Stephen Nicholls

Volume XXX, No 1

March 2018

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Efforts continue to progress to develop a coordinated cardiovascular clinical trials network across Australia and New Zealand. Our region has a rich tradition playing an important role in the execution of clinical trials that have changed the way we practice cardiovascular medicine.

Over the course of the last year there has been considerable progress in the development of the Australia and New Zealand Alliance for Cardiovascular Trials (ANZACT) Network, which aims to facilitate investigator led trial activities across our region.

An ANZACT workshop was held in Melbourne on 8 February at which ideas for different clinical trials were presented that could be supported by the Network for grant application.

The Network currently has more than 60 individual members and this number is expected to grow.

Several members of our Clinical Trials Council have played key roles in getting the ball rolling with the Network and CSANZ will continue to be one of a number of stakeholders.

With the expansion of the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) now is the time to develop a coordinated, strategic platform, with the opportunity to place cardiovascular researchers in a good position to apply to access this funding.

We look forward to hearing more about the roll out of the Network over the course of this year.

Future CSANZ ASM Locations

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 2018 | Brisbane – hosted by the Queensland Regional Committee
Sudhir Wahi, Convenor, John Atherton, Scientific Program Chair |
| 2019 | Adelaide – hosted by the Victorian Regional Committee
Stephen Duffy, Convenor, Tom Marwick, Scientific Program Chair |
| 2020 | Auckland – hosted by the New Zealand Regional Committee |
| 2021 | Adelaide – hosted by the NSW Regional Committee |
| 2022 | TBC |
| 2023 | Adelaide – host Regional Committee TBC |



2-5 August 2018, Brisbane, QLD

www.csanzasm.com

Registration now open

Earlybird registration close 31 May 2018

Named Lecturers

R T Hall Lecturer

Kempson Maddox Lecturer

Victor Chang Memorial Lecturer

Gaston Bauer Lecturer

Basic Science Lecturer

Cardiovascular Nursing Lecturer

John Cleland

Anushka Patel

Patrick Perier

David Celermajer

David James

Judith Finn



ANZET18

12th Annual
Australia & New Zealand
Endovascular Therapies Meeting

3-5 August 2018, Brisbane, QLD

www.anzet.com.au

Registration now open

Earlybird registration deadline **31 May 2018**

Geoff Mews Memorial Fellows' Prize - Deadline for abstracts **6 July 2018**

ANZET Structural Heart Nurses Symposium **2 August 2018**

This meeting is open to: Cath Lab Nurses, Structural Co-ordinators

NEW for 2018

ANZET and the CSANZ ASM will be held over the same dates in 2018.

International Faculty confirmed to date:

Louis Bernstein Lecturer: David Kandzari, Piedmont Heart Institute, Atlanta, USA

Julinda Mehilli, German Heart Centre, Munich, Germany

Stéphane Rinfret, McGill University Health Centre, Montreal, Canada

Sandra Lauck, St Paul's Hospital, Vancouver, Canada

Ted Feldman, Evanston Hospital, Chicago, USA

Patrick Perier, Herz-und Gefäß-Klinik, Germany

I.K. Jang, Massachusetts General Hospital, Massachusetts, USA

CSANZ-Bayer Young Investigator Research Grants

Call for Applications

Applications are now open for the 2018 CSANZ-Bayer Young Investigator Research Grants. The grants have been made possible through unrestricted funding by Bayer with the aim of supporting exceptional young cardiovascular research talent in Australia and New Zealand.

Two grants of up to \$50,000 each are available.

Eligible applicants must be:

- a member of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand
- no more than six years post-award of PhD or postgraduate qualification
- domiciled in Australia or New Zealand
- affiliated with an academic/scientific institution or national health care system

All applications will be reviewed by the CSANZ Scientific Committee.

[Download Grant Conditions](#)

Application Requirements

- Completed grant application form ([click here to download](#))
- Two-page Current CV
- List of publications in the last six years
- 1500 word Research Project Outline
- Letter of support from Supervisor
- Clearance documents declared at Item 5 in the application form

APPLICATIONS CLOSE at 5pm AEST on 14 May, 2018.

Winners will be announced on Saturday, 4 August, 2018 at the CSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting in Brisbane.

For further information contact the CSANZ on info@csanz.edu.au or +61 2 9226 7900.

[Click here](#) to find out how to become a member of CSANZ and access all the benefits of membership.

Membership Changes and Additions

The following changes and new admissions to Membership occurred at the March 2018 Board meeting. The Society extends a warm welcome to all.

Affiliate Members

Miss B Beves (QLD), Mrs A Biju (VIC), Miss E Day (VIC), Miss T Dwyer (NZ), Ms V Garcia Hoyos (NZ), Mrs H Jammal (NSW), Ms R Jedwab (VIC), Ms R Kneebone (QLD), Ms N Nguyen (SA), Mrs J Orchard (NSW), Mrs M Prekopa (NZ), Mrs K Ramsden (NZ) and Mrs T Smyth (VIC).

Associate Members

Dr K Al-Zubaidi (NSW), Dr S Fairley (NZ), Dr M Namasivayam (NSW), Dr E Potter (VIC), Dr D Scherer (SA) and Dr Z Vetten (WA)

FCSANZ Members

Dr G Aggarwal (NSW), Dr S Coffey (NZ), Dr A Iyer (NSW), Dr H Jangwal (NSW), Dr G Liew (VIC), Dr A Markwick (SA)

International Clinical Cardiovascular Genetics Conference 2018

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre
23 - 25 May 2018



[Register now](#)



CSANZ18

CSANZ New Zealand
Annual Scientific Meeting

Airforce Museum, Christchurch | 14 – 16 June 2018

www.csanzasm.nz

New Zealand Cardiac Nursing Roadshow

Keneperu

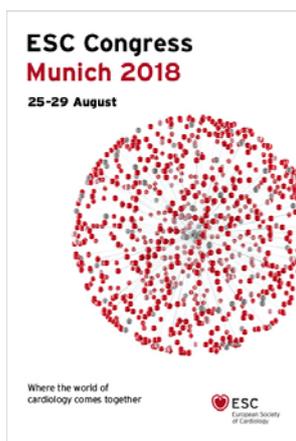
Tuesday, 15 May, 2018

Keneperu Hospital, Wellington

Registrations are open until Friday 4 May

Click here for [flyer](#) and [registration form](#)

For more information email kayla.kurta@racp.org.nz



Travelling Fellowship to ESC Congress 25–29 August, 2018 Munich, Germany

Applications are called for the **CSANZ Travelling Fellowships** for travel grants to enable investigators to attend the **European Society of Cardiology Congress 2018** to be held in **Munich, Germany, from 25 to 29 August 2018**. 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 \$3,000 each.
2. **At the time of application, applicants must be current financial FCSANZ, Associate Members or Affiliate Members of the Cardiac Society**, with preference given to those attending their first meeting.
3. The work must have emanated from Australia or New Zealand.
4. Applicants **must** have an abstract accepted for presentation at the ESC 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 5).
5. 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**.

6. Preference will be given to those who have not previously been awarded CSANZ travelling scholarships.
7. Conditions apply to successful applicants **not domiciled in Australia or New Zealand**.*
8. Late applications will NOT be considered.

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

- (1) copy of submitted abstract(s) and ESC notification of acceptance which includes the abstract title and the accepted presentation type
- (2) brief curriculum vitae (maximum 1 page)
- (3) supporting letter from the supervisor or Director

Closing Date

21 May, 2018

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*

* Contact the Sydney Secretariat to obtain a copy of the conditions (info@csanz.edu.au)

Affiliate Clinical Development Award (CDA)

Applications are called for the **Clinical Development Award** to enable **Affiliate Members** of the CSANZ to attend the 2018 CSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting in Brisbane, Queensland, from 2-5 August 2018. The Awards are intended to further develop the successful candidate through an increase in their clinical knowledge and expertise, an increased awareness of research and evidence-based practice and will also allow the successful candidate to build on their professional network. In particular, this strategy addresses succession planning for leadership positions in cardiovascular practice, research, education and management. **Candidates applying for a CDA are not required to have an abstract accepted for presentation at the ASM.**

The Awards:

- The Awards are valued at \$1,000 each to assist in defraying the costs of travel, accommodation etc with up to five being awarded.
- There will be up to three Awards to nursing and up to two to non-nursing applicants.
- Preference will be given on an equal basis to:
 - a) first time applicants for a CDA;
 - b) applicants who have not previously attended a CSANZ conference;
- Should the recipient of a CDA subsequently be awarded a CSANZ ASM Travelling Fellowship in the same year, the recipient may choose which award they wish to have, but are only entitled to one award.

Selection criteria:

1. The applicant must have held CSANZ

Affiliate Membership for at least 1 year and be currently financial.

2. Working or studying in a clinical area of cardiology or cardiothoracic surgery or working in an area where there is a large caseload of patients with cardiac conditions.
3. Applicants must reside outside of the State or Region in which the ASM is being held.

How to apply:

- Applicants should submit a one page document describing their interest in cardiovascular health and stating, with clear emphasis, the benefit to clinical practice / patients that attending the Conference will provide. For example, how it will add to the applicant's knowledge base and career, how it will benefit their workplace and how the applicant can contribute to the CSANZ Affiliates;
- Applicants should include details of their clinical area of work or study, including patient caseload and patient cardiac conditions;
- Include the names of two referees with whom you have worked closely and who have been involved in your career development ie mentor, supervisor, manager;
- Successful candidates will be required to write a report for the On The Pulse newsletter;
- Applications should be emailed to the Honorary Secretary at info@csanz.edu.au

Closing Date

11 June, 2018

Please note: *If applicants have not received email confirmation of receipt of their application within one week of submission, they should contact the Secretariat at info@csanz.edu.au*

Travelling Fellowship Report



I was very fortunate to receive a CSANZ Travelling Fellowship to attend the American Heart Association Scientific Sessions held at Anaheim, California (November 11-15, 2017), where I was a finalist for the 2017 *American Heart Association FGTB Young Investigator Award*.

Reducing the burden of preventable cardiovascular disease was a major theme at this conference. A key highlight of the meeting was the announcement of the 2017 AHA / ACC High Blood Pressure Guidelines, which advocated a lower threshold for the definition of hypertension. Witnessing the recommendations of this significant clinical practice change being announced first-hand, as well as the enormous media coverage it attracted in the United States, helped me appreciate how cardiovascular professional bodies and specialists can work together to make a positive difference to health at a societal level.

During this conference, I gave an oral presentation titled: *"A-band truncated titin exhibits altered ventricular diastolic compliance in-vivo and reveals enhanced susceptibility to the effects of volume overload in mutation carriers"*. This presentation was based on research that I carried out during my time as a PhD candidate at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute (VCCRI) and St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney, where I had pioneered the use of high frequency echocardiography to make novel insights into the cardiac physiology of a prevalent genetic cause of

heart failure in the community. This work was supervised by Professor Diane Fatkin and Professor Michael Feneley, and was made possible by the creation of a transgenic zebrafish line by Dr Inken Martin (née Huttner) from the Fatkin Laboratory.

Having an opportunity to present my own work (that formed one of the three results chapters of my thesis), and in front of clinician-researchers whom I greatly admire, was a very thrilling and memorable experience.

I enjoyed the many plenary sessions and oral presentations. I also really valued the many informal chats, which reminded me of the significant benefits a clinician receives from undertaking additional training in basic science (i.e. gaining exposure to the scientific method and the practical application of critical reasoning, as well as learning how to ask deep mechanistic questions that fundamentally underpin disease manifestation, prognosis and therapeutic applications in one's patients).

The immediate results of attending this meeting was that it encouraged me to complete an even more exciting new body of work that used high frequency echocardiography to explain some of the fundamental physiological consequences associated with various titin truncating mutations. If it hadn't been for this meeting, I may have never embarked on this latest work, which has enabled me to reach a position where I can finally complete my PhD.

I will be very forever grateful to the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand for this award and would like to sincerely thank the CSANZ Board for this amazing opportunity.

***Dr Louis Wang MBBS MM FRACP FCSANZ
Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute,
St Vincent's Hospital and the
University of New South Wales,
Sydney, NSW***

Travelling Fellowship Reports



In 2017, I had two abstracts accepted for presentation at the American Heart Association (AHA) 2017 Scientific Sessions that were held in Anaheim, California in November. I was also extremely fortunate to be the recipient of a CSANZ Travelling Fellowship to attend the conference.

This was my first time attending AHA and I was very impressed. The content was extremely relevant to my research interests and the quality of all presentations, symposia, summits and educational sessions was outstanding. I learned about new directions with which to take my research and about the latest developments in the world of cardiovascular research. In addition to attending to the main event sessions, I attended a dedicated day for Early Career Researchers that focused on career progression and development, the importance of mentoring and developing strategies to put forward successful funding applications. As part of this day, I attended "Lunch with the Legends" which provided the opportunity for Early Career Researchers to network with internationally recognised cardiovascular researchers. I also attended meetings relating to two research networks of which I am a member. This was the first time that I had met

some of the senior researchers involved which was invaluable. We discussed future research ideas and potential collaborative projects.

On behalf of my fellow colleagues, I presented our work looking at 1) the profile of mild cognitive impairment across the spectrum of cardiovascular disease and 2) the influence of body mass index on the risk of developing atrial fibrillation. Both presentations were well-received by clinicians and researchers who showed great interest in the work which has wide-ranging implications for individuals with cardiovascular disease and those at risk of developing cardiovascular disease. Questions relating to our work promoted discussion and the forging of ideas for future research directions. The opportunity to present the work of myself and my colleagues at such a large international meeting was invaluable.

I am most grateful to the CSANZ for the support they provided and the opportunities that attending the AHA Scientific Sessions has given me. I have no doubt that new research directions, projects and potential collaborations will result from my attendance at the conference. It was through the generous support provided by CSANZ that I was able to attend the conference to present our research findings and proudly represent Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute. I sincerely thank the CSANZ for their support.

*Dr Jocasta Ball
Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute
Melbourne, VIC*

Travelling Fellowship Report



This year I was extremely fortunate to receive a CSANZ Travelling Fellowship to attend the American College of Cardiology (ACC) 2018 Scientific Sessions in Orlando, Florida. This is a meeting that I had never attended previously and is certainly the biggest meeting I have ever been to!

I had submitted an abstract to present as a poster entitled "Global longitudinal strain and mechanical dispersion improves risk stratification of malignant ventricular arrhythmias and major adverse cardiac events over ejection fraction alone". I was honoured to be able to share this research on behalf of my colleagues and my supervisor Professor Joseph Selvanayagam. Our research has demonstrated that advanced myocardial imaging with the echocardiographic strain measurement of mechanical dispersion is able to predict sudden cardiac death and malignant ventricular arrhythmias. I felt that my abstract was well received and I had a number of great discussions about our research during the poster session.

As well as my abstract presentation I was lucky enough to attend some fantastic sessions, with my main focus being echocardiography. One of the highlights for me was a session about stress echocardiography in complicated cases, particularly the presentations on using

dobutamine stress echo to uncover 'true' from 'pseudo' aortic stenosis.

Winning this Travelling Fellowship also meant that I could attend and present a case the day before the ACC meeting started at the 34th Annual International Conference on Recent Advances in Echocardiography and Allied Techniques put on by the International Society of Cardiovascular Ultrasound. This was a great way to interact with cardiac imaging specialists even before the main meeting had started.

I am extremely grateful to the CSANZ for the support to attend this fantastic meeting. I have come back to work with new research ideas and new worldwide research contacts, increasing our potential for collaboration.

*Dr Rebecca Perry
Flinders University
South Australia*

Travelling Fellowship Report



I was honoured to receive the CSANZ Travelling Fellowship to the 67th Annual Scientific Session and Expo of the American College of Cardiology in Orlando, Florida, March 10-12, 2018. The meeting is

one of the world's premier cardiology meetings where the latest developments in clinical diagnostics, management and research are presented amongst tens of thousands of attendees from across the globe.

My presentation was on the fourth stage of my PhD in cardiovascular physiology, which looked at a novel approach to assessment of ventricular pressure-volume and aortic pressure-flow relationships to better understand cardiovascular function in the clinical arena. I have been completing my PhD part-time through the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute and the University of New South Wales, Sydney in conjunction with my completion of cardiology advanced training at St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney. Earlier stages of my PhD have evaluated vascular-ventricular interaction and consequent predisposition to ischaemia in healthy ageing individuals; intra-operative ventricular physiology in beating-heart transcatheter mitral valve replacement; and using mathematical and physical principles to improve understanding of the recently described entity of paradoxical low flow, low gradient aortic stenosis. My PhD is supervised by Prof. Christopher Hayward and co-supervised by Prof. Michael Feneley, and additional supervisors include A/Prof. David Muller, A/Prof. Andrew Jabbour (senior author on the abstract presented at this year's ACC meeting) and Emeritus Prof. Michael O'Rourke.

The 2018 ACC meeting was an amazing experience. There were numerous invaluable sessions which often ran parallel to each other, so I found myself on many occasions hurrying between rooms to attend as many talks (from field leaders) that pertained to my clinical and research interests. In addition to the large-scale sessions such as the plenaries and the late breaking clinical trials, there were smaller, more focused sessions on specific aspects of cardiology, tailored to the diversity of interest in the cardiology community. Clinical simulator sessions, future focus sessions and sessions targeted at early career researchers and fellows were particularly valuable. The ACC has a commitment to foster the next generation of global cardiovascular professionals, researchers and leaders, and certainly demonstrates this through its meeting structure and networking opportunities.

I sincerely thank the CSANZ for affording me the tremendous opportunity through the CSANZ Travelling Fellowship to attend this esteemed meeting and be able to share my work and learn amongst the global cardiovascular community.

Dr Mayooran Namasiyayam

MBBS(Hons1), BSc(Med)(Hons1), FRACP

*St. Vincent's Hospital,
University of New South Wales and
Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute,
Sydney, Australia*

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On the pulse

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Forthcoming Meetings

NORTH AMERICA

AHA18

10 – 14 November, 2018

Chicago, Illinois

www.scientificsessions.americanheart.org/

ACC19

16 – 18 March, 2018

New Orleans, LA

www.cardiosource.org/acc

EUROPE

ESC Congress 2018

25 – 29 August 2018

Munich, Germany

www.escardio.org

ASIA PACIFIC

APSC 2018 Congress

17 – 20 May 2018

Taipei, Taiwan

www.apsc2018.tw

**CSANZ New Zealand
Annual Scientific Meeting**

14 – 16 June 2018

Christchurch, New Zealand

Contact details:

The Conference Company

Phone: 64 9 360 1240

www.csanzasm.nz

**International Clinical
Cardiovascular Genetics
Conference 2018**

23 – 25 May, 2018

Brisbane, Queensland

Contact details:

The Conference Company

Phone: 64 9 360 1240

www.iccgconference.com

CSANZ2018

2 – 5 August, 2018

Brisbane, Queensland

Contact details:

The Conference Company

Phone: 64 9 360 1240

www.csanz.edu.au

ANZET18

3 – 5 August, 2018

Brisbane, Queensland

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