



Celebrating
40 Years
1976-2016

ASID ASIDES



40th Anniversary edition

ASID ASIDES: 40th Anniversary edition

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Photographs courtesy of:

David Looke, Allen Cheng, Jenny Hoy, Clare Nourse, Cheryl Jones, Deborah Lehmann, the Fenner family & University of NSW & teaching hospitals (page 12), Clem Boughton & Sydney Medical School at the University of Sydney (page 8).



The ASID office:

The ASID office was initially located in the premises of the RACP in Macquarie Street, Sydney. The first part-time Secretariat of the Society from the late Nineties, Robyn Middleton was a College employee, and so was Di Walsh who managed the operations of the Society from 2001 to 2010. Maggie Game, who took over the role of Senior Executive Officer in 2010, became a direct employee of the Society and in 2014 moved to a larger office within the ASHM premises in Surry Hills, NSW. Since 2015 ASID has a full time Senior Executive Officer, Marilena Salvo and a part-time Membership and Communications Officer, Emma Davies. The increase in staff and office space reflects the Society's broader membership base and scope of activity.



Di Walsh (2nd from right) with Levinia Crooks of ASHM (right) & ASHM staff.

ASID ASIDES Editor: A/Prof Patrick Charles

Sources of Article 1, page 4:

ASID Archives- Minutes, including Annual Scientific Meetings ; Prof Clem Boughton- "The Founding of the Society" at the ASM of ASID, Canberra, March 1986; The History of the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases, by Dr Charles Ron Lucas, (RACP publication, 1988); Prof Clem Boughton- personal communication, 2016 .

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Professor Cheryl Jones, ASID President



Dear Members and supporters of ASID,

It is my pleasure to present this 40th anniversary edition of our newsletter, ASID ASIDES.

The catalysts of the formation of ASID between 1975 and 1977 were John Forbes and Clem Boughton in Australia, and Ruthven Lang in New Zealand. It is thanks to the dedication of these pioneers followed by many individuals including all of our former Presidents and officer bearers that the Society, and the specialities of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology are well established in the region, and are global leaders in clinical practice, research and more recently advocacy.

This anniversary edition features four informative and enjoyable articles on the first four decades of ASID's life by Professors John Spicer, Lyn Gilbert, Tania Sorrell and Lindsay Grayson. Our current trainees in infectious diseases /microbiology led by Evan Bursle have recorded oral histories from a number of key ASID members over the last 40 years. I am grateful to them all for keeping the memories alive for those of us who were there, and for giving our younger members the opportunity to learn about ASID's colourful history.

ASID has now nearly 800 members and includes four special interest groups (the "SIGs" in paediatric infectious disease, mycology, viral hepatitis and hospital acquired infections), a Clinical Research Network and multiple discussion forums. Our members now include not only physicians, but also a broad range of human and animal health professionals, scientists and researchers. Together with the Annual Scientific Meeting, ASID now holds a second conference on a priority area, a conference run by our New Zealand members and many state based, or SIG clinical meetings and workshops every year. We also regularly join with other national and international specialist societies to co-host international conferences in Australia. We offer a growing range of awards which reflect our major areas of interest in capacity building of colleagues in resource poor settings in our region, our commitment to promoting excellence in research in the field, and our adoption of a "one health" (human and animal) approach to infectious diseases and microbiology, as shown by our newest award, to be presented for the first time at the International Congress of Tropical Medicine and Malaria in September this year, in honour of past President Barrie Marmion.

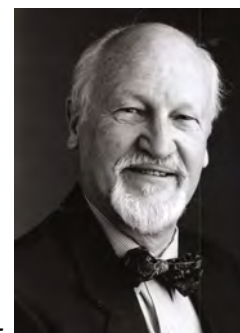
Coordinating such a large range of activities requires time and dedication. You will find reference to several of the main contributors over the decades in this publication. But it is impossible to acknowledge all office bearers in a limited space, and I would like to take this opportunity to convey the Society's heartfelt thanks to all who have made major contributions to ASID including all current and past Secretaries and Treasurers both in Australia and New Zealand, the current and past SIG/Group Chairs and Secretaries, our trainee representatives on ASID and RACP committees, the event Convenors and all committee members.

What will the next decade bring? Climate change and globalisation leading to emerging/ re-emerging infections and the spread of antimicrobial resistance will put our society at the forefront of global challenges over the next decade. Our world class researchers are needed to rapidly identify and respond to these changes. We therefore need to ensure that ASID remains vibrant, outward looking, and responsive to the needs of society for many decades to come.

Cheryl Jones
President

THE FIRST DECADE OF ASID

1975 to 1984



By Adjunct Professor W John Spicer, ASID Founding Member with considerable help from Professor Clem Boughton, ASID Founding Member.

The first record of a proposed Australian Infectious Diseases Society (AIDS!!) is a letter from Dr John Forbes, Medical Superintendent of Fairfield Hospital, to Associate Professor Clem Boughton of Prince Henry Hospital, Sydney in 1970.

A Preliminary Meeting to discuss the proposed Society was arranged by them at Fairfield Hospital on 29th September 1975. Attended by 13 interested doctors (all male) there were 9 apologies: the clinicians (7) and clinical microbiologists (3) were outnumbered by government health administrators (11) and 1 academic. It was agreed to form an *Australian Society of Infectious Diseases*, with a possible name change to "Australasian" after consultation with New Zealand colleagues (who quickly agreed). The aims of the proposed Society were defined particularly as research, teaching and clinical services, as the Australian Society of Microbiology was active in laboratory services.

The Inaugural Meeting of the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases (ASID) was held at Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital, Melbourne on 2nd April 1976, attended by 28 doctors, with another 20 apologies. Forty years later, younger ASID members will find it hard to believe that, although dual training and appointments make categorisation imprecise, the 15 Microbiologists (11 Clinical and 4 Academic) plus the 17 Government administrators easily outnumbered the 18 Infectious Disease Physicians. Indeed, apart from seven at Fairfield, there were only 2 fulltime ID Physicians in teaching hospitals in Australia (PHH Sydney and The Alfred in Melbourne) plus 2 part-time, 2 also working as Clinical Microbiologists (hence counted twice, total =50), 2 in TB services, and 3 in NZ.

The Inaugural meeting was told by Professor Bryan Hudson, representing the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, that the College welcomed the founding of ASID, would seek advice from ASID, and would help in defining training. The meeting elected Dr Forbes as Foundation President, Prof Boughton as Foundation Vice-President, and Dr Ron Lucas as Secretary-Treasurer. The Constitution was agreed, and a Council elected. Sir Macfarlane Burnet had agreed to be our Patron, and this was endorsed.

Below: John Forbes wrote to the Coat of Arms, London in 1983 to request sketches for an ASID Petition of Arms. The decision was made not to proceed in 1989.



© Norroy and Ulster King of Arms 1987

The First Annual Scientific Meeting was held at the Southern Cross Hotel, Melbourne in March 1977. Sir Macfarlane himself spoke on the History of ID in Australia, Dr A. B. Christie (UK) gave the first Burnet Oration on (optimistically) "Infection- Rise and Fall", and Dr A. Steigman of New York spoke of the Origins of the ID Society of America. The historical emphasis continued with reviews of Malaria, Staphylococcal Septicaemia, Influenza and Hepatitis A, and one lone clinical paper on Unusual Infections.

There is obviously a great contrast with recent AS-ID meetings, but remember there were only 18 ID Physicians, only 2 hospitals with ID beds and Registrars, no College-defined training, and no dedicated ID research institutes. The meeting was famous also for the post-dinner gastroenteritis in our oyster eaters- probably from a *Vibrio* sp., though the recently-described Norwalk agent was not excluded. The subsequent demolition of the hotel was unrelated. Annual Scientific meetings continued with invited Sir Macfarlane Burnet speakers:

Dear Dr Lucas
We are looking forward to being at the Healesville meeting in March and I shall be happy to give a little talk on the early days of flu research. I shall also be interested to hear about this years A+B incidence - I remember when we had a similar A+B in I think 1944
With kind regards
Yours sincerely
Mac Burnet.

Above: A letter from Sir Macfarlane Burnet to Prof Ron Lucas, agreeing to present on the early days of flu research at a Healesville ASM.

Below: Macfarlane Burnet speaking to Mike Richards and Jenny Hoy in 1983



Significant developments throughout this decade included:

Membership increased to over 150 as more ID Physicians were appointed to general tertiary hospitals in capital cities.

Training was defined, and a few registrars appointed.

Research projects became more common.

Non- medical members were admitted.

Members became authors of the Antibiotic Guidelines writing panel, the first of numerous guidelines.

Dr A B Christie said with relish in 1977 "There's nothing like a good epidemic" and the appearance, inter alia, of MRSA in 1975, Legionellosis in 1976, and AIDS in 1982-3 certainly stimulated the development of Infectious Diseases as a speciality and Infection Control in Australia.

1978	Sydney	Dr Carleton Gajdusek (Nobel Laureate, imprisoned paedophile)
1979	Canberra	Dr Karl Johnson, Arbovirologist
1980	Healesville	Prof Frank Fenner, subsequently our Patron
1981	Auckland	Dr Morton Schwartz, for our first ASM in NZ
1982	Adelaide	Prof Saul Krugman, involved in Hepatitis B vaccine development
1983	Healesville	Prof Harold Lambert, first ID Chair in London, UK. Sir Mac spoke on the 50 th anniversary of influenza virus propagation
1984	QLD	Prof Cedric Mims, Immunologist (Venue Kooralbyn Valley)

The 1984 ASM programme shows the progress since the first ASM:

There were three times as many presentations. Clinical ID (16) now outnumbered Laboratory (7) and Public Health (3) topics. Original research was now appearing, contrasted with the previous case reports and laboratory data summaries. Clinical papers ranged from African Haemorrhagic Fever and AIDS through Bacteraemia with *S. bovis* to Gram Negative bacteraemia and IV Cannula Removal, to Mucormycosis, Parvovirus Enteritis and Neurosurgical Infections.

The decade closed with ASID stronger, bigger, better, and more expert, more optimistic and more influential.

ASID Presidents

1975—1984

1977	Dr John Forbes
1978	Dr John Forbes
1979	Prof Clem Boughton
1980	Prof Clem Boughton
1981	Prof Clem Boughton
1982	Prof Barrie Marmion
1983	Prof Barrie Marmion
1984	Dr William Langsford

Profile: John Forbes & the John Forbes Developing Nations Award

John Alan Forbes OAM joined the army when war was declared in Europe. After demobilisation he completed his medical course at the University of Melbourne. Appointed resident at Fairfield in 1953 and later medical superintendent, Forbes transformed Fairfield Hospital from a receiving centre for communicable diseases to a major university teaching and research establishment with an international reputation. In the mid-1950s Forbes set up the Epidemiology Research Department which evolved into the Virology Department led by Professor Ian Gust reaching international status.



Between 1966 and 1979 he established aid programs in Indonesia and Vietnam for native people who, after the war, had suffered gross deprivation and poverty. In 1975-76, together with Clem Boughton, Ruthven Lang and others, he helped establish ASID.

Following his retirement, the annual Forbes Week and the Forbes Fellow were established at Fairfield Hospital. The Forbes Fellow is a distinguished scientist or physician who conducts a series of postgraduate lectures and seminars for one week. Forbes was highly delighted and did not miss attending one meeting.

The ASID John Forbes Award is presented annually to physicians or scientists from developing countries in the Asia Pacific region to attend the ASID Annual Scientific Meeting and visit centres in Australia/New Zealand.

ASID'S 2ND DECADE

1985 to 1994



By Professor Lyn Gilbert, ASID President 1997 - 1999 & Professor Tania Sorrell, ASID President 1989 - 1991

The 1985 annual scientific meeting at the RACV Club in Healesville, was the first organised by Shirley Corley (Dart Associates), who went on to organise all but 3 of the subsequent meetings, until 2006. Shirley's organisational expertise, her memory for members' names and idiosyncrasies, her obvious commitment to ASID and the many members who became her friends established her as an ASID "institution". Shirley's team was largely responsible for the success of nearly 20 annual meetings and made the local organising committees' tasks much easier. The 3 meetings she did not organise (1987-9) were all atypical.

In 1987, a combined meeting of ASID and the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) took

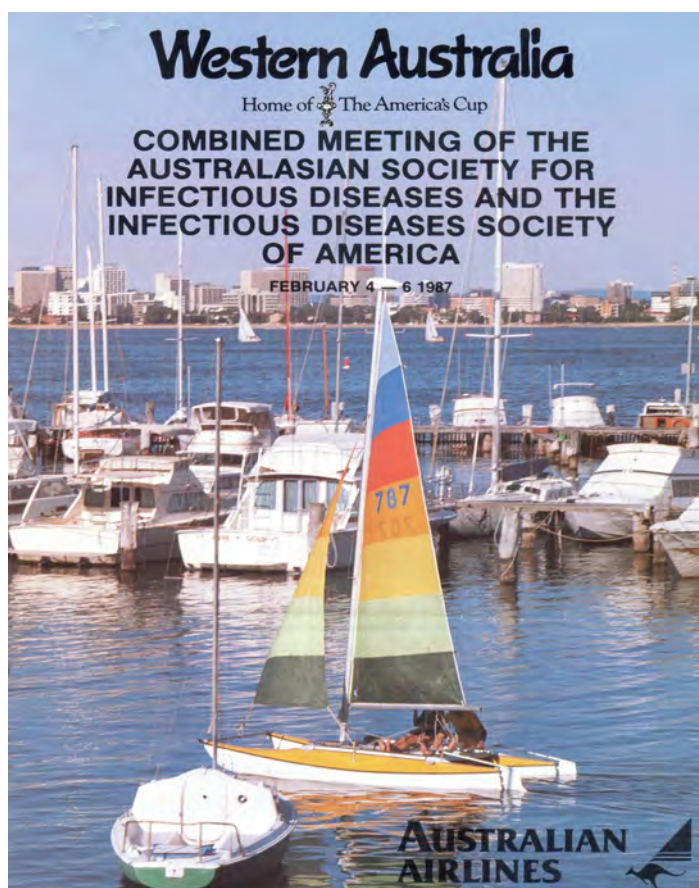
over the luxury cruiser Achille Lauro in Freemantle harbour, at a time that coincided – not coincidentally – with the famous America's cup yacht race that saw Australia as the defender of the title. The 3-day program was largely confined to the mornings! One of the highlights (at least in retrospect) was a presentation, by Barry Marshall, on "*Campylobacter pyloridis*" (later *Helicobacter pylori*). I doubt anyone would have predicted at the time that Barry (with Rob Warren) would later win a Nobel Prize (2005) for their work on *H. pylori*.

1988 was the Golden Anniversary of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP). Several special societies, including ASID, timed their annual meetings in Sydney to coincide with the College's Jubilee meeting, including a one-day conjoint meeting at which the esteemed Australian immunologist, Sir Gustav Nossal, gave the Burnet address.

At the 1989 meeting in Auckland, the Burnet speaker was Professor Sam Katz, a paediatrician and vaccinologist. A welcome bonus was an address by Sam's wife and fellow paediatrician, Professor Cathy Wilfert, on paediatric AIDS. Sadly in the same year, ASID's first President and a previous Medical Superintendent of Fairfield Hospital (1961-85), John Forbes, died at the age of 69.

The Adelaide meeting (1992) again coincided – and shared a conjoint session with – the RACP's annual scientific meeting. This was the first ASID meeting at which we succumbed to pressure to hold a trade exhibition, which failed because very few delegates visited it and the experiment was never repeated.

1986-95 was the decade when AIDS began to dominate infectious diseases practice around the world. There were presentations and symposia on



1985- 1994

AIDS (including from the early 1990s, the new antiretroviral drugs) and opportunistic infections, at most meetings. Hepatitis B (for which a recombinant vaccine replaced the earlier serum-derived vaccine, in 1986), nosocomial infections (which had been the subject of a national survey, in 1984), vaccines (new e.g. *Haemophilus influenzae* type b [Hib] and hoped for – malaria, TB, AIDS) and antibiotics (guidelines, increasing resistance, susceptibility testing) were also recurring themes, with clinical and scientific presentations represented fairly equally.

“1986-1995 was the decade when AIDS began to dominate infectious diseases practice around the world.”

From 1989 on, there was an increasing emphasis on trainees' and advanced early career research presentations supported by Beecham and Glaxo awards.

In 1990 (at Coolumb, Queensland), 2 half-day symposia and the Burnet speaker (Dr Jack Bennett, from the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, USA), reflected the growing interest in fungal infections.

A series of concurrent workshops reflecting contemporary concerns – antenatal screening, immunisation schedules, nosocomial infections, bedside tests, antibiotic guidelines, chronic fatigue syndrome [CFS] – was first introduced at the Lorne meeting (1991).

The 1992 meeting in Adelaide, held in conjunction with the RACP, was preceded by a symposium in honour of Professor Barrie Marmion, a past president (1982-3) and Burnet speaker (1985), with sessions on 3 topics to which he made major, internationally recognised contributions - *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, Q fever and hepatitis B. The workshop topics at this meeting included paediatric infectious diseases, antibiotic guidelines, AIDS and the healthcare worker, hepatitis C and undergraduate teaching in ID. A symposium in honour of another retiring past president - Professor Clem Boughton – at the 1993 meeting in the Hunter Valley - reflected his

longstanding work on arboviruses and, more recently, CFS. Clem, who was the first honorary life member of ASID, was renowned for his clinical teaching as Director of Australia's first infectious diseases hospital (with a view!) – the Prince Henry Hospital at Little Bay, NSW.

Canberra, 1994, was notable for, among other things, our having to compete for space at the Hyatt Hotel with the US Secretary of State and his security detail, who had arrived at short notice and bounced us out of several pre-booked rooms. Symposia at that meeting included paediatric infectious disease mycology, zoonoses, hospital-acquired infections (including VRE for the first time) and vector-borne diseases.



Prof Clem Boughton

“In the 1960s-70s, we, the then young devotees of ID recognised that there were two pillars of ID in Australia. John Forbes of Melbourne & Clem Boughton of Sydney. Whilst John Forbes was of the traditional mode originating from Fairfield Hospital... Clem was a trail blazer in Sydney working from within a general hospital.”

Allen Yung, The Boughton Symposium, 1993

1994 was the year Hendra virus was discovered after 13 horses and one human died from a infection with a previously unknown morbillivirus. A survey of wildlife, identified fruit bats as the most likely source and also, incidentally, identified a new (Australian bat) lyssavirus (ABLV) in a juvenile black flying fox. The first fatal rabies-like human case of ABLV infection was identified in 1996.

ASID Presidents 1985—1994

1985	Dr William Langsford
1986	A/Prof Ian Gust
1987	A/Prof Ian Gust
1988	A/Prof Ian Gust
1989	Prof Tania Sorrell
1990	Prof Tania Sorrell
1991	Prof Tania Sorrell
1992	Dr Richard Kemp
1993	Dr Richard Kemp
1994	Dr Richard Kemp

WEDNESDAY, 17 APRIL

AIDS SEMINAR I

Chairman: Dr Richard Kemp
Sponsored by Pfizer Pty. Limited

- 8.30 Principles of Anti-HIV Therapy
Dr Suzanne Crowe
- 9.00 Clinical Aspects of Anti-HIV Therapy
Dr Ron Lucas
- 9.30 Human Immunodeficiency Virus Grown in CD4-Bearing Cells is Coated with CD4
Dr John Mills
- 9.50 Changing Epidemiology of HIV Infection in Australian Women
Professor Tania Sorrell
- 10.10 Is CMV Viraemia Predictive of CMV Retinitis?
Dr Jenny Hoy
- 10.30 MORNING COFFEE/TEA
- AIDS SEMINAR II**
Chairman: Dr Alex Proudfoot
- 11.00 The Organisation of Drug Trials for AIDS
Dr Richard Kemp
- 11.25 Funding of AIDS Research
Professor Peter McDonald
- 11.50 Vaccines for HIV
Professor Ian Gust
- 12.30 **FAREWELL LUNCH**
Horizons Restaurant

Above: Details of an Aids Seminars in the ASM program, 1991, Lorne.

Profile: Barrie Marmion & the Barrie Marmion Award

Barrie Marmion made distinguished contributions to the control of infectious diseases, most recently hepatitis B and Q fever, to diagnostic medical microbiology and the practice of pathology, and to medical education. His career spanned 70 years, from the era of smallpox and diphtheria to that of gene therapy and molecular diagnostics.

Barrie was a valued mentor to younger scientists. After his passing in 2014 ASID established an award for early career researchers in his honour. The inaugural Barrie Marmion award will be presented at the International Congress of Tropical Medicine and Malaria in September 2016.



ASID'S 3RD DECADE

1995 to 2004

By Professor Lyn Gilbert, ASID President 1997 - 1999 &
Professor Tania Sorrell, ASID President 1989 - 1991



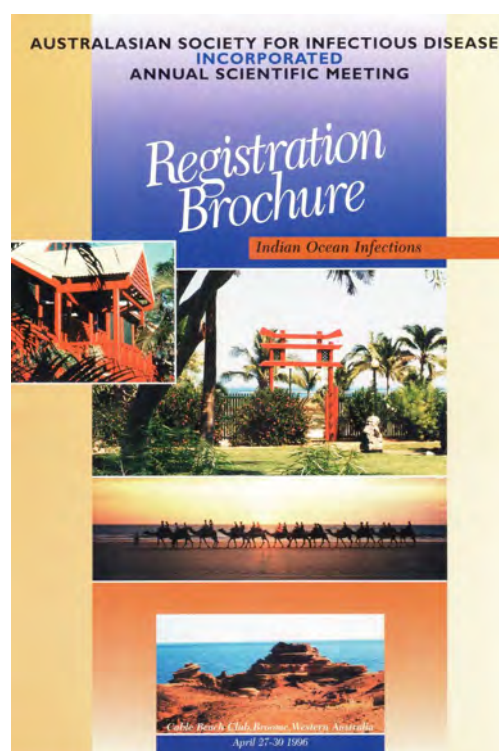
Symposia at the 1995 and 1996 meeting reflected the geographic settings: Darwin (1995) - tropical diseases, malaria, Aboriginal health, zoonoses, travel medicine: Broome (1996) - Indian ocean infections (HIV and TB in South Africa, nosocomial infections in South East Asia, diarrhoea in Indonesia) and infections of north-western Australia (TB, environmental and Aboriginal health, STDs in the Kimberly). In 1996 John Mills gave the first oration in honour of Richard Kemp who was ASID President (1992-5) at the time of his death. He had been a pioneer in the treatment of HIV/AIDS and much loved and respected advocate for people living with AIDS, from which he, himself, died.

Urinary tract, respiratory and staphylococcal infections were each the subject of a symposium in the 3rd New Zealand meeting (Queenstown, 1997) and home IV therapy featured for the first time. Paediatric infections, including rheumatic fever and meningococcal Group B - for which a local strain-specific vaccine was under development – and vertically transmitted HIV infection reflected some of the major concerns of New Zealand's ID paediatricians.

A dedicated advanced trainee session – with commentaries on each presentation from a senior consultant/expert - was first introduced at the 1998 meeting in Hobart, which was also distinguished by a post-conference workshop on hepatitis C. Symposium topics included “common things” (osteomyelitis, CFS, staphylococcal bacteraemia and cellulitis), infections in ICU and in the immunocompromised and adjunctive therapy (including immune-modulating agents, hyperbaric oxygen and probiotics).

The Palm Cove, Cairns, meeting (1999) was most memorable for more or less continuous rain despite the meeting being later than usual to avoid the wet season. It coincided with the Australian College of Tropical Medicine (ACTM) conference and so there was a strong emphasis on tropical diseases - arboviral, parasitic, gastrointestinal, sexually transmissible and mycobacterial as well as infections found in North Queensland (melioidosis, leptospirosis, rickettsial and ABLV) infections. Some relatively novel topics included rotavirus vaccines, ESBLs and multiresistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.

ASID delegates were invited to the ACTM Convocation, at which the renowned Australian virologist, Professor Frank Fenner, was to be presented with an award. It was a very formal affair that started with a procession of ACTM dignitaries, in formal academic dress (including suits, ties and “pancake hats”, of course). No-one had warned Frank, who



had come to Cairns, like most of us, with only light tropical clothes. He looked very endearing (at least to his ASID colleagues) in shorts, sneakers and borrowed tie and academic gown. It was, perhaps, not coincidental that in 2000, ASID council invited Frank to be our patron; he agreed and continued in the role until his death, at 95, in 2010. He was a wonderful patron: an international icon with dozens of awards and accolades (17 listed in Wikipedia including MBE, CMG, AC, Albert Einstein World Award for Science and Japan Prize among others), who was the gentlest, humblest and most generous person. He came to virtually every annual scientific meeting, until his health began to fail, and often contributed to sessions and joined in the social events, often seen dancing until late at night. At meals he sat with young trainees and researchers discussing their work and offering wise counsel, advice and wonderful anecdotes from his vast experience. And he remembered everyone's name!

In 2000, at Leura in the Blue Mountains, concurrent sessions starting with a "state-of-the-art" review, and followed by relevant proffered papers, were introduced (perhaps copying similar format at ICAAC) and there was a "journal club" in which senior delegates discussed an article that had influenced their approach to ID ("The day the earth stood still"!). An increasing global concern about the next (seemingly overdue) influenza pandemic was reflected in a symposium on future prospects and pandemic preparedness. Both the Paediatric and Mycoses Special Interest Groups (SIGs) met – possibly for the first time – and their meetings were followed by relevant symposia.

"In 2000, at Leura ...concurrent sessions starting with a state of the art review, followed by proffered papers were introduced."

At the next meeting in Melbourne (2001) the two SIGs held concurrent preconference symposia and meetings for the first time, which then became a regular feature. ASID celebrated its 25th anniversary with an historical symposium about ID in Australia and the achievements of Australian ID researchers. Joy Boughton, a well-known Sydney



haematologist, amateur poet and regular delegate at ASID meetings with her husband, Clem, long after they had both retired, wrote a celebratory limerick for the silver anniversary (reproduced on page 13).

This was one of few meetings to be held in a major city; it had been an ASID tradition to meet in relatively isolated locations to encourage social as well as scientific interactions (and the attendance of delegates families).

In 2002 (Barossa Valley), Alvis Kucers was honoured as our second honorary life member. Lindsay Grayson recounted his contributions to ASID from a tabletop at the conference dinner at the Yalumba Winery. Alvis, who died in 2007, is remembered, particularly, for his seminal text book, *The Use of Antibiotics*, which grew from a bundle of type-written, photocopied foolscap pages, stapled together (~ 1969) into its current, 2014, 6th Edition - a massive 2-volume tome of over 3000 pages.

1995- 2004

ASID published the first edition of one of its first major guidelines – in the form of a series of algorithms - on Management of Perinatal Infections in 2002.

The 2003 meeting (Canberra) was notable for – among other things – sessions on the power of the internet; relationships between ID physicians and the media and public health; whether Lyme disease occurs in Australia; the effects of global warming on ID and – of course – SARS, which had just emerged from China and was still a relatively unknown threat. In 2003, Allen Yung was honoured as an honorary life member. Allen was a quiet, gentle, wise physician and a wonderful teacher and mentor, whose textbook (with others) on *Infectious Diseases: a Clinical Approach*, first published in 2001, has also become a classic now in its 5th edition.



Above: Frank Fenner presenting Cheryl Jones with the Frank Fenner Award in 2004, the first time the award was given in his name.

Profile: Frank Fenner & the Frank Fenner Award

Frank Fenner was a pioneer of myxomatosis research in Australia and his research into 'mouse pox' led to key developments in general understanding of the pathogenesis of viral disease. He played a central part in the global eradication of smallpox, chairing the World Health Organization Global Commission for the Certification of Smallpox Eradication, and was one of the authors of the key text, 'Medical Virology'.

Over the years Fenner was elected to the fellowship of several academies and has been the recipient of numerous awards, medals and honours throughout his career.



Frank Fenner was a philanthropist who made generous donations to the John Curtin School of Medical Research of the ANU -- which he headed until 1973 -- and the Australian Academy of Science, of which he was a founding fellow. He was also an advocate for public health. Fenner was an active member of ASID and was the patron of the society from 2000 until his death in late 2010 aged 95.

The Frank Fenner award is open to ASID members who have performed a substantial portfolio of original research in Infectious Diseases. The award is presented at ASID's Annual Scientific Meeting. Awardees actively participate in the ASM and present the annual Frank Fenner oration based on their research portfolio.



ASID Silver Anniversary 2001

'Twas John Forbes' inspiration
And this blessed visitation
Was applauded by the members
Of that small and chosen band.

To Fairfield they withdrew
And without much more ado
Midst a warm and homely welcome
The Society was planned.

How to name this neonate
Was a cause for much debate
And the choice of "of" or "for"
Nearly caused a civil war.

But our leader calm and placid
Said "Why not call it "ASID"?
So godfathers were appointed
And the babe forthwith anointed.

Five and twenty years have flown
And our baby's fully grown.
And though we ourselves have said it
It's greatly to our credit.

Joy Boughton



ASID Presidents 1995—2004

1995 Dr Richard Kemp

1996 Dr Richard Kemp

1997 Prof Lyn Gilbert

1998 Prof Lyn Gilbert

1999 Prof Lyn Gilbert

2000 A/Prof Joe McCormack

2001 A/Prof Joe McCormack

2002 A/Prof Joe McCormack

2003 A/Prof Philip Jones

2004 A/Prof Philip Jones

THE 4TH DECADE

The force emerges

2005 to 2016



By Professor M. Lindsay Grayson, ASID President 2006 - 2009

The past decade has been a time of great change with ASID emerging from being an organisation primarily focused on its Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) and education, to a Society that provides expert opinion and public commentary on key topics of national significance, advocacy for important infectious diseases issues and coordination of a national Clinical Research Network (CRN).

Furthermore, the past decade has seen a number of ASID members take on major international infectious diseases leadership roles. Overall, ASID has reflected a growing national awareness and self-confidence in the high scientific quality of infectious diseases research and training in Australasia and the role that ASID should play in the region's healthcare.

Conferences

ASID Conferences have reflected the wider engagement of the Society, with the 2005 ASM (Busselton, WA) being a combined meeting with the Society for Infectious Disease (Singapore). This was an important initiative which subsequently resulted in more formal linkages, including many Singaporean colleagues joining ASID and their hospitals approved as RACP ID training sites. Numerous Australasian ID trainees have subsequently undertaken fabulous ID training in Singapore. The ASM reflected the multinational theme with key sessions on TB and pneumonia, HIV (Martyn French, Bill Powderly, Sharon Lewin, Nick Beeching) and "Arrival of the carbapenemases" (Jon Iredell). Importantly, the ASID Council, under Phil Jones' Presidency, decided to formally survey the ASID membership regarding the Society's proposed role in advocacy, guideline development and establishment of research initiatives – the result was a resounding "YES". Despite this vote, none of the subsequent initiatives would have been financially

possible without Joe McCormack (long-time ASID treasurer and much-loved Past-President) or Phil Jones (financial wizard extraordinaire, with an eye for cost-benefit).

The 2006 ASM in Wellington, NZ, was notable not only for the high quality of the Macfarlane Burnet Speaker (Dan Sexton) and sessions, but also the fact that one of the keynote speakers (Didier Raoult) forgot that it took about 26 hours to fly from France to New Zealand and consequently arrived after all his scheduled sessions. As convenor, Tim Blackmore aged noticeably during this meeting and was "occasionally" noted to use some colourful language. Nevertheless, the meeting was a huge success.



Macfarlane Burnet speaker Dr Daniel Sexton receiving honorary membership from President A/Prof Philip Jones in 2006.

The Hobart ASM (2007) highlighted the growing issues associated with HIV-hepatitis co-infection (Scott Hammer, Greg Dore, Andrew Carr) and the important past and emerging role of vaccination in disease prevention (Ruth Bishop - history of Rotavirus vaccines; Ian Fraser - HPV vaccines). Frank Fenner presented "Smallpox – gone; Poliomyelitis



A/Prof Gregory Dore receiving the Frank Fenner Award from Prof Frank Fenner himself in 2007.



Prof Rod Ellis Pegler was awarded lifetime membership at the 2007 ASM, photographed here with then ASID secretary Dr Anthony Allworth.

forever going” a once-in-a-lifetime experience for all attendees to hear such a key leader provide a first-hand account of his role in the history of two diseases that have shaped world history.

Awarded lifetime ASID membership, Rod Ellis-Pegler gave a highly entertaining post-dinner talk about ASID and the key developments in ID expertise in New Zealand. 2007 was also notable because the inaugural ASID website was launched and it was the first year when ID Trainee Weekends were held.

Australasian research talent was clearly on display at the 2008 Sunshine Coast ASM with sessions on clinically important PK/PD issues (Jeff Lipman, Roger Nation), Group A streptococcal infections (Jonathan Carapetis), fungal disease (William Hope), XDR Gram-negatives (David Paterson, Anton Peleg), and HTLV-1 in Central Australia (Lloyd Einsiedel). In a sign of things to come, there was a Special Lecture, “The Infectious Diseases Impact of Global Climate Change” by Tony McMichael from ANU, who sadly died in 2014 after pioneering the scientific research field in this critical topic.

The 2009 ASM in the Hunter Valley was notable for the breadth of presentations (HTLV-1, zoonoses, tropical diseases, infection control, cryptococcal disease in koalas), the organisational flair of Elaine Cheong and the spectacular Latin dancing ability of the Macfarlane Burnet speaker, Eduardo Gotuzzo, and his wife. Both outgoing and incoming ASID Presidents (Lindsay Grayson and Tom Gottlieb respectively) highlighted why the selec-

tion criteria for ASID leadership should never include Latin dancing skills! In December 2009, the ASID CRN (Clinical Research Network) was first formed.

2010 was a busy year with both the highly successful Darwin ASM (not surprisingly, focusing on tropical ID issues) and the first joint ASID-ESCMID-SHEA Infection Control Course held in June at Thala Beach, QLD. Attended by many senior ID physicians and microbiologists, this was an important step in enhancing national infection control expertise and establishing a link between ASID and ESCMID. The Course was held in a large open-air rotunda with views out over the Coral Sea, which made focusing on the talks near impossible. Notably, during one talk, a large python slithered into the speaker’s area – all the audience could see this, but the Dutch speaker was oblivious to the intruder until it got sufficiently close as to nearly cause fright-induced cardiac standstill! Julia Gillard deposed Kevin Rudd as PM in the middle of the program and many of the faculty went home with severe sunburn and a fine appreciation of Australian wine.

2011 started with prominent advocacy by ASID and ASA regarding antimicrobial resistance in the co-sponsorship of the first ASID:ASA Antimicrobial Resistance Summit in Sydney, with Tom Gottlieb critical to ensuring ASID became a respected future contributor to this issue. “From bench to bedside, by the beach” was the motto for the 2011 Lorne ASM, which came with surfing lessons as an option

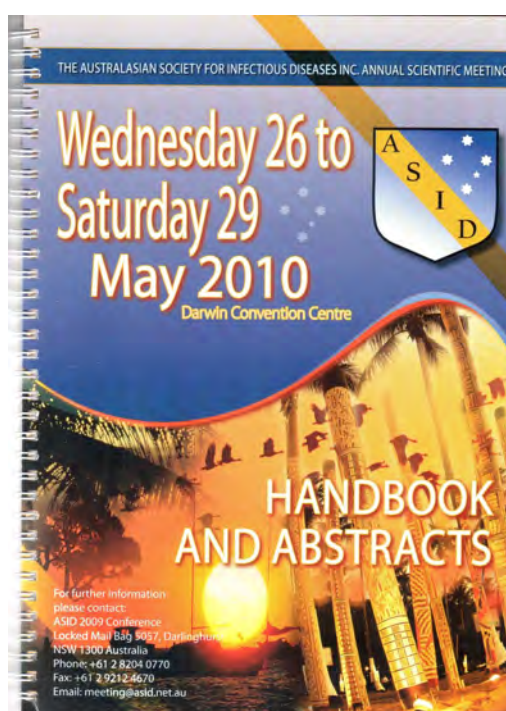


Left: Participants from the first joint ASID-ESCMID-SHEA Infection Control Course held in June at Thala Beach, QLD. 2010.

with Registration. The last minute withdrawal of the keynote speaker resulted in Amalio Telenti kindly agreeing to be the Macfarlane Burnet speaker – which was a fabulous outcome since his talks on “The impact of genetics on therapeutic response” and “Evolution of innate immunity and susceptibility to infection” beautifully forecast the now emerging field of personalised medicine and the role of genetics in treatment outcomes. The expertise of Australasian speakers was again a key feature; as was Robin Patel’s insights into managing prosthetic joint infections. CRN and Refugee workshops were notable.

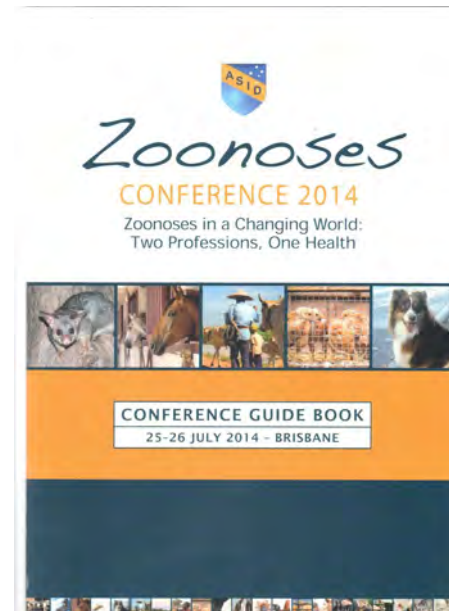
“Sailing into the future” was an apt title for the 2012 Fremantle ASM, with a star-studded cast of invited speakers (Thierry Calandra, Nick Beeching, Rob Read, Tom Walsh) and themes such as “Arthropod vs man” and “One Health”; plus a fabulous talk on “Antibiotic Allergy ‘De-labelling’” by Elizabeth Phillips. In July 2012, thanks to the leadership of incoming President, David Looke, the first ASID Zoonosis Meeting was held in Sydney, and run conjointly by ASID and the Marie Bashir institute for Infectious Diseases. This initiative established an important link between human health/ ASID and a number of veterinary societies and raised awareness about the major role of zoonoses in Australia. Enhancing ASID’s links with other key international ID societies was a focus of David’s presidency.

The Canberra ASM in 2013 was opened by Chief Medical Officer of Australia (Chris Baggoley) and included joint sessions between ASID and the U.S. CDC, particularly focused on Geosentinel and Travellers’ Surveillance (David Freedman), Public Health and Emerging Infectious Diseases, as well as an entire session on “One Health” highlighting the broader engagement by ASID with other key groups in controlling the misuse of antimicrobials. This advocacy theme was further expanded later in 2013 with ASID’s sponsorship of the Gram-negative “Superbugs” Workshop at the Gold Coast, convened by David Paterson.



Antimicrobial stewardship (Dilip Nathwani, Kas Thursky, Kirsty Buising) and emerging MDR infections (Johann Pitout, David Paterson) were a key focus of the successful 2014 Adelaide ASM. The second ASID Zoonosis Meeting (Brisbane) in July (led by Jenny Robson & Rowland Cobbold), built on many of these themes with markedly increased veterinary participation and collaboration; plus outstanding talks by Nobel Laureate Peter Doherty and by Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer, Mark Schipp, who nicely summarised the difficulty of developing antibiotic guidelines for animals, especially in an era where insect farming (locusts, cockroaches, crickets) was emerging as a potential new protein source!

2015 was a busy year for ASID with the Auckland ASM addressing a wide range of important issues, including the global impact of pneumococcal vaccination (Katherine O'Brien- ASID's first female MacFarlane Burnet speaker), endocarditis and serious staphylococcal disease (Vance Fowler), severe *C.difficile* disease (Mark Wilcox) and disaster management in a time of Ebola (Dale Fisher and Dominic Dwyer). 2015 also saw, for the first time, a paediatrician (Cheryl Jones) become ASID president. ASID co-sponsored the highly successful ISHAM conference in Melbourne (Wieland Meyer, Monica Slavin, Tania Sorrell, Orla Morrissey), followed by the second ASID-ESCMID-SHEA infection



control advanced course in Applied Hospital Epidemiology at Palm Cove (QLD). It seems advanced infection control education can only be conducted in Far North Queensland during the Australian winter.

Advocacy, Guidelines and Research

The past decade has seen a marked increase in ASID's advocacy role, particularly in the areas of controlling antimicrobial resistance with co-sponsorship of the ASID:ASA Antimicrobial Resistance Summit in Sydney (2011), critical commentary about the temporary shortage of penicillin in Sept. 2011 and a major submission to the Australian Senate Enquiry into the National Response to JETACAR (June 2013). In 2009, ASID played an important role in warning of the dangers associated with use of multi-dose vials of influenza vaccine during the swine flu pandemic. A number of ASID members have also played key advocacy roles in refugee health and the impact of asylum-seeker detention. ASID is now recognised as the leading infectious diseases group in Australia and therefore has established membership positions on a number of key Federal Advisory Committees, CDNA and the Antibiotic Guidelines Writing Group.

Similar to other key national societies, ASID has developed a number of clinical practice guidelines in areas of need, including: **Consensus guidelines**



Left: Prof Katherine O'Brien in 2015, ASID's first female Macfarlane Burnet speaker.

for the investigation and management of encephalitis in adults and children in Australia and New Zealand (2015); Management of Perinatal Infections (2014); **Guidelines for use of antifungal agents in treatment of invasive fungal infection** (2014); Preventing catheter-associated urinary tract infections in patients (2011); **Diagnosis and treatment of *Clostridium difficile* infection** (2011); Consensus guidelines for the management of neutropenic fever in adult cancer patients (2011); Consensus guidelines for the diagnosis and management of encephalitis in adult and children (2015); Diagnosis, Management and Prevention of Infections in recently arrived Refugees (2009); Antifungal therapy in neonates and children with proven, probable and suspected invasive fungal infections (2007) and an **ASID Policy on Biological and Toxin Weapons** (2002). In addition, the Medical Journal of Australia now regularly features ASID-linked research and commissioned editorials regarding infection issues facing Australia.

The Clinical Research Network

The establishment of the ASID Clinical Research Network (CRN) in 2009 was a major initiative that has resulted in numerous clinically useful research collaborations between ASID members and has attracted considerable grant support. The substantive expansion of the CRN in presentations and workshops at each year's ASM and the number of projects currently underway is testament to the CRN leadership and ASID's trusted role in facilitating high quality research, trust and cooperation.

Below: (L to R) Past ASID Presidents A/Prof Tom Gottlieb and A/Prof David Looke with current ASID President Prof Cheryl Jones at the ASID ASM 2015 in Auckland.



International leadership

Consistent with the growth in quality and impact of infectious diseases research in Australia over the past 1-2 decades, many ASID members have taken on major leadership roles in various international infectious disease societies, including those associated with HIV-AIDS, microbiology-susceptibility testing (CLSI and EUCAST) and the American Society for Microbiology's ICAAC Program Committee.

The change in ASID over the past 40 years has been exponential, with the past decade witness to a huge and exciting expansion in the role of the Society in the dynamic growth and influence of infectious diseases research and expertise in Australasia. None of this would be possible without the massive contribution by the ASID membership – we are fortunate in Australia and New Zealand to share an ethos that so values endeavour, excellence, practicality and collaboration.

ASID Presidents

2005—2016

2005	A/Prof Philip Jones
2006	Prof Lindsay Grayson
2007	Prof Lindsay Grayson
2008	Prof Lindsay Grayson
2009	A/Prof Tom Gottlieb
2010	A/Prof Tom Gottlieb
2011	A/Prof Tom Gottlieb
2012	A/Prof David Looke
2013	A/Prof David Looke
2014	A/Prof David Looke
2015	Prof Cheryl Jones
2016	Prof Cheryl Jones

Valē the ASID Greats

by Professor M. Lindsay Grayson

ASID's current success is heavily based on the character and strengths of its founding members, but sadly the past decade has seen the passing of many of these key giants - including

Alvis Kucers

2007; renown for his leadership at Fairfield Hospital, Melbourne and authorship of the key text "The Use of Antibiotics", now in its 7th edition

Ron Lucas

2009; past ASID secretary; Chief of Medicine, Fairfield Hospital and an early pioneer in Australian HIV care

Frank Fenner

2010, aged 95; international expert in smallpox and polio; ASID Patron 2000-2010

Allen Yung

2012; outstanding ID clinician, mentor and educator

Barrie Marmion

2014; international expert in Mycoplasma, Coxiella and critical to the development of an effective Q fever vaccine.



Above left : Allen Yung and Above right: Ron Lucas with ASID members Bev Biggs and Frank Bowden, at one of the earlier meetings.

ASID'S SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Now and Then

The Australia & New Zealand Mycoses Interest Group, ANZMIG

Then: The driving force behind the first iteration of ANZMIG, the Mycoses Interest Group (MIG) in 1997 was Emeritus Professor David H Ellis, then Head of Mycology at the Women's and Children's Hospital, Adelaide and Ms Jennifer Antonino, area manager for Australia and New Zealand, Nexstar Pharmaceuticals. Starting with 8 members (including the current co-Chair A/Prof Sharon Chen and past Chair Prof Monica Slavin), interest in MIG steadily increased and its name changed to ANZMIG to reflect the contributions of New Zealand colleagues.

ANZMIG is a professional body that facilitates the conduct of national mycology surveillance and clinical trials, including antifungal drug trials and antifungal guideline development. Its other primary goal is to promote and improve education in all aspects of mycology including outside of Australia in the Asia Pacific region and elsewhere. Laboratory capacity building and training of scientists is actively promoted.

ANZMIG has organised a popular session at the annual scientific meeting of ASID for 15 years and awards an annual prize for the best mycology abstract at that meeting. Its members also make active contributions to Australian Society for Microbiology and Australian Society for Antimicrobials and

ASID Clinical Research Network, at the national level and also with a number of Professional networks internationally.

Now: Today, ANZMIG scientific meetings are held three times a year (including at the annual ASID meeting) in a major city, with the support of sponsors (Merck, Sharp & Dohme, Gilead Sciences Inc., Astellas, Mayne Pharma and Pfizer). Attendance at the scientific sessions is open to all and is encouraged. In 2015 ANZMIG hosted the Congress of the International Society for Human and Animal Mycology (ISHAM). It continues to host the second yearly "Masterclass in Mycology", a legacy of Professor Ellis. Business meetings are held by the ANZMIG executive every 2 weeks through teleconferencing, and with the support of ASID. A major legacy of ANZMIG has been the collaborative network established for studies which have defined the epidemiology of serious fungal infections in Australia. This began with The Australian Candidemia Study in 2000 to which almost all microbiology laboratories in Australia contributed, and which has resulted in a follow up study, currently ongoing.

The Future: Over the years, ANZMIG has had the honour of visiting clinicians, hospital scientists and academics attend, always imparting valuable advice to both the scientific content and business end of the special interest group. A continued goal is to increase the profile of mycology and improve grant funding success in this relatively neglected area. Membership has expanded to represent scientists and veterinarians active in mycology but the focus so far has remained on clinical and epidemiological aspects of mycology. ANZMIG has currently around 140 members.



Left: Members of the ISHAM organising committee at ISHAM 2015.

Australia & New Zealand Paediatric ID Group, ANZPID

Then: ANZPID started life as the Paediatric Special Interest Group of ASID in 1992, under the leadership of Lyn Gilbert. Initially chaired by David Isaacs, its main aims were to collaborate in education and in research. One of the early plans was to write position papers. The first of several was on TORCH infections and was published in the Medical Journal of Australia in 1993. Paediatric infectious diseases was in its infancy locally. Early meetings at ASID were attended by 20-30 interested people, several of whom went on to train in paediatric infectious diseases.

In October 2009 the Paediatric Speciality Interest Group met in Melbourne and voted to change its name to ANZPID, for Australian and New Zealand Paediatric Infectious Diseases group. The Business Meeting focused on the Terms of Reference for the group and was followed by a Research Forum, where ideas were enthusiastically discussed.

Now: Today ANZPID has around 160 members and has grown to be a leading voice of ASID in advocacy, research, clinical practice and education. The ANZPID Committee coordinates a range of activities, including a Journal Club, advocacy for the specialty and the development of guidelines. ANZPID also holds yearly clinical meetings, ensures that child health is well represented at the ASID Annual Scientific Meeting and the ASID co-hosted international conferences, and is represented at a session at the World Society of Paediatric Infectious Diseases Congress. In 2015 ANZPID initiated an observership program in collaboration with the American Paediatric ID Society.



Healthcare Infection Control Special Interest Group, HICSIG

Then: The Group owes its inception to the National Infection Control Meeting for interested ID/Micro specialists, organised by Mike Whitby and David McGeachie, that took place in the Clare Valley in 2005. Initially convened by John Ferguson and Tony Allworth, HICSIG included over 70 members and had its inaugural meeting at the Wellington ASID meeting in April 2006.

The aims of the group are to:

- ◆ facilitate production of broadly supported, evidence-based IC-related guidelines on specific topics;
- ◆ improve professional networking across the Asia Pacific region relating to IC issues;
- ◆ organise a symposium on HIC for the annual ASID meeting;
- ◆ facilitate research into HIC issues.

A Wiki resource page, including news and links to publications on a variety of topics, was active from 2009 to 2013.

Two courses on Advanced Hospital Epidemiology were held in 2010 and 2015 in Queensland in collaboration with ESCMID/SHEA.

Now: Today HICSIG has around 170 members and is still actively involved in the organisation of a symposium at the ASID meeting and in guidelines development. HICSIG also holds a very popular Infection Control and Antimicrobial Stewardship workshop every two years and collaborates closely with the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC).

Left: ANZPID members at the ASM 2015, where David Isaacs received Honorary Life Membership.

The Viral Hepatitis Special Interest Group VHSIG

Then: At the 2010 ASID ASM in Darwin, a symposium on viral hepatitis was held for the first time in some years. The speakers were Ben Cowie, Joe Sasadeusz and Joe Torresi. A lot of interest and enthusiasm sprang from this symposium and hence the idea for the VHSIG was born (mainly in the bar afterwards, with Ben Cowie and Josh Davis vowing to make it a reality!). After they were able to demonstrate strong interest from the membership, ASID council granted permission to form the fourth SIG of ASID. The Viral Hepatitis Special Interest Group (VHSIG) was officially launched at the ASM in Lorne in 2011 with Ben Cowie as the inaugural Chair and over 70 members. The SIG also formed an email group similar to Ozbug, called OzHep, open to clinicians interested in viral hepatitis from a clinical or research point of view (including gastroenterologists, ID physicians and others).

The VHSIG organises a regular viral hepatitis session at the ASID Conference and, since 2012, the SIG has been represented on the organising committee of ASHM's biennial Australasian Viral Hepatitis conference. One of the highlights of the inaugural conference was the launch of the Auckland Statement, which calls on governments in Australia and NZ to increase their commitment to reducing the burden from HBV and HCV and to adopt specific targets to help do this.

Now: The VHSIG has a strong focus on advocacy and is represented on a range of expert reference groups. In 2012, along with ASHM and the Australian Liver Association (ALA), the VHSIG have been involved in submissions to and negotiation with the PBAC to secure PBS reimbursement for the HCV protease inhibitors, Boceprevir and Telaprevir. In 2014 it has provided various submissions to PBAC and MSAC and, with ALA, expert consensus recommendations for the use of transient elastography in chronic viral hepatitis. In 2015 ASID made a submission to the Inquiry into Hepatitis C by the Australian House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health. The submission was led by Joe Torresi, at the time the Chair of the VHSIG. Since 2012, the VHSIG has conducted courses on viral hepatitis management aimed at Australasian

ID trainees on the Friday adjacent to the annual ID trainees' weekend. Today the VHSIG has nearly 150 members and OzHep has over 100 members.

ASID New Zealand Group

Then: While the fledgling society was holding its preliminary Australian meetings at Fairfield hospital in the mid-seventies, Walter Ruthven Lang was the driving force behind the establishment of ASID in New Zealand. The head of infectious diseases at Auckland Hospital at the time, he had witnessed major epidemics of poliomyelitis, diphtheria, typhoid, scarlet fever and meningitis since the 1950s, and the transition from virtually ineffective drugs to modern antibiotics.

Ruthven was a FRACP and a co-founder, and subsequently Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners, which established a branch in New Zealand. He was on the executive of the local BMA (later NZMA), a member of the Communicable Diseases Committee and a life member the Leprosy Trust Board (now Pacific Leprosy Foundation.)

Now: Today ASID New Zealand has over 70 members. The New Zealand Committee oversees ASID's activities including an annual conference, a trainee day and award, advocacy for the specialty and representation on government committees and working groups. The Committee also coordinates NZbug, a discussion forum including over 100 members with an interest in infectious diseases. Since 2011 the Society has charity status in New Zealand. This required a change to the constitution, which was approved at the ASID AGM in Lorne, to ensure that it met the requirements of the then NZ Charities Commission.

ASID logo projected on the Auckland Harbour Bridge during the ASID ASM gala dinner in 2015.



Flashback to meetings of the past



40th Anniversary celebrations in 2016

Celebrations and initiatives planned for the 40th anniversary of ASID in 2016 include:

During the 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting in April in Launceston:

- A public lecture on Superbugs, open to the general public, on Thursday 21 April, presented by Lindsay Grayson and opened by Michael Ferguson, Minister for Health, Tasmania.
- A Frank Fenner Symposium, including presentations from past recipients of the Frank Fenner Award and a keynote presentation from Professor Anne Kelso, CEO of the NHMRC.
- A 40th birthday celebration at the Gala Dinner

During the International Congress of Tropical Medicine and Malaria in Brisbane in September:

- Presentation of the inaugural Barrie Marmion Award to an early career researcher in the field of Zoonoses

During the New Zealand Annual Scientific Meeting in Dunedin in November:

- A 40th birthday celebration at the Gala Dinner

Other celebrations:

- State-based celebrations are being planned in Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.
- Oral histories recorded by Trainees, interviewing a number of long standing members.



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