

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY INC

Minutes from 67th Annual General Meeting

The 67th Annual General Meeting of the Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Inc. was held from 17:17-17:48 hours (AEDST) on Thursday 16th November 2023 at Kambri Centre, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT.

A quorum was reached with 54 members in attendance.

1. Dominic Ng (Secretary) chaired proceedings and began with Acknowledgement of Country.

2. Confirmation of the minutes of Annual General Meeting No 66.

Motion to put forward the minutes of 65th AGM for confirmation by Dominic Ng and seconded by Jacqui Matthews. The minutes were confirmed and noted.

3. President's Report

Ross Hannan (President) delivered the President's Report and began with thanks to the Secretary and Treasurer for keeping the society running. He then congratulated and invited members to thank Colin and his team on putting together an outstanding meeting for ASBMB 2023. Ross then provided an update on upcoming meetings for our society. Our society will host a major international congress in conjunction with IUBMB and FAOBMB. Many ASBMB members are on the organizing and program committees and the society looks forward to excellent meeting in Melbourne. Lean Tilley and her team and the program committee led by Andy Hill, Wai-Hong Tham and Stephani Gras were thanked for their hard work. Victor Angonno was also acknowledged for his contribution in organizing a satellite meeting with our Korean counterparts (KSBMB). Ross also thanked Michael Landsberg for agreeing to convene ASBMB's next stand-alone society annual meeting in Brisbane in 2025. Future ComBio meeting in 2025 will take place at the Sydney International Convention Centre lead by Tracy Bryan and Mark Larance. Suzzane Cory was recognized as a long-standing (50 year) members of our society. Ross then reported on our membership numbers which remain healthy and largely holding steady which he attributed to introduction of 3 year memberships. Some smaller states continue to struggle for membership. Ross thanked Adele Holloway for single handedly keeping the Tasmanian chapter going. It was also reported that the RNA Special Interest Group, led by Archa Fox, will be moving away to form their own independent society supported by ASN events. RNA Australia would maintain their links with our society by joining in future ComBio meetings. Finally, Ross noted the career challenges to students and early career society members and recognized the need to broaden opportunities for alternative career pathways from academia such as biotech and industry. More needs to done to assist our less established members. Our conferences are ideal vehicles for discussion and promotion of industry/biotech as career alternatives. Ross also indicated that ASBMB should do more to lobby state and federal bodies for further investment in career pathways for our scientists. He welcomed thoughts on how we can do more in this respect.

Ross also suggested that the society consider introduction of 5 year memberships. There was general agreement with this suggestion. The Secretary will introduce this as an agenda item for discussion at next council meeting and if supported will be put forward for vote at the next AGM.

4. Treasurer's Report

The following summary of ASBMB's financial position was presented by the Secretary, Dominic Ng, in Kate Quinlan's absence.

Overall financial position of the Society has significantly improved compared to that of 2022.

- Revenue was up \$42,200 in 2022-2023 due to ComBio2022
- Expenses were up \$14,756 in the same period

2022-2023 financial year showed an operating profit of \$34,984.

2021-2022 financial year showed an operating profit of \$7,540.

Items to note:

- ASBMB only meetings are unlikely to be a major driver of income for the society
- The Canberra ASBMB23 meeting has been carefully budgeted to break even
- ComBio 2022 drove the surplus in the 2022/23 financial year
- The IUBMB conference in 2024 should also improve our financial position
- Secretariat services were moved from Sally and Chris Jay to WALDRONSMITH at the start of 2023. National Office costs have stayed relatively stable during this transition at \$44,621 for 2021/22 and \$47,026 for 2022/23.

We need to sustain or increase membership base and to ensure both the long-term viability and profitability of ComBio/ASBMB meetings

Thanks to Mark Andreassen at Priestleys, Ian Price, Sally & Chris Jay, Sarah Parsons and Gerard Halpin from WALDRONSMITH and fellow members of the executive.

5. Fees for 2021/2022

Membership fees for the year 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

5.4% CPI Increase

	2023/24		2024/2025	
	1 yr	3 yr	1 yr	3 yr
Ordinary Members:	\$145	\$350	\$153	\$369
Student Members:	\$45	\$100	\$45	\$100
Sustaining Members:	\$423	\$1,015	\$446	\$1,070
Retired Members:	\$65	\$150	\$69	\$158
Member O/S:	\$70	\$160	\$74	\$177

Membership fees were increased to keep pace with inflation with the exception of student rates. This was kept unchanged and a generous 3 year discounted rate was introduced to encourage student membership. A motion to apply the above fees for next membership cycle put forward by Sebastian Furness and seconded by Marc Kvensakul. The motion was confirmed and passed.

6. Amendments to Constitution and By-Laws

The Secretary outline decision by council to terminate affiliation with Australian Society for Medical Research due to lack of activity and poor return on investment for membership dues. It was highlighted that our members did not receive tangible benefits through this affiliation so it was the recommendation by council that affiliation with ASMR discontinued.

A motion to remove the following passage from Section 7: Society Affiliations of our Constitution and By-Laws was proposed by Jacqui Matthews and seconded by Stephanie Gras.

"The Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR): The Society is an Affiliate Member of ASMR. An annual subscription is paid by the Society (see Appendix II)."

The motion was confirmed and passed.

7. Elections to Council (Voting)

A live vote was initiated online amongst members in attendance for the Council position of NSW Representative, with nominations received for Tara Christie and David Leaver, and VIC Representative, with nomination received for Sarah Stewart and Winnie Tan.

6. Elections to Council (Results)

Following voting amongst members present at the meeting and tabulating with proxy votes received by the Secretary, Tara Christie and Sarah Stewart received the majority of votes for their nominated positions. Single nominations were received for all other positions on Council. Red text highlight new members of ASBMB Council for 2024. Thanks were given for the service of retiring Council Members.

President	Ross Hannan
Past-President	Jacqui Matthews
President-Elect	TBD
Secretary	Dominic Ng
Treasurer	Kate Quinlan
Editor and Communications	Tatiana Soares da Costa
Education Rep	Tracey Kuit
Secretary for Sust. Members	Sarah Parsons
FAOBMB Representative	Marc Kvensakul (Nirma Samarawickrema retiring)

Representatives for:

ACT	Chathura Suraweera (Christina Spry retiring)
NSW	Tara Christie (Laura Sharpe retiring)
Qld	Conan Wang (Michael Landsberg retiring)
SA	Michael Roach
Tas	Adele Holloway (Iman Azimi retiring)
Vic	Sarah Stewart (Laura Osellame retiring)
WA	Alyssa Van Dreumel

7. ASBMB Awards 2022.

Congratulations were given to society award winners:

Lemberg Medal:	Michale Ryan
Shimadzu Research Medal:	Stephanie Gras
Eppendorf Edman Award:	Pirooz Zareie
SDR Scientific Education Award:	Maurizio Constabile
ASBMB Fellowships Awards:	Lauren Jones (Fred Collins), Sarah Garnish, Adam Hagg, Chathura Suraweera

Members were encouraged to apply for 2024 awards with nominations due by 17th November 2023.

8. Any other business.

Jacqui Matthews raised the format of our society meetings and whether members were generally satisfied with alternating ASBMB stand-alone meeting and larger 'ComBio'-style

meetings every other year. There was general agreement that current society meeting formats met member expectations and objectives and there were no negative sentiments.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:48.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ross Hannan', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

..... Ross Hannan (President)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dominic Ng', with a large, circular flourish at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

..... DOMINIC NG (Secretary)