



### Meeting Highlights

- Tribute to A/Prof Panos Ioannou
- International Speakers
- Greg Johnson Memorial Oration
- Student Prizes for best abstracts by students
- Panos Ioannou Young Investigator Award
- More Prizes !!!!!

## Editorial

The AGTS has undergone dramatic change in the last year. A new executive was voted in at the last AGM and sadly we lost our previous Vice President to cancer. We are indebted to the previous executive and local organising committee for delivering an extremely successful 4<sup>th</sup> AGTS conference in April this year. A diverse program ranging from viral and non-viral gene delivery vectors, antisense therapy and genetic disease, to stem cell therapies, animal models, pharmacogenomics, and for the first time outreach sessions for general medical practitioners and school students were provided. Regulatory issues and clinical trials were also discussed. The message I took away from this meeting was that gene therapy will play an important role in the delivery of medicines in the coming years. However I am mindful that the public are wary and perhaps confused by many of the gene therapy technologies and the potentially warped uses to which they may be applied. As a Society we have a responsibility to represent our field in a balanced manner when reporting progress towards the ultimate goal of treating diseases using gene based medicines.

From the previous Executive including Prof John Rasko (President), A/Prof Panos Ioannou (Vice President), Dr Ming Wei (Secretary), Prof Ann Simpson (Treasurer) and committee members Dr Jane Fleming, Dr Ian Alexander and Dr Gerry Both we have retained Gerry (now President) and Ming and Ann in their previous positions. The newly elected members now include A/Professor Steve Wilton (Vice President), and committee members, Assoc Prof Donald Anson, Dr Jim Vadolas and myself, giving the AGTS Australia-wide representation.

This issue of the AGTS newsletter showcases the last conference and the outstanding participation of our young members. The AGTS through its Executive is committed to supporting the career development of our young researchers and has established the Panos Ioannou Young Investigator Award and the "Best gene therapy paper award". It was a pleasure interacting with the Society's members in the production of this Newsletter and welcome suggestions and news for the next issue. Please send all correspondence via the AGTS Secretary, Dr Ming Wei using [d.wei@mailbox.uq.edu.au](mailto:d.wei@mailbox.uq.edu.au). Looking forward to hearing from you.

Rose (Rosetta Martiniello-Wilks, PhD)

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The Australasian Gene Therapy Society Members at the 4th Meeting April 27-29 2005, Rydges Hotel Carlton, Melbourne, Australia.

## Message from the President



Dear AGTS Members,

The time since our biennial meeting in late April seems to have flown by. Nevertheless, I still recall what a successful meeting that was from most viewpoints; in addition to sponsorship provided by the Murdoch Institute and the CMRI, the local organising committee raised nearly \$17,000 allowing us to invite five international speakers. Prof. Len Harrison presented an excellent Greg Johnson Memorial Oration. In addition 120 registrants attended. We conducted a successful election to install a new Executive Council. The meeting made a modest profit of \$6,000. However the meeting was of course tinged with sadness at the passing of our former Vice President, Panos Ioannou.

Since then your new Executive has held two meetings and undertaken several activities and initiatives. As President, I represented the Society at a memorial service for Panos that was held at the Murdoch Institute in Melbourne on June 1st. I read from the letter that the previous Executive wrote to Panos thanking him for his contributions and informing him of the Young Investigator Award that we have established in gratitude. For your information the letter is reproduced elsewhere in this newsletter.

On September 8th, our Secretary Ming Wei represented the Executive at a meeting of the directors of the Aust Soc for Med Res. Encouraged by the ASMR, we also submitted letters to John Howard, Tony Abbott and Peter Costello in support of the findings of the Health and Medical Research Implementation (grant) Review, which recommended a further investment of \$1.8 billion pa by 2008-2009.

The AGTS has also submitted to the Australian Academy of Science an expression of interest in applying for Boden Research Conference sponsorship for 2007. It is ten years since funding was obtained from this source for the meeting that was held in Thredbo, a meeting that could be regarded as the forerunner of our present AGTS meetings. We are at least hopeful of making the short list to prepare a full proposal.

Finally, we would welcome your comments on a draft letter which appears below that we intend to send to other gene therapy societies in an attempt to foster international links. Any other ideas about how we might achieve this are most welcome. We believe that this is an important initiative for science that is truly international. Such links may particularly enhance the contacts for our younger members who could and should benefit from international training opportunities.

In addition, we always welcome your thoughts and ideas on how to make this a progressive and active society.

That's all for now.

Gerry Both

President

**“The AGTS executive are eager to foster international links with other gene therapy societies. Please read the draft Letter for Comment over the page. Any other ideas about how we might achieve this are most welcome.”**

## Draft Letter for Comment



<b>President</b> , Gerald Both, PhD	c/o Dr Ming Wei
<b>Vice-President</b> , Steve Wilton, PhD	UQ Department of Medicine
<b>Secretary</b> , Ming Wei, MBBS, MSc, PhD	Prince Charles Hospital
<b>Treasurer</b> , Ann Simpson, PhD	Brisbane, QLD 4032
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Rosetta Martiniello-Wilks, PhD	d.wei@mailbox.uq.edu.au
Don Anson, PhD	

### DRAFT for Comment

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

The Australasian Gene Therapy Society, which was incorporated in 2001, is a small but active group whose members often rely on networks and collaborations to complement their research activities. Such relationships are frequently initiated through interactions that occur at international meetings.

The AGTS is beginning to plan for its next meeting which will be held in April/May 2007, the dates and venue to be confirmed by fund raising initiatives. To encourage interactions and strengthen the links between our societies, we are considering initiatives to facilitate the attendance at our meeting of researchers from laboratories that have carried out work that provides new impetus to the field or has set new benchmarks. One concept that has emerged is that your society might consider establishing an award or travel scholarship, at a prestigious level, for one or more investigators. This prize would allow attendance at the AGTS meeting (and the reward of a visit to Australia). We envisage that this prize would provide significant peer recognition within your society and encouragement, particularly for young investigators who are establishing themselves in the field. We propose that the fare for an individual could be borne by the nominating society while the expenses within Australia (conference registration, accommodation and any internal travel necessary to attend the meeting) would be borne by the AGTS. If we were to establish a similar award for our society, would you be prepared to consider reciprocal arrangements?

The Executive Council of the AGTS encourages you to consider this proposal. We welcome comments and other suggestions as to how we might build stronger interactions to facilitate progress in a field that has become truly international.

Yours sincerely,

Gerald W. Both, PhD  
President,  
For the Executive Council, AGTS

Targets: ASGT, ESGT (and constituent members), BGTS, JGTS, Israeli GTS, FGTS others??

**“Please forward your  
comments via the AGTS  
Secretary,  
d.wei@mailbox.uq.edu.au”**

## The 4th AGTS Meeting

The Australasian Gene Therapy Society (AGTS webpage: <http://www.agts.org.au>) held its 4<sup>th</sup> biennial meeting on 27–29 April 2005, providing an opportunity for groups across the Australasian region to present their latest contributions in gene therapy research. The meeting was held at the Rydges Hotel in Melbourne, Victoria. The program included diverse aspects of gene therapy including: gene delivery by viral and non-viral vectors; antisense therapy; genetic disease; stem cell therapies; animal models and pharmacogenomics. For the first time outreach sessions for general medical practitioners and school students were undertaken and kindly supported by several of our national and international speakers.

Many thanks go to the local organising committee and the previous national AGTS council\* for planning and executing an outstanding meeting. These individuals include: from Melbourne A/Prof Panos Ioannou\*, Prof David Jans, Dr Chee Kai Chan, Prof Colin Pouton, A/Prof Sylvia Metcalf, Prof Martin Pera, Dr Joseph Sarsero, Prof Bob Williamson, Dr Heidi Peters, Prof Alan Trounson, Dr Mary Anne Aitken, Dr Jim Vadolas, Prof Steven Jane, Dr Robert Kapsa; from Brisbane Dr Ming Wei\*; from Sydney Prof John Rasko\*, Dr Ian Alexander\*, Prof Ann Simpson\*, Dr Jane Fleming\* and Dr Gerald Both\*. Abstracts of the meeting were communicated by Dr Joseph Sarsero and have been published in the Journal of Gene Medicine (2005); 7: 1113–1143.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the meeting sponsors for their generous support. These included: Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, Melbourne; GE Healthcare/Amersham; Children's Medical Research Institute, Sydney; Chemicon Australia; Upstate; St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne; Corbett Research; National Muscular Dystrophy Research Centre, Melbourne; Davies Collison Cave; Howard Florey Institute, Melbourne; Genzyme; Biotechnology Australia; The Journal of Gene Medicine, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.; Invitrogen; Roche; Prologix; Scientifix.

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## Prof Rasko's tribute to A/Prof Ioannou's commitment to the AGTS



Prof John EJ Rasko, in his introduction of the Greg Johnson Memorial Oration and Professor Leonard C. Harrison (who spoke on Gene Therapy for Prevention and Cure of Type 1 Diabetes) gave a tribute to Panos's commitment to the AGTS and his conviction to realising the aims of Gene Therapy for Thalassaemia. With this photograph of Panos over his shoulder, John shared these words.

"And so on to a duty which I bear with heavy heart as we are today missing our Vice President, who I know would have given anything to be with us today. Many of you know A/Professor Panayiotis A. Ioannou who headed the acclaimed cell and gene therapy labs at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne. Despite being diagnosed with metastatic colorectal cancer in 2004 and receiving chemotherapy, Panos was determined to be in charge of the local organising committee and he did so with vigour and excellence. He had every expectation of being with us at this meeting as recent as March. As you enjoy this meeting, pause every now and then and thank Panos silently for his sacrifice in seeing this meeting be so expertly realised with the assistance of his friends and colleagues of the local organising committee and in particular, trusted members of his lab. Panos was never one to hold back in many matters and so it was with his commitment to keep the AGTS executive up-to-date with details of his illness. To organise a meeting such as this, the executive and local organising committee had many teleconferences and hundreds of emails but none of us on the executive could forget the horrible moment when Panos declared on a teleconference that he would not be standing for election at the AGM. Things declined rapidly in his health and the executive sought to respond in a dignified way to this tragedy and so on 14th March 2005 we had a letter delivered to him by members of his lab through his wife (see attached Letter). Four days later Panos passed away and is survived by his wife and children. Anyone who knew Panos recognised his devotion to realising the aims of the Gene Therapy. In a similar way, we established the Professor Greg Johnson Memorial Oration to celebrate the contribution of that great experimental haematologist. Let us celebrate the contribution of Panos and Greg Johnson over the next 3 days in making this meeting a great success. Finally anyone who received an email from Panos will know that his signature line had a DNA symbol followed by his favourite conviction that "matter shall know itself." From Panos' life's work I believe matter has come to know itself a little better. Thank you."



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<http://www.agts.org.au/>

President, John Rasko  
Vice-President, Panos Ioannou  
Secretary, Ming Wei  
Treasurer, Ann Simpson  
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Dr Panayiotis A. Ioannou  
Vice President  
Australasian Gene Therapy Society

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Dear Panos,

Executive Members of the AGTS were all saddened to receive the letter you sent out last Saturday informing us of your failing health. We met today to discuss a response.

We want you to know that you have our sincere appreciation and thanks for your central role in helping to establish and maintain the Australasian Gene Therapy Society. We assure you that we will continue our best endeavours to promote its growth and prosperity, as we know you would wish.

In recognition of your founding and sustained contributions and in view of your passionate support for young scientists, the Executive Council, on behalf of its Members, has today established the Panos Ioannou Young Investigator Award. Your named award, this year sponsored by the Journal of Gene Medicine, is to be presented in perpetuity at our bi-annual meeting for an outstanding contribution by a student or post-doctoral fellow.

We trust that you will find this an appropriate reflection of the regard in which you are held.

Your contributions will be sorely missed.

Yours Sincerely,

John E. J. Rasko, MBBS, PhD, FRACP, FRCP  
President AGTS

## International Speakers at AGTS meetings

The AGTS is committed, with the assistance of sponsors, to inviting speakers to the biennial meetings who are international leaders in Gene Therapy. Five such speakers who focused on the major themes of integrating and non-integrating vectors, genomic therapies and novel mechanisms of gene delivery were featured this year. Summaries of their presentations (where available) have been included below. The opportunity to meet, discuss research and collaborations with these speakers was particularly valuable for early career scientists and younger members of our society.

### Professor Hans Peter Kiem



Fred Hutchinson Cancer Centre, Markey Molecular Medicine Centre, University of Washington, School of Medicine, Seattle, WA, USA

**Title: *In vivo* selection and chemoprotection of haemopoietic stem cells: implications for the treatment of genetic and acquired disease.**

The therapeutic potential of haemopoietic stem cell therapy has been limited by low gene transfer efficiency with currently available vector systems, the risk of insertional mutagenesis and the lack of clinically relevant animal models. *In vivo* selection has been proposed as a strategy to increase the level of gene transfer by offering a selective survival advantage to the transduced cells. Prof Kiem has used a drug resistance gene O6-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase (MGMT) to select transduced cells in large animal models. A P140K mutant of MGMT which allows for enhanced *in vivo* selection when alkylating agent Carmustine (BCNU) and temozolomide are combined with O6-benzylguanine, an inhibitor of wild type MGMT but not P140K was also used. A significant increase in gene marked multi-lineage repopulating cells with marking levels of greater than 90% in granulocytes was observed providing a therapeutically relevant *in vivo* chemoprotection of gene-modified cells for evaluation in clinical trials.

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### Professor Hans-Joachim Lipps

Institute of Cell Biology, University Witten/Herdecke, Witten, Germany

**Title: Novel episomally replicating vectors for gene therapy.**

Current viral vectors for gene therapy show limitations including: integration into the host genome which may lead to insertional mutagenesis; silencing of the transgene; viral protein expression leading to immunological reactions by the recipient organism; transient transgene expression. The ideal vectors for gene therapy should exclusively contain chromosomal elements and replicate episomally in the recipient cell. Based on the observation that the binding of an origin of replication to the nuclear matrix precedes the onset of S-phase in mammalian cells, Prof Lipps constructed a vector containing a scaffold/matrix attachment sequence (S/MAR). This vector replicates at low copy number episomally in a variety of mammalian cells, including primary cells. It is mitotically stable in the absence of selection by binding to the nuclear matrix through an interaction with the matrix protein SAF-A and its function depends exclusively on a transcription unit linked to the S/MAR. A synthetic episomally replicating vector was constructed. Application of this vector system, ways to overcome low transfection efficiency and pseudovirus delivery were discussed.

## Professor Leonard W. Seymour (President British Soc for GT)



University of Oxford and Hybrid Systems Ltd.,  
Oxford, UK

**Title: Systemic delivery of adenovirus: use of polymers to mask unwanted infection and enable intravenous delivery.**

From the left, Dr Rob Kapsa, A/Prof Steve Wilton, Mr "I don't mind this drop", Prof Leonard Seymour and Dr Sue Fletcher

Prof Seymour's team have previously reported that active uptake of adenovirus into hepatocytes in vivo can be ablated through the conjugation of a polymer, poly-[N-(2-hydroxypropyl)methacrylamide] (PHPMA) to the amino groups on the virus surface (pcVirus) resulting in an increased level of plasma adenovirus (10% of the input virus dose i.v.) and a reduction in the levels of serum transaminases. Due to the ability of clodronate liposomes to destroy tissue macrophages in the spleen and the liver following i.v. injection in mice, it was hypothesised that clodronate liposomes could further increase pcVirus circulation. Clodronate liposome coated virus and uncoated virus were administered i.v.

Their data showed that 100% of the administered dose of pcVirus was present in the bloodstream, compared with only 1% of the non-coated virus using Q-PCR 24 hours later. These data suggest that ablation of the natural tropism of adenovirus can be coupled with temporary suppression of host scavenging mechanisms to permit efficient systemic delivery of therapeutic adenovirus.

## Professor Luigi Naldini



San Raffaele Telethon Institute for Gene Therapy, Milano, Italy.

**Title: Stem cell gene transfer by lentiviral vectors: promise, challenges and new therapeutic options.**

From the left, Prof Luigi Naldini, Prof John Rasko and Dr Chuck Bailey

The invited international speakers were rewarded for their efforts with a good drop of Aussie wine. However, the AGTS executive are now considering ways of further encouraging the attendance of international speakers at our meetings by establishing a reciprocal travel award with other societies including the American, British, European, Finland, Israeli and Japanese Gene Therapy societies. We welcome your feedback on Gerry's "Draft letter for comment" and any further ideas on establishing international research links.

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## Greg Johnson Memorial Oration by Prof Leonard C. Harrison



The Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Parkville 3050, Victoria, Australia.

### Title: Gene Therapy for Prevention and Cure of Type 1 Diabetes

Type 1 diabetes (T1D) is an autoimmune disease in which genes and environment contribute to cell-mediated immune destruction of insulin-producing beta cells in the islets of the pancreas. Insight into pathogenic mechanisms opens the way for gene therapy strategies to prevent and cure T1D.

From the left, Dr Chuck Bailey, Prof Len Harrison, Prof Ann Simpson and Dr Chang Tao.

The therapeutic Holy Grail for autoimmune disease prevention is 'negative' vaccination against autoantigens that drive immune-

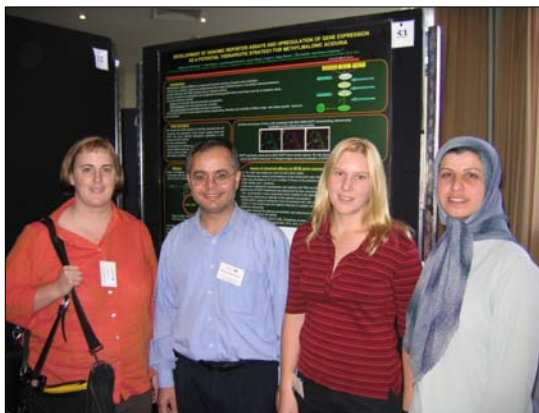
mediated pathology, to induce disease-specific immune tolerance. This can be achieved by administering autoantigen via a 'tolerogenic' route (mucosal), cell type (resting dendritic cell), mode (with blockade of T-cell costimulation molecules) or form (as an 'altered peptide ligand').

Proinsulin is a key autoantigen that drives beta cell destruction in the non-obese diabetic (NOD) mouse model and probably in humans. Intranasal vaccination of NOD mice with plasmid DNA encoding proinsulin induced regulatory T cells that protected against diabetes. An ideal, safe approach would be to use autologous, genetically-engineered hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) or their progeny to introduce autoantigen into the immature hematopoietic compartment. The transfer into young, irradiated NOD mice of 1000 syngeneic HSCs encoding proinsulin expression in antigen-presenting cell progeny totally prevented diabetes. This dramatic effect appears to depend on proinsulin expression by 'resting' dendritic cells.

The application of this 'cell therapy' to humans must overcome two obstacles – introducing genes into stem cells without the risk of oncogenesis and avoiding toxic conditioning regimens in the host. The use of adenovirus vectors for transducing human and mouse HSCs was discussed. The cure of T1D requires replacement or regeneration of beta cells, while averting immune attack. Genes for growth and transcription factors that promote beta-cell development and genes for immune molecules that protect islet grafts locally against immune attack have been delivered directly into pancreatic/islet tissues, with promising results in rodent models. Gene therapy for the prevention and cure of T1D must now be translated to humans.

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From the left, Dr Heidi Peters, Dr Mahmoud Shekarikhaniani, Ms Leonie Wood and Dr Sima Mansooriderakshan.

## Prizes for best abstracts by students

The AGTS has awarded student prizes at each biennial conference since the inaugural meeting. The poster sessions have grown over the years with the recent meeting exhibiting 54 posters over two poster sessions within the 3 day program. Nineteen orals were also presented in the Regulatory Issues and Clinical Trials, Integrating Vectors, Genomic Therapies and Gene Delivery Vectors Scientific Sessions 1 & 2. At the closing session seven prizes were awarded to the following student members in recognition of their excellence in research.

**Sara Howden: P47. Chromatin-Binding Domains within the Amino-Terminus of Epstein-Barr Nuclear Antigen-1 Mediate the Nuclear Uptake of Epstein-Barr Virus-Based Vectors**

Sara Howden, Jim Vadolas, Hady Wardan and Panos Ioannou. Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, VIC 3052, Australia.

**Rachel Koldej: P32. The Optimisation of Methods for The Purification and Concentration of Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type-1 Derived Gene Transfer Vectors**

Rachel Koldej<sup>1,2</sup> and Donald S. Anson<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>; <sup>1</sup> Gene Technology Unit, Department of Genetic Medicine, Children, Youth and Women's Health Service, Adelaide, South Australia. <sup>2</sup> Department of Paediatrics, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia. <sup>3</sup> Department of Biotechnology, Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia. <sup>4</sup> School of Pharmacy & Medical Sciences, University of South Australia, Adelaide, South Australia

**Daniela Martino Roth: P3. The Role of Microtubules in Nuclear Protein Import: Relevance to Gene Therapy**

Daniela Martino Roth<sup>1,2</sup>, Greg Moseley<sup>1</sup>, Megan Waldhuber<sup>2</sup>, Colin Pouton<sup>2</sup> and David A. Jans<sup>1</sup>; <sup>1</sup> Nuclear Signalling Laboratory, Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Monash University, Clayton 3800, Melbourne, Australia; <sup>2</sup> Department of Pharmaceutical Biology and Pharmacology, Victorian College of Pharmacy, Monash University, Parkville 3052, Melbourne, Australia

**Graham McClorey: P38. Redirecting Splicing to Restore Dystrophin Expression in a Canine Model of Muscular Dystrophy**

G. McClorey, S. Fletcher and S. Wilton, Experimental and Molecular Medicine Group, Centre for Neurological and Neuromuscular Disorders, University of Western Australia, Nedlands, WA 6009

**Jalal Tarwadi: P4. Evaluations of Novel Transfection Reagents Based on Lipopeptide Structure as Potential Gene Delivery Vehicles**

Tarwadi, Jalal A. Jazayeri and Colin W. Pouton, Department of Pharmaceutical Biology and Pharmacology, Victorian College of Pharmacy, Monash University, 381 Royal Parade, Parkville, VIC 3052, Australia

**Kylie Wagstaff: O11. Engineered Histones and Reconstituted Chromatin can Effect Gene Transfer in Intact Cells**

Kylie M. Wagstaff<sup>1</sup>, David J. Tremethick<sup>2</sup> and David A. Jans<sup>1</sup>; <sup>1</sup> Nuclear Signalling Laboratory, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Monash University, Clayton, Victoria, Australia; <sup>2</sup> Chromatin and Transcriptional Regulation Laboratory, John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT, Australia

**Belinda Wigg: P1. Enhancing Transfection Efficiency of Short Interfering RNA Molecules for Telomerase Inhibition**

Belinda Wigg, Catherine Durkin, Graham Flannery and Chee Kai Chan, Department of Genetics, La Trobe University, Bundoora 3086, Melbourne, Australia

**Faten Zaibak: P48. Targeted Gene Correction of a Mouse Model of  $\beta$ 0-Thalassemia.** Faten Zaibak, Duangporn Jamsai, Jim Vadolas, Hady Wardan and Panayiotis A Ioannou. The Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Royal Children's Hospital, Flemington Road Parkville, Melbourne, Victoria 3052, Australia

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## Dominic Glover, RECIPIENT OF THE PANOS IOANNOU YOUNG INVESTIGATOR AWARD



On April 14th, 2005 the Executive Members of the AGTS on behalf of its Members established the Panos Ioannou Young Investigator Award in recognition, appreciation and thanks to Panos for his founding and sustained contributions to the society. Panos's passionate support for young scientists inspired the award's inception and this year was sponsored by the Journal of Gene Medicine. At the closing session of the 4<sup>th</sup> AGTS meeting, Dominic Glover received the first Panos Ioannou Young Investigator Award in recognition of his excellence in research.

**Dominic Glover: 05. Engineered Modular Protein-DNA Carriers for Efficient and Specific Gene Delivery.** Dominic J. Glover and David A. Jans, Nuclear Signalling Laboratory, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Monash University.

Dominic J. Glover is originally from Queensland. He graduated with a B.Sc. (Hons) in biochemistry from the Queensland University of Technology in 2001. His honours thesis was performed in the laboratory of Prof Martin Lavin at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, which involved the characterization of radiation-inducible promoters for application in targeted gene therapy. For his honours thesis he was awarded a QUT Dean's Award for Excellence. He then joined the Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Monash University to carry out his Ph.D. in the laboratory of Prof David Jans. Dominic's doctoral thesis is focused on developing novel non-viral vectors that mimic the ability of viruses to be actively transported to and maintained in the cell nucleus.

"I was very honoured to receive the Panos Ioannou Young Investigator Award. The prize money will be used for travel costs to the 2005 Sir Mark Oliphant "BioNano" conference at the University of Queensland in late 2005."

## More Prizes !!!!!

Following an approach, the Western Australia Combined Biological Society were provided with a \$300 Student Prize for their annual meeting by the AGTS Executive.

### IMPORTANT: A new prize for the best gene therapy papers by AGTS members

In an attempt to encourage our early career scientists and to disseminate information among members, the AGTS Executive is offering two \$250 awards per annum. One of these will be offered in each 6 month period of a calendar year to the first author of a gene therapy publication judged by the Executive as the best for the previous period.

Only current AGTS members may apply and the award is open to all AGTS members (the young as well as the wise). Please send your paper details once "In Press" to [r.martiniello@centenary.usyd.edu.au](mailto:r.martiniello@centenary.usyd.edu.au) and copy to Dr Ming Wei using [d.wei@mailbox.uq.edu.au](mailto:d.wei@mailbox.uq.edu.au). The citation and abstract of each submission will be included in the next issue of the AGTS Newsletter.

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## Conference Dinner at Melbourne Aquarium



From the left Ms Jennifer Randall and Ms Cynthia Ng (NSW).



From the right Ms Jan Shaw, Dr Jane Flemming and company (NSW).



From the left Dr Christine Smyth and Ms Allison Dane (NSW).



From the left Dr Geoff McCowage, Dr Belinda Kramer, Ms Margot Latham and company (NSW).



From the left Dr Faten Zaibak, Ms Lingli Li, Ms Natasha Hamilton, Dr Heidi Peters and co (VIC).



From the left Prof Davis Jans, Dr Duangporn Jamsai and Dr Joe Sarsero (VIC).

## Conference Dinner at Melbourne Aquarium



From the left Clint Johnson, Penny Harding, Sonja Bouwer, Russell Johnsen (WA).



From the left Abbie Fall, Graham McClorey, Matt Welch and Clint Johnson hiding (WA).



From the left Dr Paul Dunn, Mr Howard Jullie and company (QLD).



From the left Dr Simon Barry (SA), Dr Ian Alexander (NSW), A/Prof Donald Anson (SA).



From the left Dr Simon Barry, Ms Rachel Koldej, Ms Trish Cmielewski, Ms Sharon Byers, Don Anson (SA).



From the left Dr Ming Wei (QLD), Mrs Naldini and Prof Luigi Naldini.