

Australian & New Zealand Society of Biomechanics



Newsletter, January 2014

ANZSB Committee

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Doctor Liz Clarke
The Kolling Institute, University of Sydney, NSW

PAST PRESIDENT

Professor Rod Barrett
Griffith University, QLD

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Professor Rob Herbert
Neuroscience Research Australia, NSW

CONFERENCE LIAISON OFFICER

Doctor Karen Mickle
University of Wollongong, NSW

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Doctor Alasdair Dempsey
Murdoch University, WA

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Memberships

Did you renew your membership when attending ABC9 in Wollongong? If you didn't, your membership has now expired. This is the last newsletter that will be sent to lapsed members. To check your membership status please email austnzbiomech@gmail.com

Benefits for you include, eligibility for ANZSB travel awards (see page 5), eligibility to present in ANZSB organised special sessions in international and local conferences, and regular updates as to what's happening in biomechanics in Australia and New Zealand

ANZSB relies on membership dues to provide travel support for students and ECRs, bring guest speakers to our conferences and to pay for running cost such as website hosting.

Membership dues are \$100 and only \$50 for students and memberships are valid until ABC10 in 2016.

To renew your membership visit the membership page on the [website](#) and request a new membership

Presidents Report

I hope you have all managed an end of year break to recharge before the sprint for grant and teaching deadlines in the near future. This is our first newsletter for 2015 and the first for our new executive committee. Our new executive committee has already had our first meeting and is already underway with our first initiatives. I must start here by thanking **Alasdair Dempsey**, our new Communications Officer, for getting our first newsletter out on time. Alasdair will also be taking on the important job of updating and managing our society's website, which is getting out-dated. We thank you for your patience while we update the information on our website. On the topic of our website, one of the important new initiatives of our executive committee, led by our new Secretary / Treasurer **Rob Herbert**, will be to include capabilities for credit card payment to simplify our membership payment process and make it more accessible to international memberships. In the short term we will continue to collect membership payments using direct debit. I'd also like to introduce our new Conference Liaison Officer **Karen Mickle**, who played an important role in organising the recent ABC9 in Wollongong, and over the next 2 years Karen will be assisting **Peter Pivonka** to organise ABC10 in Melbourne. I must also thank our outgoing President **Rod Barrett** who has done a fantastic job leading our society in the past 3 years and who will remain on our executive committee in the role of Past President to provide guidance. I feel confident that this new team will do an outstanding job in serving our society over the next 2 years.

We closed 2014 with our society's biennial ABC conference in Wollongong. I must thank conference chairs, **Julie Steele**, **Karen Mickle** and **Diane Harland**, the local organising committee and assistants, and of course **Rochelle Waren**. The conference was a huge success, not only in terms of the quality and scope of scientific content and the showcasing of student research, but also operationally.

In this newsletter we are calling for travel award applications to support conference attendance at ISB Glasgow. For this round of awards we not only offer a student award as usual but we have introduced a category to support Early and Mid-Career Researchers. We ask that you take the time to renew your memberships, as all memberships lapsed in December 2014 and only those who have renewed since ABC9 are currently members.

If you have any suggestions for new initiatives to benefit members please raise this with any of our executive. On behalf of the new committee, we look forward to serving our members in the coming two years, and hope that you enjoy this first newsletter for 2015.

Liz Clarke



ANZSB on Social Media

We now have both a Twitter account ([@ANZSB](#)) and a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AusNewZealandBiomech>) I will be keeping them up to date with society news and general biomechanics news such as upcoming conferences and job opportunities. We also want to promote the work and success of our members. As such we are happy to share papers published by members and news items such as members winning awards or completing PhDs. If you have any items like this please DM [@ANZSB](#) or send me an email to a.dempsey@murdoch.edu.au.

Please also let me know if you are interested in closed members only group on either Facebook or LinkedIn.

Alasdair Dempsey



Your New Committee

The ANZSB AGM in Wollongong at ABC9 saw the investment of a new committee for the society to take us through until ABC10 in 2016. A brief bio of all executive committee members is below. Please feel free to get in contact if you have any ideas for the society.

President—Dr Liz Clarke



Elizabeth Clarke is the Director of the Murray Maxwell Biomechanics Laboratory at the Kolling Institute of Medical Research, and a Senior Lecturer at the University of Sydney. She has a background in Mechanical Biomedical Engineering from the University of Sydney and completed her PhD in Spinal Injury Biomechanics in 2008. Liz has served on the ANZSB Executive Committee since 2009 - first as Communications Officer, then as Secretary / Treasurer. Her research interests are joint and soft tissue biomechanics relating to injury, particularly in spinal injury, tendinopathy and post-traumatic osteoarthritis.

Past President—Prof Rod Barrett



Rod is Professor in Biomechanics in the School of Allied Health Sciences at Griffith University. He is a longstanding member of the ANZSB, has attended all but one of the societies biennial (ABC) conferences, formerly served on the ANZSB executive (200-2002) and was involved in hosting the societies conference at Griffith University on two occasions (2000 and 2008). His research is focused on 4 main themes: How to prevent falls in older adults, muscle and tendon function, neuromechanics of hip osteoarthritis and innovative biomechanical methods. He currently serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Applied Biomechanics and is Associate Editor for the Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport .

Secretary/Treasurer —Prof Rob Herbert



Rob Herbert is a Senior Principal Research Fellow at Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA). He investigates the passive mechanical properties of human muscles and tendons in vivo. Rob also has an interest in clinical research and conducts randomised trials investigating the effects of physical interventions for motor impairment.

Communications Officer — Dr Alasdair Dempsey



Alasdair Dempsey is a Lecturer within the School of Psychology and Exercise Science at Murdoch University. He completed his PhD at UWA in 2009 prior to working at both UWA and Griffith University. Alasdair's work focuses on sports injury prevention and the development and management of knee joint osteoarthritis.

Conference Liaison Officer — Dr Karen Mickle



Karen Mickle is a Research Fellow at the Biomechanics Research Laboratory, University of Wollongong. Karen has been actively involved in biomechanics research pertaining to the foot and lower limb since 2003. Her particular research interests lie within the areas of the foot structure and function, foot pathologies and functional footwear. Karen co-chaired the 9th Australasian Biomechanics Conference (ABC9) held at the University of Wollongong in late 2014.



ABC9 Report

The Biomechanics Research Laboratory at the University of Wollongong (UOW) was proud to host the 9th Australasian Biomechanics Conference (ABC9), on behalf of the Australian & New Zealand Society of Biomechanics. 109 delegates attended the conference over the 2 and half days, 40 of those students, and 12 International visitors. With a theme of “*Under the Escarpment: Uncovering Biomechanics in the Illawarra*”, we revealed some of the unique biomechanics research flourishing on the South Coast of NSW, as well as the rest of Australia and New Zealand. The conference show-cased:

- 3 keynote addresses and 1 President’s lecture
- 26 podium presentations (we scheduled only 1 stream so that all conference delegates could attend the broad spectrum of presentations)
- 8 work in progress presentations by early career researchers
- 29 poster presentations
- 1 ‘Funding Your Research’ panel discussion

Special congratulations go to our four award winners: **Kane Middleton** (ISB Young Investigator Award – Poster), **Carina Blaker** (ANZSB New Investigator Award – Podium), **Celeste Coltman** (JC Measurements Best Poster Award) and **Adrian Lai** (NDI Best Podium Presentation Award).

The Opening Address was given by **Professor Gordon Wallace**, Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science at UOW. His talk focused on *Monitoring and enhancing human performance using 3D printing*. **Dr Zenobia Jacobs**, ARC QEII Research Fellow in the Centre for Archaeological Science at UOW gave her keynote address on *Archaeological dating techniques and the timing of the anatomical and behavioural origins of Homo sapiens*. Despite their international acclaim, both of these speakers were previously ‘unknown’ to most of the biomechanics community because their research is outside the traditional biomechanics discipline area. **Professor Toni Arndt**, Professor in Biomechanics at the Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences, Stockholm, presented the final keynote address on *Achilles tendon anatomy and biomechanics: What does it do?* As a graduate from the University of Wollongong, Toni’s presentation was highly impactful, particularly for the many Early Career Researchers in the audience, as he described his career pathway from UOW graduate to Swedish Professor.

ABC9 also held a panel discussion on *Funding Your Research*. The panel included **Dr Fiona Cameron**, Executive Director for Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Australian Research Council. The discussion was very informative, and Fiona provided extremely practical and insightful tips for conference delegates on how to make their grant applications more competitive.

The social program was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and colleagues and meet new faces. Following the welcome reception on the Sunday evening, a student and ECR networking event was held to encourage interaction in a relaxed atmosphere before the business part of conference got started! We held a Hawaiian themed poster session (complete with cocktails and floral leis) to boost engagement between presenters and delegates. To foster the development of collaborative networks post conference, we have established an ABC9 Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/UOWabc9>). We have uploaded photos of every delegate who gave a presentation at the conference, together with other conference activities (such as the trade displays, the conference workshops, and the social programs). We thank you all for making ABC9 such a memorable experience and we hope you enjoy the photos, as a token of our appreciation.



Karen Mickle

2015 Travel Awards



ANZSB will again be offering travel awards to the value of \$500 to support travel to the 2015 ISB Congress in Glasgow. This time we will be extending the eligibility to early-and mid-career researchers (ECMRs). One award will be offered to a student and one will be offered to an EMCR. The awards will only be open to financial members of ANZSB. Check out page 1 for how to renew your membership, or if you are not sure of your current membership status please email: austnzbiomech@gmail.com

Eligibility

- Applicants must be the presenting author and attend the ISB conference in Glasgow
- Students must currently be enrolled in a research higher degree (Honours, Research Masters , PhD) and **both** the applicant and their supervisor must be financial members of ANZSB
- ECMR applicants must be less than 10 years postdoc (can be extended for career disruption) and the applicant must be a financial member of ANZSB)
- Applicant must be willing to write a review of the conference for an ANZSB newsletter if required

Application Process

Submit the following to austnzbiomech@gmail.com by Friday February 13th, 2015

- Your ISB 2015 abstract (including title, author list, and whether accepted for oral or poster)
- A one page CV plus a publication list (list any conference presentations in CV not publication list)
- Students—evidence of current enrolment and current supervisor (a signed letter from your supervisor is acceptable proof)
- ECMR—evidence you are less than 10 years postdoc and details of any career disruption if applicable
- Applicant will be notified of the result by email in March 2015