



## In This Issue:

### PAGE 1

- President's Comment
- Notices

### PAGE 2

- 2008 Research Fellowship
- International Representation

### PAGE 3

- Advanced Training Update
- Positions Vacant

### PAGE 4

- NZSG ASM 2009
- GESA Medal
- Contact Us

## Notices:

### NZSG ASM 2009

11-13 November  
Te Papa, Wellington

#### REGISTER NOW:

[www.gastro2009.co.nz](http://www.gastro2009.co.nz)

## NZSG ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

12 November  
2009 at 5:30 p.m.  
Te Papa, Wellington

### Elections 2009

Executive Committee Elections have begun. Two vacancies for Committee Representatives and one for President Elect are available. Nominations close **16 October**. Voting closes **9 November**.

[www.nzsg.org.nz](http://www.nzsg.org.nz)

## President's Comment

By Dr John Wyeth



Earlier this year I highlighted an initiative to address the shortfall in the consultant workforce. The NZSG will have a booth at the forthcoming World Congress in London set up to attract potential consultants to work in New Zealand, staffed by a recruitment specialist. It is being funded by NZSG, with participating DHBs to be invoiced for costs. From the initial response from DHBs, costs should be covered. In addition, the Ministry of Health has agreed to cover any loss, in equal proportion, with NZSG.

Promotion of research is one of our core objectives. With this Newsletter there is a survey for all Members asking about recent involvement in research. I would encourage you to fill this out, even if you are only involved in minimal research activity. By obtaining this snapshot of what our Members are doing, the Society can plan better ways to promote and encourage research activity.

There are also changes in our administration structure. NZSG is based in the College of Physicians Office in Wellington. This association allows us to tap into many of the College's resources. For some time now NZSG has not been asked for reimbursement of expenses to run our administration. This situation needed to change and from this financial year on, it will. More details will be presented at the AGM by the Secretary/Treasurer.

It is GESA's 50th Jubilee Celebrations this year. The relationship between NZSG and GESA remains close, and many of our members will be attending the Jubilee meeting. Dr Susan Parry has been invited as the Trans-Tasman Lecturer this year.

Our Annual Scientific Meeting, Nov 11-13 in Wellington, has a very full program this year.

There are a number of international guests, as well local speakers and of course most importantly our own members presenting their own work. Prizes for the best presentations and or posters will be awarded. In a change from previous years, there will be an extension of the meeting to involve the public. Two public forums will be held at the conclusion of the meeting, one on Inflammatory Bowel Disease and the other on Coeliac Disease. It is hoped this will raise awareness and increase understanding of some aspects of these digestive diseases amongst both interest groups and the public. If successful, in future years we can focus on other diseases or areas of gastroenterology practice.

Finally, a couple of reminders for you. Firstly a meeting of representatives of all Endoscopy Units is being held on Wednesday 11 November, at 8am in Te Papa. This is just prior to the ASM opening. Make sure your unit is represented and forward agenda items to our administrator, Tamsen Maher ([societies@racp.org.nz](mailto:societies@racp.org.nz)). Secondly, applications for the Olympus Travelling Fellowship are again being called for. Details are on the website.

John Wyeth  
President

## NZSG Fellowship

Ferring NZ Ltd has for some time generously supported a Research Fellowship in conjunction with the NZ Society of Gastroenterology. This Fellowship will again be offered for 2009.

Applications are now open and the recipient will be announced at the 2009 NZSG ASM, 11-13 November 2009. Closing date for applications is 30 September 2009.

Information for applicants is available on [www.nzsg.org.nz](http://www.nzsg.org.nz), or from Tamsen Maher at the RACP Office in Wellington: [Tamsen.Maher@racp.org.nz](mailto:Tamsen.Maher@racp.org.nz)

# NZSG / Ferring Pharmaceuticals Research Fellowship 2008

The 2008 NZSG / Ferring Pharmaceuticals Research Fellowship was awarded to support my PhD research and to initiate research collaboration between the University of Auckland's Bioengineering Institute and the Department of Surgery. Our research aims to improve the understanding of gastric electrical activity via a joint experimental and computational modelling approach, and thereby, to develop new diagnostic tools and therapies for gastric motility disorders.

The Fellowship was gratefully received and was instrumental in kick-starting a very productive year for our team, resulting in several publications and considerable international interest in the direction of our work. Our most significant achievement to date has been to complete the first high-resolution (multi-electrode) mapping of human gastric electrical activity. Funding from the Fellowship helped to develop the new type of electrode suitable for intra-operative use that was used to perform this work. This

## New Suspected Cancer in Primary Care Guidelines

Published September 2009 - [www.nzgg.org.nz](http://www.nzgg.org.nz)

Members should be aware of this publication as it includes referral guidelines for a suspected diagnosis of colorectal, gastric or oesophageal cancer.

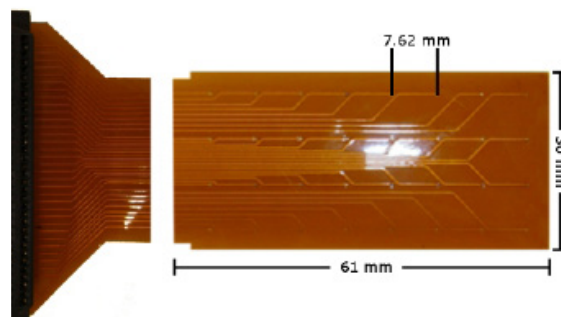


Above image: Dr Susan Parry was the inaugural Jass Memorial Lecturer at the recent Familial Cancer Meeting in NSW, Australia. Susan spoke on how the work of Professor Jass had provided leadership and inspiration in both the scientific approach to, and clinical management of, the intriguing condition colonic hyperplastic polyposis. She was presented with a memento of the occasion by Professor Will Foulkes from Canada.

project has revealed new information about the behaviour of the human gastric pacemaker and slow wave propagation in the human stomach, and was recently awarded a Young Investigator Award and a plenary presentation at the 2009 Joint International Neurogastroenterology & Motility meeting in Chicago.

On the back of our work to date, we also recently secured a major HRC project grant to support our program and expand it further in the coming years. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the NZSG and Ferring Pharmaceuticals, which has been critical to enabling the growth and success of this research program to date. I also thank my excellent supervisors, Prof. John Windsor and Prof. Andrew Pullan. I look forward to presenting some of the results of our work at the upcoming NZSG Annual Scientific Meeting in Wellington.

Dr Greg O'Grady



Above image: The novel PCB array. Each electrode head holds 4x8 electrodes (gold contacts; copper channels).

## NZSG International Representation

### Ed Gane

- Council Member, Asia Pacific Association For Study of the Liver and will serve as President in 2013
- Editor International Liver Transplantation Society Website
- Member HBV Special Interest Group American Association of Study of Liver

### Susan Parry

- Council of the International Society for Gastrointestinal Hereditary Tumours (InSIGHT)

List continues from May 2009 Newsletter.

### Clinical Heads of Endoscopy Units Meeting

A continuation of this forum from the 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting will be held on 11 November 2009 at 8:00 a.m. in the Rangimarie 1 room, Level 3 at Te Papa in Wellington.

Prior to 9 November, forward all agenda items to Tamsen Maher at [societies@racp.org.nz](mailto:societies@racp.org.nz) to ensure your unit is represented in discussion.

# Advanced Training Update

Advanced Training will continue to be a mentoring process by members of the NZSG with the SAC simply hoping to ensure the quality and scope of the Training experience. The College has reviewed Basic Training resulting in some significant changes to assessment. The attention is now focused on Advanced Training.

There is a new curriculum for each specialty in the advanced stage of writing. The gastroenterology curriculum is very comprehensive and detailed. The issue is how to assess whether the items of knowledge and skills outlined have been acquired. Even without any attempt at assessment, the existence of such a detailed curriculum will challenge our more 'osmotic' approach to learning, i.e. the summation of many chance encounters. There may need to be a more structured approach to some learning tasks. This debate will take place once all members have had a chance to review the curriculum. The appropriate assessment tools for Advanced Training have not been finalized but it will certainly be more detailed than the current supervisor and Trainee reports.

Currently, the quality of information in the reports can be improved. Bland comments may be easier but do not help the SAC judge the progress of Trainees. Serious deficits need to be highlighted with some '2's and preferably some written comment - and submitting reports on time is also a great help to the SAC and your trainee. There are serious ethical issues if Fellowships are awarded to candidates who do not reach independent and safe competency in gastroenterology.

Face-to-face meetings with Trainees are too infrequent. Specific requests for two-monthly meetings will sometimes be made by the SAC. The progress of Trainees, and Training in general, needs to be discussed as confidential team meetings.

The SAC has always approved a Trainee's plans for Training, but now there is a strong move to site accreditation. This process is well underway in Australia and is being implemented in New Zealand with two visits planned per year. This process is not without difficulty and may cause some concern amongst members of the NZSG. However, there are many gains from site visits, in particular the ability to use the report to argue for more resources such as junior officer support, pure Gastroenterology registrar posts, library resources, and time allocated for regular teaching sessions. Some concern may come from recommendations for the appropriate duration of training that can be undertaken at each site. An inevitable outcome of this process will be a more organised regional training process.

All Advanced Trainees have been written to with comments on training and general views of the SAC. The current

prerequisite of three years Advanced Training is the bare minimum required to achieve sufficient skills to practice at an independent consultation level. This means that cross-accreditation will be very limited. The SAC is very keen for Trainees to have experience in more than one centre, however the length of time considered appropriate in any centre will vary, eventually according to site accreditation.

The SAC is also keen for Trainees to undertake research. Projects will be largely undertaken during clinical attachments and can be presented at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the NZSG. This is not a mandatory requirement at present but is strongly encouraged. Presentations at the NZSG ASM are noted in the Training record. Full-time or part-time research positions are also encouraged, but it is still preferred that Trainees have three years of clinical gastroenterology in more than one centre.

I will be pleased to have some feedback on these comments. We are all responsible for the quality of the new generation of gastroenterologists. Happy Training!

Dr Alan Fraser

## Positions Vacant

We are looking for a Gastroenterologist with an academic interest or full-time clinical position – the terms of the appointment are flexible. We are a small team of three current consultants working in a tertiary hospital closely affiliated with the internationally acclaimed University of Otago.

More information: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/vacancies/index.html>

Or Dr. M. Schlup: [martin.schlup@stonebow.otago.ac.nz](mailto:martin.schlup@stonebow.otago.ac.nz)

## Executive Committee Resignation

At the most recent meeting of the New Zealand Society of Gastroenterology Executive Committee, Steven Ding resigned his post as Committee Member due to prior commitments. The Executive Committee wish to take this opportunity to thank Steven for his hard work and dedication on their behalf and wish him well in his future endeavours.



# NZSG Annual Scientific Meeting

11 - 13 November 2009  
Te Papa, Wellington

A total of 44 registrants so far – a reminder the 'Early Bird' rate applies up to 25 September. The overseas speakers on the programme are all confirmed, and flights have been arranged, so a very full and educational programme is guaranteed. Trainees are reminded that a chance to spend time with, and discuss future training opportunities with the overseas speakers will be available on a day trip to the Martinborough vineyards on Saturday 14th, so make provisions for this in your travel plans. A reminder that abstracts for presentations and posters should be submitted by 28 August. For further information, visit [www.gastro2009.co.nz](http://www.gastro2009.co.nz).

Rees Cameron, Convenor.

## Composition of the Current Executive

- John Wyeth (President)
- Open Nominations at 2009 AGM
- Susan Parry (Sec/Treas)
- First Term (Elected 2007)
- Murray Barclay (Past President)
- Final Term ends 2009
- Alan Fraser
- First Term (Elected 2007)
- Russell Walmsley
- Second Term (Elected 2008)
- Anthony Smith
- Second Term (Elected 2008)
- Ed Gane
- First Term (Elected 2008)
- Michael Schultz
- First Term (Elected 2008)
- Sandra Burton
- First Term (Co-opted 2008)
- David Theobald
- First Term (Co-opted 2008)
- Kumudith Ekanayake
- First Term (Co-opted 2008)

# NZSG Commemorates GESA 50th Jubilee

The Australian and New Zealand Medical and Surgical Gastrointestinal Week is being held in Sydney from October 21-24 and it marks 50 years of GESA holding scientific meetings. To commemorate the Jubilee, NZSG will be presenting the President of GESA with a Badge of Office. Many of you may not be aware that the NZSG Badge of Office, a depiction of the gastrointestinal tract of a Kiwi bird, was gifted to NZ on the occasion of our 10th anniversary in 1976 from GESA.



It is now our chance to return the favour. There were a number of suggestions for insignia, some not mentionable, and the final design is shown here. The colour scheme will be green and gold in keeping with Australian national colours but we have managed to include a silver fern on the reverse side of the medal. For those of you attending the meeting, the presentation will be during the first session on Wednesday 21 October.



Above image: The Executive Committee meets face to face on 11 September 2009 to discuss key Society issues. Pictured from left to right: Russell Walmsley, Sandra Burton, Murray Barclay, John Wyeth (President), Susan Parry (Secretary/Treasurer), Kumudith Ekanayake, Alan Fraser, Michael Schultz and Tim King. Not pictured are Ed Gane, Tony Smith and Steven Ding.

## CONTACT US

NZSG welcomes all feedback, suggestions and contributions to this newsletter.

Susan Parry, Secretary/Treasurer

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