

We had a very successful and enjoyable Annual Scientific Meeting in Christchurch. A record number of registrants attended, helped partly by having the RACP join us. On behalf of the Society, I want to extend a huge thank you to Steven Ding and his team.

1. Awards and Prizes

The following members received prizes. We congratulate them and thank the sponsors. Once again it was a record number of abstracts submitted.

NZSG Best Clinical paper or presentation	\$1500	Dr Rebecca Roberts
Roche Best Poster	\$500	Dr Zoe Raos
Roche Best Poster	\$500	Dr Ken Tan
Obex Best Endoscopy Paper or Poster	\$1000	Dr William Stableforth
Ferring Young Investigators Award – GI	\$2000	Dr Hui Yann-Lee
Roche Young Investigators Award - Liver	\$2000	Dr Kumudith Ekanayake
Olympus Travelling Fellowship	\$6000	Dr Richard Gearry
Obex-Given Capsule Endoscopy Scholarship		Dr Jim Brooker

2. Honorary Memberships

Two of our long term members were recognised for their contributions to Gastroenterology in New Zealand and internationally by being awarded Honorary Member status:

- Gil Barbezat - Dunedin
- Michael Eade – North Shore

3. Archivist for NZSG

At the AGM members were advised that the Rules allow for the appointment of an archivist to manage all records of the NZSG and it was proposed that Bramwell Cooke who had indicated his willingness to continue in this work be appointed as archivist.

4. Executive for 2007-2008

Elections were held both for Ordinary Executive Members and for President Elect. The composition of the Executive for 2007-2008 is listed below:

President 2006-2008:	Murray Barclay
President Elect 2008-2010:	John Wyeth
Honorary Secretary / Treasurer:	John Wyeth (until mid 2008) Susan Parry (mid 2008 onwards)
Ordinary Executive Member (SI):	Steven Ding
Ordinary Executive Member:	Tony Smith
Ordinary Executive Member:	Alan Fraser
Co-opted Executive Member:	Russell Walmsley (Endoscopy Standards and Training)
Co-opted Executive Member:	Susan Parry (Colorectal Cancer Screening)
Nurse Representative:	Theresa Lynch

5. Changes to NZSG Rules (Constitution)

At the AGM a number of changes to the Society's rules were voted and accepted. The changes are summarised below.

- To allow leave of absence for an Office Bearer
- Removing reference to "centre" in eligibility criteria for Executive Members
- Increasing number of Ordinary Members of Executive to a maximum of 6
- Limiting duration of co-opted membership on Executive
- Allowing proxy voting at AGM / EGM

To have these changes incorporated into the Rules of the Society a number of legal steps are now required before submitting them to the Companies Office. This should be done early in the New Year.

6. NZ Society of Gastroenterology 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 2008. The intention of the support is for a New Zealand trainee to work in research within New Zealand for a 12 month period. The amount of the Fellowship is up to \$50,000 and the applicant can use it for living expenses whilst doing the research or can put it towards costs of the research. An interim and full report, with an expectation of presentation to the NZ Society Scientific Meeting is required as well as acknowledgement of the support in any publications arising from the work.

Information for applicants is available on the Website or from Fran Horsley at the RACP Office in Wellington.

7. Regional Meetings

It is important to support our regional neighbour societies. Here are some of the forthcoming meetings in our region:

- 2nd New Zealand Viral Hepatitis Conference "Optimising Therapy for Hepatitis B & C" - Whakatane Feb 29-Mar 1; www.hepfoundation.org.nz
- Asian Pacific Association for the Study of Liver Diseases; Seoul, March 23-26. www.apaslseoul2008.org
- Westmead Interventional Endoscopy Workshop, Sydney, Feb 21-22. www.e-Kiddna.com.au/westendoreg

8. Contact Us

Our secretariat is now centralised in the RACP College Offices in Wellington and we have the services of Fran Horsley as an administration officer. It is now much easier to contact us if needed and all NZSG information is held on the one site.

Contact details are:

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