

# **AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE**

## **National Committees for Science: ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL on 2009 activities**

### **NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR: BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

**CHAIR: PROFESSOR ROB BAXTER DSc FAA**

PERIOD COVERED IN THIS REPORT: 1 January - 31 December, 2009

**Please complete and return this form by 16 December, 2009.**

NOTE: This report will be published on the Academy of Science website at  
[www.science.org.au/natcoms](http://www.science.org.au/natcoms)

### **MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MET ON:

October 29, 2009

THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS ARE PROPOSED FOR 2010 (include date and place, if possible):

To be determined

### **MEETINGS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AFFILIATED WITH ICSU**

Affiliated organisations to which NCBMS nominates delegates include:

IUBMB, IUMS, IUPAB, IUPAS, IUPHAR and IUTOX. Additional links through IUIS AND IBRO.

IN 2009 THERE WAS A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

IUPS: Kyoto Japan, July 27 2009

IUBMB: Shanghai, China, 7 August 2009.

IN 2010 THERE WILL BE A GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF (include date and place):

IUPHAR: Copenhagen Denmark, July 17 - 23, 2010

IUTOX: Barcelona Spain, July 19-23, 2010

IUIS: Kobe Japan, August 22-27, 2010

IUBMB: Melbourne Australia, Sep 26 – Oct 1, 2010

The next GENERAL ASSEMBLY/CONGRESS will be held:

IUMS: Sapporo Japan, September 2011

IUPAB: Beijing China, Oct 29-Nov 2, 2011 (then Brisbane 2014)

IUPS: Birmingham UK 2013

IBRO: Florence Italy, July 14-19, 2011

I RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL THE FOLLOWING VOTING AUSTRALIAN  
DELEGATION: (include title, name, address, telephone, email and fax number)

No pending nominations

## AUSTRALIAN OFFICE HOLDERS IN ICSU AND AFFILIATED BODIES

AUSTRALIANS WHO HELD OFFICE IN 2009 WERE:

(include all appointed/elected memberships of subsidiary bodies, standing committees, commissions etc. as well as appointments to Bureau/Executive positions in the governing body).

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
C Dos Remedios	IUPAB	Sec. General	
DJ Birkett	IUPHAR	Vice-Chair, Division of Clinical Pharmacology	
Caroline McMillen	IUPS	Council Member	
Mick McManus	IUTOX	Member Nominating Committee	
Peter Doherty	IUIS	President	
Chris Parish	IUIS	Council Member	
Susan Hamilton	IUBMB	Council Member for Education	
Denis Crane	IUBMB	Nominations Committee	
Stephen Redman	IBRO	Treasurer	

THE FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS WILL BE MADE IN 2010:

PERSON	INTERNATIONAL BODY	POSITION	TERM OF OFFICE
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**ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE – Please include comments on progress achieved on projected activities identified in your 2009 Business Plan. 2009 Business plans can be viewed at [www.science.org.au/natcoms](http://www.science.org.au/natcoms)**

Go to [http://www.science.org.au/reports/2008\\_09anrep.html](http://www.science.org.au/reports/2008_09anrep.html), to view the Chairs' Reports on 2008 activities.

I SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REPORT TO COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN calendar year 2009 (200-250 words):

The National Committee for Biomedical Science (NCBMS) met in October 2009, including new members representing the Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists (ASCEPT), the Australian Neuroscience Society (ANS) and the Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB). There will be further substantial turnover in 2010 with new members representing the Australasian Society for Immunology (ASI), the Australia and New Zealand Society for Cell and Developmental Biology (ANZSCDB) (new corresponding society), the Australian Society for Biophysics (ASB) and the Australian Physiological Society (AuPS). It is *recommended* that future membership terms be staggered to prevent such major turnover of membership over a short period.

The NCBMS continued to strengthen links with a multiplicity of corresponding societies, although this somewhat dilutes the focus of the Committee. It could be argued that, by virtue of their being combined in a single National Committee, large, nationally important disciplines such as Biochemistry, Microbiology, Pharmacology and others are under-represented at Academy level, relative to some smaller disciplines which have their own National Committee.

Professor Warwick Anderson, CEO, National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), attended the October Committee meeting to discuss the NHMRC's thinking on changes to funding policy and career structure/workforce issues. Given substantial common interests with the National Committee for Medicine (NCM), it is *recommended* that consideration be given to another joint meeting between NCM and NCBMS in 2010. Biomedical science workforce issues have been a continuing topic of discussion for the NCBMS, both in regard to the declining numbers of young people interested in entering the profession, and the aging of the current workforce. NCBMS would be keen to participate in

broader discussions about these matters, which also affect other branches of Australian science.

A highly successful National Forum on Education in Biomedical Sciences was held in late 2007, and preliminary discussions have confirmed a willingness to plan for a Second National Forum in late 2010, or 2011.

**Please complete and return this form by 16 December, 2009 to:**

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