

President's Report

2003 has been another busy and successful year for ASBMB. This is thanks to the high levels of commitment, diligence and enterprise shown by the many members who have been involved in the Society's various activities, including ComBio2003 and other meetings organised by several SIGs, such as the highly successful joint meeting held by the Sydney and Queensland Protein Groups at Coffs Harbour.

The superb efforts of the Editor of the *Australian Biochemist*, Professor Phillip Nagley, of the Editorial Committee (Graham Baldwin, Marie Bogoyevitch, Liz Harry, Rebecca Lew and Jenny Martin), and of the Editorial Assistant, Liana Nagley, have enabled us all to share in the excitement and enthusiasm of the Fellowship winners, to benefit from the succinct and incisive articles in the Showcase on Research and from the many other reports documenting the strength and breadth of the activities of biochemists and molecular biologists in Australia and New Zealand.

Similarly, we are incredibly well-served by our very professional Secretariat, Sally and Chris Jay, and by our Webmaster, Tristan Wallis. It would be hard to contemplate running the Society and mounting a conference as large and complex as the recent ComBio2003 in Melbourne without such professional support.

Ken Gayler, Mary-Jane Gething, Paul Gleeson and their team of helpers also deserve our heartfelt gratitude for organising ComBio2003, which comprised such a splendid program of outstanding speakers and engaging symposia topics, along with a rousing program of social activities. Congratulations to the winners of the Student Poster Awards and to all the contestants who once again showed how high the standard of research is among our student members. Congratulations also to our Sustaining Members for mounting such an attractive and hospitable exhibition of the latest equipment and other facilities that we need for our research.

ASBMB maintains links with a number of organisations including IUBMB, FAOBMB, FASTS, ASMR and the Science Teachers Associations in each State. Professor Kieran Kirk will present an ASBMB-sponsored Plenary Lecture at the forthcoming 10th FAOBMB Congress in Bangalore, India, 7-11 December. Dr Samantha Richardson and Dr Susan Howitt have again ably represented ASBMB's interests at Science Meets Parliament in Canberra. This event is organised by FASTS to emphasise to our legislators the importance of scientific research and development as the basis of a prosperous and sustainable economy, and of an improved quality of life through a healthier population and environment. The details of FASTS policy presented to members of all political parties are available at <http://www.FASTS.org/>

As reported separately in this issue of the *Australian Biochemist*, ASBMB has contributed support for the 4th Annual Biochemistry Heads of Departments meeting held at Sydney University in September. Agreement in principle has been reached between the ComBio partners and ASMR to meet jointly in alternate years

commencing in 2005 at the Adelaide meeting. With fond memories of the highly successful ComBio2000 meeting in Wellington, New Zealand, the Councils of ASBMB, the ASPS and ANZSCDB have welcomed the invitation of the NZSBMB and NZSPP for ComBio2009 to convene in Christchurch, New Zealand.

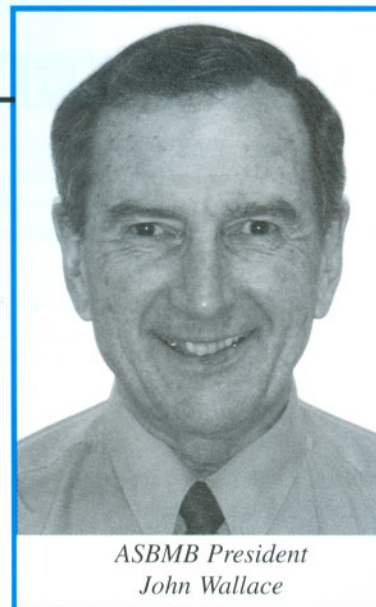
A Planning Forum, attended by Council and other interested members and guests, was held at Melbourne University following ComBio2003 to discuss various options for the future activities of ASBMB to augment its services to and benefits for members. A separate report on that valuable exercise is presented in this issue by the President Elect, Phillip Nagley, whose tireless efforts along with those of Samantha Richardson and Rebecca Lew, ensured a meaningful outcome.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the retiring members of Council, namely, Past President John de Jersey, the Editor Phillip Nagley, and State Representatives Jenny Martin (QLD), Chris Bagley (SA) and Joel Mackay (NSW) for their many contributions to the Society's successes in recent years.

Finally, it is timely to alert members to the fact that the Society will celebrate its Golden Jubilee in 2005, having been founded as the Australian Biochemical Society at an inaugural meeting held in Melbourne on Wednesday 17 August 1955 under the Chairmanship of Dr M.R. Lemberg, FRS.

Dr Rebecca Lew (rebecca.lew@baker.edu.au) has kindly offered to act as Honorary Archivist for ASBMB and would welcome the loan or gift of any appropriate historical material that would illustrate and enhance the celebration of the Society's Golden Jubilee (see notice on page 52).

John Wallace

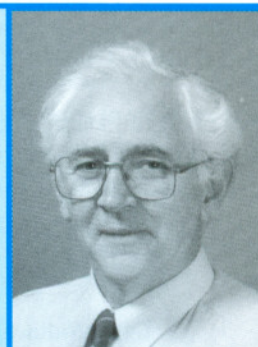


ASBMB President
John Wallace

Changes to Editorial Committee

The Editorial Committee plays a key role in planning, organising and editing material for the *Australian Biochemist*. The current membership (2003) is Elizabeth Harry (NSW), Rebecca Lew (VIC), Graham Baldwin (VIC), Marie Bogoyevitch (WA) and, as representative of Council, Jenny Martin (QLD).

In 2004, Jenny Martin's place will be taken by Samantha Richardson (VIC). With the retirement of Phillip Nagley from the Editor's position, the Chair of the Editorial Committee will be the incoming Editor, Clem Robinson.



Clem
Robinson

Editor of the
*Australian
Biochemist*
from 2004.