

Meeting Report:



Supported by the Lorne Conference on Protein Structure and Function and special interest group of the ASBMB

The 11th Melbourne Protein Group (MPG) Student Symposium held on September 20th, 2012, at the Melbourne Brain Centre.

The MPG was started by the *Lorne Conference on Protein Structure and Function* committee to establish a forum through which students involved in protein-related research in Victoria had the chance to come together to showcase their research. Since its humble beginnings, the MPG Student Symposia has grown from strength to strength over the years and is now a highly popular event that enjoys strong support from the protein community in Victoria. The MPG now operates as a Special Interest Group of *The Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology* (ASBMB). More recently the scope of MPG was expanded to include a one-day symposium aimed at postdoctoral scientists, the MPG Postdoctoral Symposium.

This year 58 postdocs and 2 trade representatives registered for the MPG Symposium. Nine speakers were chosen from the abstracts. The oral presentations were divided into three sessions, with the invited speakers bookending the day. Our first invited speaker this year was Prof Brendan Crabb, Director and CEO of the Burnet Institute of Medical Research. His laboratory studies the malaria parasite, and aims to develop vaccines as well as identify novel drug targets for new anti-malaria drugs. Our second invited speaker was Prof Phil Robinson from the Children's Medical Research Institute. His laboratory aims to understand the regulation of nerve cell communication, principally via the process of endocytosis.

From the oral presentations two speakers were selected for speaker prizes, supported by the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coherent X-ray Science and Proteomics and Metabolomic Melbourne. First prize went to Dr Nadia Kershaw, from the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute who spoke about her work on the molecular basis for suppression of SCS3 signaling. The second prize was awarded to Dr Wilson Wong, also from the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute. He presented his work on the structural basis for actin filament disassembly in the malaria parasite.

In addition to the oral presentations, the 2012 meeting saw 40 posters presented. After a "2 minute speed-science" poster contest, 2 poster prizes were awarded on the day, supported by GE Healthcare and VLSCI. The winners were Dr Indu Chandrashekar (Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences) and Dr Trevor Rapson from CSIRO.

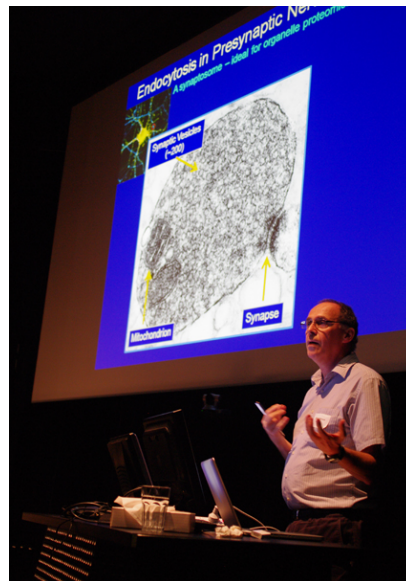
Finally, the MPG organizing committee would like to thank our sponsors who are essential for any successful symposium/conference especially when registration is free for all delegates! The major sponsor was The Lorne Protein Conference, with additional sponsorship from the ASBMB-Vic Branch. The keynote speakers were supported by Agilent. The oral awards were sponsored by ARC Centre for Coherent X-ray Science and Proteomics and Metabolomics Victoria. The poster prizes were contributed by GE Healthcare and the VLSCI. We would also like to acknowledge support through advertising from ATA Scientific, Bio21 Institute, Genesearch, Merck, Mimotopes, Sapphire Bioscience, TA Instruments and VLSCI.

Marc Kvensakul & Jason Howitt, 2012 Chairs

2012 Keynote Speakers



Prof Brendan Crabb



Prof Phil Robinson

Poster Session at MPG 2012

