



The 11th Melbourne Protein Group (MPG) Student Symposium was held on July 5th at Monash University.

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).

This year 125 students registered for the MPG Symposium. Six student speakers were chosen. The oral presentations were divided into two sessions, each started off with an invited speaker followed by three student speakers. Our first invited speaker this year was Dr. Jon Oakhill, a Senior Research Office at St. Vincent's Institute of Medical Research. His laboratory is based in the Protein Chemistry and Metabolism Unit and studies the signaling pathways involving the metabolic regulator AMP-activated protein kinase. Our second invited speaker was Emily Parker, an Associate Professor in Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. Her laboratory explores the evolution and molecular details of enzymic catalysis.

The Agilent Technologies Tilley prize for a promising up and coming young protein scientist was awarded to Kristijan Jovanoski from Danny Hatter's laboratory located at the University of Melbourne's Bio21 Institute. Kristijan spoke of his honours project work that described new biosensors and strategies for viewing cellular responses to Huntingtin misfolding. He is currently continuing with this project as a PhD student in the Hatters laboratory.

In addition to the oral presentations, the 2012 meeting saw 40 student posters presented. After a "2 minute speed-science" poster contest, 4 poster prizes were awarded on the day. The winners included Jacinta Wubben (*LaTrobe University*); Claire Dickson (*University of Tasmania*) who won the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coherent X-ray Science Prize; Ved Mooga (*LaTrobe University*) won the ASBMB-Vic Branch Prize; Adam Shahine (*Monash University*) won the Proteomics & Metabolomics Victoria Prize.

Our career panel this year aimed to show our young scientists other options for their future endeavors. Julian Clark (PhD FTSE MAICD) spoke to the audience about his broad experiences from more than 30 years of international and cross-cultural business experience in growing and leading technology, research and healthcare enterprises, large and small. Julian is currently the Head of Business Development at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne. After his presentation, our keynote speakers joined Julian for a panel Q & A session.

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 sponsors included The Lorne Protein Conference and Monash University. The Tilley award was sponsored by Agilent Technologies and poster prizes were contributed by the ARC Centre for Coherent X-ray Science, ASBMB-Vic Branch and Proteomics and Metabolomics Victoria. Our trade support was strong and present during the symposium included Agilent Technologies, ATA Scientific, BioScientific, BMG LabTech, GE Healthcare, GeneSearch, Merck, Mimotopes, Pall Life Sciences, Qiagen and VLSCI.

Sheena McGowan, 2012 Chair



Poster Session 2012



2012 Keynote and Student Speakers