

**SOCIETY FOR MELANOMA RESEARCH
CONFERENCE, 24 TO 27 OCTOBER
2018, MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM**

**AUSTRALASIAN MELANOMA
CONFERENCE, 5 TO 6 OCTOBER 2018,
MELBOURNE, VICTORIA**

**CUTANEOUS BIOLOGY MEETING,
29 OCTOBER TO 1 NOVEMBER 2018,
NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND,
QUEENSLAND**

**JAPANESE SOCIETY FOR INVESTIGATIVE
DERMATOLOGY CONFERENCE, 15 TO 17
DECEMBER 2017, KOCHI, JAPAN**

The Society for Melanoma Research Conference and the Australasian Melanoma Conference are the biggest and most important international and national melanoma meetings, respectively. They cover basic, translational and clinical studies. In fact, targeted and immune therapies for melanoma were first discussed at the Society for Melanoma Research Conference before making their way into the clinics. The scientific program of both conferences covered the latest clinical updates on prevention, early detection, disease management, immunotherapy, targeted therapy, therapy resistance, supportive care and survivorship. There is

also news in melanoma biology, such as biomarkers, genomics, epigenetics, immunology, tumour microenvironment, tumour heterogeneity, metabolism and microbiome. This rich diversity makes these meetings exceptional. This year, I represented the College Fellows and Board members of the Australasian Society for Dermatological Research (ASDR) at both meetings as an ambassador for the 2023 World Congress of Dermatology with my talk 'RAB27A promotes melanoma cell invasion and metastasis via regulation of pro-invasive exosomes,' in which I propose RAB27A as a novel prognostic factor and therapeutic target for prevention of melanoma metastasis.

Professor David Fisher, Director of the Department of Dermatology at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard University, Boston; presented a keynote lecture at the Australasian Melanoma Conference on 'Melanoma: clues to therapeutic efficacy from disease pathogenesis.' Bid Vice President, Professor Kiarash Khosrotehrani and bid ambassador Associate Professor Helmut Schaidler, presented on the role of angiogenesis in melanomagenesis and therapy resistance, respectively. At the Society for Melanoma Research Conference there were about 800 delegates from all over the world. Importantly, we discussed the advantages of holding the 2023 WCD in Sydney with the decision makers of the dermatology societies from the United Kingdom,



DELEGATES OF THE CUTANEOUS BIOLOGY CONFERENCE ON THE BEACH OF NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND, QLD



PROFESSOR NIKOLAS HAASS PRESENTING AT THE SOCIETY FOR MELANOMA RESEARCH

Spain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Israel, United States of America, Canada and Australia.

The ASDR is the academic sister organisation to the College. Every odd year we hold our meeting back-to-back with the College Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) to allow for convenient cross-talk between College Fellows and dermatology researchers. In the even years, we hold joint meetings with other research organisations. This year, it was the Cutaneous Biology meeting joint with the Australasian Wound & Tissue Repair Society (AWTRS) and the Molecular & Experimental Pathology Society of Australasia (MEPSA). ASDR President, Professor Dedee Murrell, ASDR President-Elect, Professor Kiarash Khosrotehrani, ASDR Treasurer, Associate Professor Helmut Schaidler and ASDR past President, myself, were on the organising committee and participated with our teams with a total of eight talks advertising for the College 2023 WCD bid. Excitingly, my PhD student Robert Ju received the award for the best talk of a young investigator, entitled 'Uncovering Microtubule-driven Mechanisms of Melanoma Invasion.' Professor Sabine Eming, Department of Dermatology, University of Cologne, Germany; presented an excellent keynote lecture on 'Nutrient sensitive pathways regulation skin function' through Zoom, as she was unfortunately not able to come in person.

During the Board meeting at the annual meeting of the Japanese Society of Investigative Dermatology (JSID) in Kochi, Japan in December 2017, I presented both an overview of the ASDR and the College bid for the 2023 WCD.

Amidst strong competition from Beijing, Dubai, Guadalajara, Rio de Janeiro and Singapore, our efforts were received positively at all four conferences and we are hopeful that they will bear fruit.

Professor Nikolas K. Haass



SAKE BARREL CEREMONY. PROF NIKOLAS HAASS, PROF SHINICHI SATO, PROF JIN HU CHUNG, PROF NIK REYNOLDS, PROF AKIMICHI MORITA, PROF KENJI KADASHIMA, PROF SHIGETOSHI



COLLEGE AMBASSADORS PROFESSOR KIARASH KHOSROTEHRANI, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR HELMUT SCHAIHLER AND PROFESSOR NIKOLAS HAASS PRESENTING AT THE AUSTRALASIAN MELANOMA CONFERENCE