

## **THE SOCIETY**

The society was formed in 1989 and was incorporated in the state of Victoria in June 1990 under the Association Incorporation Act 1981 (see Section 6). As a requirement of incorporation the Society had to provide a Statement of Purposes, which were;

- (1) To promote and foster research, education and development in relation to biomaterials,
- (2) The association seeks to achieve these aims;
  - (a) Through holding conferences, workshops and similar events, and
  - (b) Through publication or otherwise disseminating information on research, education and development, in relation to biomaterials.

In formulating this brief statement, the members wished to give the society the widest opportunity for activities in the future, and not provide restrictions. It was seen for example, that research would include all activities, including the development work needed to produce quality products which would benefit the community, and that education would include not only academic activities, but more general approaches to the public and to government. Also it was seen that development would include raising awareness in the community and of government of the importance of quality work in biomaterials, and in expanding the interactions with the broader academic community.

In 2006 the name of the society was changed to the Australasian Society for Biomaterials Inc to reflect the presence of New Zealanders amongst our membership and a further change occurred in 2007 when the name was changed to reflect the growing interest in tissue engineering to the Australasian Society for Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering Inc.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of the society has grown rapidly since its foundation and is currently over 140 (2007). The society has always encouraged and supported student membership.

The membership of the society represents a broad range of disciplines and interests. The distribution of members shows that the majority are involved with strategic research through to product evaluation, either at universities or with government research laboratories, but with members also involved with research in industry or with other activities including regulatory affairs and government policy.

Individually, the membership of the society have a good record for international participation and members regularly attended meetings of the Society for Biomaterials and European Society for Biomaterials in addition to the World Biomaterials Congress.

The Society had observer status of the IUSBSE from its inauguration in 1990 and received full member status in 1993 (the 5<sup>th</sup> Society to do so). John Ramshaw and Rolfe

Howlett have represented the Society on IUSBSE throughout our history and John is currently the Secretary. In 1992 IUSBSE recognized the need for the public recognition of those of their members who have gained a status of excellent professional standing and high achievements in the field of biomaterials science and engineering. The honorary status of "Fellow, Biomaterials Science and Engineering" (FBSE) was therefore established. Fellows are to be considered as accomplished members and role models in the field of biomaterials science and engineering. New Fellows are announced and recognised at World Biomaterials Congresses. The following ASB Members are Fellows:

Rolfe Howlett, 1996  
John Ramshaw, 2000  
Jerome Werkmeister, 2000  
Klaus Schindhelm, 2000  
Hans Griesser, 2004  
Bruce Millthorpe, 2004

## **SCIENCE**

The committee of the Australasian Society for Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering Inc. believes that the quality of science produced by the members of the society is of an international standard.

In recent years, members of the Society have been involved in a range of activities which have furthered the many aspects of biomaterials science. For instance, these include:

### **Funding**

Members have gained significant grants for research from Federal and State governments. These include Cooperative Research Centres (for Eye Research and Technology, Cardiac Technology, Vision and Wound Healing), many Research and Development Grants (federal grants for product development) as well as grants from the National Health and Medical Research Council and from the Australian Research Council (university research support). The work of members has also led to the formation of several Australian based companies.

### **Publications**

In recent years, members of the society have published in a wide range of internationally refereed journals and in various monographs and other publications. Examples include:

*(Journals)* Biomaterials, Journal of Biomedical Materials Research, Journal of Biomaterials Science (Polymer Edition), JBMR Applied Biomaterials, Acta Biomaterialia, Artificial Organs, Bioceramics, Journal of the Long-term Effects of Medical Implants, Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research, Journal of the American Ceramics Society, Journal of the Australian Ceramics Society, Polymer International, Journal of Histochemistry and Cytochemistry, Biochemical Journal, Journal of Applied Polymer Science, Engineering Materials, Polymer International,

Plasmas and Polymers, Journal of Immunological Methods, Journal of Cell Science, etc.

*(Selected Monographs)* Bioceramics, Ceramics in Substitutive and Reconstructive Surgery, Polymers in Medicine and Surgery, Degradation Phenomena in Polymeric Biomaterials, Clinical Implant Materials, Advances in Biomaterials, Current Perspectives on Implantable Devices, etc.

#### Professional Activities:

The expertise of members of the society is clearly recognised in Australia. Members of the society are involved in Standards and Federal Government Advisory Committees. For instance, a Statutory Committee, the Therapeutic Device Evaluation Committee which advises the Minister directly about policies and formulating regulations for control of devices. In addition, members of the Society are or have been involved with various dental standards committees, and have been involved with groups concerned with the development of the ISO 194 Standards. As noted above, these and other members are also successful in gaining a high level of government research grants after national and international peer review.

### **LEGAL STATUS**

The Australian Society for Biomaterials Inc. was incorporated in the State of Victoria in June 1990 under the Association Incorporation Act 1981.

The Act under which we are incorporated provides a set of model rules which are consistent with the legislation. These model rules were adopted for the society, with a few modifications which were approved by the membership and accepted by the Corporate Affairs Office. These include, giving the AGM the power to set the membership fee, setting a student member fee at half that of a full member, increasing the committee to include four non-office bearing members, and allowing verbal nominations for Officers and Committee members at the AGM. In addition, the entrance fee was removed, but the condition of election to membership was retained in order to provide control over scientific standards. Other key elements of the rules include the requirement for an annual meeting, annual election of Office holders and Committee members, and annual presentation of financial statements to the members. An annual return to the Corporate Affairs Office is also required.