



The Society for Free Radical Research AUSTRALASIA

NEWSLETTER (December 2018)

<p><i>President</i> JIRI NEUZIL School of Medical Science and Menzies Health Institute Queensland Griffith University Parklands Drive, Southport, QLD 4222 AUSTRALIA Phone: +61 7 5552 9109 Email: j.neuzil@griffith.edu.au</p>	<p><i>Treasurer</i> ANITA AYER Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute 405 Liverpool St Darlinghurst, NSW 2010 AUSTRALIA Phone: +61 2 9295 8714 E-mail: a.ayer@victorchang.edu.au</p>
<p><i>Secretary</i> ANDREW BULMER School of Medical Science and Menzies Health Institute Queensland Griffith University Parklands Drive, Southport, QLD 4222 AUSTRALIA Phone: +61 7 5552 8215 Email: a.bulmer@griffith.edu.au</p>	<p><i>President-Elect</i> ELIZABETH LEDGERWOOD Department of Biochemistry University of Otago 710 Cumberland Street Dunedin 9016 NEW ZEALAND Phone: +64 3 479 5195 E-mail: liz.ledgerwood@otago.ac.nz</p>

News items wanted

Please send any news items or articles for the newsletter to the Secretary (sfrasecretariat@gmail.com). Also, we have redeveloped the Society website (www.sfr-australasia.org), and are looking for any news, notices, links and other items of interest to Society members that can be added. Please send your research group website URL in case the current one is obsolete, if you would like it to be added.

President's Report - 25 plus two

Two years ago I wrote a short story about the 25th anniversary of the creation of the Society of Free Radical Research, highlighting its past, present and future. Without any doubt, the Society is as strong as ever, which is reflected in terms of the research of its members and also the topics covered at the Annual Meetings of the Society that are in line with the contemporary, relevant research.

Last year the Annual Meeting of the SFRR(A) was a joint exercise with the Japanese SFRR, in Tokyo and Yamanashi. While it was a superb event, with our Japanese friends being as hospitable and welcoming as ever, the change of location in the middle of the conference was a bit of a hassle for some and a welcome change for others. Notwithstanding this, the location of the conference at Lake Kawaguchi in Yamanashi, at the foot of mighty Mount Fuji, was absolutely superb, with views of the mountain from the theatre – was the most outstanding location of a conference I ever have been to! While we love the joint meetings with our Japanese ‘radical’ friends, there is a down side in that after the joint conference in Japan, our membership drops, since the membership dues are normally a part of the SFRR(A) registration fee. This is a difficult situation that is not easy to resolve. Perhaps, individual members should spread the good news about the existence of our Society and how wonderful it is. Also, those who lead research groups may encourage your staff/students to join. A Society without members ceases to exist. While it is not this grim, we should keep the membership at healthy numbers, around 100 or more.

One of the most challenging problems related to the Society this year was its website. After becoming the President of the Society, I decided to re-vamp our website that was somewhat old-fashioned then, to make it ‘befit’ the third millennium and look more in line with the websites of the other SFRR constituent societies. So, while the new-look appearance of the SFRR(A) website was quite up-to-the date and classy (at least through my eyes), it suffered from an unexpected ‘hiccup’. Mid-2018, it suddenly stopped being available. After a lot of searching and after getting to understand the meaning of ‘domain registration’ or ‘web-hosting’, it became obvious to me that the webhosting, which had been organised through then Telecom New Zealand 16 years ago collapsed. To make the situation more complex, the registration of the website of the Society had been organised, also 16 years ago, via the University of New South Wales, by a now resigned member of staff. Anyway, we had to register a new domain and webhosted it with DigitalPacific.com.au. What a conundrum! We are now wiser and will have to accept the costs of the domain registration and webhosting into the future.

This year brought forward an important issue, that being a potential name change of the SFRR(A). Some senior members of the Society expressed that they would like to re-vamp the name. Others have also expressed an opinion to keep the existing name. So, should we abandon the current and well-accepted name for the sake of another name, in line with the idea that the Society is less ‘free radical’ and, perhaps, more ‘biological’? Personally, I think that the current name of our Society is a ‘trademark’ and, after all, exception for the Americas, all other constituent societies are ‘still’ using the same name. A personal recollection: When going once to the meeting of the SFRBM, I told the US immigration officer that I was going to the conference of the Society for Free Radical Research (made a mistake here) – he gave me a quizzical look, and after some considerations, let me in... (Reminds me vaguely of the Conference of Friends of Italian Opera...) Well, another piece of evidence that having ‘free radicals’ in the name of the Society is – well, quite cool, if you ask me. Anyway, we shall see what you, the members, think about the issue of possible change of the Society’s name.

So, this is enough from me. Perhaps the last few words – being a member of the SFRR(A) is about belonging to this ‘club’ of people who share interest in redox biology/chemistry/physics, pure or rather applied to biological systems, including various pathologies. It is great to meet at the Annual Conferences the ‘usual suspects’ and welcome new members. And, in particular, share new ideas concerning research – and develop collaborations. After all, research is what unites us more than anything else.

Jirka

President Elect's Update



Dr Elizabeth Ledgerwood

I hope you have all had a productive year of research. In 2018 I have been able to attend two “Free Radical” conferences, the Gordon Conference on Oxygen Radicals in California in February, and the International Society for Free Radical Research Biennial Conference in Lisbon in June. At the latter I represented our Australasian society at the SFRRI Executive Committee Meeting. This provided the chance to meet Prof José Viña who is the next President of SFRRI. It was interesting to hear how the European Society has grown their membership base – a challenge for our society going forward. I have found it rewarding to review applications and award travel funding to enable postgraduate students and early career scientists – we have many talented junior scientists in our society. I look forward to seeing many of you at our conference in Auckland.

Treasurer's Update



Dr Anita Ayer

I'd just like to write a few words to introduce myself to you all as the current treasurer of the SFRRA. I work in Sydney as a post-doctoral researcher at the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute working on understanding coenzyme Q regulation. My research in redox homeostasis starting early on during my Honour's project under Prof. Ian Dawes, and my first ever conference was an SFRRA meeting! I was lucky enough to meet excellent researchers and it was a wonderful way as a young scientist to be introduced to the field. I am looking forward to meeting many of you and helping the Society grow and be as strong as ever. I'll be the point of call for memberships in Australia and feel free to contact me if you have any issues with memberships, payment or general queries.

Secretary's Update

2018 has been another busy year for the Society, distributing various announcements regarding international conferences in the red-ox field and coordinating the assessment and award of three international (SFRRI, Lisbon) and 11 national (SFRRA, Auckland) conference travel awards. Importantly, the society was able to provide a large number of national travel awards, thanks to contributions from the University of Otago. In addition, SFRRA conference organizers were able to provide a significant number of conference attendance bursaries, meaning we will most likely benefit from a very large number of early career researchers attending the conference this year (and hopefully future conferences!). Engagement with our ECRs is critical to developing strength and track record of our researchers into the future and I look forward to meeting award recipients at the conference. Finally, I hope that you enjoy reading the content of this newsletter and reflect on the 2017 conference (in Tokyo, Japan!), when viewing the photos later in this document.



A/Prof Andrew Bulmer

Conference Reports from SFRRJ Tokyo

Recipient 1 – *Mr Ryan Shiels – School of Medical Science, Griffith University, Gold Coast, Australia.*

I would like to thank the executive committee for providing me with a Young Investigator Travel Award which allowed me the opportunity to attend the 8th Joint Meeting for the Society of Free Radical Research Australia and Japan, held during December 2017. The central message of the conference that ‘friendship makes all the difference’ resonated well within me, and I enjoyed the opportunity to both network professionally and forge friendships with other like-minded investigators in the field from other countries. Personally, I found many of the talks quite interesting and returned home with a renewed passion and enthusiasm for my own research. The topics relating to nanotechnology were intriguing and I look forward to reading about further development in that field. Professor Croft’s presentation



“Flavonoid-rich apple improves endothelial function in individuals at risk for cardiovascular disease without effects on oxidative stress” was especially interesting to me. The two conference locations were amazing, not only were we able to explore a Japanese university campus but we were also able to experience the base of Mt Fuji and this was an absolute highlight of my trip. I thoroughly enjoyed the cultural and professional experience afforded to me by this trip and I look forward to attending future SFRRJ conferences.

Recipient 2 – *Mr Evan Pennell – School of Medical Science, Griffith University, Gold Coast, Australia.*

Firstly, I must express my sincerest thanks to the organising committee for providing me the opportunity to attend the 8th Joint Meeting for the Society of Free Radical Research Australia and Japan in December of 2017. The focal point of the conference was that friendship makes all the difference and I believe this to be true. The conference was an excellent opportunity to network with fellow investigators and research leaders in the field with future collaborations being born out of attending. It was fantastic to be able to discuss ideas with like-minded people who were supportive of my personal ideas and research interests. Attending the talks provided new inspiration and avenues of research to undertake in the future with collaborations being born out of discussions had at the meeting. Professor Davies’ talk regarding the characterization of singlet-oxygen induced protein damage, in particular the consequence of ¹O₂ radical exposure and subsequent loss of function of glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase was a highlight talk. The conference location, both at the Tokyo University of Technology and at the base of Mt Fuji, was another highlight. Having travelled to Japan twice before attending the ability to explore a Japanese university campus as well as being able to converse in my limited Japanese with fellow students was a highlight. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the conference and once again thank you for the ability to attend.

Recipient 3 – *Dr Shannon Chiang – Department of Pathology, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia.*

The joint SFRRA+J meeting in Japan 2017 has been an extremely enjoyable, invaluable, and memorable experience for me. As a PhD candidate, I am thankful for being given the ‘Young Investigator Travel Award’ and the opportunity to present my work to an audience with different background and perspectives in the field of free radical research.

The friendly and approachable atmosphere of the conference allowed me to make new friends and network with many of the attendants, both students and researchers. It was a great privilege to communicate with prominent academics from Australia and Japan. This has greatly enriched my understanding and knowledge, expanding my scope of interest, as well as receiving valuable advice for the progression of my PhD candidature. Most importantly, this has encouraged me to continue and pursue in medical research.



This cannot go without mentioning the astonishingly beautiful view of Mt. Fuji from the conference hall and our hotel rooms, the wonderful meals and banquet of the conference, the amazing tour and Japanese performance, and of course, the relaxing hot spring at the Highland Resort.

Overall, this has been a remarkable experience and I cherish every moment of it. This was a very special occasion for both students and academics to socialise and share their knowledge at an international setting. I would definitely return for the next annual meeting, and I highly recommend this to anyone who is interested, and wish to be part of a growing community of researchers in the field of free radicals.

Recipient 4 – *Ms Vickie Tang – Heart Research Institute, Sydney, Australia.*

In December, I was privileged to be able to attend the 8th Joint Meeting of Society for Free Radical Research Australasia and Japan where I presented an oral presentation on the work from my PhD, titled “Chlorinated Nucleosides and Their Role in Endothelial and Smooth Muscle Cell Dysfunction”. I would like to thank SFRRA for providing the travel award, which allowed me to showcase my recent PhD findings, and for allowing me to gain such great experiences. The meeting was wonderfully organised, included a stunning view of Mount Fuji in the background, and presentations spanning a large variety of topics. A series of enlightening talks were presented, including seminal orations by Professors Roland Stocker and Clare Hawkins. As an avid lover of Japanese food, I also thoroughly enjoyed the authentic cuisine and variety served at the traditional Japanese dinner. Overall, the joint meeting provided an opportunity to interact with lead researchers in the Redox field. It was a thought-provoking, engaging and invaluable experience. I would not hesitate in attending a conference hosted by SFRRA again. Finally, a special thank you goes to my supervisors for the encouragement and continuous guidance throughout my PhD.

Recipient 5 – Mr Lennart Kuck – School of Allied Health Science, Griffith University, Gold Coast, Australia.

The 8th joint meeting of the SFRR A + J in Tokyo, Japan taking place from the 9th - 12th December 2017 was the first conference I had the pleasure to take part in. Being a Masters student, I was immensely grateful for receiving an opportunity to present my work in an oral presentation during the stimulating 'New Methods' session on Sunday, 10th of December at the remarkably beautiful campus of Tokyo Technical University. This being my first experience attending an international conference, I was not entirely certain what to expect, although certainly whatever I did expect was exceeded in manifold ways.

The atmosphere at the first venue was a comfortable one not taking anything away from the academic and scientific excellence of the presenters, which created an enjoyable learning experience for me as a young researcher. I was pleasantly surprised by the emphasis put on supporting young investigators by giving them opportunities to exhibit their work on an international stage in both the poster sessions and oral presentations. During the coffee and lunch breaks, the hosts and members of the society created a welcoming atmosphere that encouraged scientific exchange and interesting conversation.

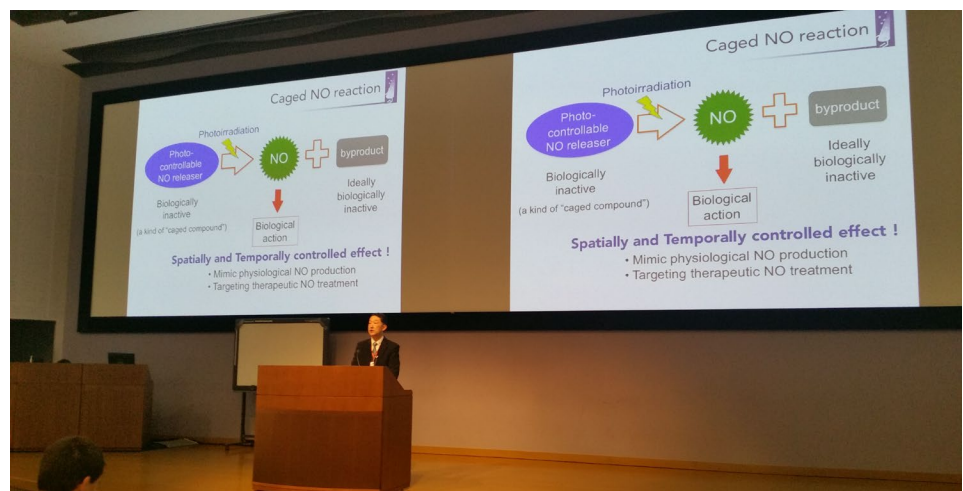
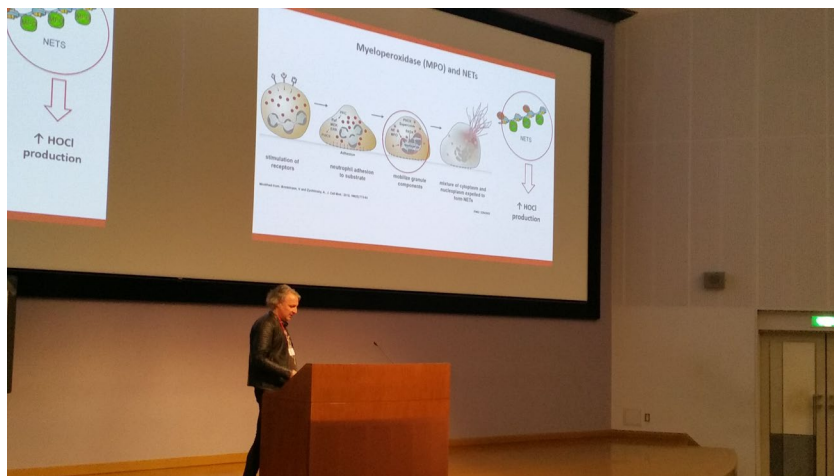
Our hosts from Japan specifically made this conference outstanding to me. I have never experienced such friendly hospitality in other countries I visited, with the hosts going out of their way providing the foundation on which the success of this meeting stood, enabling the scholars to focus on their science while enjoying beautiful Mt Fuji and the uniquely amazing ancient *noh* performance.

Finally, I would like to thank the organisational committee for providing me with a travel award without which I would not have been able to attend this meeting and the generous opportunity to give an oral presentation of my work in front of such a unique audience.



Selected 2017 Conference Photographs







Treasurer's report (2017)

1. Comments

Membership numbers are down from 2016. I would like to thank all those current financial members that have made the effort to pay their membership fees to the Society for 2018.

For those who have not payed the membership on the website or have not attended the Auckland meeting, the 2019 SFRR(A) membership fees are due by end of the year (Full, A\$40/NZ\$45; Student, A\$20/NZ\$22).

Membership forms and payment details will be available on the website (<http://www.sfrr-australasia.org>) or by contacting myself (a.ayer@victorchang.edu.au) or the secretary.

2. Summary of Australian Accounts (1/11/16-31/10/17)

Opening Balance (1/11/16) of Australian accounts:	<u>\$53433.10</u>
Cheque Account Bearing Interest:	\$10433.10
Term Deposit	\$43000.00
Total Income:	\$7140.00
Total Expenditure:	\$9394.20
<u>Income – Expenditure:</u>	<u>-\$2254.20</u>
Closing Balance (31/10/17) of Australian accounts:	<u>\$52367.89</u>
Cheque Account Bearing Interest:	\$8179.00
Term Deposit	\$44188.89

3. Summary of BNZ Account in New Zealand

Opening Balance (1/11/16) of New Zealand account:	<u>NZ\$5419.86</u>
<i>Deposits</i>	
Membership fees: Payments for 2017	NZ\$22.00
Interest on NZ current account	NZ\$8.99
Total NZ Income (1/11/16 – 31/10/17):	<u>NZ\$30.99</u>
Total NZ Expenditure (1/11/16 – 31/10/17):	<u>NZ\$0.00</u>
<u>Income – Expenditure:</u>	<u>NZ\$5450.85</u>
Closing Balance (31/10/17) of New Zealand account:	<u>NZ\$5450.85</u>
Current balance:	<u>NZ\$5450.85</u>

Minutes from the 2017 Annual General Meeting

Time: 12:40 pm, Sunday 10th December 2017, Tokyo University of Technology, Hachioji Chair: Jiri Neuzil (President); Minutes: Andrew Bulmer (Secretary)

Meeting opened – 12:50 pm

1. Apologies – Steven Giesege, Anthony Hickey, Christine Winterbourn
2. Approval of Minutes from 2016 AGM - Accepted by Roland Stocker (RS) and Kevin Croft (KC)

Matters Arising

Regarding the change of the Society's name - JN indicated no change to the name had been discussed at this stage and invited discussion of this point. Paul Witting (PW) summarised the previous discussion and a name change might broaden research interests within the society. Liz Ledgerwood (LL) suggested that during the next meeting we should have a discussion. RS suggested it is still worth investigating. Michael Davies (MD) opinion was sought regarding whether name changes (generally) had been discussed at the previous SFRRI meeting. MD indicated this has not been discussed. MD proposed that AB send out an email to obtain membership opinion. RS suggested obtaining some further information e.g. contacting the American society (SFRBM) regarding their experience, any potential change in membership etc in response to their change. PW suggested a presentation at the next meeting could be made regarding a society name change.

3. President's Report – Jiri Neuzil

- SFRRI (2018 meeting in Lisbon; June 3-7)

Discussion focused around travel awards within the context of the SFRRA budget. Usually \$1000 travel awards have been awarded and that the Society should consider this in the context of SFRRA budget and T&F sponsorship. At this stage we propose minimum of 2 International and 4 SFRRA travel awards. With T&F sponsorship we could provide up to 4 International and 8 SFRRA awards.

- Forthcoming Meetings 2018 (NZ), 2019 (AUS; Sydney)

PW met with SFRRJ executive, who will propose Sydney as the next joint venue. SFRRJ have provided initial interest in Sydney. PW reiterated his willingness to run conference in 2019

MD discussed 2020 venues for the SFRRI Biannual Conference. Indicated that it would be in Taiwan (Taipei). The date is not set at this stage, however, it is usually in Sept/Oct, to avoid clashes.

- Taylor Francis (T&F) and sponsorship

PW reiterated at the last meeting we agreed to move forward and nominate 50 individuals. We supplied the names and the contract to T&F, who moved buildings. Paul has follow-up with T&F again. T&F said they have not received the physical signed contract. PW reiterated that the net outcome would approximate AUD\$ 4-5000. MD updated – managing editor changed this week and that money exists in the budget for the transfer. MD Suggested to cc him into an email for assistance

and follow-up. Finalising the T&F contract is necessary so that the SFRRA could notify travel award applicants a month before the abstract closing date.

PW referred to budget and use of funds to support conferences or travel awards. Costs of organising conferences are increasing and may require additional support. Perhaps sponsorship could form another source of assistance.

- Website

JN indicated that the current website was a little dated and required update. JN organised the creation of a new website, which mimics the SFRRE website in parts, would like to include links to journals (Redox Report and Free Radical Research). JN requested that members please update links to staff/groups, by sending information to the secretary.

- Taiwanese society

JN attended a recent meeting in Taiwan, many attendees were from SFRR(T). After some discussion with those members, he asked whether they would like to come to our meetings. SFRR(Taiwan) is different from SFRR(Asia). JN asked the management of SFRR(Taiwan) if they would be interested in joining our meeting.

LL asked JN whether he was suggesting a joint meeting ? JN indicated this was correct – and that perhaps we should consult the SFRRJ?

JN asked for opinions regarding a joint meeting. RS asked JN he would envisage it happening. JN suggested a similar arrangement to SFRRJ joint meetings, with perhaps every 3 meetings in Taiwan. LL said it might be not accessible to students with so many international meetings. The current arrangement includes a joint meeting once in every 4 years in Japan. RS suggested inviting some Taiwanese members to join our meetings (Auckland) – perhaps provide a travel grants.

- Membership

JN indicated that membership was an issue. The Gold Coast meeting had 80+ attendees. RS suggested that membership should be included with the registration.

An email was recently distributed by AB, concerning membership for 2018 – we would like to aim for 70-80 members in 2018. JN asked senior members to talk with colleagues to become members. MD said Europe has group membership. For example, if a group leader applies for group membership, costs can be claimed against grants. RS indicated (seconded) the initiative – but this must be separate to registration. LL indicated discussion around how this fits in, regarding registration, is important. Clare Hawkins (CH) indicated a discounted registration if you are already a member. Anita Ayer (AA) suggested following the European model. A motion to the Executive was passed to move this forward.

4. Treasurer's Report

Anita Ayer presented the Treasurer's report.

AA discussed the use of term deposit funds to potentially reach out to new individuals to attract new members. An example of this might be to use these funds for travel awards to increase numbers. CH

indicated SFRRE sponsors awards to visit other meetings. RS indicated that we target generalised society i.e. redox biology workshop to raise the profile of the SFRRA. Additional suggestions included exploring sponsoring symposia at COMBIO/ASMR. QMB mitochondria – satellite in Queenstown.

5. Secretary's Report

Presented by Andrew Bulmer (AB)

- Update of SFRRA membership list – update contact details (sfrasecretariat@gmail.com or inform conference organisers)
- Travel Awards for 2017
- SRRFA travel awards – 5 applicants – 5 awards (\$800 each)
 - Ryan Shiels
 - Evan Pennell
 - Vickie Tang
 - Shannon Chiang
 - Lennart Kuck

6. Other business

LL indicated 8-11th Dec in Auckland (University) is the next meeting. The organising committee has begun looking for speakers and booking venues. PW suggested approaching Tony Hickey with a loan if needed.

11 attendees + Jiri Neuzil and Andrew Bulmer. Meeting closed at 2:45 pm

Dates for your diary

2019

March 17-22, 2019

Gordon Research Conference: Mitochondria in Health and Disease

Location: Ventura, CA, USA

Further Information: <https://www.grc.org/mitochondria-in-health-and-disease-conference/2019/>

June 19-21, 2019

Society for Free Radical Research (Europe) Meeting

Location: Ferrara, Italy.

Further information: <http://www.sfr2019ferrara.it>

July 1-3, 2019

Redox Signaling in Physiology, Aging and Disease.

Location: Newcastle, United Kingdom.

Further Information:

<http://www.biochemistry.org/Events/tabid/379/MeetingNo/SA221/view/Conference/Default.aspx>

July 10-12, 2019

14th International Conference on Reactive Oxygen and Nitrogen Species in Plants

Location: Munich, Germany

September 4 – 7, 2019

11th International Human Peroxidase meeting

Location: Hotel Barcelo, Brno, Czech Republic

Organiser: Prof Christian Obinger christian.obinger@boku.ac.at

September 17-20, 2019

EMBO Workshop on Mitochondria, Apoptosis and Cancer (MAC'19)

Location: Prague, Czech Republic

Further Information: j.neuzil@griffith.edu.au

November 20-24, 2019

26th Annual meeting of the Society for Redox Biology and Medicine

Location: Planet Hollywood and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

Further information: <http://sfrbm.org/about/events/sfrbm-2019/>

Australian residents – complete this form

Society for Free Radical Research (Australasia) 2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Title: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Website address (for inclusion as a link on the Society website):

Research Interests (short description for the 2018 membership directory):

Annual Fees:

[] Full Membership Aus\$40 / NZ\$45* [] Student Membership Aus\$20 / NZ\$22*

[] Electronic Funds Transfer Account name : SFRR Australasia
Account number: 10178136
BSB: 06 2284 (Commonwealth, University of Sydney, NSW)

Please tick the appropriate box above to indicate category of membership. For payment, please make an electronic funds transfer (preferred option) to the account detailed above, or send a cheque payable to “Society for Free Radical Research (Australasia)” in Australian dollars* to:

Dr Anita Ayer, Treasurer SFRR(Australasia)
Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute,
Lowy Packer building
405 Liverpool St, Darlinghurst
NSW 2010,
Australia

* Note: New Zealand members can contact Associate Professor Mark Hampton (mark.hampton@otago.ac.nz) for alternative payment options or use the NZ membership form.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(Student membership only - ask your supervisor to complete the declaration below)

I confirm that the above applicant is at present a student under my supervision.

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Institution: _____ Date: _____

New Zealand residents – complete this form

Society for Free Radical Research (Australasia) 2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM

Title: _____ **Name:** _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

E-mail: _____

Website address (for inclusion as a link on the Society website):

Research Interests (short description for the 2018 membership directory):

Annual Fees:

☐ Full Membership NZ\$45 ☐ Student Membership NZ\$22

☐ Electronic Funds Transfer Account name : SFRRA
Account number : 02 0800 0858347 000
BNZ, New Zealand (BKNZNZ22)

Please tick the appropriate box above to indicate category of membership. For payment please make an electronic funds transfer (preferred option) to the account detailed above.

For alternate payment options please contact Mark Hampton (mark.hampton@otago.ac.nz) or send a cheque payable to “Society for Free Radical Research Australasia” in NZD to:

Prof Mark Hampton
University of Otago
2 Riccarton Ave
Christchurch, 8011
New Zealand

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

(Student membership only - ask your supervisor to complete the declaration below)

I confirm that the above applicant is at present a student under my supervision.

Name: _____ **Signature:** _____

Institution: _____ **Date:** _____
