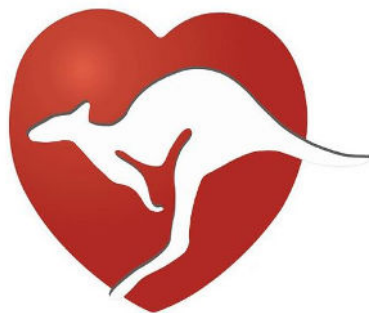




15th Asian-Pacific Congress of Hypertension 2019

2019 Annual Scientific Meeting Report of the  
High Blood Pressure Research Council of  
Australia (HBPRCA) held in conjunction with  
the 15<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific Congress of  
Hypertension (APCH)

*November 24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> 2019*



In 2019, The High Blood Pressure Council of Australia hosted the 15<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific Congress of Hypertension (APCH) which incorporated all activities of the HBPCA Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM).

The meeting took place in Brisbane, at the Convention and Exhibition Centre from 24 Nov to 27 Nov. The overall program was created by a highly experience Program committee headed by Professor Kate Denton.



HBPRCA specific program content was again led by Joint Program Managers, Dr Bradley Broughton and Dr Francine Marques, pictured below.

A total of 196 abstracts overall including invited speakers were submitted for the meeting from across the APAC region, 80 of which came from Australia split across the states as follows:

NSW	16
QLD	10
SA	1
VIC	35
TAS	9
WA	9

The APCH presented their own awards to these abstract submitters along with Young Investigator Fellowships, which were gladly received



There were plenty of opportunities for networking and social interactions throughout the meeting



*Brad Broughton (left) and Grant Drummond*



*Mark Nelson, Geoff Head and Trefor Morgan (left to right)*



*Francine Marques, Audrey Adji Quynh Dinh, Anastasia Mihailidou, Geoff Head, Rachel Climie and Mark Nelson (left to right)*



*Alta Schutte (left), and Francine Marques*

The meeting incorporated a very successful New Investigator symposium on the Monday evening, hosted by HBPRCA and ISH that was organised by the ECR Committee chaired by Rachel Climie and was followed by a relaxed and informal networking session allowing for continued peer discussion.



*Dean Picone, Martin Schultz, Jonathan Mynard, Quynh Dinh, Audrey Adji and Rachel Climie (left to right)*



Another terrific initiative of the ECR committee was the community event “Pressure wise” held just prior to the meeting on the Saturday, where members of the public could come along and ask questions of our High Blood Pressure experts.

Tuesday morning saw a dedicated group joining the HBPRCA run around Brisbane, really walking the talk when it comes to a healthy lifestyle!



## Executive Committee

The new HBPRCA Executive committee came into effect at this meeting, with a sad farewell to Geoff Head and Brain Morris who stepped down this year. The Council have been extremely fortunate to have benefitted from their experience and expertise over the years.



Previous HBPRCA Executive Committee.



The new line up for the next three years sees up welcome a few new faces: Anastasia Mihailidou, Jonathan Mynard, Audrey Adji, and Martin Schultz, and a change in Presidency from Michael Stowasser to Markus Schlaich



## HBPRCA Executive and Past Presidents' Dinner

Each year the Exec dinner is a chance for the executive committee and Past Presidents to spend some quality time together in a relaxed setting to discuss the matters of the Council and this year was no exception.



A very Successful World Hypertension League Symposium also featured on the jam-packed program



## Speakers

We were very fortunate to hear from the following HBPRCA keynote invited names lecturers:



The RD Wright lecture was this year give by **Professor Alta Schutte** representing the Hypertension in Africa Research Team (HART) and discussing Why populations from lower income countries have higher blood pressures.

The Austin E Doyle lecture was given this year by **Professor Ingrid Scheffer** of the University of Melbourne whose presentation Life as a Clinician-Scientist: A life-changing career was extremely well received.



The Colin I Johnston lecture was given by **Professor Grant Drummond** of Latrobe University who spoke about the Immune Mechanisms of Hypertension.





As is the case every year, HBPRCA was pleased to receive another International guest lecture from the British and Irish Hypertension Society (BIHS), Dr Kathleen Connolly. Kathleen was the oral winner at the 2018 BIHS meeting, and presented her work to us here in Australia on the influence on dietary salt, blood pressure, and glycosaminoglycans on vascular P1 to P2 stiffness.

The 2019 AHA winner was unfortunately unable to attend our meeting this time around.

## HBPRCA AWARDS 2019:

A host of talent within HBPRCA membership was again rewarded with the presentation of a range of oral and poster awards, and a hearty congratulations must go to all those worthy recipients below.



**The Robert Vandongen award** is presented for the highest scoring abstract submitted by a member from Western Australia and was awarded to : **Revathy Carnagarin, from the University of WA**



### The Judith Whitworth award:



Prof Judith Whitworth was the first woman to be elected as the president of the HBPRCA (1999-2001). Throughout her career, Prof Whitworth not only contributed to a major way to high blood pressure research herself, and to the mechanisms involved in steroid-related hypertension, but broke numerous barriers and paved a path for women in research, clinical practice and policy making. The Judith Whitworth award goes to the highest ranked HBPRCA member abstract for which the first author is a woman. The 2019 Judith Whitworth award winner was **Jordyn Thomas from La Trobe University.**

### The Jaye Chin-Dusting Mid-career Scientist award

Prof Jaye Chin-Dusting was the second woman to be elected as the president of the HBPRCA (2011-2016). As a founder of the Australian Cardiovascular Alliance, Prof Chin-Dusting was deeply concerned with the funding available for cardiovascular disease, which affects particularly those in the early- and mid-stages of their career. During her presidency of the HBPRCA, she also established the young investigator subcommittee of the HBPRCA, to improve training, networking and opportunities for early and mid-career high blood pressure researchers.



This award goes to the highest ranked abstract for which the first author is a mid-career scientist (between 5-20 years post-PhD). The 2019 winner of the Jaye Chin-Dusting Mid-career Scientist in High Blood Pressure Research Award went to **Sheila Patel, from the University of Melbourne.**

### The Paul Korner Senior Scientist in High Blood Pressure Research Award



Prof Paul Korner was one of the founders and a former president of the HBPRCA (1987-1989). He devoted a large part of his career to researching the causes of essential hypertension, with a special focus on underlying neural and cardiovascular mechanisms. A senior scientist (>20 years post-PhD) who is an active researcher and has made a significant contribution to high blood pressure and the HBPRCA receives the Paul Korner Senior Scientist in High Blood Pressure Research Medal, and this year's worthy recipient is **Louise Burrell from the University of Melbourne.**

A very competitive scene with a close race was seen for the Student and Early Career Researcher Awards across both the posters and the oral presentations. The winners are outlined below:

**The HBPRCA 2019 Student poster award went to : Rikeish Muralitheran, Monash University**



**The HBPRCA 2019 Student Oral awards went to: Renuka Shanmugalingam South Western Sydney Local Health District**



**The HBPRCA 2019 Early Career Researcher (ECR) Poster award went to : Adj, Victor Chang NSW (received by her colleague on her behalf below)**



**The HBPRCA 2019 Early Career Researcher (ECR) Oral award went to : Maria Jelinic La Trobe University**



Each of the 2 oral winners - Maria Jelinic and Renuka Shanmugalingam also get to attend either the BIHS meeting or the AHA meeting in 2020 to present their winning work The AHA award winner will attend the AHA Hypertension 2020 in New Orleans Sept 10-13<sup>th</sup> - and is given an award of \$3000 to use towards flights accommodation and visiting local labs etc.

**The person attending AHA 2020 will be Maria Jelinic of La Trobe University**

The BIHS award winner will attend the BIHS in Glasgow, Scotland on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and is given an award of \$3000 to use towards flights accommodation and visiting local labs etc.

**The person attending BIHS 2020 will be Renuka Shanmugalingam of South Western Sydney Local Health District.**

**Here's to a fantastic 2020 and beyond - let's make it fun!**

