



# The Royal Society of New South Wales

*"for the encouragement of studies and investigations in Science Art Literature and Philosophy"*

## **Minutes of the 1288<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Meeting of The Royal Society of New South Wales held by ZOOM Webinar on Wednesday 11 November 2020 at 6.30PM.**

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There were 39 Members, Fellows and guests in attendance.

### **1. WELCOME**

The President, Emeritus Professor Ian Sloan AO FRSN presided at the meeting and introduced the panel members. He welcomed members and guests and gave an acknowledgement of country. He also referred to the Society's Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

#### **1.1 Minutes of the 1287<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Meeting held on 7 October 2020**

The Minutes of the previous Ordinary General Meeting, previously circulated, were approved.

### **2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP**

It was noted that if no valid objection was lodged within two weeks of this Ordinary General Meeting, that is, by 6.30pm on 25 November 2020, the election of the following new Members and Fellows would take effect from the date of the meeting.

#### **2.1 Fellows**

Professor Stephen Douglas Bartlett  
Professor Bernard Walter Balleine  
Professor Lewis Albert Bizo  
Professor Andrew William Blakers  
Dr Elizabeth Margaret Deane  
Dr Catherine Patricia Foley  
Emeritus Professor Bruce Ian Henry  
Professor Ian Bernard Hickie  
Professor Kourosh Kalantar-Zadeh  
Professor Geraint Francis Lewis  
Professor Jennifer Helen Martin  
Mr John McDonald  
Professor Mary-Louise McLaws  
Associate Professor Jill Maree Newby  
Prof Angela Marissa Nickerson  
Professor Martina Heide Stenzel  
Professor Steven Ronald Weller  
Professor Thomas James Whitford  
Professor Jeremy Somers Wilson

## 2.2 Members

Dr Martin Fuechsle  
Mr Calvin Manjarres-Wahlberg  
Professor Janet Nelson  
Dr Rebecca Soffe  
Dr Lia Zambetti

## 3 REPORT FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

The President brought to members' attention the following matters. He began by saying that the recently held forum had been very successful.

### 3.1 Revised Rules

It was noted that voting on the revised Rules commenced on Monday 26 October and closes on Monday 7 December allowing 6 weeks for members to vote. The result will be announced at the December OGM.

### 3.2 Strategic planning

The President advised that the draft strategic plan 2021 – 2023 was currently being considered by Branches and Council committees before going to the November meeting of Council for approval.

## 4 THIS EVENING'S PRESENTATION

The speakers were introduced by Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy.

### WHERE HAVE ALL THE ULCERS GONE — LONG TIME PASSING?

**Professor Thomas Borody FRSN, Centre for Digestive Diseases and  
Professor Adrian Lee FRSN, UNSW, Sydney**

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In 1982 Robin Warren and Barry Marshall at the Royal Perth Hospital described the presence of squiggly bacteria in the gastric mucosa of patients with Peptic Ulcer Disease (PUD). *Helicobacter pylori* was on the map! They would deservedly be awarded the Nobel Prize for their discovery, which would change the world – medicine would never be the same again. It is not possible for even the modern generation of gastroenterologists to appreciate the way PUD dominated the lives of both patients and doctors 50 years ago — surgical lists were full of patients for gastrectomy, medical wards with patients with uncontrolled pain and complications. Twenty percent of men had a Duodenal Ulcer. Emergency rosters meant bleeding or perforated ulcers. Yet today, PUD is rarely seen – a recent analysis of the impact of *H. pylori* and its eradication over 25 years in Australia shows a saving of 19,000 deaths, and \$10 billion in costs.

Warren and Marshall would have struggled to develop their ideas without the professional support of Professor Adrian Lee, with a long history of study of “squiggly” bacteria in the gut. His experience in the growth of these bacteria, their role in animal models, and his contributions to diagnosis, vaccine development and the link to cancer, added to the biology and broad understanding of these bacteria, enabling interpretation of the Perth discovery in a biological context. Warren and Marshall understood the importance of eradication to prove causation, but were unable to develop sterilising therapy, so only an association could be claimed. Professor Tom Borody carefully trialled a series of antibiotics to develop the first effective antibiotic combination, enabling for the first time, proof of causation of duodenal ulcers. This began a long sequence of contributions to our understanding and treatment of PUD by Borody including addition of PPI's, and development of “escape” therapy. He worked with the Newcastle group to develop the first “near-patient” “yes/no” test and identified a role for the host response in conditioning outcomes of the “host-parasite” relationship.

Adrian Lee discussed *Adventures with spiral bugs and Helicobacter*. The adventure began in 1967 at the Rockefeller University in New York when he did post-doctoral work with Rene Dubos one of the grandfathers of the gut microbiome. Moving to UNSW in 1969 as a lecturer in Medical Microbiology, he continued his interest in the bacteria of the mouse intestinal tract concentrating on the spiral/helical bacteria that colonised gut mucus. He also worked on the spiral pathogen, *Campylobacter jejuni*, and then on the organism that Barry Marshall and Robin Warren had grown from gastric biopsies using his culture techniques. Later, he developed the first animal models of *Helicobacter pylori* infection including the first vaccine studies and demonstration of *H.pylori* - induced gastric malignancy. For ten years, he travelled widely to convince clinicians to treat *H.pylori* infection. Progressing to Professor of Medical Microbiology in 1990, he also worked as a WHO consultant in medical education. In 2000, he became Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) with a brief to improve the quality of teaching. Retiring in 2006, he carried out consultancies in tertiary education and now writes about his squiggly bugs and runs a choir.

Tom Borody discussed *How we cured Helicobacter pylori infection in Australia*. Professor Borody is a world-renowned medical doctor from Australia with over 40 years' experience in clinical research and practice, including at the St Vincent Hospital in Sydney and at the Mayo clinic in the US. In 1984 he established the Centre for Digestive Diseases in Sydney, overseeing its growth into an active clinical research institute with 65 employees. Professor Borody is most famous for his ground-breaking work developing the triple therapy cure for peptic ulcers in 1987, which has saved hundreds of thousands of lives, and the Australian health system more than \$10 billion in medical care and operations. Professor Borody is a leader in the clinical microbiota dating back to 1988 when he started performing what is now called Fecal Microbiota Transplantation (FMT). He holds over 150 patents in areas such as treatment of *Helicobacter pylori*, Crohn's disease, bowel lavage, IBS and FMT.

Emeritus Professor Peter Baume provided his thoughts and reflections on the lecture topic.

There followed a question and answer session moderated by Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy.

## **6 VOTE OF THANKS AND CLOSE**

The vote of thanks was given by Emeritus Professor Christina Slade, Chair, Events Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.