

# MINUTES



Of the Annual General Meeting of The Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand held in Halls C & D of the Adelaide Convention and Exhibition Centre on Saturday, 5th August, 2023 commencing at 12.15pm ACST.

**Present:** Prof Stephen Nicholls (President), Dr Mayann Lund (Honorary Secretary), Prof William Parsonage (Honorary Treasurer) Ms Martha McCall (Executive Officer), 170 FCSANZ and Members and 3 proxies.

## 1. APOLOGIES

Prof Christopher Reid (WA), Dr Ranji Wikramanayake (NSW), Prof Andrew Tonkin (VIC), A/Prof Alan Soward (VIC), Prof Ralph Stewart (NZ), Prof William Heddle (SA), Dr Anne Powell (WA), A/Prof Andreas Pflaumer (VIC), Dr Paul Stobie (WA), Dr Raibhan Rajaram Yadav (QLD), Dr Narendra Kewal (QLD), A/Prof Leeanne Grigg (VIC), Prof Stephen Duffy (VIC), Prof Julie Redfern (NSW)

## 2. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting of The Society held at the Gold Coast Convention Centre on Saturday, 13 August, 2022 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Prof William Parsonage

Seconded:

*Carried unanimously.*

## 3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

## 4. HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT – Prof William Parsonage

The audited accounts for the 2022-23 financial year have been circulated to Members via the CSANZ website.

Overall, the 2022/2023 financial year ended with a net surplus of \$368,406.

The Society's two main sources of income are the membership fees and the surplus from the ASM. The 2022 CSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting and ANZET meeting returned to an in-person meeting following two years of virtual meetings. The meeting was very well attended and the Society was able to achieve financial surplus.

The main areas of expenditure were payroll and rent. The CSANZ secretariat moved to a smaller leased office in the Sydney CBD in May which will result in future savings in rent.

The Board made the very difficult decision to increase membership fees by 5% in 2023. The Board members fully recognise that this occurs at a time when we all face pressures from increases in the cost of living. However, this was the first increase in membership fees since 2019 and reflects the also increasing costs faced of conducting the business of society. Complimentary membership for one year for first year advanced trainees was again offered in 2023 as an incentive for new trainees to join the Society. The Education Trust will make a contribution of \$159K towards the 2022-23 financial year education activities for which we are most grateful.

Overall, the Society is in a robust financial position with net assets of \$2.7 M, which is an increase of \$300K from the previous financial year.

**Motions:**

**To accept the audited financial report for the year ending 30 April, 2023.**

Proposed: Prof Jenny Deague

Seconded: Dr Bronte Ayres

*The motion was carried.*

**To appoint UHY Haines Norton as the auditor for the 2023/2024 financial year.**

Moved: A/Prof Dominica Zentner

Seconded: Dr Bronte Ayres

*The motion was carried.*

Prof Parsonage presented the results of the membership survey that had been presented as an editorial in *On The Pulse* in which he had indicated he would present further information at the AGM. The Society has grown from a group of about 50 interested physicians and surgeons to a vibrant community of over 2,500 multidisciplinary professionals that appropriately reflects modern cardiac health care, research and education. The Board is frequently approached by individuals and organisations regarding a broad range of issues and the aim of the survey was not to rigidly define strategic priorities for the society but rather to gauge the importance that the wider membership on some of the issues that are more frequently raised. There were some concerns and it is important for members to understand that CSANZ cannot 'change the world' and that CSANZ will always hold true to its constitutional aim of 'promoting the highest standards of education, training, research and practice in cardiovascular medicine and surgery'.

The survey was distributed to all active members of the Society and there was broad representation of respondents with 20% from New Zealand and all Australian states and territories represented in the responses. We received 315 responses which was about 10% of the membership and the breakdown reflects closely the representation of professional groups 58% Medical, 15% Nurses, 9% Scientists and 8% Allied health professionals. We had representation across public, private and the research sector. There was a very broad spread of priorities areas being either urgent or high which enable the Board to see some weight to the areas. There was also the opportunity to provide free responses which reinforced the ranking and also demonstrated the breadth of opinion across the Society.

The survey is not a final word but the beginning of a conversation between the Society and the leadership and to enable the Board to be better informed about what matters to our members. The Board members and state based representatives are always happy to be approached by members to discuss society business. If you are not sure who to contact representing your region or professional group, details of members of the Board (who include representatives of New Zealand and every Australian State) and Councils can be found on the Society website.

*There were no questions from the members present.*

**5. HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT – Dr Mayanna Lund**

I'm delighted to provide this report to the AGM as the Cardiac Society Honorary Secretary.

The Society continues to expand its membership and scope, and many members contribute significantly to the work of the Society on the board, Councils, Committees, and in meeting planning I would like to acknowledge those who have completed their terms, and those who have started in new roles. On a personal note, I would like the Board for their generosity and support when I was appointed honorary secretary in September 2022.

The Board has been enriched by the membership of Professor Garry Jennings representing the Australian Heart Foundation. Garry completes a 6 year term at this meeting. His wisdom and collaboration will be missed.

Committee members who completed their terms this year include Julie McMullen and Robert Weintraub from the Scientific Committee, Spencer Heald and Graham Hillis on the Professional Ethics and Standards Committee, and Lauran Giudicatti as chair of the Fellows in Training Committee. Neil Strathmore retired as the Chair of the Lead extraction certification committee after 18 years. Other members completing terms on that committee are Hugh McAlister, Bob Giles and John Hayes. Roger Allan retired as the Chair of the NSW regional committee after twenty years. Thank you all for the time and expertise that you have given to the Society in these roles.

Erina Korohina, Salvatore Pepe, Rebecca Ritchie and Julian Ayer have joined the Scientific Committee and Rochelle Wynne has been appointed to PESC. Isuru Ranasinghe was appointed to the Quality standards committee. Naomi Wattchow joined the Fellows in training committee as chair, along with other new members Philip Lo, Vindhya Wilson, Johathan Sen, Stephanie Sargent and Nestor Gahungu. New members of the lead extraction committee are Chair Gareth Wynn, Sean Gomes, and Kurt Roberts-Thomas.

Our membership continues to grow in all categories. In the calendar year to date a total of 247 new Members and Fellows were admitted in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, with the largest growth in the member category. Society membership is now just over 2,511. We are a vibrant and diverse Society, but the board has been challenged to report more broadly on our membership diversity. Currently 13% of our fellows are women.

The function of our committees is enabled by Martha McCall and her team. I would like to acknowledge Martha's exceptional professionalism, her organisation of meetings, and her preternatural ability to call up the relevant section of a reference document at a moment's notice.

The Scientific committee chaired by Martin Stiles continues the increasing work of reviewing applications, prizes and awards. A new template for nomination of named lectures was developed this year to ensure that the committee has all relevant details for their decisions.

Dominica Zentner, chair of the Quality Standards committee, has led a process to develop updated process documents for members wishing to develop CSANZ position statements or practice guidelines, and for the endorsement of documents from other organisations. These practical documents will be available on the society website at the end of September.

I acknowledge the work and future planning by our Professional and Ethical Standards committee chaired by Sally Inglis.

It is wonderful to once again be able to meet face to face at our Annual Scientific Meeting. This year total registration between the CSANZ and ANZET meetings was 1770, and the total participants over 2500. The significant work to deliver an ASM takes many months. I would like to congratulate Derek Chew as convenor, Christina Bursill and Anand Ganesan, the Scientific Programme Co-chairs, the hard-working scientific programme committee, and Sidney Lo, the ANZET convenor for the terrific scientific and social programmes.

In her wonderful Kempson Maddox lecture this morning, Patricia Davidson stated that "the Society is in an excellent place due to amazing leadership". And noting that I would like to thank our President Steve Nicholls for his outstanding vision, collaborative approach and solutions focus. My personal thanks to Will Parsonage, treasurer, for his generosity with his wisdom and experience whenever I asked. It is an honour to be part of a board that is collaborative, skilled and future facing.

Clara Chow, after long service on the board and executive is stepping down at this meeting. I know that Steve Nicholls will be talking about Clara's contributions, and so my comments will be brief. In the past I have avoided noting the fact that Professor Chow was the first woman to be president of the society. She was so clearly right for the job that it should be irrelevant. But, of course, her Presidency was symbolically important. Her presidency could only have been freighted with the weight of expectation that being a first brings. The extraordinary challenges added by her presidency falling in the worst pandemic years are only too easy to imagine. Clara led throughout with wisdom, strength and grace, and brought the Society through those years stronger than ever. We are indebted.

There is a Maaori proverb: *Naa too rourou, naa taku rourou ka ora ai te iwi*", which means with your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive. Thank you to all members who bring your research, skills and efforts in order that the Society can thrive in our objects of advancing treatment of cardiac disease, education, professional development, defence of equitable cardiac care, and fellowship.

I now invite questions from the members present.  
*There were no questions from the members present.*

## **6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Prof Stephen Nicholls**

It is with great pleasure that I deliver this, my first, President's report to the society. I took on this role at last year's AGM in the sunny Gold Coast, coming out of two extraordinary challenging years for all of us both personally and professionally, with a large and diverse membership who wanted to get on with the business of what we do. I'm grateful for my colleagues on the board, our exceptional staff in our Sydney office and all of our members who have rolled up their sleeves and continued to steer the society forward into this brave, and hopefully no longer locked down, world.

A year ago, I said that we were going to focus on our people and our partnerships. I wanted to share a few updates on our progress.

Our interactions with government continue to proliferate. This includes discussions regarding new indications as evidenced by interactions regarding cardiac magnetic resonance during COVID, recommendations to changes to the prosthesis list and clarification of issues regarding MBS billing queries. We have a clear channel of communication with the Department of Health, with regular meetings and ad hoc interactions over the course of the year. As an example, we are aware that several members have received letters from the Department with queries on billing of consults at the time of coronary angiography. We work closely with government to provide clinical context on these matters. There will be further communication coming out to provide further clarity. We have influenced the ability of genetic cardiology consults to bill for exercise stress testing. This dialogue is important for all of us, it gives us better insights into the thinking of government and values our clinical opinion in their decision making processes. I would like to thank a number of members, in particular Raj Puranik, our Clinical Practice Advisor, and Sid Lo, Chair of the Interventional Council, Greg Scalia, Chair of the Imaging Council and Jon Kalman, Chair of the Heart Rhythm Council for their efforts with these interactions. Raj is looking to develop a committee to work on clinical practice issues over the next few months.

I'd like to thank Jenny Deague who has taken over as Chair of the Education Committee. The membership of this committee has expanded and is working through a number of innovations to advance the work of Paul Bridgman and colleagues. The board has approved the first major initiative of the new education committee, CSANZ On Demand, which will permit access to a range of video and podcast content, on our website for members. We will look to launch this activity in 2024. Jenny will also represent the board as co-chair of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. We are in the process of expanding the committee and work with each of our councils to ensure we integrate these core principles into all of the activities of the society.

I'd like to acknowledge the great efforts of Anna Rolleston and Alex Brown, as our co-chairs of the Indigenous Health Council. They are currently working on an expanded indigenous agenda on both sides

of the Tasman. We are seeing a greater emphasis on equity at the board, with the research grant agenda of the scientific committee and discussion at our New Zealand scientific meeting in Auckland in June. I'd like to thank our Māori and Pacific colleagues for their engagement. We look forward to advancing this strategy.

We continue to review our partnerships. Our discussions with the National Heart Foundation of Australia have led to a new operational interaction and opportunity for greater exchange. We were delighted to be part of the partnership group that successfully lobbied the federal government to extend funding for Heart Health checks. We continue to work with international societies to identify more opportunities for our members to participate in a range of research and educational activities. While these discussions have primarily focused on partnership with North America and Europe, there is an important opportunity for our society to play a greater role in partnership with Asia Pacific based societies.

I would like to congratulate the organising committee of this year's annual scientific meeting. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of our convenor, Derek Chew - while we poached you to Monash, you have presented South Australia at it's finest. I'd also like to thank our scientific program chairs, Christina Bursill and Anand Ganesan, and their committees for compiling a stellar series of sessions. You have delivered on the main objective, to bring our community together. I'd like to thank our industry partners for your support and your participation. Thursdays are becoming an increasingly important part of our Annual Meeting. We want to thank the Councils for their great work on further showcasing the science.

Next year we head west to Perth and have made the decision to run the meeting from Thursday through Sunday as usual, we look forward to welcoming you out West. I'm also delighted to share with you that in the years to come our annual meeting will return to Sydney and Auckland, with ongoing discussions how we can also return Melbourne to the rotation.

It is with deep regret that I note the passing of the following Members in the past year since the last AGM:

Dr Malcolm James Abernethy FCSANZ (NZ)  
Dr David Brender FCSANZ (NSW)  
Dr Barry Chapman FCSANZ (NSW)  
Dr Ronald Easthope FCSANZ (NZ)  
Dr Philip Tideman AM FCSANZ (SA)

With your indulgence, I would like to make a few specific comments about Phil Tideman. Phil is a son of South Australia, hailing from a regional centre, completing his training here and embarking on a career which served to improve the heart health of all South Australia's with a focus on equity. His story is, by every definition, is one of impact to make sure everyone has access to evidenced based care, regardless of their post code. His clinical story has been dedicated to rural cardiac care that led him to become a pioneer in improving cardiovascular outcomes in rural regions. Throughout his career, Dr. Tideman focused his efforts on bridging the healthcare divide between rural and metropolitan areas. Recognising the disparities in cardiovascular care, he resolved to make a difference and established the groundbreaking statewide clinical support network known as ICCNet, which brought immediate senior cardiologist decision-making and care delivered by rural generalists and general practitioners. This work is one of the few examples that have been able to reduce 30 day mortality from Myocardial Infarction in rural area, narrowing the gap to achieve outcomes comparable to those seen in metropolitan Adelaide. He later turned his attention to remote delivery of cardiac rehabilitation and secondary prevention. His truly tireless efforts are widely lauded across the Australian Cardiac community and were recently recognised in the King's Birthday Honours, earning him the well-deserved award of an Order of Australia. Dr. Tideman's lifelong commitment to improving cardiovascular care in rural communities has undoubtedly saved countless lives and improved the quality of life for many others. His passing leaves a void in the South Australian cardiovascular community. He's left big footprints, for which we have all benefitted.

On a brighter note, I would like to recognise society members who have received national awards of recognition in the last 12 months.

The following CSANZ members were recognised on Australia Day with Order of Australia awards:

- Prof Gemma Figtree (FCSANZ - NSW) - President and received the award of Member (AM) of the Order of Australia, for significant service to medicine in the field of cardiology.
- Prof Clara Chow (FCSANZ - NSW) - our Past President - received the award of Member (AM) of the Order of Australia, for significant service to medicine as a cardiologist, and to research.

The following CSANZ members were recognised on the King's Birthday with Order of Australia awards:

- Dr Rosemary Hackworthy (FCSANZ - NSW) received the award of Medal (OAM) for service to medicine as a cardiologist.
- Dr Philip Tideman (FCSANZ - SA) received the award of Member (AM) for significant service to rural and remote medicine.

I would like to recognise the incredible contribution by two of members of our society.

Firstly, Dr Robert Denniss, who steps down :from his role as Editor-in-Chief of Heart, Lung and Circulation. Rob first joined the society in 1988, was appointed head of department at Westmead in 2015, was appointed Editor-in-Chief in 2012 and served on the board :from 2012-2022. Over that decade of service he steered the journal forward into the digital age with great passion. In a world that is becoming more global, more translational and focused on impact, Rob has led an editorial board that has had to develop HLC to become a journal of the 21st century. While many of us in this room write papers, review papers and handle peer review of papers for a number of journals, it takes a whole different level of work to be Editor-in-Chief. During this time the journal published 132 issues, 17,330 pages, 2,620 manuscripts, 25 scientific meeting abstracts and presented 38 awards. New initiatives during this time included appointment of editorial fellows, a commissioning editor, introduction of prizes for best review and high impact, established a HLC session at our annual scientific meeting and led the 25th anniversary celebration of the journal in 2016. He's done this in a highly competitive world, where he needs to meet the needs of a range of stakeholders - the publisher, the society, authors and importantly it's readership. To balance all of these groups and to continue to grow the journal is a testament to the extraordinary effort that he has given to this role. In parallel, Rob has served as a member of the board for a number of years and we are grateful for his insightful contributions. On behalf of the Society, I am delighted to present Dr Robert Denniss with this Outstanding Service Award.

One of the things you do as President is have a weekly meeting with our Executive Officer, Martha McCall to keep the activity of the society moving. A few weeks ago, Martha informed me that she intends to step down from her role later in the year and travel the world with her husband, Gary, who is retiring. I wanted to take this opportunity to tell you a little about Martha and the incredible role that she has performed for the last 8 years. As Executive Officer, you basically run the society - you know all of it's comings and going - you are it's COO, CFO, unofficial Company Secretary and head of both human resources and government affairs, amongst other activities. Martha has ably assisted and directed the board, its executive, the councils and committees, in the diverse number of activities that our society undertakes. She has an incredible working knowledge of all activities of the society, has adapted to the daily changes that are thrown before her and displays an incredible degree of poise and collegiality with regard to all of her interactions. That would be more than enough at the best of times, but was of critical importance to all of us during a once in a century pandemic. The need to quickly change to a virtual ASM, the need to be prepared to adapt to whatever new problem presented itself and the need to do so with the challenges presented to our finances, the wellbeing of her team and the sanity of her board executive - all of whom are busy clinicians - requires a certain kind of person. We were lucky to navigate this storm with Martha. Our society is diverse and is taking on new and challenging activities. Martha has an incredible capacity to blend the new in with the old and to respond to an increasing number of stakeholders both within and from the outside. She has done this while mentoring her son, Nicholas, through the HSC to pursue his

studies in classics at the University of Sydney. We are sorry to see you leave Martha, you have made a huge impact on the society and you will leave big footprints to fill. We wish you and Ga1y and Nicholas all the best in the future. We are grateful for all that you have done for us. Over the next weeks and months we will search for a successor, we are fortunate that Martha will assist with that. The board will also have more chances to farewell you at our next meeting in November, but we wanted the society, as a whole, to recognise your extraordinary contribution today at this AGM and as part of that, on behalf of the society, I would like to present you with this Outstanding Service Award.

In the last year, a number of members stepped off the board. I want to thank Paul Bridgman, for his efforts leading the Education Committee, and Stephen Duffy, for his contributions as Treasurer. At this week's board meeting we farewelled a few more members. Garry Jennings leaves us, having represented the National Heart Foundation of Australia. Gary, you have provided an important clinical conduit between the society and the foundation, and while we work with David Lloyd and his team on what our partnership looks like moving forward, you have played a vital role in this collaboration. We thank you. We also farewelled our immediate Past President, Clara Chow. Clara, I've not known a society board meeting that doesn't have you sitting at the table. You have served in all of the roles, you've provided incredible counsel to many of us and, with Len before you, you ably steered the society through a time of uncertainty. You were the first woman to serve as President and did so with great capability, collegiality, inclusion and enthusiasm. As an inclusive society, you have paved the way for many to follow in your footsteps. The society thanks you.

And that brings me to the next President. At the May meeting of the board, we confirmed the selection of the next President of the society, who will succeed my term at this meeting next year - I'm proud to announce that the next President of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand will be Mayanna Lund from New Zealand. Please join me in congratulating Mayanna and wish her well as she now takes on the role of President-elect.

*The meeting responded by acclamation.*

Finally, I would like to thank the society's members, our board and our executive - Will, Mayanna and Clara - for all of your support during the last year. We are all busy people and you don't take on these roles on without the incredible support of your loved ones and your colleagues back at the ranch. For all of you, I thank you. I would encourage every member of the society to consider how they may want to contribute, there are many ways to serve and many opportunities to influence the direction of the society moving into the future. We have a society that has weathered an incredible storm and has set path on a forward course. We have many more challenges ahead of us, but I am firm of the view that we are well positioned to grow the society to represent the needs and aspirations of our membership.

*Prof Nicholls invited questions from the members present. There were no questions.*

*Prof Nicholls continued.*

It gives me great pleasure to announce the following prize winners for 2023:

### **Heart Lung and Circulation Prizes**

#### 2023 Best Review Prize

Dr Sohaib Virk and Aran Kanagaratnam

First authors of:

*Catheter Ablation for Ventricular Tachycardia in Ischaemic Versus Non-Ischaemic Cardiomyopathy: Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis*

## **New Investigator Poster Prizes**

### Medical Student

Winner: Matthew Morton

Title: Caudal Fluoroscopic Guidance for the Insertion of Transvenous Pacing Leads

Judges: *Mayanna Lund, Anand Ganesan*

### Basic Physician Trainee or Advanced Trainee

Winner: William He

Title: Comparing PCSK9 inhibitor prescription rates within high-risk populations: diabetes mellitus, multi-territory vascular disease, multivessel and recurrent coronary artery disease

Judges: *Matthew Worthley, Rebecca Kozor*

### PhD Candidate

Winner: Sarena La

Title: Coronary Vasomotor Disorders in ANOCA Patients: insights from the CADOSA registry  
Judges: *Clara Chow, Christina Bursill*

### Cardiovascular Nursing

Nathan Marie-Claire Seeley

Title: Autonomic dysfunction is prevalent in post-acute sequelae of Covid-19 [PASC]

Judges: *Jeroen Hendiks, Rochelle Wynne*

### Allied Health Science and Technology

Jessica Orchard

Title: Results of 10 years of pre-participation cardiac screening of elite athletes in New Zealand

Judges: *Julie Redfern, Anna Rolleston*

## **ASM Oral Prizes**

### Allied Health Science and Technology Prize

Samual Turnbull

Title: Accuracy of single-lead ECG for the diagnosis of cardiac arrhythmias compared to the gold standard of cardiac electrophysiology study

Judges: *Rebecca Perry, Jodie Ingles, Jim Crowhurst*

### Cardiac Imaging Prize

Lauren Giudicatti

Title: The Diagnostic Yield and Clinical Utility of CMR in Myocardial Infarction with Non-Obstructed Coronary Arteries

Judges: *Majo Joseph, Tony Stanton, Jenny Deague*

### Cardiovascular Genetic Diseases Prize

Amy Mitchell

Title: Prevalence of rare genetic variants in cardiomyopathy-associated genes and association with cardiac phenotype in endurance athletes

Judges: *Kathryn Waddell-Smith, John Atherton*

### Cardiovascular Nursing Prize

Wendan Shi

Title: Improving secondary prevention knowledge in immigrants after a heart attack: adapting and evaluating a virtual patient education resource to promote behaviour change.

Judges: *Patricia Davidson, Sally Inglis, Julie Sanders*



Clinical Trials Prize

Trang Dang

Title: Potentially preventable health care costs associated with unplanned 30-day readmissions following hospitalisation for heart failure

*Judges: Graham Hillis, Harvey White, Melinda Carrington*

Heart Failure Prize

Justin Lineham

Title: Role of Altered Venous Compliance in the Pathophysiology of Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction

*Judges: Aaron Sverdlov, Sean Lal, Alicia Chan*

Heart Rhythm Prize

Timothy Campbell

Title: Whole heart histological and cardiac magnetic resonance imaging validation of electroanatomic mapping by multiple electrode mapping catheters in identifying post-myocardial infarction ventricular scar

*Judges: Rukshen Weerasooriya, Peter Kistler, Karen Phillips*

Prevention Prize

Sonali Munot

Title: Sex-related disparity in bystander response and survival outcomes for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) in New South Wales (NSW), Australia

*Judges: David Colquhoun, Robyn Clark, William Parsonage*

Ralph Reader Prize - Basic and Translational Science

Victoria Nankivell

Multifunctional porphyrin-lipid nanoparticles – novel nanoscale theranostics for atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease

*Judges: Livia Hool, Diane Fatkin, James Chong, James Sharman*

Ralph Reader Prize - Clinical Science

Stacey Peters

Environmental Factors Influence the Natural History of Genetic Dilated Cardiomyopathy

*Judges: Clara Chow, Derek Chew, Emelia Benjamin, Rebecca Ritchie, David Playford*

Congratulations to all the prize finalists and winners and thank you to the judges.

**2023 R T Hall Prize**

The RT Hall Prize is the most prestigious research award of CSANZ and recognises the achievements of senior and established investigators. The 2023 R T Hall Prize is awarded to Professor Gemma Figtree.

Over the last 10 years Professor Figtree has led an expanding international team addressing the mechanisms and unmet needs regarding clinical pathways for patients who develop coronary artery disease and myocardial infarction despite no standard modifiable risk factors (SMuRFs). She is the National Scientific Lead of the large global clinical trial AEGIS II and was appointed to the adjudication panel, co-leading the heart failure analyses and publications for the highly cited CANVAS program demonstrating of benefits of SGLT2 inhibition in diabetics. Using validated pre-clinical models, she has made seminal contributions that have provided unique insights into the mechanisms of cardiovascular disease susceptibility.

I'd like to make three additional comments about Professor Figtree beyond her scientific contributions. Firstly, she has served as the President of the Australian Cardiovascular Alliance. She has an extraordinary passion for Australia thinking big and thinking strategically and the Alliance it is considerably stronger with Professor Figtree at the helm. One of the significant contributions she has made has been her advocacy

to the federal government to increase funding for the cardiovascular research sector. One example is the cardiovascular mission of a \$200 million investment over a number of years which would not have happened without the efforts of Professor Figtree. Finally, it goes without saying that her passion for her colleagues and young researchers and clinicians is palpable. She is a mentor par excellence and she drives the rest of us to be that.

The meeting responded by acclamation.

## **7. CLOSE OF MEETING**

Professor Nicholls thanked the members for their attendance and closed the 2023 Annual General Meeting at 1.15pm ACST.

Stephen Nicholls  
**President**

Mayanna Lund  
**Honorary Secretary**

5 August, 2023