



### My AIMSS :

#### Prof Tissa Wijeratne: Program Director Translational Clinical Neurosciences-musculoskeletal system research.

Hello, my name is Professor Tissa Wijeratne and I am the newest addition to the busy and happy family of AIMSS, as the program director of translational clinical neurosciences-musculoskeletal system research. I am also the Chair of Western Health's Department of Neurology, which runs the busiest neurology/stroke inpatient and outpatient services in Victoria. It is a privilege to join this amazing family of super-talented academics who are exceptionally nice people. I am sure our family is on the way to bring the very best of translational research to the bedside.

Our recent publication in Lancet Neurology ([http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laneur/article/PIIS1474-4422\(17\)30299-5/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laneur/article/PIIS1474-4422(17)30299-5/fulltext)) revealed that neurological disorders are the most common cause of disability worldwide. Right now, almost 3 billion people are disabled because of such disorders. There is a strong relationship between the brain and the muscular skeletal systems. Our team is passionate about promoting better brain health and better musculoskeletal health through translational collaborative research. Apart from my academic, clinical and research activities in Melbourne, I maintain active full Professorial appointment in a leading Sri Lankan University and have been an active member of many global committees of the World Federation of Neurology for nearly a decade now.

I am extremely pleased to announce that the inaugural Ted Munsat award of the World Federation of Neurology (WFN) was presented to me, for my contributions to educational activities (particularly to our work supporting the development of young neurologists within the WFN). Ted Munsat was the Emeritus Professor of Neurology at the Tufts University School of Medicine, and is regarded as the father of medical education in neurology. I am married with two children. I thoroughly enjoy bushwalking and birding. In my youth I was a journalist. I am a big fan of social media, currently leading the social media team at AIMSS and the social media team of the World Federation of Neurology.



### From our Director

#### AIMSS is "Synchrotronic"

As part of our off-campus activities for our members, we organised a visit to the Australian Synchrotron. This experience was very illustrative and exciting for everybody. The Australian Synchrotron is Australia's largest and arguably most successful scientific user facility, benefitting over 3000 researchers from academia, medical research institutes, government and other research organisations, and industry. The facility has now been directly involved in the generation of more than 700 publications in refereed journals.

After our visit, AIMSS and the Synchrotron have become research partners. Based on our strength in musculoskeletal research, AIMSS will initiate several important collaborations and agreements with the Synchrotron aimed to facilitate the development of new imaging techniques for musculoskeletal research in animals and humans. AIMSS will promote and support applications to access the services available at the Synchrotron.

In addition, a specific seed grant will be created to fund projects involving both AIMSS members and the Synchrotron. This type of partnership is a clear example of our capacity building strategy.

The outcomes of this strategy could take a couple of years. In the meantime, stay synchrotronised.

**Prof. Gustavo Duque – Director AIMSS**



## Our Team Member of the Month



Joe Polidano is a PhD Candidate at the University of Melbourne and a 'Member in Training' at AIMSS.

Joe works in the Cancer Biology and Metastasis Lab, headed by A/Prof John Price, and his research is focused towards the development of novel anti-metastatic compounds.

Cancer frequently spreads to secondary sites, such as bone, and is the foremost cause of cancer patient morbidity.

Joe is recently married to his wife Nadia and has just arrived back from a 6-week honeymoon travelling throughout Europe. Joe had the time of his life exploring his European heritage and savouring the tastes, sights and sounds of Europe. Now back in Melbourne, he enjoys going to the gym regularly, trying his hand at cooking and indulging his sweet tooth with different cakes and desserts.

*Member-in-training at AIMSS are students/trainees under the supervision of a Program or Project or Director will be automatically considered Member-in-Training of AIMSS with the same privileges and responsibilities than the other members of AIMSS. To apply to a Member-in-Training Membership, the Member's training program is expected to last at least 6 months. The Member-in-Training should be nominated by his/her Supervisor and should be based at AIMSS or at one of Western Health affiliated Hospitals.*

## Our Collaborator of the Month



Professor Hachinski visit to AIMSS. March 2017.

Vladimir Hachinski is a Canadian clinical neuroscientist and researcher based at the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry at Western University.

Prof Hachinski is also a Senior Scientist at London's Lawson Health Research Institute. His research pertains in the greatest part to stroke and dementia, and the interactions between them. He helped to establish the world's first successful stroke unit at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto, Ind, by extension, helped cement stroke units as the standard of care for stroke patients. He also helped discover that the insula mediates the cardiac complications of stroke, and elucidated its importance in the mechanism of sudden death following stroke.

Prof Hachinski has held many prominent positions in the global neurology community, including editor-in-chief of the journal Stroke and president of the World Federation of Neurology. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (FRSC) and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (FCAHS), a Member of the Orders of Canada and Ontario, and the recipient of several national and international awards.

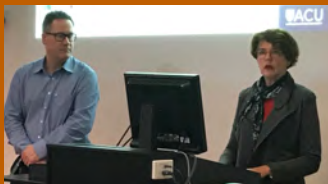
## AIMSS Seminar Series

### Interesting and informative presentations:

July: Dr Paul Gregorevic "Using gene delivery technologies to study and treat skeletal muscle wasting and frailty."

August: Prof Gordon Wallace "Advances in Biomaterials and 3D Bioprinting - Bringing New Dimensions to Experimental Biology".

September: Prof Kerrie Sanders "The effect of an ageing population on the prevalence of chronic disease - Osteoporosis as an example: 2012 to 2022".

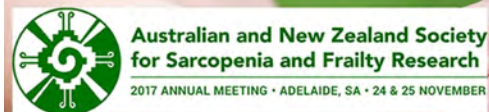


Deputy Director AIMSS Prof Alan Hayes with Prof Kerrie Sanders at the September seminar series



Stimulating August presentation by Prof Gordon Wallace

Executive Research Director, Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES) Director, Australian National Fabrication Facility, Materials Node and Director, Intelligent Polymer Research Institute, University of Wollongong.



### Keynote Speakers:

- Prof. Cyrus Cooper – UK
- Prof. Matteo Cesari – France
- A/Prof. Manuel Montero-Odasso – Canada
- A/Prof. Debra Waters – New Zealand

[www.anzssfrmeeting.com.au](http://www.anzssfrmeeting.com.au)

## Short News:

AIMSS inaugural Retreat 25th August 2017 at West Waters, Caroline Springs. A time for reflection, collaboration and ideas for the future. Guest speaker SueEllen Bruce WH: "Culture Brainstorming for the Future".



MC Michael McLauchain, Mediator  
Prof Alan Hayes, Co-coordinator  
Dr Sharon Brennan-Olsen.



Team brainstorming session by AIMSS attendees at the annual retreat.

Welcome new program directors A/Prof Itamar Levinger - Sarcopenia/Clinical  
Prof Tissa Wijeratne: Neurosciences & Musculoskeletal System: Clinical & Translational.  
Welcome new baby girl - Sarah Vogrin Statistician



## AIMSS Publication of the Month

Bivariate genome-wide association meta-analysis of pediatric musculoskeletal traits reveals pleiotropic effects at the SREBF1/TOM1L2 locus.

Medina-Gomez C, Kemp JP, Dimou NL, et al. Nat Commun. 2017 Jul 25;8(1):121.

This paper reports, for the first time, a genetic variant that determines both bone and muscle mass, thus becoming the first gene closely associated with osteosarcopenia.