

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY INC

Minutes from 69th Annual General Meeting

The 69th Annual General Meeting of the Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Inc. was held from 17:04-17:46 hours (AEDST) on Tuesday 30th September 2025 at Lecture Hall 03-206, Steele Bldg, The University of Queensland, St Lucia, QLD.

A quorum was reached with 52 members in attendance.

The meeting commenced at 17:04.

1. The President of the society, Megan Maher, chaired proceedings and began with Acknowledgement of Country.
2. **Confirmation of the minutes of Annual General Meeting No 68.**

Motion to put forward the minutes of 68th AGM for confirmation by Megan Maher and seconded by Tatiana Soares da Costa. The minutes were confirmed and noted.

3. President's Report

Professor Megan Maher delivered the President's Report and began with an acknowledgement of success of ASBMB 2025 in Brisbane and thanks to Michael Landsberg and his team for their hard work and for running an enjoyable meeting for BMB science and education. An update of future upcoming meetings was provided, with organization of ComBio2026 well advanced under co-convenors Tracy Bryan and Mark Larance and Tatiana Soares da Costa and Michael Samuel having agreed to lead the organization of ASBMB 2026 in Adelaide. The ASBMB thanks these individuals for volunteering their time and their leadership in organizing these major society events. ComBio2028 is slated for Melbourne and members were asked to suggest to Council appropriate convenors for the next Melbourne meeting. Members were also asked to offer suggestions on the location for ASBMB 2029 meeting.

The financial outcomes from BioMolecular Horizons 2024 (BMH2024) were reported. While the Treasurer will provide a detailed financial report, it was noted that the proceeds from BMH2024 have significantly strengthened the Society's financial position. Council has committed to using the legacy funds from this meeting to support Early- and Mid-Career Researchers (EMCRs). Discussions are ongoing to determine the most effective strategies for allocating these funds to benefit our members. In addition, Council is developing initiatives to provide financial support for members with caring responsibilities, enabling their participation in ASBMB meetings—beginning with ComBio2026.

Professor Maher provided a brief update on a continued collaboration between ASBMB and the Korean Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology which took the form of a satellite meeting at POSTECH and a dedicated symposium at FAOBMB 2025 in Busan. There are plans for next joint activity with KSBMB to coincide with ComBio2026. An update was provided on plans to conduct a new member survey in collaboration with Science & Technology Australia (STA). It was noted that the last survey was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, and this upcoming survey presents an opportunity to gather member feedback that is not influenced by pandemic-related circumstances. The aim is to identify and better understand the key issues currently important to members.

Several distinguished members of the Society were recognized for their outstanding contributions over the past year. Professor Christina Mitchell and Professor Anthony Weiss

were elected Fellows of the Australian Academy of Science. In addition, Emeritus Professor John Carver was honoured with an appointment to the Order of Australia.

An update to membership numbers over the past year was provided.

ASBMB Membership Figures from 2015-2016 year to 2025-2026 year - at 26 September 2025

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Ordinary Members	579	590	596	594	548	555	562	527	591	497	416
Overseas Members (commer	39	39	45	38	31	36	37	33	41	37	30
Student Members	219	206	210	196	142	159	173	211	204	209	171
Complimentary Students	50	35	26	38	18	16	14	35	19	19	9
Retired Members	13	11	10	11	13	14	13	13	16	10	12
Complimentary Retired	77	84	93	87	93	90	93	99	103	100	100
Honorary Members	13	13	14	13	17	16	16	16	15	14	14
Non Paying	9	7	7	7	7	3	3	2	2	3	3
FAOBMB	2	2	2	2	2	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
IUBMB	5	5	5	5	5	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Complimentary (2019 only)					18						
TOTAL	1006	992	1008	991	894	889	911	936	991	889	755*

*As we are less than 2 months into the new subscription year, this figure will change.

Finally, Professor Maher expressed thanks to retiring members of council that have contributed greatly to the society over the past year. This included State Reps; Alyssa Van Druemel (WA), Sarah Stewart (VIC) and Adele Holloway (TAS); Education Rep, Tracey Kuit; Past-President, Ross Hannan and Secretary, Dominic Ng.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

The following summary of ASBMB's financial position was presented by Adrian Achuthan, ASBMB National Treasurer.

The overall financial position of the Society significantly improved in 2024-25, recording operating profit of \$144,289.

2023-2024 financial year showed an operating profit of \$21,603

2022-2023 financial year showed an operating profit of \$34,984

Retained surplus increased from \$469,817 to \$614,106

Items to note:

Major contributors to the surplus were income from Biomolecular Horizons 2024 \$168,083 and bank interest \$20,750.

We need to sustain our membership base and promote their conference participation to ensure both the long-term viability and profitability of ComBio/ASBMB meetings

Thanks to Kate Quinlan (former Treasurer), Ian Price (Bookkeeper) Mark Andreassen (Accountant/Auditor), Sarah Parsons (Association Manager - WSM) and fellow members of the executive.

5. **Amendments to Constitution and By-Laws**

A change to the by-laws related to or current fees for members was proposed as follows:

Current wording:

(a) *Current fee schedule:* The current fees for members are listed in Appendix II. The annual subscription for Ordinary and Sustaining Members will be adjusted annually to the nearest dollar cumulatively to reflect the previous year's official Australian inflation rate.

Proposed wording:

(a) *Current fee schedule*: The current fees for members are listed in Appendix II. The annual and **triennial** subscription for Ordinary and Sustaining Members will be adjusted **triennially, taking into consideration of official Australian inflation rates over the preceding three years at the time of adjustment.**

The Secretary and the Treasurer discussed the proposal which was aimed at setting of membership fees triennially to align with 3 year membership cycle taken up by a significant number of members. The proposed wording would also provide flexibility in setting of membership fees to take into consideration inflation but also how society expenses changed each year. A question was raised regarding the financial impact of the proposed change. The treasurer considered the financial impact to be minimal given.

A motion to accept changes to By-Laws was proposed by the Secretary and seconded by the Treasurer. Members in attendance were then asked to vote on the motion and the motion was passed by a majority vote.

6. Membership Fees for 2026 to 2029

Membership fees for the year 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2029

	2025/2026		2026 - 2029	
	1 yr	3 yr	1 yr	3 yr
Ordinary Members:	\$159	\$383	\$160	\$385
Student Members:	\$45	\$100	\$45	\$100
Sustaining Members:	\$463	\$1,111	\$465	\$1,100
Retired Members:	\$72	\$164	\$70	\$165
Member O/S:	\$77	\$184	\$80	\$185

As overall expenses have not increased and the financial position of the society has improved, membership fees were not increased other than an adjustment to the nearest \$5. As a result of amendment to by-laws in Item 5 to adjust membership fees triennially, the membership fee amounts will apply through to 2029.

A motion to apply the above fees for next membership cycle was put forward by treasurer Adrian Achuthan and seconded by Terry Piva. The motion was confirmed and passed.

7. Elections to Council

A single nomination was received for the positions of President Elect, Secretary, FAOBMB and Education Rep on council. Single nominations were also received for the TAS, Vic and WA state rep positions. These nominees were formally elected to council with a term starting 1st Jan 2026. Red text highlight new members of ASBMB Council for 2025. Contributions of retiring Council Members were acknowledged.

President	Megan Maher
President Elect	Kate Quinlan (Ross Hannan retiring)
Secretary	Victor Anggono (Dominic Ng retiring)
Treasurer	Adrian Achuthan
Editor and Communications	Tatiana Soares da Costa
Education Rep	Amber Willems-Jones (Tracey Kuit retiring)
Secretary for Sust. Members	Sarah Parsons
FAOBMB Representative	Dominic Ng (Marc Kvensakul retiring)

Representatives for:

ACT	Chathura Suraweera
NSW	Tara Christie
Qld	Conan Wang
SA	Michael Roach
Tas	Kirsten Fairfax (Adele Holloway retiring)
Vic	Nadia Kershaw (Sarah Stewart retiring)
WA	Joel Haywood (Alyssa Van Dreumel retiring)

8. Nominations for Honorary Membership

Honorary memberships are awarded to distinguished members who have rendered notable service to the society and are tenable for the lifetime of the member. The following individuals were nominated for honorary membership status, **Professor Terry Piva, Professor Briony Forbes, Professor Leann Tilly** and **Professor Merlin Crossley**.

There was a discussion on the criteria for honorary membership. It was questioned whether this was awarded to retired members. The Secretary clarified that retirement was not a criteria for honorary status. It was also clarified that honorary status was conferred for service rendered to the society rather than the career achievements of members which are recognized by ASBMB through different mechanisms, such as Lemberg Medal for example.

A motion to nominate the aforementioned individuals were put forward by Past-president Ross Hannan and seconded by President Megan Maher. The proposal received unanimous support from Council. Members in attendance were then asked to vote on the motion and the motion was passed by a majority vote.

9. ASBMB Awards.

Congratulations were given to society award winners:

Lemberg Medal:	Michelle Haber
Shimadzu Research Medal:	Si Ming Man
Eppendorf Edman Award:	Dimitra Chatzileontiadou
SDR Scientific Education Award:	Amber Willems-Jones
ASBMB Fellowships Awards:	Shouya Feng (Fred Collins), Daniel Fox, Cynthia Turnbull, Xuan Ling Hilary Yong.
Student Merit Awards (Bursary)	6 recipients from WA, QLD, NSW, ACT and SA.

Members were encouraged to apply for 2026 awards with nominations due by 31st October 2025.

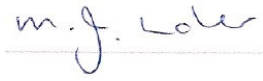
It was raised that the process of award nominations by members may bias against female applicants. The Lemberg, Shimadzu and Discovery Science (currently inactive) awards operate on basis of member nomination of potential awardees, although it was acknowledged in practice nominees are likely driving their own applications through their supporters or nominators. We utilize an open call for applicants for all other awards. Council took it on notice to discuss the process of nominations for ASBMB awards.

9. Any other business.

Joel Mackay noted the success and good outcomes from alternating ComBio and ASBMB meetings.

No other business was raised.

The meeting was adjourned at 17:46.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'm. j. Maher', written over a horizontal line.

..... Megan Maher (President)

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long trailing line.

..... DOMINIC NG (Secretary)