



## Australian Society for Biophysics

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Dear IUPAB Councillor

### Re: IUPAB Congress 2014

The Australian Society for Biophysics (ASB) is delighted to be bidding for the IUPAB Congress in 2014 and we look forward to the opportunity to present our bid to the IUPAB Council and General Assembly in Long Beach, California in February 2008.

ASB is an active Society and includes scientists from Australia and New Zealand. We have a diverse range of interests within our membership, with particular strengths in plant biophysics/photosynthesis and in protein structural biology. In addition, ASB has a close relationship with other Societies in the Asian region, particularly and Japan, USA and the Asian Biophysical Association, and is excited to be part of the growing movement of biophysics in this part of the world.

Our Bid Committee is made up of some of the best biophysicists in Australia and we are enjoying working together to develop the Australian bid for your consideration. Should Australia be successful in its bid, the ASB would consider it an honour to work collaboratively with the IUPAB Council and Task Forces to make the IUPAB 2014 Congress a huge success.

We intend to provide the Council with more comprehensive information on our proposal prior to the final presentation in Long Beach next February. However we attach to this letter a brief introduction to our Society and our proposed host city, Brisbane, for your information.

We have also developed a website dedicated to providing Council and General Assembly members with information relevant to our bid and we invite you to peruse this:

<http://www.une.edu.au/fluoro/IUPAB/>

We will add further information to this website over the coming months.

In the meantime, if you have any specific questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'B Hambly'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brett Hambly  
President, Australian Society for Biophysics  
Chair, Australian Bid Committee for IUPAB 2014  
<http://www.une.edu.au/fluoro/IUPAB/>



## The Australian bid for the IUPAB Congress 2014: An introduction

### Australian Biophysics



**Biophysics in Australasia** – Both Australia and New Zealand enjoy a growing biophysics research community that, although small in comparison with other continents, is very strong relative to its size. The Australian Society for Biophysics (ASB) is an active and diverse society and many of its members are international leaders in their respective specialities. ASB holds an annual national conference and maintains close relationships with fellow biophysics societies in the region.

**A strong research culture** – Australasia ranks highly on international comparisons of research performance, with five of our top universities ranking within the top 150 universities world-wide. These universities are the Australian National University and the Universities of Queensland, Sydney, Melbourne and Western Australia ([2006 Shanghai Jiao Tong University World Rankings](#)).



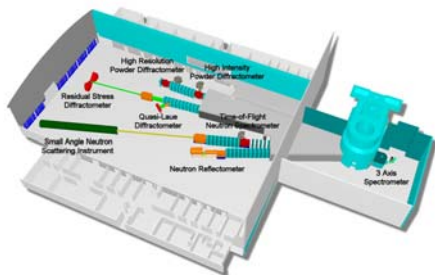
Biomedical research, which includes many aspects of biophysics, is particularly strong. Australia's research output is twice that of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) average, on a per capita basis ([Australian Government statistics](#)). In recognition of this, both Federal and State governments have invested heavily in Australian research, particularly in Brisbane, Queensland, under the "[Smart State Programme](#)" ([www.smartstate.qld.gov.au](http://www.smartstate.qld.gov.au)). Recently established institutes within Queensland include the [Institute for Molecular Bioscience](#) ([www.imb.uq.edu.au](http://www.imb.uq.edu.au)), the [Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology](#) ([www.aibn.uq.edu.au](http://www.aibn.uq.edu.au)) and the [Institute for Health and Biomedical Innovation](#) ([www.ihbi.qut.com](http://www.ihbi.qut.com)).



Research in the biophysics area has received a particular boost over the last five years with the construction of the [Australian Synchrotron](#) ([www.synchrotron.vic.gov.au](http://www.synchrotron.vic.gov.au)) and a new research [nuclear reactor](#) in New South Wales ([www.ansto.gov.au](http://www.ansto.gov.au)). Both facilities have a heavy commitment to biophysics-specific infrastructure (eg beamlines), and are strong supporters of the Australian bid for IUPAB2014.



Importantly, a range of Australian institutions, both general and biophysics-related, have immediately offered their enthusiastic support for the Australian bid by ASB for the IUPAB 2014 Congress. This support has been in several forms, including the promise of funds to support symposia and speakers, satellite meetings and general costs associated with hosting an outstanding international scientific meeting. Supporters include the Queensland and Australian governments, complementary scientific societies such as Biochemistry, Magnetic Resonance, Fluorescence and Photosynthesis, and several Queensland-based universities.



**Bid Committee** – The Australian Bid Committee is a truly national group of biophysics experts and includes: Dr Brett Hambly (muscle proteins, University of Sydney); Prof Boris Martinac (ion channels, University of Queensland); Prof Ray Norton (protein structure, Walter & Eliza Institute of Medical Research); Professor Cris dos Remedios (biosensors, University of Sydney); Prof Frances Separovic (membranes and NMR, University of Melbourne); Prof Glenn King (peptide toxins and NMR, University of Queensland); Prof Christa Critchley (photosynthesis, University of Queensland); Dr Chris Garvey (Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation) and Dr Pierre Moens (membrane interactions, University of New England).



**The Australian bid committee is strongly focussed on understanding and meeting the objectives of IUPAB, particularly in terms of promoting biophysics research and training in a global manner.** The bid committee strongly supports the concept that an international congress of this nature should have appropriate representation of biophysics research from around the world, in addition to highlighting the cutting edge of the field.



Importantly, the bid committee is being expertly and professionally assisted by Alison Gardiner from the [Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre](#), working closely with our Professional Conference Organiser, Mike Pickford, from [ASN Events](#).

Both organisations have extensive experience in successfully running large international meetings within Australia, with a strong emphasis on conference marketing and a sound positive financial outcome. Current financial projections, to be detailed in the formal bid documents, predict registration costs that are highly competitive. Projections of total income for the conference, including significant and appropriate government and non-government resources, suggest that the congress organisers will be able to provide strong support for invited speakers, in addition to support for students and delegates from poorly-resourced countries.



### **Proposed Host City - Brisbane, Australia**

**Australia** – is an exciting, and culturally rich country with a diversity of landscape abounding in natural beauty. Politically stable and secure, a country with fresh and innovative thinking. It is the Asia Pacific hub for industry and business.

**Asia Pacific Hub** – Queensland is recognised as Australia's 'Smart State', fast becoming an Asia Pacific hub for the new industries of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and home of pioneering new ventures. Brisbane's location on Australia's east coast also makes it ideal for easy access into and around the country.



**Brisbane's Appeal** – Brisbane is a dynamic, creative and cosmopolitan city, with a friendly, relaxed lifestyle, located within Australia's premier tourist region. It offers a serious business and academic environment, as well as access to some of the world's greatest natural attractions such as the Great Barrier Reef, the legendary Aussie outback, world famous surfing beaches and pristine rainforests.

**Climate** – Brisbane is Australia's only sub-tropical capital city with an enviable average daily temperature of 23 deg C. The city's climate is one of the most idyllic in Australia, especially for pre and post touring and social activities. Brisbane has more sunny days than Florida and warmer winter days than the Bahamas.

**Brisbane's Experience** – Brisbane's successful events track record includes the hosting of hundreds of major and challenging events such as the Rotary International Convention – one of the world's largest conventions, the Australian Tourist Exchange – the fourth largest tourism trade show in the world – the World Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf, the International Congress on Photosynthesis, and the IUPAC World Chemistry Congress.



**Safety and Stability** – Australia is politically stable and secure, protected by its geographic position as an island continent. Brisbane has a crime record the envy of many cities worldwide and the lack of visible police or security is testament to the safety Brisbane residents enjoy.

### **Congress Infrastructure**



**Congress Venue** – Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre is Australia's most-awarded convention centre and is officially ranked amongst the top three leading convention centres worldwide. The recipient of 87 industry awards, the Brisbane Centre is the only convention centre in Australia to qualify and be awarded for the national Meetings and Events Industry Association (MEA) Hall of Fame.

The Centre is a purpose built world-class events venue offering superb flexibility and versatility, with its major appeal being its team of personable and professional staff.

**Unique Convention Precinct** – The Brisbane Centre is superbly located in the resort-style riverside precinct at South Bank, unique for its focus on creative, cultural, entertainment and leisure activities. The Precinct, with its 18 hectares of gardens, cafes, bars, restaurants, galleries and stylish shopping, is a comfortable ten minute stroll to the city's central business district.



**Affordable and Accessible Accommodation** – There are 240 hotels with 12,133 hotel rooms in Brisbane, one of which is physically connected to the Centre with a second directly opposite, and 31 of the 230 within 2 kilometres or a short walking distance. Testament to this – Brisbane successfully hosted 15,000 Rotarians for their international convention in June 2003. Hotels are extremely affordable by world standards, ranging from US\$12-US\$100 per night.



**Air Access** - Brisbane's airport offers unique arrangements for international delegates to ensure a smooth and friendly welcome. Twenty-four international and domestic airlines use Brisbane's airport providing delegates with the optimum in flexible travel itineraries. Operating 24 hours a day, the ultra modern international and domestic airports are just 20 minutes by car or train from the city and the convention centre.

**Local Transport** – Whilst the city is so compact that many delegates prefer to walk, Brisbane's transport is delegate friendly offering direct access to a variety of options including ferry, train and bus and an all-in-one delegate transport card that can feature the IUPAB Congress logo.

