

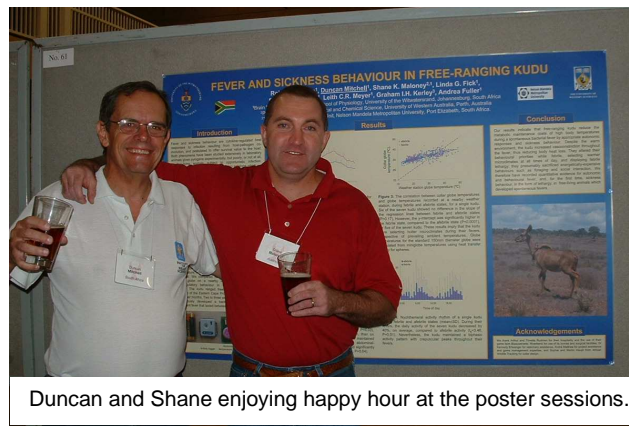
Feedback from the Second International Meeting on Physiology and Pharmacology of Temperature Regulation



(from left) Ms Lois Harden, Prof Helen Laburn, Dr Andrea Fuller, Dr Shane Maloney, Prof Duncan Mitchell, Ms Linda Fick

Earlier this year a group of Wits physiologists, Helen Laburn, Duncan Mitchell, Andrea Fuller, Lois Harden, Linda Fick, and Shane Maloney, a Wits Honorary Senior Research Fellow from the University of Western Australia, attended the second International Meeting on Physiology and Pharmacology of Temperature Regulation, previously a satellite symposium of the congress of the International Union of Physiological Sciences. The meeting was held in Arizona, USA, from 3-6 March 2006, at the idyllic Carefree Resort in the Sonoran desert, famous for its endemic saguaro cacti.

The meeting was very well-organized by Dr Andrej Romanovsky and his team, and consisted of three busy days of invited talks and evening poster sessions, although it's likely the free wine bar improved attendance at the late evening poster sessions! All of us that attended presented posters from our own research in the fields of fever or comparative physiology. Delegates were invited to submit their presented results for publication in a special issue of the *Journal of Thermal Biology* (volume 31, Jan/Feb 2006) and there was a special call for research papers in the field of fever from the *American Journal of Physiology* (Regulatory, Integrative and Comparative).



Duncan and Shane enjoying happy hour at the poster sessions.

With only 180 delegates (and only 7 from Africa!), there was opportunity to reminisce with old colleagues and establish new collaborative research. Some of the well-known speakers included Lars Nybo from the Institute of Exercise and Sports Science at the University of Copenhagen, who spoke on the influence of central fatigue during exercise in the heat, and Lisa Leon from the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine, who gave a very interesting talk on the role of cytokines in heatstroke. Focus areas of the conference were thermometry, thermoregulation during exercise, and fever and inflammation. Some highlights of the conference included a diverse session devoted to the finalists of the young scientists competition and a session on the pharmacology of cyclooxygenases in tribute to Sir John Vane, who won the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1982 for his work on aspirin.

The Third International Meeting on Physiology and Pharmacology of Temperature Regulation will be held in Japan after the meeting of the IUPS in August 2009, and is sure to be worthwhile. If you are interested, look for updates on the IUPS website www.iups.org.

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