

11 TESLA



Spin Down Under



I'm writing to you as I make my way home from the ISMRM Fat-Water Separation workshop, which was awesome, and a testament to Tom Dixon and all who have expanded on his seminal work. Ironically - and I won't say Hu I think was responsible for this - twice each day, after hearing great talks on obesity and diabetes, we were fed delicious meals topped off with really rich desserts. I learned a lot, and actually came up with a new method I may try to publish. I found that by sampling the desserts in-face six times (never out-of-face), and taking the magnitude of my samples, I can now more easily identify my fat fraction. So that's really awesome. Seriously, though - if you have never been to an ISMRM workshop, I encourage you to try it if you get the chance. These smaller groups of 100-150 people make the workshops very personal, great for in-depth discussion and one-on-one interactions. They each have a different feel, and are also a good opportunity for the younger people to meet the leaders in the field. And, to use a phrase I often heard growing up in the United States' Midwest, they put on a good feed.

For those of you who tuned in to the 11'th TESLA to hear about Melbourne, thanks for hangin' in there. Today, I'm talking about fun, in all of its forms that one can discuss in an MR blog. Well, three forms anyway - BYOB, MRI in the Movies, and the closing party.

In case you haven't seen it yet, we are having a BYOB contest in Melbourne, which is explained in more detail at <http://ismrm.org/12/BYOB/>. Some people will emphasize volume, some good taste, and some will bring something that has been aged for a long time. But make sure to check out the BYOB link so that you are ready for Melbourne. Pay special attention to the fact that there will be really great prizes for the 2013 ISMRM Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City for attendees that BTOB to Melbourne. Speaking of the Salt Lake City meeting, I've suggested to Garry that the theme for that meeting could be "Melbourne - wasn't that a great meeting?" Please email him if you agree.

For MRI in the Movies, we had a lot of fantastic entries. I have to say, many of them were nothing like what I was thinking of when we started this contest, but they were really fantastic. Not only are you folks incredibly creative, but you seem to have quite a bit of spare time on your hands. A committee chose the top 7 finalists, which will be presented in Melbourne. Of those not chosen, there were a few great entries which were not really in the spirit of what we were looking for, and a few others that were close and may have made it on a different year. I'm not sure exactly how this will work yet, but we will probably have monitors somewhere showing a loop of the finalists, and there will be on-line voting during the meeting for your

favorite entry. At the closing party on Thursday night, we will show a short set of MRI-inspired scenes from a variety of TV and movies, followed by a very brief awards ceremony for the winners. We are calling it the Auscars.

The Aaaaauusssscars.

And the closing party? What will it be? Well, getting it put together is an interesting process. I'll tell you first two things we tried to do.

1. We were thinking of Australian bands that could play for us. One of them was "Men At Work," which many of us over 40 know well. For you younger folks, I'll bet you've heard them at some point - just try to think of a tune that goes with "he just smiled and gave me a vegemite sandwich," and when you get the right tune, you have the right band. Colin Hay was the lead singer for this group, and still performs in the Melbourne area. The funny story here is that when we were there last June, we were in a small van being driven to the Serendip (see SDU 1T), and talking about trying to get him for our closing party. Our van driver - a really nice guy - says "oh yeah, I know Colin well - I used to be in the music business, and booked some of his early gigs." Isn't that awesome? Only in Australia. Anyway, we didn't end up going that route.
2. While setting up "MRI in the Movies", we also thought of a particular TV actor who is in a lot of very memorable scenes with MRI, who is also a musical performer and a funny guy. With the help of one of our prestigious members in the Hollywood area, we got some contact information for him, and tried to get him to come MC the Auscars and then be our entertainment. Roberta tried several ways to get in touch with him, but we never did get a response - apparently traveling all the way to Australia for no pay (we're not the SNM after all) was not his best offer for May 2012.

So the above were just a couple of thoughts, we had many others. I'm really excited about the one we decided to go with, which will be very different. There will not be a cover band, and it will have some really cool, quirky, and fun stuff, and also be a little quieter, to allow for more visiting, conversation, and tearful goodbyes. If you are able, plan on sticking around for the whole thing - the flavor will change and evolve throughout the party in very fun ways. The entertainment may or may not include one or more of the following things: kangaroos, AC/DC, accordians, a "burning man" festival (Melbourne-style), Hugh Jackman, dingos, miniature walkabouts, a replica of Uluru, Olivia Newton John, Magnus, Larry the lobster, a Chinese dragon, and Lady Gaga. Plus, we'll put on a good feed.

Hooroo,

Jim Pipe,
AMPC Chair, 2012 Melbourne