

New Zealand

In 2009, the New Zealand Committee was involved with the AFOG/RANZCOG 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting in Auckland, New Zealand. The joint event attracted a large number of local and overseas Fellows and visitors.

Achievements and initiatives involving the New Zealand Committee this year included:

- Ongoing contributions to the Government's Maternity Action Plan (MAP).
- Involvement in the Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee and the Wellington Maternity Review Committee, which have now been rolled into the MAP.
- Establishment of a Clinical Directors Forum; these quarterly meetings were initially established to discuss the Government's MAP but have continued to enable a forum of discussion on various issues. A combined meeting with clinical midwifery leaders was held at the last forum to identify common issues facing maternity services around New Zealand.
- Ongoing dialogue with the New Zealand College of Midwives, with a Memorandum of Understanding signed in August 2008
- Instituting a long-term investment strategy that will ensure research funding for New Zealand Trainees and Fellows.

In 2008, five practice visits were held. This is a continuing success for peer review of New Zealand O and G practices that benefits all practitioners who are visited with a non-regulatory reporting process, identifying areas of strength and weakness that the practitioner can build on, along with 25 PR&CRM points. A similar number are being completed in 2009. This brings the overall visit completion rate to nearly 70 per cent of New Zealand Fellows.

With the appointment of a new New Zealand Government in November 2008, the New Zealand Committee has had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Health, the Hon Tony Ryall, on two occasions to discuss MAP. Topics discussed included the need for national perinatal data collection and national maternity standards; the Wellington Maternity Review; subspecialist services; provincial hospital maternity services; anti-D; antenatal aneuploidy screening; and second trimester abortion services. The Health Minister favours regionalisation of services. He has approved the set-up of a national clinical network for maternal fetal medicine (MFM) services. A similar network is under discussion to deal with subspecialist shortages for gynaecological oncology. The Health Minister has expressed his commitment to women's health and the continuation of these meetings.

There have been a number of approaches from the New Zealand Ministry of Health over the past 12 months, in the areas of the New Zealand Incident Management System; the Long Term System Framework; anti-D prophylaxis; Standards of Care for Women Requesting Induced Abortion in New Zealand; National Screening Unit initiatives; and other related consultation documents concerning the wider medical profession. Similarly, the New Zealand Committee has discussed and made contributions to a number of matters with the Medical Council of New Zealand, such as supervision of international medical graduates and peer review through practice visits.

Dr Gillian Gibson

Chair, New Zealand Committee

Kate Bell

Executive Officer, New Zealand Office

New South Wales

The New South Wales (NSW) Regional Committee comprises 14 Fellows, two Trainee representatives and one Diplomate representative, serving over 1120 College Fellows, Members, Trainees and Diplomates.

Educational activities are a core function of the NSW Regional Committee. The MRANZCOG oral pre-examination course was held in September 2008 with 22 Trainees from Australia and New Zealand attending. A MRANZCOG pre-examination course was held in October 2008 for 56 Trainees. A DRANZCOG revision course for GPs was held in December 2008 with 22 GPs attending. Members of the NSW Education Subcommittee attended the Australian Medical Association (NSW) Health Medical Careers Exhibition in May 2009. The New South Wales/Queensland Annual Scientific Meeting was held at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel at Darling Harbour, from 6 to 7 June 2009 with 59 Fellows and Trainees attending.

During 2008/09 the NSW Education Subcommittee continued the successful educational evenings for Fellows. Twenty-nine Fellows attended the September 2008 evening to hear a presentation by Dr Alison Reid, Medical Director, New South Wales Medical Board. In February 2009, Dr Gayle Fischer, Dermatologist, addressed 42 Fellows on the topic of 'Vulval Disease for the Gynaecologist'.

In 2009, the NSW/ACT Training Accreditation Committee has replaced the seven-afternoon registrar symposia with two registration education days per annum. The first day was held on 27 February 2009 at the Royal Hospital for Women, Randwick, with 93 registrars from New South Wales and ACT attending. The NSW Regional Committee purchased Keypad transponders for this event and their use enhanced interactive aspects of the meeting, especially during the two expert debates. The NSW/ACT Training Accreditation Committee appointed 25 Year One registrars for the 2009 clinical year from 51 applicants.

The NSW Historical Collections Subcommittee surveyed NSW retired Fellows in November 2008 to gauge interest in setting up a retired Fellows group. The results of this survey were very positive and the establishment of this group is underway.

2008 marked 25 years since the closure of the Crown Street Women's Hospital in Sydney and this event was commemorated at the NSW Regional Annual Dinner in September 2008.

Professor Alec Welsh

Chair, New South Wales Regional Committee

Lee Dawson

Executive Officer, New South Wales Regional Office

Victoria

The Victorian Regional Committee (VRC) continues to represent the interests of Fellows, Diplomates and Trainees in obstetrics and gynaecology in Victoria.

We have been approached by various external bodies for representation and the committee is thankful to those who provide their valuable input and time into participating in these activities. Over the past year, our Victorian members have been involved in a number of Department of Human Services committees including, the Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity; the Neonatal Services Advisory Committee; the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Surgical Services; and the Neonatal Services Capacity and Planning Framework Reference Group.

Diploma courses were held in February and July attracting over 60 registrants. Practical sessions were held in the use of Mirena and Implanon. The New Born and Paediatric Emergency Transport Service (NETS) coordinated a neonatal resuscitation session. The annual membership revision course was held over five days in April with a record number of 72 registrants.

Interest in specialist training in obstetrics and gynaecology in Victoria remains strong with many enquiries received by our representatives at The Victorian Medical Postgraduate Foundation (VMPF) Medical Careers Expo in May 2009. A new nationally consistent recruitment process was introduced this year, with 52 applications received for the 24 positions available.

We manage the training requirements for our 112 registered Victorian Trainees with the assistance of 54 training supervisors. Our appreciation is extended to all those who contribute to the training program.

Dr Stephen Tong has once again taken on the task of organising our annual trainee symposium, research presentation evening and dinner this year. The formal part of the evening includes trainee research presentations competing for the Organon Prize.

Dr Ravi Kashyap

Chair, Victorian Regional Committee

Fran Watson

Executive Office, Victoria Regional Office

Tasmania

Following the recent reconciliation of the Tasmanian Regional Committee (TRC), committee members were eager to hold a clinical meeting to bring the Tasmanian membership together, for not only education, but also to socialise and network with colleagues. In February 2009, a meeting was held at the Tidal Waters Resort St Helens, Tasmania. The meeting was attended by 19 specialists, three Trainees and industry representatives from Ames Medical Equipment Specialists, American Medical Systems (AMS) and Cytec. The meeting was able to recruit two excellent speakers from interstate; Dr Stella Heley and Dr Anna Rosamilia, as well as a presentation by a local Trainee, Dr David Gartlan, on his research project. Dr Warren Kennedy and Dr Roald Fullerton were 'agent provocateurs' with topics respectively dealing with The Right of Women to Choose an Elective Caesarean and The Merits of Bioequivalent Hormone Replacement. There was some great discussion and debate on the various topics and issues raised by the presenters.

Representation on various external committees and bodies is provided by Tasmanian members, including the University of Tasmania Medical Advisory Committee; the Postgraduate Medical Education Council of Tasmania; the Tasmanian Perinatal Mortality and Morbidity Committee; and the Tasmanian Audit of Surgical Mortality.

Dr Frank Clark took over the role of Chair of the Tasmanian Regional Training Accreditation Committee this year. This role has been handed on by Dr Rupert Sherwood. Many thanks are extended to Dr Sherwood for his long-term contribution to the College training program, support of Trainees and training supervisors, and his guidance over the years.

There are ten Trainees completing various levels of training in Tasmania. In addition, the Monash Medical Centre in Melbourne also includes Launceston, Tasmania, as a rural training site supporting Victorian trainees. This year, two year one Trainees will commence in 2010.

Dr Roald Fullerton

Chair, Tasmanian Regional Committee

Fran Watson

Executive Officer, Tasmanian Regional Office



STANDING FIGURE c. 1960s Stone Lithograph. RANZCOG Research Foundation.

Western Australia

The Western Australia (WA) Regional Committee met on a regular basis throughout the year. General meetings of WA Fellows and Trainees were also held regularly throughout the year and we were kept well-informed about College matters via the WA College Councillors.

The WA Training Accreditation Committee met regularly throughout the year. In June 2009 it was decided that the committee would be co-chaired by Dr Krish Karthigasu and Dr Stuart Salfinger. They are supported by a team of training supervisors in Dr Dale Hamilton, who also took over from Dr Jolyon Ford as ITP Coordinator in June 2009, Dr Steven Harding, Professor Roger Hart, Dr Ron Jewell, Dr Anne Karczub, Dr Bernie McElhinney, Dr Paul McGurgan, Dr Jay Natalwala, Dr Roger Perkins and Dr Cliff Saunders. We also welcomed Dr Tamara Walters, Dr Bridget Jeffery and Dr Johan Herholdt from Albany as new training supervisors. Trainee representatives Dr Tamara Hunter (WA representative) and Dr Seonaid Mulroy (RANZCOG representative) are also important and valued members of the committee. Many undertook the training supervisors' course held in Perth on 2 May 2009.

There was a strong field of candidates for the 2009 Integrated Training Program. They went through a rigorous selection process and we extend our thanks to all those involved on the interview panel. The WA Training Accreditation Committee welcomed Dr Rupert Sherwood (Chair, RANZCOG Training Accreditation Committee) and Shaun McCarthy (Manager, RANZCOG Training Services) to their meeting on 6 November 2008.

A Communication Skills Workshop for Trainees was held on 23 October 2008.

The Annual Dinner was held on 16 September 2008 at The Melbourne Hotel in Perth with guest speaker Professor Jorma Paavonen from Finland, who was an interesting speaker. All who attended had an enjoyable and educational evening, a departure from the customary formal dinner dance format.

College examinations were held in August 2008 and February 2009. The Western Australia Regional Committee extends congratulations to the successful candidates.

Western Australia held its annual Medical Careers Expo on 31 March 2009 at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Many of those visiting were seriously considering a career in obstetrics and gynaecology and were very interested to talk with us. Jolyon Ford, once again did a great job with the short presentation.

Dr Tamara Walters

Chair, Western Australia Regional Committee

Janet Davidson

Executive Officer, Western Australia Regional Office

Queensland

2008/2009 was again a productive year for the Queensland Regional Committee. As has been the case over the last few years, workshops and meetings were conducted to provide College members with the opportunity for further education. These included a practical perineal workshop which was extremely well attended by Fellows, Trainees, midwives and physiotherapists. A simulated situation in the afternoon allowed 24 participants to refine their perineal repair skills. Colleagues from other disciplines, including surgery and physiotherapy, assisted with this workshop and their input was greatly appreciated by those who attended.

As reported last year, 17 Trainees entered the RANZCOG training program in Queensland. They were welcomed at an evening in December 2008, which provided an opportunity to meet other Trainees, training supervisors, Integrated Training Program (ITP) coordinators and College staff, and to learn about College requirements and procedures. It is expected that a high standard of applicants will continue to seek selection to the program to commence in 2010.

Once again, a trial MRANZCOG Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) course was conducted in May for Trainees who were eligible to sit the May OSCE examination. This course attracts Trainees from across Australia and New Zealand and is a very intensive day. The committee sincerely appreciates the time given by Fellows and senior Trainees to make this day a valuable experience for Trainees.

The Queensland Regional Committee is very aware of the importance and role of the College Diplomates. A Diplomate representative was co-opted to the committee this year and we are mindful that educational activities, in particular, be relevant for Diplomates. To this end, the DRANZCOG pre-exam and update course held in July had its greatest ever attendance, attesting to the fact that this ongoing education remains relevant for general practitioners, as well as those attending for pre-exam purposes.

The committee received several requests throughout the year for Fellows to represent the College on various committees and hospital credentialing panels. These requests are often wide-ranging and it is very gratifying that Fellows accept these invitations to participate with enthusiasm. This is evidence of the commitment Fellows have to assisting in maintaining their involvement in the College.

Dr Paul Howat

Chair, Queensland Regional Committee

Lee-Anne Harris

Executive Officer, Queensland Regional Office

South Australia/ Northern Territory

Integrated Training Program

In 2008, four Year One Trainees were appointed to the SA/NT Integrated Training Program (ITP) for 2009, following a record number of applicants, including many from interstate.

The number of applicants has been lower for many years due to the medical indemnity crisis. This, combined with maternity leave, has reduced our trainee numbers over the last few years. We are pleased to report that SA/NT are back on track with an oversupply of ITP trainees in the system, which should flow on to a large number of high quality Elective program trainees in the next few years.

The accreditation process has gone well in South Australia, with most hospitals achieving full accreditation. We have also been able to ensure that most Trainees achieve the new RANZCOG requirement on time, including research projects and basic surgical competencies.

We aim to undertake our annual Trainee review in October 2009 to aid the ongoing improvement of the training program.

Annual Dinner

The SA/NT Regional Annual Dinner was held at Auge Ristorante on 29 August 2008. Sixty-six people attended and enjoyed the superb food and excellent service.

Special guests on the evening were Bettina Arndt, sex therapist and editor of Forum magazine, who delivered an inspirational and entertaining talk on *Why Wives Prefer Chocolate*, and Kathryn Martinello, a final year medical student of the University of Adelaide, winner of the RANZCOG Women's Health Award 2007.

RANZCOG/ANZCA Joint Meeting

On 28 February 2009, a full-day clinical meeting of the SA/NT branches of The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) and RANZCOG was held at Calvary North Adelaide Hospital. The theme of the meeting was *Critical Care in Contemporary Obstetrics and Gynaecology – Is It Really Critical?*

Invited members of the faculty were: Dr Richard Porreco, a perinatologist from Denver, USA; Associate Professor Scott Simmons, Director of Anaesthesia, Mercy Hospital for Women, Melbourne; Dr Alicia Dennis, Deputy Director of Anaesthesia, Mercy Hospital for Women; and Dr Simon McRae, Director of Haematology, Royal Adelaide Hospital.

A number of local Fellows from both medical colleges also presented topics related to the theme which was well-received by an audience of 90 registrants.

The organising committee consisted of Dr Kym Osborn, Dr Anthony Archer, Dr Paul McAleer and Dr Julia Coldrey from ANZCA; and Dr Darren Roberts, Dr Michelle Wellman and Associate Professor John Svigos, Convenor, from RANZCOG.

It was a successful and informative meeting with the majority of respondents requesting another similar joint meeting in the future.

The sponsors of the meeting were Calvary North Adelaide Hospital, Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals, Bayer HealthCare, Bayer Schering Pharma, AstraZeneca and Schering-Plough. Their support was acknowledged accordingly.

The 2009 South Australia Medical Careers Expo was held at the Adelaide Event and Exhibition Centre on Sunday 24 May 2009. Dr Rosalie Grivell presented on behalf of RANZCOG, showcasing the College's training pathways and providing information regarding entry and program requirements. Dr Anthia Rallis assisted in managing the abundance of enquiries by interested delegates.

On 11 June 2009, the SA/NT Regional Committee organised an evening workshop at the Old Lion Hotel, North Adelaide. The meeting, themed *Ultrasound: Soft Markers and Hard Markers*, was coordinated by Dr Michelle Wellman and proved to be a well-attended and successful evening.

Guest speaker Dr Jay McGavigan gave a presentation on the latest guidelines for the management of ultrasound soft markers in our region. Dr McGavigan presented to an audience of 37 delegates.

It was a very successful evening which was both educational and informative, with many of the delegates suggesting a similar presentation in the future.

The sponsor of the evening was Ultrasound Specialists for Women, attended by company representative Rosemary Powell.

Dr Christine Kirby

Chair, South Australia/Northern Territory Regional Committee

Tania Back

Executive Officer, South Australia/Northern Territory Regional Committee