

# Training Accreditation

The Training Accreditation Committee (TAC) focused on the following areas in the past year.

## Continuation of the Re-accreditation of Integrated Training Program (ITP) Hospitals

This commenced in March 2007 and 60 of the College's 90 accredited hospitals have now undergone re-accreditation. Each of these hospitals has received a formal visit by a re-accreditation team comprising of an interstate/inter-regional Fellow, a senior College staff member and a Trainee representative. The hospital receives a detailed report and recommendations to assist in further enhancing its effectiveness as a training unit. In the case of hospitals where there are significant areas of concern, a follow-up visit and further progress reports may be required. The emphasis of the re-accreditation process is on the College working collaboratively with the hospital to address the recommendations made. All re-accreditations are based on the nine standards developed in consultation with the regional/New Zealand training accreditation committees and the health jurisdictions, and approved by Council.

## ITP Sites

Four additional sites have been accredited: Albany, Western Australia; Mornington Peninsula, Victoria; Wagga Wagga, New South Wales; and Northern Beaches/Mona Vale, New South Wales.

## Membership and Fellowship

Sixty Membership applications and 53 Fellowship applications were considered and recommended to Council.

## Training Opportunities Outside the Public Sector

The TAC has been working with the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) to explore expanded training opportunities outside the public sector (for example, private hospitals and private rooms). A total of 12 expanded setting training posts have been accredited by the College in the past year, 11 of which received DoHA funding for 2009/2010 under the Specialist Training Program. The TAC also developed accreditation guidelines for ITP and elective training posts in expanded settings. The emphasis in these guidelines is to be as flexible as possible in addressing training opportunities in a wide variety of settings, while not compromising College standards, particularly in relation to appropriate supervision and clear educational imperatives.

## Selection Process for ITP Trainees

The TAC continues to review the College's selection process for ITP trainees, including the implementation of an online application/CV form now used in all states/regions and substantial progress in the development of a uniform scoring process. This process will be finalised at a College forum scheduled for November 2009.

## Review of Elective Training

One of the key objectives of the TAC in the current Council term is a review of the Elective training program. This is being done as part of the wider curriculum review process and is focusing on

the following areas: the formal accreditation of Elective training posts; consideration of the introduction of modular-based training; and the establishment of well-structured senior training positions clearly differentiated from ITP posts. To help facilitate the latter, the TAC has developed a guideline for Year 5 and 6 training positions, delineating what the College regards as essential components for these posts.

## Prejudicial Relationships Policy

The TAC has substantially revised this policy, which defines what is appropriate and what is not in supervisor/mentor-trainee relationships. The policy applies to all RANZCOG Trainees.

## Training Supervisor Workshops

Excellent progress has been made with the three-year cycle of training supervisor workshops conducted in all states and regions, which was introduced in 2008. To date, 102 ITP/elective/subspecialty supervisors have participated in these eight-hour workshops, which are facilitated by senior RANZCOG training and assessment staff. The workshops now include a local Fellow (usually the chair of the relevant regional training accreditation committee) as co-facilitator to ensure that local issues and concerns are addressed. All supervisors will now be required to participate in one of these workshops within three years of their appointment to the role. Certificates of appreciation, signed by the RANZCOG President, the Chair of the TAC and the RANZCOG CEO, have been sent out to all supervisors, together with a personal letter of thanks from the TAC Chair, in recognition of the vital importance they play in the training program.

## Visits to Regional and New Zealand Training Accreditation Committee Meetings

As part of an initiative to promote closer communication between regional/New Zealand training accreditation committees and the College TAC, the TAC Chair and the Training Services Manager have attended one local Training Accreditation Committee meeting in each state/region in the course of the year. These meetings have focused on local training concerns and issues and on how the College can best support the regional training accreditation committees in their work.

## Survey of Part-time Training

The TAC has overseen the development of an extensive survey of RANZCOG Trainees' part-time training experiences to identify their needs and concerns. The online survey has now been completed and the results are currently being tabulated, with a view to presenting the findings at the November TAC meeting and at Council.

### **Dr Rupert Sherwood**

Chair, Training Accreditation Committee

### **Shaun McCarthy**

Manager, Training Services