

Continuing Professional Development

Since its inception, RANZCOG's Continuing Professional Development program has been at the forefront of specialist medical college programs. The Continuing Professional Development Committee (CPDC) continually reviews the program, striving to ensure that it meets the needs of the Fellowship as well as the changing demands and expectations of external bodies. The CPDC has concentrated on renewing and redefining some aspects of CPD, with particular focus on the area of Practice Review and Clinical Risk Management (PR&CRM).

The CPDC held a meeting after July Council 2008 to investigate revision and refinement of the program. One major outcome of this meeting was to agree that while the number of required CPD points should remain unchanged, the program should be based on hours of CPD in line with the requirements of the New Zealand Medical Council. It was also agreed to trial a curriculum-based program, aligning the current program and activities to the strands, components and key competencies of the RANZCOG Curriculum. Volunteers from the Fellowship have agreed to trial a 12-month online pilot of the program.

At this meeting, it was also proposed that each triennium requirement should include one activity that follows the Audit/Quality Cycle. It is felt that audit of practice should be an integral part of CPD and as such, the CPDC has been investigating tools to help facilitate audit for Fellows.

In the past financial year, 1640 Fellows participated in the College CPD program and a further 40 are participating in approved overseas programs. Of the 41 Fellows randomly selected for the verification check at the end of their CPD period, 38 successfully completed the process and three Fellows retired. During the year, 62 new Fellows entered the CPD program and 21 Fellows submitted a retirement declaration. 152 meetings were also accredited by RANZCOG.

Associate Members and Educational Affiliates Subcommittee

The Associate Members and Educational Affiliates Subcommittee (AMEAC) was formed on 8 March 2008 to consider applications from Australian and New Zealand registered medical practitioners, for Associate Membership and Educational Affiliate status with RANZCOG. The first meeting of the AMEAC was held on 1 August 2008 and during the 2008-09 financial year, four medical practitioners have been awarded Associate Membership of RANZCOG. For the same period, 13 medical practitioners have been granted Educational Affiliate status. Eight of these have elected to participate in the RANZCOG CPD program for Educational Affiliates.

New Fellows

The Committee has made a number of decisions with the Trainees Committee, designed to encourage more new Fellows to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting ceremony, collect their certificate in person and to increase the significance of the occasion. It has been agreed that all new Fellows will be offered free registration at the first ASM following granting of Fellowship; the Welcome

Reception will be renamed the New Fellows Welcome Reception; and the occasion would be improved by having all new Fellows gowned.

Expert Witness Register

The CPDC has agreed to take on management of the Expert Witness Register and oversee the training of Fellows on the Register. The CPDC is currently negotiating with a law firm experienced in medico-legal issues, to design and offer interactive and practical face-to-face workshops.

Annual Scientific Meeting

Despite the challenges and difficulties involved in holding a combined meeting, the joint ACOG/RANZCOG 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting was held in March 2009 in Auckland, New Zealand. Over 1000 delegates registered. It was a very successful meeting with an excellent scientific and social program.

Dr Louise Farrell

Chair, Continuing Professional Development Committee

Val Spark

Coordinator, Continuing Professional Development Committee



SEATED FIGURE II 1980s Stone Lithograph.
RANZCOG Research Foundation.