

2007 RANZCOG Annual Scientific Meeting

The 2007 RANZCOG ASM was held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre. The College was pleased to welcome members of the Hong Kong College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (HKCOG), who contributed to the scientific component of the program.

The meeting theme, 'Building Bridges', was selected for many reasons. These included: acknowledging Australia and New Zealand's geographical location and its close proximity to Asia; building better understanding between specialists and subspecialists; fostering closer links between Fellows and Trainees; and further encouraging College Diplomates to be involved with College educational activities.

The meeting, along with two days of pre-meeting workshops, was held from 1 to 5 October and attended by 678 delegates. The pre-meeting workshops, which included two dedicated Diplomates' days, featured a variety of obstetric and gynaecological topics covering:

- the Fetal Surveillance Education Program (FSEP);
- vacuum extraction;
- controversies surrounding the uterine cervix;
- termination of pregnancy;
- cerebral palsy with epidemiological, scientific and medico-legal points of view highlighted; and
- obstetric and gynaecological ultrasound.

Mr Ron Clark, Mayor of the Gold Coast, performed the official opening of the meeting. During this ceremony, new College Fellows and Subspecialists; recipients of Outstanding Achievement Awards in the Membership and Diploma oral examinations; and Associate Members from the Pacific, were presented with their awards by the President, Dr Christine Tippett. In addition, the Arthur Wilson Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof Ian Frazer, Australian of the Year, 2006.

Prof Fung Yee Chan, a member of the Scientific Committee, passed away during the organising period for this ASM. Prof Chan had been instrumental in securing a joint meeting with HKCOG and had done some of her training there. Prof PC Ho, Fellow of the HKCOG, delivered a short oration in her memory. Sessions during the ASM that Prof Chan had organised were dedicated to her memory.

The Organising Committee invited five overseas speakers to participate in the meeting. They were:

- Prof Sabaratnam Arulkumaran, United Kingdom
- Prof Javier Magrina, United States
- Prof Jan Deprest, Belgium
- Prof Dennis Lo, Hong Kong
- Dr Patrick Walker, United Kingdom

The Scientific Committee was pleased with the number of free communications submitted and also by the quality of the Early Career Researcher presentations. The recipients of these were:

- Early Career Researcher, **Dr Stephen Tong**, for his presentation entitled, *Miscarriage risk after a normal booking in visit at 6 to 11 weeks gestation: a prospective study*. The prize was \$1000, generously donated by Wiley-Blackwell.

- Best Free Communication, **Dr Christopher White**, for his presentation entitled, *Universal umbilical cord sampling is associated with improved perinatal outcome*.
- Best Poster, **Prof Ian Pettigrew**, for his poster on *Laparoscopy in gynaecology and surgery: Practice review using audit of errors for improving safety in rural Australia*.

Three major plenary sessions were held. The topics covered during these were:

- Ensuring safety and quality in gynaecological surgery by having adequate credentialing standards and adequate auditing of new surgical procedures;
- Treatment of cervical dysplasia (CIN) in young women; and
- 'The O and G is dead, long live the O and the G'. Looking into the future, speculating where and how our specialty could evolve in the next ten years.

The support of College industry partners was exceptional. It would not be possible to hold a meeting of this calibre without sponsorship. Their involvement is gratefully acknowledged.

Overall, the meeting was very successful, with a lot of positive feedback about the scientific program, the venue and the social program. Thanks is extended to the Scientific Committee and Prof Caroline de Costa, Scientific Committee Chair, for their enthusiasm and dedication to this meeting.

Dr Ted Weaver

Chairman, Organising Committee

Lee-Anne Harris

Executive Officer, Queensland Regional Office

2008 New Zealand ASM

The 2008 New Zealand ASM was held in Hamilton, New Zealand, from 9 to 12 April. The ASM was preceded by Registrar's Day, as well as introductory and advanced laparoscopic suturing workshops. A total of 28 Trainees attended Registrar's Day, covering prominent topics in obstetrics and gynaecology; MRANZCOG written examination short answer question (SAQ) techniques and preparation for the oral examination; an overview of what to expect as a junior consultant; and a nine-station practice oral examination.

The Hon Steve Chadwick, Associate Minister of Health for New Zealand, opened the ASM, presenting an overview on current issues facing New Zealand O and Gs, including workforce shortages, HPV vaccine and Anti-D.

Prof Ian Hammond presented delegates with an idea of what O and G training would be like in 2020, followed by Assoc Prof Alan Lam's presentation on *The Role of Labs and Simulation in Improving Surgical Training*. Prof Ian Hammond then presented an Anatomy of Complications session. An in-depth discussion on endometriosis was led by Assoc Prof Alan Lam, Assoc Prof Neil Johnson, Dr Lakshmi Ravikanti, Dr Richard Fisher, Dr Mark Insull and Ms Deborah Bush.

The following day, Dr Glenn Gardener presented on *TTTS- Management Protocols and the Role of Laser Surgery*. Dr Graham Mills presented on *HIV Screening in Pregnancy – The Waikato Experience*. Dr Sara Weeks and Dr Dereck Souter presented on *Post-traumatic Birth Syndrome* and Dr David Schroeder presented on *The Role of Bariatric Surgery in O and G-Related Conditions*.

At the Annual General Meeting, three new Fellows were presented with Fellowships: Dr Narena Dudley, Dr Bruno Radesic and Dr Lakshmi Ravikanti.

Dr Bruce Farnsworth presented on *Choosing Vaginal Mesh – Why, When and Which?* Dr Paul Macpherson presented on *Looking to the Past to Predict the Future – Ten Years of TVT* and Dr Vasu Iyengar presented on her experience of *Laparoscopic Sacrocolpopexy Versus Pelvic Floor Repairs*. The final session included three Harvey Carey Prize presentations from Dr Rebecca Wright, Dr Phillip McChesney and Dr Jane Fielder, along with two (Free-Fellow) presentations by Dr Rajeev Singh.

On Saturday, Mark Beaves presented a Fetal Surveillance Education workshop that gave an overview of CTG skills and Prof Ian Hammond gave a final presentation on *Gynaecological Oncology for Generalists*. RANZCOG President, Dr Christine Tippet, and CEO, Dr Peter White, briefed delegates on what challenges the College faces in coming years. Dr Gillian Gibson announced the Harvey Carey Prize winner for 2008, Dr Rebecca Wright, for her presentation on *Gestational Diabetes: A Long-term Follow-up Study of Women in the Waikato Region*. Assoc Prof Neil Johnson spoke on behalf of the combined 2009 RANZCOG ASM/AOFOG Congress Organising Committee and Dr VP Singh officially closed the ASM.

Steve Williams

Executive Officer, New Zealand Office

2008 Queensland/ New South Wales ASM

The 2008 Queensland/New South Wales Annual Scientific Meeting was held in Coolumb, Sunshine Coast, Queensland, from 6 to 8 June 2008. It was attended by 117 Fellows, Trainees, Retired Fellows and Diplomates.

With the meeting being held in a seaside location, the theme 'The Next Wave' was chosen to allow speakers to address the issues of training and future opportunities for the current cohort of Trainees, together with discussing the outlook for advances in technology. Meeting Chair, Dr Marc Miller, constructed a very interesting and wide-ranging program that was enjoyed by those who attended.

Three workshops were held the day before the meeting: Training Supervisors, Fetal Surveillance Education Program and Avant Mutual Risk Management. These were well attended and delegates valued the opportunity to combine these workshop topics with the meeting.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the annual Registrar Presentations, at which Registrars competed for the Crown Street Medal and the Christopher Kohlenberg Medal. RANZCOG Fellows of less than five years are also eligible to compete for the Christopher Kohlenberg Medal. Fellows who attend the annual meeting consistently comment on the high standard of these presentations and the 2008 session was no exception.

The Crown Street Medal was awarded to Dr Gillian Paulsen for her presentation entitled, *Management of Obstetric Anal Sphincter Injury and Correlation with Postpartum Endoanal Ultrasound*. Dr Jane Hirst received the Christopher Kohlenberg Medal for her presentation on *Preterm Premature Rupture of Membranes in Vietnam*. Medals were presented to the awardees by College President, Dr Christine Tippet, at the meeting dinner.

After the dinner, College President-Elect, Dr Ted Weaver, entertained those present with his reflections on 25 years of obstetric and gynaecology practice on the Sunshine Coast.

Support from our industry partners was once again extremely good. In total, 16 companies were represented.

Lee-Anne Harris

Executive Officer, Queensland Regional Office