

From the President

The main focus of this issue is on the health and well-being of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Maori and Pacific Island women. Indigenous women's health has been a particularly difficult area from the College's point of view, and although we have decided to make it a major area of focus at our strategic planning meetings, improvement in health outcomes remains a challenge for us as women's health practitioners.

Although there have been some significant changes in rural Aboriginal services in Australia and urban Maori services in New Zealand, there is still a major concern about metropolitan health care for Aboriginal women and rural health care for Maori women. I would be grateful if you could study the articles in this volume and if you do have any good ideas for progressing this issue please let us know.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MARCH MEETING OF COUNCIL

There were a number of major issues discussed at the March meeting of Council:

- We spent considerable time discussing with Asia Oceania Committee members and other representatives from the Pacific the problems they have delivering health care. These links are critically important and there are great opportunities for us to work with our Pacific neighbours to progress the educational aspects in women's health.
- There was significant progress made with the implementation of the new Curriculum and the flow-on effects this will have for examinations. A number of new recommendations were approved at the Council meeting in these areas.
- There was some progress made in developing a Diplomate's Forum and possibly a committee to present to Council the issues for the large number of Diplomates throughout

Australia and New Zealand. This was also one of the initiatives in the 2002-2004 Strategic Plan that we wished to develop during the term of this Council.

- A number of the new Government initiatives were discussed particularly in relation to the recruitment of overseas trained doctors, the training of registrars outside teaching hospitals and the re-entry of specialists back into the workforce.
- The Obstetric Claims Review undertaken by UNITED, which was examining the outcomes of claims notified over a ten year period, was also endorsed for release. This is ground-breaking work and the first time a private medical defence organisation has undertaken such a study.
- The planned feedback questionnaire for the Fellowship was further progressed and funding was approved to undertake this important study.

During the week of the Council meeting in March, there was an important dinner hosted by the College Executive to recognise the contribution of Dr Geoffrey Bishop to College activities over the last 25 years. We were pleased to have along some senior medical colleagues of Dr Bishop and also his long-time friend Ed Miller who has supported College activities so effectively and thoughtfully over many years.

There were two successful clinical meetings in March. The first was the Provincial Fellows' meeting in Mildura where there was a very thought-provok-

ing series of presentations plus a highly convivial social program. The second was the New Zealand ASM in Palmerston North which was very well attended by a wide range of Fellows and Trainees with an excellent scientific program and a very well-planned and successful social program. The organisers of both meetings are to be congratulated for their hard work and the successful outcomes of their endeavours.

PRESIDENT-ELECT FOR 2004-2006

The last but very important task of the March Council meeting was to elect the President for the next College Council in 2004 to 2006. I am absolutely delighted to announce that Dr Kenneth Clark was elected to this position and as the first New Zealander to be President of the amalgamated College, we welcome him to this role and wish him all the best for the term as President. I am personally delighted that Ken has agreed to take this on as I have developed enormous respect for his knowledge and thoughtfulness in relation to College matters. I hope that the College Fellowship and College staff will give Ken the same cooperation and active participation as I have received during my time as President.

Andrew Child
President