

# Provincial Fellows Committee

There have been many important developments for Provincial Fellows in 2007. The most significant is the change in definition for a Provincial Fellow, passed at the Council meeting in July 2007. The new definition will streamline administrative procedures and be more inclusive of Fellows in rural and provincial areas who wish to engage with peers with similar practice profiles.

Eligibility is now defined by government initiated classifications (RRMA codes), defining Australian regions from metropolitan through to remote. Provincial Fellows are defined as those with RRMA codes three to seven. Fellows whose practices are outside these areas may still apply to participate in Provincial Fellows activities and projects. Fellows in Tasmania and the ACT vote for their State representatives but are encouraged to join Provincial Fellows.

The Provincial Fellows Annual Scientific Meeting was held in Ballarat, Victoria from 27 to 29 April, 2007. Over 75 Fellows, Trainees, Diplomates and medical students attended the meeting, with a mixture of clinical sessions and interactive workshops including laparoscopic suturing and office ultrasound. The program was comprehensive and stimulating. The meeting received record sponsorship for a Provincial Fellows Annual Scientific Meeting from within and outside the medical industry, with over 20 exhibitors. The immense support shown for rural and regional practitioners is very encouraging. Delegates continue to enjoy networking with practitioners who share similar isolated working and social environments.

The committee acknowledges the importance of integrated cooperation with GP colleagues in providing comprehensive care in women's health. Future Annual Scientific Meetings will have a Diplomates' Day integrated into the program to further develop this educational and collegial relationship.

The Provincial Fellows Committee continues to support College CPD activities and is pleased that the Clinical Teleconference Series has again been enthusiastically supported. SSRS funding has allowed the development, implementation and follow up of the tri-College Laparoscopy audit, the Perinatal Mortality and Morbidity audits and Practice Visits. Provincial Fellows acknowledge the much needed support of the Commonwealth in further continuing the Specialist Obstetricians Locum Scheme (SOLS) for which there has been an overwhelming response.

Provincial Fellows are indebted to College House staff for their tireless work and continued support of our aims and projects. Their involvement in our activities has been crucial to the very successful outcomes for this current year.

## **Dr Philip Hall**

Chair, Provincial Fellows Committee

## **Kate Lawrey**

Coordinator, Provincial Fellows Committee

# Asia Pacific Committee

Over the year, the Asia Pacific Committee (APC) has continued to monitor College involvement and support for women's health services in the Asia and Pacific region. However, it was considered timely that a strategic review be held to review activities and provide more definition for activities in the future.

In December 2006, a Strategic Planning Day of the APC was held at College House. Current involvement and support for the Asian region through the Asia and Oceania Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (AFOG), and the Pacific region, through the Pacific Society for Reproductive Health (PSRH), was agreed to be appropriate, in addition to ongoing College-based initiatives through the Brian Spurrett Foundation, the CPD program for Pacific O and G specialists, and support for professional development and small projects through the Asia Pacific Women's Health Fund.

A key project undertaken during the year was a joint initiative between RANZCOG, PSRH and the World Health Organisation (PNG office) to develop a RANZCOG/PSRH Pacific Emergency Obstetrics Course (PEmOC). This course was successfully piloted in Port Moresby in May 2006, and will be promoted to Pacific islands as a practical in-country course for those working at the coalface in obstetrics. Future courses will be self-funding.

In addition to current activities, the committee discussed the possibility of increasing its involvement in international project work in collaboration with AusAID and this was supported by the College President and Council. Discussions ensued with a number of interested health professionals in Australia and AusAID was approached for further collaboration. Dialogue is progressing between AusAID, RANZCOG and interested partners with a view to a long-term multidisciplinary program to provide sustainable support for the Pacific teaching institutions, namely the University of Papua New Guinea and the Fiji School of Medicine. This initiative is continuing.

## **Prof Glen Mola**

Chair, Asia Pacific Committee

## **Carmel Walker**

Coordinator, Asia Pacific Committee



*Figurine, obstetrician and newborn baby. Felt & cloth. Gift of Dr Frank Forster, 1995.*