

# New Zealand Committee

The New Zealand Regional Committee has had an exciting year with two successful ASMs being run over the 12-month period, one in the beautiful Bay of Islands at Paihia, and the other in the nation's capital, Wellington. Both ASMs attracted a large number of registrars and Fellows and had a very entertaining social program.

In April 2007, the New Zealand office moved from its Wellington harbour views to the new premises located on level 3 of Navigate House, 69 Boulcott Street, Wellington – one floor above the New Zealand Council of Midwives. The new offices afford the New Zealand staff a greater ability to provide effective services for New Zealand Fellows and Trainees, with the premises including a meeting space able to be used for College examinations and small meetings.

The Committee now supports the Practice Visit Subcommittee more closely, with the New Zealand office providing the Subcommittee with administrative and operational support for visits undertaken in New Zealand. Part of this work includes fine-tuning the support process and the work of coordinating the visits along with the Convenor of the Subcommittee (Mark Insull).

The Committee has begun a College initiative working towards Maori Women's Health, holding an initial meeting in 2006, to which many stakeholder organisations were invited. Progress with this initiative is building and a number of the main areas that RANZCOG will need to work on have been identified by the Subcommittee, headed by Dr Narena Dudley (Middlemore Hospital).

The New Zealand Training Accreditation Committee has been striving to increase the number of Trainees that it is able to select and bring into the workforce by establishing new options for rural rotations (along with the training opportunities that this allows). New hospitals which should come online in 2008 include Rotorua, Greymouth and hopefully Nelson. The South Island hospitals will be particularly important, from a respect that Southern Integrated Training Program trainees will have rural rotations available in the same island, rather than the current need to complete rural rotations at North Island hospitals.

## **Dr Alec Ekeroma**

Chair, New Zealand Committee

## **Steve Williams**

Executive Officer, New Zealand Committee

# New South Wales Regional Committee

The NSW Regional Committee comprises of 17 Fellows and two Trainee representatives serving over 1100 College Fellows, Members, Diplomates and Trainees. NSW Diplomates now receive the NSW Newsletter and have a representative on the NSW Regional Committee.

Medical indemnity is less of a concern than in previous years, however, the medical workforce in rural areas with regard to obstetricians and gynaecologists is of considerable concern. Several areas in NSW are only able to maintain services with the help of overseas graduates obtained through the 'Area of Need' provisions. The NSW Regional Committee has established a list of Fellows who are available for providing gynaecological and/or obstetric services for female asylum seekers.

Educational activities are a core function of the Committee. The NSW Education Subcommittee presented the '12th Advanced Course' for GPs in July 2006. A shortened version of the DRANZCOG Revision Course was held in conjunction with this course and a full four-day revision course was held in December 2006.

The first MRANZCOG OSCE Pre-examination Course was held in September 2006. The course was successful with 32 Trainees from Australia and New Zealand attending. A five-day MRANZCOG Pre-examination Course was held in November 2006 attracting 53 delegates.

The NSW Committee hosted a dinner in October 2006 for Fellows, Members, Trainees and retired Fellows. Members of the Committee attended the AMA (NSW) Careers Exhibition in April 2007.

In June 2007, the NSW/QLD Annual Scientific Meeting was held at the Four Points Hotel, Darling Harbour. The theme was 'Emergencies and Complications in Obstetrics and Gynaecology' and 122 delegates attended over the two days.

The NSW Training and Accreditation Subcommittee is progressing with new procedures for appointment of year one registrars. 19 year one registrars were appointed for 2007 from 46 applicants.

The Institute of Medical Education and Training (IMET) is interested in establishing a collaborative working relationship with the NSW Regional Committee, with the aim of guaranteeing a sustainable O and G service for NSW women.

The NSW regional office is staffed by an Executive Officer and an Administrative Assistant. The Committee made the decision to change the funding model from the historic per capita payment per Fellow to one where staff salaries are paid centrally from Melbourne. This is a similar model to most of the other regional committees. This new arrangement will have no adverse effect on access to, or management of, NSW investments.

## **A/Prof Christopher Benness**

Chair, New South Wales Regional Committee

## **Lee Dawson**

Executive Officer, New South Wales Regional Committee

# Victorian Regional Committee

The Victorian Regional Committee has had another busy and successful year. It continues to operate out of 8 La Trobe Street and the lease has been renewed for another four years.

Two Diploma education courses were held this year in July and January and had over 60 registrants. These courses are held over three days and involve over 20 presenters with a combination of didactic lectures, interactive learning and a practice oral exam. Training sessions were also part of the program with Mirena and Implanon, as well as hands-on neonatal resuscitation sessions by the Neonatal Emergency Transport Service (NETS). These meetings are approved for Category 1 RACGP Women's Health CPD points. The annual Membership revision course was held over five days in April, with 48 registrants. Thank you to the Education Subcommittee and the time provided by all of the speakers.

Education evenings have been well attended and are held three to four times a year. Topics this year included an update on cervical cytology and HPV vaccine; genetic counselling and cystic fibrosis screening; and an interesting presentation from Dr Jack Warhaft, the Medical Director of the Victorian Doctors Health Program, which provides a confidential and compassionate service for doctors and medical students with health concerns.

At the April education evening we were delighted to present the newly established Keith Fitzmaurice Bursary to Dr Penelope Sheehan. This Bursary has been sponsored by Victorian Medical Insurance Agency (VMIA) to honour the work of Keith Fitzmaurice. The Bursary was presented with representatives from VMIA and the Keith Fitzmaurice family. The recipient of the award was chosen by a subcommittee established by the Victorian Regional Committee and the project is entitled, 'The incidence and risk factors for development of post traumatic stress disorders and negative birth experience at the Royal Women's Hospital'.

Interest in specialist training in Victoria remains strong with College representatives at the Victorian Medical Postgraduate Foundation (VMPPF) Medical Careers Expo in June providing information to several hundred interested graduates. The 20 Victorian Integrated Training Program positions commencing in 2008 were filled with excellent applicants from a short list of 30 interviews from over 70 applicants. A welcome evening was held in April for all new Trainees and Dr Stephen Tong gave a presentation on research projects which was well received.

The annual dinner was held in November 2006 and was well attended. As in the last few years, the dinner provided a venue for Trainee research projects to be presented, with the best presentation being awarded the Organon Prize.

## **Dr Geoff Edwards**

Chair, Victorian Regional Committee

## **Fran Watson**

Executive Officer, Victorian Regional Committee

# Queensland Regional Committee

The Queensland Regional Committee has continued to provide many services and support to Fellows, Trainees and Diplomates throughout the 2006 and 2007 year. This included maintaining an ongoing educational program, participation in government working groups and general advocacy for the specialty of obstetrics and gynaecology in Queensland.

Educational opportunities offered this year included two Computer Skills Workshops for Fellows. These provided an introduction to common Microsoft programs such as Word, PowerPoint and Outlook. The workshops, held over two Saturdays, were highly regarded by those who attended and we thank the Federal College for this initiative.

As has been the case in the last few years, an essential obstetric skills course targeted primarily at Trainees entering the Integrated Training Program was held in October 2006. This full day course is always in demand, and provides Trainees with a basic introduction to common obstetric skills. At the other end of the training spectrum, the Queensland Regional Committee conducted, for the first time, a trial Membership OSCE Course. This course was limited to ten participants, and simulated a 'real' OSCE situation. Feedback from those who attended indicated that it was an extremely valuable exercise. We intend to repeat the Membership OSCE Course again in 2007 and 2008.

The Committee continues to meet quarterly, whilst considering other matters between meetings. Our good relationship with Queensland Health has been maintained, and there has been an increasing number of requests for involvement with the government this year, including representation on the proposed Midwifery Drug Therapy Protocol (DTP) working group. Recommendations from this DTP were circulated amongst the Queensland Fellowship for comment and response to the working group. The Committee also arranged a meeting in January 2007 for Fellows to meet with Dr Cherrell Hirst, (Chair, Maternity Services Steering Committee), to hear directly from Dr Hirst of the work of the committee and future plans. At the present time, the tenure of the Maternity Services Steering Committee has expired and we await an announcement in the next financial year regarding the proposed future strategy.

The Integrated Training Program continues to attract a high number of quality applicants. This year, in excess of 50 applications were received and 18 first year positions were appointed for commencement in 2008.

The 2007 Annual Scientific Meeting, held at the Gold Coast in October, was a great success and was run in conjunction with the Hong Kong College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologist.

I express my thanks to all involved in the Queensland Regional Committee throughout the last 12 months, both committee members and other Fellows who have been involved in the variety of work undertaken.

## **Dr Benjamin Bopp**

Chair, Queensland Regional Committee

## **Lee-Anne Harris**

Executive Officer, Queensland Regional Committee

# South Australia/ Northern Territory Regional Committee

The second SA/NT Regional Annual Scientific Meeting was held in the Adelaide Hills, from 18 to 20 May 2007 and was highly successful.

For the first time, the registrars presentations were held in conjunction with the Regional ASM, which was once again supported by Schering Bayer Pharma. There were five presentations by registrars before an audience of over 100 delegates. The highly prestigious John O'Loughlin Medal was awarded to Dr David O'Rourke for his presentation entitled, 'The Early Pregnancy Assessment Project'.

The SA/NT DRANZCOG Pre-Exam Course and GP Update was held from 29 June to 1 July 2007. It was a very successful course with 15 candidates registered; approximately half the registrants were from rural areas and several were from interstate.

The second South Australia Medical Careers Expo was held on Sunday, 20 May in the National Wine Centre and was again a great success, with approximately 500 delegates visiting the exhibition area and attending the seminar presentations. Staff on the RANZCOG booth were kept busy speaking to prospective trainees in O and G.

This year the SA/NT Regional Annual Dinner was held at Assaggio Ristorante in Hyde Park on 1 September, 2006. Sixty people attended and enjoyed the superb food and excellent service.

During the year, planning for the RANZCOG 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting was deferred until March 2010 in line with the deferral of the 2008 Annual Scientific Meeting in Adelaide, in order to work in collaboration with other scheduled meetings changes.

In 2006, four year one Trainees were appointed to the SA/NT Integrated Training Program for 2007, following a record number of applicants, including many from interstate and New Zealand. Applications were of an extremely high standard.

In a new initiative, the Training Accreditation Chair, Dr Chris Hughes, and Executive Officer, Judith Hamilton, met with each of the ITP trainees individually for an informal discussion about any issues or concerns. Common patterns of concern were noted and subsequently addressed, and these sessions will be held once again in 2007 and 2008.

## **Dr Christine Kirby**

Chair, South Australia/Northern Territory Regional Committee

## **Judith Hamilton**

Executive Officer, South Australia/Northern Territory Regional Committee

# Western Australia Regional Committee

In July 2006, the WA Regional Committee hosted their Annual Dinner at the Univeristy Club of Western Australia. The WA Executive group comprises of Chair, Dr Louise Farrell (previously Dr Dale Evans), supported by Dr Krish Karthigasu (Secretary) and Dr Panos Maouris (Treasurer). The Committee comprises Dr Michael Gannon, Dr Tamara Walters and Dr Yee Leung with Provincial Member, Dr Tom Cottee, and ex-officio WA College Councillors, Professor Ian Hammond and Dr Louise Farrell, who keep the WA contingency informed after each College Council meeting.

The WA Regional Committee has held Office Bearers and Committee Meetings, as has the WA Training Accreditation Committee, chaired by Dr Krish Karthigasu who is also the Integrated Training Program Coordinator. We received a strong field of candidates for the Integrated Training Program for 2008, who went through a rigorous selection process. We look forward to welcoming them.

College examinations were held in both August 2006 and February 2007. The WA Regional Committee always wishes the candidates well and extends its congratulations to all the successful candidates.

The RANZCOG Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) was held in Perth, Western Australia in October 2006 at the Burswood International Resort. This Spring meeting brought together local, national and international speakers and culminated in a very successful ASM for the College.

The Committee congratulated Dr Christine Tippet (Victoria) in her new role as College President. We were pleased to welcome her to Western Australia in July, where she attended the WA Annual Dinner and Dance.

Best wishes to all our colleagues throughout Australia and New Zealand, and to all in Western Australia (Fellows, Retirees, Trainees, Diplomates) whom we will continue to support and keep informed.

## **Dr Louise Farrell**

Chairman, Western Australia Regional Committee

## **Janet Davidson**

Executive Officer, Western Australia Regional Committee