

# DIPLOMATES BULLETIN

## Winter/Spring 2008 Edition

Welcome to the Winter/Spring edition of the Diplomates Bulletin.

Over several years we have seen a steady decline in the numbers of GP's practicing both shared and Intrapartum care. I am pleased to advise that for the first time in over ten years, we have seen positive growth in the number of people both applying for and retaining their diploma. Currently we have 160 DRANZCOG trainees and 35 DRANZCOG Advanced trainees. To date we have 2404 Diplomates (DipRACOG—515, DRANZCOG—1778 and DRANZCOG Advanced—111). This is certainly something to be proud of.

### Planning for Diplomates Days

The GPOA Committee has requested that the RANZCOG NSW Regional Committee include a program focused around Shared care GP's in conjunction with their 2009 NSW/QLD Regional Meeting. We are also working with the organising committee for the **AOCOG 2009 / RANZCOG 2009 ASM** on a two day program catering for both shared care and procedural GP's to be held in Auckland, New Zealand in conjunction with this meeting. **See page 3 for further details.**

### Representation on RANZCOG Council

RANZCOG has increased the GPOA Committee representation on RANZCOG Council from one to two members and these members now represent the GPOA Committee at the Continuing Professional Development Committee (CPDC) and the Women's Health Committee (WHC) meetings.

### Specialist Obstetric Locum Scheme (SOLS)

Diplomates may be aware that at the last federal budget, Nicola Roxon has allowed the Specialist Obstetricians Locum Scheme to be extended to rural GP's. See **page 2** for Expressions of Interest. I would encourage those who are or have been procedural GP's to consider applying to be part of this program. It is proposed at this stage that upskilling education will be provided as a part of this scheme.

If you have any further ideas or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me, other members of the Committee or College staff.

**Jeff Taylor**  
*Chairman, GPOA Committee*

## Women's Health Requirements 2008 - 2010 Triennium

Further discussions are taking place between the RACGP and ACRRM regarding the Women's Health requirements for the 2008 - 2010 triennium. Both colleges wish all the Joint Consultative Committees to be consistent across the board with regard to their points requirements but have not yet reached a resolution.

Once the requirements have been finalised they will be added to the GP Diploma section of the RANZCOG website <http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/gpdiploma/index.shtml>, and a flyer will be mailed out to all diploma holders detailing the Women's Health requirement for the 2008-2010 triennium.

## Women's Health Activities

A list of Women's Health activities can be found on the following websites:

RACGP website <http://www.racgp.org.au> and follow the links  
ACRRM website <http://www.acrrm.org.au/> and follow the links  
RANZCOG website <http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/meetingsconferences/index.shtml>

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## Specialist Obstetrician Locum Scheme (SOLS)

The future of SOLS was assured in May this year when the Federal Treasurer announced the Budget; SOLS was allocated \$5.9 million over three years, thus providing support for rural obstetricians in the near future. Included in the ongoing funding is the development of a locum scheme for GP Obstetricians and GP Anaesthetists.

The College has recently signed a contract with the Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) to fund SOLS until 30 June 2009. This contract included the development and implementation of a locum scheme for GP Obstetricians.

Targets for 2008-2009 are:

- 80 specialist obstetrician locum placements, and
- 10 GP Obstetrician placements.

DoHA has informed SOLS that the funding and locum targets will be negotiated annually.

The SOLS Secretariat has commenced work on the development and implementation of the GP Obstetrician scheme in conjunction with the existing SOLS program. The Australian Society of Anaesthetists has been awarded a contract to prepare a scoping study for a SOLS-like program for GP Anaesthetists.

In the second year of operation SOLS has continued to build on the early success.

**Valerie Jenkins**  
*Chair SOLS Management Group*

## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The SOLS Secretariat needs your help to achieve the SOLS targets for 2008-9

Are you interested taking a break from practice to enjoy a holiday with your family or attend a CPD activity?

['click here'](#)

Are you interested in supporting your rural colleagues and becoming a SOLS locum?

['click here'](#)

For further information please contact either Dot Willmott or Kate Lawrey:

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Link to SOLS page on RANZCOG website: <http://www.rancog.edu.au/sols/index.shtml>

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## Diplomates Days - AOCOG 2009 / RANZCOG 2009 ASM

**AOCOG 2009 / RANZCOG 2009 ASM**

**Auckland New Zealand**

**Thursday 26 – Monday 30 March 2009**

The XX1st Asian and Oceanic Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (AOCOG 2009) is being held in conjunction with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) at the Sky City Convention Centre in Auckland, New Zealand, on 26-30 March 2009. Diplomates Days have been scheduled for Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 of March 2009

[For further information](#)

### Provisional Program

#### Day 1: Obstetrics - 25 March 2009

##### Preliminary topics:

- Management of medications in pregnancy
- Management of infections in pregnancy
- What's new in intrapartum care
- Management of obstetric emergencies/getting out of trouble
- Clinical cases presentation

Points will be applied for with RACGP and ACRRM.  
Program is eligible for rural procedural grants.

#### Day 2: Office Gynaecology - 26 March 2009

##### Preliminary topics:

- Management of Intermenstrual bleeding
- Menopause, Hormones and Breast cancer
- What's new in Incontinence – conservative versus operative
- Vulval Dermatology
- Screening and Management of STD's
- What's new in IVF?
- Updates of management and diagnosis of gynaecological cancers

To express your interest in attending this activity please click [here](#)

## Diplomates Days - RANZCOG Provincial Fellows ASM

**2009 RANZCOG Provincial Fellows Annual Scientific Meeting**

**Cable Beach, WA 29 - 31 May 2009**

The 2009 Provincial Fellows Annual Scientific Meeting will be held 29 - 31 May 2009 at the Cable Beach Club Resort. The Diplomates' Days have been scheduled for 28 and 29 of May 2009 (Provisional Program detailed below).

For further information: <http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/fellows/provincialmeeting.shtml>

### Provisional Program

#### Ultrasound Day - 28 May 2009

- Essential physics
- The ultrasound machine
- Pregnancy <12 weeks gestation
- Practical Session 1: Basic first trimester assessment using the transabdominal approach
- Biometry
- Third trimester pregnancy
- Practical Session 2: Basic third trimester assessment
- Risk management, communication, image recording and report writing

#### Obstetrics Day - 29 May 2009

- CTG's – What's your decision?
- What's new in obstetrics?
- Obstetric emergencies
- Case studies in obstetrics
- Infections in pregnancy

Points will be applied for with RACGP and ACRRM.  
Program is eligible for rural procedural grants.

# DIPLOMATES BULLETIN

## Items of Interest

### 2005 - 2007 TRIENNIUM BREAKDOWN

In the 2005 – 2007 Triennium there were 1721 DRANZCOG and DRANZCOG Advanced holders with Women's Reproductive Health requirements. 1649 have completed and were recertified; of the 72 remaining, 4 have indicated they do not wish to recertify, 35 have indicated that they have/will complete their requirements and 33 have not responded to the College. Once the administration of the 2005 - 2007 triennium has been finalised with ACRRM and RACGP those Diplomates who have not completed their women's health requirements will be removed from the Register of Diplomates effective from 1 January 2008.

During the 2005 - 2007 triennium 53 DRANZCOG holders resigned, 1 DRANZCOG Advanced holder resigned and 2 Diplomates died.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STATEWIDE OBSTETRIC SHARED CARE PROGRAM

Throughout Australia there have been various adhoc shared care programs which have created an enormous amount of confusion for GP's with obstetric patients who may have to follow different criteria for different hospitals within their health care region. Currently in South Australia the state wide shared care model has been rolled out encouraging all hospitals and GP's to follow a set criteria. This has eliminated a previous concerns regarding accreditation and allowed for the streamlining of appropriate investigations on a state-wide. For your interest we have provided a link to the program:

<http://www.anedgp.com.au/index.php/selectedContent/1193970261?PHPSESSID=6d8629f28a4fc0885bcfb27bd72529c3>

### ASSESSING FEMALE PATIENTS FOR SYMPTOMS OF GYNAECOLOGICAL CANCER

gplearning has released the new activity 'Managing gynaecological malignancies in general practice'. The activity considers the management of your patients with important gynaecological malignancies, from first diagnosis through to palliative care, as part of a multidisciplinary team approach. This new gplearning activity was commissioned by Cancer Australia's National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers. RACGP QA&CPD Category 2 points for this activity have been approved. Start now by visiting <http://www.gplearning.com.au> or access via MyGeneralPractice.

### College Statements - new or updated

The following College Statements have been revised:

- C-Obs 2: Home births
- C-Obs 3: Antenatal Screening Tests
- C-Obs 3: Antenatal Screening Tests C-Obs 7: Diagnosis of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus
- C-Obs 7: Diagnosis of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus
- C-Obs 15: The use of nifedipine in obstetrics
- C-Gyn 9: Management of the menopause

A New College Statement C-Gen 13: Alcohol in Pregnancy was endorsed by RANZCOG Council in July 2008.

College Statements can be accessed on the RANZCOG website:

<http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/publications/collegestatements.shtml>

Do you have any Items of Interest you would like to add to the Bulletin?

If so, we would love to hear from you

Please contact Val Spark on (t) 03 9412 2921 or

(e) [vspark@ranzcog.edu.au](mailto:vspark@ranzcog.edu.au)

# DIPLOMATES BULLETIN

## Feature Article

### Succession Planning - How do we do it?

Many GP Obstetricians providing intrapartum care in units without specialist backup are becoming concerned that those doing operative obstetrics are mainly over 50. Our younger colleagues have not had the opportunity of gaining the skills to do LUSCS and midcavity assisted deliveries or the confidence to deal with unexpected complications. We need to train confident and competent GP Obstetricians, and the advanced Diploma offers this training.

We can enthuse students [especially local or rural bonded] and interns/RMOs who are considering rural general Practice with the positives of providing obstetric care, being with families at this joyful and special time, helping women give birth in a safe, supportive environment, and not accentuating the negatives [remuneration is now better, insurance is subsidised and in group practice on call arrangements can be compatible with family demands].

There are now innovative programmes, such as the one in Gippsland, Victoria coordinated through the regional GP training provider. It consists of a hospital training of 6-12 months in a GP friendly unit with specialist [and active GP] obstetricians. This is followed by bridging posts where GP registrars move in a structured and supportive manner to independent community Obstetrics whilst completing their general GP training through the Advanced Rural Skills Post programme. They are mentored by experienced GP Obstetricians [with remuneration for supervisors]. The response has been very positive as it provides a way to integrate Obstetrics into GP training and is flexible to the registrar's needs.

Current "basic" Diploma holders can also upgrade to the advanced by completing 6 months accredited training now available at outer metropolitan and regional hospitals.

Caring for a woman through pregnancy, birth and beyond is one of the best aspects of General Practice, and we need to promote it enthusiastically so that rural women can have safe care in their own communities in the future.

**Elizabeth Boyd**  
*GPOA Committee Member*

## TRAINING FOR THE ADVANCED DIPLOMA OF O&G (DRANZCOG ADVANCED)

### ARE YOU A DRANZCOG HOLDER (i.e. Diploma of O&G)?

**Have you thought about upgrading your skills and doing the DRANZCOG Advanced training program?**

**The training program offers extended training for GP obstetricians who wish to:**

- manage complicated labours when they arise;
- perform LUSCS (Elective and Emergency) safely and confidently;
- provide support for GP obstetricians when specialist obstetricians are unavailable;
- perform laparotomies in emergency gynaecological situations;
- in special circumstances, be able to perform laparoscopies and/or colposcopies.

**To obtain the DRANZCOG Advanced you need to:**

- undertake 6 months of supervised in-hospital training;
- complete the required number of clinical procedures as detailed in the DRANZCOG Advanced logbook (which has to be checked and signed off by the relevant State Reference Committee Chair);
- satisfactorily complete five written case studies, which have been assessed by the relevant State Reference Committee Chair.

**Further details and application forms can be found on the RANZCOG website.**

<http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/trainees/diploma-trainees.shtml>

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## GPOA Committee Elections

In July 2008 notice was given to all financial Diplomates of RANZCOG regarding the conduct of the election of Committee members for the GP Obstetrics Advisory Committee for the term November 2008 – November 2010.

The GP Obstetrics Advisory Committee reports to Council via the Executive Committee. The membership of the Committee comprises:

Three procedural Diplomates (intrapartum care);

Two shared care Diplomates (not involved in intrapartum care);

The Chair of the Joint Consultative Committee in Obstetrics of the RANZCOG/RACGP/ACRRM;

The RANZCOG President (Ex-officio); and

The RANZCOG CEO (Ex-officio).

A notification of Category of Practice and a Call for Nominations forms were included with the election information and Diplomates were required to register their category of practice in order to submit a nomination and if necessary, vote in the election.

The number of nominations received exceeded the number of vacancies, and therefore an election for all positions was necessary and ballot papers were distributed. Voting closed on Friday 26 September 2008 and the following have been elected to the GPOA Committee:

### **Intrapartum Care (three positions)**

**Dr Jeff Taylor**

**Dr Elizabeth Boyd**

**Dr Tamsin Cockayne**

### **Shared Care (Two positions)**

**Dr Linda Mann**

**Dr Helen Roxburgh**

Election results will be presented for ratification to the RANZCOG Council on 22 November 2008. The first meeting with the new membership of the GPOA Committee will be held prior to the March 2009 RANZCOG Council Meeting ( 10-14 March 2009).

## O&G

### Articles of interest from the 2008 Autumn & Winter Editions

#### **Winter Edition 2008 - Ethics and Religion in O&G**

*An Anglican opinion on women's health - p9*

*A Buddhist perspective on women's health issues - p11*

*Catholicism - p14*

*Namaste India - Indian women and health - p16*

*Orthodox Judaism and women's health - p20*

*A further overview on Judaism and women's health - p23*

*Islam and bioethics - p24*

*Professional conscience - p27*

*Female genital mutilation - p29*

*Religion, ethics law & human rights in obstetric research - p33*

*What science can teach us about prayer? - p35*

*Research paints grim picture of women's options - 38*

*Introducing emergency obstetric care in Ethiopia - p40*

*Testing for miscarriage - p48*

*Q&A - p57*

*Paparazzi and the obstetrician - p62*

*College statements - March 2008 - p71*

#### **O&G Website Link**

<http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/publications/oandg.shtml>

#### **ANZJOG Website Link**

<http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/publications/anzjog.shtml>

#### **Spring Edition 2008 - The Heart of the Matter**

*Women's heart health - a case of neglect - p11*

*Matters of the heart are important to women - p13*

*Women and coronary artery disease - p15*

*Obstetric patients with rheumatic heart disease - p18*

*Management of heart disease in pregnancy - p21*

*Peripartum cardiomyopathy - p25*

*Journeys of a fetal red cell - p28*

*Fetal cardiac anomalies - p30*

*Heart transplant and pregnancy - p32*

*Antenatal diagnosis of fetal heart malformation - p36*

*HRT and the heart - p48*

*Does the heart go on? - 50*

*The Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights - p51*

*Q&A - p52*

*Adverse Events, error negligence and preventability - p54*

*College statements - July 2008 - p70*

*Frank Forster Library goes online - p80*

*Fetal Surveillance Education Program (FSEP) goes online - p82*

#### **Summer Edition 2008**

The **Summer Edition** of the O&G will focus on **'Obesity'** - expected release date is mid December 2008.

# DIPLOMATES BULLETIN

## Members of the GPOA Committee

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Are you listed on the REGISTER OF GP OBSTETRICIANS on the RANZCOG website?

<http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/find/gp.shtml>

As a holder of the RANZCOG Diploma of Obstetrics you can elect to have your details included in this Register. If you would like to be listed please contact Tracey Wheeler [twheeler@ranzcog.edu.au](mailto:twheeler@ranzcog.edu.au)

## RANZCOG Staff Contact

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Link to GP Diploma page on RANZCOG website: <http://www.ranzcog.edu.au/gpdiploma/>