

# THE MOLE

**AI IN DERMATOLOGY**  
Shaping regulation and adoption of  
artificial intelligence in Australia

**A FLEXIBLE APPROACH  
TO TRAINING**

Building capability, quality and  
sustainability in the Top End

## Combatting Australia's 'national cancer' National Skin Cancer Action Week



# From the editor

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Throughout a very busy year, College has continued working hard to support and improve dermatological practice across the region.

This edition of *The Mole* includes, for example, a summary of College's recent advocacy work, including College's white paper *Accessible and Quality Dermatology Care for all Australians*. This is an excellent read and demonstrates College's commitment to develop workable strategies for improving the reach and availability of dermatological services.

Concrete steps to expand services in Darwin, for example, are clear with the full implementation of The Flexible Approach to Training in Expanded Settings (FATES) project there.

Ensuring College governance remains consistent with best

practice, the NSW Training Program Reaccreditation has taken place, and the first phase of the rolling curriculum review has been undertaken.

We were sorry to see the passing of one of our Founders, Dr William (Bill) Regan in October, and we send our condolences to his friends, family and colleagues.

In happier news, we were pleased to see Prof Kelvin Kong nominated for the Australian of the Year Awards for his excellent work towards Closing the Gap in Indigenous ear health.

Thank you once again to all contributors; I am pleased to see so many contributions from our Fellows in this issue. As ever, it is a wonderful reflection of College's dynamic and diverse membership.

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that in the new year, I will be handing

over the Honorary Secretary role to Dr Anousha Yazdabadi after completing my four-year tenure.

I have had the privilege of serving as Honorary Secretary through some of the most tumultuous times in recent memory, and I have been struck by the commitment of the College executive to support Fellows and trainees in any way possible.

By working together for the betterment of Dermatology, College and our members have emerged stronger and better than ever. Thank you to all who supported and reached out to me during my tenure; I encourage you to continue to engage with Dr Yazdabadi as she helps the College executive continue improving the practice of dermatology into the future.

**A/Prof Anna Braue**  
**Honorary Secretary**

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## EDITORIAL TEAM

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Australasian College of Dermatologists acknowledges the Cammeraygal people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands upon which the College head office is located. The College also acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Custodians of the lands upon which Australian dermatology services are delivered, and Elders past, present and emerging; for they hold memories, traditions, cultures and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**Disclaimer:** The Australasian College of Dermatologists wishes to encourage debate and exchanges of ideas amongst Fellows through *The Mole*. Nevertheless, the opinions expressed in articles in *The Mole* are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the College. The inclusion of advertising in this publication does not constitute College endorsement of the products or services advertised.



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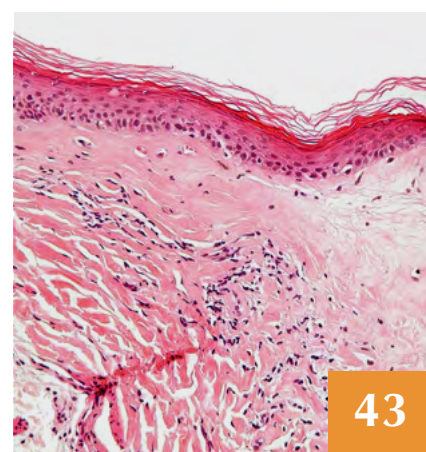
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# President's report

It has been another busy few months in College with workforce challenges across the country remaining a priority for our work and advocacy.

Dr Haley Bennett, CEO, and I attended a meeting this month with members of the National Medical Workforce Strategy team from the Department of Health and Aged care to discuss the implementation of the Strategy published at the beginning of this year.

Much of our work and priorities for future endeavours align directly with this Strategy, and particular reference was made to our positive work in building the generalist capability of the medical workforce, finding ways to increase training in rural and remote areas and growing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce. They acknowledge the specific issues faced by the dermatology workforce, such as workforce maldistribution, workforce supply challenges and lack of relevant hospital outpatient data to support our advocacy for more public outpatient clinics.

The State Faculties have also continued to work hard to secure funding for registrar training places and we are delighted to see successful outcomes in Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria with all these states confirming additional training positions for 2023.

Our Flexible Approach to Training in Expanded Setting (FATES) projects are progressing well, with wonderful support from Fellows for the Darwin fly-in-fly-out project. We look forward to following their progress as the Clinical Leads and College staff work to ensure their success.

College has welcomed the recommendations of the independent review into cosmetic surgery, and the determination of the Medical Board and AHPRA to support them. These include the formation of a cosmetic enforcement unit to set standards and to create an area of

practice endorsement in cosmetic surgery, improving management of notifications by AHPRA, addressing underreporting of safety issues by medical practitioners and strengthening advertising guidelines with improved enforcement. More explicit guidelines around expectations of patient care to include consent, and pre and post-operative care are also welcome. College has provided feedback on the draft proposals recently released.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank A/Prof Anna Braue for her exceptional service as Honorary Secretary over the last four years. This role was redefined just prior to Anna taking up office and she has made it her very own, combining the important committee work of the Professional Standards Committee and Public Affairs Committee with a flair for and dedication to member communications and support. She has been a loyal and energetic advocate for College and I am very grateful for her support and work. We wish her well as she takes up the role of Chair, Victoria Faculty next year. Congratulations to Dr Anousha Yazdabadi who has been appointed to succeed Anna.

We recently held an Extraordinary General meeting at which Fellows strongly supported the adoption of a new Constitution with over 92% of votes in favour. I am grateful to all Fellows who engaged in the consultation process and who voted. We look forward to the next phase in College's history with a simplified and fit for purpose Constitution that should serve our members well.

As Christmas approaches, I hope all Fellows, trainees and College staff can have quality time away from work with family and friends. I wish you all a joyful restful and recharging holiday season.

**Dr Clare Tait**  
**President**





# CEO's report

It was great to see such a huge turnout to the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on 29 November, where 92% of Fellows, an overwhelming majority, voted in favour of the new Constitution. The new Constitution is a more concise and fitting document, placing College in an excellent position for ongoing best practice corporate governance. The next step is to redraft the corresponding Regulations, a process which will commence early next year. Relevant updates to Fellows will come in due course. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the specific changes to the Constitution and what it means for you, particularly if you are approaching retirement, please do get in touch.

In addition to such high attendance at the EGM, we had a very strong response to the member survey with over a third of the Fellowship submitting their views on what works well and where we can improve. A huge thank you to everyone for taking the time to complete the survey, the purpose of which was to seek members' thoughts on the quality, perception and awareness of the range of College services, communication methods and engagement opportunities. It also gave Fellows the chance to articulate the main challenges they see are facing the profession and their preferred strategic direction for College.

Our ultimate goal is to ensure that our strategic initiatives will future-proof the profession, through the delivery of highest quality education, training and CPD, and

supported by a strong network of collaborators across government, health and the community. The member survey tested whether current strategies and activities resonate with Fellows and trainees and remain fit for purpose, and to identify other areas previously unconsidered or not prioritised which may drive a change in strategic focus.

This was the first member survey to be conducted since 2015. Results from the 2015 survey called for a louder voice and greater profiling of College and of dermatology. This underpinned the gradual increase since then in in-house resourcing across areas outside of training and education, namely stakeholder engagement, government advocacy, policy, media and member services.

Findings from the 2022 survey reinforced that advocacy, relevancy and visibility continues to be a key focus for Fellows. Interestingly, two-thirds of respondents rated 'meeting current and future demand for dermatology services' in the top three challenges for the profession – a finding that emphasises the importance and value of our advocacy efforts, targeted at all levels of government, to increase funding for dermatology training and services. Of note, only 16% of respondents stated that they participate in College's workforce advocacy activities. No doubt there are countless examples of Fellows working tirelessly at the hospital or health service level to secure or expand services and these individual efforts may go unnoticed or unsupported. We do believe that there is strength

in numbers and encourage you to speak to your Faculty and to College and tap into our in-house capabilities, so that our combined efforts are aligned and targeted.

That workforce shortages and maldistribution were indicated in the survey as one of the primary issues facing the profession reinforces that our key policy priority over the last several years has been on the mark, but it has not been sufficiently communicated – as is often the case with this type of behind-the-scenes work. An excellent summary of our recent workforce advocacy activities by Caroline Zoers, Director of Policy, Advocacy and Engagement, can be found in this edition of *The Mole*. I ask all Fellows and trainees to read this article and engage with College's work in this space.

I also encourage you to read College's White Paper [Accessible and quality dermatology care for all Australians](#) – an excellent document that addresses the full scope of challenges articulated in the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care's National Medical Workforce Strategy, with College's current activities positioned as our contribution towards the solution, as well as our broader recommendations to government and the Health Minister.

As we near the end of the year, I would like to wish all members a safe and happy New Year. We look forward to continuing to work on our strategic direction in the new year.

**Dr Haley Bennett**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Obituary – Dr William (Bill) Regan AM, PSM, FACD

Dr William (Bill) Regan passed away in October 2022.

A/PROF SAMUEL ZAGARELLA

Although Bill would not have wanted a big fuss made, it is fair to say that this marks the passing of one the greats of College, and one of the most important figures in our history.

Bill was born on 12 January 1927 at Waverley.

He was educated at Neutral Bay Public School, and then Sydney Church of England Grammar School (Shore). He was a boarder at Shore, and he said, “I suppose Shore imbued in me principles of which I am not ashamed. I think honour, integrity, doing one’s duty... and serving one’s country were sentiments I accepted. However by and large the most important thing I got out of it was owning up to your errors and doing the right thing.” Bill certainly lived by these principles all his life, as those who knew him could well attest.

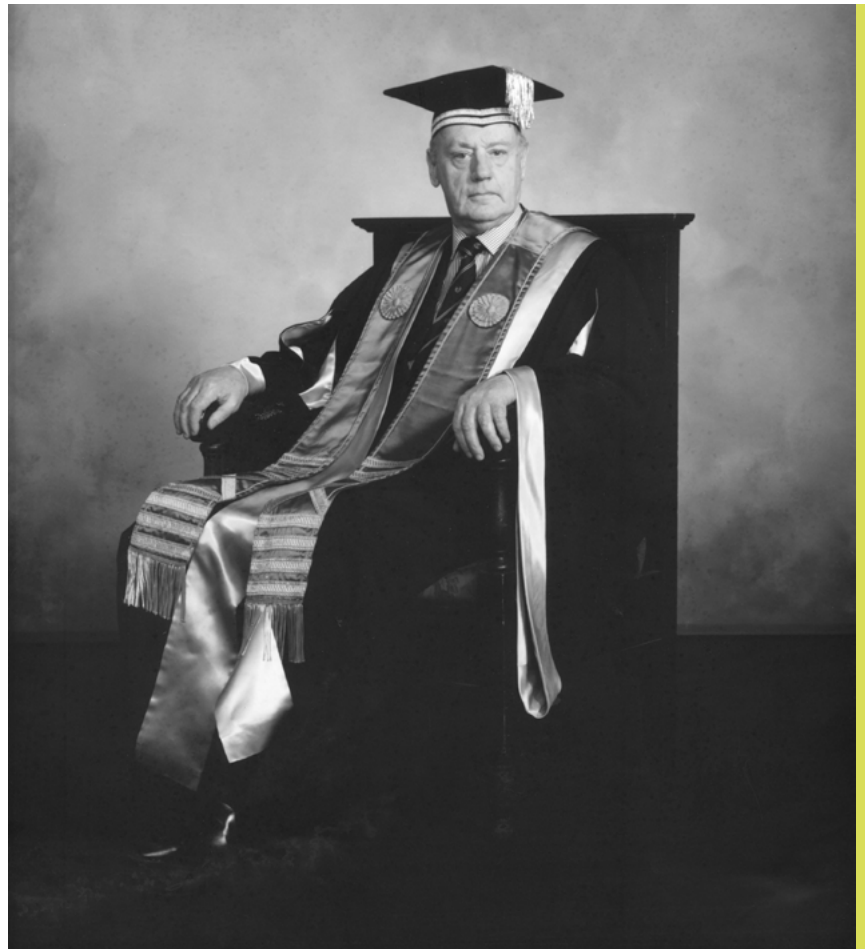
After school, Bill joined the army and joined an infantry battalion as a private, and was posted to New Guinea, eventually reaching the British Army rank of lance sergeant and was sent to Japan in the occupation force after the war for about eighteen months.

After the war, Bill was accepted to Sydney University to study Medicine. Early on in his degree he preferred playing rugby and ocean racing to studying. He was a crew member of the yacht which won a Sydney-Noumea race, participated in eight Sydney to Hobart races and organised the crew for Jim Molesworth’s “Boongown”, in one of those races.

Bill graduated in Medicine in 1953, and whilst working at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children he met Margaret Watkins, who was working as a theatre nurse. They married on 11 March 1959 in Neutral Bay.

Bill started his dermatology practice at Liverpool, and also joined the local Rotary Club where he made many lifelong and important friendships. He attended the Rotary meetings into his 90’s.

Bill’s upbringing and military service imbued him with a strong sense of values, honour, and the desire to serve his community and patients, and I certainly



witnessed this working closely with Bill, both as his registrar at Concord Hospital, and later as his colleague at the rooms. Bill would spend 25% of his time doing unpaid activities including visiting nursing homes until late in his career. Early in his career he estimated he spent 50% of his time doing unpaid work.

Bill also abhorred prejudice of any kind, and he would support anyone he saw as a victim of prejudice, which I also witnessed in his treatment of patients and trainees.

One senior colleague commented to me recently that Bill was his examiner in the Part 2 examination, back in the days when examiners had a reputation for being stern, serious and very tough. Bill noticed the colleague appeared very nervous during this ordeal and asked our colleague if he would like a cup of tea. This simple but kind



gesture was typical of Bill.

As a young intern at Concord Hospital, I discussed my idea to do dermatology with the administrator. He asked me if my father was a dermatologist, and when I said no, he told me to forget it.

So I timidly made my way one day to the dermatology clinic, down in the mosquito covered swamps of the hospital. The first person I introduced myself to was Dr Bill Regan, who sat me down and chatted to me in the most polite and courteous way you could imagine. I never looked back, and Bill never changed over the many years I knew him.

Bill was instrumental in the birth of the Australasian Dermatopathology Society. As Bill explained to me one day, the Society was conceived over a bottle of whisky in a room in the Chateau Commodore Hotel, Melbourne, in the early hours of the morning of Saturday, 2 September 1978, where Bill was attending the 8th Annual Skin Pathology Course, organised by Dr John Brenan, and at which A. Bernard Ackerman was the guest speaker. Bill, John Brenan and Geoff Hunter concocted an idea to establish a society to foster an interest in dermatopathology among both dermatologists and pathologists and to promote training in this discipline by organising scientific meetings. At 1:00am David Weedon received a phone call to his room to come and join the meeting, and the rest is history.

When the Skin and Cancer Foundation set up their dermatopathology laboratory, it was Bill who did all the preliminary work in carrying out a feasibility study, marketing the project, setting up the laboratory and getting the correct equipment and staff so that the project was ready to start on the return of Steve Kossard from the Mayo Clinic.

Bill was also instrumental in starting up surgery and Mohs surgery at the Skin and Cancer Foundation.

At the time most surgeons believed that as dermatologists were untrained in surgery, they should not be allowed to operate. Bill was one of the first to see the need for a new, independent institution like the Skin and Cancer Foundation where dermatologists could be trained in surgery and would not be inhibited as they were in general hospitals. When two of the Foundation's dermatological surgeons resigned, this could have sounded the death knell for the subspecialty, but Bill, without benefit of special training, applied his expertise and coped with the continuing demand until younger dermatologists had been trained. This took huge amounts of time, skill, effort and worry for which he received no financial reward or other recompense. He richly deserves the gratitude of all present and future dermatological surgeons.

I remember assisting Bill in surgery when I was a first-year registrar at the Foundation, and although he taught me surgical skills, he always modestly used to tell me that he learned all he knows "by the seat of his pants".

Bill has held every important position there is at the College. Bill was present at the inaugural meeting of the newly formed Australasian College of Dermatologists on 19 November 1966. In 1967 Bill was appointed Honorary Assistant Secretary, and in 1974, as Honorary Secretary, Bill was entrusted with the task of finding new premises. Bill eventually served as College President from 1985 to 1987, and in January 2001, was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for Service to Dermatology and Dermatopathology, and was also awarded the Public Service Medal.

It has been an honour and privilege to have met Bill and have him as my mentor, teacher, colleague and friend through my career.

Bill is survived by his wife, Margaret, and two children Michelle and William. ●

## Australian of the Year Nomination – Professor Kelvin Kong



ACD congratulates Professor Kelvin Kong on his nomination for the 2023 Australian of the Year Awards. Prof Kong was nominated for his dedication to addressing and raising awareness of Indigenous ear health in Australia.

Prof Kong is Australia's first Aboriginal Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) and was a special guest at the ACD 2022 ASM, delivering a very personal and inspiring John Reid Oration as part of the Conferring Ceremony where College's first four Aboriginal dermatologists conferred together (see article in [Winter Mole](#)). College congratulates Prof Kong on his nomination and his tireless work to close the gap in health outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Australians. ●

# Keeping workforce advocacy front and centre

All Australians should be able to access timely, safe and geographically convenient dermatology care and that goal drives our advocacy agenda.

Workforce has remained our key policy and advocacy focus throughout spring with advocacy and engagement occurring across the full spectrum of Federal and state and territory governments, health services, hospitals and other local stakeholders.

CAROLINE ZOERS, DIRECTOR POLICY, ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT

The excellent progress of our two Federally-funded *Flexible Approach to Training in Expanded Settings* (FATES) projects in Darwin and Townsville, as well as high level engagement in the AIDA-led FATES project (detailed below) has enabled us to further strengthen our relationship with the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care.

In November 2022, College had the opportunity to meet with key representatives from across

the Health Workforce Reform and Specialist Training Program branches of the Department. It was an extremely positive meeting where we were able to highlight the strong alignment between the priorities and actions in the National Medical Workforce Strategy 2021-2031 and College's own strategic initiatives to address supply and distribution of the specialist dermatology workforce. The meeting resulted in an invitation for College CEO, Dr Haley Bennett to present at the





cross-jurisdictional Medical Workforce Reform Advisory Committee on 8 December.

At the state and territory level, thanks to the tireless efforts of the NSW Faculty's NSW Rural Taskforce chaired by Dr Phillip Artemi with support from College staff, funding has been successfully secured from the Rural Doctors Network to establish the provision of dermatology services in Lithgow (the first time in a decade), Parkes and Broken Hill, boosting the service the SA Faculty currently provide. We would like to thank those Fellows who have expressed their interest in supporting service provision to these locations and encourage others who may be interested to contact Dr Artemi. The broader work of the Taskforce continues, see box below for update from NSW Faculty Chair, Dr Li-Chuen Wong.

Extensive work has also been undertaken in consultation with Hobart-based Fellows and the Victorian Faculty to build connections with the Tasmanian Department of Health, Royal Hobart Hospital, Tasmanian Regional Training Hub and other local stakeholders to explore opportunities to re-establish training and strengthen public services in Tasmania.

In Victoria, College participated in a series of workshops and provided a submission to inform the development of the next Victorian Health Workforce Strategy. Likewise, a submission was made on the draft ACT Health Workforce Strategy, providing an excellent opportunity to highlight to stakeholders the breadth of work that College is doing to address workforce shortages and maldistribution, strengthen the quality and sustainability of training and supervision, particularly in regional areas, and to support workforce flexibility and wellbeing. ACT Fellow,

Dr Andrew Miller and College's Manager, Advocacy and Health Workforce Cathy Baynie have since attended a co-design workshop to further inform development of the Strategy.

We congratulate the WA Faculty for their tireless efforts to secure two additional training positions and to resolve issues related to funding to take trainees on outreach. For the rural workforce, this should mean a more reliable stream of registrars attending each outreach clinic to the Kimberly, Pilbara and Mid-West with the visiting consultants and will mean every WA trainee will have the opportunity to do some rural work each year.

As part of our involvement in the FATES-funded AIDA-led Specialist Training Support Program, we have continued to provide input into cross-college discussions and initiatives aimed at growing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce and ensuring First Nations doctors can work and train in an environment of respect. College representation at the AIDA conference held in October and our engagement with Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education (LIME) are pivotal in helping to foster the pipeline of First Nations doctors interested in dermatology as a career pathway.

College's leadership in this space has not gone unnoticed and we were pleased to receive a letter from the Hon Linda Burney MP, Federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, complementing College on its work in growing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce and to improving skin health outcomes. We hope to meet with the Assistant Minister for Indigenous Health, Senator Malarndirri McCarthy in the near future.

Funding has been successfully secured from the Rural Doctors Network to establish the provision of dermatology services in Lithgow, work has been undertaken to re-establish training and strengthen public services in Tasmania, inform the development of the next Victorian and ACT Health Workforce Strategies.

Our policy work has also continued unabated. Recent submissions have included to the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation's (NACCHO) consultation to inform the development of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cancer Plan, complementing our ongoing input on the Australian National Cancer Plan.

We are closely monitoring and responding to a range of issues, not least Ahpra and the Medical Board's planned cosmetic surgery reforms, inappropriate scope of practice expansions, skin cancer clinics and MBS reform.

As you will be aware, Ahpra and the Medical Board accepted all 16 of the recommendations arising from the Independent Review, undertaken earlier this year, of the regulation of medical practitioners who perform cosmetic surgery. These included development of an 'Area of practice' endorsement and strengthening guidance around expectations of medical practitioners who perform cosmetic surgery and procedures.

In November, Ahpra and the Medical Board released for consultation a new draft Registration Standard, *Endorsement of registration for cosmetic surgery for registered medical practitioners*; draft revised *Guidelines for registered medical practitioners who perform cosmetic medical and surgical procedures*; and new draft *Guidelines for registered medical practitioners who advertise cosmetic surgery*. To meet timeframes set by Health Ministers, the consultation period was short so we thank all Fellows who contributed to College's submission for their prompt and considered input.

The independent review and subsequent consultation was separate to all Health Ministers' consultation on use of the title 'surgeon', which has just released its report stating only medical practitioners holding specialist registration in the following medical specialties should be permitted to use the title 'surgeon':

- surgery
- obstetrics and gynecology
- ophthalmology.

College is continuing to keep across this issue and will provide further information as it becomes available.

Our advocacy on inappropriate scope of practice expansions continues. These expansions include the Queensland Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot (see Winter Mole) and recently announced plans for similar pilots in NSW and Victoria. College has written to state premiers to express our opposition to

these models on the basis of clinical safety, effectiveness and continuity of care, conflicts of interest when there is a lack of separation in prescribing and dispensing, and costs to patients, highlighting that there are many better ways to address rural access. We are also discussing further opportunities for joint advocacy with the AMA, RACGP, ACRRM and other medical colleges.

College has recently updated several of our resources to reflect the most up-to-date evidence on a range of key topic areas, such as skin cancer and topical corticosteroids. You can view our position statements and factsheets [here](#). We also have a new dedicated page that brings together our skin cancer resources [here](#). Thank you to all Fellows involved in reviewing these resources.

With increasing interest from Fellows in College-developed guidelines, College's Policy Manager, Annie Bygrave has also been working closely with the Professional Standards Committee to look at what processes we need in place for future guideline development; the aim being to ensure College Guidelines are based on the best available evidence and produced in ways that are consistent with local and international best practice. As a result, College is establishing a Guidelines Committee to oversee our guideline development and prioritisation processes. Thank you to all Fellows and trainees who have expressed their interest in joining the Committee.

As 2023 fast approaches we are working on College's 2023 Federal Pre-Budget submission; engagement with the Victorian Government post the state election; and advocacy asks for the 2023 NSW state election.

We will also be looking at avenues to sustain the models being piloted in Darwin and Townsville post completion of these projects.

**Advocacy is a long game that requires sustained effort, and we thank all Fellows and committee members who continue to contribute their wise counsel to our policy and advocacy work.**



## NSW Rural Taskforce – Improving regional training and service provision

DR LI-CHUEN WONG, NSW FACULTY CHAIR

In December 2020, College made a submission to the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into health outcomes and access in regional, rural and remote NSW. That submission highlighted the clear evidence of poorer outcomes for patients with dermatological conditions living in regional, rural and remote areas.

As part of College's response to these challenges, earlier this year NSW Faculty established the NSW Rural Taskforce. The Taskforce is made up of College Fellows, Dr Phillip Artemi, Dr Rebecca Saunderson, Dr Rachael Anforth, Dr Ian Hamann, Dr Ian McCrossin, Dr Michelle McRae, Dr Dana Slape and Dr Andrea Tomizawa.

The Taskforce has identified the following four key areas as the basis for improving regional dermatology care: (i) Increasing trainee exposure to regional dermatology during the ACD Training

Program; (ii) Reviewing current trainee selection to maximise the potential for post graduate regional service; (iii) In conjunction with College and the Rural Doctors Network, identifying critical areas of dermatology need and providing for interested Fellows a seamless fly-in-fly-out structure with administrative, nursing, trainee and travel/away from practice support; and (iv) Identifying current regional dermatology services particularly those with Fellows in the "twilight" of their careers to formulate an action plan to maintain and bolster these regional services.

The Taskforce is committed to working hard to provide innovative long-lasting solutions to regional dermatology care and acknowledges the need to make the cultural shift in thinking from traditional city-centric training to a combined city-regional based training program.





## Accessible and quality dermatology care for all Australians

Collaborating on solutions to address dermatology workforce supply and distribution and meet the needs of all communities



### Skin conditions and their impact

#### Chronic skin, hair and nail conditions

Almost 1 million people in Australia – over 4% of the population – suffer from a long-term condition of the skin<sup>1</sup>. Many of these are, or without early intervention become, chronic conditions with significant health, psychosocial and economic impacts for individuals and the health system.

People with conditions such as eczema, psoriasis, alopecia areata, acne and vitiligo often experience significant emotional and psychosocial distress. This can include pain, itch, increased levels of depression, anxiety about their physical appearance, fear of stigma and social isolation, impacting almost all aspects of daily life and their personal relationships.

#### Skin cancer

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world,<sup>6</sup> with over 2,100 estimated deaths in 2022 from melanoma and keratinocyte cancers combined.<sup>7</sup> Skin cancers are responsible for the highest cancer-related health system expenditure at more than \$1.6 billion, placing significant burden on Australia's healthcare system.<sup>8</sup>

Skin cancer is the most expensive cancer to treat in Australia – more than breast, prostate or lung cancer.<sup>9</sup> Ongoing national investment in prevention, early detection and treatment is critical.

### Growing demand for dermatology services

Dermatology is primarily a chronic disease specialty.

Access to specialist dermatology services leads to improved patient outcomes<sup>10</sup> and reduces downstream costs for individuals and the health system.

However, the burden and complexity of chronic skin conditions and skin cancer is increasing due to external factors such as the growing and ageing population and higher obesity rates.

These factors are accelerating demand for specialist dermatology services.

Demand for and complexity of dermatology services are also increasing due to:

- higher demand for skin cancer management<sup>11</sup>
- increasing co-morbidities (e.g., psoriasis with metabolic syndrome)<sup>12,13</sup>
- use of more effective medications requiring complex pre-treatment assessment and monitoring (e.g., biologic agents)<sup>14,15</sup>
- increasing number of immunosuppressed patients (i.e., transplant recipients, oncology patients) requiring management of treatment induced cutaneous side effects<sup>16,17</sup>
- multifactorial skin diseases with major psychosocial impact (e.g., severe atopic dermatitis, occupational contact dermatitis)<sup>18,19</sup>

20,21, 22



"When I've had a really bad flare up and not been able to manage it, I'd just stay at home, cancel appointments and make excuses. I just felt it was a condition people wouldn't understand. My GP immediately recognised that I needed the help of a dermatologist and that changed my life."

Marion who lives with a variety of skin conditions including psoriasis, eczema, rosacea and blepharitis.

## Accessible and quality dermatology care for all Australians

CAROLINE ZOERS, DIRECTOR, POLICY, ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT

With only just over 600 dermatologists nationwide, we are only too well aware that many Australians are unable to access specialist dermatology care where and when they need it, particularly in rural and remote Australia and among priority populations, including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, socioeconomically disadvantaged, and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

All Australians with chronic skin conditions and at risk of developing skin cancer should be able to access timely, safe and geographically convenient skin health and dermatology care. As the AMC-accredited medical college for the training and continuing professional development of medical practitioners in the speciality of dermatology and national peak membership organisation, the College has a clear understanding of what needs to be done to address the significant dermatology workforce shortage and maldistribution in Australia.

To support our government advocacy efforts, we have developed a White Paper, *Accessible and quality dermatology care for all Australians*, that describes the work College and our Fellows are undertaking to improve equity and access to care. The paper, which was considered by the Board at its November meeting, highlights solutions and key actions that require collaborative effort and investment from Federal, state and territory governments, health services, and other stakeholders. The White Paper addresses the full scope of challenges articulated in the National Medical Workforce Strategy and how College's current activities contribute towards the solution.

The White Paper has been provided to Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP and to representatives within the Department. College's upcoming Federal Pre-Budget Submission will reinforce this with a specific budget ask for additional Federal funding for training positions.

The White Paper, *Accessible and quality dermatology care for all Australians*, is available on College's [website](#) and may be a useful resource in any local advocacy Fellows are undertaking. ●





# Artificial Intelligence in dermatology – Shaping development, regulation and adoption in Australia

Recommendations for College and for dermatologists as contributors and adopters of Artificial Intelligence have recently been published in the Australasian Journal of Dermatology and on the College website as part of the Digital Health Committee's work to support the safe and effective adoption of AI in dermatology in Australia.

A/PROF ROB MILLER, CHAIR AND CAROLINE ZOERS, DIRECTOR POLICY, ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE DIGITAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Rapid advancements in technology and innovation are significantly changing the diagnosis and management of dermatological conditions. Among these are advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) with increasing interest both internationally and in Australia in opportunities for AI to improve patient access to dermatological care and to enhance quality of care.

In November 2020, College's Digital Health Committee (formerly e-Health Committee) hosted a virtual forum with over 30 Fellows and trainees to hear their views and insights on roles for the College and the profession in relation to development, uptake and support for AI in dermatology.

While the forum highlighted a range of views on how AI will impact the practice of dermatology and the role of the profession, there was clear agreement that both College and the profession need to be actively involved with industry, researchers, regulators and other stakeholders to lead and shape the way AI is used in dermatology to deliver the best possible dermatological care and treatment for all Australians.

## **INFORMING COLLEGE'S POSITION STATEMENT – ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN AND LITERATURE REVIEW**

To lay the groundwork, College's Digital Health Committee undertook a scan of the environment to better understand the AI systems, applications, and research already underway, the key issues and key players.

College commissioned A/Prof Liam Caffery from the University of Queensland, Centre for Online Health to undertake a literature review on AI that focused on position papers from dermatological professional bodies and other specialties that utilise medical imaging, as well as Australian and international regulatory guidelines and ethical position papers.



The literature review informed a set of policy recommendations, developed collaboratively with our Committee, recently published in the Australasian Journal of Dermatology (AJD). This [position paper](#) includes explanatory information and recommendations for College (see box below) and for dermatologists in our capacity as both contributors and adopters of AI. A [concise high-level adaptation](#) has also been developed for the broader community and is available on the College website.

This is a rapidly evolving space and our Committee would value any reflections that you may have on the recommendations to inform College's future work on this topic. Please forward any feedback to College's Policy Manager, Annie Bygrave via College.

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Committee has also consulted with key industry stakeholders in Australia and internationally to better understand their current and future work in relation to AI in dermatology. To date, AI software development has largely focused on detection, monitoring and diagnosis of skin cancer, although work is emerging to look at AI's utility for other skin conditions, particularly inflammatory skin diseases. The majority of AI products for dermatology focus on use in the clinical setting to augment dermatologists' or general practitioners' decision-making, however there are also direct-to-consumer products available.

Consultation with industry stakeholders highlighted a range of issues and opportunities, not least the challenges in delineating between what does and does not constitute a 'diagnostic' tool and the importance of data being representative for the demographic mix, clinical context and market in which it will be used – and therefore of undertaking studies in Australia and in real-world settings. It also

highlighted the need to better understand the impact of AI on clinician decision-making depending on the point at which AI is used in the decision-making process, and accounting for user expertise (specialist/non-specialist; level of AI understanding).

The challenges of image data capture quality and controls; communicating the concepts of accuracy and sensitivity in a meaningful way; finding appropriate comparators for cost-benefit analyses; how to structure reimbursement mechanisms to support high-quality AI that augments patient care; and consent, privacy, data security and governance were all topics of discussion.

The Committee has also benefited from the insights on consumer views on AI used in 3D skin imaging shared by the Australian Centre of Excellence in Melanoma Imaging and Diagnosis (ACEMID) Consumer Working Group and we thank Prof Monika Janda and ACEMID Consumer Working Group Chair, Mr Craig Lawn for sharing these.

## TGA ENGAGEMENT

The Committee supports the development of AI to enhance the practice of dermatology. In Australia, AI models are regulated as Software as Medical Device (SaMD) by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

On 31 October 2022, we together with A/Prof Victoria Mar had the pleasure of meeting with First Assistant Secretary, Medical Devices and Product Quality, Ms Tracey Duffy and colleagues from the TGA. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss College's work in relation to AI, learn more about the TGA's regulatory approach, particularly clinical stakeholder engagement, and to explore opportunities to collaborate to support the safe, effective and successful regulation, development and adoption of AI in

dermatology care in Australia.

Several opportunities for future collaboration were identified including the value of guidelines and standards from professional bodies such as College in regulatory assessment of AI software; and on educational resources for contributors and adopters of AI to enhance understanding of the regulatory process and support safe selection and use of AI software in dermatology.

The Committee will continue to progress its work in this area and to be available to the TGA to facilitate the provision of expert advice when needed. In the meantime, A/Prof Victoria Mar has presented at the TGA Departmental Medical Officer CPD talk series to aid understanding of how AI is being applied in the dermatological context.

## The Digital Health Committee looks forward to sharing more of our work and insights with you at our Annual Scientific Meeting in 2023.

ACD's Digital Health Committee members are ACD Fellows A/Prof Rob Miller (Chair), Dr Lisa Abbott, Dr Tony Caccetta, A/Prof Pascale Guitera, A/Prof Stephen Shumack, Prof H Peter Soyer joined by Mr Chris Arnold AM and Prof Monika Janda.

We would like to extend our thanks also to Prof Liam Caffery, UQ and ACD Fellow, Prof Pablo Fernández-Peñas for their contribution to the Committee's work in this area.

## Key Recommendations from the College Position Statement

ACD acknowledges that there are multiple stakeholders involved in ensuring the safe, ethical and effective clinical use of AI in dermatology.

- **Augmenting care:** ACD supports the development of AI to enhance the practice of dermatology.
- **Ethical use:** ACD recommends that dermatologists use AI ethically – this involves beneficence, non-maleficence (including ensuring patient privacy and confidentiality is maintained), transparency (informing patients that the diagnosis was augmented by AI); and utilising AI models that have attempted to reduce bias, where possible.
- **Equity:** ACD supports the development of AI that can enhance skin health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- **Collaboration:** ACD recommends ongoing collaboration with regulators, policymakers and industry stakeholders, and clinicians and consumer groups to help ensure appropriate AI policy, regulation and education to support safe and effective use of AI in clinical dermatology to improve patient care.
- **Real-world evaluations:** ACD recommends prospective, real-world evaluations that demonstrate AI to be equivalent or superior in performance to clinicians, or significantly enhance the performance of clinicians are required to support clinical adoption of AI.
- **Patient safety:**
  - ACD recommends only AI models which have regulatory approval by the TGA using the reformed (post- 25 February 2021) risk assessment model are used in clinical practice.
  - ACD does not endorse the use of direct-to-consumer AI models that do not have regulatory approval as a medical device.
  - ACD recommends utilising approved AI devices to aid dermatologists in reaching a diagnosis; that is, AI should be used to augment, but not replace clinical judgement.
- **Transparency and traceability:** ACD recommends that all artefacts of AI workflows, such as model output and saliency maps be traceable and auditable through incorporation into the patient's medical record and stored for the retention period prescribed in relevant legislation.

View College's [Position Statement](#) on our website.

To view the recommendations for dermatologists as contributors and adopters of AI, and for further explanatory information view the AJD paper, *[Informing a position statement on the use of Artificial Intelligence in Dermatology in Australia](#)*. ●



# Explore a different path in psoriasis

# TYK2



[TYKnology.com.au](https://tyknology.com.au)

## Our research is shedding light on the role of TYK2

Tyrosine kinase 2 (TYK2) is an intracellular enzyme that mediates immune signalling and inflammatory signalling pathways.

Advancements in the understanding of TYK2 signalling and activation have resulted in the investigation of this pathway for the potential of therapeutic intervention.

At BMS, we're excited about this innovative research on the TYK2 pathway and the role it may play in dermatology.



It's time you knew about TYK2, take the first step to learn more about this innovative mechanism of pathway at [TYKnology.com.au](https://tyknology.com.au)

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IMM-AU-2200070. November 2022.



# Flexible Approach to Training in Expanded Settings – Implementation in the Top End

Last year, College worked with Dr Dev Tilakaratne and Dr Lachlan Warren to develop a successful proposal for grant funding under the Federal Government's Flexible Approach to Training in Expanded Settings (FATES) program to establish an innovative rotational training supervisory model based in Darwin.

DR LACHLAN WARREN

The project aims to build capability, quality, and sustainability of specialist dermatology training in the Northern Territory's Top End through a supervisory rotational system. Previously specialist trainee supervision had fallen almost completely on the sole NT resident dermatologist, Dr Dev Tilakaratne. The funding has enabled College to increase the diversity and sustainability of supervisory support for our sole Darwin-based registrar and expand service and broader workforce education by adding visiting dermatologists to the Top End – an area with significant unmet and unique community need.

This project builds upon the success of the current STP-funded training position in Darwin, leveraging current Federal and Territory funding and local clinical, research and community networks.

The response from College Fellows to participate in this project has been overwhelming and we are fully subscribed for the life of the project. This demonstrates not only support for colleagues, but a strong investment in the College

training program and commitment to delivering high quality dermatology services in areas of unmet need.

This support means we have been able to boost capacity based at Royal Darwin Hospital by 0.5 FTE consultant. This has also allowed for increased registrar-accompanied visits to outreach clinics, including some communities previously without dermatology services.

Aligning with the National Medical Workforce Strategy, College's Darwin FATES project provides an important opportunity to test the sustainability and scalability of a rotational model of supervision to building specialist workforce capacity and capability to meet community needs, with potential transferability to other rural and remote areas of Australia.

## DARWIN FATES PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

DR KAREN KOH

My participation in the Darwin FATES program feels like coming full circle in my dermatology career. I was the first registrar to train in Darwin in 2001 under the guidance of Dr



Top: Darwin Dermatology

Bottom: the Darwin Dermatology team



## BEING THE REPRESENTATIVE VOICE IN SKIN HEALTH



Top: Royal Darwin Hospital outpatients  
Centre: Derm team Nhulunbuy  
Bottom: Miwatj health consulting room, Darwin

Bert Pruim, an experience that put me in good stead for the rest of my training and my path since. I have been to Darwin numerous times since to holiday, but also to convene College's Annual Scientific Meeting in 2010. When Dr Dev Tilakaratne asked me to join the program, I was immediately interested. I nominated to go for 2 weeks, which gave Dev a well-timed break, and meant I could cover his public, outreach, private and teaching responsibilities.

It was great to see that Royal Darwin Hospital outpatients has had a facelift, although the hospital façade looks as I remembered it, complete with the Canberra Hospital mimicked snow eaves! The team included second year registrar Dr Karolina Kerkemeyer, RMO Heather-Lynn Kessar and Dermatology Nurse Practitioner Danny Metin, all keen and incredibly helpful. Together with a medical student, we saw a wide-ranging caseload. I had to sweep away a few mental cobwebs to remember to include melioidosis serology in immunosuppressive pre-screening, and to put lupus erythematosus and tinea higher up my differential list. Filling in at Darwin Dermatology was an easy experience for me, as Dev has a comfortable set-up with enthusiastic staff. This was also an excellent opportunity for Karolina to work in the private setting with another consultant, with lots of time for her to ask questions, and to develop her clinical skills under close supervision.

We held two well-attended outreach clinics in Nhulunbuy/ Gove (Yolngu country). Karolina and I were grateful that the number of FIFO workers to the bauxite mine meant a large jet plane was our transport. Small planes and hyoscine aren't an ideal mix for going off to clinic straight from the tarmac! As all of our colleagues that do outreach work know, there are many issues for people living in remote areas, from access to simple treatments to arranging the logistics for review. Thankfully, Heather had worked here previously and knew the connections for obtaining services and supplies for patients. The struggle for equitable medical treatment, especially for Aboriginal people, is ongoing, but I was really encouraged seeing the facilities and meeting the staff at Miwatj Health. A lightning fast trip to the world class Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre for art in Yirrkala after clinic was a lovely treat.

Thankfully the trip wasn't all work. Darwin has a thriving foodie scene, which has developed quite a bit over the years. I managed to get my satay addiction fed at my favourite Parap market. On the weekend, my husband and I went fishing and jet skiing on Darwin Harbour, as well as an obligatory visit to Litchfield National Park and Berry Springs.

I look forward to the privilege of helping the local dermatology team provide a great service next year, and hopefully beyond.

### DR ANNABEL STEVENSON

Having completed the first of my four scheduled visits to Darwin, the FATES project is providing an excellent opportunity for dermatologists to provide a service to an area of need and to broaden experience for all involved when family circumstances would otherwise prevent them from permanently moving there. During my visit I was able to review a patient with generalised pustular psoriasis in the High Dependency Unit and facilitated application to pharmacy for biologic medication, hopefully significantly

improving outcomes.


A highlight of the visit was an outreach service to Wadeye, 402km by road from Darwin, accompanied by the Dermatology Registrar Dr Karolina Kerkemeyer. Significantly, this was the first ever visit by a dermatology consultant to this community.

It was a privilege to provide teaching to the final year medical students at Flinders University RDH site on suturing skills, eczema and to broaden their awareness of the Dermatology Training Program. ●



Dr Dev Tilakaratne, Dr Annabel Stevenson,  
Dr Crystal Williams and Dr Karolina Kerkemeyer





*Caring for the Skin You're In* aims to encourage Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to seek help for chronic skin, hair and nail conditions.

# World Skin Health Day 2022 – Caring for the Skin You're In

College celebrated its 5th World Skin Health Day on 14 October 2022 with the launch of eight community language podcasts, developed in partnership with *Speak My Language (Disability)* and social media campaign *Caring for the Skin You're In*.

MARIAM ZAHID, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER



THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE  
OF DERMATOLOGISTS

The podcasts feature dermatologists from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds discussing the impact of skin, hair and nail conditions, and how to access reliable information, help and support.

Recorded in Cantonese, Korean, Spanish, Hindi, Arabic, Turkish, Persian and English, the *Caring for the Skin You're In* podcasts aim to improve access to information and recognise that cultural perceptions of a condition can impact the way someone experiences living with a skin, hair or nail condition and whether or not they seek medical treatment.

## WHY CARING FOR THE SKIN YOU'RE IN?

With half of first- or second-generation Australians born overseas, and one-in-five speaking English as their second language at home<sup>1</sup>, understanding and being able to respond to the needs of Australia's culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities is an important consideration in College's wider activities and helped inform the focus for this year's World Skin Health Day campaign.

The *Caring for the Skin You're In* suite of podcasts were developed as part of *Speak My Language (Disability)*, a podcast project funded by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services and led by Ethnic Communities

Council of New South Wales in partnership with all State and Territory Ethnic and Multicultural Communities' Councils across Australia.

The program, which aims to support people to live well with a disability, was a wonderful opportunity for College to be part of a much larger collaboration.

College's Community Engagement Advisory Committee and Public Affairs Committee were consulted during the conceptualisation and development phase of the *Caring for the Skin You're In* podcasts and campaign. Our special thanks to the Fellows who volunteered their time to record the in-language podcasts.

## CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY AND RESULTS

Our pre-campaign activity commenced on 11 September 2022 with the launch of our World Skin Health Day website, communications and social media activity encouraging Fellows, trainees, patient support groups and their networks, as well as other stakeholders to get involved.

To compliment this year's campaign, we also issued a media release which was shared with 147 media contacts. The podcasts were featured in *Medical Republic Australia* with College President Dr Clare Tait interviewed for the story.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/cultural-diversity-census/2021>



On 14 October, an electronic direct email (EDM) was sent out to 1,718 contacts including government, peak health organisations, other medical colleges, community organisations and government, including a tailored EDM to GPs, GP registrars, prevocational doctors, nurses and other contacts from College's external education arm, *Dermatology Australasia*.

The webpage featuring podcasts was accessed by approx. 100 visitors on the day of the launch, with a total of 270 visitors to the webpage across the pre and post campaign period (1 – 23 October).

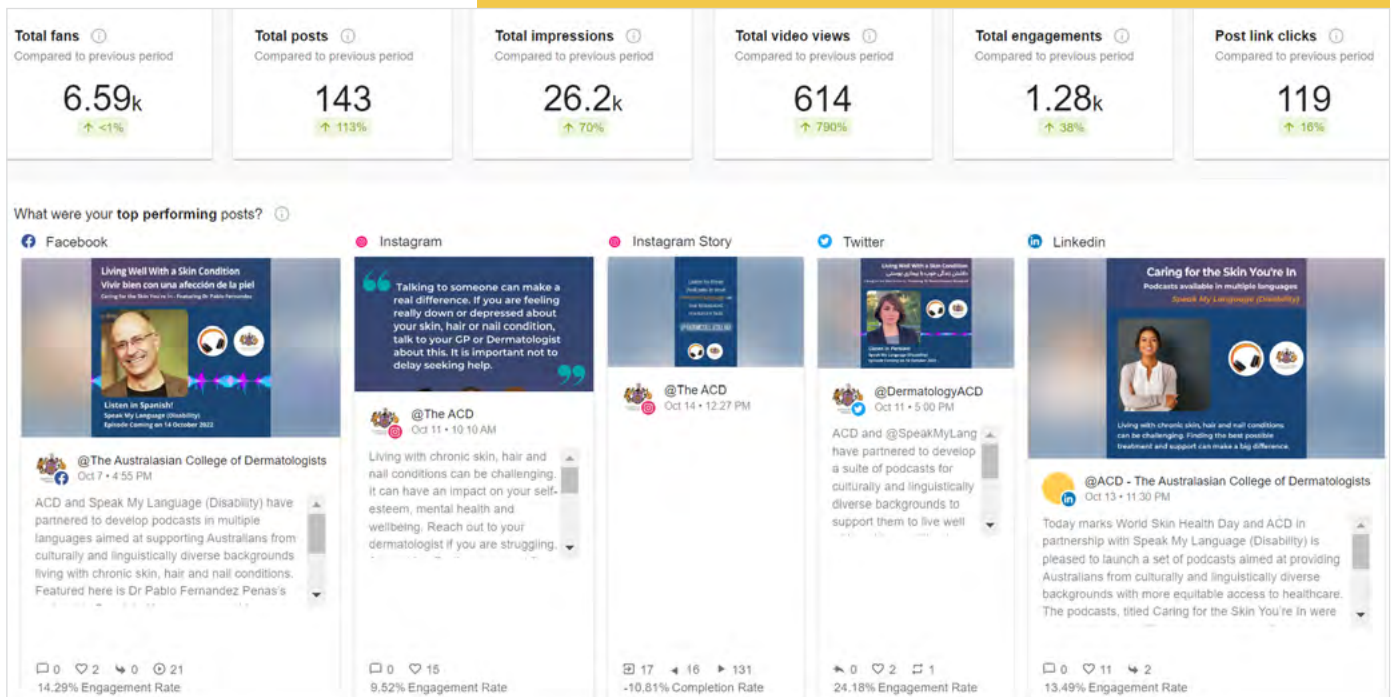
Social media activity for the WSHD 2022 campaign saw a positive increase in social media activity, reach and engagement across College's four platforms, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

## Campaign traction

Our partnership with Speak My Language (Disability) also saw College's *Caring for the Skin You're In* campaign shared with all State and Territory Ethnic and Multicultural Communities' Councils across Australia. Results provided by Speak My Language (Disability) show that:

- The full suite of podcasts was accessed by almost 200 listeners in the first week of the launch
- Total impressions on Facebook across 9 posts – 519, with the Korean language preview registering as the highest performing post.
- Total impressions on Instagram – 270
- Total impressions on LinkedIn – 605
- Total number of podcast downloads - 190 streams with the Hindi podcast having the highest number of downloads.
- SML Website visitors on 14 October - 121

Promotion of the podcasts continues both on ACD social media platforms and by Speak My Language (Disability). Speak My Language (Disability) are also planning an advertising campaign with SBS Radio and Vision Australia's radio to further promote the broader Speak My Language (Disability) program providing an additional boost to College's *Caring for the Skin You're In* podcasts.



## ACD CROSS CHANNEL EVALUATION

Platform	Analytics	Campaign period (11 Sep- 23 Oct)	% change from immediately preceding period
Facebook	Total engagements	750	48% ↑
	Total impressions	12.9k	15% ↑
Instagram	Total engagements	15k	47% ↑
	Total impressions	695	44% ↑
Twitter	Total engagements	263	57% ↑
	Total impressions	4.88k	13% ↑
LinkedIn	Total engagements	430	16%* ↓
	Total impressions	7.12k	<1%* ↓

\* The decrease for LinkedIn is due to particularly strong engagement in the immediately preceding period as a result of ACD's joint call with AMA to State and Federal Government to support healthcare services affected by the Northern Rivers Floods which had affected the only dermatology practice in Lismore. This post received strong traction on LinkedIn.

## Stakeholder engagement

Our annual World Skin Health Day campaigns provide an excellent opportunity to engage with a broad range of health sector and community stakeholders. This year's campaign enabled us to reach out to and build relationships with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) organisations, patients and communities. We were delighted to attend the launch of the broader Speak My Language (Disability) Program on 17 October, providing a wonderful opportunity to connect and network with a wide range of CALD and disability groups. We also had a number of patients from CALD backgrounds contact us to share their stories. These are helping College to better understand and recognise the challenges Australians from CALD backgrounds face in accessing medical help.

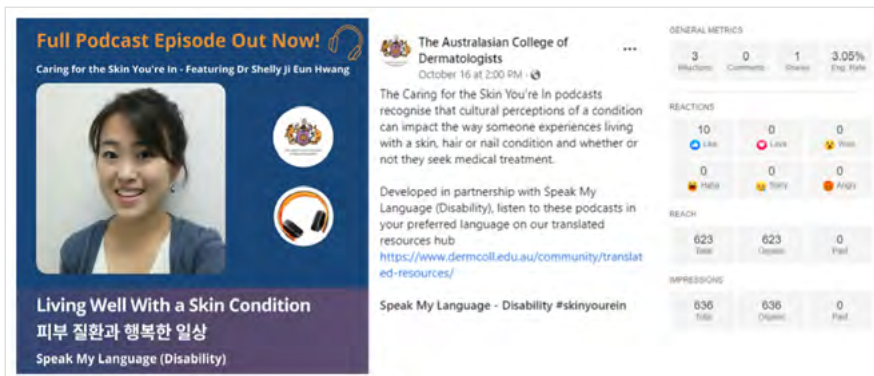
The campaign has also opened up discussions with Fellows and trainees keen to be involved in the development of future resources for CALD communities and highlighted what a culturally diverse membership we have as a College. We look forward to building on these opportunities.

College would like to thank everyone for their support and contribution in promoting World Skin Health Day 2022, helping us expand our reach. The podcasts are available to share with your networks through College's website, [Speak My Language](#) and the Podbean platform.

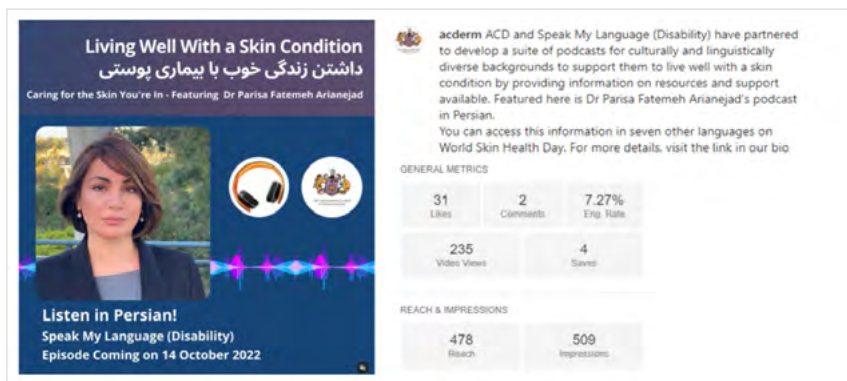
Our sincere thanks to all Fellows who gave up their time to record these podcasts and for guidance in developing the resources.

1. Dr Monisha Gupta – Hindi Podcast
2. Dr Heba Jibreal – Arabic Podcast
3. Dr Desmond Gan – Mandarin Podcast
4. Dr Parisa Arianejad – Persian Podcast
5. Dr Shelley Hwang – Korean Podcast
6. Dr Selim Ozluer – Turkish Podcast
7. Prof Pablo Fernández-Peñas – Spanish Podcast
8. Dr Rose Mak – Cantonese Podcast
9. Dr JoAnn See – English Podcast ●

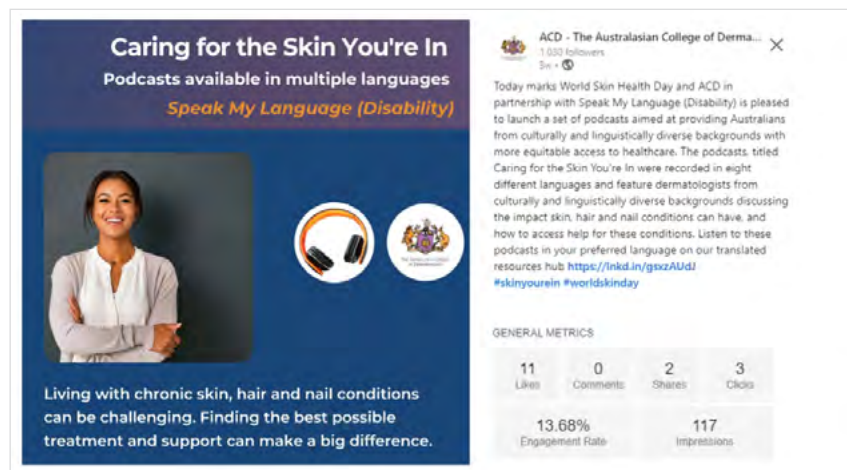
### FACEBOOK TOP POST



### INSTAGRAM TOP POST



### LINKEDIN TOP POST



### FACEBOOK TOP POST 2





# National Skin Cancer Action Week 20-26 November 2022

Each year Cancer Council Australia and the Australasian College of Dermatologists come together for National Skin Cancer Action Week to remind Australians to use sun protection and promote early skin cancer detection.

ANITA ALLEN, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

## COMBATTING AUSTRALIA'S 'NATIONAL CANCER'

This year's National Skin Cancer Action Week highlighted the need to do more to promote sun protection, especially amongst men aged 40 to 59.

Skin cancer remains Australia's most common cancer with Australia having the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Often called our 'National Cancer', two in three Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer during their lifetime. Sadly, around 2000 Australians lose their lives to this disease each year and it is estimated that twice as many men as women will die from melanoma this year alone.

Yet research shows that many Australians, particularly men, aren't regularly using all five forms of sun protection. This year, College partnered with Cancer Council Australia to urge all Australians, especially men aged 40 to 59, to be SunSmart, check the UV Index, and reduce their risk of developing skin cancer.

## SUNSMART PRINCIPLES

The Sunsmart principles were reiterated in the campaign with new research commissioned by Cancer Council showing that despite the incidence of melanoma and deaths being higher among men than women, less than half (49%) of Australian men regularly seek shade

to protect themselves from the sun during summer, and less than a third (29%) regularly use sunscreen.

## THE CAMPAIGN

The campaign focused on earned and owned social media assets, a media release to all major and targeted industry outlets, as well as a media doorstep with all major free to air television news crews in attendance. College President Dr Clare Tait attended along with the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler and Cancer Council Australia's

## HOW TO PRACTICE THE SUNSMART PRINCIPLES

- **Slip** on sun protective clothing that covers as much skin as possible.
- **Slop** on broad spectrum, water resistant SPF30 (or higher) sunscreen. Apply 20 minutes before going outdoors, and every two hours afterwards.
- **Slap** on a hat – broad brim or legionnaire style to protect your face, head, neck and ears.
- **Seek** shade.
- **Slide** on sunglasses – make sure they meet Australian Standard

2 in 3  
Australians will be diagnosed with  
skin cancer in their lifetime.

Reduce your risk

Cancer Council | Australian Government

Director of Cancer Control Policy, Megan Varlow. Dr Tait spoke on the importance of reminding all Australians about the ways in which they can minimise over-exposure to UV radiation and the importance of all Australians regularly checking their skin, and seeing their GP if they have concerns who may refer them to a dermatologist. This was followed by a radio release and follow-up interviews and to date the campaign has received over 950 media pick-ups, far exceeding the 2021 campaign which had 630 initial media pick-ups. We are still continuing to receive coverage for the campaign and a more comprehensive report on the results of the campaign will be published in the next edition of *The Mole*.

For further information on the campaign, [visit our website](#). ●



Minister for Health and Aged Care, Hon Mark Butler and ACD President Dr Clare Tait addressing the media at the press conference



# Education update – Gearing up for reaccreditation

2022 has seen face-to-face accreditation visits recommence and ongoing improvements to trainee selection and orientation.

As we entered the warmer months of spring, the Training Program team geared up for NSW reaccreditation, the state with the largest number of training sites, rotations, and trainees.

JENNIFER CHOWDHURY, DIRECTOR, TRAINING PROGRAM

All site visits took place face-to-face again after two years of virtual meetings, affording the National Accreditation Committee the opportunity to meet with peers and trainees, and to see how other departments function and operate in comparison to their own states.

The first visits commenced on Monday 17 October starting with the John Hunter Hospital and Lotus Dermatology in Newcastle, followed by Coastal Dermatology in Taree, the Royal Canberra Hospital and finally Pinnacle Dermatology in Orange. The committee members covered a large geographical area in the space of two days and were fortunate to have no travel disruptions to each destination. The second and third round of visits took place on Thursday 20 October, concluding on Friday 28 October with all Sydney and surrounding

suburban based hospitals accredited. The accreditation teams were inspired and impressed by the hard work and dedication provided by each dermatology department and thoroughly enjoyed seeing some of the more subtle differences between the training sites. Special mention went to Campbelltown Hospital, for the innovative and commendable work undertaken by two of our NSW-based First Nations Fellows who are driving their new department and building to introduce more consultants and training positions to the hospital.

The accreditation teams noted the workforce challenges for several training sites, as well as the complexities with the STP funded rotations to rural and private settings. The National Accreditation Committee will make its recommendations in the reports and hopes

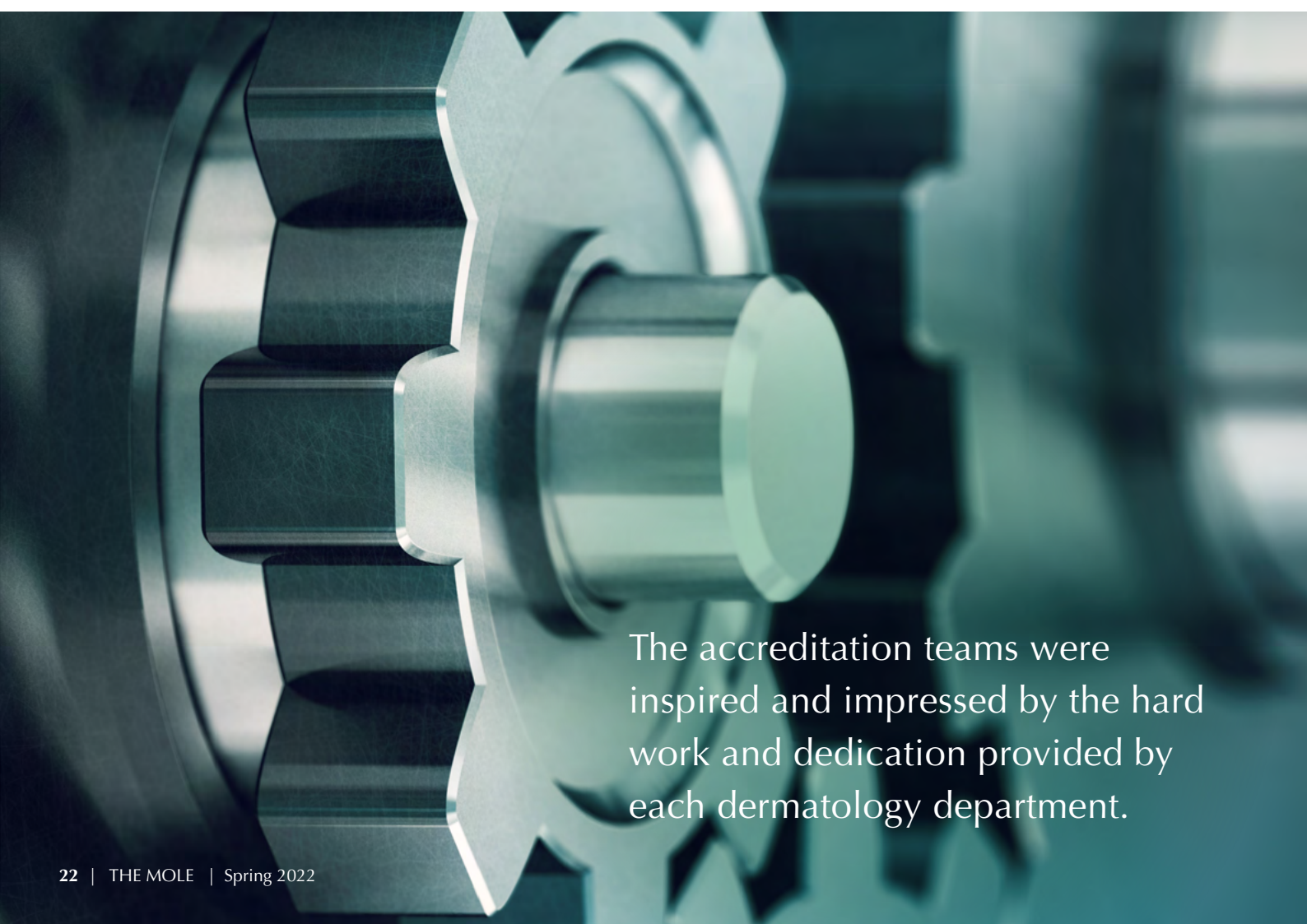
that amicable solutions can be found with the training sites. The accreditation teams would like to extend their appreciation to all Heads of Departments, supervisors and trainees who participated in the visits for your contribution and valuable feedback.

All offers to trainee selection applicants to commence in February 2023 have been made and College welcomed the new first years in an online orientation in December. This is a change to the traditional First Year Workshop which saw day one as orientation and day two for procedures which will now be combined with a new Evidenced Based Medicine (EBM) Workshop in February. The orientation day was brought forward to December to give first years an introduction to the training program before officially commencing, and to reduce the number of days needed for the First Year Workshop.

The last round of IMG Specialist Pathway interviews will take place in November, rounding up another year of applicants from around the globe who are aspiring to be recognised as dermatologists in Australia. If you require further information in relation to IMGs and the Specialist Pathway, please contact College Accreditation Manager, Training Program, Maite Serra via College.

The upcoming Christmas period is traditionally a quieter time for the Training Program team, providing the staff and the education committees time to reflect on the year's events, changes to policies and processes, and planning for next year's activities.

As always, College would like to extend its gratitude and appreciation to all the Fellows who continue to give up their time so generously to participate in the various education committees for the Training Program. ●



The accreditation teams were inspired and impressed by the hard work and dedication provided by each dermatology department.



# Curriculum Update

As highlighted in previous editions of *The Mole*, College undertook an extensive review of the Training Program Curriculum during 2020-21.

DR CATHERINE DRUMMOND, DEAN OF EDUCATION AND ASHLEIGH THOMAS,  
COLLEGE CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGER

This culminated in the 2022 AusDerm Curriculum. The new curriculum is based on the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada's CanMEDS Framework, adapted for the Australian context (pictured). This curriculum was rolled out at the start of 2022. The work on this curriculum was a colossal effort from all involved and is the last of the five-yearly review method the College has historically employed.

From 2022 onwards, in response to the AMC Accreditation Standard 3, *Implement a continuous rolling cycle of curriculum review*, the College Teaching and

Learning Committee (TLC) has implemented an annual review of the curriculum, reviewing one third of the curriculum topics per year on a three-year cycle.

This year, the TLC successfully completed the first phase of ongoing review of the curriculum, reviewing one third of the curriculum topics. This process allowed for changes to topics where necessary and sign off on topics where change was not warranted. The updated curriculum is available on eLearning. Trainees and members working in supervisory capacities will be contacted regarding the changes.

**AusDerm**  
THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE  
OF DERMATOLOGISTS

Training Program Curriculum 2022 v1.1

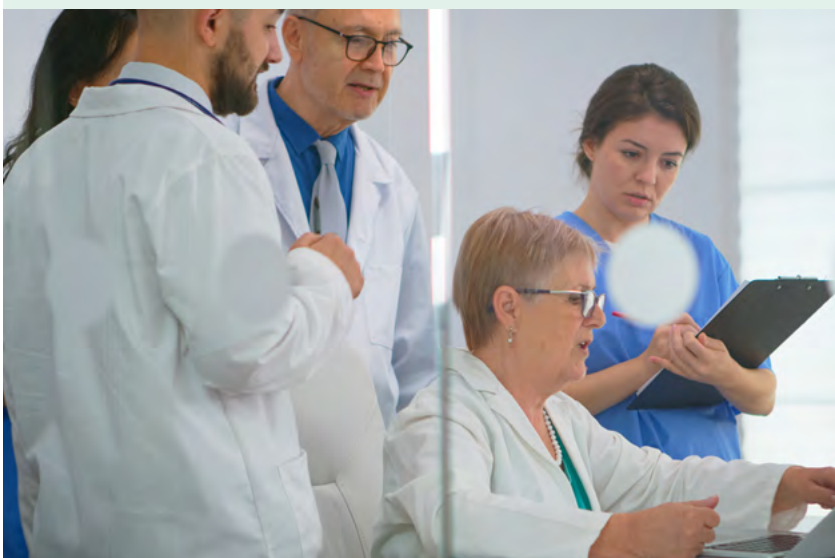
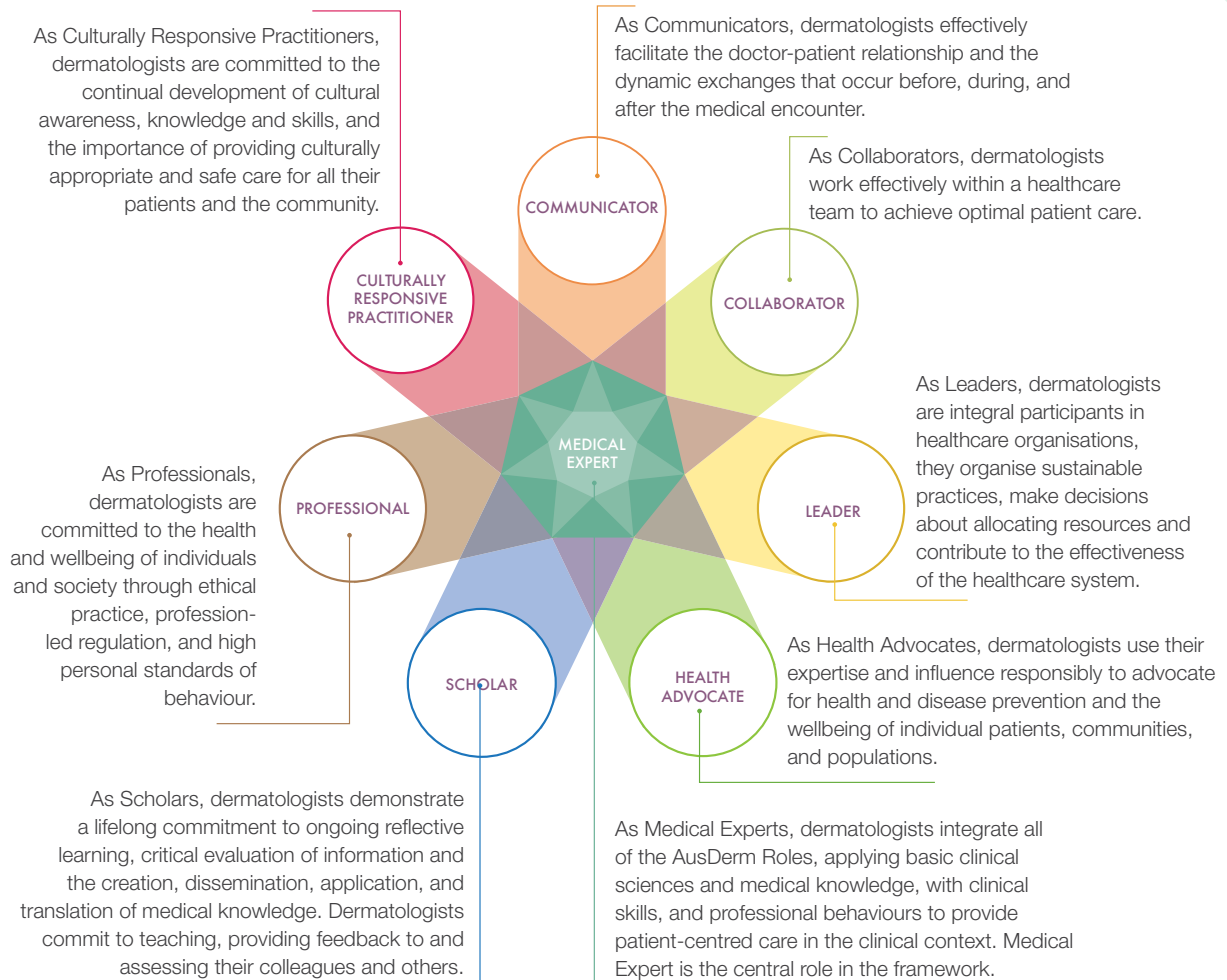
Welcome ⇌



The CanMEDS Framework with the additional role of *Culturally Responsive Practitioner*, adapted for the Australian context

## DERMATOLOGY COMPETENCIES

At the completion of the Australasian College of Dermatologists Training Program, the trainee will have acquired the following competencies and will function effectively as a:



## BENEFITS OF MOVING FROM FIVE-YEARLY REVIEW TO AN ONGOING FORMAT INCLUDE:

- A more adaptive curriculum that allows the College to maintain the currency of curriculum content
- A smaller, more achievable annual workload for the TLC
- Allows technical issues to be rectified responsively
- Allows for more regular input from a variety of internal and external stakeholders.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- First year registrars and their supervisors have been surveyed as first users of the 2022 AusDerm Curriculum. Feedback from this group highlights the need for more correspondence about where the curriculum can be accessed and the rationale for any changes made.
- Patient support groups were also surveyed on current needs and issues facing their communities in relation to dermatological care. This information will inform future engagement with these key stakeholders in relation to teaching and learning.
- Future priority groups for stakeholder engagement include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and regional, rural and remote groups. A workplan will be developed for this engagement for the coming year.

## WHAT'S NEXT

- In October, the TLC commenced the second cycle of ongoing review through allocation of the next third of topics to be reviewed by April 2023.
- A workplace-based assessment review led by the Australian Council for Educational Research is underway to ensure constructive alignment of the workplace-based assessments with the AusDerm Curriculum.

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- The National Skin School program will continue, constructively aligned to curriculum topics with the aim of covering every topic on a three-year cycle.
- From 2023, first year registrars will complete an Evidence-Based Medicine Workshop delivered through the University of Melbourne. This workshop is designed to improve critical appraisal skills and support the development and design of trainee research projects.
- From 2023, second year registrars will complete the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association's Cultural Safety Workshop. This is scheduled for completion in October next year.



We would like to thank the members of the Teaching and Learning Committee for their ongoing efforts in reviewing curriculum topics and learning resources in 2022. College thanks the following members for their participation in the TLC over the past 12 months:

Dr Catherine Drummond (Chair)

Dr Aaron Robinson

Dr Adrian Lim

Dr Anousha Yazdabadi

Dr Catherine Scarff

Dr Dana Slape

Dr Daniel Hewitt

Dr Emma Veysey

A/Prof Erin McMeniman

A/Prof Gillian Marshman

Dr Georgia Farrah

Dr Jenny Tu

Ms Judithe Hall

Dr Karyn Lun

Dr Lisa Byrom

Dr Sara Tritton

Dr Sarah Smithson



The TLC welcomes new members Dr Michelle Goh, Dr Stephanie Rea and Dr John Sullivan to the Committee for 2023.

If you are interested in being involved with the curriculum, development of learning resources or National Skin School presentations, please get in touch via College. ●



# AIDA Conference – October 2022



The Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA) held their twenty-fifth Annual Conference on Yugambah Country, Gold Coast in October.

DR DANA SLAPE, A/PROF ERIN MCMENIMAN



From left to right: Ashleigh Thomas, ACD Curriculum and Assessment Manager, A/Prof Erin McMeniman, Dr Artiene Tatian, Dr Dana Slape and Dr Nicholas Van Rooij. Image courtesy of AIDA.

Specialists, doctors-in-training, medical students, and allied health professionals from around the country attended AIDA's twenty-fifth annual conference. The conference was a wonderful celebration of First Nations excellence in medicine, highlighting the many achievements of individuals and groups over the past three years.

Included in the clinical offerings was a biopsy and suturing workshop delivered by ACD Fellows Dr Dana Slape, Dr Crystal Williams, Dr Artiene Tatian and A/Prof Erin McMeniman, accompanied by dermatology registrars Dr Russell Thompson (NSW) and Dr Nicholas Van Rooij (QLD) who supported the learning of attendees.

Across the specialist medical colleges in Australia, ACD leads the way with 0.7% of Fellows identifying as First

Nations people. During the conference, Dr Slape, Dr Williams and Dr Tatian were recognised for successful completion of their FACD. Dr Thompson and incoming NSW dermatology registrar, Dr Rhiannon Russell were also acknowledged for completion of medical school.

Presentations on innovations in culture and health highlighted ways that educational institutions are creating First Nations informed research methodologies, curricula frameworks and learning opportunities to optimise the delivery of culturally and clinically safe care to First Nations communities.

The AIDA conference is a great opportunity to learn from experts in the field of First Nations health. Visit the AIDA Website to learn more [www.aida.org.au](http://www.aida.org.au)





Left: Dr Dana Slape and Dr Artiene Tatian delivering the suturing workshop. Right: A/Prof Erin McMeniman at suturing workshop. Images courtesy of AIDA.



Left: Dr Artiene Tatian, Dr Crystal Williams and Dr Dana Slape presenting at the suturing workshop. Right: Dr Dana Slape. Images courtesy of AIDA.

Across the specialist medical colleges in Australia, ACD leads the way with 0.7% of Fellows identifying as First Nations people.



Left: Dr Russell Thompson and Dr Rhiannon Russell at the gala dinner. Centre: Dr Dana Slape & Dr Crystal Williams. Right: Journalist, John Paul Janke with Dr Dana Slape & Dr Rhiannon Russell. Images courtesy of AIDA.



# Wellbeing Update – How to Manage Feelings of Burnout



As a result of the difficult times we have faced over the last few years, burnout has become a reality for most of us.

CATERINA DE MENEGHI, NATIONAL WELLBEING AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

**T**he frustrating length of the pandemic, the shutdowns, the overwhelming number of deaths and the isolation, accompanied by the back-and-forth effect of good news followed by bad news, are all stressors that have worn us down.

Often related to work stress, burnout is the result of chronic and unmanaged work anxiety, with warning signs including emotional and physical exhaustion, cynicism and reduced personal accomplishment. The feeling of dissatisfaction with everyday life has now led to burnout as people are more likely to not only take on too much at work, but also in life. The pressure of trying to meet social expectations, keeping up with others, managing work/family/study mean people experiencing burnout often fall short in all areas, leading to self-criticism, feeling powerless and experiencing symptoms of anxiety and often depression. Due to the lack of time and control they feel they have, they often ignore their health, including the signs of burnout. Unfortunately, many confuse burnout with temporary or situational depression, and therefore feel that all the symptoms will simply pass, or they learn to live with these debilitating symptoms until it is far too late.

After trying to regain our normalcy after the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us are finding it difficult to adjust and seemingly trying to do too much.

## WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF BURNOUT?

Here are a few signs to look out for in ourselves and our loved ones or colleagues: low mood, increasingly cynical or critical at work, irritability and low motivation, difficulty concentrating or engaging with others, feeling trapped in one's job or life, depression, and anxiety. Physical symptoms include - poor sleep, low energy, using food

or alcohol to cope with boredom and lack of motivation, poor health, unexplained headaches, muscle aches or stomach aches. A few simple adjustments can make a significant difference.

In order to relieve these symptoms, we must prioritise our mental health as much as our physical health. The idea of work/life balance doesn't suit us all, as we all have different commitments and abilities. Focusing on connection in whatever form suits you will help you find ways to find your source of energy, concentration and a balance that suits your lifestyle and commitments.

When we connect with each other openly and honestly, and we listen and support one another, it reduces feelings of isolation and increases our engagement with our work, colleagues and patients. In everyday life, connecting with our loved ones expands our perspective, showing us that the world is bigger than it is in our mind when we feel overwhelmed and trapped. Focusing on your wellbeing can be difficult, but taking a short walk, visiting your doctor, taking deep breaths, spending focused, quality time with loved ones, prioritising your needs such as food and sleep, making meaningful connections, releasing negative influences, and choosing what deserves your attention are all important and positive steps forward.

Meditation may not suit everyone, but mindfulness techniques such as taking a deep breath and stretching in between appointments, having a chat with a colleague over a coffee for 3 minutes, and going for a short walk are all small changes we can make to improve our wellbeing.

If you would like to talk about burnout, have concerns or would like more tips, please contact Caterina De Meneghi – National Manager of Wellbeing and Engagement via [email](#). ●

# Dermatology Australasia launches new Women's Health Course



Dermatology Australasia was excited to launch our new Women's Health Course, *Certificate in Vulval Dermatology* in November.

MAGDA DICKERSON, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL EDUCATION



The course has been developed by College Education Consultant Dr Robert Corderoy and FACD A/Prof Gayle Fisher to provide students with a detailed, in-depth course covering a range of female-specific skin conditions. The course will begin in Trimester 1, 2023 and will be taught by A/Prof Fisher and Dr Tevi Wain.

The online course consists of five online topics; anatomy and normal vulval variants, vulval dermatitis and psoriasis, lichenoid dermatoses, infections and neuropathic pain and dyspareunia. Participants reach their learning outcomes by participating in webinars and online discussion forums with dermatologists and respond to authentic clinical case studies to provide a diagnosis and first-step management plan on the clinical information and dermoscopic images.

The course is currently open for registrations for the first trimester of 2023 and promotion has begun through Dermatology Australasia's social media platforms Facebook and Instagram, and special discount codes for visitors to Dermatology Australasia's stand at recent conferences GPCE and RACGP22. The code was also shared via social media and targeted electronic mails to conference attendees.





Over the past quarter, Dermatology Australasia exhibited at the following events. These events provide exposure for the brand as well as the opportunity to promote special deals on relevant courses.

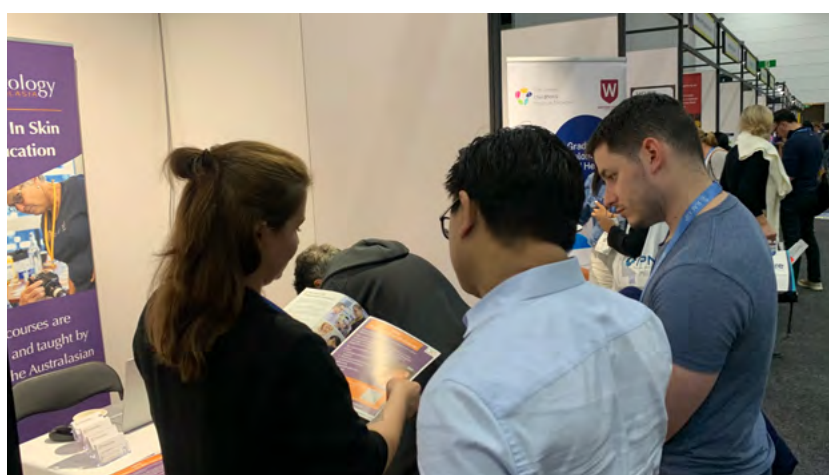
### RMA CONFERENCE AT NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE IN CANBERRA, 12 OCT – 15 OCT 2022



### GPCE CONFERENCE AT MCEC, 11-13 NOVEMBER 2022



### RACGP22 CONFERENCE AT MCEC, 25-27 NOVEMBER 2022



# From the Faculties

## NSW Faculty

Recently, our annual national registrar selection was undertaken, consisting of a very rigorous and thorough process spanning many months. I am thrilled to announce our nine new first year trainees: Dr Nicholas Allen, Dr Ashok Kerlopian, Dr Chelsea Jones, Dr Matthew Verheyden, Dr Emily Kozera, Dr Rhiannon Russell, Dr Emily Sideris, Dr Tim Cowan and Dr Sarah Hanna. These new trainees were chosen from a field of extremely impressive candidates, and we are very lucky to have such a strong future in dermatology.

Presently, we have 39 training positions in NSW/ACT, comprising of both full time and part time

registrars, filling public, private and rural positions. As you can imagine, the allocation of our NSW registrars is therefore an extremely difficult and complex task. I would like to acknowledge the dedication and perseverance of our three Directors of Training: Dr Andrea Tomizawa, Dr Catherine McKay and Dr Michelle McRae. I am particularly grateful that they ensure our registrars are placed in appropriate positions based on their training needs.

We have all had mentors in our professional journey that have inspired, encouraged and supported us. We are now calling for Fellows, newly graduated or

more senior to become formal mentors for our new first year trainees, and to walk the next four years alongside them. Please contact the NSW Faculty if you are interested.

A report on the NSW Rural Taskforce is included elsewhere in this edition of *The Mole* and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Fellows who have been involved in the set up of this Taskforce and for their hard work this year.

Lastly, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful break.

**Dr Li-Chuen Wong**  
**Chair, NSW Faculty**

## VIC Faculty

Having endured one of the wettest and coldest Spring in decades we are hoping for a warmer summer although it is not looking good.

As our talented and dedicated final years see out their last two months of training we are looking forward to welcoming nine new and highly talented first year trainees onto the Victorian dermatology training program. Having such a large number of first year registrars will undoubtedly put extra pressure on our clinical supervisors and Heads of hospital. Fortunately, most of our new cohort have had significant exposure to dermatology clinics and research.

In November, Melbourne was host to the World Congress for Hair Research and the Australasian Society of Cosmetic Dermatologists (ASCD). The World Congress was co-chaired by Prof Rodney

Sinclair and A/Prof Leslie Jones of Melbourne University. International and regional speakers brought us up to date with the latest developments in the treatment of alopecia areata, cicatricial and hereditary hair loss and gave us insights into future trends for research and treatment. A/Prof Greg Goodman and his organising committee put together an innovative program for the annual meeting of the ASCD. There was emphasis on the science and efficacy of new innovative treatments.

Over the last two years the Victorian Faculty has been exploring the possibility of reinstating a dermatology registrar training position in Tasmania. I am grateful to Dr Andrew Jevtic, Dr Narelle Bleasel, Dr Jonathan Ng, A/Prof Mike Sladden and Dr Andrea Jopp-McKay who have been so

generous with their insights, advice and support for the position. Two of our final year registrars, Dr Rachael Davenport and Dr Anthea Mulcahy are also keen to support expansion of public dermatology clinics in Hobart and training of a registrar. With the unanimous support of the Tasmanian dermatologists, Dr Mulcahy and Dr Davenport and the assistance of our College, (in particular Director Policy, Advocacy and Engagement Caroline Zoers and Manager, Advocacy & Health Workforce Cathy Baynie) I am hopeful Tasmania will have a dermatology registrar within the next eighteen months. We will then be able to work towards establishing a registrar at Frankston hospital.

I wish you all a happy, joyful and safe time over the festive season.

**Dr Jill Cargnello**  
**Chair, VIC Faculty**



## QLD Faculty

The Queensland Faculty wishes to congratulate our newest trainees who were successful in the selection process. We welcome seven new dermatologists in training: Dr Frank Chiu, Dr Hannah Gribbin, Dr Fleur Kong, Dr Yolanka Lobo, Dr Alex (Sarsha) Mortimore, Dr Tabrez Sheriff and Dr Scott Temple. Dr Temple is the first in our newly created 'North Queensland Training Position' designed to support and encourage a trainee from North Queensland to complete most of their training in North Queensland in order to build a sustainable workforce for rural and regional patients.

The Queensland Faculty was very moved by the harrowing account of flooding in Lismore and [the impact on Lismore's only dermatologist](#), Dr Ken Gudmundsen. It has been an extremely difficult time for the community, and government relief and support has been lacking. The Faculty joined forces with Queensland Institute of Dermatology (QID) to create a tax deductible option for dermatologists to donate to help Dr Gudmundsen rebuild the dermatology service there, and has raised over \$9000 at the time of writing.

Special mention to Dr Margaret Oziemski who personally started a GoFund Me page for Dr Gudmundsen and also held a fundraiser movie night. Margaret has raised a further \$19,140 through these initiatives. Dr Gudmundsen has said "I would

like to thank everyone who donated money to me in what has been a really, really bad time for medical practitioners and community members in Lismore and surrounds. It has meant a lot to me personally to know that people care for me and appreciate my rural practice".

Anyone from around Australia who would like to make a tax deductible donation to Lismore Dermatology Flood support please email me via College and I will provide you with the details.

The Queensland Faculty continues to work with College to challenge the rollout of increased prescribing rights for pharmacists. We feel increasing the scope of pharmacists prescribing medications for eczema, acne, psoriasis and fungal infections is not going to deliver better care for Australians. We feel the pharmacist prescribing model has the potential to seriously undermine high quality medical care for people who need it most for a number of reasons. These include concerns about inappropriate and insufficient training, with no evidence of a robust plan for reskilling this workforce to a level that is required for diagnosis and patient management; negative impacts on quality and continuity of care; serious concerns around conflict of interest and the lack of separation around prescribing and dispensing and the legality of this; as well as cost shifting to patients. What started as a 'trial'

in rural Queensland with no valid data collection or trial design has now been expanded to New South Wales without any reporting of outcomes or agreement from medical boards, including both the Australian Medical Association and the Royal College of General Practitioners who are strongly against it. Read more on this topic and College responses [here](#).

The Queensland Faculty enjoyed our annual Advanced Therapeutics in Dermatology Master Class in August (formerly Biologics Master Class) and we continue to contribute to supporting the University of Queensland position of 'Chair in Dermatology'. This Chair position and the multidisciplinary team Prof H Peter Soyer has created in this role has led to many interstate and international collaborations which are truly translational. It has supported research at all levels including junior doctors dreaming of a career in dermatology through to consultant dermatologists embarking on a PhD, and has directly led to The University of Queensland being named the leading institute for Dermatology Research in Australia for the past 3 years.

We hope everyone has a wonderful festive season with time to spend with the people you love, and the activities you find most restorative.

**A/Prof Erin McMeniman**  
**Chair, QLD Faculty**

## SA Faculty

Despite a modest uptick in COVID-19 numbers in the last few weeks, we seem now to be putting the pandemic behind us. I, for one, have been very happy to abandon consulting in an N95 mask, but I suspect there will permanent changes in the way we behave in relation to viral illnesses in the workplace.

There have been two Faculty clinical meetings in consecutive months, both excellent. Many were happy to be back face to face, but both meetings were also available online thanks to our registrars' technical expertise. I hope this will

now be the way all our meetings are presented.

Dr Georgina Harvey has been appointed to a half-time staff specialist position at the Womens and Childrens Hospital. The dermatology service there has until now been provided by dedicated visiting medical specialists, so this begins a new era in paediatric dermatology in SA. Dr Harvey is dual trained in paediatrics and dermatology, so fits the role perfectly and we are excited to welcome her back to Adelaide.

We also welcome Dr Charlotte

Velik and Dr Shihab Siddique to our registrar training program in 2023. Dr Jacqueline Chan has accepted a 12-month training position in WA for 2023. We congratulate all three and hope to see Dr Chan back in SA for 2024.

Dr Karolina Kerkemeyer heads from Darwin to London for her third year of training next year and we wish all the best.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone in SA!

**Dr Jeff Wayte**  
**Chair, SA Faculty**

## WA Faculty

Pleasingly, negotiations between the WA Faculty, our tertiary hospital heads of department and chief executive teams have resulted in WA increasing our training positions for the first time in over a decade.

The last year has been another difficult one as COVID-19 affected the functioning of clinics and I would like to thank all our trainees for their hard work and commitment to good patient care. I would also like to thank all our local heads of department, Dr Jamie Von Nida, Dr Alan Donnelly,

Dr Yee Tai and Dr Stephanie Weston, for their hard work as well as our Director of Training Dr Genevieve Sadler, who has been instrumental in developing our new rosters and communicating with the hospitals. We have a number of trainees due to head off on maternity leave next year and others returning, so 2023 will be a big year in the WA faculty.

We would like to acknowledge and give our well wishes to Dr Tom Delaney who is retiring from Fiona Stanley Hospital and Dr Ernest Tan who is leaving his surgical clinic but

continuing in the new combined plastic surgery and dermatology clinic at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, which has been a great addition to the dermatology service. Dr Tan has also handed over his role with the University of Western Australia to Dr Gary Moloney. Dr Moloney will finish as WA Faculty Treasurer this year, a job he has done admirably and Dr Patricia Le will take over in 2023. We look forward to the Christmas Party!

**Dr Rachael Foster**  
**Chair, WA Faculty**





# 42nd Australasian Dermatopathology Society meeting 2022

The 42nd meeting of the Australasian Dermatopathology Society (ADS) was held as a virtual meeting from 9-11 September 2022.

The meeting was hosted by WA and developed and coordinated by Ben Wood and A/Prof Nima Arkandani. The Geoffrey Hunter oration on the enormous topic of *Histopathologic diagnosis of infections* was given by Prof Dirk Elston, well known to many as the Editor of the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology (JAAD) and past president of the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) and the American Society of Dermatopathology, and Chairman of the Department of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery at Medical University of South Carolina.

A/PROF GILLIAN MARSHMAN

**K**eynote speaker Dr Jerad Gardner, dermatopathologist and section head of bone/soft tissue pathology at Geisinger Medical Centre, Pennsylvania and deputy Editor-in-Chief of Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine has taken the dermpath world by storm with his medical education passion and expertise and his professional use of social media for pathologists and students alike. He educated the entire audience on the dynamic use of social media for educational purposes in the Steve Kossard lecture.

Local speakers included Prof Tim Humphries, a medical oncologist and researcher in the field of

treatments for melanoma, Dr James Scurry, vulval pathology expert, Dr Joshua Farrell from University of Queensland, A/Prof Nima Ardakani who presented on the Royal Australian College of Physicians dermpath Quality Assurance Program review, Dr Craig James, with an ever-unmissable update of what's new in the literature, and Prof H Peter Soyer who gave the David Weedon lecture on *Melanocytic proliferations: from clinic-dermoscopic-pathologic correlation to tempero-spatial transcriptomics*.

The program also included CPC sessions from the visiting speakers, Brennan prize presentations from trainees, presentations on predicting

outcomes in high risk cutaneous SCC in transplant patients, digital pathology, soft tissue tumours and vascular tumours in skin, bizarre insect infestations, evaluation of scalp biopsies, cutaneous findings in rheumatologic diseases and cognitive bias.

CPC gems included diffuse dermal angiomatosis of the breast, trigeminal trophic syndrome mimicking SCC, aquagenic syringal palmar keratoderma in a patient with Crohn's Disease, squamoid eccrine ductal carcinoma, "spilling the beans on FAVA" and PRAME expression in naevus-associated melanoma.

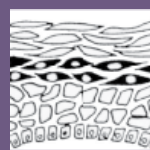
While we were reminded of the wonderful command of the English

language pathologists have, such as *obscuring of the dermal interface to simulate "London on a foggy day"*, the clinical take home messages were many and included:

- pemphigoid gestationis can occur in the absence of pregnancy (unsuccessful IVF patient)
- multiple lessons regarding BCC, PCT, social dislocation and cutaneous disease
- haemangioendotheliomas and sarcomas are a jungle
- vulval biopsies of white plaques may demonstrate elastosis in older women and it is a normal finding
- wet wipe contact dermatitis can produce T cell clonality and mimic lymphomatoid-like MF
- Floridians hunt armadillos and lead to presentations of endemic cutaneous leprosy
- halogenoderma can present like sepsis in the ICU patient with a suppurative folliculitis and normal BUN and is associated with iodine disturbance in dialysis
- Mycobacterium infections occur in conjunction with foot baths at nail salons
- scalp biopsy for scarring alopecia have a higher yield in older lesions (> 6/12) NOT at the advancing edge.
- Occipital scalp often has compound follicles and its normal.

The quality and relevance of all the presentations were of an exceptional standard. Having had the privilege of being taught dermapath by the doyens of the discipline I would heartily encourage dermatology trainees, clinical dermatologists and researchers in the field to take advantage of the opportunity that attending the ADS meeting offers for an enjoyable, collegiate and stimulating few days.

The invited speakers are always exceptional and present highly clinically relevant topics. Membership is open to all and also gives access to the teaching slides and recordings of the presentations.



# ADS

Australasian Dermatopathology Society

The Australasian Dermatopathology Society Annual Scientific Meeting has brought together dermatologists and pathologists every year (except 2020) since 1980. The two and a half day meeting is an annual highlight for continuing professional development in dermatology and dermatopathology. The meeting has a strong emphasis on clinical dermatology with pathological correlation. Registrars and clinicians benefit from the overviews of dermatopathology together with the latest developments. Local and overseas speakers contribute.

The first meeting was held at Saint Vincent's Hospital, Sydney in 1980. Since then the meeting has rotated between Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth, Gold Coast and Auckland. In 1986 the meeting was held in Singapore and in 1988 members travelled to Bali.

The original office bearers in 1978 were Dr John O'Brien (President), Dr Geoffrey Hunter and Dr John Sullivan (Vice Presidents), Dr John Brenan (Treasurer), Prof David Weedon (Secretary), Dr Jocelyn Farnsworth (Education Officer) with Dr Abe Dorevitch, Dr Vincent Munro, Dr William (Bill) Regan and Dr Harvey Rotstein as committee members.

All dermatologists and registrars are invited to be part of this strong dermatology/dermatopathology community. ●



# ACD Portal – Launched December 2022

We are excited to launch our new ACD Portal for our members!

KEVIN TURNER, HEAD OF IT



The new online system has been built from the ground up with a modern and secure interface which can be accessed from your computer or your mobile phone. The new system will provide a more streamlined process to update your CPD and Training Program requirements, as well as access to resources, support channels and profile management.

## CPD

The new portal allows Fellows to continue to progress their CPD journey and submissions in a more intuitive, informative and rapid manner.

## TRAINING PROGRAM

For Trainees and Supervisors, there is a more visual and streamlined means of tracking progress, completing, and assessing training requirements.

## CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT

The new ACD Portal is a dynamic space that will grow and adapt over time to our evolving needs, and we will be regularly adding and refining features to improve your online College activities.

## THE LAUNCH

Our new system launched in early December to try and minimise disruption to our CPD and Training Programs. We have also transitioned our entire internal administrative and database systems in this process. Whilst we are doing all we can to minimise disruptions during this transition, we do expect there to be some bumps as we launch, as well as a significant period of learning for our members in the use of our new system.

## SUPPORT

College is providing members with extensive support throughout this process, including creating an extensive on-demand learning hub you can access any time.

We would like to thank all members for your patience during this transition, and for assisting us with getting your CPD and Training Program data updated where possible before the migration. ●



# CPD 2023

## Your new CPD Home

The Medical Board of Australia (MBA) has recently introduced updated Continuing Professional Development (CPD) guidelines for all registered medical practitioners. The CPD Committee has been working together with the College CPD team to align our program with the updated requirements and make the program a more user-friendly experience for our members.

CLAIRE KENNEDY, POST-FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Work has begun expanding our CPD program to include easily accessible online options for those who struggle to attend workshops in person, improving CPD content to reflect the changing needs of a multicultural society, and aligning our program with the training curriculum to reflect up-to-date CPD.

While the CPD changes may seem like a large departure from what we currently do, the new program has significant positives and College has invested in a new online Portal to host your CPD Home. The CPD Committee is committed to managing the transition and every effort has been made to ensure the 2023 CPD program will be easy to achieve. The focus of the new program is **collaboration with peers, performance feedback, self-reflection, and reviewing practices**. You will already be undertaking a number of these exercises in your daily practice and we will be providing guidance to help you capture these activities as you continue your journey to improve patient care and practitioner performance.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all Fellows who uploaded their CPD in time for the migration to the new Portal. For those who missed the 30 November cut off, the Portal will reopen in January for you to upload your remaining CPD before the 31 January deadline.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact myself or my team at [cpd@dermcoll.edu.au](mailto:cpd@dermcoll.edu.au) ●

## Your incoming requirements

For Fellows to meet the updated requirements of the 2023 CPD registration, the ACD CPD program has been adapted as follows:

- Annual calendar cycle
- Completion of a mandatory Professional Development Plan
- Change from CPD points to 50 hours of CPD

Your 50 hours will need to include:

- A minimum of 12.5 hours of activities in Category 1: Educational Activities
- A minimum of 25 hours of activities across Category 2: Reviewing Performance and Category 3: Measuring Outcomes.

### CATEGORY 1: EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

are traditional activities such as conferences, personal reading, or online modules.

### CATEGORY 2: REVIEWING PERFORMANCE

refers to activities that involve critical reviewing practices, skills and behaviours – either your own practices, peers, teams or the broader professional environment, to identify strengths, weaknesses and areas of improvement.

### CATEGORY 3: MEASURING OUTCOMES

is a quality improvement process that includes review of everyday work and resultant patient/health outcomes. Activities in this category are undertaken with the aim of reviewing and improving practice in dermatology, within an individual, workplace or wider context. Measuring Outcomes activities may focus on:

- The individual's practice, for example, a professional practice review
- Audits/data review
- Resources – where contribution is based on review of data and measuring outcomes
- Publications – where contribution is based on review of data and measuring outcomes
- Quality programs
- Research
- Review of medical records



# Social Media Policies – Participating safely and responsibly within an evolving media landscape

## Latest AHPRA and the Medical Board Requirements and Guidance

AHPRA's [advertising hub](#) contains the laws and other guidance about advertising. This also includes specific guidance for medical practitioners and health services on use of social media. The Medical Board of Australia has published additional guidance on how the advertising requirements of the National Law apply to [cosmetic surgery advertising](#).

In response to the recent recommendations from the *Independent review of the regulation of medical practitioners who perform cosmetic surgery*, Ahpra and the Medical Board are currently consulting on and making changes to how cosmetic surgery is advertised and how social media is used to make cosmetic surgery safer. The Medical Board of Australia has published information about the [changes coming](#) for cosmetic surgery advertising. College will continue to provide input as part of the consultation processes around these important reforms to strengthen patient safety and we will keep you updated.

We cannot overlook how the past two and half years of COVID-19 have shaped our engagement and behaviours in the virtual world across all areas of our lives including meetings, events, social interaction, education and training and so much more.

SARAH STEDMAN, DIRECTOR, MEMBERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

When traditional face to face methods ceased to be an option, even the least tech-savvy in our society took a giant leap into social media, sometimes for the first time.

Social media certainly became a lifeline for some. For others, particularly those in business, it became a mainstay in sharing news, information and advice to communities. The same can be said for medical practitioners, many of whom are practice owners. Sharing information with patients around COVID-19 safe strategies within rooms, operating hours, restrictions and other assistance was vitally important.

With many of us feeling the pressure to be 'on camera' during the pandemic, those with noticeable skin conditions began searching online for advice and information. With more and more people searching online for advice and information, it opened the window for medical practitioners using

various social media channels to share information and expertise.

There is no doubt a place for social media for medical practitioners as experts in their chosen specialty, however, navigating a way to participate on these platforms whilst remaining safely within the bounds of regulatory requirements and guidelines will be key.

With this in mind, College has developed a [social media policy](#) suite, designed to help members navigate through this environment and help to shape safe practices and behaviours.

You will note College has referenced several other sources such as our Privacy Policy and Professional Code of Ethics, as well as the AMA Guide to Social Media the AHPRA & National Boards Advertising Hub. College will continue to monitor this space closely as we too need to adhere to best practice and standards to ensure we comply as your representative voice. ●



ACD  
ASM

55



Engage  
Enhance  
Elevate

27-29 May 2023

## Join us in Sydney

**AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF DERMATOLOGISTS**  
**55TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING**  
**27-29 MAY 2023**  
**INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, SYDNEY**

College is delighted to invite you to attend the 55th Annual Scientific Meeting in Sydney from Saturday 27 May to Monday 29 May 2023. Our theme for 2023 is “Engage – Enhance – Elevate” shining a fascinating light on our profession.

“**Engage**” speaks to College as a collective of passionate, collaborative and knowledgeable experts in dermatology.

The ASM has always been the optimal time to come together to share learnings and experience to further advance our profession.

“**Enhance**” centres around the inclusive nature of dermatology and the continuing need to seek connections with each other and with the broader skin health community, valuing the rich diversity of knowledge, experiences and perspectives to enhance our knowledge and understanding in order to deliver the best possible outcomes for all patients and communities.

“**Elevate**” envelops the concept of continuing to champion high standards and professionalism, as individuals and as a collective, leaving no one behind. It also speaks to the important relationships we have and continue to foster with patient support groups, other health professionals and industry supporters. Together we continue to raise awareness, support patients and shape the future of dermatology care.

Thank you to Dr Michelle McRae from the New South Wales Faculty for accepting the role of convenor for the meeting, with support from New South Wales Faculty Chair Dr Li-Chien Wong.

### KEY DATES

Call for Abstracts open: **Now open**

Registration open: **Now open**

Call for Abstracts close: **24 January 2023**

Notifications sent by: **24 February 2023**

Full program: **February 2023**

Early Bird close: **16 March 2023**

ACD  
ASM

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# ADNA Update



**Australian  
Dermatology  
Nurses'  
Association**

Promoting and Developing Excellence In  
Dermatology Nursing

Merry Christmas and a happy, safe New Year!

KAREN DAZKIW, ADNA PRESIDENT

The last few years have been long and tough for us all, but now life is back on track once again. To support our members over the last few years, ADNA waived all membership fees and have been struggling financially. The committee would appreciate your support to encourage your nursing staff to join ADNA and to register for the 21st ADNA National Conference on 26th-27th May 2023 in Sydney. Evidence-based education and training for dermatology nurses is our priority, and we will continue next year with hands on workshops at the conference, which proved very successful this year.

ADNA would also like to highlight the WCD Nurses meeting in Singapore 2023, which ADNA are supporting along with our global colleagues. We have a very strong liaison with the UK (BDNG) America (DNA) and Singapore (SNA) committees. ADNA is associated with the Global Alliance of Nurses in Dermatology (GAND) which is a

platform for nurses across the countries. Singapore are hosting a meeting for the Global Dermatological Nursing Group on the 1st July 2023 prior to the conference. The official WCD Education Day for all the dermatology nurses will be held on Monday 3rd July 2023.

The ADNA Dermatology post graduate certificate has gained recognition with the Singapore group, who in turn have encouraged their nurses to register for the course, to further their development. Each year enrolments have increased considerably, which is the reason the Australian College of Nursing (ACN), together with ADNA, are in the process of developing and adding further advanced subjects.

Networking opens collaborations amongst nurses in all dermatology associations, which only enhances knowledge and education opportunities, allowing a more professional, experienced, competent workforce. ADNA recognises the direction needed for the future of all our members. ●

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
WORLD DERMATOLOGY CONGRESS 2023**

## **GLOBAL DERMATOLOGICAL NURSING GROUP MEETING**

**1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 (Saturday)**

**1.30 pm – 5.00 pm**

PSB Academy – City Campus  
Marina Square, 6 Raffles Boulevard  
#03-200 Singapore 039594

Organized by:



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australian  
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nurses'  
association

# ADNA 21<sup>st</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE

FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023

TO

SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023

**THEME:**

CHALLENGE, DIVERSIFY, EVOLVE



**SYDNEY (ICC)  
INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION CENTRE,  
AUSTRALIA**

together with the Australasian College of  
Dermatologists Annual Scientific Meeting



<https://adna.org.au>





# Scientific Research Fund 2023 Update

College is excited to announce that from 2023 a single \$50,000 Grant for the Scientific Research Fund (SRF) will be offered.

More information about timings and award conditions will be communicated to Fellows shortly.

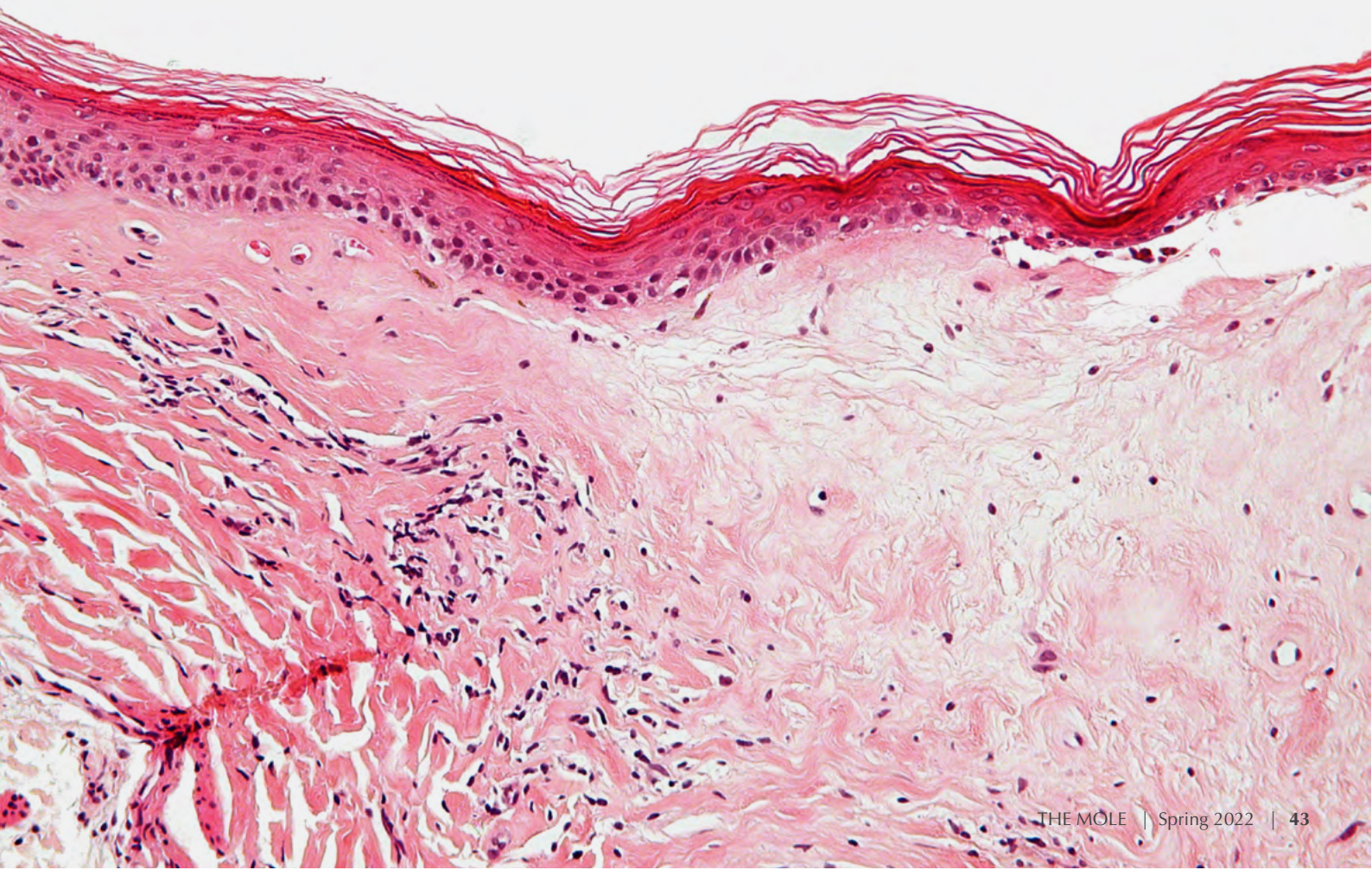
If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the SRF Grant, please contact Andy Wong, Director Finance and Risk Management at College. There will also be an opportunity to make a donation when renewing membership fees. ●

# Why Do Some Patients with Vulval Lichen Sclerosus on Long-Term Topical Corticosteroid Treatment Experience Ongoing Poor Quality of Life?

## AJD FEATURED ARTICLE

Vulval lichen sclerosis (VLS) is a chronic vulval dermatosis, most commonly affecting peri- and post-menopausal women. Left untreated, it can be highly debilitating and severely impact on quality of life (QOL).<sup>1, 2</sup> There is now robust evidence demonstrating that long-term, individualised topical corticosteroid (TCS) treatment is not only safe, but also superior to the traditional 'as needed' regimen in reducing disease relapse, scarring and progression into malignancy.<sup>3</sup>

DR MARLENE WIJAYA, DR GEOFFREY LEE, PROF GAYLE FISCHER





Nevertheless, it has been observed in a number of studies, including those involving long-term TCS therapy, that there was always a proportion of women with VLS who continued to feel dissatisfied and reported poor QOL despite treatment.<sup>4-7</sup> The reasons for this were unclear and had never been previously investigated. Therefore, it was the aim of our research project to fill this gap in knowledge.

We conducted a prospective cross-sectional study of 255 biopsy-proven VLS patients (67 pre-treatment, 188 long-term treated) attending a Sydney dermatogynaecology practice. All patients were invited to complete a validated instrument, the Vulval Quality of Life Index (VQLI).<sup>8</sup> The VQLI is a QOL instrument specific for vulval diseases, exploring four important domains – symptoms, sexuality, anxiety and activities of daily living. The questionnaire is graded out of 45, with higher score representing poorer QOL. Patients who achieved scores of 0-13 were classified as ‘good QOL (gQOL)’, and those who achieved scores of 14-45 were classified as ‘poor QOL (pQOL)’. Additional information about patient demographics, disease outcomes, and treatment adherence were also obtained.

The study found that in long-term treated patients, only a minority (6.9%) reported ongoing poor QOL. Three major areas distinguishing pQOL from gQOL patients were identified. The first ones were treatment adherence and disease control, with the former demonstrating 2.6, 4.7 and 5.8 times as many non-

adherent patients, poorer disease control, and scarring progression respectively as the latter.

The second were psychological factors. Treated pQOL patients rated sexuality and anxiety domains of the VQLI as the most distressing life areas. Interestingly, the worst-scoring item in the sexuality domain was regarding distress, guilt or worries about sex, as opposed to the item that asks about dyspareunia. This may suggest that psychological factors, rather than physical factors, are the more substantial contributors to sexual dysfunction in pQOL patients.

In the anxiety domain, pQOL and gQOL patients differed the most in their perception on body image and sense of self. The pQOL group demonstrated a much more negative body image and sense of self, with worse perception associated with higher level of distress and anxiety.

The third factor was urinary incontinence. There was a significantly higher proportion of treated pQOL patients with urinary incontinence than gQOL patients (38.5% vs 15.4%).

In summary, this study identified three major areas distinguishing treated pQOL from gQOL patients: (1) treatment adherence and disease control, (2) psychological factors, and (3) urinary incontinence. The findings emphasise the importance of holistic management in VLS, and act as a reminder for clinicians to not overlook other comorbidities which may contribute to patient ongoing symptoms or poor QOL. ●

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This study identified three major areas distinguishing treated pQOL from gQOL patients. The findings emphasise the importance of holistic management in VLS, and act as a reminder for clinicians to not overlook other comorbidities which may contribute to patient ongoing symptoms or poor QOL.



# Update

## New additions to the team

Congratulations to Dermatology Research Fellow Dr Chelsea Jones on her acceptance into the Australasian College of Dermatologists' Training Program.

The Skin Hospital wishes Dr Jones every success in the next chapter of her journey to becoming a dermatologist.

The Skin Hospital is proud to support its Dermatology Research Fellow program each year where doctors gain valuable experience in both dermatology research and clinical trials.

Additionally, we would like to offer a warm welcome to Dr Raaisa Islam, The Skin Hospital's new Dermatology Research Fellow at Westmead.



## Dubbo Dermatology

The Skin Hospital is delighted to announce the launch of 'Dubbo Dermatology', which is part of a new initiative to reach patients in regional locations.

Dubbo Dermatology commenced operations in October. As it is an established practice, The Skin Hospital was fortunate to engage the services of its Practice Manager Alicia Sparkes. Dr Nick Stewart and Dr Andrea Tomizawa consult at Dubbo Dermatology.

Dubbo is part of the Wiradjuri Nation and a city in the Orana Region of NSW. It has a population of 43,516 (June 2021), which is the largest population centre in the region.

Linda Smith, CEO, The Skin Hospital, says, "When it comes to your skin, prevention and early detection can make the world of difference. Having access to high quality dermatology services in regional areas of Australia, as well as in our cities, is vital. [The] announcement of Dubbo Dermatology is one initiative by The Skin Hospital towards that goal."



Above: Dubbo Dermatology. Right (L to R): Alicia Sparkes, Practice Manager; and Dr Andrea Tomizawa, dermatologist at Dubbo Dermatology.



# The Macquarie Skin Program

The Skin Hospital was thrilled to work with the Macquarie Group to offer skin health checks to their employees. It was fantastic to see an organisation that is so committed to the health and wellbeing of its team members.



Above: The Skin Hospital team, conducting the Macquarie Skin Check Program.



## Education Program 2022

The Skin Hospital continues to rollout its exciting educational program for dermatologists, with expert speakers covering a range of topics. Last month, The Skin Hospital was pleased to have Dr Adrian Lim hosting a webinar on *Opinions and Progress in Cosmetic Dermatology (OPCD) - Editorial Highlights*.

The OPCD journal highlights were based on recent papers of interest in his role as editor-in-chief. The OPCD is the official journal of the Australasian Society of Cosmetic Dermatologists. The journal is a triennial themed-based publication launched in December 2020 and covered topics include: melasma, rosacea, photoaging, acne/acne scarring and facial ageing.

The Skin Hospital would like to thank all dermatologists who have provided presentations this year. In recent months, this has also included:

- Dr Karen Cheung – Clinicopathologic correlation – clues and hints;
- Dr Bruno Blaya – Male genital dermatoses; and
- Dr Deshan Sebaratnam – Vascular birthmarks.

Please visit The Skin Hospital's website to register to attend a [webinar](#). Also, check [The Skin Hospital's LinkedIn](#) for reminders on any upcoming events.

If you, or someone you know, would like to present a webinar on a speciality in 2023, please contact [communications@skinhospital.edu.au](mailto:communications@skinhospital.edu.au) ●



# Update

## Skin Health Institute under new leadership



We are delighted to announce the appointment of David Malone as the new CEO of the Skin Health Institute, taking the reigns from Caroline Mulcahy who left the Institute in September after a three year tenure.

David has previously held leadership and executive positions in the health sector, including not-for-profit, government and private sectors. He began his career as a physiotherapist, then completed a Master of Business Administration which helped him transition into senior management roles including CEO of the Australian Primary Healthcare Nurses Association, the Western Australian Health Promotion Foundation (Healthway), and the Australian Physiotherapy Association. Prior to joining the Institute, David held a number of executive roles in the Victorian Department of Health. His work in the public service included leading teams responsible for the development of the Health Department's medical research and international health strategies, COVID-19 pathology operations, and the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

David has also worked as an advisor to the World Health Organisation and previously chaired the International Network of Health Promotion Foundations, whose secretariat was headquartered at Thai Health. In 2003 he was awarded a Centenary Medal for services to society and medicine.

David has a comprehensive record of ongoing professional development, having completed several extensive leadership programs and the AICD Company Directors Course.

The Skin Health Institute Board commented that "David's passion and commitment to improving health outcomes sustainably and engaging stakeholders were key factors in his appointment to the role."

On joining SHI, David had this to say, "I am very excited to be joining an organisation that has such a strong legacy of delivering world-class dermatological care to thousands of patients every year for over three decades. The Skin Health Institute really is a unique organisation, with its mission of research, education, and high-quality clinical services for skin conditions and skin cancers. I am looking forward to working with the Board, staff, and the stakeholders to grow the business and drive its ongoing success."



## Legacy Series



On Wednesday 5 October, we sat down with A/Prof Anne Howard to learn more about her personal and professional journey.

Interviewed by Prof Johannes Kern, they delved into her 27 years' experience, not only as a dermatologist but also as a qualified physician.

As Chairman of the Victorian Faculty, Anne was able to double the number of training positions in dermatology. She was on the then Board of Censors from 1995-1999 and in 2005 became the first female president of ACD.

Up until 2020, Anne was Head of Dermatology at Western Hospital, ran the Vulval Dermatology clinic at the Mercy Hospital and then Head of Dermatology at the Royal Women's Hospital until 2019. She has been a consultant dermatologist at the Children's Hospital for many years and is still a consultant dermatologist

at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. She has been running a monthly Nail Clinic at the Skin Health Institute for around 30 years, which is the only such service in Australia.

Anne is currently an Associate Professor and Senior Lecturer at Melbourne University.

These are just a few of Anne's career highlights, but you can find out much more about how she transitioned to and from each position and what drew her to dermatology on the Skin Health Institute website [here](#).

You can also see what else you might have missed out on and catch up on our other Legacy Series and Institute Updates on our website.

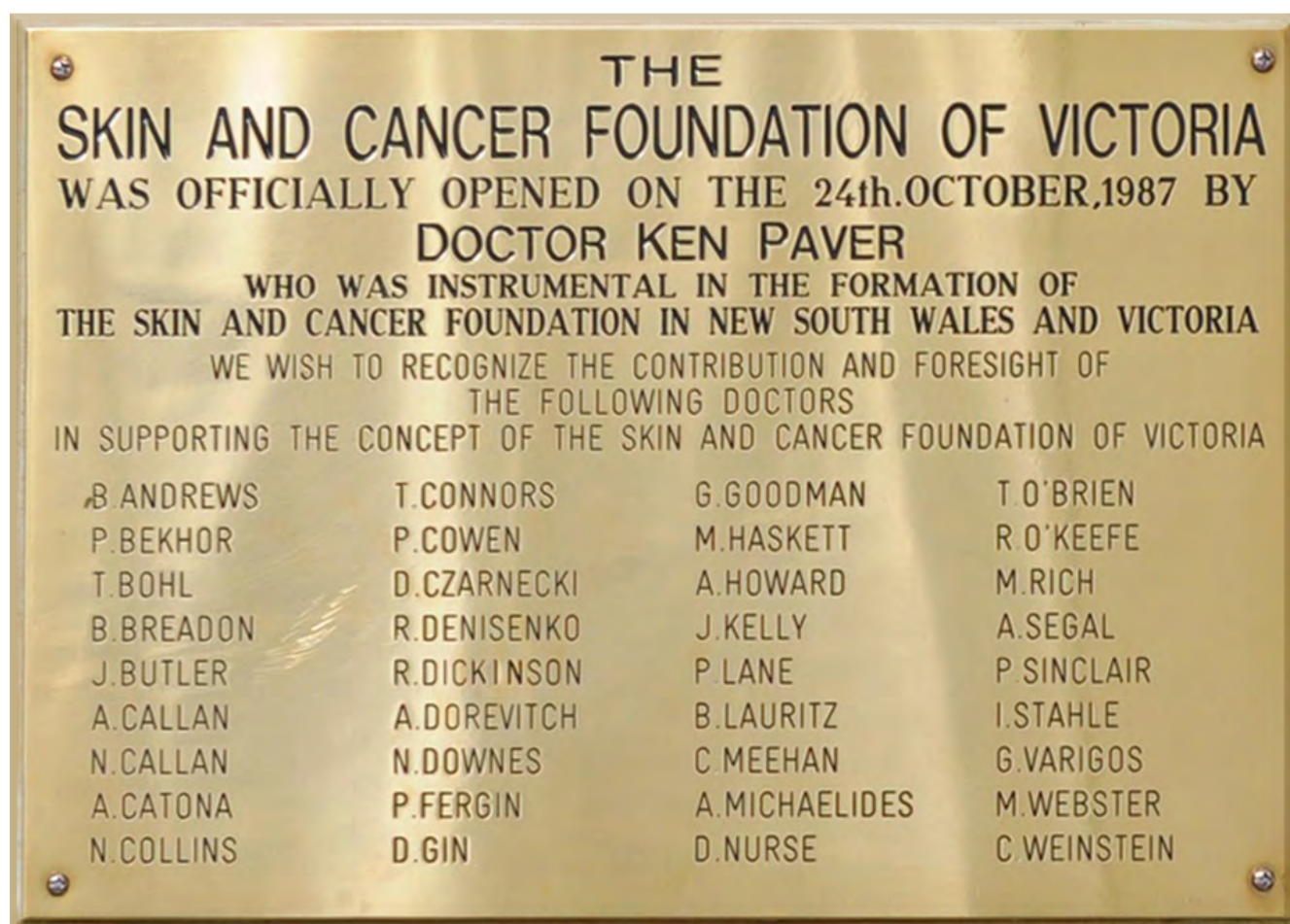
## ADVANCED THERAPEUTICS EDUCATION PORTAL

The advanced Therapeutics Education Portal provides resources for dermatologists, dermatology registrars and dermatology nurses.

This portal provides Australian dermatology professionals with access to the most current information on clinical management, prescribing information, documentation requirements and support services for the use of advanced therapeutics. It also includes video content, such as our Masterclass Series for Nurses. [Register now](#) for our Advanced Therapeutics Education Portal.



# Celebrating 35 years of the Skin Health Institute



On Monday 24 October 2022, the Skin Health Institute celebrated its 35th Birthday and we would like to take a moment to recognise all the contributions our staff, consultants, members, patients, and partners have provided to the Institute over the years.

On this day in 1987, thanks to the generous donations of 36 founding member dermatologists, the Skin and Cancer Foundation was opened. Founding member Dr Douglas Gin recalled that the \$1000 each member contributed as seed money was a significant figure for a junior consultant at the time.

It was the perfect time to establish a foundation in Victoria, following a lot of cutbacks to the public system and specialties that were predominantly outpatient or not thought essential being either cut back or under threat.

Dermatology was not secure, and members feared if hospital services were lost that training would also be at risk. And thus, an idea sparked in a member meeting came to fruition.

The Foundation quickly outgrew its three rooms at St. Andrew's Place East Melbourne, in part of the old St. Andrew's Hospital, which was no longer adequate for its needs. Dodgshun House in Fitzroy, which was owned by the Eye and Ear Hospital, was identified, and the move made in 1990.

It was here that the Foundation went through its most tentative



## OUR PARTNERS



Left: Dodgshun House, dated Oct 1972. Right: the Skin and Cancer Foundation exterior

period and survived only because of its pathology service, which was supported by nearly every dermatologist in Victoria, as recalled by founding member Dr Michael Rich. Three years later, in 1993, once again the Foundation moved its headquarters. It was at 95 Rathdowne Street, Carlton, that the Foundation really began to establish itself as a centre for excellence and the home for dermatology in Victoria.

The Foundation remained at Rathdowne Street for the next 15 years and during this period became the first hospital in Victoria to offer Mohs' Surgery to patients. It also established the Skin Cancer Assessment Clinic in a joint venture with the Peter MacCallum Cancer

Centre in 2005.

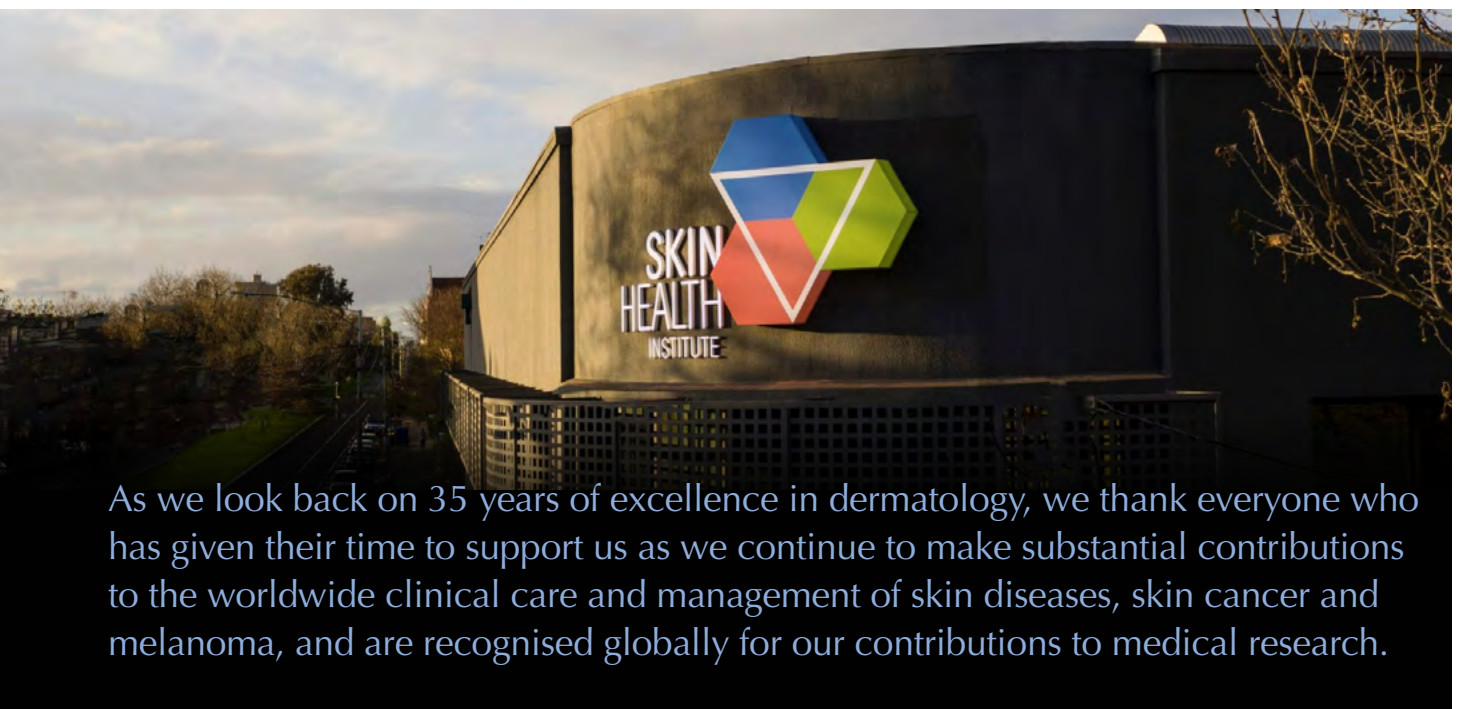
In late 2008, the Foundation settled into its new Drummond Street home. With three times the floor space of Rathdowne Street, the Foundation was able to substantially increase its clinical, surgical, teaching, and research activities, with all the increased efficiencies of a purpose-built facility.

In 2019, the Skin and Cancer Foundation underwent a rebrand and is now known by its current name, the Skin Health Institute.

Originally, the Foundation was created to provide an environment where special interests in dermatology could thrive. The Skin Health Institute continues to push forward this agenda and remains a not-

for-profit health organisation that delivers highly specialised clinical treatment, education and research for skin diseases, skin cancers and melanoma.

Providing over 30,000 patient treatments each year, the Institute continues to deliver exceptional education programs for dermatologists, registrars and healthcare workers; specialist training for visiting international medical graduates; workshops to upskill GPs and medical students; and public education programs aimed at improving skin health in the community. The Institute also conducts clinical trials and research projects that are published and presented internationally. ●




As we look back on 35 years of excellence in dermatology, we thank everyone who has given their time to support us as we continue to make substantial contributions to the worldwide clinical care and management of skin diseases, skin cancer and melanoma, and are recognised globally for our contributions to medical research.



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