

THE MOLE

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

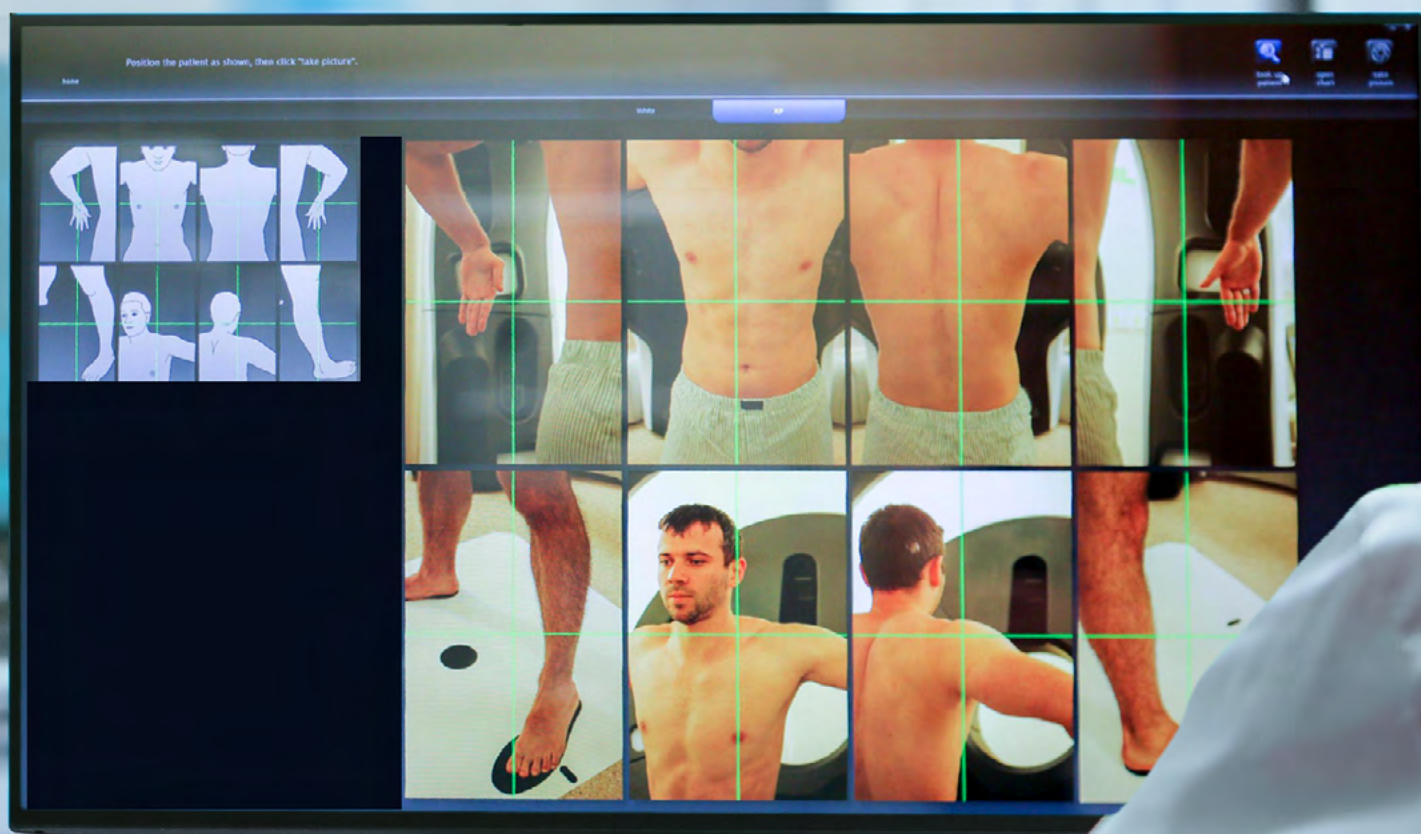
Continuing work to move dermatology forward

CPD CATEGORY 2 POINTS

A blueprint for peer review group meetings

Beating melanoma

Prevention and early detection



From the editor

As we close off the first half of the year and make the downhill run towards the end of the year, it is full steam ahead at College.

Fellowship exams, trainee selection and AMC accreditation are a big feature at this time of year and we wish our candidates and College all the best with these important milestones.

As part of our workforce advocacy,

College has been awarded funding from the Queensland Government to assist the Queensland Faculty to strengthen training and service delivery in regional Queensland.

The first year of our new CPD program is nearing its last quarter and this issue provides some hints and tips on how to meet the requirements of the Category 2.

Applications for the 2023 Scientific Research Fund have

been received and are now under review. Entries for the larger grant this year are strong and we look forward to hearing who the recipient is in the next issue.

I thank all contributors to this edition and hope to see more members sharing their stories in future editions.

Dr Anousha Yazdabadi
Honorary Secretary

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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 and present.

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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President's report

As 2023 continues to fly by I hope everyone has had the opportunity to take a break from their busy work lives. I was grateful to escape the winter weather and spend some time in Singapore where it was wonderful to see so many Fellows and trainees at the World Congress of Dermatology. I am sure those of you who attended would agree it was a fantastic meeting with many learning opportunities and the chance to reconnect with our colleagues from across the world. After a 2 year hiatus from large international meetings this proved an invaluable opportunity to speak with many members about the issues they feel our College and profession face. Australia had the eighth largest number of delegates in attendance - remarkable given the size of our dermatology community, with many Fellows and trainees contributing to the scientific program. It shows our thirst for knowledge and showcased the expertise our members contribute to our field. Many attendees took time out to enjoy the wonderful culture and food Singapore has to offer. Guadalajara, Mexico successfully won the bid to host the next World Congress in 2027.

This time of year is particularly busy for our College committees and staff. We are in the midst of selection and have just completed Fellowship examinations and I want to thank all the Fellows who give so much time and energy to such critical core activities supported so ably by our staff. Congratulations to all the candidates who who sat the final Vivas as we have been advised that all have passed.

Our Annual General Meeting was held just after the Annual Scientific Meeting and we had record attendance - my thanks to all Fellows who attended and contributed, and to the College staff for ensuring it ran smoothly.

In September, one of our Independent

Board Directors, Mr Philip Hyde will complete two consecutive terms on our Board. Philip was a very active, engaged contributor to our Board and provoked healthy discussions and a different perspective and we are incredibly grateful for this, in particular his skills in finance, strategy, risk and governance. He chaired our Nominations and Governance Committee, sat on the Audit and Risk Committee and the Investment Committee. We wish him all the best for his future endeavours and are indebted to him for the time and energy he gave to College over the last 6 years.

We welcome Mr Andrew Herrick to the Board, who has a background in strategy and finance and look forward to his contributions over the next 3 years.

There are a number of priorities for College at present. Our workforce shortage is at the forefront of this. There are ongoing discussions regarding specialist accreditation and IMG assessment at the AMC and CPMC (Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges) level. I will keep you updated of our advocacy work, engagements and meetings in these areas.

Workplace culture remains in focus. For those of you who were unable to make it, Dr Jillann Farmer of RACMA recently presented an interactive webinar for members on the *A Better Culture* project, aimed at developing a strategy to address long-standing issues in the culture of medicine. This was thought provoking and stimulated a robust discussion and many questions were raised. Thanks to my fellow panel members and attendees for their contribution and we look forward to hearing the outcome of the project as College remains committed to fostering a positive culture for our profession.

Dr Adriene Lee
President



CEO's report

As we enter the last few months of our current Strategic Plan 2020-23, it is timely to reflect on how much has been achieved over the last 4 years. There are many things to be proud of, and here are but a few:

- Since 2020, 100 trainees and IMGs have successfully gained Fellowship. While the specialist dermatology national workforce is still in significant shortage, the consistent growth of our membership is going a long way to help address unmet patient need.
- 11 new training positions have been established nationally since 2020. This is due to the hard work of Fellows on the ground, coupled with local, jurisdictional and national advocacy to reinforce the necessity and value of specialist dermatology services. With a further five Federally funded rural training positions commencing in 2024, College's targeted efforts are bearing fruit.
- Over \$1.5 million in Federal funding was secured over the last 18 months for pilot projects to support dermatology training in regional Australia (Darwin, Townsville and Hobart), demonstrating College's commitment to addressing workforce maldistribution and expanding our inhouse capabilities to deliver innovative projects such as these. Just this month, we were successful in securing \$1.8 million from the Queensland Government to assist the Queensland Faculty to strengthen services in regional Queensland. A wonderful achievement.
- At the AMC's review of the Training Program in 2017, College received 35 conditions on our accreditation. Through the tireless efforts of Fellows, the Board and staff, we have successfully satisfied and closed 26 conditions, with considerable work underway to address those remaining. The Training Program and our examination and assessment processes exhibited considerable agility throughout the pandemic – this was noted and commended by the AMC, other colleges and governments.
- From humble beginnings in dermoscopy, our external education arm Dermatology Australasia now offers over 20 different online courses and workshops for GPs and nurses in skin cancer and general dermatology, with several more in the pipeline. We have 1755 course graduates and with over 900 current course enrolments, College is playing a growing role in enabling GPs and nurses to deliver safe, appropriate and high quality primary skin health care to patients and communities.
- Our IT systems have received a timely overhaul, with the launch of a new database and member and trainee portal with upgraded functionality. In addition to enhanced cybersecurity capabilities, this has resulted in behind the scenes efficiencies and improved member and trainee user experience.
- To implement the Strategic Plan in 2020, the Board of Directors accepted that considerable financial investment would be needed to realise their vision. As such, a financial strategy was

implemented involving planned deficit budgets over several years, with a phased recovery strategy to reach surplus by 2023. Even with a pandemic thrown into the mix and budgeted deficits, College has delivered an accumulated operating surplus over the last 4 years, putting us in a strong position as we enter the next strategic planning period.

The Board of Directors has endorsed a new draft Strategic Plan for 2024-27 to be released for consultation with Fellows and trainees. The findings of the Member Survey held last year indicated a shift in strategic focus is not required; rather, it reinforced that efforts in a number of areas should continue or be enhanced, including ongoing focus on member services and CPD, government advocacy and workforce, and visibility and professional leadership.

Thus the Board's overall strategic direction is on par with members' vision for the organisation and the current plan is considered still very much fit for purpose. As such, the draft 2024-27 Plan is a refinement of that, recasting our Strategic Goals to align with the following overarching themes:

- Workforce for our communities
- Services for our members
- Education for our future

We will be seeking your views on our draft Strategic Goals over the coming month. Further details will be available in the *Weekly* newsletter on how to participate and have your say in the future direction of College.

Dr Haley Bennett
Chief Executive Officer



Introducing

ACD President-Elect Dr Adrian Lim

I am a Sydney-based dermatologist with an interest in phlebology, cosmetic dermatology and lasers. My family migrated from Malaysia to Melbourne in 1979 where I completed high school and university before moving to Sydney and obtained my FACD in 2004. Presently, I am a Clinical Senior Lecturer at the University of Sydney and staff specialist at the Royal North Shore Hospital where I run the burns scar laser clinic and cutaneous neurofibromatosis clinic. I am also in private practice with a focus on laser therapy.

Over the years, I have been involved in several areas of College education: from directing the NSW Mentorship program, chairing the National Training Committee, to serving as Dean of Education (2015-2018) and engaging with the AMC College accreditation process in 2017. My other Board and Committee work includes The Skin Hospital (NSW), the Australasian

College of Phlebology and a member of the AMC Cosmetic Surgery Technical Advisory Group (2022-2023).

My vision for College aligns with our shared mission: to create an even better place for Fellows and trainees. I share and fully support the strategic vision for College under our President Dr Adriene Lee and her Board and College CEO Dr Haley Bennett and her management team. Our strength lies in our unity and dedicated Fellows and College staff navigating College towards our strategic goals, which include improving workforce shortage in rural, regional and remote settings, evolving our training program, and inspiring new Fellows to actively engage with College.

I fully support ongoing trainee welfare to foster collegiality and engagement of young Fellows to best meet contemporary and future challenges. Trainee welfare is key to collegiate unity, and I believe,

accomplished through inclusivity and diversity. Almost a quarter (23%) of our members are aged 61 and above, which represents a sizeable membership cohort, bringing with it unique opportunities and challenges that deserve our focus and attention.

Beyond our immediate College fraternity, I would like to continue promoting the standing of dermatology within the medical profession and the Australian community. Strategically, we should maintain a strong voice within the Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges and the wider medical community. Beyond Australia, we should continue to nurture our Global network with particular focus on the Pacific and Southeast Asian region.

It is a great honour and privilege to serve College and I will be doing my utmost to ensure its continued growth and success in meeting the challenges ahead. ●



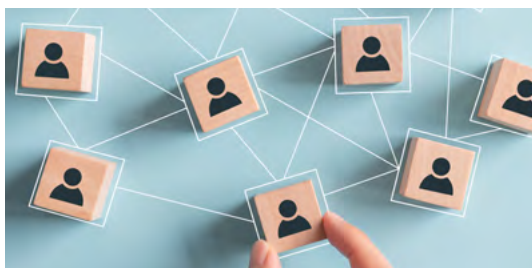
Policy and Advocacy – Continuing work to move dermatology forward

Our proven track record is gaining momentum as we add another targeted workforce project to our hat.

Our Policy, Advocacy and Engagement work continues to bear fruit across our target areas of workforce advocacy, policy and community engagement activities.

CAROLINE ZOERS, DIRECTOR POLICY, ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT

THE REGIONAL QUEENSLAND PROJECT



We are pleased to have secured \$1.8 million in funding from the Queensland Government to assist the Queensland Faculty to strengthen training and service delivery in regional Queensland. The

funding was awarded under the Medical Practitioner Workforce Plan for Queensland funding opportunity (Round 3).

The Regional Queensland Project increases current trainee supervision and support by adding consultant capacity to the region across Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Cairns Hospital, Townsville University Hospital and Torres Cape Hospital and Health Service (TCHHS), with the establishment of a telehealth consultation service.

The securing of funding for this project is testament to the hard work of our Fellows, the strength of the collaborative relationships that have been developed

Clear articulation of College's longstanding commitment to addressing workforce unmet community needs is key to our success.

both internally with our Faculties and externally with key stakeholders, and our growing track record in this space.

As with our workforce projects in Tasmania, Darwin and Townsville (see following article) where we have brought together federal, state and LHN funding, we were able to demonstrate to the Queensland Government our ability to act as an effective focal point between key stakeholders. This is enabling us to leverage alternate sources of funding to achieve the common goal of improving the health outcomes of our regional, rural and remote communities by building a sustainable medical workforce in areas of unmet need.

We were able to clearly articulate the longstanding commitment of College and the Queensland Faculty to addressing workforce shortages and maldistribution, and to building a highly skilled dermatology workforce in North Queensland to meet significant, unmet community needs.

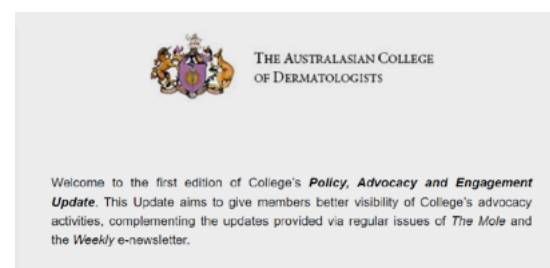
Drawing on the investment made through our FATES-funded project in Townsville which, through a networked model with the Melanoma Institute in Sydney, has seen Townsville University Hospital established as a centre of excellence in high-risk melanoma screening, we were able to demonstrate our commitment to establishing sustainable medical services.

And last, but not least, we were able

to couple this with College's commitment to rural training, demonstrated by our ability to secure Federally funded training positions for the region and establishment of a dedicated rural training position and pathway for North Queensland commencing in 2024, and our workforce project nationally.

Securing this funding will enable the Queensland Faculty to take the next step towards our shared vision of a vibrant training and service delivery network across the region and a homegrown workforce longer term and we congratulate all who were involved in this process.

LAUNCH OF OUR NEW POLICY AND ADVOCACY E-UPDATE



August saw the launch of our first Policy and Advocacy e-update, which aims to give members better visibility of College's strategic and ongoing policy and advocacy work.

The update will be issued every 6 months and covers key areas of work across a broad range of topics.

NEW CLINICAL AND PROFESSIONAL DOCUMENTS



After many months of work, expertly led by A/Prof Peter Foley and A/Prof Chris Baker, it is pleasing to see the new *Australian consensus: Treatment goals for moderate to severe psoriasis in the era of targeted therapies – Adult patients*, published in the Australasian Journal of Dermatology (AJD). Thanks to all those involved who were ably supported by College's Policy Manager, Annie Bygrave.

College's Position Statement on Isotretinoin for the Treatment of Acne has also been updated to include a section on isotretinoin use and sexual dysfunction.

SUPPORTING THE CALL FOR A NATIONAL ECZEMA STRATEGY



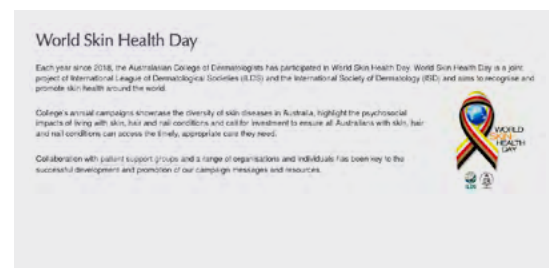
College was pleased to support the launch of a new report by patient group Eczema Support Australia (ESA), *'The Burden of Eczema – Evidence for a National Strategy'*, with the foreword authored by College

President, Dr Adriene Lee.

The report highlights that a coordinated national response will go a long way to ensuring all Australians with eczema have optimal and equitable access to treatment, including addressing widespread corticosteroid phobia, the nationwide shortage of specialists and addressing gaps in education and support.

Dr Lee, ESA CEO Melanie Funk and I will be attending a number of meetings with MPs and advisers in Canberra in early September. This is a valuable opportunity to advocate for the needs of patients and for investment in the specialist workforce.

GEARING UP FOR WORLD SKIN HEALTH DAY 2023



Plans for this year's World Skin Health Day are shaping up, with 4 November marking the start of our 2023 campaign.

World Skin Health Day is a joint project of International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) and the International Society of Dermatology (ISD) and aims to recognise and promote skin health around the world. ACD has been participating in the campaign since 2018.

As with last year's campaign we look forward to profiling some of our Fellows as they share their expertise and advice on skin health and the role of dermatologists. We look forward to sharing more details soon. ●

College President, Dr Adriene Lee authored the foreword to a new report by patient support group Eczema Support Australia (ESA) calling for a National Eczema Strategy.

Best-practice dermatology treatment and training

North Queenslanders enjoy stunning coastlines, beautiful countryside and sunshine three hundred days a year. It is perhaps no surprise then, that this tropical paradise is also the melanoma capital of the world. Unfortunately, despite the enormous need for dermatologists in North Queensland (NQ), residents of this beautiful part of Australia suffer from very limited access to dermatology services.

DR AARON BOYCE AND DR RACHEL PUGH, DERMATOLOGY PHO

Acutely aware of the magnitude and significance of dermatology workforce shortages in regional Australia, College has several initiatives underway to help address this problem, including the Flexible Approach to Training in Expanded Settings (FATES) program. Through this Commonwealth-funded initiative, College is supporting a collaboration between the Sydney-based Melanoma Institute Australia (MIA) and the Dermatology Department at Townsville University Hospital (TUH) to develop a world-class melanoma service based in North Queensland.

Funding from this initiative has enabled TUH to introduce senior Dermatologist, A/Prof Rob Miller, into the service and provided a junior medical doctor, Dr Rachel Pugh with an opportunity to work in the unit and evaluate the initiative as part of a Master's thesis. Perfectly complementing these additions to the team in Townsville, collaborative partners at MIA in Sydney have developed a comprehensive, bespoke educational program focusing on melanoma, delivered by a multidisciplinary team of melanoma experts.

In Townsville, under the leadership of A/Prof Rob Miller, TUH have developed a world-class melanoma diagnostic service for ultra-high risk patients in North Queensland. The clinic aims to improve health

outcomes of people living in the region by utilising best-practice policies and procedures including serial digital dermatoscopic imaging, total body photography, tailored surveillance periods, and advanced specialist equipment including reflectance confocal microscopy. The impact and outcomes of this project are being closely studied, with preliminary audit showing high melanoma rates in our cohort, comparable or greater than that of other high risk melanoma clinics in Australia. Pleasingly, there is a clear trend of early-stage lesions at time of diagnoses for patients.

A/Prof Miller's involvement with the service, has also enabled the development of a 'Rapid Access Clinic' for patients with lesions of acute concern and a clinic that aims to improve access and outcomes for First Nations people in the region.

As an added benefit the trainees have had access to virtual as well as in-person supervision. In addition to the immediate benefits of in-person supervision, the additional virtual supervision (from off-site / remote supervisors) has provided support to registrars at TUH, giving feedback and guidance on several cases each week that benefits patients today.

MIA's contribution to this program is also invaluable. With their support, trainees in the North Queensland team have enjoyed access to a weekly, real-time,



online education program tailored specifically to their educational needs. MIA has delivered over 30 teaching presentations and three multidisciplinary meetings in which the Townsville staff actively participate and collaborate. These sessions have explored all aspects of implementing a melanoma service from diagnostics, management, and the administrative processes of developing an efficient melanoma clinic. The case discussions have proven to be a great opportunity to provide patients in a rural area access to multidisciplinary case review.

Dermatology trainees rotating through Townsville hospital have also found these outcomes of the Townsville FATES program to be of enormous benefit. Dr Scott Temple, North Queensland trainee currently on rotation at Townsville, explained that “from a patient perspective it’s a great service that allows those at high risk of melanoma the screening they need. From a training perspective, it is equally beneficial; it allows us (trainees) to improve our knowledge and ability in skin cancer diagnoses, prevention as well as skin cancer surgery”.

The Townsville team are also excited by the long-awaited arrival of the reflectance confocal microscope. This purchase was made possible by an in-kind contribution from Townsville Hospital and Health Service to this initiative, funded by Queensland Health.

With support from supervisors at the University of Sydney and MIA we are evaluating the implementation of service provision to develop a cost-effective and sustainable model that can be replicated in other regional hubs and will support trainees – the future dermatologist workforce – in these regions. This best-practice clinic, with the most modern equipment, will be at the forefront of melanoma management in the high-risk region where it is most needed.

The collaboration between MIA and the TUH dermatology department is expected to translate into economic, social and cultural benefits that ensure the quality of care that all Australians deserve. ●



Our goal in Townsville is to offer the best experience for dermatology trainees in the country. This project has helped us take a big step forward in this pursuit. Our registrars rave about the opportunity to work under the guidance of A/Prof Rob Miller and the service they are providing together is saving lives. The teaching program provided by MIA, under the leadership of A/Prof Linda Martin from MIA, has raised the bar for melanoma education across the world. It is incredible to think that we are able to offer this here in regional North Queensland.

Dr Aaron Boyce, Head of the Unit at Townsville University Hospital.



Patient support groups roundtable

During this year's Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Sydney, College once again hosted representatives from patient support groups who attended a roundtable on Saturday 27 May. The roundtable was facilitated by Gayle Murphy, College's Community Engagement Advisory Committee Chair.

ALEXANDER TAYLOR PITCHER, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PROJECT OFFICER

The patient support groups roundtable remains a key element of our engagement and provides an important opportunity for us to connect with groups that support people with skin, hair and nail conditions across Australia. These groups continue to play an integral part in informing College's work, providing critical insights into the experiences of the people they connect with and support. There has been a growing focus among patient support groups on capturing stories and data around the quality of life burden of living with skin, hair and nail conditions, to better provide care and support that meet diverse needs, as well as increase community knowledge of these conditions and their impacts supporting broader advocacy efforts.

College continues to play a role in this effort through collaborating with our network of patient support groups, and continuing to advocate for government funding to address workforce shortages in dermatology care across the country and equitable and improved access to treatments and care.

This year's roundtable opened with College providing an overview of its work over the past 12 months, including workforce advocacy, research and evidence-based practice, training, media and communications as well as community engagement. College provided a reflection of the insights shared by patient support groups in conversations with



them since February. These included advocacy, awareness raising, the challenges of operating with limited resources, capturing patient stories as well as the need for a clearer visualisation of the ways that College and patient support groups work together.

During discussions at the roundtable, many groups also expressed their desire to better collect and share data and to ensure the information they were promoting was robust and evidence-based, in order to combat an increase in misinformation on social media. They were also supportive of College's proposal to hold biannual online patient support group forums, providing a more regular opportunity for groups to connect, network and share their collaborative work. We are looking forward to seeing the representatives from patient support groups at the inaugural online forum later this year.

In other community engagement news, the Community Engagement Advisory Committee met once again in August. During this meeting, College was excited to welcome two new members to the group, Ms Penny Li and Mr Tim Benson who each bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in community engagement. They are joining a group of highly regarded advocates who have proved invaluable to College in informing our governance and community engagement activities. ●



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References: 1. Otezla[®] (apremilast) Product Information. 2. The Australasian College of Dermatologists Consensus Statement: Treatment goals for psoriasis. March 2017. 3. Mease PJ, *et al.* *Am J Clin Dermatol.* 2023;1-12. 4. Kavanaugh A, *et al.* *Arthritis Res Ther* 2019;21:118. 5. Persson R, *et al.* *Drug Saf.* 2022;45(11):1403-1411.

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AMGEN

Education update – No hibernation in activity over winter!

The winter months have once again been incredibly busy for the Training Program Team and the education committees.

In particular, the Fellowship examinations and Trainee Selection taking place from June to August have provided much work for the National Examinations and Trainee Selection Committees.

JENNIFER CHOWDHURY, DIRECTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

College received 115 trainee selection applications, and CV assessment and shortlisting for interviews took place in June with the support of the Directors of Training and Faculty Chairs from each state, as well as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Committee and the Rural and Regional Services Committee. Trainee selection interviews took place over the weekend of Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 August at College's offices in St Leonards, New South Wales. Positions will be offered in October.

The first part of the Fellowship examinations, which includes the Written essays and MCQs took place in all states except Western Australia on 6-7 June. A total of 25 candidates sat for the first

part of the examinations, with candidates completing the examination online as per last year's exams. In total 22 candidates progressed to the second part of the examinations which were once again held in all states except WA, Viva 1, which comprises of the Histopathology and Short Case Vivas took place on Saturday 22 July using the online case display which is now the permanent format for this exam. Viva 2, which includes the procedural and long case vivas took place in Adelaide on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 August. The exams ran seamlessly due to the exceptional organisation and coordinated efforts from the National Examinations Committee, College staff and trainees acting as Bulldogs. College is immensely appreciative

and grateful for the wonderful teamwork and dedication shown by all involved and would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who gave up their time to assist with the successful running of the exams.

The AMC progress report was submitted on Friday 1 September providing the opportunity to demonstrate College's progression with its various conditions following the AMC's review in September 2022.

The Victoria reaccreditation will take place in October over 4 days. The National Accreditation Committee will require input and relevant feedback from all trainees, supervisors, Heads of Departments and Directors of Training to enable the committee to reaccredit as many positions as possible. College is particularly keen to receive feedback on trainee and supervisor wellbeing, as well as suggestions for improvements with respect to the rural and private rotations, which are currently funded via the federal government's Specialist Training Program (STP).●



Picture Caption: Thank you dinner with some National Examinations Committee members, guest examiners and ACD staff.

College and the Training Program Team in particular would like to extend its gratitude and appreciation to the Fellows who continue to give up their time so generously to participate in the various education committees to ensure the training program continues to function and adapt to the ever-changing landscape.

Update: Workplace-based assessments and trainee progression

As noted in previous editions of *The Mole*, College has been working with a group of dermatologists from around Australia in consultation with the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) to review the suite of workplace-based assessments (WBA).

DR CATHERINE DRUMMOND,
ASHLEIGH THOMAS – CURRICULUM & ASSESSMENT MANAGER

Over the past eighteen months ACER has reviewed all College WBA forms, relevant training policies and current literature. To complement the review of documents and literature, interviews with trainees and Fellows has informed a clear set of recommendations to both the design and implementation of College WBAs. The proposed changes include restructuring WBA forms to reduce summative signalling and to include more extensive use of narrative judgements. The WBA working group and key College committees will consider the recommended changes.

The meaningful use of WBAs provides trainees with more accurate and timely feedback prior to the Fellowship examinations. This has several benefits, including optimising success in the examinations and improving trainee experience and wellbeing during the Training Program. A key group of Fellows have been invited to participate in a reference group to consider trainee progression assessment. Members will be kept updated through future editions of *The Mole* and through the *Weekly* newsletter. ●

Dermatology Australasia update

This quarter has been a busy one for Dermatology Australasia. Over the past few months we have successfully hosted seven practical workshops, two live webinars and exhibited at one conference. The second edition of our newsletter was also released to our database of over 1800 subscribers and we continue to promote our courses and our brand via social media, email marketing and in-person connections with General Practitioners (GPs).

MAGDA DICKERSON, DIRECTOR EXTERNAL EDUCATION

WORKSHOPS

Dermatology Australasia has continued full steam ahead with our popular practical workshops. The Sydney Practical Dermoscopy workshop was held in June, hosted by ACD Fellow A/Prof Deshan Sebaratnam and attended by 22 students.

The Practical Dermoscopy workshops funded by Wellbeing South Australia, were held on 8 July and 12 August 2023. 140 GPs in South Australia were given the opportunity to participate in the Certificate of Practical Dermoscopy at no cost. The workshops were attended by 122 students and were facilitated by ACD Fellows Dr Aakriti Gupta, Dr Adam Sheridan and Dr Chloe Lim.

Dermatology Australasia also hosted the Practical Dermoscopy workshop funded by SunSmart that was attended by 84 students in Melbourne.

The Melanography Essentials workshop was held over the weekend of 22 and 23 July 2023. Facilitated by melanographers, the workshop was attended by 11 students.

LIVE WEBINARS

Dermatology Australasia delivered two live webinars with Medcast that took place in March and June. Both webinars were well attended and covered the latest in eczema management and skin cancer management in primary care. The webinars were delivered by ACD Fellow A/Prof Deshan Sebaratnam.

CONFERENCES

Dermatology Australasia exhibited at the General Practice Convention & Exhibition in Sydney, where we met with many GPs and registrars. The conference gave us the opportunity to promote our courses and our unique course, Certificate in Vulval Dermatology, was particularly popular among GPs visiting our stand. ●



Dermatology
AUSTRALASIA

SA Wellbeing Practical Dermoscopy Workshop Feedback

Star ratings (out of 5):

Facilities and catering: 4.9

Workshop facilitation and organisation: 5

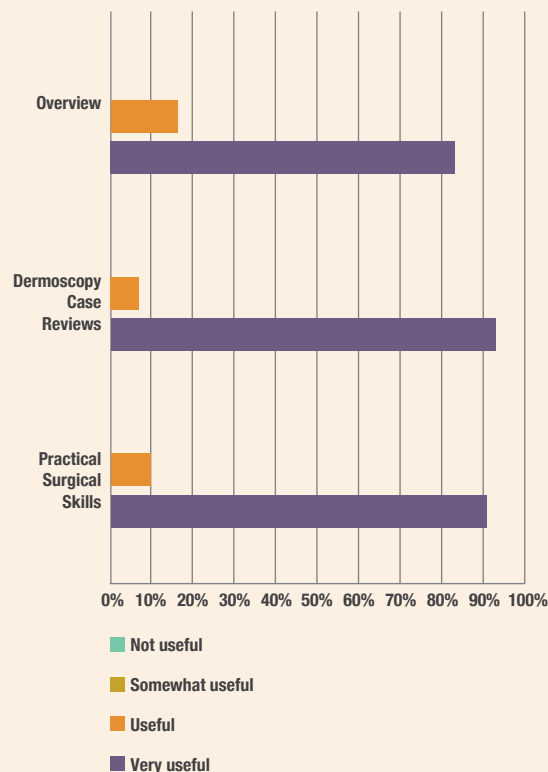
Presentations: 5

Degree to which learning needs were met:

Partially met: 5%

Entirely met: 95%

Usefulness of the information provided in each workshop session:



Relevance to practice:

Partially relevant: 3%

Entirely relevant: 96%

Material covered was:

Just right: 100%

From the Faculties

NSW Faculty

The NSW Faculty has been busy over the last few months preparing for and hosting mock exams which were successful in helping our final year trainees prepare for the Fellowship examinations.

Thank you to our NSW trainee Dr Rhiannon Russell for coordinating the mock exams.

Congratulations to our final year trainees Dr Thomas Stewart, Dr Kirsty Wark, Dr Rose Liu, Dr Stephanie Blake, Dr Philippa Dickison, Dr Swaranjali Jain, Dr Bethany Croker, Dr Anes Yang, Dr Alexander Coe and Dr Emily Forward who sat the final Viva exams on 12 August. We are pleased to report that all our trainees who sat the final exam passed and we look forward to welcoming them as Fellows.

Congratulations also to Dr Swaranjali Jain for receiving the ACD Travelling Fellowship Award for Highest Overall Fellowship Examination Score and the Kossard Award for Dermatopathology.

In other news, the Royal North Shore Hospital recently ran a successful virtual annual meeting with a number of fascinating clinical cases presented. Following COVID-19, there are a number of face-to-face clinical meetings planned including Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Westmead Hospital, and Canberra Hospital

who are also hosting a clinical meeting with a dedicated discussion to address rural workforce shortages at the end of the meeting, which can be attended remotely.

Dr Margot Whitfield continues to work in Fiji to deliver an educational program to upskill local practitioners in dermatology and we continue to place efforts into the mentor program here in NSW with our annual party planned for October/November 2023.

We continue to focus on ensuring equity and access to healthcare in rural and remote areas through our

Rural Taskforce activities. Anyone interested in undertaking short placements or regular placements in NSW should be in touch.

Thank you to all NSW Faculty members who contribute to College. If you would like to be involved with College activities please let myself or the College know.

And finally, I was pleased to welcome baby Veda on 22 August who is pictured here with her big brother Avi.

Dr Rebecca Saunderson
Chair, NSW Faculty



Veda and Avi

VIC Faculty

The Skin Health Institute recently hosted the first face-to-face clinical meeting on 15 July 2023, which was the first Victorian face-to-face meeting since before COVID-19 restrictions came into place. It was fantastic to be able to finally meet in person again and see some of our most complex patients in person. This meeting was very well attended and in addition to the social aspect of meeting with our colleagues and having their input benefit the care of these patients, it provided an invaluable learning opportunity for our final year registrars in preparation for their Fellowship exams. The case discussions at the end of the meeting were broadcast online as well, allowing participation of our colleagues who weren't able to

make it in person on the day. We look forward to further meetings with this hybrid format in the future.

The World Congress of Dermatology meeting was recently held in Singapore from 3-8 July and was very well attended by colleagues from around the world, with around 13,000 delegates, including many of our Victorian colleagues and colleagues from around Australia who were there in great numbers. The meeting was very well organised and covered a wide range of engaging content. It was great to attend such a large meeting for the educational opportunities, but also to catch up with colleagues from Australia and overseas. A particular highlight was seeing the recently built new National Skin Centre Facility where

they see approximately 309,000 consults per year.

The IMG engagement committee, chaired by A/Prof Rosemary Nixon AM organised a meet and greet on Wednesday 23 August at the Skin Health Institute. The meeting aimed to provide education and other support to IMGs in Victoria who are in the process of working towards their Fellowship. Thank you to all IMGs and Fellows who attended.

We would also like to congratulate all the final year registrars who completed their Fellowship exams and we look forward to welcoming them to the Faculty as Fellows.

Dr Aaron Robinson
Chair, VIC Faculty

QLD Faculty

The Queensland Faculty is very excited to congratulate our three successful candidates from the Fellowship exams who will now graduate the program in 2024. Congratulations to Dr Alison Bullen, Dr Mitchell Robinson and Dr Alex Tedman, we look forward to seeing your careers flourish and we know you will be great contributing members of College. The Faculty also welcomes our newest first year trainee, Dr Ruby Lee who had a last minute call up when another registrar left for the training job in Singapore. We are not expecting too many positions for first years in 2024 at this stage, but we are hopeful some new positions will be funded and accredited, including at Gold Coast University Hospital.

We are very pleased to report that a joint venture between

College and the Queensland Faculty has been awarded \$1.8 million over four years by the Queensland Government to address sustainability in North Queensland dermatology units, and improve services to remote locations. We have also been awarded special funding for our North Queensland training job whereby the registrar spends at least 2/3 of their training in North Queensland in the hope of improving workforce retention for those places in great need. These are extremely exciting initiatives, and we thank the Faculty members and College team for your hard work on achieving these.

Queensland enjoyed another successful Dermatology Biologics and Advanced therapies Master Class on Saturday 19 August, with over 80 attendees in person,

including Fellows, registrars, junior doctors and dermatology nurses. We had updates on advanced treatments for lichen planus, alopecia areata, atopic dermatitis, hidradenitis suppurativa and were very grateful to A/Prof Peter Foley for making the trip north for some sunshine and to enlighten us with his latest breaking news. We also appreciated the expert speakers from other disciplines including obstetric medicine, ophthalmology and infectious diseases.

Queensland Skin and Cancer Foundation were also very pleased to host a guest lecture for registrars from College President Dr Adriene Lee on 19 August. Our trainees are most appreciative of Dr Lee's time and expertise.

A/Prof Erin McMeniman
Chair, QLD Faculty

WA Faculty

The WA Faculty has moved to a new registrar set up this year with a north hub for registrars and a south/east hub. This has been working well to minimise commute time for our trainees and foster a stronger team spirit. We are going to be commencing our first private practice position next year which will also include regular sessions at a local Aboriginal medical service, which will provide a great

opportunity for trainees. Thank you to Genevieve Sadler, our Director of Training for her help organising the new registrar rotations and our new private practice position.

My tenure as Faculty Chair will come to a close at the Annual General Meeting at the beginning of next year with Dr Su-Lin Chan taking over and Dr Louise O'Halloran joining as Secretary.

We are looking forward to our

Christmas Party being organised by our new treasurer, Dr Patricia Le, and Faculty members have started getting involved in the organisation of the Perth ASM next year, which we are looking forward to, and hope many Fellows will travel out west to enjoy!

Dr Rachael Foster
Chair, WA Faculty

SA Faculty

Dr Catherine Reid retired from her private practice in June 2023. She has been a driving force in dermatology in South Australia for more than 40 years. Over her wide-spanning career including both public and private practice she has mentored and taught many dermatology registrars and Fellows. She was Head of Dermatology at The Royal Adelaide Hospital for many years and has also served as ACD Honorary Secretary. The SA Faculty appreciate her significant contributions to our Faculty and College.

Our retiring Fellows will be formerly farewelled at the annual Faculty dinner this year in September, organised by Dr Mathew Cho.

The SA Faculty continue to provide support for the sole STP position in the Northern Territory

under the leadership of Dr Dev Tilakaratne. Recently, the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care finalised its 2023 Expression of Interest Application round and Royal Darwin Hospital was successful in being approved for a second position to go on the reserve list. The College's STP Taskforce has offered funding for this second STP position, and pending accreditation the position will commence in February 2024.

Thank you to Dr Emma Haverhoek and Dr Emma Ryan who organised the successful College Viva exams in Adelaide this year.

Finally, the SA Faculty congratulate Dr Aakriti Gupta and Dr Michael Rooke on their marriage in early April 2023.

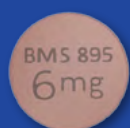
Dr Sachin Vaidya
Chair, SA Faculty



Dr Aakriti Gupta and Dr Michael Rooke

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Tablet not actual size.

*Superior sPGA 0/1 and PASI 75 response rates vs apremilast at Week 16 (54% vs 32% and 58% vs 35%, respectively; $p < 0.0001$ for both).^{1,3}

†In patients who achieved PASI 75 at Week 24, 80.4% sustained response at 1 year.¹



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SOTYKTU is generally well tolerated with a demonstrated safety profile.¹ Please see the SOTYKTU Product Information for additional safety information.

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▼ This medicinal product is subject to additional monitoring in Australia. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse events at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems.

Before prescribing, please refer to the approved Product Information available at <https://rss.medsinfo.com.au/bq/pi.cfm?product=bqpsoty> or by contacting Bristol Myers Squibb Australia Medical Information, telephone: 1800 067 567, email: MedInfo.Australia@bms.com

NAME OF THE MEDICINE: SOTYKTUTM (deucravacitinib). **THERAPEUTIC INDICATION:** Treatment of adult patients with moderate-to-severe plaque psoriasis who are candidates for systemic therapy or phototherapy. **DOSE AND METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION:** 6 mg once daily taken orally, with or without food. Do not crush, cut, or chew the tablet. **CONTRAINDICATIONS:** Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients. **SPECIAL WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR USE:** Hypersensitivity; Infections including viral reactivation; Pre-treatment Evaluation for Tuberculosis; Malignancies; Immunisations; Potential risks of JAK inhibition; Laboratory abnormalities including elevated CPK and rhabdomyolysis, Triglyceride Elevations and Liver Enzyme Elevations; Use in Elderly; Paediatric Use. Pregnancy: Category B1. Refer to the Product Information (PI) for further details of the Warnings and Precautions. **INTERACTIONS:** Deucravacitinib is eliminated via multiple pathways with no single pathway predominantly responsible for elimination, major drug interactions via inhibition or induction of a pathway are not anticipated. **ADVERSE EVENTS:** Common (≥ 1 to $<10\%$): Nasopharyngitis; Upper respiratory tract infection; Headache; Diarrhoea; Blood creatine phosphokinase increased; Arthralgia; Hypertension; Psoriasis; Nausea; Back pain. Refer to the PI for a full list of adverse events and further details.

PASI, Psoriasis Area and Severity Index; sPGA, static Physician's Global Assessment; TYK2, tyrosine kinase 2.

References: 1. SOTYKTU Product Information. 2. Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) <https://www.tga.gov.au/resources/artg> (Accessed June 2023). 3. Armstrong AW *et al.* *J Am Acad Dermatol* 2023;88(1):29;-39.

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ACD CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Category 2 points made easy – A blueprint

DR DAVID BURDON-JONES

PEER REVIEW GROUP MEETING

The North Western Dermatology Peer Group (NWDPG), originally put together by Dr Adrian Mar and Dr Bruce Tate, held its first peer review meeting on the evening of Thursday 22 June 2023 at Dr Mar's Rooms in Moonee Ponds. 18 local dermatologists met face-to-face to discuss two clinical cases. After a quick light meal and catch-up, we divided into two smaller groups to facilitate free-flowing discussion amongst all participants. Dr Kamaldeep Sandhu and Dr Phil Lane acted as Chairs for each of the two groups, having sent details of the two cases to the participants beforehand, wrote minutes for the meeting and sent an attendance sheet to College for the participants' CPD points.

CASE REVIEWS

We discussed a 38-year-old female with probable female androgenetic alopecia. Individual dermatologists within the group outlined their approach to the patient and once all participants had done so, further structured discussion continued in respect to how far each would investigate, their approach to examination and investigation, and finally what treatment options they favoured. The treatment options discussed included the pros and cons of topical minoxidil, oral minoxidil, spironolactone, cyproterone acetate, bicalutamide, and platelet rich plasma therapy.

In the next case, discussed in a similar manner, a patient presenting with rapidly evolving alopecia areata. Treatment options considered by the participants included prednisolone, followed by steroid sparing agents methotrexate, tofacitinib and baricitinib. The black box warnings for JAK inhibitors were discussed. Dr Vijaya Chitreddy shared her expertise on hair disorders.

The meeting lasted 1.5 hours and it is planned to hold them every 6-8 weeks on different weeknights to give everyone the opportunity to attend during the year and to accrue the required 5 hours of Category 2 Peer Review Points. Discussion flowed

freely and all were able to express their views in a non-judgemental forum and learn from our shared experience.

For all attendees it was a thoroughly enjoyable and useful learning experience and we acknowledged the value of such peer review group meetings as part of the new CPD program.



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION OR SUPPORT?

Contact College's CPD team via [email](#) or visit College's [website](#) ●

A Better Culture webinar

As part of the *A Better Culture Project*, College held an interactive webinar on Thursday 27 July 2023. The webinar was hosted by A Better Culture CEO, Dr Jillann Farmer, with ACD President Dr Adriene Lee forming part of the panel along with ACD Fellows A/Prof Stephen Shumack, Dr Lisa Byrom and Dr Lisa Abbott.

During the webinar, Dr Jillann Farmer provided invaluable insight into improving the culture in medicine and the need for trainees to have appropriate access to assistance.

The aim of this project is to design and develop a multi-faceted engagement strategy to address the long-standing issues in the culture of medicine in collaboration with all key stakeholders including specialist medical colleges, the Australian Medical Council (AMC), the Medical Board of Australia (MBA), the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) and the Council of Presidents of Medical Colleges (CPMC).

Thank you to our panelists who facilitated the engaging discussion and thank you to all Fellows who attended the webinar. The webinar recording is available online for ACD members through the ACD member portal.

College looks forward to continual involvement in this project, in order to be a part of the behavioural change across specialist medical training.



As reported in the last edition of *The Mole*, The *A Better Culture Project* was developed by the Royal Australian College of Medical Administrators (RACMA) as a result of the recent Medical Training Survey that identified unacceptable levels of bullying, discrimination, racism, and harassment within the medical workforce.

A Better Culture aims to design and develop a multi-faceted engagement strategy to address the long-standing issues in the culture of medicine and to confirm a tangible and achievable approach that will be adopted by all key stakeholders to enact sustained behavioural change across the whole of specialist medical training. ●

Annual Scientific Meeting program development – A group approach with a clear path forward

The Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) has undergone a remarkable transformation thanks to the collaborative efforts of Topic Area Leads (TALs). Led by the Meeting & Events Oversight Group, this dynamic group approach has revolutionised the development of the ASM program, providing a representative and comprehensive platform for discussions about dermatological conditions.

SARAH STEDMAN – DIRECTOR, MEMBERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The benefits of the Topic Area Leads (TALs) collective expertise and positive impact on the ASM are outlined below.

FOSTERING COLLABORATION AND NETWORKING

Bringing together TALs from all areas of sub-specialisation has enhanced discussions and the exchange of ideas that have the potential to drive innovative approaches and solutions in dermatology management and treatment.

CATERING TO DIVERSE INTERESTS

The ASM program, curated by TALs, ensures diverse and well-rounded content that caters to the interests of a broader audience. Generalist dermatologists can take in sessions delivered by colleagues who have a particular interest in specific conditions, providing up to date, relevant and useful knowledge to take back to their everyday work.

The Annual Scientific Meeting has been transformed into a platform for immersive and cutting-edge discussions on skin, hair, and nail conditions.

SHARING THE WORKLOAD

The group approach ensures efficient resource allocation, as each TAL focuses on their area of expertise. This allows for more in-depth and comprehensive sessions, providing attendees with valuable insights and knowledge.

STAYING CUTTING-EDGE WITH FLEXIBILITY

The collaborative approach allows the ASM to remain cutting-edge and relevant. TALs can quickly adapt the program to incorporate emerging trends, research findings, and pressing issues, ensuring that the ASM remains at the forefront of dermatological discussions.

HEIGHTENING AWARENESS OF FELLOWSHIP EXPERTISE

Through the involvement of Fellows as TALs, the ASM highlights the depth of expertise across College. It showcases Fellows as leaders in skin health, reinforcing College's commitment to excellence in the field.

FOSTERING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Working collaboratively enhances professional development for TALs. Developing session content enables TALs to learn from their peers, expand their knowledge and develop leadership and organisational skills, contributing to their growth as experts in their fields.

ENSURING QUALITY THROUGH PEER REVIEW

The collaborative nature of program development results in a natural peer review and quality control. Feedback and insights from peers ensure that each session meets the desired standard of excellence.

CONTINUITY AND EVOLUTION

For each new ASM, the Meeting & Events Oversight Group sees an opportunity to bring on new TALs across various areas of interest. A strategic turnover of the group of TALs will mean we will be able to strike a balance between experienced leaders and providing an opportunity for up and coming Fellows to work closely together to bring sessions to life. This will ensure the program will continue to evolve, mirroring the dynamic nature of the profession. This adaptability will ensure the ASM continues to be a forward-thinking and impactful event.

The dedication and hard work of TALs, driven by the Meeting & Events Oversight Group have transformed the Annual Scientific Meeting into a platform for immersive and cutting-edge discussions on skin, hair, and nail conditions. By embracing a collaborative approach, the ASM has become a great example of innovation, cross-speciality cooperation, and professional development. As the ASM continues to evolve and improve, the collective expertise of all the Fellows involved will drive excellence and innovation in dermatology, benefitting the entire professional community and the patients we serve. ●



THANK YOU TO THE 2023 TOPIC AREA LEADS

Dr Aaron Boyce	Scardamaglia
Dr Adriene Lee	Dr Leona Yip
Dr Alex Chamberlain	Dr Li-Chuen Wong
Dr Belinda Welsh	Dr Lynda Spelman
Dr Bert Pruim	Dr Marguerite Seith
Dr Catherine Scarff	Dr Mei Tam
Prof Dedee Murrell	Dr Michael Lee
A/Prof Erin McMeniman	Dr Michelle McRae
A/Prof Gayle Ross	Dr Michelle Rodrigues
Dr Gilberto Moreno	Dr Niamh O'Sullivan
Prof Greg Goodman	Prof Nikolas Haass
Dr Ian McCrossin	Prof Pascale Guitera
Dr JoAnn See	Dr Philip Tong
Prof Johannes Kern	Prof Prasad
Dr John Frew	Kumarasinghe
Dr John Sullivan	Dr Robert Miller
Dr Kate DeAmbrosis	Dr Susan Robertson
A/Prof Laura	A/Prof Victoria Mar
	Dr Vivian Tng



From little things, big things grow – A community of practice

After the success of College's inaugural Practice Managers Forum at the Sydney ASM, there is enthusiasm from attendees to expand on the one day program to see a community of practice for dermatology practice managers take shape. It is anticipated that an online forum will provide an excellent opportunity for professionals to connect, share experiences and exchange knowledge in a supportive and collaborative environment.

SARAH STEDMAN – DIRECTOR, MEMBERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

We currently have 30 practice managers involved in the community. Following the forum at the ASM, College surveyed the attendees about what they considered to be the important issues. The list below is comprehensive and reflects the diverse challenges and concerns faced by practice managers in the dermatology space.

1. Regulatory and Legislative Changes:
Staying up to date with changing regulations

and legislation is crucial for compliance and risk management. There appears to be a need for discussion on how these changes impact dermatology practices and strategies for adapting to them could be beneficial.

2. Risk and Reputation Management:
Managing risks related to patient care, data security, malpractice, and maintaining a positive reputation are critical aspects of running a successful dermatology practice.

3. Staff Management in Dermatology

Practice: The complexity of patient care and treatment in dermatology requires well trained and efficient staff. There is a desire to look at best practices for staff training, performance evaluation, and motivation could be valuable.

4. Handling Referrals from GPs: The overwhelming number of referrals from general practitioners can pose a challenge. Developing strategies to handle referrals efficiently and maintaining good relationships with referring physicians could be helpful.

5. Medicare Item Numbers and Billing: Proper understanding and implementation of Medicare item numbers and billing processes are essential for financial stability and compliance.

6. Practice Documentation and Protocols: Developing comprehensive consent forms, practice procedures and protocols ensures smooth operations and minimises legal risks.

7. Staff Vulnerabilities and Training: Identifying areas where staff vulnerabilities exist and providing targeted training to address those vulnerabilities can enhance the overall practice performance.

8. Addressing Doctor-Related Vulnerabilities: Identifying potential vulnerabilities related to doctors' actions and finding workarounds to mitigate them will contribute to a well-managed practice.

9. Leadership and Workforce Changes: With a changing workforce, effective leadership becomes crucial. Discussions on leadership styles, managing generational differences, and fostering a positive work culture could be beneficial.

10. Financial Management: Financial management is a significant aspect of running any business, including dermatology practices. Topics may include budgeting, financial forecasting, cost-cutting measures, and revenue optimisation.

11. New Medical Board and Industry

Guidelines: Keeping up to date with the latest guidelines and industry news such as telehealth guidelines and cosmetic surgery reforms is essential for compliant and progressive practices.

WHERE TO NEXT?

It is evident that these topics resonate with many practice managers and addressing them can significantly improve the quality and efficiency of dermatology practices. As the community grows, members can share their experiences, challenges, and innovative solutions to collectively enhance the dermatology practice management landscape.

College intends to foster an inclusive, respectful, and professional atmosphere within the community which will ensure open and constructive discussions. The exchange of ideas and knowledge can lead to valuable resources being sourced and shared among the members, benefitting all participants and the dermatology community as a whole.



INVITE YOUR PRACTICE MANAGER TO JOIN US

We encourage Fellows to invite their practice managers to join the conversation. To join, practice managers can email membership@dermcoll.edu.au, with the following details:

- Name
- Practice location (suburb/town)
- Email address
- Name of the practice or Fellow. ●



Australian
Dermatology
Nurses'
Association

Promoting and Developing Excellence in
Dermatology Nursing

ADNA update

The Australian Dermatology Nurses Association (ADNA) has begun this financial year with a new team with added roles and big plans.

VIVIENNE SPEIRS, ADNA PRESIDENT

The new Executive team was instated at the Annual Conference in May. I now take on the role as President, with Glenda Savoulin RN as Secretary, Ritchelle Enriquez RN as Treasurer, Karen Dazkiw EEN as Education Liaison Officer and Dr Deryne Thompson RN as CoNNMO representative.

Our State representatives have also had some changes with Taylor Spate RN NP taking on the role for Queensland and Katherine Dixon RN taking on the role for New South Wales. Sue Thornton RN remains the representative for Victoria and Penelope Harrison RN and newly qualified NP remains for South Australia. Annette Nuich was recently appointed as the representative for WA and is planning the 2024 ADNA conference with the Committee. Danny Metin RN NP takes on the newly created position for the Northern Territory and plans are in train to increase ADNA's representation in ACT and Tasmania to better represent nurse members.

ADNA is very excited for this new year of growth and fresh start for many of the States who have had a change of leadership and new opportunities to represent nurses, such as those from the Northern Territory who have long been underrepresented within ADNA. This year will open opportunities for nurses, including Primary Health and Aboriginal Health Professionals, to expand their knowledge and provide evidence-based practice for safe patient care by increasing their understanding of dermatological conditions as well as solidifying dermatology nurse knowledge. We would like to replicate this open policy of educating all nurses, Australia-wide.

Danny Metin is a Nurse Practitioner of five years who moved to the Northern Territory

from South Australia two years ago. He is known to several dermatologists who have recently visited the Territory and is experienced in educating medical students, Primary Health and dermatology nurses.

Danny has identified areas of need within his community such as scabies, vitiligo, melanoma education in First Nations peoples, sunscreen education and sun protection education for systemic lupus erythematosus in First Nations populations. Another need is skin cancer education for health professionals who treat FIFO members of the community. Please support Danny in this task by offering to speak at the Northern Territory education day.

Queensland has been under-represented within the ADNA community. Recent interest in volunteering for the role of State Representative has meant the Queensland dermatology and cosmetic nurses will again be able to attend an education day within easy travelling distance.

New South Wales is running an education day hot on the heels of the Conference in Sydney. Kath Dixon is a registered nurse with hospital and private practice experience. After the Conference, NSW members huddled to discuss topics they wished to hear and better understand. Some volunteered to speak as well which ADNA supports to train new nurse leaders in dermatology. Kath will be amply supported by the previous NSW State representative and ADNA Executive in this role.

ADNA would appreciate dermatologists supporting their nurses in attending these education days as they benefit patient safety, nurse education, leading to safe application of nursing scope in their daily practice of the discipline. ●



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Benefits:

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- Collaborative and supportive work environment
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- Dermatology trained nurses

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QR code to
find out more



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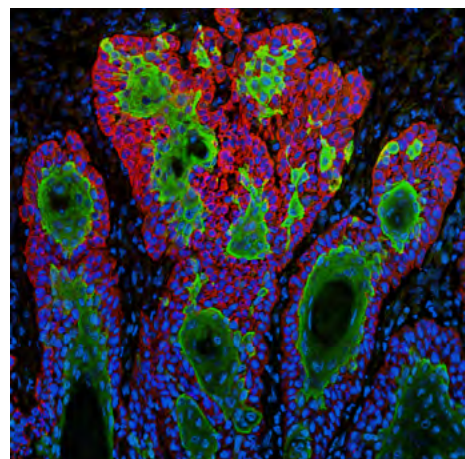
skinhospital.edu.au

Scientific Research Fund Grant 2023 – Applications closed

Thank you to Fellows who applied for the 2023 Scientific Research Fund (SRF) Grant. We received a total of 13 high quality applications.

The peer-review process is near completion, and we look forward to announcing the successful recipient in the next edition of *The Mole*. If you have any questions relating to your application, please contact grants@dermcoll.edu.au.

The SRF has provided support to over 30 research projects in dermatology thanks to the ongoing support and generosity of Fellows who have donated to the Fund. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the SRF, please contact Andy Wong, Director Finance and Risk Management at finance@dermcoll.edu.au. ●



ACRF ACEMID

– Overcoming the challenges of the early detection of melanoma

If we are to beat melanoma, the most impactful ways are through prevention and early detection.

There is a pressing need to see a paradigm shift in our ability to accurately detect melanoma. The Australian Centre of Excellence in Melanoma Imaging and Diagnosis (ACEMID) is a program of research that aims to overcome the challenges of early detection, screening and management of primary cutaneous melanoma, and care for people at risk of, or detected with, other skin cancers.

ELIZABETH PAYNE, PROF H. PETER SOYER, PROF PABLO FERNÁNDEZ-PEÑAS, A/PROF VICTORIA MAR, PROF MONIKA JANDA ON BEHALF OF THE ACEMID TEAM

The ACEMID program of research aims to unite the currently fragmented efforts across the health system to develop a roadmap towards an evidence-based, equitable targeted melanoma screening program.

In late 2018, the Australian Cancer Research Foundation (ACRF) awarded the ACEMID project a \$10M infrastructure grant that enables establishment of an innovative 3D total body imaging system research network. The ACRF ACEMID research collaboration is led by The

University of Queensland in partnership with The University of Sydney and Monash University and brings together a broad range of partners encompassing clinical, health services, research institutions, and melanoma consumer advocacy entities. ACRF ACEMID involves leaders in dermatology, pathology, general practice, prevention, health economics, behavioural psychology, computer science, information technology and digital health all working together to develop the network and related clinical studies.



The ACRF ACEMID project currently has 11 3D total body imaging systems installed, with 15 imaging systems to be established by the end of 2023. This 3D total body imaging network, spanning both metropolitan and regional locations in Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria, is advancing 3 interlinked research programs:

3 INTERLINKED RESEARCH PROGRAMS

- Diagnostic Intelligence – improving accuracy in skin lesion diagnosis to address the dilemma of both under- and over-diagnosis. It will focus on clinical analytics and diagnostic algorithms to improve early detection and risk stratification, as well as how and when they are best integrated into the clinical workflow;
- Clinical and Health Service Evaluation – focusing on Health Technology Assessment and evaluating the impact of total body imaging on patients and the healthcare system. ACRF ACEMID will work towards standardisation of the currently ad hoc skin cancer surveillance and screening processes to decrease the current variation in care and provide data to support the reimbursement of skin imaging;
- Informatics – focusing on implementation of a total body imaging network, telemedicine approaches, privacy and standards development.

The research programs are facilitated by the project's core research activity, the NHMRC funded ACEMID Cohort Study (APP2001517). This study aims to recruit 15,000 participants, spanning all melanoma risk profiles, across the 15 research nodes for sequential total body imaging and data collection over a 3-year period. This study allows for the establishment of a comprehensive and well annotated dataset from a 'real world' Australian cohort, comprised of imaging, questionnaire, clinical and genetic data, that will be unique worldwide, and reflect the sun damage that many Australians have acquired throughout their lifetime. The ACRF ACEMID research programs and dataset will enable many unanswered research questions in the field to be addressed and aims to develop tools and technologies that can support clinicians in their daily practice.

Linked NHMRC funded projects allow ACRF ACEMID to facilitate advancements in artificial intelligence and the development of validated and technologically innovative solutions to enhance accurate clinical assessment and management of melanoma and keratinocyte skin cancers (APP2006551). As well as informing development of a road map for a nationwide targeted melanoma screening program by determining how best to reform the

current, largely opportunistic, early detection processes (APP2009923). The linked MRFF funded IMAGE randomised clinical trial (APP1175082), coordinated by the Melanoma and Skin Cancer Trials Group, has now completed recruitment across a number of ACEMID sites, and will provide evidence to the Medical Services Advisory Committee to inform decisions on reimbursement of melanoma surveillance photography for high-risk individuals.

ACEMID is an ambitious research project that focuses on improving the patient pathway and maximising the potential of new technologies. ACRF ACEMID will champion a reduction in the overarching burden, morbidity and mortality associated with the 17,000 new cases of invasive melanoma (and 28,000 in situ melanoma cases) occurring yearly in Australia by helping ensure that healthcare services are targeted effectively and equitably to Australians most in need. Channelling people into risk stratified prevention, screening or surveillance programs, utilising and developing innovative technologies, genomic testing, AI enhancements and telemedicine opportunities, is expected to result in improved melanoma outcomes, more effective and sustainable practices, and significant personal and health care system cost-savings. ●



ACEMID is an ambitious research project that focuses on improving the patient pathway and maximising the potential of new technologies.



Acne in Japan – Reflections

Earlier this year I was invited to speak in Tokyo about the 'Australian experience' with oral isotretinoin.

DR JO-ANN SEE

Oral isotretinoin is not generally available to the Japanese public as the Japanese regulatory authorities have not yet approved it, therefore dermatologists cannot prescribe it. This made me think about how we treat our patients in Australia and what would we do if we didn't have oral isotretinoin.

The Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Agency (PMDA) is the governmental agency in Japan, similar to the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration or the American Federal Drug Administration, that secures the safety and efficacy of drugs prescribed through a three-tiered system of:

1. Review - reducing risk to the populace
2. Safety - continuous risk mitigation
3. Relief - relieving measures for health damage caused by medications

Some of the reasons given for the lack of approval of isotretinoin by the PMDA are teratogenicity and that isotretinoin is an older drug so there is no high quality baseline safety data or clinical trials that match the current level of medical science.

However, the good news is that clinical trials are underway. This I found quite interesting as the medication has been available for many years all around the world. In 1969, the drug received its patent and it was approved for medical use as early as 1982. It has been prescribed in Australia for nearly 40 years so this is not a new

medication to us.

There is a common perception that Asian skin is different from Caucasian skin and certainly in Japan, many medications before approval are tested on the Japanese populace. It made me think - is Asian skin so different from Caucasian skin? Having served on several international advisory boards, it becomes apparent that amongst Asian dermatologists there is no consensus as to what constitutes Asian skin. For example, in India there is a range from Fitzpatrick 1 to 6.

When I reviewed the most recent Japanese Dermatological Association Guidelines for the treatment of acne vulgaris, severe acne is treated with a combination of oral antibiotics and topical therapy. It is advised to limit antimicrobial therapy to 3 months for acute inflammation but what then? What would Australian dermatologists do if

we were unable to prescribe oral isotretinoin? How would we manage our patients with severe nodular cystic acne or those experiencing psychological distress?

This then led me to investigate how they actually treat their patients. I was surprised that the Japanese choice of topical treatment was different to ours. Over-the-counter treatments such as Ibuprofen piconol, a nonsteroidal, resorcinol and isopropyl methylphenol are more commonly used compared with salicylic acid or benzoyl peroxide.

Antibiotics are covered by insurance and rather than oral doxycycline, their choice is often minocycline, roxithromycin and metronidazole. Topical Adapalene is used however a really popular product is a topical antibiotic ozenoxacin.

Interestingly, oral isotretinoin is available through acne clinics that import it. Personal import is not prohibited by law assuming that the doctor takes full responsibility. The costs are approximately \$229 AUD for the initial consultation, labs and 1 month of 20mg tablets, then the ongoing costs of follow-up consultation, medical investigation and the purchase of more tablets.

It was a privilege to travel to Japan and to be given the opportunity to reflect not only on a unique culture but on a different medical system. ●





Update

Educational Program

The Skin Hospital's Educational Webinar Series for Dermatologists has continued throughout the year. This series is packed with innovative content, covering a wide range of dermatology topics.

In July, A/Prof Chris Baker discussed the changing targets in psoriasis and redefining treatment goals. In August, Dr Haady Fallah gave an overview of the recent advances in our understanding of the pathogenesis and management of acne including our current understanding of the pathogenesis of acne and the role of diet in acne; new considerations and practical tips relating to the use of isotretinoin and spironolactone; and novel topical, oral and laser therapies for acne.

In October, Dr Frances Tefany will present on scarring and non-scarring hair disorders, whilst Dr Li-Chuen Wong will discuss paediatric psoriasis in November. Please visit The Skin Hospital's social media channels and our [website](#) for a full list of upcoming educational webinars.



Dermatology Prize at The Skin Hospital

On Saturday 14 October 2023 The Skin Hospital will hold the annual Dermatology Prize. This event, which consists of two examinations, was established to support Junior Medical Officers/Unaccredited Registrars and Medical Students with an interest in the field of dermatology.

Winners in the two main categories will receive \$500 for academic performance, to fund further professional development in dermatology. We encourage all eligible individuals to participate to showcase their knowledge and skills. Further details can be found at The Skin Hospital's [website](#).

Registrars Update

After a busy few months, registrars at The Skin Hospital concluded their first rotation for the year on Sunday 6 August 2023. This first term saw many achievements and significant events, such as registrar presentations at ACD's Annual Scientific Meeting.

The fourth-year registrars completed mock exams with the support of their colleagues and peers, in preparation for their Fellowship exams which concluded in August. The Skin Hospital would like to congratulate all fourth-year registrars on this significant achievement and milestone.

The Skin Hospital is a major teaching centre for dermatology registrars, and we look forward to supporting the wider cohort over the last few months of the year.

Clinical Trials Update

The Skin Hospital has over 10 years of experience in the management of clinical trials. The Research and Clinical Trials Unit continues to make a significant impact in the dermatology research community.

Currently, The Skin Hospital is recruiting for four clinical trials. A hand eczema study for adolescents (12 - 17 years) is investigating if an experimental cream medication is an effective treatment for moderate to severe chronic hand eczema. Participants for this trial have experienced severe hand eczema for at least three months and previous treatment with steroid cream has been unsuccessful or was not suitable.

A vitiligo study for adults and adolescents (12 years and older) is exploring if Ritlecitinib is an effective treatment for vitiligo spots. This trial is enrolling participants who have had nonsegmental vitiligo for at least three months, who have active or stable vitiligo, with spots on the face and body.

A plaque psoriasis study for adolescents (12 - 17 years) is exploring if Deucravacitinib is an effective treatment for plaque psoriasis. We are seeking adolescent participants who have been diagnosed with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis and are able to attend our Sydney clinic.

Finally, an Alopecia psoriasis study for adolescents (12 - 17 years) is investigating Baricitinib in the treatment of alopecia.

For full details and to register for any of The Skin Hospital's clinical trials, please visit our [website](#). ●

Social media

To stay up to date with The Skin Hospital's latest news, events and important announcements, we invite you to follow our social media accounts: check projects for improving doctor-patient communication for Mohs patients.

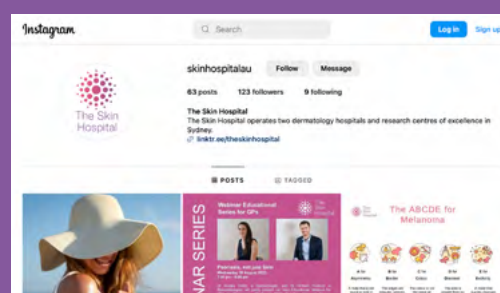
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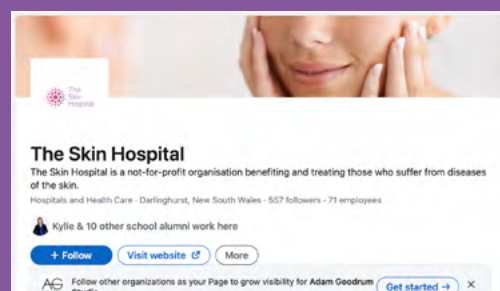
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Update

New trials now open for recruitment!

The Skin Health Institute has five new clinical trials for atopic dermatitis, vitiligo, and hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) now open for recruitment. If you have interested patients, please send your referrals through to explore these innovative treatment options.



For more information, please email trials@skinhealthinstitute.org.au or scan the QR code.

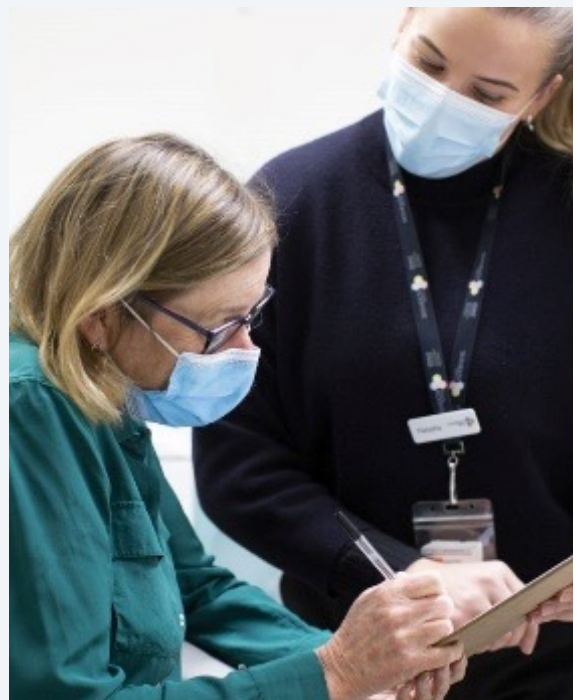
Referring your patients for clinical trials

The Skin Health Institute (SHI) offers a unique opportunity for patients to receive treatment from specialists while gaining access to cutting-edge therapies that can potentially transform their lives.

When patients are referred to SHI clinical trials, they not only receive the opportunity for advanced and personalised care, but holistic support. TSH's multidisciplinary approach connects patients with other specialists, ensuring comprehensive care and a deeper understanding of their individual needs.

SHI is committed to fostering medical advancements and improving patient outcomes, and referrals play a pivotal role in this journey. By participating in clinical trials, patients contribute to the collective knowledge and help pave the way for new, effective treatments. Moreover, participants are reimbursed for expenses, making it an accessible and rewarding experience for them.

As a trusted healthcare provider, your referral helps to advance dermatology and shape the future of treatment.



Australasian Dermatology Registry launched

The new Australasian Dermatology Registry, a national collaboration between dermatologists, facilitated and coordinated by the Skin Health Institute has launched. The new registry has expanded on the Australasian Psoriasis Registry which was established in 2008 by A/Prof Peter Foley and A/Prof Chris Baker.



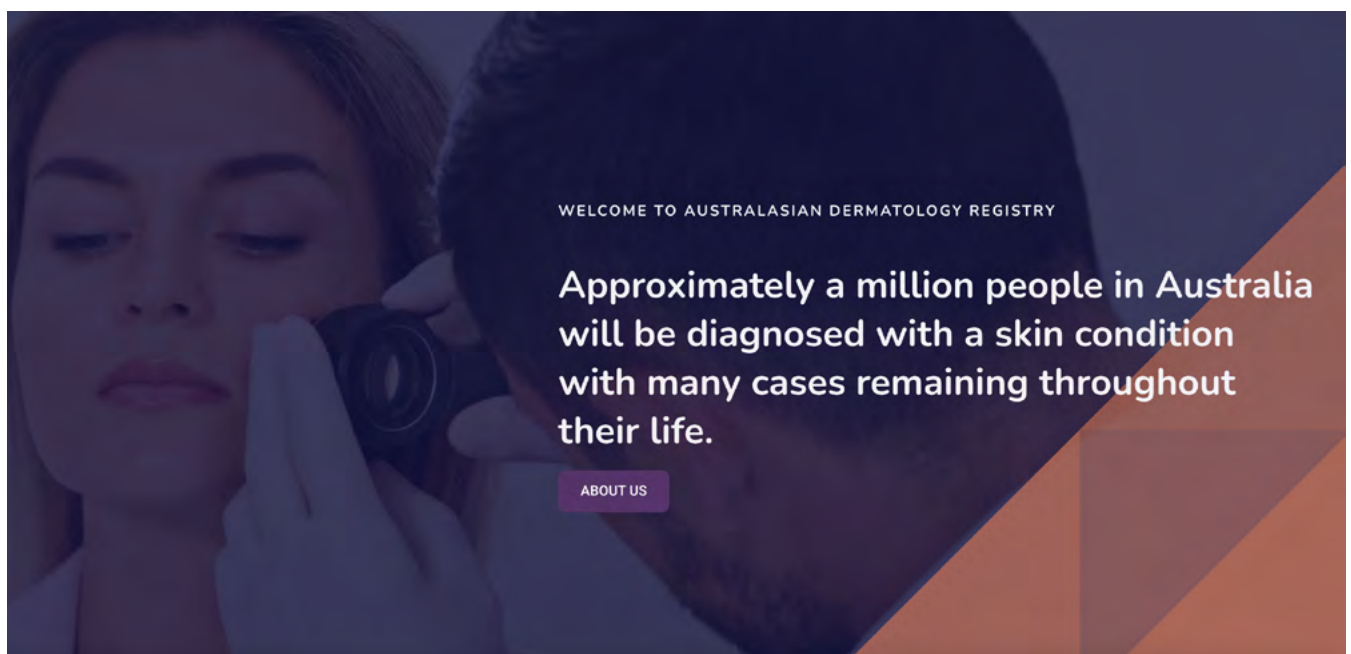
Initially the registry will capture data from patients treated for psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, hidradenitis suppurative and vitiligo with plans to expand the registry into other skin conditions as interest and funding is obtained. The aim of the registry is to acquire real world data and enable monitoring and surveillance of current and emerging treatment and provide a platform for dermatology research.

The registry has been designed to enable patients to enter their data on their phone and tablet including demographic information, family history, comorbidities, lifestyle (e.g. smoking status, alcohol use), and quality of life data. This will minimise the time clinics spending entering data into the registry. Clinics will enter clinician reported information through the registry website, including disease severity and treatment.

In addition to the registry monitoring quality of care, it will be used as a platform for research studies, with participating clinics able to access de-identified data for their own studies, promoting dermatology research across Australia and New Zealand.



For more information on the ADR, please visit the website www.australasiandermatologyregistry.org.au.



SHI Clinical Meeting

On Saturday 15 July, the Skin Health Institute held a hybrid Clinical Meeting for the Victorian Faculty.

This was the first Clinical Meeting in person since 2020 and the first hybrid Clinical Meeting. It provided a great opportunity for our members to progress their professional development and to socialise. There were 84 healthcare professionals in attendance, half online and half in person. The day was split into fourth year registrar quizzing with real patients, morning tea and then case discussion and presentations. A big well done goes out to Dr Blake Mumford, Dr Jennifer Nguyen, Dr Ferial Ismail and Dr Yonatan Kok for coordinating the patients and presentations on the day. ●



UPCOMING EDUCATION EVENTS AT SHI

SEPTEMBER

6

SEP

INSTITUTE UPDATE

SHI LIAISON CLINIC

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LEGACY SERIES

PROF JOHN W KELLY & A/PROF ROBERT KELLY
INTERVIEWED BY DR VICTORIA MAR

21

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Visit the Skin Health Education Portal to catch up on the education events that you've missed.



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