

#### **PERTH AWAITS IN 2024**

Bringing together the trailblazers and future leaders of dermatology

#### **COLLABORATING FOR IMPACT**

Extending influence by optimising use of joint expertise and resources



### From the editor

s the end of year fast approaches, we are delighted to congratulate the fourth year trainees who recently passed the Fellowship exams. College looks forward to welcoming you to our Faculties as new Fellows. Congratulations also to our new first year trainees who have been selected on to the Training Program to begin in February 2024.

The new year will bring to a close two of College's federally-funded Flexible Approach to Training in Expanded Settings (FATES) projects in Townsville and Darwin however we continue our advocacy work for more training places in rural and regional areas.

The first year of the new CPD program is nearly complete and it has been encouraging to see members embrace the new program and adapt to the change with a wide variety of activities being undertaken. The first year of the program has provided many insights into how we can improve in the second year and all members are encouraged to submit their CPD activities before 31 December 2023.

It is also pleasing to see the

recipients of our Travelling
Fellowship Awards able to utilise
these awards since the travel
restrictions imposed during
the COVID-19 pandemic have
been lifted. The reports from
the recipients of our Travelling
Fellowship Awards for 2021 and
2022 are presented in this 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

#### **EDITORIAL TEAM**

#### **EDITOR**

Dr Anousha Yazdabadi Honorary Secretary

#### **EDITORIAL PERSONNEL**

Anita Allen Caroline Zoers

#### **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

s the end of the year rapidly approaches, I reflect on a very busy few months for College. Congratulations to all the successful Fellowship examination candidates and my thanks to the hard working National Examinations Committee members led by their chair, Associate Professor Michelle Goh and the Dean of Education. Dr Catherine Drummond. The Selection Committee has worked with State Faculty representatives to select our incoming trainees for 2024 and I thank all those involved, in particular outgoing chair, Dr Jamie von Nida for his years of dedication, and welcome A/Prof David Francis to the role.

Tackling our workforce shortage and maldistribution remains a primary focus of our College activities, and this is reflected in our upcoming strategic plan for 2024-2027. I had a very productive meeting with the College executive to explore these issues further and had the opportunity to discuss this with members of the ACT and regional NSW Faculties, attending the Annual Canberra Clinical meeting followed by the ACT/Rural NSW Workforce Meeting with President-Elect, Dr Adrian Lim. We heard updates on the successful Flexible Approach to Training in Expanded Settings (FATES) projects in Darwin, Queensland and Tasmania, where significant progress is being made. In September College Director of Policy, Advocacy and Engagement Caroline Zoers and I attended a number of meetings with Federal Senators and Ministerial Advisers at Parliament House to highlight our workforce issues and the burden of atopic eczema with the Managing Director of Eczema Support Australia, Melanie Funk.

I was delighted to attend the annual Alan

Cooper Epiderm Lecture at the end of August. Prof H Peter Soyer presented an outstanding lecture on "Al Powered Skin Cancer Diagnosis" followed by a robust discussion by an esteemed panel. The most exciting news from the event was the announcement of the St Baker Sover Chair of Dermatology position at the University of Queensland, an endowed position made possible by a generous donation from the St Bakers and recognising the incredible contributions of Professor Soyer in the field skin cancer research.

I would like to thank the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons for giving me the opportunity to participate in their "Operating with Respect" course. This has been designed for their members, however the themes and issues raised are applicable across all medical disciplines. I found it incredibly useful and very different to similar courses previously undertaken. We now have the online module available to our members and I encourage you all to avail yourselves of this opportunity and gain those extra CPD points!

Finally I would like to thank the Chair, Gayle Murphy and members of our Community Engagement Advisory Committee. I joined their online meeting in August and was reminded of their precious time, dedication and experience they give to our College, and their invaluable contributions and advice.

The festive season is just around the corner, and I hope all Fellows, trainees and College staff are able to take some time out with their family and friends and wish you all a peaceful, joyous and restful time.

**Dr Adriene Lee** President



## CEO's report

ollege's Strategic Plan 2024-27 will be launched early next year. Our mission - to train, educate and foster ongoing excellence of specialist dermatologists, enabling our Fellows to be the leaders in skin health care, education, advocacy and innovation - remains very much fit for purpose, articulating our core business.

The outcome of our core business is to serve and benefit patients. This is stated in our vision - for the highest standard of skin health and dermatology care to be available and accessible to all patients and communities.

The Strategic Plan extends upon the excellent progress made by College since 2020 and refines our approach to focus on three core areas:

In our recent Member Survey, meeting current and future demand for dermatology services was ranked by Fellows as the greatest challenge facing the profession. While we know that supply does not equal demand, this is more than just a numbers game. This goal speaks to workforce distribution and diversity, scope of practice and the collective expertise of the Fellowship, and visibility and leadership in the skin health space.

In essence, the goal encapsulates the breadth of work undertaken

across College to ensure that the specialist dermatology workforce meets the needs of the Australian population. When looking to the full scope of specialist dermatology care that will be needed in the future, we must plan for a workforce that has collective expertise across academic, surgical, medical, procedural and cosmetic dermatology and has the capacity to deliver clinical care how and where it is most needed. Faced with a workforce shortage, this requires ongoing advocacy for public services and training, combined with innovative models of care to be nimble, efficient and effective.

#### SERVICES FOR OUR MEMBERS

College belongs to and is here for its members. This goal aims to evolve our suite of member services to ensure that Fellows continue to benefit from their membership of College. We have a diverse membership base and to do so requires ongoing dialogue and engagement across the Fellowship to inform program design, implementation and adaptation.

To be effective, member services must support our Fellows to maintain their expert knowledge, standards and skills through highest quality CPD and events, and deliver member value through timely support services, tools and resources to assist everyday practice. Captured within this goal are our communication platforms

and IT systems, advocacy and policy services, dermatology research support and publication through the AJD, and advice and information to government, community and the media.

#### **EDUCATION FOR OUR FUTURE**

The Training Program is fundamental to College and we maintain the highest standards of education and training for our trainees. It is an area heavily scrutinised by regulators and has a high compliance burden, however one benefit derived from this scrutiny is the recognition and assurance that College delivers the highest quality program that is focused on continual improvement.

This goal aims to ensure excellence in specialty training by incorporating best practice in education and training principles, delivery, selection, assessment, mentoring and supervision. It includes College's activities in growing the pipeline of future dermatologists, our education for other health professionals, and critically, our programs of work to ensure a safe, inclusive, professional and respectful training culture.

I would like to thank all Fellows for their feedback on the draft Strategic Plan and very much look forward to the years to come.

**Dr Haley Bennett Chief Executive Officer** 

## Introducing our new Board Members

#### Prof Kiarash Khosrotehrani

FACD Prof Khosrotehrani is interested in skin biology, regenerative medicine and skin cancer. He leads the **Experimental Dermatology Group** at the University of Queensland Diamantina Institute within the Translational Research Institute in Brisbane. He is also the Deputy Director of the Australian Skin and Skin Cancer Research Centre in Brisbane

Prof Khosrotehrani obtained his MD from the Cochin-Port Royal School of Medicine at René Descartes University in Paris, France, where he specialised in dermatology. He is a former graduate of the Ecole Normale Supérieure and the Institut Pasteur of Paris (Université Paris VI, Pierre et Marie Curie) where he obtained a PhD in Physiology and Physiopathology. He is a practising dermatologist at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Prince Charles Hospital and the Skin and Cancer Foundation's Queensland Institute of Dermatology.

During his post-doctoral training at Tufts-New England Medical Center, Boston, USA, Prof. Khosrotehrani helped establish the contribution of fetal stem cells to tissue repair by demonstrating their multipotent capacity with a specific potency towards the endothelial

lineage. The originality of this work was acknowledged by the NHMRC through an achievement award (2011) and an NHMRC excellence award (2016). He is currently a fellow of the NHMRC of Australia. The main focus of his laboratory is on regenerative medicine and stem cell biology, in particular in injury response in skin wounds and skin cancer and how these responses contribute to cancer initiation and progression. Translating his laboratory findings, Prof Khosrotehrani is leading innovative clinical trials in wound healing, keratinocyte cancers and melanoma.

#### **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

- Director CKAP Medical Pty Ltd
- Inventor of Patents held by University of Queensland, licensed to HaOn
- Director of the Dermatology Department at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane Director of the Experimental Dermatology Group, Frazer Institute, The University of Queensland
- Chair of the Partnership and Development committee, The University of Queensland Frazer Institute (in charge of industry relationships and philanthropy
- Member of the University of



Queensland Frazer institute management group

- Co-Director of the Australian Skin and Skin Cancer (ASSC) research Centre
- Board Director of Queensland Skin and Cancer Foundation and Queensland institute of Dermatology
- Immediate past president and board member of the Australasian Society for Dermatology Research
- Board member of the International Society for Investigative Dermatology
- Research funding recipient from Novartis, Lilly, La Roche Posay, Sanofi
- Consultant or Lecturer for Novartis, Sanofi, La Roche Posay, Janssen, Abbvie.

#### Mr Andrew Herrick, MBA (Hons), BSc Physics (Hons)

Andrew Herrick is a senior executive in the Financial Services industry, with experience leading strategy functions in the insurance and wealth management sectors. Prior to this he worked for twenty years in professional services, focused on management consulting in the strategy and transformation domains in Australia and the United States, across the Financial Services, Healthcare and Government sectors

He has extensive experience

driving strategy at Board and C-Suite levels. Andrew studied Physics at the Australian National University where he received Honours (First Class). He also holds a Masters of Business Administration (Honors) from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

#### **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

- Honorary Fellow, Australian
   College of Nurse Practitioners
- Secretary, Wharton Alumni Club of Australia



#### Obituary – Dr Colin John Parker 1933-2023

DR JEFF WAYTE

r Colin Parker was born in Adelaide in 1933. He left Adelaide High School in 1949 with an interest in physics, chemistry and biology and trained as a pharmacist, a discipline then emerging from an era of patent medicines towards its modern base in science.

Once qualified, he bought a pharmacy in Hamley Bridge, a small town north of Adelaide but soon became bored with the predominantly retail side of the business.

Looking for a more interesting and science-based career, he gained a place at the University of Adelaide Medical School in 1961 and relocated his young family back to the city.

He chose general practice once his training was complete, seeking variety, challenge and, in the remote coastal town of Port Lincoln, an opportunity to indulge a love of fishing.

In 1980, with his children reaching

their last years of high school, he returned to Adelaide, armed with the "Part 1" in dermatology, to a new job as a dermatology registrar at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. At 46, he was no doubt a late starter and found the study required demanding but with characteristic persistence he passed the Fellowship exam at his second attempt in 1984.

He ran a busy practice in North Adelaide for many years and not forgetting his patients and colleagues in Port Lincoln, provided a dermatology service there as well.

He was Head of Unit at the Women's and Children's Hospital for a number of years, teaching numerous trainees.

As a boy, on a couple of occasions he had travelled on the Ghan to Mt Cavanagh, a remote cattle station in the Northern Territory owned by an uncle. Here he met the local First Nations people, developing an interest in Aboriginal culture and welfare.

Later in his career he visited the Top End on many occasions, developing programs for dermatology care in First Nations communities and providing care himself face to face in many locations.

For this work, in 2010, he was awarded the College's Mervyn Gold OAM award for a lifetime contribution to rural and regional dermatology.

He took up dermoscopy with enthusiasm, reporting images for MoleMap and providing registrar tutorials, which (hopefully!) some of the younger local dermatologists will remember.

Colin spent his retirement, travelling, fishing, gardening and playing tennis, the last a lifelong obsession. He was a very good player, representing Australia in his age bracket in 2009.

He was active almost to the end and is survived by his wife Kerry and his children and is sadly missed.

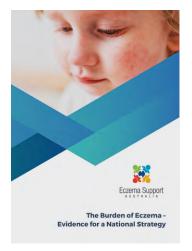


## Policy and Advocacy update Collaborating for impact

In addition to our collaborative workforce projects and broader policy and advocacy work, recent months have seen us involved in several collaborative pieces of work aimed at improving access to dermatology care and skin health outcomes for people living with skin, hair and nail conditions.

CAROLINE ZOERS, DIRECTOR POLICY, ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT





n August, College was pleased to collaborate with Eczema Support Australia in supporting the launch of their new report, The Burden of Eczema – Evidence for a National Strategy with the foreword authored by College President, Dr Adriene Lee. There was strong media engagement across general and health professional media. This initial stage of the advocacy campaign culminated in Dr Lee and I joining Eczema Support Australia CEO, Melanie Funk for meetings with MPs and advisers in Canberra in September. This was

a valuable opportunity to advocate for the needs of patients and for investment in the specialist workforce. Discussions are continuing regarding the next stage of this important advocacy piece.

College is also delighted to be an affiliate partner for the atopic dermatitis components of new grantfunded programs that aim to support consumer health literacy and improve the use of medicines. The Quality Use of Medicines Alliance, a consortium of eight health professional and consumer organisations, will align

their work across two grants awarded under the Federal Government's Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology (QUDTP) Program. The grants will run over a 2-year period and address priority quality use of medicines (QUM) issues across 4 topics. Atopic dermatitis will be the first topic, and we thank those Fellows who have agreed to be involved in informing and guiding the program.

The Quality Use of Medicines Alliance brings together unique expertise from education providers, consumer groups, researchers, health professional colleges, peak bodies and member organisations to develop free, evidence-based, educational activities, at scale, for a national audience of health professionals and consumers. This is an excellent example of how strong stakeholder engagement can result in impactful strategic partnerships. For more information, see the QUM Alliance media release here and supporting factsheet.

College and our Fellows are collaborating with several organisations on new and updated strategies, guidelines and position statements and we look forward to sharing the details of these as they are launched. These include the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy 2023-2030, launched in November, for which College is a partner organisation. The Second Edition of the National Healthy Skin Guideline for the Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention of Skin Infections for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children and Communities in Australia was launched by Telethon Kids in late October 2023 (available here). The Guideline was endorsed by College and we would like to acknowledge

the contributions of those College Fellows involved in the update of that Guideline.

College has worked with the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) to update advice on cosmetic treatments using non-ionising radiation for consumers and treatment providers. The updated advice for consumers and providers are available here.

Our collaboration with the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA) through our participation in the AIDAled Specialist Trainee Support Program (STSP) continues. The STSP aims to bring together the non-GP specialist medical colleges to share and embed good practice in the recruitment, selection, retention and successful Fellowship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander trainees. It is pleasing that the value of this collaborative program has been recognised with direct Department of Health and Aged Care funding to enable it to continue beyond the original Flexible Approach to Training in Expanded Settings project funding. Continuing this collaboration, College again sponsored the AIDA Conference, held on nipaluna, lutruwita/ Hobart, Tasmania on 16-18 November. A number of College Fellows and trainees attended the conference providing a valuable opportunity to network with medical students and junior doctors to raise awareness of the dermatology career pathway and our training program. They were also able to share their expertise by delivering the suturing workshop at the conference. Our sincere thanks go to all those involved and we look forward to sharing more details in the next issue of *The Mole*.

College is collaborating with organisations including Eczema Support Australia, Quality Use of Medicines Alliance members, Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency, and Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association to positively impact skin health across broad demographics and health objectives.



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References: 1. SOTYKTU Product Information. 2. Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods. Available at: https://www.ebs.tga.gov.au/. Accessed October 2023.



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# Delivering on our advocacy for a sustainable dermatology workforce

College's first two federally-funded Flexible Approach to Training in Expanded Settings (FATES) projects in Townsville and Darwin are near completion with final reports due to the Department of Health and Aged Care in March 2024. Both projects have been successful in building dermatology workforce and training opportunities in rural locations.

CATHY BAYNIE, MANAGER, ADVOCACY AND HEALTH WORKFORCE

#### **FATES ROUND 1 PROJECTS**

### An innovative and collaborative model of hybrid supervision for specialist dermatology training in Townsville

After much delay, the confocal microscope has finally arrived in Townsville and the local team are currently benefiting from expert experience from the Melanoma Institute of Australia (MIA) in Sydney to set it up and train on best practice application.

As we commence evaluation on this project, we are pleased to advise that the increased consultant and supervisor capacity to Townsville University Hospital (TUH) funded by the project will continue to be funded by Queensland Health post project completion. This has enabled the trainee numbers to increase to three at TUH creating a significant boost to workforce in northern Queensland.

Another substantial outcome of the project is the material developed under the leadership of A/Prof Linda Martin of MIA for trainee education. Weekly sessions with a variety of experts including dermatologists, pathologists, radiation and surgical oncologists as well as psychiatrists all connected to MIA has provided diversity of education and exposure to multidisciplinary management of melanoma for the Townsville trainees and team.

We look forward to delivering final outcomes in March 2024.

#### Implementation and evaluation of a supervisory rotational system for specialist dermatology training in the Top End Northern Territory

College's FATES project in Darwin has also had a positive impact on building the local workforce.

Early advocacy efforts indicate that Royal Darwin Hospital will continue to fund a modified FIFO model of dermatology boosting both consultant and supervisory capacity to Darwin and outreach services in the Top End. This will allow for an extra STP funded trainee to join the workforce in Darwin and for some communities to continue to receive the dermatology care that was previously not available to them prior to the project.

Dr Dev Tilakaratne has returned from his UK sabbatical with enhanced surgical skills bringing greater strengths to the dermatology team and training in Darwin.

We again thank all the College Fellows who have participated with visits continuing right through until project completion in February 2024.



#### **FATES ROUND 2 PROJECTS**

Shaping sustainable specialist dermatology training and services in Tasmania. An innovative, collaborative and multidisciplinary model of supervision, mentorship and transition to rural practice

College commenced its third FATES project this year with plans to build the dermatology workforce at Royal Hobart Hospital (RHH) and reintroduce training after a 9-year hiatus.

The early stages of the project are underway, and we are pleased that as a result RHH has been able to secure its own STP-funded position commencing in 2024.

We look forward to providing further updates as the project progresses.

#### **FATES ROUND 3**

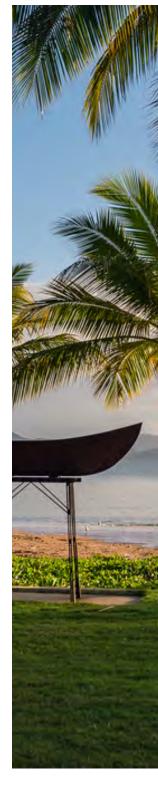
The workforce team at College have submitted an application for a further project in Western NSW. We should know the outcome if this application in early December.

#### QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT FUNDED **PROJECT**

Towards a homegrown workforce: Building a networked specialist dermatology training hub and rural transition pathway in North Queensland

Complementing our Federally-funded FATES projects, earlier this year, College was pleased to secure \$1.8 million in funding under the Queensland Government's Medical Practitioner Workforce Plan for Queensland funding opportunity to assist the Queensland Faculty to strengthen training and service delivery in regional Queensland.

Early implementation is underway at all four sites, adding extra consultant, special interest skills and supervisory capacity to Townsville University Hospital, Cairns Hospital and Sunshine Coast University Hospital. A/Prof Rob Miller has completed the first telehealth service to the Torres and Cape Health Service providing the opportunity to also educate and supervise Townsville based trainees in teledermatology delivery to this remote community. A second session is planned for December.









## Our 2023 World Skin Health Day campaign

This year College celebrated World Skin Health Day on 4 November with the launch of our 7 Days of Skin Health campaign.

ALEXANDER TAYLOR-PITCHER, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICER



ur 7 Days of Skin Health campaign featuring articles written by College Fellows, aimed to capture community interest in skincare and go beyond the 'beauty' aspect to provide a deeper understanding of how to maintain skin, hair and nail health, and when and how to seek help.

#### **CAMPAIGN SCOPE**

The campaign involved the release of a different topic each day. The themes included adolescent skin, hair, nails, sweating, menopause, and cosmetic procedures. The final day was a wrap up of the tips covered over the week.

The Fellow-authored articles were a great way to showcase the diverse expertise and knowledge of dermatologists, and to raise awareness of the role of dermatologists as the medical specialists in conditions of the skin, hair and nails.





Read the article by

dermatologist

**Dr Adrian Lim** 

Read the article by

dermatologist

A/Prof Johannes Kern





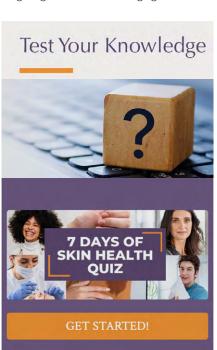




Each year since 2018, the Australasian College of Dermatologists has participated in World Skin Health Day, a joint project of International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS) and the International Society of Dermatology (ISD) that aims to recognise and promote skin health around the world.

#### **ONLINE QUIZ ENGAGEMENT**

The campaign also included an online guiz based on the topics covered during the week. The quiz provides readers with an interactive opportunity to test the knowledge gained from reading the articles, as well as encourage those who haven't yet read the articles to do so. We will continue to promote the quiz as part of our ongoing social media engagement.





#### Day 1 -Saturday

Adolescent skin

Keeping your skin healthy - acne outbreaks, safe shaving and seeking help.



#### Day 2 -**Sunday**

Hair

Getting to the root of it - tips for healthy hair and seeking help for hair growth changes.



#### Day 3 -Monday

**Nails** 

Healthy, happy nails - what to look out for and signs it could be something more serious.



#### Day 4 -**Tuesday**

**Sweating** 

Expert tips when it comes to sweat what's normal, what's not and when to seek help.



#### Day 5 -Wednesday

Menopause

How to keep your skin and hair healthy during menopause.



#### Day 6 -**Thursday**

Cosmetic procedures

Keeping safe when it comes to cosmetic procedures.



#### Day 7 -**Friday**

Wrap up

Our top tips from the week wrapped up.



#### **Test your** knowledge

Take the 7 Days of Skin Health Quiz!



Our 7 Days of Skin Health campaign saw us take a very different approach to our previous World Skin Health Day campaigns which have focused on people already impacted by chronic skin, hair and nail conditions and this year's campaign has provided us with valuable insights for our future community engagement and media and marketing activity.



Pre-campaign social media across all of our social media platforms and communications commenced on 27 October, with a media release issued ahead of the 4 November launch. By the end of the campaign, we had launched seven articles with a total of 865 webpage views over the pre- and post-campaign period. We published 46 posts across our social media platforms, which resulted in a total of 10.5K impressions and 563 engagements (likes, shares, clicks). The campaign also resulted in an increase in the number of people who liked or followed our social media pages.

#### **Earned Media Share of Voice Topics**

misinformation about skinchemicals medical experts
free pumpkin health and skin
australian dermatologists core pillars
hair and nails advice on social article best product skin campaign eye on social media

social media masque body topic tips acne

articles skin care products ngo increasing amount first signs signs and symptoms professional advice

#### **Earned Social Media Mentions**

22 ↑ 10%
Previous Value 20

0% Previous Value 0 ↓ 20%

Previous Value 65

#### Campaign Overview

Total fans (i) Compared to previous period

7.3k

Total posts (i) Compared to previous period 46

↑ 207%

Total impressions Compared to previous period 10.5k↑ 141%

Total video Compared to previous period 32

Total engagements ① 563 ↑ 173%

Post link 201





Instagram



Instagram Story



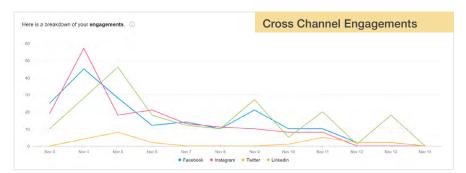
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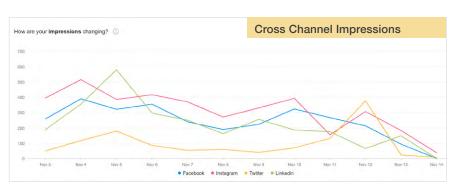
Twitter



in Linkedin

ACD has been running our 7 Days of Skin Health Campaign with expert tips from Australian







Our sincere thanks go to those Fellows who contributed articles -Prof Gayle Fischer, Dr Karen Koh, A/Prof Johannes Kern, Dr Adrian Lim, Dr Jo-Ann See and Dr Belinda Welsh - and to those who supported this year's campaign on social media.

## Education update Gearing up for reaccreditation As we entered the warmer Spring months, the Training Program team geared up for Victorian reaccreditation, the state with the second largest number of training sites, rotations, and trainees.

All site visits took place face to face, affording the National Accreditation Committee the opportunity to meet with peers and trainees, and to have the privilege of seeing how other departments function and operate in comparison to their own states.

JENNIFER CHOWDHURY, DIRECTOR, TRAINING PROGRAM

he visits commenced on Monday 23 October over 4 days, starting with the Melbourne based hospitals and private training sites, and finished in the outer Melbourne and rural based training sites. The committee members covered many hospitals meeting with a number of Heads of Departments, supervisors and trainees. The accreditation teams were impressed by the hard work and dedication provided by each dermatology department and thoroughly enjoyed seeing some of the subtle differences between training sites. The accreditation teams would like to extend their appreciation to all Heads of Departments, supervisors and trainees who participated in the visits and thank you for your contribution and valuable feedback.

All offers to trainee selection applicants to commence in February 2024 have been made and College looks forward to seeing the new cohort at the online orientation in December as per the new starter program that was implemented in 2023. Bringing the orientation day forward to December gives first year trainees an introduction to the Training Program before officially commencing and reduces the number of days needed for the First Year Workshop. The traditional First Year Workshop was moved to a combined Evidenced Based Medicine (EBM)/Procedural Workshop in 2023 and this will be duplicated in 2024.

The last round of IMG Specialist Pathway interviews took place in November, rounding up another year of applicants from around

the globe looking 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 directly via email.

The end of the year 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 the following year's activities.

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

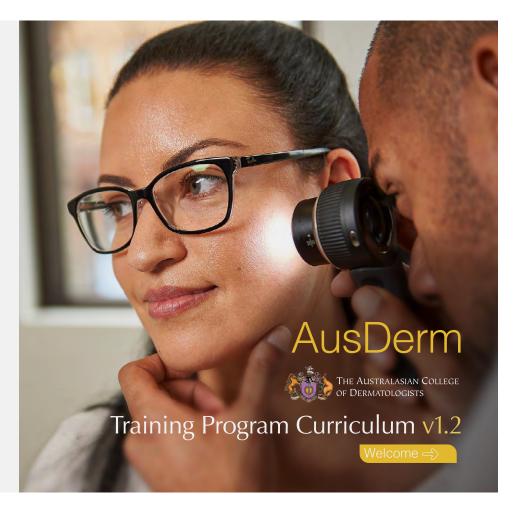
The accreditation teams were impressed by the hard work and dedication provided by each dermatology department and appreciated seeing some of the subtle differences between training sites.

A/Prof Linda Martin and College Accreditation Manager, Training Program Maite Serra during the rural site visit in Warrnambool

## Curriculum & Assessment Update

The Teaching & Learning Committee has successfully completed another annual review of the curriculum, with a new version being released in December 2023. Trainees and Fellows are reminded that the curriculum is available on eLearning. DR CATHERINE DRUMMOND, DEAN OF EDUCATION AND ASHLEIGH THOMAS. CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGER

About Introduction The ACD Training Program Resource list Evaluation and ongoing review Assessment Map Acronyms Roles Dermatologist roles Medical expert Communicator Collaborator Health Advocate Scholar Professional Culturally Responsive Practitioner lopics Clinical Sciences



Basic Pharmacology

Therapeutics Appendix

**Emergency Dermatology Dermatological Diseases** 

summary of changes will now be included in the front of the curriculum to ensure that users can follow the changes that have occurred over a period of time. Trainees and HoDs and SoTs will be notified and links provided to the new curriculum in December. Trainees can access it by going to Training Program: Training Program Key Information. Fellows can access it by going to Member Resources: HoDs, DoTs & SoTs.

As noted in the previous edition of *The Mole*, the Australian Council for Educational Research has provided a clear set of recommendations for the

College's Workplace-based Assessments (WBAs). Over the past few months, key education committees have been working through these recommendations. Over the coming months, work will be undertaken to finalise the strategies and a plan for implementation will be devised. A new reference group are presently looking at ways to utilise the broad range of formative and summative assessments to inform trainee progression during and at conclusion of the Training Program. Further information will be supplied to the membership in the new year.





Second year trainees with Dr Glenn Harrison and Dr Ty Clayworth during the Cultural Safety Training workshop.

#### **CULTURAL SAFETY TRAINING** 2ND YEAR WORKSHOP

In alignment with the Culturally Responsive Practitioner role, the Training Program team rolled out the 2nd year workshop for the first time in October. This consisted of Cultural Safety Training delivered by Dr Ty Clayworth and Dr Glenn Harrison from the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association. In addition to this face to face workshop, trainees have also completed LGBTQIA+ inclusivity training online through Rainbow Health. Both learning opportunities align with key areas of the Culturally Responsive Practitioner role which will be assessable in the Fellowship Examination from 2025 onwards.



## Celebrating 2 years of success

Dermatology Australasia is thrilled to celebrate 2 years of successful operation. Without the support of the Dermatology Australasia Faculty and Taskforce members, we wouldn't have been able to reach where we are today. Our team would like to thank all the Fellows involved for their dedication in developing and delivering our courses and workshops. Your skills, passion and positivity have been truly inspiring. MAGDA DICKERSON, DIRECTOR, EXTERNAL EDUCATION

ebranding Dermatology Australasia was a significant milestone for external education, as it represented a fresh start and an opportunity to launch a new website and define a new image.

With an emphasis being placed on the role of the Fellows of the Australasian College of Dermatologists as the leading authority in dermatology and skin cancer in Australia, our courses have been attracting many learners who seek quality, expert education.

Our 2 year anniversary is a great time to reflect on the progress made and the impact of the rebrand on our external education arm's growth and success.

#### **OUR FACULTY**

Since its inception Dermatology Australasia has collaborated with over 52 Faculty members. The roles range from delivering workshops and webinars, marking assignments and case studies to assisting in the development of new courses.

#### **OUR STUDENTS**

The past two years have been an incredible journey of learning and personal growth for many general practitioners and nurses. Our broad portfolio provided access to twenty courses, face to face Practical Dermoscopy and Melanography workshops and countless interactive webinars. In 2022 and 2023, over 1,284 students graduated from our programs.

#### PROMOTION AND ENGAGEMENT

Dermatology Australasia's new website attracted over 508,000 page visits. Our marketing team published 375 posts on Facebook and Instagram platforms receiving a total engagement of over 575,000. Our social media accounts now have 162,000 followers. We have also exhibited the brand at more than 10 medical conferences, successfully networking with many doctors and industry professionals.

#### Join our Teaching Team

To express your interest in teaching with us, scan the QR Code, or contact Training Manager - GP Programs Uta Meyer.





## From the Faculties

#### **NSW Faculty**

We are delighted to welcome Dr Anna Wilson, Dr Ben Koszegi, Dr Jacqueline Nguyen, Dr Megan Yap, Dr Crystal Gao, Dr Kajal Patel, Dr Daniel Cordas and Dr Joseph Joseph onto the dermatology program, and congratulate them on this achievement.

In recognition of his outstanding clinical work, our NSW Fellow, Cl Prof Saxon Smith, has been awarded the prestigious AMA Health Hero award. CI Prof Smith continues to impress and make our dermatology community proud.

Exciting rural opportunities await in Parkes, and Cowra, with generous support packages available. There is also an opportunity to join a group FIFO service for Dubbo. There is mentorship and a network of support available, and we encourage your consideration to not only support our rural community, but to have an

enjoyable, unique and rewarding clinical experience. For more information, please reach out to the Faculty.

NSW has developed a collaboration between two rural sites, Northern NSW and Orange, with two Sydney Hospitals, Sydney Children's Hospital and Concord Hospital, to provide two full time training positions. This not only increases the dermatology presence in the public hospitals, but boosts the number of registrar positions and also increases services to rural areas of need. This is a fantastic outcome.

A/Prof Linda Martin has been working hard to achieve greater educational exposure for medical students and has established a regular teaching program at the University of NSW – congratulations to A/Prof Martin on this achievement.

NSW Faculty is dedicated to

strengthening our community and as such we are planning a number of social events in the next 12 months, including a dinner for the final years to help prepare them for practicing as a Fellow, welcoming our first years into our community, a weekend away for Fellows, and our annual mentoring event. Please get in touch if you would like to suggest events or opportunities for our NSW Fellows. We would love to hear your suggestions.

Finally, the NSW Faculty wants to support our Fellows and trainees. We will be sending out a survey in Q1 2024 to ask how we can best serve you. If you have suggestions or would like Faculty support, please get in touch.

We wish you a wonderful and safe holiday season and good health for 2024!

**Dr Rebecca Saunderson** Chair, NSW Faculty

#### **VIC Faculty**

A/Prof Douglas Gin and A/Prof Adrian Mar have recently announced their retirement from the roles as Heads of Unit for the departments of dermatology at Alfred Health and Monash Health, respectively. A/Prof Gin has been at Alfred Health for over 30 years and been actively involved in teaching generations of dermatologists, dermatology registrars, medical students and GPs, along with his involvement in research and clinical practice. A/Prof Mar has been Head of Unit at Monash Health for 17 years, and along with clinical practice, has also had an active interest in research and teaching. Many of us will remember his excellent morphology tutorials in particular from when we were registrars. On behalf of the Victorian Faculty we would like to extend our most sincere appreciation for

the decades of service provided to patients, trainees and the broader dermatology community by A/Prof Gin and A/Prof Mar, and wish them both all the best for their future career and life endeavours.

We are thrilled to congratulate all the Victorian trainees who achieved success in their Fellowship examinations, and look forward to working with them as dermatologists and welcoming them to the Faculty with their new letters!

The Skin Health Institute once again assisted the Victorian Faculty to run the Undergraduate Student Prize in Dermatology. We would like to congratulate Theng Chun (Chris) Wong from Monash University. Melody Win Oo from Notre Dame University, and Will Swanson from Melbourne University for their well earned success in these exams. We

would also like to thank the examiners Dr Anita Lasocki, Dr Senhong (Isaac) Lee, Dr Joshua Elakis and Dr Jack Green for generously donating their time. A special thank you also goes to Dr Laxmi lyengar, Research and Education Fellow at the Skin Health Institute for helping arrange the exams.

After a comprehensive selection process, we would like to congratulate Dr Sarah Adamson, Dr Andrew Awad, Dr Vivien Lai and Dr Mabel Yan on being selected for the Training Program. We would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication shown by all candidates through this competitive process, and wish them all the best for their future applications and training.

A/Prof Aaron Robinson Chair, VIC Faculty



#### **RECRUITING NOW**

Join our team of over 50 of Australia's leading dermatologists

The Skin Hospital's (TSH) commitment to innovation has made us a leading provider of dermatology services. With state-of-the-art facilities, cutting-edge technology, a collaborative work environment, and commitment to professional development make TSH the perfect place for your future career.

- Fellow of the Australasian College of Dermatologists (FACD) or equivalent
- · Unrestricted registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)

- · Competitive salary and benefits package
- Registrar training program
- Opportunity to be involved in clinical trials.
- Cutting-edge technology
- Dermatology trained nurses

To organise a confidential conversation with our CEO, Linda Smith,



Scan the QR code to find out more



Join our team and help us make a difference in the lives of our patients

#### **QLD Faculty**

The Queensland Faculty warmly congratulates our three successful candidates from the recent Fellowship exams, Dr Alison Bullen, Dr Mitchell Robinson and Dr Alex Tedman.

We are very excited to announce that the Queensland Faculty has three new hospital based training jobs being funded and accredited in Queensland for 2024. Cairns was successful in obtaining an additional STP funded position, congratulations and thank you to Dr Ilpshe Brown for her ongoing incredible service to Cairns.

Also, after an application process supported by College, Queensland has been awarded some additional Federal funding for a new north Queensland training position whereby the registrar spends at least 2/3 of their training in north Queensland, with the the STP Integrated Rural Training Pipeline (IRTP) funding

following the registrar for the duration of their 4 year training journey. This is specifically directed at improving workforce retention for those places in great need.

Our third new job is at the Gold Coast University Hospital, which sees that department grow and provide a service which will greatly benefit patients on the Gold Coast.

We are very pleased to report that a joint application between College and our north Queensland Fellows Dr Boyce, Dr Browne, Dr Banney and A/Prof Miller has resulted in Queensland Health awarding \$1.8 million in funding to dermatology services across 4 years and over 4 locations - Cairns, Townsville, Sunshine Coast and the Torres and Cape. This funding will significantly support added services, skill sets including teledermatology, and supervision to these locations with

the long term goal, along with our training program, of establishing excellent training experiences and sustainable workforce for northern Queensland. This initiative is now in the early stages of implementation and anyone looking for further information or to be involved is encouraged to contact Cathy Baynie at College at cathy@dermcoll.edu.au or the Queensland Faculty.

In my last Chair report I want to sincerely thank our CEO Haley Bennett, and all of the College staff who have made the above Faculty achievements possible. They have supported me, our Faculty, and our trainees in giving immense time and expertise to all of the above initiatives and we are extremely grateful to them for that.

A/Prof Erin McMeniman Chair, QLD Faculty

#### **SA Faculty**

The ACD Fellowship Viva Examinations were held in August at The Royal Adelaide Hospital. The South Australia Faculty appreciates the hardwork and contribution of Fellows including Dr Emma Haverhoek, Dr Emma Ryan and other local examiners.

We would like to congratulate Dr Nicholas De Rosa, Dr Kathleen

Wang, Dr Alain Tran and Dr Brittany Wong for passing the Fellowship examination.

Dr Nicholas De Rosa has been awarded the Ken Paver Medal for Medical Dermatology and Dr Kathleen Wang has been awarded the Founder's Medal for Procedural Dermatology. Congratulations to you both for your

outstanding achievement.

Dr Mathew Cho organised the annual Faculty dinner in September. This event was well attended by Fellows and trainees as we farewelled A/Prof Dr Gillian Marshman who will be retiring in December 2023.

Dr Sachin Vaidya Chair, SA Faculty





SA Faculty dinner

#### **WA Faculty**

The WA Faculty continues to grow, with a number of our Fellows expecting new babies in the next few months, and our trainees juggling parenthood and work with aplomb. We are excited to have a new STP funded training position in WA next year which will be largely based in private practice with exposure to Mohs surgery. This will increase our trainee

numbers to 9.5 which is fantastic. Thank you to Dr Genevieve Sadler and all the team who have put a lot of time into getting this off the ground.

We have accreditation coming and are looking forward to all our positions being reaccredited. Thank you again to all involved in the accreditation process.

The Perth Dermatology Research

Collaborative which has been spearheaded by Prof Prasad Kumarasinghe has recently held a joint meeting with the Healthy Skin Research Team at the Telethon Kids Institute, and these two groups will likely work together moving forward.

Dr Rachael Foster Chair, WA Faculty



THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF DERMATOLOGISTS

#### 56th Annual Scientific Meeting

11-13 MAY 2024 | Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre





## Perth – A beautiful destination awaits

Join us in Perth for what promises to be an extraordinary experience as we extend a warm invitation on behalf of the Western Australia Faculty. The Meeting is set to bring together the trailblazers and future leaders of dermatology, creating an environment that fosters innovation, collaboration, and a steadfast commitment to advancing patient care.





As we gather to celebrate the invaluable contributions of experienced Fellows, the ASM serves as a pivotal platform, inspiring and empowering the next generation of leaders in skin health. Our focus is on driving the future of dermatology through the exchange of knowledge, cutting-edge research, and the integration of state-of-the-art technology.

The comprehensive exploration of all aspects of skin, hair and nail health will draw on local expertise and context, ensuring vibrant discussions and innovative treatment approaches. We are dedicated to examining the future landscape of our specialty, delving into the realms of Artificial Intelligence, Genomics, the skin microbiome, and beyond. These discussions will not only shed light on the evolving nature of dermatology but also position us at the forefront of the conversation, influencing the development of groundbreaking technology and innovation.

Beyond the stimulating program, the ASM offers a unique opportunity to recognise and further cultivate essential relationships. From patient support groups to fellow health professionals and industry supporters, this event provides a space to exchange ideas, share knowledge, and strengthen connections. The conference dinner with be held as a

sit down dinner at Fraser's Restaurant, located in the beautiful surrounds of Kings Park, taking in the magnificent sweep of the Perth skyline and Swan River. A truly unique experience to enjoy. As you immerse yourself in this enriching experience, we encourage you to take advantage of everything Perth has to offer during your stay. In the lead-up to the ASM we will be unveiling some of the best sights and adventures Western Australia has in store.

Dr Rachael Foster, Prof Prasad Kumarasinghe, Dr Bernadette Ricciardo, and Dr Su-Lin Chan eagerly anticipate your presence as the Convenors of the 2024 ASM. Join us on this journey of exploration, collaboration, and celebration in the vibrant city of Perth.





#### **KEEP IN TOUCH**

Stay up to date with news and information about the 2024 Perth ASM by bookmarking the official event website: https://acdasm.com.au/

Explore the "Discover Perth" pages to plan an unforgettable trip to Western Australia next May.







### **CPD** Year

#### Concluding 31 December 2023

As we approach the conclusion of the 2023 CPD program, we would like to remind members of the importance of completing your CPD requirements. All CPD activities must be concluded by 31 December 2023 and we encourage you to log your activity in the portal by this date along with any supporting documentation.

CLAIRE KENNEDY, POST-FELLOWSHIP DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

CATEGORY 1 **Educational Activities** 

CATEGORY 2 **Reviewing Performance** 

Measuring Outcomes

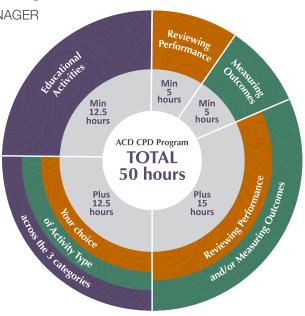
the first year of the new program has provided valuable insights into the needs and aspirations of our members. We have identified several key areas of focus that will guide our efforts in the coming years:

#### 1. TAILORED LEARNING PATHS

Recognising the diverse needs of our members, we are working on developing more personalised CPD pathways. This will allow members to tailor their professional development to align with their individual career goals and areas of interest.

#### 2. INTERCOLLEGIATE COLLABORATION

The CPD program has highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration to provide quality education. We will be working towards fostering stronger ties with other medical specialities, encouraging knowledge exchange, and enhancing educational opportunities. Based on the success of the A Better Culture webinar with RACMA and Dr Jillann Farmer, as well as the RACS Operating with Respect module, we look forward to partnering with other Colleges to grow our CPD library.



#### 3. INCREASE CATEGORY 2 & 3 **OPPORTUNITIES**

Understanding the importance of a varied CPD experience, College is actively working on expanding Category 2 and 3 options and events. This expansion aims to provide members with a broader, more accessible range of high quality educational activities, ensuring a well-rounded and comprehensive range available.

#### 4. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Recognising the demanding nature of the profession, College is committed to focusing on the health and wellbeing of our members. College is introducing initiatives focused on stress management, work-life balance and support to ensure our members can navigate the challenges of their profession while maintaining their own health.

College appreciates the dedication of our members to their continuing education and we look forward to another year of growth and collaboration.

We are seeking dermatologists to join us in delivering rapid-access care to patients in areas of need, as we expand our network of dermatology practices delivering care across the country.

#### Service

Have the satisfaction of being able to provide rapid dermatology services to regional, remote and rural patients who currently struggle to access timely specialist healthcare in many parts of our country. Be able to provide your expertise at multiple sites, all while situated in the comfort of your own home office.

#### Flexibility and Lifestyle

metropolitan centres.

Say goodbye to the rigid 9-to-5 routine. With our innovative approach, you can enjoy a flexible schedule that allows you to work from home or anywhere in Australia. You have more control over your time and achieve a better work-life balance. Imagine being able to take holidays and spend quality time with your loved ones without compromising your income. Our clinic model allows you to plan your schedule in a way that accommodates your personal commitments, ensuring you have the freedom to enjoy life outside of work.

#### **Supplementary Income**

Our hybrid model optimises your time, so that your expertise is utilised as efficiently as possible, with our dedicated support teams providing a caring, supportive environment for your patients in clinic. This also allows you to tap into a larger patient base, providing you with additional income opportunities. By leveraging telehealth technology, you can see more patients country-wide and maximise your earning potential.

For more information, please contact Dr Patricia Manoharan M 0422 244 625 E patricia@manoharangroup.com.au W www.dermatologyclinics.com.au







#### Dr Stephanie Rae - 2022 Recipient

was thankful to receive the Travelling Fellowship Award in 2022. The dermatology program was challenging, rewarding and I am honoured to be part of this College.

As part of this award, I was fortunate to attend the AAD in New Orleans in 2023 which was exceptional. Highlights included attending the new HIV/STI symposium where a key focus was on the latest MPOX updates. I also attended several of the vulval and infectious disease presentations.

Subsequent to the female genital dermatology session run by Melissa Mauskar (UT Southwest Medical Centre) a small, interested group of us now attend monthly online meetings to discuss complex vulval dermatology cases.

After attending the AAD I spent several weeks at the Mayo Clinic Dermatology Department in Rochester Minnesota. This was

arranged with the assistance of A/Prof Alan Cooper who I met at his annual Epiderm lecture in Brisbane, Queensland. Most of my time was spent with Dr Mark Davis who is the current head of department. In addition to attending daily general/subspecialty clinics and teaching sessions I was involved in writing a CME article currently published in the Journal of Allergy and Immunology on urticaria and angioedema. Dr Davis was a fantastic host and spent a significant amount of his own personal time showing me the historical sites of Minnesota and the best restaurants.

After leaving Rochester my last stop was Boston. Prior to dermatology I had spent some time working in sexual health medicine in far north Queensland and since graduating have been studying a Masters of Sexual Health Medicine (HIV/STIs) through the University of

Sydney. I had arranged to spend some time with A/Prof Esther Freeman. A/Prof Freeman is a dermatologist at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. She is a Consultant Dermatologist to the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva in the area of HIV-associated dermatoses and is also the current Director of Global Health at MGH. A/Prof Freeman was extremely generous with her time and took me on tours of Boston, out for lunches and dinners with her colleagues and family members and through all the exclusive libraries of Harvard (a real highlight!). During this time across her four different offices, I attended multiple global health meetings and events, WHO lectures and research meetings. We discussed future potential collaborations and I have subsequently become involved in GloDerm, a program aimed to

connect dermatologists across the globe who are interested in the dermatology education of resourcelimited communities.

Since completing my travelling fellowship I have commenced

public hospital roles at Townsville University Hospital, Princess Alexandra Hospital and am also working privately at Bulimba Dermatology in Brisbane. I have continued correspondence with both Dr Davis and A/Prof Freeman and am confident we will be able to convince them to come to Australia as guest speakers in the future! Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity.



#### Dr Charlotte Thomas - 2021 Recipient

thank the College and Galderma for giving me the opportunity to attend the British Association of Dermatologists Annual Meeting from 27-29 June 2023. The Meeting was held at the ICC in Liverpool, under a grey sky, amongst the historic Docklands (which was also home to the Eurovision song contest weeks earlier).

The meeting was good quality with a collegial atmosphere. I met a number of my previous physician trainee colleagues now as dermatologists, with positions in departments around the UK.

I heard Prof Chris Griffiths from The University of Manchester talk on "curing" psoriasis, despite the lack of novel cytokine targets in the pipeline. He spoke on the optimisation of treatment pathways with the medications already available including early intervention, highlighting the use of biologics early in the treatment ladder in the field of inflammatory bowel disease as a parallel. Prof Griffiths also described the presence of tissue resident memory T cells leading to psoriasis returning in the same sites and highlighted the abnormal immunology of "normal" skin in psoriasis, arguing for the use of systemic therapy in all patients.

There were some excellent concurrent sessions covering topics including skin disease in the immunocompromised. The use of acombination of Efudix and

Calcipotriol as a field treatment appeared in its infancy in the UK with difficulties in access due at least in part to inability to compound. A clinical trial on its efficacy was being planned with the protocol facial application for 4 days, notably a little less than we have been using in clinical practice. A case series on oral SCC in transplant recipients was a reminder to incorporate oral examination within the full skin examination. Another paper on viral associated disease in immunosuppression suggested to screen the anogenital region in organ transplant recipients. The presentation on melanoma in solid organ transplantation suggested that presence of melanoma in situ should not be considered a contraindication for organ donation and a significantly large interval (>10years) since melanoma diagnosis would be reassuring, depending on the organ, with kidneys being a less common site of metastasis.

A session from Dr Christos
Tziotzios, lead for hair and nails at
St John's described frontal fibrosing
alopecia as a systemic immune
mediated disorder. Despite limited
evidence, his anecdotal preferred
treatment for severe disease was
to combine hydroxychloroquine
with a low dose retinoid or
tetracycline with or without low
dose naltrexone or considering
a traditional immunosuppressant

where single line therapy with hydroxychloroquine or low dose retinoid had failed.

I also travelled south to Bristol, my former home city, where I attended clinics at the Bristol Royal Infirmary Dermatology Department.

Here, on a July Monday morning, I unexpectedly met Darwin based Fellow Dr Dev Tilakaratne. After recovering from the surprise of the appearance of two Australian trained dermatologists in one UK regional dermatology centre in the same week, we were able to discuss presentations with the local team. The freedom and therapeutic opportunity we have in Australia became evident to me. I felt grateful for the ability to prescribe varied compounded medications, in stark contrast to the narrow NHS hospital formulary, where there was a single keratolytic agent! It was interesting to see how dermatology nurse practitioners we used extensively in the service provision of an over-stretched dermatology department. At any one time there were numerous nurse practitioners working under the "consultant of the day" reviewing clinic patients and carrying out biopsy and excision lists. There was also a GP trainee based in the department for 6 months, gaining valuable dermatological experience to take back to the community.

Thank you to College once again for enabling this opportunity. •

## ADNA Update

ADNA has successfully begun the six planned State/Territory education days.

VIVIENNE SPEIRS, ADNA PRESIDENT

he first in Victoria on 7 October was well attended with 40 attendees who were thrilled with new Al skin technologies, wound care, CPR and more. Thank you to Sue Thornton who was well prepared.

The education day in South Australia on 28 October was run by Penelope Harrison NP on bullous disease, wounds, HS, lymphoma.

The education day in New South Wales on 4 November 2023 was run by Kath Dixon and included CPR, light assisted drug delivery, HS and more.

The Northern Territory education day on 18 November was run by Danny Metin NP and broadened the delegate

scope by including GPs, Primary Health, NT Health, Aged care nurses and ADF.

The Queensland education day on 10 February 2024 will be run by Taylor Spate in Surfers Paradise. This is exciting after a 3 year gap in education days for Queensland. An interesting program is being planned so please support your nurses to attend.

The ADNA conference will be held in Western Australia from 10-12 May 2024 which will coincide with the ACD ASM. The program will be announced shortly. If you are interested in speaking at the conference please let us know and please support your nurses to attend.





This year was the first year that College was able to offer a single \$50,000 Scientific Research Fund (SRF) Grant. College received a total of 13 high-quality applications, covering a broad range of dermatology topics.

ANNIE BYGRAVE, POLICY MANAGER

We are pleased to announce that A/Prof Amanda Saracino has been awarded the SRF Grant for her project, Unravelling aetiopathogenic epidermal signalling in scleroderma to provide clinically applicable molecular disease classification and personalised treatment targets. Congratulations to A/Prof Saracino and her team!

> PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE: Despite the well documented significant impact of systemic sclerosis (SSc) skin involvement, there are no effective treatments. This project consists of two parts.

By uncovering key molecules and immune pathways involved in the initiation and propagation of scleroderma, part one of the project will inform new treatment targets. Isolating epidermal-dermal signalling will also enhance understanding of inciting skin signals, ultimately identifying potential treatments for early disease to prevent permanent functional impact and disfigurement.

The second part of the project aims to translate what is already known regarding SSc skin gene expression subsets, into a simple and clinically applicable method for molecular disease classification via epidermal sampling and affordable targeted proteomics. This will help us get one step closer to personalised medicine in SSc; allowing molecular classification for clinical trial patient selection, prediction of disease trajectory and ultimately, tailoring treatment selection in clinical practice.



### St Baker Soyer Chair of Dermatology

The St Baker Soyer Chair of Dermatology is a newly established, endowed professorial position in the Faculty of Medicine at The University of Queensland (UQ). This role is based at the Frazer Institute within the Translational Research Institute at the Princess Alexandra Hospital Precinct with close interactions with the Centre for Health Services Research and other units of the University.

UQ is looking for an inspirational leader who has internationally-recognised expertise in the prevention, detection or treatment of melanoma and skin cancer. The successful candidate will build upon our significant achievements in dermatological research to develop the leading institution for clinical melanoma research in Australia, and globally. They will be experienced in the leadership of high-impact research teams using multi-disciplinary approaches, translating research discoveries to the clinic and engaging with industry as well as healthcare providers. We are eager to speak with outstanding clinician scientists who share in our vision for 'A World Without Melanoma'.

To find out more and for application details, view the position booklet here.

## Introducing the Australasian Journal of Dermatology New Editors-in-Chief

Dr John Frew and Dr Harriet Kennedy have been appointed as the new Editors-in-Chief of the Australasian Journal of Dermatology. College would like to thank Prof Kiarash Khosrotehrani and A/Prof Helmut Schaider who have recently completed their terms as Editors-in-Chief for their hard work and dedication to growing the readership of the Journal and ensuring it remains at the forefront of dermatology research and welcomes Dr Frew and Dr Kennedy to the role.



Dr John Frew MBBS MMed MS PhD FACD

Dr John Frew is a dermatologist and dermatological researcher at The Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. After graduating with honours from University of New South Wales (UNSW), he obtained a Master of Medicine from the University of Sydney and a PhD at Flinders University. After completion of dermatology specialist training in 2016 he undertook translational research at The Rockefeller University in New York City investigating the inflammatory mechanisms in Hidradenitis Suppurativa. He currently holds a clinical appointment at Liverpool Hospital in Sydney, Australia and is Head of the Laboratory of Translational Cutaneous Medicine at the Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research. Dr Frew has authored over 130 peer-reviewed articles and has a special interest in the pathogenesis and molecular mechanisms of inflammatory dermatoses.



Dr Harriet Kennedy MBCHB, FRACP, FNZDS

Dr Harriet Kennedy is a dermatologist at Auckland City Hospital in New Zealand. Her Fellowship training was at The Skin Hospital in Sydney where she completed a post graduate masters degree in contact allergy. Dr Kennedy is a general dermatologist with special interests in patch testing and vulval dermatology. She is an honorary senior lecturer at the University of Auckland and has been an associate editor for the Australasian Journal of Dermatology since 2018.





An update on Atopic Dermatitis Endotypes: Relationships and Correlations of IgE Serum Levels and Protein Biomarkers.

PROF PABLO FERNANDEZ-PEÑAS AND DR ALI AZIMI

#### **BACKGROUND**

Atopic Dermatitis (AD), also known as atopic eczema, is a chronic skin condition characterised by inflammation and the development of eczematous lesions, often leading to a significant decrease in the quality of life for affected individuals. This condition affects diverse populations and is associated with elevated IgE levels. AD poses a substantial socioeconomic burden due, in part, to the lack of longterm effective therapies. Current treatment strategies adopt a one-size-fits-all approach, utilising methods such as phototherapy, oral immunosuppressants and more recently, biologics like dupilumab. However, these approaches often result in treatment failures or partial responses, likely due to the intrinsic heterogeneity of the disease.

The aetiology of AD involves a complex interplay of genetic and environmental factors, along with the individual's immunological profile. The full extent of heterogeneity within

the AD spectrum is yet to be thoroughly explored. While IgE is known to play a role in the inflammatory process of atopic disorders. the involvement of allergen specific IgE antibody responses in the pathogenesis and severity of AD remains poorly understood. Omalizumab, an anti-IgE agent used in AD treatment, exhibits varying degrees of efficacy, with more significant benefits observed in patients with low IgE levels compared to those with very high IgE serum levels. This suggests the potential involvement of non-IgE-mediated components in driving AD inflammation.

To address these questions and explore the underlying proteomic differences in AD patients with varying IgE levels, this research project (funded by the EAA Grant) involves the collection of non-invasive skin samples through tape-stripping and serum samples from patients. The samples are then subjected to state-of-the-art mass spectrometry-based proteomics and rigorous bioinformatics analysis.

#### THE PRIMARY AIMS OF THE RESEARCH **PROJECT ARE:**

- To identify proteomic changes associated with AD severity;
- To compare proteome profiles between AD patients with low and high IgE levels; and
- To identify proteins involved in inflammation, adaptive immunity, skin barrier, skin repair, and other key biofunctions based on IgE stratification.



The ultimate goal is to shed light on the heterogeneity of AD, potentially leading to precision medicine approaches and more effective treatments. This innovative approach, which is safer, cost-effective, and easier to perform than many other techniques, has the potential to provide insights into the diverse and interconnected biofunctions, pathways, and cellular networks contributing to AD's heterogeneity.

#### **PROGRESS**

Like other clinical research projects, the COVID-19 outbreak impacted patient recruitment for this study. However, the research team has collected a total of 38 samples, consisting of 16 blood samples and 18 tape-stripped samples, from patients with varying levels of serum IgE admitted at Westmead Hospital, New South Wales. To achieve the primary objective of recruiting 40 patients, arrangements are in place to collect samples from patients attending The Skin Hospital Australia from November 2023.

It is anticipated that the proteomic data will be collected and analysed by mid-2024, following the dissemination of findings by the end of 2024.

To explore the underlying proteomic differences, samples are subjected to state-of-the-art mass spectrometrybased proteomics and rigorous bioinformatics analysis.

## Trans Tasman Exchange Report

The New Zealand Dermatological Society Annual Conference was held in Queenstown on 2-5 August 2023.

DR EMILY SHAO

highlight of the conference was hearing from the international speakers, many from my state of Queensland, with A/Prof Erin McMeniman, Prof Kiarash Khosrotehrani and Dr Michael Freeman, who spoke on their widespread expertise. Other international speakers included Dr Ian Coulson from the United Kingdom, and Dr Christopher Miller from the United States.

A specific highlight for me was a paediatric case Dr Ian Coulson presented on Ichthyosis Lung Prematurity syndrome, a syndrome which has only been described since 2010. He was able to diagnose the patient and discuss it with the Norweigan authors of a case series to identify the enzyme involved with the help of his local geneticists. This was a fascinating case of international collaboration and a demonstration of the rapidly growing field of genetics and its evolving clinical applications.

On the final day of the conference, I was very humbled to be able to speak on my research in Keratinocyte Cancer Mortality in Kidney Transplant Recipients, a topic with great relevance to the New Zealand transplant population as well as an area of ongoing need and research.

I thank the College and NZDSI for supporting me to attend the conference and speak on my research.



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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.

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## Update



#### Webinar Series

The Skin Hospital's educational webinars have been very well attended throughout 2023.

The Program of Webinar Events for Dermatologists for the first half of 2024 will be announced in January. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please email: Communications@skinhospital.edu.au. To keep up to date with The Skin Hospital's Webinar Series for Dermatologists in 2024, visit our website and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.

## Dr John Frew appointed as new Director of Research



The Skin Hospital is delighted to announce that FACD Dr John Frew will join the talented team as the new Director of Research, effective February 2024. In this role, Dr Frew will lead The Skin Hospital's Research and Clinical Trials team. Linda Smith, CEO, at The Skin Hospital said, "We

are thrilled to have Dr John Frew join our team. His prominent reputation and vast experience in medical research will be a key asset at The Skin Hospital as we strive forward to be a global leader in dermatology translational research. At The Skin Hospital, advancing the treatments and cures for skin diseases is central to everything we do. As a result, Clinical Trials and Research form a vital part of this process. We are committed to research and innovation in the field of dermatology in order to pioneer life changing medicine that has the power to change lives".

The Skin Hospital provides a unique platform for research, with services in General Dermatology, Specialised Dermatology Clinics and Mohs. Dr. Frew said, "I am excited to join The Skin Hospital as Director of Research. The Skin Hospital has great potential to cultivate research in clinical and translational dermatology through expansion of current clinical trials work and establishment of a research unit. I am looking forward to developing this capability at The Skin Hospital and taking new research insights from the lab bench to the bedside in order to benefit our patients".

Dr Frew is a dermatologist and dermatological researcher at The Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. After graduating with honours from the University of New South Wales (UNSW), he obtained a Master of Medicine from the University of Sydney, a Master of Science from Rockefeller University in New York City and a PhD at Flinders University. Following completion of dermatology specialist training in 2016, he undertook translational research at The Rockefeller University in New York City investigating the inflammatory mechanisms in Hidradenitis Suppurativa. Dr Frew has authored over 130 peer-reviewed articles and has a special interest in the pathogenesis and molecular mechanisms of inflammatory dermatoses. He also supervises post graduate research students and is actively involved in medical education both in Australia and globally.

## Currently Recruiting Clinical Trials

The Skin Hospital is recruiting for four clinical trials on chronic hand eczema, vitiligo, alopecia, and psoriasis.

For further information on The Skin Hospital's clinical trials, please visit our website - www.skinhospital.edu. au/clinical-trials/.





#### **Annual Scientific** Meeting

The Skin Hospital's Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) was held at the Crowne Plaza, Hawkesbury Valley from 3-5 November 2023.

Over 50 delegates enjoyed this year's 14 dermatology presentations from industry peers. The program was curated by the ASM's Steering Committee. Their dedication and effort in shaping this event were truly commendable. Steering Committee Members were Dr Gilberto Moreno-Bonilla (Co-Chair), Dr Karen Cheung (Co-Chair), Dr Bruno Blaya-Alvarez, and Dr Cindy Kok. CPD points were allocated for attendance throughout the conference. The date of The Skin Hospital's 2024 ASM will be announced shortly. Please keep an eye on our socials and our website for further information.



## Update

### Dr Edward Upjohn becomes new President of the Skin Health Institute



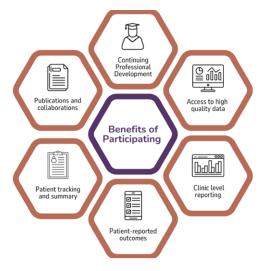
The Skin Health Institute's Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 15 November marked a change in leadership. After 4 years, A/Prof Rosemary Nixon AM handed over the reins to Dr Edward Upjohn, a long-standing contributor to the Institute.

A/Prof Nixon's career with the Skin Health Institute, which began on the Board in 1989 and resumed in 2009, includes years of dedicated service as Vice-President. Her qualifications in dermatology and occupational medicine underscore her contributions, which include founding the Occupational Dermatology Clinic in 1993. Her global impact is evident through affiliations with prestigious groups like the International Contact Dermatitis Research Group and a prolific publications record.

As President, A/Prof Nixon adeptly steered the Institute through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic while continuing to deliver exceptional dermatological care. Her accolades, including becoming a Member of the Order of Australia in 2017, affirm her remarkable journey.

Dr Edward Upjohn, a respected Fellow of the Australasian College of Dermatologists and the American College of Mohs Surgery, now takes the helm. With over a decade of service, including his role as a Mohs surgeon and valued mentor, Dr Upjohn will chair the Board and contribute to key committees in his new role as President. This transition ushers in a new chapter for the Skin Health Institute, building upon A/Prof Nixon's foundations while introducing fresh perspectives under Dr Upjohn's leadership. The future holds exciting opportunities, and we anticipate continued excellence.

This transition ushers in a new chapter for the Skin Health Institute, building upon strong foundations and introducing fresh perspectives.



#### End of year CPD opportunities

The Skin Health Institute offers Continuing Professional Development (CPD) through our Learning Management System (LMS) and Category 3 CPD through collaboration with the Australasian Dermatology Registry (ADR).



SHI Education Portal



ADR Website

You can access our collection of recorded events on demand through our LMS. If you did not have a chance to attend one of our 2023 Institute Updates, you can see what our featured clinics have been up to.

We have also showcased multiple international speakers through our Masterclass series as well as experts closer to home with particular focus on atopic dermatitis, hidradenitis suppurativa and psoriasis. Watching the recordings of each of these events will earn 1 CPD hour.

Participating in the ADR can earn Category 3 CPD, and is a unique opportunity to engage in meaningful clinical research. Involvement in the ADR includes recruiting participants

who are attending dermatology clinics for the treatment of conditions like psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, hidradenitis suppurativa, or vitiligo.

The recruitment process is simplified through an online portal, ensuring a seamless experience for both dermatologists and patients.

If you have any questions about the registry or you would like to access the recording from the recent Information Evening, please contact the registry at (03) 9623 9470 or email registry@australasiandermatologyregistry.org. au.

To explore previous events on our LMS or for more information on the ADR, scan the relevant QR code.

#### The latest information from ATEP

The Advanced Therapeutics Education Portal (ATEP) continues to be a valuable source of information for clinicians, and we have recently made updates to several drug pages to ensure that you have access to the most current information on advanced targeted therapy options.

#### These include

- UCB's Bimzelx & Cimzia page
- BMS Sotyktu page
- Leo Pharma's Enstilar page

We are also actively working on updating Sanofi's Dupixent page, which will soon offer even more in-depth information and resources for your reference.



Visit ATEP now to keep informed of these changes.



## Update

### **Enhancing Trainee Experience:** A Collaborative Approach with the RFDS in South West Queensland

In a significant leap forward in our commitment to nurturing excellence in dermatology training, we are excited to announce a unique collaboration between the Queensland Institute of Dermatology (QID) and the Royal Flying Doctors Service (Qld Sect) - Charleville Base.

> This mutually beneficial endeavour aims to immerse our registrars in the world of skinfocused outreach clinics in remote South-Western Queensland, while providing some extra clinical assistance to enhance their service capability.

Throughout 2023 as part of their rotation with QID, a number of our trainees have had the opportunity to join our dermatologist, Dr Stephen Andrews in his work with the RFDS. This iconic organisation, known for providing vital healthcare services to remote Australian communities, has opened its doors to our registrars, offering them a unique and immersive experience in rural healthcare.

These week-long clinical placements expose our trainees to the challenges and rewards of offering their skills in remote areas, while working in a collegiate primary-care centred, multidisciplinary environment.

This innovative partnership is more than just a training opportunity; it is an illustration of the myriad ways in which trainees can contribute to healthcare delivery (both as registrars and then ultimately as consultants), particularly in isolated areas where access to routine healthcare is a significant challenge.

Dr Andrews' commitment to this program is based on a legacy of rural healthcare. He continues some of the invaluable work initiated



by Dr Jon Outridge, a highly experienced rural general practitioner who also had an interest in skin and ran these clinics for many years with the RFDS. Dr Andrews reflects on his journey, saying, "To a certain degree, it feels like I have come full-circle. A decade ago, I had the privilege to undertake three remarkable student rotations at the RFDS Charleville Base as a medical student, including with Dr Outridge. That experience gave me the chance to meet many members of the team who are still here today, and I am privileged to now consider them colleagues."

Dr Andrews is committed to providing a similar rural experience for trainees in

dermatology. His hope is that when they complete their specialty training, these dermatologists will understand that there are many ways in which they can offer their skills to our community, and potentially consider some form of outreach work as part of their practice.

Our appreciation goes out to the RFDS -Charleville Base for their gracious support in hosting our registrars and making this unique experience possible, and we hope that their team and the communities they serve also find their participation mutually beneficial.

Read more about Dr Andrews RFDS experience here.



#### Clinical Renovation

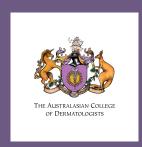
The clinic is thrilled to share the remarkable outcomes of its recent renovation project, aimed at expanding its capacity and enhancing training opportunities.

This transformation was born from QIDerm's commitment to providing the highest standards of patient care and creating a supportive environment for medical professionals to excel.

Renovating the clinic was not without its difficulties, continuing clinics throughout the process. The team navigated this challenge by meticulously planning and executing the renovation in phases, all while prioritising patient safety and convenience. The dedicated staff remained unwavering in their commitment to delivering top-notch care, even in the face of disruptions.

The result is a rejuvenated clinic with more spacious examination rooms, advanced medical equipment, and improved patient amenities. This expanded capacity allows the clinic to serve more patients efficiently and offer a broader range of medical services.

The clinic's transformation wouldn't have been possible without the support and trust of its doctors, staff, and patients. QIDerm is looking forward to the next chapter in the Institute's journey.



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