

THE M O L E



THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE
OF DERMATOLOGISTS

ISSUE 119 : SUMMER 2019

#Own YourTone National Skin Cancer Action Week



Our new member resource:
ACD Connect

**Teledermatology: embedding Store
and Forward as a national service
delivery model**

Ex-Africa semper aliquid novi - out
of Africa- always something new



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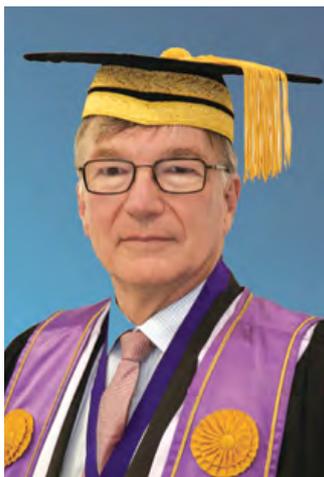
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Summer has become the season for skin cancer awareness. This year, as in recent years, we have partnered with Cancer Council on National Skin Cancer Action Week. The target group this year are those that we all seem to struggle with in health matters, and often at home as well, the teenagers and young adults of our community. Surveys have shown a disturbing persistence of the social value placed

on a tanned appearance. We see this with the popularity of spray tans and unsafe tan-seeking sunlight exposure in this group. Please take every opportunity to engage with our young people to encourage sensible sun exposure practices. They are, in many ways, much more sophisticated than past generations, but perhaps also more vulnerable to pernicious social media memes that undermine our messaging.



The Board has begun the process of development of our next strategic plan. This was launched together with the launch of Connect and a set of themed conversations for Fellows to post thoughts for the Board to consider. We have also recently completed a strategic planning meeting with Faculty stakeholders, where Fellows were urged to undertake a 'blue sky' process towards setting strategic goals for College. From here, a plan outline will be developed for general comment and further input from Fellows.

This process marks the 'twilight' phase of our current strategic plan, where in response to Fellows concerns about the lack of visibility of our craft, College significantly ramped up engagement with outside organisations and the community. It also marked a step up in terms of active engagement with policy makers and funders.

With College secretariat support, the Faculties have become more confident in dealings with state and territory governments. This has brought some successes, with new positions funded and a redirection of priorities towards dermatology services. At a Commonwealth level, it has enabled us to play pivotal roles in addressing the private health insurance banding problems that followed the skin services review, to hose down excessive Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) compliance activities, to move to a resolution of the item 111 problem and to secure a rewording of the item 30196 descriptor.

However, for all this, we need to be careful to avoid hubris; as a recent issue in Queensland highlighted. There, an official state government needs assessment for dermatology services in a regional centre, equated dermatologists with General Practitioners (GPs) with a skin cancer interest. The decision was sanctioned by a Federal Minister. We have been working with their office to ensure that at every level of government, it is clearly understood that a dermatologist is a highly trained specialist whose particular skills are in dealing with complex skin problems, or skin problems in complex patients where the scope extends beyond the competency of doctors without specialist training. The fact that this message needs to be continually emphasised should not be forgotten by any of us.

CEO'S REPORT

There has been a conversation recently within our community regarding sentinel lymph node biopsy and our relationship with the Cancer Council Wiki Melanoma Guidelines. I have asked the College Expert Advisory Committee to provide a response to the Fellows concerned. In a general sense, there are a number of issues regarding guidelines and our relationship with stakeholders that need to be clearly made.

"Trustworthy clinical practice guidelines should be based on a systematic review of the literature, provide ratings of the quality of evidence and the strength of recommendations, consider patient values, and be developed by a multidisciplinary panel of experts." (Murad MH; Mayo Clinic Proceedings 2017 Mar; 92(3)). Guidelines present a distillation of evidence with associated practical recommendations for the profession and as such should always be prepared by the subject experts. They should always be multidisciplinary and present a consensus view across all of those disciplines.

There have been suggestions that guidelines present a threat to professional independence and may be used as a compliance tool by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the Medical Board of Australia (MBA). This is easily refuted by reference to the MBAs own publication, 'Good Medical Practice: A Code of Conduct for Doctors in Australia', where it says "No code or guidelines can ever encompass every situation or replace the insight and professional judgment of good doctors. Good medical practice means using this judgement to try to practise in a way that would meet the standards expected of you by your peers and the community."

With regard to our engagement with the Cancer Council Wiki Guidelines process, it should be understood that our involvement was as a sponsor to aid in resourcing the process. Consequently, the guidelines were published with the College logo on the home page reinforcing our message that dermatologists retain primacy in skin care medicine. It did not give us, and if you consider the quote from the Mayo Proceedings above, nor should it have given us, editorial control. However, it does signify our confidence in the process and the importance that we place on evidence based practice. Fellows should also note that another sponsor was the Skin Cancer College Australasia and consider the message to the community had we not engaged.

In winding up, I would like to discuss the matter of internal engagement. This is always a vexed issue in membership organisations such as our own where members are busy, with many and conflicting commitments. At present, we have a number of ways by which we may engage as a group and for the Board to interact with Fellows. I have always thought that the Faculties should play a major role here, but it becomes difficult to retain that sense of community as numbers grow. The Board has recognised that interest groups within College may play such a role as well and we are developing a strategy to interact better with these, including providing support, but without compromising a sense of unity. Discourse is a valuable forum; and to this end we have Connect. For outgoing information, the Weekly Update has a high rate of opening, but we are always interested in receiving feedback regarding the presentation and accessibility of this platform.

Dr Andrew Miller
President



The end of one year and the commencement of another brings reflection on progress made, things outstanding and what the year ahead holds.

I think College had a good year in 2018 by most measures. The volume of work certainly increased, some of it due to landmark events like the 2018 Australian Medical Council (AMC) report of findings; some due to

our own decisions, such as engaging the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) to review our training program assessments; and some due to internal change- Board member and staff changes, opportunities for Specialist Training Program (STP) funding availability. As well, the number of government enquiries and submissions escalated in 2018 with a looming 2019 Federal election. The Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) review outcomes also kept a steady pace of very detailed implementation work. State governments have had elections or face them in 2019, so jurisdictional 'heat' and state enquiries have demanded College and Faculty responses.

College is being heard, putting positions forward and is having influence. The unstinting energy of our President, Board, Committees, Faculties and staff, combine to push College forward, or prevent retrograde steps being implemented. Thanks to all Fellows, staff and consultants whose workload and alertness has notably risen.

Looking ahead, 2019 has some important milestones. Most important is the production by May this year of a new strategic plan. Having clarity of direction is paramount to an organisation's success.

Andrew Miller mentions the blue sky work done to date and its importance in shaping our College going forward. On this note, I met with the Chief Executive Officers of the Canadian Association and the British Association in September 2018. These Associations focus mostly on the profession's advancement in advocacy, marketing, research, media, data registries, public relations, community engagement, member services, sub speciality groups, rural services, provincial services, the journal, events, scientific advancement and international relations. They can because the training of registrars is handled by the Royal Colleges above them (Physicians and Surgeons). The contrast between our College and these two associations and the people they have in their headquarters is stark.

Without diminishing our educational role, the College needs to catch up to redress this. The strategic plan will outline the priorities. It is an important time for College.



STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP

When I joined College the strategic plan was a list of dot points. Amongst it was the necessity to decide if the cost of the dinner was included in the cost of Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) registration. The focus became broader with the 2015 to 2019 Plan eg community engagement and the need for advocacy, but next steps have to be bolder, wider, bigger and faster to advance the profession.

A mid-year milestone will become clear in June at the World Congress of Dermatology (WCD). Will we have won the right to host the 2023 WCD? Will the earlier Federal election unleash opportunity? 2019 might in many ways shape College for years to come.

Tim Wills
Chief Executive Officer

EDUCATION

KATHARINE GRAHAM, THE SECOND FEMALE PUBLISHER OF A MAJOR AMERICAN NEWSPAPER AND LEADER OF HER FAMILY'S NEWSPAPER, THE WASHINGTON POST, FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES, DURING ITS MOST FAMOUS PERIOD WAS ONCE QUOTED AS SAYING: "A MISTAKE IS ANOTHER WAY OF DOING THINGS."

health issue, but the essence of Ms Graham's comments are that mistakes are another way of getting to the end point. Being allowed to make mistakes, whether it be as a teacher or learner, as well as giving people permission to not to be afraid to make mistakes, is critical.

I am expecting 2019 to be an exciting year in the field of education.

We will be looking to try out new strategies to support trainees in their learning, reviewing the curriculum in light of the Australian Medical Council (AMC) conditions and recommendations, revise assessment strategies; as well as introducing a range of new programs for General Practitioners (GPs) and hopefully adding some more courses for Fellows. I have no doubt we won't get it all right first go, but with your help we hope to get it close.

In order to do this we are seeking your support and input. Please take the time to consider whether you are able to assist the College in any of the following areas. You don't have to be an expert, but you do need to be someone who is willing to participate, contribute and possibly even make a few mistakes.

A key component of any education program is the ability to learn from our mistakes. Malcolm Knowles states, "Experience, including mistakes, provides the basis for the learning activities". Examinations, work-based assessments and workshops all provide us with opportunities to 'get it wrong', provided they are in a safe and supportive environment. Obviously it's much more difficult to learn on the job when 'the job' is a person who may have a serious





CLINICAL TEACHING AND LEARNING

We are also looking to further develop opportunities for Fellows who are interested in clinical supervision and teaching. This would be in the development of a Graduate Certificate course and would provide opportunities for people to assist this area of curriculum development.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Brett O'Neill at brett@dermcoll.edu.au

TRAINING PROGRAM CURRICULUM REVIEW

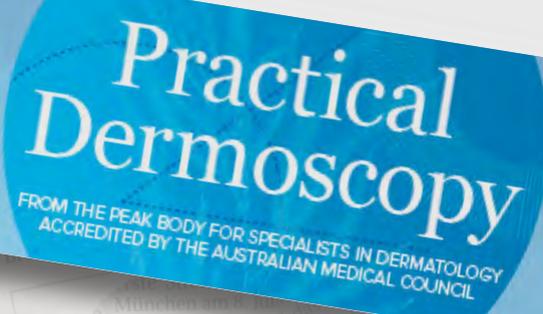
With the AMC report and conditions in full swing, College will be taking some time to undertake a minor review to the existing curriculum. This is to ensure our content remains current and up to date, while addressing the AMC conditions as we go. If you have ever wanted to have a say in what is covered in the curriculum, then this is your opportunity.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact me on brett@dermcoll.edu.au

GP TRAINING

In 2015, College formed the GP Taskforce and created the Practical Dermoscopy program. This course has gone from strength to strength having now trained approximately 250 GPs Australia-wide. In 2019, we are expanding our GP education offering to include further courses in skin cancer and skin conditions. As a result College is consistently looking for Fellows who love to teach to help us grow in this exciting area. There are opportunities in developing content, running workshops and marking examinations. You will be compensated with an honorarium, gain Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points, be provided with all the necessary content and materials and have full administrative support. This really is a great opportunity to engage and build relationships with your local GP community by developing their hands on skills and improving referrals.

Express your interest now by contacting Beth Saunders on beth@dermcoll.edu.au



OTHER EDUCATION PROJECTS

College will continue to develop the A-Z of Skin and are always looking for contributors to this area.

Contact Kirsty Edwards on kirsty@dermcoll.edu.au if you are interested.

We also hope to release some free education content to the public to increase their awareness of skin health. Please contact me if you have an interest in this area.

As you can see there are a range of opportunities for Fellows to be engaged in the development of education materials. Working together with other Fellows and educationalists will hopefully provide a safe environment for you to contribute and be a part of the College's education strategy going forward.

A to Z of Skin

TRAINEE CORNER



DR JEREMY NG

Time has flown by and it has been more than six months since I moved to London to work at Chelsea Westminster Hospital. It has been an incredible experience in gaining clinical knowledge, exploring the city and enjoying the best English summer on record.

As the first Australian dermatology trainee at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, I have had the privilege of introducing the faculty to the background of the hospital, and the nature of training received.

The dermatology department at Chelsea Westminster Hospital is named after Daniel Turner, often regarded as the 'Father of Dermatology'. Every day I am greeted by a leather-bound book that he published in 1736, titled 'De Morbis Cutaneis: A treatise of diseases incident to the skin', reminding me of the historical dermatology foundations laid by predecessors in this region of the world. As a department, we provide inpatient consultations for the hospital including its paediatric, antenatal, and neonatal units. Chelsea Westminster Hospital is the largest specialist HIV unit in Europe and has its own dedicated HIV ward, which results in a multitude of varied dermatological presentations and interesting debates regarding diagnosis and management. We also provide dermatological cover for other hospitals nearby including the Royal Brompton Hospital and the Royal Marsden Hospital, where I attend a weekly oncological dermatology clinic.

OUR NEW MEMBER RESOURCE: ACD CONNECT

The Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) new private online community site 'ACD Connect' launched in August 2018. The new platform aims to offer ACD members with a powerful resource to communicate, exchange knowledge and share solutions.

ACD Connect is a secure and private cloud-based website. Access to the site is tied to ACD membership. Members can join communities, previously known as discussion groups, to start new discussions or find past conversations. Members can update individual profiles and manage the frequency of community notifications.



The new site contains numerous open forum communities, these include:

- Speciality Communities: Such as Dermo, Mohs Groups, A-Z Skin Contributors, Mohs Scientists & Technicians Group
- Committees: Closed communities that facilitate the work of our committees
- State Faculties: Closed communities for each state Faculty
- Trainee Communities: Communities for each training year and state Faculty.

If you have not yet activated your ACD Connect account, remember to do it as soon as possible, as you will not receive community correspondence until your account is activated.

To do this go to this link: <https://connect.dermcoll.edu.au> and login with your College username and password.

Once you have logged in, you will be prompted to accept the Terms and Conditions of the site. After you have accepted them, you will start to receive emails.

Instructions on how to use Connect can be found on the Connect website: <https://connect.dermcoll.edu.au/faq>

If you have any questions, issues or ideas, please contact Jacqueline Sciancalepore on (02) 8741 4116 or jacqueline@dermcoll.edu.au

More information on Information Technology (IT) changes to come in 2019 will be released shortly in a separate publication. This will include information on:

- The new ACD Store and ACD Courses site
- The new ACD website
- The new member eLearning Portal
- Expressions of Interest for the ACD Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Steering Committee.

As usual if you have any education questions or comments you can contact me at the College at brett@dermcoll.edu.au or 02 8741 4199. If you are interested in being involved in education matters, whether it be mentoring, supervising, or other course development/review, I'd love to hear from you.

Brett O'Neill
Director Education Services

Within the Chelsea and Westminster outpatient departments, I have had the privilege of working in speciality clinics including the HIV dermatoses clinic, penile clinic, vulval clinic, biologics clinic, hair and nail clinic, paediatric laser clinic and acne clinic. Additionally, the department has a Mohs unit which has provided me with the opportunity to observe and assist with multiple procedures and complex repairs. This broad outpatient, inpatient and surgical case mix has exposed me to countless fascinating conditions and challenging cases. The rotation has been well supported by a number of enthusiastic dermatologists, led by Dr Claire Fuller, Chair of the International Foundation for Dermatology.

In addition to diverse clinical experiences, there is also an abundance of opportunities to assist in teaching and research. I have been tasked with coordinating and providing dermatological teaching for both Imperial College medical students and Chelsea Westminster Hospital dermatology trainee registrars. Additionally, I have assisted with updating the British Medical Journal Dermatology teaching module on dermatological emergencies and I am now writing the British Journal of Urology online module for recognition and treatment of urological dermatoses, under the supervision of Professor Bunker.

Whilst working in London, I have taken the opportunity to spend time as a clinical observer in a number of St Johns clinics including immunobullous, photodermatitis and paediatric genetic clinics; observing the diagnosis and expert management of extremely rare conditions. We have also had the privilege of receiving tutorials from Dr Stephanie Weston during her time at St Johns and Dr Claire Tait, whilst on her travelling fellowship.

The challenges of the United Kingdom (UK) National Health Service (NHS) for delivering appropriate care and remunerating its staff are highly publicised in the international community and I have certainly felt the pressures whilst working within the system, seeing at least 12 patients per clinic. One method implemented over the last 12 months to alleviate clinic pressures, is a teledermatology clinic that was pioneered by a Chelsea dermatology department registrar. Selected cancer referral patients attend the hospital medical illustrations unit for regional and dermoscopic photograph of concerning lesions, at which point they also complete a questionnaire regarding the history of the lesion and their medical history. These documents and images are then reviewed in a weekly consultant-led clinic, where patients are either discharged, triaged to clinic or booked directly for biopsy. Whilst the system has its flaws and limitations, it has increased the efficiency of the referral service with the average consultant reviewing 25-30 referrals per hour. This is only one of many examples I have observed where NHS clinicians are actively involved in implementing significant systems-based changes in the department's service provision. This has been inspiring to witness and has raised my interest in looking laterally at methods which may improve the delivery of dermatological care locally in Australia.

Being in this part of the world has provided me the opportunity to attend a number of conferences including the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) Annual meeting, AAD Summer meeting, European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology Congress (EADV) Spring

meeting, EADV Annual meeting and the European Society of Paediatric Dermatology Conference. Additionally, I had the chance to hear some of the leading world experts teach at the EADV acne and rosacea resident course and was honoured to receive a prize in the presentation of a case of osteoma cutis.

Outside of work, I have enjoyed spending time with my fellow Australian registrars, including my housemate Dr Ludi Ge and her husband Dr Kieran Dang. Together, we have eaten our way through many of London's fine restaurants. I have enjoyed hiking across Europe with Dr Francis Lai and watching West End musicals with Dr Aakriti Gupta. I have also accomplished some personal goals including running my first half marathon in Paris, France, followed by completing the Midnight Sun marathon in Tromso, Norway.

Overall, this has been an excellent year so far and I would like to thank the College for providing this wonderful opportunity. Although there is no Chelsea Westminster post next year, I hope that College can continue to maintain ties with this fantastic world-leading institution.



DR JEREMY NG AND DR FRANCIS LAI IN SCOTLAND



DR JEREMY NG RUNNING THE TROMSO MIDNIGHT SUN MARATHON IN NORWAY



DR LUDI GE AND DR JEREMY NG ATTENDING THE EADV SPRING MEETING IN MONTENEGRO

GOVERNMENT, POLICY AND ENGAGEMENT

TELEDERMATOLOGY: EMBEDDING STORE AND FORWARD AS A NATIONAL SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

Optimising and expanding technology-enabled models of care for the delivery of specialist dermatology services has obvious benefits, especially in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia, helping to narrow the gap in healthcare access and improve patient outcomes for dermatological conditions.

As a visual speciality, dermatology is highly suited to the use of digital images for diagnostic and disease management purposes. Over several years, College has strongly advocated for further government investment in modalities such as Store and Forward teledermatology—an innovative, efficient and low-cost solution that can be integrated into existing communication technologies used across healthcare networks. The technological requirements for Store and Forward are modest. Image capture technology found in every day smartphones offer adequate resolution for many skin conditions and access to a secure email server is sufficient for the transmission of clinical images and data. Many Fellows provide this service to General Practitioners (GPs) currently and without reimbursement.

Securing funding for Store and Forward is proving to be challenging, but College remains committed in its efforts and is encouraged by the in principle support received from government stakeholders. In the 2015 House of Representatives Inquiry into skin cancer, a recommendation of the Standing Committee included “that Store and Forward teledermatology as used by registered medical providers be included on the Medicare Benefits Schedule.” The Commonwealth Department of Health has recognised the potential of Store and Forward in the Dermatology Workforce Action Plan developed in collaboration with College, not only for service delivery, but also as a novel mechanism for remote training and supervision, which could help to establish and retain a regional specialist workforce.

College is building on this momentum, with several projects implemented or in train.

REIMBURSEMENT THROUGH THE MEDICARE BENEFITS SCHEDULE

Telehealth- consultations undertaken via videoconferencing and reimbursed through the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) - would appear to offer a satisfactory solution to address inequitable access to specialist care for rural patients. However, videoconferencing alone can be inadequate for effective dermatology consultations due to the low visual quality of live streaming. Accompanying still digital images, most commonly provided by the patient’s GP through Store and Forward, are frequently required.

College has twice applied to have Store and Forward listed as an MBS item through the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC). The MSAC process involves independent review of clinical superiority/non-inferiority and cost effectiveness against existing services; in this case face-to-face consultations and videoconferencing. MSAC concluded that there was, at present, insufficient evidence in favour of Store and Forward to justify public funding.

College has decided not to pursue a third MSAC application until further clinical and economic evidence has been generated.

GENERATING DATA IN SUPPORT OF STORE AND FORWARD

As part of College’s push to improve visibility to both government and bureaucracy, a pre-budget proposal to the Federal Health Minister and Rural Health Minister has been submitted for consideration for the 2019-2020 Federal budget cycle.

The submission seeks funding for the establishment of a pilot program to support dedicated teledermatology registrar training positions at regional teaching hospitals. The proposed pilot, modelled on the Skin Emergency Telemedicine Service (SETS) at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane, aims to demonstrate the feasibility of Store and Forward as a mechanism for increasing specialist dermatology training and improving patient access in regional areas. The collection and evaluation of clinical and service utilisation data has been built into the proposal, which if successful, can then contribute to the body of evidence for future MSAC applications for Store and Forward.

College is realistic about the success of the pre-budget submission, especially in the context of the current political climate and upcoming Federal election. However, the proposal will work towards

raising awareness at the ministerial level of the benefits of teledermatology as a technological solution to inequitable access to healthcare and to address dermatology workforce shortage and maldistribution. It will also draw attention to College as being a committed and vocal player in this space, offering solutions that align nicely with other government priorities such as the National Digital Health Strategy and the work of the Department of Health's National Medical Training Advisory Network (NMTAN).

At the state level, College and the Western Australia (WA) Faculty provided a submission to the WA Country Health Service Strategic Plan, proposing expansion of services and funding for Store and Forward to rural WA. Should funding be secured, activity at the local level through smaller pilots will be invaluable for larger advocacy initiatives and evidence generation.

SETTING THE STANDARDS IN TELEDERMATOLOGY

The lack of national guidelines for teledermatology was highlighted by MSAC as hurdle for reimbursement of Store and Forward. In addition, embedding teledermatology into the training program curriculum and offering development opportunities through Continuing Professional Development (CPD) will be more easily facilitated with a set of agreed standards.

College has commissioned the Centre for Online Health at the University of Queensland to develop practice guidelines for teledermatology for the Australian setting, with oversight from College's E-Health Committee. The guidelines will consider clinical, technical and administrative issues and identify how to deliver care safely, optimise patient benefit and reduce risk for dermatologists practicing teledermatology.



ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Committee was established in 2008 to provide oversight of the development of content on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander skin diseases for the training program curriculum, delivery of dermatology services to Indigenous communities and other issues relating to Indigenous health.

As of 2017, this Committee has been elevated in its strategic role and now reports to the Board of Directors.

Members of the Committee:

- Dr Jenny Cahill (Chair)
- Dr Clare Tait
- Associate Professor Robert Miller
- Dr Ian McCrossin
- Dr Claire Grills
- Dr Erin McMeniman
- Dr Li-Chuen Wong
- Dr Dana Slape (trainee)

After six years as Chair, Dr Jenny Cahill is handing over the role to Dr Erin McMeniman. College sincerely thanks Dr Cahill for her leadership and dedication to the critical work of this committee, and welcomes Dr McMeniman into her new role.

The primary purpose of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Committee is to assist the Board to discharge its responsibility in the following areas:

- Provide strategic guidance on building the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dermatology workforce and advocating for the advancement of Indigenous doctor training into dermatology

- Provide direction and contribution to the development, delivery or promotion of College's educational resources for Fellows, trainees, nurses, Aboriginal Health Workers and medical students on skin diseases in Indigenous peoples and cultural competency
- Work to establish or strengthen College's partnerships with national, state and local governments, organisations and communities for the purposes of: delivering specialist services, education and training, undertaking targeted research to improve health outcomes, or raising awareness of Indigenous skin health
- Oversee development and implementation of College's current and future Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs) to create a unified, coherent approach to addressing health inequities
- Provide strategic advice on policy, clinical or other relevant issues relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their health.

Some key projects undertaken by the Committee:

- Development of College's first RAP – a critical document that articulates College's commitment to improving Indigenous skin health outcomes
- Establishment of the Travel Award for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander junior doctors and medical students to attend the College Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM)
- Yearly attendance at the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA) conference, hosting suturing workshops for delegates
- Successfully working to retain the dedicated Specialist Training Position (STP) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander trainees- the only specialist medical college to do so
- Development and launch of College's free online Aboriginal Health Care worker education modules on skin health.

Haley Bennett

Director Policy, Engagement and Advocacy

ADVOCACY CORNER



NATIONAL SKIN CANCER ACTION WEEK

Every year, College partners with the Cancer Council for National Skin Cancer Action Week during November. The aim of the week is to remind Australians of the importance of sun protection.

This year, the focus of the campaign was on teenagers and tanning, with the message of ditch your tan this summer and #OwnYourTone. A joint press conference was held at Southbank in Brisbane on Sunday 18 November 2018, attended by President, Dr Andrew Miller and President- Elect, Dr David Francis.

The latest results from Cancer Council's National Sun Protection Survey has shown that an alarming 62% of teenagers say their friends think a tan is a good thing.

In light of the findings, Cancer Council Australia and College called on teenagers and young adults to own their skin tone, embrace their natural beauty and protect their skin from the sun.

The campaign was highly successful and generated considerable media coverage, including:

- TV coverage on 7, 9, 10, Sky News and Today Extra
- Radio networks Today FM Sydney, Gold FM and WFSM
- Print stories in the Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, Sunday Herald Sun, Sunday Mail Adelaide, Sunday Mail Brisbane and Sunday Times Perth.



DR DAVID FRANCIS, DR HALEY BENNETT, DR ANDREW MILLER, PROFESSOR SANCHIA ARANDA, PROFESSOR MICHAEL KILMLIN AND LANA ELLIOTT



2019 RURAL DERMATOLOGY MEETING

WE INVITE ALL COLLEGE MEMBERS TO JOIN US FOR THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF DERMATOLOGISTS (ACD) RURAL DERMATOLOGY MEETING TO BE HELD IN ORANGE, NEW SOUTH WALES ON 6 TO 8 SEPTEMBER 2019.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING INCLUDE:

- Keynote presentations
- Case discussions
- Addressing rural workforce issues
- Experiences of rural and remote dermatologists and other medical specialists
- Fine dining
- Social activities, including wine tasting.

Abstracts are now open and being accepted until March 2019. All abstracts will be considered for posters if not accepted as part of the program. To submit your abstract, or for further details, please contact Roshan Lewis on roshan@dermcoll.edu.au or 02 8741 4150.

Further information is available in the flyer inserted in this edition of The Mole and on the College website.

The College kindly acknowledges the generous support of our meeting sponsors:

Lilly

abbvie

SUN PHARMA



2023 WORLD CONGRESS OF DERMATOLOGY BID

COLLEGE EXHIBITED AT THE EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY AND VENEROLOGY (EADV) CONGRESS IN PARIS, FRANCE, IN SEPTEMBER 2018.

Most of the bid committee members attended the event to garner support for the 2023 World Congress of Dermatology bid including: bid President Professor H Peter Soyer, Secretary General Stephen Shumack, College Chief Executive Officer Mr Tim Wills, bid Vice-Presidents Professor Dedee Murrell, Professor Pablo Fernandez-Penas, Associate Professor Gayle Fischer and Associate Professor Kiarash Khosrotehrani.

Bid ambassadors College President Dr Andrew Miller, Professor Rodney Sinclair, Associate Professor Marius Rademaker, Associate Professor Pascale Guitera, Dr Adrian Lim and Dr Erin McMeniman also attended the EADV Congress to spread the word about the College Sydney bid.

The Secretary General, Associate Professor Stephen Shumack, and bid ambassador, Gilberto Moreno-Bonilla, together with myself, travelled to the Ibero- Latin American Congress of Dermatology in Sao Paulo, Brazil in November 2018.

The College held a networking function at the event, which was attended by dermatologists from Brazil, Chile, Argentina and Italy.

Other bid ambassadors have also been busy networking at several other international events including the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery, European Society for Contact Dermatitis, Society for Melanoma Research Annual Meeting and Taiwan Dermatology Meeting.

Next up is the National Conference of Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists in Bangalore, India on 17 to 20 January 2019.

Our preparations and international discussions are progressing well leading up to the vote in June 2019, but this will be a tight race.

The College remains committed and dedicated to hosting the 2023 World Congress of Dermatology and look forward to your continued support.

Roshan Lewis
Marketing and
Communications Specialist

PRESIDENT OF THE ILDS HARVEY LUI WITH CEO TIM WILLS AND BID PRESIDENT PETER SOYER AT THE EADV IN PARIS



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT COLLEGE?



BID AMBASSADORS PROFESSOR RODNEY SINCLAIR, PROFESSOR DEDEE MURRELL AND CEO TIM WILLS AT THE BID BOOTH AT THE EADV



BID AMBASSADOR GILBERTO MORENO- BONILLA WITH JUAN GUILLERMO CHALELA FROM COLUMBIA AND BID SECRETARY GENERAL STEPHEN SHUMACK AT CILAD



ILDS PRESIDENT, HARVEY LUI, PRESENTING AT CILAD



DERMATOLOGIST DR HAADY FALLAH WITH BID PRESIDENT PETER SOYER AT THE EADV



THE 2019 MILAN TEAM WITH BID SECRETARY GENERAL STEPHEN SHUMACK AT THE COLLEGE NETWORKING FUNCTION AT CILAD

ILDS YOUNG DERMATOLOGIST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR MICHELLE RODRIGUES ON RECEIVING THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE OF DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETIES (ILDS) YOUNG DERMATOLOGIST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD.



This award is designed to give recognition to young dermatologists who are trying to make a difference, particularly for people with skin disease who live in resource-poor areas. Recipients are selected based on the recommendations of ILDS Members.

Dr Rodrigues will receive complimentary registration and a sum of US\$2,500 towards travel and

accommodation expenses to attend the World Congress of Dermatology in Milan, Italy on 10-15 June 2019.

BRITISH JOURNAL OF DERMATOLOGY

AFTER 13 YEARS OF SERVICE, PROFESSOR RODNEY SINCLAIR HAS STEPPED DOWN FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD OF THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF DERMATOLOGY (BJD).

Prof Sinclair was the first Australian to be appointed to the editorial board of the BJD. When appointed in 2006, he had recently been appointed as Professor of Dermatology the University of Melbourne, was a regular contributor to the journal and a regular reviewer. Prof Sinclair was also the first Australian to contribute as a chapter author to the Oxford Textbook of Medicine and to Rook's Textbook of Dermatology. In 2006, the relationship between British and Australian dermatology was strong with many College Fellows having spent one or more years undertaking post-fellowship advanced training in the United Kingdom (UK), but Australia was very much the junior partner.

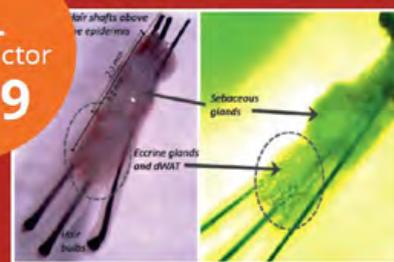
The invitation for Prof Sinclair to join the BJD editorial board in 2006 was an important milestone in the maturation of the relationship between Australian and British dermatology. The British had been critical of Australian dermatology, its emphasis on private clinical practice and the paltry contribution to research and international scholarship. This was their first acknowledgement of an Australian researcher and a gesture of support for Australian research and scholarship.

BJD

British Journal of Dermatology

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF DERMATOLOGISTS

Impact Factor
6.129



While the BJD has grown enormously in size and quality over the past decade, so too has the Australasian Journal of Dermatology (AJD) and Australian scholarship. In 2006, there were three Professors and three Associate Professors of dermatology in Australia. Australia now has 14 Professors of dermatology, about 50 Associate Professors and seven members on the editorial board of the BJD. While the UK is still a popular destination for Australians looking to undertake advanced sub-specialty training, Australia is now a destination for British Fellows seeking post-fellowship training.

NATIONAL SKIN CENTRE, SINGAPORE

COLLEGE WAS INVITED TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL SKIN CENTRE (NSC) OF SINGAPORE'S 30TH YEAR CELEBRATIONS.

As the initiator of Dermatology Registrar Collaboration Program, which has been ongoing since 2001, it was thought appropriate that I represent College on this occasion.

The Singapore registrar post has worked very well as a collaborative enhancement of a registrar's training. It has been particularly useful in exposing registrars to a wider range of skin conditions and a different training culture.

Reflecting on how this program came about, it was during my time on the Victorian Registrar Selection Committee that I became aware of applicants spending time working at NSC as part of their preparations. I decided to make contact with Professor Chee Leok Goh during one of my trips to Singapore.

Prof Goh went out of his way to give me a grand tour of the impressive multi-storied premises, at the same time outlining his plans for the future of the Centre. It was while sitting down to a civilised afternoon tea that I inquired if NSC would contemplate a relationship with Victorian Faculty whereby we would provide registrars to spend time at NSC. This would be an improvement on the current adhoc informal arrangements and ensure NSC would receive a registrar who had



PROFESSOR ROY CHAN, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DOUGLAS GIN, PROFESSOR CHEE LEOK GOH AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SOON HUAT TAN

passed the stringent entrance requirements and had at least 12 months training in dermatology.

From that meeting, the current Dermatology Registrar Collaboration Program was born.

At the NSC 30th Anniversary Dinner, I presented an Honour Board listing names of registrars who had been part of the program from inception to date. This marked a 17 year journey and further cemented the relationship between the NSC, Victorian Faculty and College.

NSC look forward to continuing this relationship into the future.

Associate Professor Douglas Gin

NEW ZEALAND

RECENTLY, THE NEW ZEALAND DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY INC (NZDSI) OFFICIALLY ENDORSED THE SUNSCREEN SUMMIT RECOMMENDATIONS ADVISING PATIENTS WHEN TO APPLY SUNSCREEN.

Unlike Australia, sunscreen standards in NZ are not mandatory, so consumers have been barraged by 'natural products' with unsubstantiated claims of sun protection. Consumer NZ, an independent organisation testing a range of consumer goods and brand comparisons, approached the NZDSI for a statement regarding sunscreens to address an array of consumer queries, in relation to toxicity/nanoparticles and so forth.

The NZDSI and Consumer NZ have developed a position statement recommending a preference for using broad spectrum SPF 50+ sunscreen that does not contain oxybenzones/octinoxate.

In the context of holistic sun protection strategies, the position statement reads:

"The New Zealand Dermatological Society Incorporated (NZDSI) recommends New Zealanders routinely cover up with suitable clothing (covering neck, torso, arms and most of legs with high ultra-protection UPF clothing), wear a broad-rim hat, wrap-round UV protective sunglasses (AS/NZS 10671:2016 standard), and frequently apply (reapplying 2-3 hourly) generous amounts of broad-spectrum sunscreen SPF 30-50+ (AS/

NZ 2604:2012 standard) to any exposed skin, when going outside throughout the summer and whenever the UVI (Ultraviolet index) is greater than 3 or you are planning prolonged time outdoors, the rest of the year, to reduce skin cancer risk and photoaging. In summer, seek the shade and plan outdoor activities to avoid/minimise being outside 10am to 4pm.

Due to scientific evidence of oxybenzone/benzophenones from sunscreens impacting negatively on marine life including coral reefs, we recommend using sunscreens/cosmetics without these components."

ACRF 2018 GRANT NEWS

THE AUSTRALIAN CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION (ACRF) HAS ANNOUNCED \$16.4 MILLION IN FOUR TECHNOLOGY GRANTS TO INITIATE AND ACCELERATE FURTHER GROUND-BREAKING CANCER RESEARCH IN AUSTRALIA.

A flagship diagnostic centre to improve the early detection of melanoma will be established with a major \$9.9 million grant. The ACRF Australian Centre of Excellence in Melanoma Imaging and Diagnosis is set to revolutionise the early detection of melanoma.

This project will implement cutting-edge imaging technology in combination with a multi-nodal telemedicine network across Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria and significantly enhance the capability of clinicians and researchers to detect and understand melanoma.

The 3D imaging system takes a total body image in milliseconds, giving dermatologists the ability to detect skin cancers in a patient even from the other side of the country. A telemedicine network will significantly benefit rural and remote communities.

Approximately 100,000 individual scans from high risk groups will be completed in the first three years.

Support for personnel to be involved in the projects has been secured through the NSW government and Cancer Institute NSW to the sum of \$300,000 over three years.

The grants were announced at a reception hosted by the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) and Lady Cosgrove, at Admiralty House in Sydney. The reception was attended by Professor H Peter Soyer and Associate Professor Victoria Mar, who are part of the team involved in the project.

Melissa Kerr

Research Communications, Dermatology Research Centre, University of Queensland



FIRST YEAR DERMATOLOGY TRAINEES



SECOND AND THIRD YEAR DERMATOLOGY TRAINEES



A DIFFERENT DERMATOLOGY

The morphology of skin disease in Africa presents in shades of brown, black and grey. Pathology arises in the mix of a tropical environment, poverty, malnutrition, treatment by witch doctors, expanding urbanisation, infection with HIV and syphilis and genetic consanguinity. Furthermore, 50% of the 40 million population are under 15 years of age.

WITH EACH ANNUAL VISIT, I HAVE OBSERVED SOME UNIQUE ASPECTS OF THE DERMATOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE. I WILL BRIEFLY DISCUSS THREE – PAPULARISATION, PHOTSENSITIVITY AND BULLOUS DISEASE.

1 Papularisation is a made up term for the fact that many skin diseases in Africans have a papular or micropapular character.

Localisation of the underlying pathology to the following structures, may explain this pathology:

1. Pilosebaceous follicles
2. Eccrine glands
3. A different dermoepidermal interface.

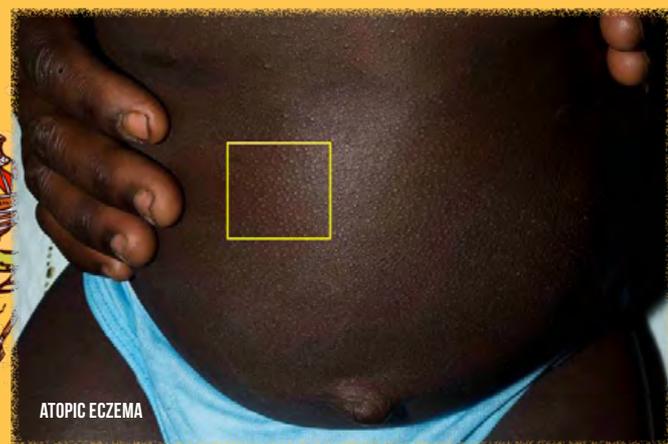
Some conditions seen commonly in African skin are clearly associated with the pilosebaceous follicle. They may have a hamartomatous or inflammatory basis. Examples would include:

- Hamartoma moniliformis



HAMARTOMA MONILIFORMIS

- Juxtaclavicular beaded papules
- Keratosis pilaris
- Lichen spinulosa
- Atopic eczema (some cases)



ATOPIC ECZEMA

- Recurrent and disseminated infandibulofolliculitis
- Facial Afro-Caribbean Eruption.

Other conditions, although strikingly popular, are not necessarily follicularly based if one considers the histopathology.

Examples include:

- Atopic eczema
- Contact and seborrhoeic eczema, especially on the face
- Lichen nitidus
- Polymorphous light eruption
- Frictional lichenoid dermatitis
- Many cases of pityriasis rosea



PITYRIASIS ROSEA

- Measles



MEASLES. NOTE CONJUNCTIVITIS

- Other viral exanthemas
- Scarlet fever
- Papular pruritic eruption of HIV.



PAPULAR

The diversity of different pathologies associated with papular eruptions in African skin suggests an underlying anatomical factor. One possibility is a difference in the structure of the dermoepidermal junction. It has been found that, on average, the dermoepidermal junction in African skin is three times longer than the flatter profile of Caucasian skin (Girardeau et al, Exp Dermatol 2009). This expanded dermoepidermal interface may accommodate the inflammatory response differently or modify follicular structures. It may also explain the high incidence of lichen planus in this population.

Pathology producing papules may target eccrine sweat ducts. Blocked acrosyringium were recently highlighted in patients with atopic eczema (Haque M S et al).



MICROPAPULES

2 Photosensitivity is common in African skin despite the fact that it transmits five times less UV light than Caucasian skin.

Polymorphous Light Eruption (PMLE) has been shown to be more common in Afro-Americans compared with United States of American Caucasians. In African skin, the clinical picture of PMLE is different. The skin on the face, neck and forearms is darker, has an abnormal texture and there may be scattered papules. The symptoms of itch seem disproportional to the clinical signs and the time course is that of PMLE. A pinpoint variant has been described. This may develop the histopathological features of lichen nitidus.

Chronic Actinic Dermatitis is quite common in outdoor workers and patients with HIV.

Photosensitive Drug Eruptions and all drug eruptions are astoundingly common in Africa.

Pellagra is seen especially in prisoners fed only a maize diet and it may also occur as a manifestation of HIV.



PELLAGRA

3 Pemphigus foliaceus and chronic bullous disease of childhood (CBDC) are surprisingly over represented in sub-Saharan Africa.

The diagnosis is clinical and treatments used are oral steroids and dapsons. Epidermolysis bullosa, as with other genodermatoses, is often seen. Presumably consanguinity plays a role.

It has been suggested that pemphigus in these areas may exist in an endemic form as in South America and Tunisia. It has also been suggested that CBDC may relate to poverty (Naafs, Dermatologic Clinics, 2009).



PEMPHIGUS FOLIACEOUS, MAY APPEAR LIKE EXFOLIATIVE DERMATITIS



CHRONIC BULLOUS DISEASE OF CHILDHOOD

Dermatologic visits to Africa are always stimulating and rewarding. Potential volunteers, who are members of the American Academy of Dermatology, can join Health Volunteers Overseas and potentially teach in Uganda, Nepal, Cambodia, Vietnam or Puerto Rico.

If anyone wishes to donate in order to help with the training of dermatologists in Uganda and Ethiopia, there is a tax deductible fund available through the Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc. These funds are used to buy textbooks and equipment, and if necessary, supplement course fees paid by trainees to the university. To donate, go to: www.skincancer.asn.au/african-dermatology

Timothy O'Brien

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CONTACT DERMATITIS MEETING, 18 TO 20 OCTOBER 2018, MILAN, ITALY

Dr Jenny Cahill, Dr Adriene Lee, Dr Liz Chow, Dr Lynne Gordon, patch test nurses Mandy Palmer and Suzette Foster and myself attended the 14th Congress of the European Society of Contact Dermatitis in Milan recently. We caught up with numerous dermatologists who had worked at or visited the Occupational Dermatology Research and Education Centre (ODREC) at the Skin and Cancer Foundation in Melbourne over the years. These included Dr Praneet Sajjachareonpong (Thailand), Dr Jason Williams (United Kingdom), Dr Danny Slodownik (Israel), Dr Pranee Kasemsarn (Thailand) and Professors Thomas Diepgen (Germany) and Tove Agner (Denmark).

It appears that the worldwide epidemic of allergic contact dermatitis to methylisothiazolinone (MI) is starting to decline, however there are still reports of unexpected exposures to MI, and some of these included designer glasses frames, adhesive labels and 'noise putty'. The new kid on the block is allergic contact dermatitis to glucose monitoring sensors, thought to be caused by a novel acrylate, isobornylacrylate. There is still great concern about increasing rates of allergic contact dermatitis to acrylates, especially in nail technicians. There are always reports of new or rare allergens at this meeting, warning us to be vigilant. These included polyhexamethylene biguanide, sorbitan caprylate, isononyl isononanoate and alpha lipoic acid. The need for awareness about the possibility of allergic contact dermatitis to essential oils was emphasised, with exposures often being ubiquitous and unsuspected. The situation with allergies to implanted metals continues to be confusing, with no clear guidelines about when to test. There were several cases reported of systemic contact dermatitis from the Essure contraceptive device which contains nickel. However, nickel sensitisation from the device was not reported.

Fortunately, there will be opportunities in 2019 to update in contact dermatitis. The ODREC will once again be organising the 6th Annual Patch Test Training Day, to be held at the Mercure Hotel on Friday 17 May, 2019, which is just prior to the College Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Melbourne. The program changes every year and this year we are featuring interactive case-based presentations. Registrations can already be made on the Skin and Cancer Foundation Inc website: www.skincancer.asn.au

We are also welcoming contact dermatitis expert, Dr John McFadden to the Annual Scientific Meeting in Melbourne next May. John has a great ability to make talks on contact dermatitis both informative and entertaining.

Our Contact Allergen Bank continues to make it easy to patch test, all over Australia. All you need to do is to register online or contact Mandy Palmer on apalmer@occderm.asn.au. Individualised patch tests can be ordered online and we also have many online resources which can assist in patch testing. You can acquire our database Patchcams, which is not only a clinic management tool, but will enable you to create your own database of the patients you have patch tested. Many patch testers in Australia now use this system. Patch testing has become much easier since our group defined the Australian Baseline Series, the 60 most important and relevant allergens in the Australian population.

Finally, I have established the Patch Test Training Fund based at the Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc to enable scholarships for dermatologists from developing countries to visit the Foundation to learn about contact dermatitis and patch testing. The fund will also contribute to patch testing materials when they return home. Donations are tax deductible and can be made to: <http://www.skincancer.asn.au/campaign/13/patch-test-training-fund>

Associate Professor Rosemary Nixon



DR DANNY SLODOWNICK, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ROSEMARY NIXON, DR PRANEET SAJJACHAREONPONG AND DR PRANEE KASEMSARN



SOCIETY FOR MELANOMA RESEARCH CONFERENCE, 24 TO 27 OCTOBER 2018, MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

AUSTRALASIAN MELANOMA CONFERENCE, 5 TO 6 OCTOBER 2018, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA

CUTANEOUS BIOLOGY MEETING, 29 OCTOBER TO 1 NOVEMBER 2018, NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND, QUEENSLAND

JAPANESE SOCIETY FOR INVESTIGATIVE DERMATOLOGY CONFERENCE, 15 TO 17 DECEMBER 2017, KOCHI, JAPAN

The Society for Melanoma Research Conference and the Australasian Melanoma Conference are the biggest and most important international and national melanoma meetings, respectively. They cover basic, translational and clinical studies. In fact, targeted and immune therapies for melanoma were first discussed at the Society for Melanoma Research Conference before making their way into the clinics. The scientific program of both conferences covered the latest clinical updates on prevention, early detection, disease management, immunotherapy, targeted therapy, therapy resistance, supportive care and survivorship. There is

also news in melanoma biology, such as biomarkers, genomics, epigenetics, immunology, tumour microenvironment, tumour heterogeneity, metabolism and microbiome. This rich diversity makes these meetings exceptional. This year, I represented the College Fellows and Board members of the Australasian Society for Dermatological Research (ASDR) at both meetings as an ambassador for the 2023 World Congress of Dermatology with my talk 'RAB27A promotes melanoma cell invasion and metastasis via regulation of pro-invasive exosomes,' in which I propose RAB27A as a novel prognostic factor and therapeutic target for prevention of melanoma metastasis.

Professor David Fisher, Director of the Department of Dermatology at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard University, Boston; presented a keynote lecture at the Australasian Melanoma Conference on 'Melanoma: clues to therapeutic efficacy from disease pathogenesis.' Bid Vice President, Professor Kiarash Khosrotehrani and bid ambassador Associate Professor Helmut Schaidler, presented on the role of angiogenesis in melanomagenesis and therapy resistance, respectively. At the Society for Melanoma Research Conference there were about 800 delegates from all over the world. Importantly, we discussed the advantages of holding the 2023 WCD in Sydney with the decision makers of the dermatology societies from the United Kingdom,



DELEGATES OF THE CUTANEOUS BIOLOGY CONFERENCE ON THE BEACH OF NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND, QLD



PROFESSOR NIKOLAS HAASS PRESENTING AT THE SOCIETY FOR MELANOMA RESEARCH

Spain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Israel, United States of America, Canada and Australia.

The ASDR is the academic sister organisation to the College. Every odd year we hold our meeting back-to-back with the College Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) to allow for convenient cross-talk between College Fellows and dermatology researchers. In the even years, we hold joint meetings with other research organisations. This year, it was the Cutaneous Biology meeting joint with the Australasian Wound & Tissue Repair Society (AWTRS) and the Molecular & Experimental Pathology Society of Australasia (MEPSA). ASDR President, Professor Dede Murrell, ASDR President-Elect, Professor Kiarash Khosrotehrani, ASDR Treasurer, Associate Professor Helmut Schaidler and ASDR past President, myself, were on the organising committee and participated with our teams with a total of eight talks advertising for the College 2023 WCD bid. Excitingly, my PhD student Robert Ju received the award for the best talk of a young investigator, entitled 'Uncovering Microtubule-driven Mechanisms of Melanoma Invasion.' Professor Sabine Eming, Department of Dermatology, University of Cologne, Germany; presented an excellent keynote lecture on 'Nutrient sensitive pathways regulation skin function' through Zoom, as she was unfortunately not able to come in person.

During the Board meeting at the annual meeting of the Japanese Society of Investigative Dermatology (JSID) in Kochi, Japan in December 2017, I presented both an overview of the ASDR and the College bid for the 2023 WCD.

Amidst strong competition from Beijing, Dubai, Guadalajara, Rio de Janeiro and Singapore, our efforts were received positively at all four conferences and we are hopeful that they will bear fruit.

Professor Nikolas K. Haass



SAKE BARREL CEREMONY. PROF NIKOLAS HAASS, PROF SHINICHI SATO, PROF JIN HO CHUNG, PROF NICK REYNOLDS, PROF AKIMICHI MORITA, PROF KENJI KABASHIMA, PROF SHIGETOSHI



COLLEGE AMBASSADORS PROFESSOR KIARASH KHOSROTEHRANI, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR HELMUT SCHAIDER AND PROFESSOR NIKOLAS HAASS PRESENTING AT THE AUSTRALASIAN MELANOMA CONFERENCE



STATE FACULTY REPORTS

NEW SOUTH WALES FACULTY REPORT

The Faculty would like to welcome our first year trainees into the New South Wales (NSW) Faculty- Dr Linda Chan, Dr Philippa Dickson, Dr Gloria Fong, Dr Emily Forward, Dr Theone Papps, Dr Samra Saikal and Dr Victoria Snaird. We have many registrars: Dr Lisa Abbott, Dr Ludi Ge, Dr Genevieve Peek, Dr Phoebe Star and Dr Angelica Tjokrowidjaja; who are a welcome return or transfer from interstate and overseas. We also welcome back, Dr Victoria Harris and Dr Charlotte Thomas returning from maternity leave.

Preparations for the fellowship exam in Sydney this year are underway. With the increased numbers of registrars now in the training program nationally, the workload of preparing, examining and marking has increased substantially. The Faculty has expanded the number of censors to two: Congratulations to Dr Jillian Wells who has been appointed to join Dr Liz Dawes-Higgs as the NSW Censors.

The Faculty notes Dr Peter Hogan stepping down as Head of Department at The Children's Hospital at Westmead. We acknowledge and would like to thank Dr Hogan for his years of service as Head of Department (HOD). Congratulations to Dr Li-Chuen Wong who has been appointed as the new HOD.

The Faculty would like to thank NSW Fellows who responded to the survey on College's strategic planning session at the end of last year. Credit goes to our Secretary, Dr Rebecca Saunderson, for the initiative and massive effort to get the survey organised in such a short space of time. All responses of the anonymous survey have been forwarded to College, unedited. Some of the responses relate to the Faculty and the Faculty aims to try to address some of these issues with Fellows over the coming year. The Faculty notes the launch of the new Connect forum discussion groups, which seems like an ideal vehicle for the Faculty to communicate and discuss issues among Fellows.

The Faculty would also like to take the opportunity to remind fellows of the 6th Rural Dermatology Meeting

to be held in Orange, NSW on 6 to 8 September 2019. Save the date.

Clinical Associate Professor Saxon D Smith
Chair, NSW Faculty.



VICTORIAN FACULTY REPORT

This year the work of Catherine Scarf, our trainee engagement and welfare officer, has resulted in many improvements to registrar training and wellbeing. Positive changes have been made to timetabling, our country rotations, teaching and communication. Dr Scarf has significantly relieved the Director of Training and her work has been praised greatly by many of our Heads of Hospitals. As a Faculty we have clearly seen the huge benefit of this position.

Our Annual Faculty Dinner was a sell out and held at up and coming restaurant, Matilda. We had a great cross-section of consultants and registrars in attendance and it was lovely to see this engagement in a social setting.

We are continuing to work with the Department of Health around issues related to procedural dermatology and are pleased to announce that we have secured another training position at Peter Macallum (Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre) from 2020 onward.

Lastly we congratulate Dr Michelle Rodrigues who is the recipient of a Young Achievers Award from the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS).

Dr Vanessa Morgan
Chair, VIC Faculty

QUEENSLAND FACULTY REPORT

It is with deep regret that The Queensland (QLD) Faculty informed Fellows of the tragic passing of Dr Daniel Gaffney on 6 November 2018. Dr Gaffney was a young consultant dermatologist working privately in Brisbane and publically at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. We are deeply saddened by this unexpected news. Our thoughts and support are with Dr Gaffney's family, friends and work colleagues during this difficult time.

The QLD Faculty's last Clinical Meeting was held at the Royal Brisbane Hospital on 13 October 2018. This was well attended by Fellows and trainees. At this meeting, we took the opportunity to acknowledge Dr David Weedon for the enormous contribution he has made to dermatopathology in QLD and far beyond. We have all missed his advice and anecdotes since his retirement.

The QLD Faculty was involved in the second McCallum Founders Lecture at the Diamantina Institute on 25 October 2018, in conjunction with the University of Queensland and Professor Richard McCallum. Associate Professor Christopher Baker gave the Founders Lecture entitled 'New Frontiers in Dermatology- cytokines to 3-D printing.' This was a very interesting and enjoyable evening.

QLD was pleased to be able to offer positions for seven new training registrars for 2019. Dr Stephanie Rea has already commenced work at Brisbane Skin. Dr Jenna Rayner, Dr Lena Von Schuckman, Dr Jazlyn Read, Dr Agneiska Adams, Dr Matt Hishon and Dr Benny Yau have all been offered and accepted positions for 2019. We wish them all the best for their careers in dermatology. There are 19 training positions based in QLD in 2019, 17 of these in Brisbane, one at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and one in Cairns. There is a further position based in the United Kingdom (UK) that Dr Kristyn Deen will fill for her third year of training; and Dr Matt Hishon will be working in an accredited position in Singapore for the second half of the year.

The College and QLD Faculty continue to work in conjunction with QLD Health to expand dermatology services to rural and North Queensland. Dr Dougal Coates, QLD Chair-Elect, Dr Greg Butler, QLD immediate past Chair, and I, attended the strategic planning session for the College in Melbourne on 1 December 2018. This was an excellent opportunity to canvas ideas for the future direction of the College. I would like to thank Dr Coates and Dr Butler for generously giving their time, particularly at such a busy time of year.

Dr Amanda Godbolt
Chair, QLD Faculty.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FACULTY REPORT

The South Australian (SA) Faculty was delighted to learn that Shyamala Huilgol, previously Clinical Associate Professor of Dermatology, has been promoted to Clinical Professor of Dermatology by the University of Adelaide. This is in recognition of her research, undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and contribution to the university. Dr Huilgol's clinical research is in the fields of Mohs surgery, skin cancer, reconstructive surgery and laser surgery with more than 100 published papers. Following a nationwide survey of dermatology teaching in medical schools, she assisted with the development of a new national undergraduate curriculum in 2016. Shyamala has recently updated the College online undergraduate teaching modules, which were originally developed by Associate Professor Gayle Fischer and aligned them with the new curriculum. In 2019, she is looking forward to introducing the new online modules at the University of Adelaide and helping establish a new dermatological surgery unit in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia. This is well deserved and wonderful news for Shyamala and the SA Faculty.

The SA Faculty would like to congratulate Dr Brittany Wong who has been selected to be a full time first year dermatology registrar for 2019. For the first six months she will be posted to the Victorian Skin and Cancer Foundation and will be in Darwin for the second six months. The following year, Dr Wong will return to Adelaide as a second year registrar. Three dermatology registrars, currently working in the United Kingdom, will be returning to registrar positions in Adelaide in 2019, so there will be no new first year registrar positions in Adelaide for 2019.

The 39th Australasian Society of Dermatopathology Annual Meeting was held in Adelaide in September 2018.

The SA Faculty held its first state clinical meeting on 13 November 2018. Our usual clinical meetings are held every two months and run from 2:30pm to 5:00pm. The meeting, successfully organised by Dr Sachin Vaidya and Dr Emma Ryan, was well attended and ran for the whole day. A guest speaker from interstate was invited. Dr Leona Yip from Canberra presented on diffuse hair loss in women and treatment strategies for common alopecias. Her two topics were very informative, generated much discussion and it was great to be able to learn from her expertise. Local guest speakers included an oncologist with an interest in melanoma, an immunologist and a plastic surgeon.

This will be my last report for the Mole as Faculty Chair. I would like to thank Dr Romuald Czechowicz for his support in his role as Honorary Secretary of our Faculty.

Dr Colin Ooi
Chair, SA Faculty

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FACULTY REPORT

On my recent flight to Melbourne to attend the College strategic planning meeting, I couldn't resist a blast from the past and tuned into to watch 'Risky Business.' I had completely forgotten that this movie, which was released in 1983, made reference to dermatology- I was only three years old then. It went something like this: "my cousin went in to dermatology, first year over 80 grand." To which the reply was "just for squeezing zits?" It led me to wonder, how the perception of dermatology has changed in the last 35 years? It was a pleasure to then meet and explore this question and many others along with my dermatology colleagues- several from Western Australia (WA) including Dr Austen Anderson, Dr Daniel Hewitt and Dr Clare Tait. I particularly enjoyed listening, sharing and working together as a group of dedicated professionals, which led me to reflect that this cohesiveness is our key to a prosperous future.

Rural visits have resumed with WA Country Health Service (WACHS) funding for a consultant and registrar to Exmouth and Carnarvon. This has been due to some clever moves by Dr Jamie Von Nida. I have recently met with Rural Health West and had some interesting discussions regarding the provision of teledermatology services for rural WA. This remains a work in progress.

Robust and practice changing discussions were held at the recent clinical meeting in November 2018 regarding the new stage 2b/2c melanoma clinical trials and the role of sentinel lymph node biopsy. We would like to thank Clinical Professor Adnan Khattak, Medical Oncologist and Clinical Trials Lead at Fiona Stanley Hospital, for presenting and participating in this meeting. We look forward to ongoing collaboration. The WA public hospital dermatology data collection project has now begun and the data collected will be presented at the February 2019 Faculty Annual General Meeting (AGM).

We all enjoyed our Faculty Christmas Party at Steve's- this is the second year this event has been held at this great venue and I would like to thank Dr Gary Maloney for organising this again. It was great to connect with trainees, current and retired Fellows. I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Dr Tony Cacetta
Chair, WA Faculty



CLINICAL SERVICES

Clinical services play a vital role in supporting The Skin Hospital education and training programs and central to this are the nurses and the important part they play in supporting our dermatologists. In recognition of this, The Skin Hospital has established the Nursing Scholarship Fund (NSF) which became the focus of the 2018 Financial Appeal. The aim of the fund is to provide further educational opportunities for nurses to expand their dermatology nursing skills and expertise. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, the NSF has already assisted 12 nurses in further education, undertaking courses in areas like advanced sterilisation, infection control and wound management, as well as assisting two enrolled nurses to undertake training to become registered nurses.



Currently, The Skin Hospital in Darlinghurst is undergoing major renovation work to further improve and expand the clinic's facilities. The expansion includes larger waiting areas, additional clinics and additional consulting rooms. There is also expansion of the clinical trials area to accommodate the continuing growth.



EDUCATION

The Skin Hospital's 2018 educational calendar concluded with two events: an update on the 27th Annual Meeting of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology from Professor Pablo Fernández Peñas and an engaging and educational evening with Dr Li-Chuen Wong on paediatric dermatology. The final event of the year, a presentation by Professor Rodney Sinclair on systemic treatment for alopecia areata, was cancelled due to Sydney's extreme weather conditions. Due to the high demand for this event, we will be rescheduling this in 2019.

The 2019 Educational Event Program is currently being finalised. The full program will be announced shortly.

EDUCATIONAL EVENT PROGRAM 2019	Date	Speaker	Topic
	20 February 2019	Dr Helena Collgros Totosaus and Dr Hsien Chan	Dermoscopy and confocal microscopy for the diagnosis of facial pigmented macules. The use of optical coherence tomography in the diagnosis of Basal Cell Carcinoma
	8 March 2019	Associate Professor Lee Collins	Laser safety course

GP EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

In November 2018, The Skin Hospital held the first of its Dermatology Insights for General Practitioners events. The evening commenced with a welcome from Dr Simon Lee, Head of Education at The Skin Hospital, followed by presentations from Dr Deshan Sebaratnam on paediatric dermatology and Dr Haady Fallah on acne.

The evening was well attended by a large number of local General Practitioners (GPs). The Skin Hospital will be undertaking more of these events in 2019, in order to support the growing demand of GPs wanting further education around common skin conditions. The first GP event for 2019 will be on 27 February 2019 with Dr Ebrahim Abdulla hosting an interactive session of common skin conditions in general practice.

RESEARCH AND CLINICAL TRIALS

There are currently 10 clinical trials underway at The Skin Hospital, with a further two new clinical trials starting in early 2019. The subjects of these trials include atopic dermatitis, psoriasis and alopecia. Additionally, we are testing new biologics for treating atopic dermatitis, which are showing promising results.



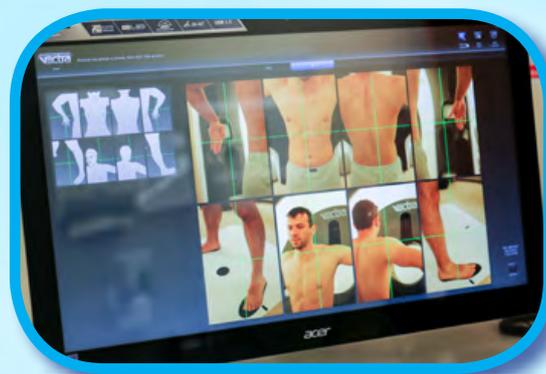
AUSTRALIA'S FIRST PRIVATE SPECIALIST DERMATOLOGY GENETIC CLINIC



DR CHRIS ARNOLD

February 2019 will see the Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc unveil Australia's first private specialist Dermatology Genetic Clinic. This will be headed up and conducted by one of Australia's leading adult geneticists and dermatologists, Professor Ingrid Winship. Members will also be aware that Prof Winship has recently joined the College Board and is now also a member of National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). The Foundation is excited by this new development and proud to have such an eminent specialist to lead the service. Additionally, it will provide a wonderful opportunity for registrar training. Genetics are clearly very much part of the present practice, and certainly the future in dermatology practice.

We are also thrilled to be one of five Victorian centres to receive a 3D whole body imaging machines for the early detection of melanoma. The Foundation will play an important role in collaborating with Australian Centre of Excellence in Melanoma Imaging and Diagnosis (ACEMID) in an effort to improve early detection of skin cancer for our patients. We are pleased to be working with the ACEMID in a world first approach to tackling melanoma and improving early detection of skin cancer.



2019 is shaping up to be a very busy year at the Foundation with new projects in the pipeline including the development of two national community skin health initiatives, the launch of the maternal child and health resource and the acne project, which will launch in a number of Victorian schools in February. The Foundation is also working on two exciting and major projects which we will share with everyone in the near future.



DR MEI TAM

AGM

A successful Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 14 November 2019 at the Melbourne Museum Treetops restaurant. President, Dr Mei Tam, welcomed guests, and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Chris Arnold, presented the AGM.

Five Board members were elected for a further three year term: Associate Professor Peter Foley, Associate Professor Rosemary Nixon, Dr Edward Upjohn, Danielle Huntersmith and Miklos Pohl.

Dr Mei Tam presented long service awards to Dr Michelle Goh, Dr Vanessa Morgan, Miklos Pohl and Amanda Palmer.

A/Prof Nixon presented the 2018 John Fewings Award to Dr Rachel Davenport.

Final year presentations were held and members and staff were entertained by the fourth year registrars quiz session. A lovely evening was enjoyed by all.

GP WORKSHOP

The General Practitioner (GP) Inflammatory Skin Diseases Workshop took place at the Skin and Cancer Foundation Inc on 24 November 2018. This is the fifth year that Associate Professor Alvin Chong has facilitated these workshops. He was accompanied by GP co-facilitator, Dr Naveen Singh, and dermatologists Dr Sarah Brennard, Dr Ryan de Cruz, Dr Michelle Goh, Dr Matheen Mohamed, Associate Professor John Su and Dr Stephanie Tizi.

The aim of the workshop is to upskill GPs and GP registrars in the diagnosis and management of common inflammatory skin conditions. The workshop included a series of interactive lectures followed by small group learning with 14 dermatology patients and additional photo cases.

We would like to thank Peter Monaghan, Joanne Coughlin and Katherine Allnutt; as well as the generous teachers, patients and sponsors for supporting this workshop.



DR SARAH BRENNAND, DR RYAN DE CRUZ, DR STEPAHNIE TIZI, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ALVIN CHONG AND DR NAVEEN SINGH, OUR GP COORDINATOR

MEET OUR NEW 2019 REGISTRARS

This year, the Foundation welcomes eight new registrars who have been accepted into the Victorian dermatology training program. Congratulations go to Dr Georgia Farrah, Dr Pooja Kadam, Dr Brittany Wong, Dr William Cranwell, Dr Rachael Davenport, Dr Zahra Assarian, Dr Senhong Lee and Dr Katherine Allnutt.

We were delighted to see that Dr Hong, our clinical trials resident, Dr Katherine Allnutt, our transplant research Fellow and Dr Rachael Davenport, our Occupational Dermatology Research and Education Centre (ODREC) research Fellow, were all accepted into the program.

Further congratulations to Dr Claire Felmingham, the new ODREC Research Fellow, Dr Tom Kovitwanichkanont, our new Transplant Research Fellow, and Dr Natalie Wong who has become our new Clinical Trials resident.



#PROJECTACNE

#PROJECTACNE has been rejuvenated and relaunched in schools by the Skin & Cancer Foundation Inc in Melbourne.

#PROJECTACNE is a program designed for schools to provide students with reliable information about acne and skin care. The goal of #PROJECTACNE is to help students

- Understand the causes of acne
- Talk about the physical, emotional and social effects of acne
- Identify appropriate resources, services and treatments.

Acne is one of the most common skin conditions affecting teenagers, with approximately 85% experiencing it at some point during adolescence. For many teens acne undermines their self-confidence and can affect both school and social interactions.

#PROJECTACNE can be found at www.skincancer.asn.au/projectacne



THE TEAM OF GP EDUCATORS INCLUDED DR JOHN SU, DR MATHEEN MOHAMAD, DR MICHELLE GOH AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ALVIN CHONG



THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF DERMATOLOGISTS

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING 2019

EVENTS

2019 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Conference Convenors, Dr Anousha Yazabadi, Associate Professor Rosemary Nixon and Dr Matheen Mohamed, invite you to the 2019 Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) which will be held in Melbourne, Victoria on 18 to 21 May 2019.

Confirmed key note speakers include:

Dr Jean Bologna

Dr Bologna is Professor of Dermatology at Yale School of Medicine and is senior editor of the textbook 'Dermatology'. She is currently Secretary-General of the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS).

Professor Kenji Kabashima

Professor Kabashima graduated from Kyoto University in 1996. He started research on bioactive lipid mediators at Kyoto University, which led to a PhD. Currently, Prof Kabashima is a Chair/Professor at the Department of Dermatology at Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Japan, a principal investigator at the Skin Research Institute of Singapore (SRIS), Singapore Immunology Network and visiting consultant at the National Skin Centre, Singapore. His main interests include the mechanism of inflammatory skin diseases and 3D-visualisation of the skin using two-photon microscopy.

Dr Chrysalyne Schmults

Dr Schmults is a graduate of Yale College and Yale School of Medicine and performed her residency at New York University (NYU). Dr Schmults is Associate Professor of Dermatology at Harvard Medical School. She was part of the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania for four years before becoming Director of the Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) Mohs and Dermatologic Surgery Center in 2007. In 2008, she founded the BWH High-Risk Skin Cancer Clinic which cares for patients with multiple skin cancers, severe sun damage, or tumors at high risk for recurrence. In 2012, Dr Schmults launched a unique two-year ACGME-accredited micrographic surgery and dermatologic oncology fellowship program, which integrates a degree into the curriculum to combat the shortage of dermatologic surgeons trained in clinical research methodology. Together with Dr Ncoza Dlova and Dr Vishal Patel, Dr Schmults led a four year project to train dermatology residents in dermatologic surgery at Kwa-Zulu Natal University, Durban, South Africa.

Dr John McFadden

Dr John McFadden is a Consultant Dermatologist in the Department of Cutaneous Allergy at St John's Institute of Dermatology, London. He is also a member of the International Contact Dermatitis Research Group. Dr McFadden has an interest in the methodology of patch testing, hair dye and



MELBOURNE



PRACTICAL DERMATOLOGY FOR THE CURIOUS DERMATOLOGIST



cosmetic allergy. He has published over 300 papers and reports, mostly in the field of contact dermatitis. As well as lecturing to MSc dermatology students, Dr McFadden has also taught many overseas doctors in the art of patch testing.

Abstracts submissions have now closed for the ASM and a program outline is available on the event website with registrations (including accommodation) at <https://www.acdasm.com>

2019 AUSTRALIAN DERMATOLOGY NURSES ASSOCIATION (ADNA) NATIONAL CONFERENCE

18 to 19 May 2019 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Pre conference on 17 May 2019: EGO has generously invited attendees to a tour of their new factory, leaving by bus at 1pm from the Convention Centre and returning by 6pm. The tour includes afternoon tea and has limited seats. If you wish to go, please advise ADNA by email when registering for the conference.

Please join ADNA for a wonderful and exciting program, full of relevant information and inspiring speakers; and of course lots of fun. Melbourne has much to offer everyone and remember it is the city that never sleeps. So Melbournians one and all, please attend the conference and show the rest of Australia our hospitality, great shopping, yummy restaurants, amazing sights and terrific night life.

Together with the Australian College of Dermatologists (ACD) Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) ADNA invites you to register early with the ASM Secretariat in 2019. We have a separate link for the nurses to make registration easier.

EGO will hold a sit down function on 18 May 2019 at the Crown Promenade Hotel from 6:30pm until late. Limited seats are available and it will be a fantastic night with great food, drinks and lots of dancing and fun.

Accommodation is plentiful all around the venue, so just check all the normal hotel websites.

We look forward to a very successful conference for all.

Karen Dazkiw
ADNA President



AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS DOCTORS' ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

26 to 28 September 2018, Perth, Western Australia

Over 400 delegates recently attended the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association's (AIDA) annual conference in Perth. The largest gathering to date of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander doctors, medical



students and associate members, joined by all 15 specialty colleges. Medical students and junior doctors signed up to participate in a number of practical workshops throughout the conference, with the Australasian College of Dermatologists' (ACD) suturing workshop the first to reach full capacity.

The College was well represented by Dr Clare Tait, Dr Daniel Hewitt, Dr Jennifer Cahill, Dr Dana Slape and Dr Artiene Tatian. Dr Tait is a long-time advocate for Indigenous health and currently serves on the ACD Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Committee. She commenced the workshop by providing the junior doctors with an insightful presentation on the role of the dermatologist, the common conditions she sees in her clinics across the Kimberley and how trainees and junior doctors can participate on one of her outreach trips. Dr Daniel Hewitt followed with an interactive presentation on procedural dermatology, teaching the attendee's the importance of correct biopsy techniques and basic suturing skills. With guidance, some participants progressed to learn more advanced suturing and simple flap procedures.

College's commitment to improving the health outcomes of Indigenous Australians rivals that of the other specialist colleges, leading the way in growing the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ABSTI) Fellows through the designated ABSTI training position. These positions not only increase the accessibility to specialist training for Indigenous doctors, but also provide role models for the entire Indigenous medical workforce and greater community. It is well acknowledged amongst the AIDA family that the College is committed to culturally appropriate health service delivery. The recently released online 'Taking care of your skin' education modules for Aboriginal Health Workers is another example of how College is empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to reduce the burden of skin disease.

On behalf of the junior Indigenous doctors present at the AIDA annual conference I would like to thank Dr Tait, Dr Hewitt, Dr Cahill, Dr Slape and Dr Tatian once again for their generosity and time. The feedback amongst the participants has been that the suturing workshop was a conference highlight due to its hands on approach and the friendly and approachable members of the College who attended.

Dr Brenton Earl

FACTS FROM THE A-Z OF SKIN

Hirsutism refers to excessive hair production in both males and females. However, medically it is used to define increased hair growth in women. Hirsutism affects 5-10% of women.

Most cases of hirsutism are of unknown or genetic origin. It may also occur because of an underlying condition. Hirsutism can be an emotionally significant problem. However, effective treatments are readily available.



PROFESSOR H. PETER SOYER

“Clinical research takes time, dedication and commitment. I am passionate about my research. The key is persistence.”

Professor H. Peter Soyer grew up in South Austria, 20 minutes from Italy on one side and the former Yugoslavia (today Slovenia) on the other, which probably helped develop his

enthusiasm for travel from an early age. Prof Soyer's best friend was, and still is, his 11-months younger brother and they enjoyed playing handball and tennis, but skiing most of all.

At the age of 18, Prof Soyer moved to the university town of Graz, where his love and study of medicine began. After completion of medical school, he started an internship in general medicine and surgery in a small rural town surrounded by mountains.

“I liked being actively involved with significant medical and surgical conditions and realised that I was not to be a skilled surgeon. We were put on rotation to the neurological and psychiatric divisions as well as the dermatological division of the hospital and I discovered that I was quite analytical. I liked looking at all the criteria to find a diagnosis,” says Professor Soyer.

Prof Soyer was appointed as the inaugural Chair in Dermatology by The University of Queensland (UQ) in 2007. He is currently the Director of the Dermatology Research Centre (DRC). Prof Soyer's primary research focus is the early detection of melanoma using new technology and genomics and he has a team of about 30 researchers.

Apart from his research, Prof Soyer is also an active member of the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD), serving on the Scientific Research, Academic Research and Editorial Committees. He works with patients as head of the dermatology department at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane and has been on numerous outreach visits to rural locations in Far North Queensland.

“I have a lot of complex patient cases sent to me. They may have seen a few other dermatologists before me and these colleagues want my feedback. I enjoy the challenge, although sometimes it can be difficult to deal with patient expectations.”

“Teledermoscopy has the potential to change skin cancer screening. I would also like to understand more about genomics. Together with Professor Tarl Prow, we have developed and patented a microbiopsy without the need for local anaesthetic and suturing with the aim of performing molecular diagnosis for neoplastic and inflammatory skin conditions.”

In his spare time, Prof Soyer enjoys travelling and mountain trekking. In 2006, he completed his first Ironman competition (Ironman Austria) following several years of training and has finished eight other marathons. Prof Soyer also likes listening to classical music and follows the Broncos and the Lions.

“During my career as academic dermatologist, I have been fortunate to see many parts of the world and make many friends in dermatology and beyond. I am happiest when I have just climbed to the summit of a mountain or completed some other physical activity, like the Climb for Cancer. Finishing the Ironman was an incredible experience.”

“I am also happy when I complete some significant professional achievement, like the dermoscopy workshops I completed in Singapore, Hong Kong and Manila. My friends would say I work too much and need to slow down at my age, but I enjoy my work and don't want to slow down.”

FAST FACTS

Doctor-patient relationship style: Analytical

Special interests: Early detection of melanoma and teledermatology

Dream holiday destination: Lapland

Favourite movie: Action movies.

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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.