LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the Winter Newsletter for the Victorian Section of the USANZ.

It has been a quiet first half of 2009. The Fellowship exams have just been completed and all three trainees were successful. Congratulations are extended to Phil Dundee, Niall Corcoran and Lih-Ming Wong.

A record number of Victorian trainees have had presentations at this year’s AUA meeting in Chicago. Sandra Hallamore, Nieroshan Rajarubendera, Joseph Ischia, Peter Wong, Adee Davidson, Chew-Lin Yip and Peter Liodakis are all to be congratulated. I understand that all papers were very well received.

This year’s state meeting will be run by the Ballarat group on the weekend of 6-8 November. They have arranged for Mike Wallace to be the overseas guest. He is a UK based urologist with a special interest in oncology. I encourage everyone to attend and support what promises to be an excellent meeting.

The City meeting will not be held this year due to a perceived lack of interest. Many urologists have expressed the view that it is run too close to the Prostate Cancer Symposium and consequently find it difficult to attend both. In recent years the meeting has been poorly attended although the dinner saw increased support! In view of the guidelines regarding pharmaceutical company support of such activities, another dinner is unlikely.

This would mean that any future city meeting would consist of an afternoon of talks preceded by a light lunch. If sufficient interest was shown for such a format then its reinstatement would be considered.

Mr Andrew Troy
FRACS
Chair, Victorian Division

TAC and WorkSafe Peer Reviewers

The Urological Society has been approached by WorkSafe / TAC to nominate doctors for the role of Quality Assurance Peer Reviewer for Independent Medical Examinations.

Their role would be to review and provide constructive feedback to their Independent Medical Examiners. They will be paid for their participation.

If you would like to apply, please send an expression of interest with a short paragraph in support of your application, including any relevant experience to Andrew Troy c/- the College.

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**TA&E Update**

The education program for 2009 is progressing well and on behalf of the trainees I would like to thank all those who have given up their time to contribute to registrar training.

The Victorian TA&E are hosting the Introductory Skills Workshop for SET Urology Trainees at the College of Surgeons this year. The workshop will run from Thursday 26 November to Saturday 28 November. It will cover topics such as Vasectomy, Ureteroscopy and TURP. On the Thursday afternoon we are planning to run a Fluoroscopy course and the Saturday morning a Laser Safety Course. We are looking for volunteers to act as Instructors for 1 or 2 sessions over that time. Anyone who would like to be involved in meeting and teaching the upcoming SET 3 trainees should get in touch with either myself or Kate Bolt at the College.

Interviews for SET applicants were held on Saturday 13 June in Sydney. Five Victorian Urologists contributed to a panel of twenty eight interviewers. Over fifty applicants were interviewed.

I am pleased to report that all three Victorian trainees sitting their Fellowship exams in May passed. Congratulations to Ming Wong, Philip Dundee and Niall Corcoran.

**Lachlan Dodds**
**Chairman, TA&E Committee**

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**Registrar Update**

It has been a busy start to the year with a new education program in place. Already there have been three workshops held at the College and Saturday morning sessions at Monash and St Vincents. These will continue throughout the year. We are very grateful to the education committee for their work in setting up this new program.

The USANZ Annual Scientific Meeting was a great success with all SET 3-5 trainees present as well as many SET 1 and 2 trainees attending. There was success from the Victorian Trainees with Lih-Ming Wong winning the Keith Kirkland Prize and Joseph Ischia winning the Villis Marshall Research Prize. Finally, congratulations to Niall Corcoran, Philip Dundee and Lih-Ming Wong on passing their fellowship examinations.

**Ben Thomas**

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**Victorian State Meeting Update**

The 2009 State Meeting will be held at the Mercure Hotel and Convention Centre in Ballarat from 6-8 November (not 30 October to 1 November as previously advertised). Please mark this date in your diaries. It promises to be a sparkling weekend of science, discussion, recreation and fun. A website has been established at www.usanz.theconferencemanager.com.au and the call for abstracts closes on Friday 25 September 2009. The five of us look forward to welcoming you in November.

**Richard McMullin**
**David Cook**
**Lachlan Dodds**
**Robert Forsyth**
**Lydia Johns Putra**
A. Baseline data from all Victorian Urologists

This has been sent out. Please complete and submit the survey as soon as possible.

B. Groupings

This will be the next section to be completed.

a. Public Hospital Units
   i. Personnel
      1. appointment dates
      2. positions
   ii. Unit activities
      1. operating lists
      2. outpatients
      3. education
         a. undergraduate
         b. postgraduate
      4. CPD
b. Private Offices
   i. Establishment of practice
   ii. Personnel (changes over time)
c. Committees
   i. State executive
   ii. TA&E
   iii. Other

The above data will need to be updated from time to time. Heads of units, Chairs of committees, etc will be asked to provide data.

C. Meetings and Educational Activities

a. Collect all programs
   i. National ASM
   ii. State meetings, city and country
   iii. Other meetings, including industry sponsored
   b. Comments and opinions regarding the meeting
   c. Annual Trainee education program

D. Documenting Changes Affecting Urology

Specific people may be asked to contribute, but all offerings will be gratefully accepted.

a. Changes in Training
   i. Development of curriculum
   ii. Assessment
   iii. Fellowship
b. CME/CPD
   i. Evolution
   ii. Formalisation
c. Medicolegal changes
d. Political changes
e. Women in Urology
   i. As trainees
   ii. As consultants
f. Relationship with urological nursing
g. The netwit. If possible, the full transcript should be captured.

E. Technical and Technological Changes

Urologists and others will be invited to document their experience in the development or introduction of the following technical and technological changes. All contributions will be gratefully accepted.

a. TURP
b. Urodynamics
c. Incontinence
d. Reconstructive Urology
e. PCNL
f. ESWL
g. Ureteroscopy
h. PSA
i. Radical Prostatectomy
j. Brachytherapy
k. Laparoscopy
l. Robotics
m. Prosthetics
n. Lasers in Urology

F. Memoirs

We will invite senior and retired Urologists to record their reflections and opinions regarding any aspect of their career in Urology.

Richard McMullin
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19-21 June</td>
<td>Ballarat Training Weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-19 July 2009</td>
<td>Albury Weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-21 August 2009</td>
<td>Prostate cancer symposium Mr Tony Costello</td>
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<td>9 October 2009</td>
<td>Ureteroscopy rigid and flexible. Lasers, Lithoclast, Baskets etc Mr John Kourambas</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-8 November</td>
<td>Victorian State Meeting - Ballarat</td>
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<td>21 November-26 November 2009</td>
<td>Trainee Week</td>
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<td>26-29 November 2009</td>
<td>Set 2 Introductory Urology Course</td>
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<td>4 December 2009</td>
<td>Paediatric workshop</td>
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**Lunch in Melbourne for Retired Urologists**

There is support in Victoria for a luncheon to allow former urological colleagues to meet for a meal, some wine and a chat. All retired Victorian urologists are invited to this inaugural event. A personal invitation has gone to all substantially retired Victorian urologists and a general invitation has been made for our interstate and New Zealand friends. All the usual Victorian suspects will be there and will make sure you have a good time.

**Venue:** RACV Club, 501 Bourke Street, Melbourne  
**Date:** Thursday 13 August 2009  
**Time:** 12 noon to whenever  
**Cost:** $100

If you would like to come or if you have any questions, please contact Warren Johnson at warrenjohnson@iprimus.com.au or (03) 9417 7092 or David Yoffa at davidyoffa@bigpond.com or (03) 9707 3067.

**WHAT ARE YOU DOING?**

As an active Fellow or Trainee with many varied interests, we would love to hear from you about a topical article for our next newsletter and future editions. Surgical articles are always great, however, it does not need to be restricted to surgical topics. You may wish to submit an article on a hobby, a study, the other side of your life, experiences working overseas or some research activity. Perhaps you have a colleague who has a paper or activity that would be of interest to other surgeons. Why not encourage them to submit an article? It is always a pleasure to hear from (and about) our colleagues’ experiences.

What are you doing? Please contact Kate Bolt.

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
WHENEVER POSSIBLE, ALL FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE TO FELLOWS AND TRAINEES WILL NOW BE COMMUNICATED VIA EMAIL. IF YOUR EMAIL OR CONTACT DETAILS HAVE CHANGED, PLEASE CONTACT KATE BOLT.