

The President's Report was presented at the ANZSNM AGM 2006, Perth

Past Activities

This past 12 months has seen a number of important new projects come to fruition. Our Journal, ANZ Nuclear Medicine, has taken the major step towards becoming an International Journal recognized by Medline - by establishing a peer-review process with an Editor and an Editorial Board. We realize the magnitude of the task and are hopeful that the number of papers will increase significantly over the next few editions. We need to seize this important opportunity - it is our best chance for the Society to have a Journal of International standing to publish the excellent research work that is performed in Australia and that is currently published overseas. However, for this venture to succeed the Journal needs to publish 4-8 papers in each edition. So, put pen to paper with your Conference material - and also encourage your colleagues to submit.

The Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) abstracts for 2005 were published in Internal Medicine Journal (Medline listed) as will be the 2006 abstracts. Not all abstracts are published – the majority are, but a small percentage, that are not of the required standard, are excluded. The publication is an extra cost to the Society and this process needs to be reviewed. It may be that next year we will only publish the abstracts on our website until (hopefully) our Journal achieves Medline status.

After quite a bit of planning and work, the new Society web site went live in early March this year. I'd like to thank Erin McKay (webmaster) for all the work he did on the previous site, and in helping to get the new one up and running. Although there is still more work to do, we believe we have the framework on which to build a very useful resource for members. The site will be used, for example, for making important announcements, displaying useful education material (see for example, the lectures from the 2002-2005 Physics workshops), posting draft Government, or Society documents for member comment etc. This is the "front door" to the Society, so please forward any suggestions for improvement to the webmaster.

Other activities during the year included 2 meetings with the Department of Health and Aging (one on the future expansion of PET in Australia) and the development of a Policy document for PET accreditation.

New projects/activities

A very important topic that is currently under consideration is the financial and overall structure of ANZSNM. As you are aware, we have appointed an accountant to look after all financial accounts – Federal, Branch and SIGs. This has involved the removal of all ABN's except for the Federal committee. We have also been reviewing the Federal Constitution (in part, because of the financial restructure) and have become aware of anomalies, in the way we manage our affairs, which have potential legal ramifications. We are an Incorporated Association (in NSW) and legal advice has indicated that Branches operating outside NSW "may be deemed by various State and Territory authorities as unincorporated... associations". This has implications relating to liability cover and we have been advised to consider moving to a 'Company Limited by Guarantee' - to ensure that all officers are fully covered for liabilities that may arise out of performing their Society duties. This is obviously a very important issue for office bearers and we are currently seeking further advice. I met with Branch and SIG representatives at the ASM to brief them on the current position and I will report on this again when we have more information.

The Society is over 35 years old and it is time that the history of the Society is documented. In addition to recording of oral histories of key members we will be holding Witness Seminars (mediated group discussions) at the next 2 ASM. Another major initiative is the introduction of

an annual Research Grant. This will be a one year grant of up to \$20,000 with preference given to new researchers. Another development is the formation of a new committee (with representation from the Federal committee, the ANZSNMT and the Accreditation Board) to manage/develop the Technologist CPD program. I encourage all Technologists to take part fully in this important program by keeping their points up-to-date in the online database.

I can report that following the Adelaide ASM in 2007, Queensland will be hosting the meeting in 2008 (Gold Coast) and ACT/NSW in 2009. We are also currently considering bidding for an International conference in either 2012 or 2014.

Future directions

With regard to the future direction for the Society, I believe that we need to strengthen ties between the various professional groups and, in particular, encourage greater physician involvement in the Society. I will work with the ANZAPNM in improving communications between the 2 groups and in supporting joint initiatives where possible - for example, with joint or coordinated submissions to government. The Federal committee is, and has been for a number of years, composed mainly of Technologists. Change needs to occur at the Branch level, with all professions actively encouraged to participate and to nominate representatives when positions become available on the Federal committee. We also need to strengthen ties with other International Societies and I will be meeting again with the SNM leadership group in San Diego next month. Lastly, we need to look at other ways to provide Continuing Education activities – not just on the web and in the Journal, but with possibly 1 or 2 weekend workshops between ASM's.

I welcome Mr Geoff Roff (WA) and Dr Iain Morle (NZ) to the Federal Committee and thank Kathryn Linn and Prue Lamerton for their important contributions during their period of office. I'd like to thank my hardworking committee for their support over the past 12 months, and I look forward to helping guide the Society in, what I'm sure will be, another eventful year. Finally, I'd like to thank Nat Lenzo and his hardworking committee for organizing this very successful meeting.

Peter Collins