

President report for December 2005 Journal

With this edition of the Journal we start on a new, challenging venture – one that will, if it succeeds, place the Society on much stronger publishing grounds. As Barry Chatterton, our new Editor, states in his editorial, the task will not be easy. To succeed we need manuscripts (case reports, scientific papers, review articles etc.) to be submitted, and to encourage members, we will be offering an annual prize for the best peer-review paper published during the year. This prize (details of which are still being finalized) will be judged by the Editorial Board. So I urge you to support your Society by sending in your work for publication.

ANZSNM web site

The Society web site, the vehicle by which we relate to each other, the general medical community and the public, is currently undergoing a major “service” – or, to be precise, a complete engine change! We have contracted an internet software specialist to completely redevelop and extend the site. Some of the requirements/features that are being considered include:

- Members only area
 - to search member contact details/research interests
 - to receive the Journal online
- Branches and SIGs to manage their own material online
- Online forms – for new members, surveys etc.
- Email subscription lists
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section
- News and Events section
- Community news (eg. educational material for schools)

We will also look at the possibility in the future of Web conferencing. Now is the time to send in your comments/ideas.

Erin McKay has done an expert job in designing our current site. However, neither Erin nor the committee has the time to undertake the necessary, major redevelopment work – hence the new contract. Erin’s expertise will not, however, be lost. He will remain as the webmaster (for technical matters) and will work with a small committee which will oversee the development and maintenance of the new site.

As mentioned above, Branches /SIGs will have the ability to maintain their own material. This is probably the most important feature of the new site as web pages need constant changes to remain up-to-date. This cannot be achieved with the current system. So, I am requesting that each Branch/SIG appoint a person to look after their local content. They will not be required to have web expertise, as the new site will have sophisticated editing and layout tools that will enable files to be edited/added without any knowledge of HTML, FTP etc.

The Journal and the web site are 2 essential components of our structure and we believe the changes outlined above will result in many positive benefits for the Society. However, the support of all professional groups is vital for the success of these new ventures.

Peter Collins
President, ANZSNM