

President Report July 2005.

Jane Gunn

The last 7 months have been a busy time for our Association. The executive and State representatives have met around every six weeks to progress work. We have been ably assisted by our new Secretariat, Ms Debbie Mutton, located at Newcastle University, who has devoted 1 day per week to AAAGP.

I thank all the State Reps and Executive for their commitment to AAAGP.

Membership

Due to Debbie's appointment and dedication to the task membership fees have been collected from 131 people (189 on database).

Letter to Head's of Departments of General Practice and member HOD of Rural Departments requesting financial support. Special acknowledgement to:

- Department of General Practice, University of Adelaide
- Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne
- General Practice & Rural Medicine, School of Medicine, James Cook University
- Department of General Practice, University of WA
- Mt Isa Centre for Rural & Remote Health James Cook University
- Graduate School of Medicine University of Qld
- Academic Unit of GP & Community Health Australian National University
- Discipline of General Practice, Newcastle University
- Discipline of General Practice, University of Tasmania
- Discipline of General Practice, Central Clinical School, University of Sydney

On behalf of all members I thank the Departments that have made a substantial large financial contribution to the Association. Because of these generous donations we have been able to maintain our membership fees at a low level for 2005.

Formal Treasurer's report will be tabled at the AGM in Darwin.

Conference

Jane Gunn has been on the GP and PHC conference committee. This is the first time that we have had a fully integrated meeting. I urge all members to consider the pros and cons of an integrated conference and provide feedback about this to inform future meetings.

Our integrated meeting program consists of:

- Annual HOD Meeting – Tuesday lunchtime
- Ordinary Meeting – Tuesday evening
- Annual Dinner with Prof Don Cameron at the National Wine Centre, focussing on Clinical Research.
- Thursday morning plenary session
 - Research Journey session highlighting the career of primary care researchers from novice to expert; who are members of AAAGP. Inaugural AAAGP

- Most Distinguished Paper Session – awarded to A/Prof Helena Britt, longtime AAAGP member – judged by peer review.
- Award for best first time presenter – again AAAGP uses this award to build research capacity and raise the profile of the association. We need judges for this award – Debbie Mutton is looking for more volunteers.
- For the first time AAAGP has a booth at the conference. We hope this raises our profile and attracts new members.
- A number of members chairing sessions, giving presentations and posters.

Advocacy Roles

The AAAGP continues to be asked to provide representatives for committees and working groups of relevance to GP research and teaching.

Ass Prof Jane Gunn - NHMRC Grant Review Panel Chair; RACGP National Research Advisory Committee - Rep & Chair; 2005 GP & PHC Research Conference Committee - Rep

Dr Ian Wilson GPET Convention Planning Committee - Rep

Prof Chris Del Mar RACGP- Editor of Research Section of AFP

Dr Neil Spike RACGP Quality Framework for Australian General Practice- Rep

Dr Noel Hayman GPET ATSI Health Training Reference Group-Rep

Prof Mark Nelson NRAC RACGP- Rep

Dr GC Millar , Prof N Zwar, Dr Nigel Stocks, Ms S Searle, Ms R Yates (ADGP), Ms T Snowden, Ms J Byron: Joint Working Party for NHMRC Submission on Ethics Committees.

Dr Steve Trumble The inaugural AAAGP nominee to the ministerially appointed board of GPET

Prof Dimity Pond GPET Registrar Research Committee – Rep

Communication update:

Major website re-design. Debbie trained in updating and maintaining.

Newsletter Editor appointed - Dr Grant Blashki. After a hiatus of a few years the newsletter is re-launched. This will be a pdf version that is placed on the website and members will be emailed the link. For the launch we have printed copies, but this will not occur every edition.

members@aaagp.org email list modified so that reply to all does not happen unless member activates it.

Travelling Fellowship

Call for members to encourage applications for this fellowship. Details available on website or from AAAGP conference booth.

Heads of Department Meeting: A successful HOD meeting was held. This meeting is a great networking opportunity for Heads of Department who are members of AAAGP. Topics covered at the meeting were the next phase of the RCBI and PHCRED strategy, the implications of the RQF for Departments of General Practice and Rural Health.

PHCRED funding

I urge all members to provide feedback to me about the future PHCRED strategy. Please email j.gunn@unimelb.edu.au

Research Quality Framework

The roll-out of the RQF poses serious implications for the primary health care research sector. The executive will be reviewing the proposed framework and we welcome input from all members about this topic.

AGM to be held in Darwin at the time of the RACGP Convention.