

Incoming President's Address 2006

After 7 years serving on the executive as treasurer I thought there was an alignment of the planets that meant I should do my bit as the president of this once moribund, now thriving organisation. It is an excellent time to take the reins after the superb stewardship of Jane Gunn whom I would first like to acknowledge. Jane is also the only member of the executive leaving so corporate knowledge remains intact.

Key drivers of my presidency will be:

- * Further expansion of our membership after the great work by Debbie Mutton targeting possible NZ membership and building on the strength that non-medicos bring to the organisation.
- * Promoting the choice of general practice as a career for medical undergraduates recognising no GPs means no general practice to research in and poorer health outcomes for the community. Also recognising the significant person power problems of training the large influx of undergraduate medical students.
- * To build on the successes of the PHCRED program which requires continued support to mature and expand into mid and later term career development for GP/primary care researchers.
- * To continue the fiscally responsible running of the association. This will be ably assisted by Grant Blashki assuming the mantle of treasurer. As a measure of this my first action was to propose that subscriptions increase next year as if we fail to act now the association would go bust in 7 years. Rather than dealing in a boom and bust approach fiscal responsibility dictates that we need to do this due to the increased level of secretarial support for the association and member benefits.
- * The opportunity that ASPREE, a large-scale RCT that I am intimately involved with, brings regarding the project driven development of a national GP research network that would be a fantastic asset for all working in primary care research.

Prof Mark Nelson

AAAGP President
Chair Discipline of General Practice
School of Medicine
University of Tasmania