

## AAAPC President's report August 2009

Somewhat to my surprise, it seems that, while I was away building houses in Cambodia, the membership voted strongly in favour to change our name. Following the AGM held in Melbourne, the final count, including proxy votes, was 48 in favour and 11 against a name change. This 81% majority gives the Executive a very clear mandate to rename our organisation the **Australian Association for Academic Primary Care**. We will now proceed with altering our name, including on this newsletter, and beginning to disseminate this information to relevant stakeholders.

I have heard excellent reports about the PHCRIS conference. My thanks again go to Kitty Novy and Marie Pirotta for all their help with the various AAAGP events during the conference. The AAAGP session within the programme included a stimulating presentation from Prof Frank Sullivan followed by the two AAAGP Distinguished Papers by Prof Mark Nelson and Dr Caroline Laurence. We believe the new process for assessing papers allowed us to judge this award more effectively this year and we will continue with the same process next year.

Congratulations again to Mark Nelson for being awarded the Charles Bridges-Webb Medal this year. Mark's award was based on his conduct of several large trials of international relevance in cardiovascular disease and his broader commitment to teaching and research in general practice. The medal was hotly contested this year and we encourage people to continue to nominate all those primary care academics who are achieving excellence for the 2010 award.

Finally I welcome the re-elected and new members to the AAAPC Executive Committee and look forward to working with them on a variety of important matters for general practice and primary care as the new healthcare reforms unfold.

Prof Jon Emery