



COLLEGE OF INTENSIVE CARE MEDICINE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

PRESIDENTS REPORT FROM THE CICM BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 2010

BOARD MATTERS

The recent College Board meeting was held on 18 & 19 November at the College office in Prahran. All Board Members were in attendance. Guests at the meeting were Kate Leslie (ANZCA President), John Kolbe (RACP President) and Michael O'Leary (President of ANZICS). Also attending the meeting for the first time was Mary Pinder, newly co-opted representative for Western Australia.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Staffing

Our Admin Assistant (training), Elyse Lithgow, has reduced her hours to two days a week, in order to pursue further study. Our current receptionist, Jade Downes, will take over the rest of Elyse's work and a new receptionist, Sarah Vella, will start with us in mid-December.

Library Facilities

The Board has continued to discuss the provision of a library facility (since our Fellows and trainees lost access to the ANZCA library). A survey of the regions revealed that most have access to on-line journals through either a university or state health authority. A small proportion, however, do not. For us to provide such a service for all our Fellows and trainees would normally be very expensive, but after ongoing negotiations with publishers, we have reached an agreement to trial access to a limited range of the relevant intensive care journals based on actual usage. This will mean a substantially reduced fee.

The arrangement should be in place by the end of the year, it is hoped that access will be through the usual College member log-in. Initially the range of journals available will be very limited, however depending on usage and demand, we should be able to gradually increase this.

AMC ACCREDITATION

The Australian Medical Council will be conducting a full accreditation of the College in 2011. This is a detailed and lengthy process. The College is to make a full written submission to the AMC by the end of January, after which the AMC assessment team and the College jointly develop a plan for site visits by the assessment team in late June.

The first draft of the written submission has been completed and was discussed in detail at the Board meeting. Following incorporation of the comments received, it will be circulated to Regional Committee chairs for their input and further comment.

EXAMINATIONS

General Fellowship Examination

There were a total of 58 candidates presenting for the August / October sitting including 48 sitting the written, eight carrying a written pass from a previous attempt and two Overseas Trained Specialists. The written section of the examination was held in Adelaide, Auckland, Brisbane, Cairns, Christchurch, Launceston, Melbourne, Sydney and Wellington.

A total of 43 candidates were invited to the oral section in Adelaide with the Royal Adelaide Hospital, Flinders Medical Centre and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital hosting the hot cases. The viva section was held at the Sebel Playford Hotel, Adelaide.

A total of 35 candidates were successful at the examination.

Paediatric Fellowship Examination

This year's Paediatric Fellowship Examination attracted the biggest numbers in its history with a total of 13 applying to sit the exam across Auckland, Melbourne and Sydney. The Paediatric Examination also had another first, holding the oral section in Auckland at the Starship Children's Hospital. Eight candidates were invited to the oral section with seven being successful. All the examiners and staff found Auckland to be a wonderful examination venue and look forward to returning in the future.

The Board would like to express our gratitude to Dr Bruce Lister who despite "retiring" from the role of examination chair, kindly offered to undertake the role in the absence of current chair, Dr Johnny Millar who was away on sabbatical.

Primary Examination

The Primary Examination also attracted record numbers with 16 candidates applying to sit the exam. The written section of the examination was held in Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Perth and Sydney with 10 people invited to the oral section.

The viva section was again held in Melbourne with seven candidates successfully completing the exam.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Supervisors of Training workshops

The SOT workshop that was planned for September, based on the 'Teaching on the Run' format was cancelled due to lack of registrations. Feedback from SOT's indicated that many have already done the Teaching on the Run program and would be more enthusiastic about a specifically designed intensive care supervisors workshop. Accordingly, the Education Committee are in the process of putting together a new program for the workshop and are intending to run the first of these in April next year.

Educational Resources.

The Education Committee is seeking expressions of interest from Fellows who have developed educational resources that may be of benefit to all our trainees. These may be printed, video or electronic in nature. The College would consider making these things available either to all trainees, to each training hospital or on loan from the College, depending on the cost.

Appointments of Supervisors of Training

The Board endorsed the following appointments as Supervisors of Training:

Dr V Masurkar, Co-supervisor at Nambour Hospital
Dr E Litton, Co-Supervisor at Royal Perth Hospital
Dr B Barry, Wellington Hospital
Dr O Roodenburg, Alfred Hospital
Dr J Lavana, Prince Charles Hospital
Dr I Johnston, Tweed Hospital

Communication Course

The Education Committee have proposed the development of a communication skills course for trainees, covering areas such as breaking bad news, open disclosure and end of life treatment choices. The course is designed to complement the communication aspects of the Medical ADAPT course, which is mandatory for all trainees. It is intended that the first course will be run in March or April 2011.

Regulation 5 – Training Program

The Board approved the re-wording of Regulation 5 to incorporate the increase in the core intensive care component of training (from 24 months to 36 months). This change is to take effect for all trainees registering from 1 January 2011.

Trainee Committee

Each Region now has a representative on the Trainee Committee, which is chaired by the New Fellows Representative on the Board, Liz Steel. The Trainee Committee has been considering a number of initiatives, including on-line forums to improve communication, a trainee satisfaction survey and trainee representation in College governance. The Board voted in favour of a motion to include trainees on College committees where appropriate, including attendance at College Board meetings. Trainees will also be invited to accompany hospital accreditation teams whenever possible.

HOSPITAL ACCREDITATION

Hospital Accreditation Committee

The following hospitals have undergone recent HAC inspections and continue to be accredited for training:

Calvary Wakefield Hospital – C6
Wellington Hospital – C24

A number of new units have applied for accreditation and will be reviewed over the next few months

CONTINUING EDUCATION

2011 Annual Scientific Meeting - Canberra, 3 - 5 June.

The organising committee for the 2011 ASM, led by co-conveners Bronwyn Avard and Imogen Mitchell are well advanced in the planning of the meeting. The theme of the meeting is 'Pushing the Boundaries of Intensive Care'. The ASM will be preceded by the annual New Fellows Conference, and next year it is also intended to offer a pre-conference 'Refresher Course' which should be attractive to non-Fellows practicing in intensive care.

The website for the ASM is now live at www.cicm-asm.org.au, or it can be accessed through the professional development section of the College website. The full program will shortly be available for viewing. Abstracts are now being accepted for Free Papers and the Felicity Hawker Prize (see the website for details).

FELLOWSHIP AFFAIRS

Admission to Fellowship by Examination

The following Fellows were admitted to Fellowship by Examination at the November Board meeting:

Paul Young	NZ	Matthew Anstey	WA
Lisen Hocking	VIC	Srinivasa Ponasanapalli	SA
David Sturgess	QLD	Roy Fisher	SA
De Wet Potgieter	QLD	Hariharan Ramaswamykanive	NSW
Steven Philpot	VIC	Jyotsna Dwivedi	NSW
Christopher Chung	NSW	Con Giannellis	VIC
Anton Leonard	WA	Ywain Thomas Lawrey	NZ
Martina Ni Chonghaile	VIC	Judith Ochola	QLD
Ravi Tiruvoipati	VIC	Elena Cavazzoni (Paediatrics)	NSW
Anne-Marie Welsh	WA	Subodh Ganu (Paediatrics)	NSW
Christian Karcher	VIC		

Fellowship Affairs Committee

Following a decision at the February Board meeting, Terms of Reference have been developed for the newly constituted Fellowship Affairs Committee, which is chaired by the Vice President. Apart from providing a reporting line for the CPD Officer and the ASM Officer, the committee will give particular consideration to issues around welfare of Fellows, including such things as work – life balance, transition to retirement and rural isolation.

PROFESSIONAL AFFAIRS

Workforce Survey

A comprehensive on-line survey of all Fellows investigating changing work patterns and future intentions has been running for some weeks and over 400 Fellows have completed the survey. It is hoped that analysis of the survey results will reveal some interesting trends in the intensive care specialist workforce that may assist the Board in making decisions that will impact on the future workforce.

2011 Annual Subscriptions

The Board voted in favour of a resolution to increase next year's annual subscription (and all other training and examination fees) by an amount equal to the CPI increase ie 3%. The Board also agreed that in general the CPI should continue to be used as the basis for any future increase in fees. The annual Fellowship subscription for 2011 will be sent out to all Fellows in early January. The Board also resolved that to try and minimise any increase in the annual subscription, an entry fee of \$1,000 would be charged to all new Fellows. This is currently in place in most of the other colleges, and as all CICM Foundation Fellows were charged this amount on transfer from JFICM the Board felt this was an equitable arrangement. Most CICM fees remain well below those of the majority of the other colleges.

Rural Issues

College Fellows Mike Anderson (Launceston) and Penny Stewart (Alice Springs) attended a Rural Health Continuing Education forum in Sydney recently, which has led to the College submitting three applications for project funding under the RHCE grant program. Priority is to be given to those projects which garner support from a number of other colleges.

CPD Program for Fellows

With the introduction of compulsory CPD for all our Fellows, the College is in the process of re-vamping the existing MOPS program and launching a new CPD program. The College CPD Officer, Gavin Joynt, is leading a small team in redesigning the framework of the program. The basic outline of the program should be in place by early 2011 and the necessary IT infrastructure should be ready by midyear. There will be a period of testing by a group of volunteer Fellows before the new program goes live at the start of 2012.

Billing of MBS Items for Trainees Under Supervision in Private Settings

An anomaly in the Medicare legislation has meant that currently most medical specialists are excluded for billing for procedures performed by a trainee under supervision (in a private hospital). The College has written to the Chief Medical Officer to have the legislation amended so that the relevant intensive care items (ie Group T1.8, 1.9 and 1.10) in the MBS schedule are able to be billed by Fellows supervising a trainee who performs the procedure. We are hoping for speedy resolution of this matter.

CICM/ANZICS Co-operation Agreement

Some three years ago ANZICS and the Joint Faculty (JFICM) signed an agreement setting out their respective and joint roles within the overall intensive care community in the region. With the formation of the College it is opportune to bring the agreement up to date to reflect the changed circumstances of the College and also to review the separate and joint roles of the two bodies. The essential elements of the agreement remain unchanged and reinforce the longstanding goodwill and mutual respect that continues to exist between the two bodies. ANZICS and CICM will continue to explore areas of co-operation and the effective use of our joint resources.



Prof. John Myburgh

President, College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand