



Australasian
Society for
Ultrasound in
Medicine

President's message

Glenn McNally



Year-end nears and it is appropriate to review the Society's work over the past year and contemplate our future direction.

WFUMB 2009

ASUM's success in our bid to host the WFUMB 2009 Congress in Sydney provides a wonderful opportunity for the Society to showcase the achievement of the diagnostic ultrasound community in Australia and New Zealand. Much work now needs to commence which will include a significant promotion of the meeting and ASUM. I would ask those of you attending major international meetings to liaise with our CEO, Dr Caroline Hong, as to how you may assist in the promotion of WFUMB 2009.

ASUM meetings

Our two major meetings this year were unqualified successes. The initial Multidisciplinary Workshop held early in the year in Sydney attracted a large number of registrants, with excellent feedback from the participants. The recent ASM in Perth had over 500 registrants for both the workshop component and the scientific meeting. Again, feedback from registrants, speakers and sponsors has been very favourable. There has been discussion in recent years about concentrating major meetings between a small number of major cities on the Eastern seaboard and in New Zealand. I believe that it is important that the Society attempts to run its meetings in as many locations throughout

Australia and New Zealand as is feasible. Where a strong program is put in place, our members have generally responded well in their participation and this was certainly the case in Perth. Congratulations go to the Organising Committee, namely Jan Dickinson, Chelsea Hunter, Michelle Pedretti and Elvie Halausckwicz.

Asia Link program

The Asia Link program is going well. Contact with the Korean Medical Ultrasound Society and the Bangladesh Society has been strengthened in this past year. We are likely to be providing education and assessment support to the latter in the next year. Our first joint meeting to be held with the Medical Ultrasound Society of Thailand took place in early November and was well attended by both Thai Society members, ASUM members and other overseas registrants. The increasing activity and success of the Asia Link program is largely due to the efforts of its chair, Dr Stan Barnett and we are grateful for his contribution.

Members honoured

All members of the Society offer our sincere congratulations to Dr George Kossoff who has been honoured by the Prime Minister with the awarding of a Centennial Medal. We also awarded life memberships, an honorary membership and an honorary fellowship at the recent Perth ASM. New Life Members are Dr Stan Barnett and Dr Dave Carpenter. The new Honorary Member is Prof Byung Ihn Choi from Korea. An Honorary Fellowship was awarded to Roger Gent for his outstanding contribution to the Society over many years. Congratulations to each recipient.

Education resources for clinicians

Discussions have been occurring over the past few months with representatives from the Royal Australasian

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College of Surgeons and the Australian College of Emergency Medicine regarding the provision of education resources to clinicians seeking to perform limited, targeted ultrasound examinations. ASUM Council feels that this trend is in some ways inevitable and we intend that benefits to patients will be achieved through education and the attainment of appropriate standards of practice. We envisage education modules being offered to these groups in 2004 and look to the contribution of many of our members to assist developing this process.

DMU recognition

ASUM recently presented its application for recognition of the DMU by the Australasian Sonographer Accreditation Registry. Thanks go to Margo Gill for the enormous amount of work that she put into preparation of our application. Indeed, all of the DMU Board of Examiners worked

tirelessly to produce a high quality application. Part of this process involves looking at many of the activities of the DMU to improve the transparency of our processes and to make the DMU accessible while retaining a high standard.

UK Sonographer exchange

Discussion has taken place between representatives of ASUM Council and the British Medical Ultrasound Society with the view to creating a sonographer exchange between Australia and New Zealand and the United Kingdom. It is proposed that a sonographer would visit the United Kingdom every two years to participate in a specific research project. We would appreciate any member interested in this exchange to provide us with ideas of research projects and any units interested in accepting sonographers from the United Kingdom. We would certainly like to hear from you.

Well done, Roger and Keith

Once again, an excellent Bulletin has been prepared by our tireless Editor, Dr Roger Davies. Roger and Keith Henderson are to be congratulated for maintaining the high standard of the Bulletin over the last year.

The next Bulletin won't be until February 2004 so please accept my best wishes for the holiday season and I look forward to seeing many of you in 2004.

Glenn McNally
President ASUM

DMU REACCREDITED

ASAR has advised that the ASUM DMU has been granted full accreditation status for the statutory period of 5 years.

George Kossoff awarded the Centenary Medal, Prime Minister's Award

George Kossoff has been awarded the Centenary Medal, Prime Minister's Award, for 'services to the Australian society in ultrasonics in medicine'. He is among 100 Australians to receive the medal, on the centenary anniversary of the establishment of Australia's Constitution. The medal recognises Australian citizens who have made a difference to our society.

George, who is an ASUM Life Member, came to ultrasound research in 1959 as Senior Physicist, Ultrasound Research Section, Commonwealth Acoustic Labs, Sydney. As the Foundation Director of the Ultrasonics Institute he was responsible for guiding a team of about 30 scientists, engineers and technical professional personnel to undertake research and liaise with academia and industry to provide services into diagnostic, surgical and bioeffects applications of ultrasound. This research was

undertaken in collaboration with a number of medical specialists in the fields of obstetrics, radiology, nuclear medicine, surgery, otology, cardiology and ophthalmology. The evaluation of



George Kossoff receives his medal from Federal Minister for Education Brendan Nelson

the developed technology was performed in major hospitals in Sydney, where these specialists had academic and clinical appointments. On transfer

to the CSIRO, the research expanded into non-medical applications of ultrasound and into other medical imaging technology. Major programs were thus also undertaken into assessment of marbling of meat in livestock, into 3-D real time underwater imaging of objects in turbid waters and into computer assisted diagnosis of medical images.

He has published over 240 articles on the technical, clinical and bioeffects of ultrasound, is editor of eight books and a slide series and is the holder of 23 patents on technical aspects of ultrasound. George has been President of the AIUM; ASUM (foundation) and WFUMB; he has eight Fellowships in learned colleges or scientific societies and has received six other international awards for his contributions to ultrasound.

George Kossoff's achievements are well known and ASUM congratulates him on receipt of this well deserved award.