

## **AUGUST 2011 Faculty of Pain Medicine Board Report**

### **Faculty Board**

The Faculty Board welcomed Professor Stephan Schug to his first Board Meeting as the co-opted WA representative and Professor Kate Leslie, ANZCA President, who attended for the day.

Dr Lindy Roberts was congratulated on being re-elected ANZCA Vice-President and Honorary Treasurer. Dr Alan Merry was congratulated on his appointment as Head of the School of Medicine in Auckland.

### **Relationships Portfolio**

#### **ANZCA**

The Board was updated on the ANZCA Curriculum redesign, due for implementation in 2013. Pain will be one of seven clinical fundamentals within the curriculum - pain-related learning outcomes have been developed. The new curriculum structure will allow formal FPM training to be undertaken in the Provisional Fellowship Year, entry to which will require completion of the ANZCA Fellowship exam. An electronic log book is under development for ANZCA trainees which will allow those planning to undertake FPM training to be able to demonstrate pain-related experience. Next steps are to define volume of practice including mandatory time in pain medicine as part of ANZCA training.

#### **FPM/RACGP on-line modular GP Education in Pain Management**

Development of this initiative is progressing well with the first meetings of the Steering Committee, Curriculum Development Committee (CDC) and Technology/Adaptation Committee (TAC) occurring on 12 August in Melbourne. The CDC comprises of 3 FPM representatives and 6 GP representatives, two of whom are also Faculty Fellows. The focus of this group is to seek opinion and agree upon the top 10 topics for consideration. This will finally be narrowed down to six topics for development in GP on-line program format.

The aim is to prepare primary care practitioners to better deal with the burden of pain and it was agreed that engagement with the RACGP at a higher level should be pursued to ensure the success of this initiative. Dr Morton Rawlin, Chair Victoria Faculty Representative and Chair of the National Faculty of Specific Interests, has agreed to represent the RACGP President, Dr Claire Jackson, at the October Board meeting.

Opportunities will be explored in the future to develop and modify this initiative to reach other groups.

#### **RACS**

The Pain Management Section of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons has been officially recognised by RACS Council, and Terms of Reference for that section have been established. Nominations are now being sought for those interested in

pain and an Executive is to be convened shortly. Liaison between the FPM and the Section will also be established at an administrative level and reports will be exchanged regularly. It was agreed to invite Dr Andrew Zacest to the October and February Board Meetings.

### **Liaisons with Pain Societies**

The next APS/NZPS/FPM Executive teleconference is scheduled for 30 August 2011. Issues for discussion include the forthcoming 2011-2012 Global Year Against Headache and the planned National Pain Outcomes Initiative.

### **Corporate affairs**

#### **Appointment of ANZCA CEO**

Ms Linda Sorrell has been appointed as ANZCA CEO, commencing 19 September 2011, and was appreciative of the opportunity for the Dean to participate in the selection panel. The Board looked forward to welcoming Ms Sorrell at the October Board meeting.

### **Occupational Health and Safety**

The Board noted that new OH&S laws would be effective from 1 January 2012 and were advised of the implications of expanded definitions for employers and employees (now workers) to include a broader range, including volunteers. The College is planning a communications campaign on this issue to raise awareness of responsibilities under the new laws.

### **Strategy Workshop**

A strategy workshop will be held in conjunction with the February Board meeting and will be facilitated by Mr Jonathan Schauder of the Change Agent Network.

### **Regional Committees**

#### **Queensland**

The Board was updated on the progress of the Persistent Pain Health Services strategy in Queensland Health. The progress is being developed by the Queensland Statewide Persistent Pain Steering Committee, Chaired by Prof Julia Fleming.

The following QLD committees have also been established:

- Exit and Entry Committee (Chaired by Mr Glen Bradley)
- General Practitioners Advisory Group (Chaired by Dr Tania Morris)
- Patient Education Committee (Chaired by Mr Michael Dean)

The Metro South Service is now well advanced in developing a three tiered service to the general practitioner community and public hospital. Accommodation has been found in Logan City, about 15 kilometres from the Princess Alexandra Hospital, to provide community services. The Board noted the following appointments:

Dr Frank Thomas

Dr Tania Morris

Unit

Dr Tony Espinet and Dr Leigh Dotchin

Director Metro South Service

Acting Director Sunshine Coast Nambour

Acting Directors Gold Coast

## **New South Wales**

It was noted that the new NSW Minister for Health and Medical Research, Jillian Skinner, has set up a Taskforce to report on an appropriate model of care for chronic pain in NSW by September 30. The Taskforce has asked the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation Pain Network for recommendations by 1 September. Included in the submission will be a request for funding toward the National Pain Outcome Initiative.

## **Victoria**

A meeting of Victorian Fellows during the ASM in Hong Kong had agreed in principle to form a Regional Committee and plans are now underway to form a committee and convene a CME evening on 14 December 2011.

It was reported that \$2.4 million of additional funding has been made available through Subacute Ambulatory Care Services (SACS) funding to chronic pain units around the state to address waiting lists. Previously funding for chronic pain units had come from a variety of sources, however most chronic pain units in Victorian public hospitals are now under this unified funding program.

### *National Pain Strategy*

Painaustralia is rapidly evolving under the pressure of demands from many groups seeking information, and is working hard in its advocacy role.

Medicare locals are now being formed, the first 15 commenced in July with others to follow in January and July 2012, to a total of 62. Painaustralia is working to ensure that Pain is represented by both clinicians and consumers where possible in these reforms.

A Consumer Reference Group has been formed to ensure that Painaustralia consults with and involves consumer groups in the development of policies, priorities and actions. Painaustralia commenced circulation of a Newsletter in June 2011.

## **Trainee Affairs Portfolio Education**

### *Blueprinting*

The Faculty's part time (0.2FTE) professional educationalist, Mrs Ann Maree Bullard, presented to the Board on her progress in moving forward this initiative, distilling some important key roles of the specialist pain medicine physician similar to the CanMEDS framework. A working group meeting is planned conjunction with the October Board meeting.

### *Undergraduate Prize*

A number of Medical Schools have accepted the invitation to participate and the prize is now being implemented. The Faculty has not been prescriptive in how they select the prize winners. It is anticipated that the number of Medical Schools participating will continue to grow.

### *Podcasting*

A number of FPM podcasts are in development. The following podcasts are now available on the Faculty website at: <http://www.anzca.edu.au/fpm/resources/e-learning-resources-for-fpm-trainees-fellows.html>

Prof Spencer Liu Does postoperative analgesia improve postoperative outcomes?  
Dr Meredith Craigie FPM Examination and Case Report

### **Examination**

The Board and Examination Committee supported a request from the FPM QRC that the venue for the pre-examination short course be rotated between the states on not less than a 3 yearly basis. Queensland Fellows were thanked for undertaking to run the course for the 2011-2013 period.

The Faculty's 2011 Pre-examination short course will be held at the Queensland Regional Office from 23-25 September. The Examination will be held at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (25-27 November). The closing dates for registrations are 9 September and 7 October respectively.

Eighteen examiners have been reappointed for a further 3 year period.

### **Training Unit Accreditation**

Following successful reviews, the Royal Perth Hospital (WA) and Singapore General Hospital were re-accredited for pain medicine training. A Certificate of Accreditation was accepted for distribution to accredited units.

A sub-committee of the Training Unit Accreditation Committee is progressing a proposal to significantly revise Faculty Professional Document PM2, Guidelines for Units Offering Training in Multidisciplinary Pain Medicine to include recognition of Tier 2 hospitals.

### **Fellowship Affairs Portfolio Honours and appointments**

The board acknowledged the following awards and congratulated the recipients:

- Dr Robert A Boas ONMZ, Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit.
- Professor Peter John Ravenscroft AM, Member of the Order of Australia
- Professor Greg Whelan AM, Member of the Order of Australia

## **Fellowship**

Since the May Board Meeting, the following have been admitted to Fellowship by Examination:

Dr Frank Thomas, FANZCA (Qld)  
Dr Nicholas Christelis, FANZCA (Vic)

This takes the total number of admissions to 308.

## **Continuing Education and Quality Assurance**

### **Scientific Meetings**

#### *2011 Spring Meeting*

Early Bird registration for the Faculty's Spring Meeting at the Park Hyatt Hotel, Canberra on 28-30 October closes on 1 September 2011. The meeting theme is "An exploration of the Pain/Musculoskeletal Polemics – Policies, Procedures and Pragmatics' .

#### *2012 ASM – Perth*

The Faculty's Scientific Program is well advanced for the Refresher Course Day and ASM Programs, led by Dr Dan Bennett (FPM ASM Visitor) and Dr Henrik Kehlet (FPM Perth Visitor).

#### *2012 Spring Meeting*

The Hyatt Regency Coolum has been secured as the venue for the 2012 Spring Meeting in Coolum, Queensland. Dates have been confirmed 28-30 September. Dr Brendan Moore and A/Prof Leigh Atkinson will convene the meeting with the assistance of Dr Tania Morris. Liaison with the RACGP is occurring with the aim of having a joint meeting with a planned launch of the joint RACGP/FPM online educational program.

#### *2013 ASM Melbourne*

Professor Edzard Ernst (UK) was confirmed as the FPM ASM Visitor and Professor Fabrizio Benedetti (Turin) as the FPM Melbourne Visitor for 2013.

## **Professional**

### **National Pain Outcome Initiative**

The next step is a face-to-face meeting in Canberra to gain clinician consensus from FPM, APS and NZPS representatives on a minimum data set. The plan is to keep pace with the Queensland and New South Wales agendas for domains of measurement and outcome tools, then approach the respective State and Federal Governments for funding.

### **New Zealand Application for Specialty Recognition**

The Stage Two application was submitted to the MCNZ on the 29 June 2011. There

are three further steps to occur before vocational scope recognition is confirmed by MCNZ.

- By 30 August panel members will be appointed by the MCNZ Education Committee based on nominations from branches related to our scope of practice. The panel will assess the application documentation and prepare a report for presentation to the Education committee.
- The Education Committee will meet in November and will make a recommendation to Council and we will be advised of the outcome
- If Council approves the application they will publish by notice in the New Zealand Gazette the new scope of practice and its qualification(s).

### **Medicare Telehealth Advisory Group**

Telehealth was introduced on 1 July 2011, enabling patients located in general practices, eligible residential aged care facilities and Aboriginal Medical Services and other facilities to 'see' specialists without the time and expense involved in travelling to major cities. This presents a good opportunity for the practice of pain medicine. It is only in support of video-consultations, not telephone alone. The Faculty will have representation at the fourth Advisory Group meeting, scheduled for 25 August.

It was noted that WA has had 6 years experience with the integration of this technology for remote patients and it has worked well.

### **Acute Pain management: Scientific Evidence 4th Edition**

Professor Stephan Schug has accepted the role of Chair of the Working Party for the development of the 4th edition, due for publication in 2015.

### **National Pharmaceutical Drug Misuse Strategy**

The Faculty's submission on this strategy had been compiled out of consultation and other individuals had been encouraged to respond. An outcome is imminent. The Faculty will also have representation at the Expert Reference Group meeting on 5 September in Melbourne.

### **Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) Opioid Stakeholders Meeting**

A Faculty submission regarding PBS-subsidised opioids was sent in early May. The outcome of the July PBAC meeting at which this issue was to be discussed is awaited.

### **Pain Device Implant Register**

Initial enquiries have been made with the Data Management and Analysis Centre (DMAC) at the University of Adelaide with respect to the possible establishment of a pain device implant register with a focus on implants and their performance. DMAC are the team responsible for running the Australian Orthopaedic Association National Joint Replacement Registry. The Board supported further development of this project.

## **Certification of Proceduralists**

A paper outlining the driving consideration for the Faculty to have an opinion on this matter will be brought to the next Board meeting. There has been a suggestion in the past that the Faculty run its own examination. One option for consideration is accreditation for procedural training as a sub-section of the Training Unit Accreditation Committee.

## **Recommendations for patient selection in spinal cord stimulation**

Faculty Fellows L Atkinson, R Sundaraj, C Brooker, J O'Callaghan, P Teddy, J Salmon, T Semple and M Majedi were congratulated on the article in the Journal of Clinical Neuroscience. A link to the article is to be included in Synapse.

## **Australian commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care**

The National Inpatient Medication Chart (NIMC) and the Adult Deterioration Detection System (ADDS) Chart have both been developed under the umbrella of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC) with the aim of improving patient safety. A group of Faculty Fellows has written to the ACSQHC expressing concerns with regard to an aspect of the NIMC that forces setting upper limit doses in post-operative pain management, and that sedation has not been appropriately addressed as the 6th vital sign. The authors are concerned that people should be informed that caution is needed when prescribing prn opioids for the management of acute pain and therefore in the use of these charts. A detailed article will be included in the forthcoming issues of the Bulletin and Synapse.

## **Pharmac Analgesic Subcommittee**

The Board noted that NZNC nominations, Dr Kieran Davis and Dr Christopher Jephcott, have been appointed by the Board of PHARMAC to the Analgesic Subcommittee of PTAC for a 3 year term, ending 31 July 2014.

## **Resources Portfolio Project Officer**

The Board supported the appointment of a part time Project Officer in 2012 to coordinate the GP Online Education initiative, the National Pain Outcomes initiative and the Implant Register initiative.

## **Finance**

ANZCA's Acting Executive General Manager Corporate Resources, Mr Geoff Tory, and General Manager Finance, Ms Galina Fidler, met with the Board to discuss the 2012 budget processes and year to date management reports. The Faculty continues to have a favourable budget variance to the end of July 2011.