Strategic Planning Day

The Faculty Board held a planning day on 17 July. Discussion focused on short term goals for the Faculty over the next two years. They were grouped into:

Academic - Focusing on promoting a Pain Module in medical schools and encouraging the Confederation of Postgraduate Medical Education Councils to include pain in PGY1 and 2. (There appears to have been some success here already). Consider a “prize” for Pain Medicine at medical school level. To continue with “standards setting” for Pain Medicine.

Fellowship - Acknowledge the need to provide services for Fellows (in addition to our current and continuing focus on trainees), promote and expand CPD, regional committees in larger states.

Relationships - Form a Board sub-committee to progress these issues. Develop draft Memoranda of Understanding with parent colleges. Establish links with the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners.

Telephone conferences with the Australian Pain Society and the New Zealand Pain Society are planned in an attempt to develop an arrangement to discuss future Annual Scientific Meetings, speakers, timing and perhaps national activities such as the ‘Global Day Against Pain’.

Policy/Government – Make contact with the Medical Council of New Zealand to raise the profile of Pain Medicine in New Zealand, continue communication with national (AMC) and state/territory Registration Boards.

Melbourne 2007

Refresher Course Day and Annual Dinner

The 2007 Refresher Course Day will be held at the Langford Hotel, Melbourne on Friday 25 May 2007. The Annual Dinner will be on the same evening in the Grand Ballroom at The Hotel Windsor, Melbourne. Registration Brochures will be circulated with the ANZCA Annual Scientific Meeting Registration and Program in January 2007 and are also available for download from the Faculty Website.

Annual Scientific Meeting, 26-29 May 2007

Professor Martin Koltzenburg, MD (University College, London, UK) and Dr Duncan Grant (Massey University, Auckland, New Zealand) have accepted invitations as the Faculty’s Foundation Visitor and the Victorian Visitor respectively.

Further details will be published on the Faculty Website (www.fpm.anzca.edu.au) as they become available, or contact the Faculty Office.
New Fellows’ Conference 2007
Anaesthesia, Intensive Care and Pain Medicine
Theme: Interacting Constructively with Trainees
Venue: Bellinzona Grange Country Retreat, 77 Main Road, Hepburn Springs, Victoria
Date: Wednesday 23rd May – Friday 25th May 2007
Applications are invited from Fellows in all training Regions, up to eight years from Fellowship and attending the 2007 Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) in Melbourne, for selection to attend the 2007 New Fellows’ Conference. Selection will be undertaken by the Regional Committees, New Zealand National Committee, the Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine and the Faculty of Pain Medicine.

The object of the course is to provide each participant with skills to assist them in dealing with their professional lives and relationships during their work in anaesthesia, intensive care and pain medicine, with special emphasis on professional excellence, leadership and involvement in College and Faculty affairs.

The program, to which each participant will be expected to make significant personal contributions, will include mainly administration and professional topics. The College and Faculties will be responsible for the costs of this seminar. However, the applicant is responsible for the cost of travelling to and from Melbourne and all ASM registration and associated fees.

Written applications, with accompanying curriculum vitae, should be forwarded to the relevant Regional Committee or New Zealand National Committee by 3rd January 2007.

Enquiries should be addressed to:
Ms Christine Gill, Administrative Officer
Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists
630 St Kilda Rd, Melbourne Vic 3004
Tel: 03 9510 6299, Fax 03 9510 6786, Email: cgill@anzca.edu.au

ASM Melbourne 2008
This meeting is planned for 3-7 May at the Darling Harbour Convention Centre. The Faculty program will be held on 3-4 May and the Refresher Course Day and Annual Dinner on 2 May 2008.

RACS ASC 2007
RACS Annual Scientific Congress will be held in the Christchurch Convention Centre, 7-11 May 2007. This meeting includes a pain medicine program. Prof Henrik Kehlet, Copenhagen University is the RACS Visitor for 2007. Professor Kehlet’s research interests have focused on pain physiology, the transition from acute to chronic pain and hernia surgery. Website: www.surgeons.org
Spring Meeting of the Faculty of Pain Medicine

The Faculty plans to hold a stand-alone meeting from 21-23 September 2007 at the Versace Resort on the Gold Coast with additional accommodation at the Nara Resort and Sheraton Mirage. The meeting theme will be “The Wave of Change – Pain and Suffering”. Further information will be circulated to Fellows in due course.

Other Meetings of Interest

- American Pain Society 26th Annual Scientific Meeting, 2-5 May 2007, Washington, DC
- Change Champions Seminar: “Improving the Delivery of Palliative Care for Older People”. 15-16 March 2007. Stamford Sydney Airport, NSW
- The Tasmanian Association for Hospice and Palliative Care and the Tasmanian Palliative Care Service, Palliative Medicine Masterclass. Principal themes: Existential and spiritual dimensions of care, Exploring hope and meaning. 9-10 March 2007, Hobart Function Centre. Limited numbers. Contact Phone +61 (0)3 62202400

Research

Pain Medicine Prize

Commencing at the FPM ASM 2007, the Faculty will award the Dean’s Prize to the Fellow/Trainee judged to have presented the most original Pain Medicine/Pain Research paper at the Free Papers Session of the FPM ASM. Eligibility is limited to Trainees of the Faculty of Pain Medicine or Trainees of the five participating professional bodies of the FPM, or Fellows of FPM within eight (8) years of admission to their original Fellowship at the date of the meeting. The prize takes the form of a certificate and a grant of $1,000 for educational or research purposes. The prize will be awarded at the FPM Annual General Meeting.

If you wish to be considered for this prize, you should mark your abstract submission accordingly. The deadline for submission of abstracts is 5.00 pm (AEST) Tuesday 20 February 2007. Website: www.anzca2007asm.com/callforabstracts.php
**Pain Outcome Measures**

This is being actively discussed at Committee level and a positions paper is being prepared for the Research Committee meeting of 5 February 2007. The idea is to work towards a simple, robust Core Data Set of “Outcome Measures” which Fellows could consider for their practises - Individual or Units. Domains will follow the IMMPACT recommendations for core outcome measures. Website: [www.immpact.org](http://www.immpact.org).

Fellows and interested others should also be aware of the Workshop being planned for the May 2007 ASM on Sunday 27 May, 15.30 - 17.00 hrs, entitled: “Determining key outcome indicators for Chronic Pain: Is it possible?”

**ANZCA Trials Group Pilot Research Grants for 2007**

The ANZCA Trials Group invites applications from Fellows of ANZCA, JFICM and or FPM for pilot research grants for projects related to anaesthesia, perioperative medicine, or pain medicine.

The aim of the grant is to assist researchers in the following areas: pilot-phase testing of trials, collection of baseline data using surveys or establishing a network of investigators. The Trials Group will award up to five Grants at A$5,000 with infrastructure support from the Trials Group Research Coordinator.

To be eligible for a pilot research grant, the proposed study must first be endorsed by the ANZCA Trials Group.

Applicants should send a description of the proposed research project, a copy of their curriculum vitae and a covering letter indicating that they are seeking endorsement from the Trials Group and wish to apply for a pilot research grant. Applications will be adjudicated by the Trials Group Executive.

Calls for applications will be made on a quarterly basis

The closing date for applications are:

- 31st January 2007
- 29th April 2007
- 31st July 2007
- 31st October 2007

For further information and grant application forms please contact Ornella Clavisi, Research Coordinator, ANZCA Trials Group via email oclavisi@anzca.edu.au or phone on +61 3 8517 5326.

**Research Awards for 2008**

Applications are invited from Departments of Anaesthesia and/or Intensive Care and/or Pain Medicine, Fellows and registered Trainees of ANZCA, the Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine and the Faculty of Pain Medicine for research awards for projects related to anaesthesia, resuscitation, peri-operative medicine, intensive care medicine or pain medicine. In general, the work must be carried out in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Malaysia or Singapore, however, ANZCA Fellows or Trainees who are temporarily working in other countries for research experience may be considered for research support under special conditions.
The ANZCA Research Policy, which provides full details on the ANZCA Grant Program, is available on the College website and should be considered in detail by all applicants.

Two types of research awards are offered:

1. **RESEARCH PROJECT GRANTS**

   Awarded to support the salary of a research assistant and/or to assist in the purchase of research equipment. Projects that will be considered may be in the field of basic scientific research, clinical investigation or epidemiological research. Grants are usually awarded for one year, however, consideration will be given to the provision of 2 or 3 year Grants for applications under special conditions.

2. **RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS/SCHOLARSHIPS**

   Awarded to Fellows or registered Trainees for salaries to support full-time or part-time research in a recognised university or research institute in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Malaysia or Singapore. Scholarships are available to individuals enrolled as senior degree students of any university in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Malaysia or Singapore. They are available for one to three years, subject to category of award made and subject to satisfactory reports.

   Applicants are also encouraged to apply for NHMRC, NZ HRC or equivalent funding. Any applicant gaining such funding will be considered by ANZCA for “top up” funding.

   The stipend and allowances are similar to those provided by the NHMRC. The basic stipend is approximately $40,000 inclusive of allowances.

3. **NOVICE INVESTIGATOR GRANTS**

   A novice investigator is someone who has not been awarded a peer research grant in the past.

   Novice Investigator Grants are awarded in support of scientific investigations proposed by Fellows and registered Trainees of ANZCA, JFICM and/or FPM and their research collaborators (scientists, students etc). The Chief Investigator must be a Fellow or Registered Trainee of ANZCA, JFICM or FPM, be financial and in good standing with ANZCA. For these grants, other Chief Investigators may include Fellows or Reg Trainees, other medical practitioners, health care professionals, scientists, research students, professional research personnel etc. An experienced investigator must be named as the Supervisor of the novice applicant(s).  

   **CLOSING DATE : 1 March 2007 at 5PM**

   Applications will only be accepted on the prescribed forms. The Application Form and Guide to Applicants will be available from the College website at [www.anzca.edu.au](http://www.anzca.edu.au) on 1 December 2006.

   Further information can be obtained by contacting:

   Ms Jill Humphreys, Executive Officer (Professional Areas)
   Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists
   630 St Kilda Road, Melbourne, Victoria 3004
   Tel: 03 9510 6299  Fax: 03 9510 6931  Email: jhumphreys@anzca.edu.au
Training Unit Accreditation

The Royal Melbourne Hospital Pain Management Services, St Vincent’s Campus Pain Medicine Unit, Sydney and the Barbara Walker Centre for Pain Management at St Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne have been accredited for Pain Medicine training. There are now 20 Faculty accredited training units throughout Australia.

The Board was very pleased to hear of the funding for four training positions offered by the Victorian Government. It is hoped that this initiative, primarily directed by ANZCA’s Director of Government Relations and Media, can also be utilised in other states.

There is the potential to develop in Victoria an exciting rotating programme for trainees to involve the Royal Children’s Hospital, Melbourne which would be quite attractive. The expansion of funded training posts across the nation should allow for strong growth within the Faculty for the coming years.

A Victorian rotational training program will be advertised in the next few months, the program will be advertised by the Faculty and appointments made by a selection committee comprised of representatives of the Training Units involved. Rotations will involve time at the Royal Children’s hospital, Royal Melbourne Hospital, The Geelong Hospital and the Barbara Walker Centre for Pain Management at St Vincent’s Hospital. Fellows please advise prospective trainees to watch out for this advert.

Pain Medicine Journal

The Faculty has moved to extend its relationship with the American Academy of Pain Medicine with respect to the journal *Pain Medicine*, which will continue to be the publication vehicle for Faculty Members. The Faculty’s name will be maintained on the cover of the journal, as well as the masthead, as follows: The Official Journal of the Faculty of Pain Medicine of the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists.

2006 Examination

The Faculty held the 2006 examination in Perth from the 29 November to 1 December. There were 20 candidates and a 70% pass rate. The Barbara Walker Prize for Excellence in the Examination was awarded to Dr Mark Schutze from Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

Education and Training

PGY 1 and PGY2

The Faculty has made a submission to the Confederation of Post Graduate Medical Councils on Pain Medicine at PGY1 and PGY2.

MOPS/CPD

The Faculty strongly endorses the College’s moves to broaden and develop learning portfolios within the MOPS/CPD program and will be involved in development of this process. Fellows will be kept informed of revisions to the program.
**Online Tutorials**
To provide further opportunities for CPD for Fellows, the Board has supported the development of Seeds Online Tutorials. Each Seeds CME course comprises three components including:
- An interactive document for personal study (a preparatory exercise)
- A professionally hosted, two week, online discussion (an interactive activity)
- Training material to facilitate participants in training others, facilitated with speakers notes and a PowerPoint presentation (a reinforcing activity).

The first topic, available early in 2007 will be on Visceral Pain.

**SoT Workshop**
A Supervisors of Training Workshop held on 9 November was well attended and the Board hopes to provide this style of workshop twice a year to help develop the skills of SOTs and to support the introduction of the new In Training Assessment processes.

**Acute Pain Guidelines: Consumer Document**
One copy of this document was circulated to all Fellows with the September of the Bulletin. Additional copies are available upon request from the Faculty Office, or can be downloaded from the Faculty Website: [http://www.anzca.edu.au/publications/acutepain.htm](http://www.anzca.edu.au/publications/acutepain.htm)

**Positions Available**
A number of positions have been advertised through the Faculty’s Website: [http://www.fpm.anzca.edu.au/information/posavail/index.htm](http://www.fpm.anzca.edu.au/information/posavail/index.htm). If you have position to advertise, please email details through to the Executive Officer at painmed@anzca.edu.au

**Synapse**
We look forward to receiving any contributions which should be directed to the Faculty Office at painmed@anzca.edu.au.

**Seasons Greetings**
Best Wishes for the Festive Season to all and sincere thanks to all Fellows who have contributed to the Faculty in various ways throughout 2006.