



## Presidents Chapter Report For 2005 Annual General Meeting

The Year 2005 will remain memorable for the fact that Burns has been in the media spotlight throughout the year due mainly to the prominence of our eminent Australian of the Year Fiona Wood. We must capitalise on this publicity to promote, I think, above all things burn prevention. It is good to see a thrust within ISBI to address this issue internationally. Julian Burton founder of the Julian Burton Burns Trust who was introduced to much acclaim at last year's ANZBA has set up a Board with Peter Maitz as ANZBA representative. The launch of the Trust on Commercial Radio in July did not involve as promised, all Heads of Units and I think passed with less interest and fanfare than would have been the case if all had been involved. Julian needs our input to mount effective campaigns and I will get an agreement with him to be more inclusive in future. In so doing we must be prepared to co-operate on the production of figures and be prepared to talk to the media even at short notice if necessary. State representatives should probably be prepared to liaise between Julian and the heads of units.

The ANZBA Database is off the ground due to a huge amount of work by Yvonne Singer and Heather Cleland's unit. Not all units have entered their data, making the collection of National data impossible. We surely all believe in this and if so must make every effort to collect the data. Yvonne Singer will present at ANZBA and we will all have the opportunity to get to grips with the Database by visiting the ANZBA booth in Sydney.

### **National Burns care network**

Dale Edgar has reported on this initiative. Some of the steam has gone out of this issue at a Federal level; however in no way should this deter us from pushing forward projects on a National level ; for example Surgical training, National Database, and National burns prevention programs (JBBT). It will be up to ANZBA to coordinate National projects and for this to be successful we must have a free flow of information between units; probably on the web, guided and promoted by the State Reps.

### **Asia pacific**

Two Asia pacific surgeons are attending the Sydney ASM on ANZBA scholarships - Dr.Okti Poki from PNG and Dr.Chandini Perera from Sri Lanka. Both will spend two weeks in our units in Sydney after the conference as part of the program. This scholarship is to be awarded annually and I would urge members to nominate prospective recipients whom they might meet during the year.

Rotary have been active on ANZBA's behalf and have agreed to fund a visit to Australia for a small group of Timorese burns staff. This project is being jointly coordinated by ANZBA and RACS. Rotary have also agreed to set up an annual scholarship which under ANZBA's auspices will fund a visit from three nurses from a developing country to spend time in one of our units.

Heather Cleland continues to negotiate with Interplast and will report on the initiative to add burns education/prevention programs to the already successful Interplast programs in the developing world.

### **ANZBA and Surgical Training and the RACS.**

This topic among others will be discussed at the ANZBA surgical forum and I will report progress at the AGM.

## **Conclusion**

Perusal of the unit reports suggests that we making good progress in all at the coal face of clinical practice.

Three units now have active skin laboratories; and the use of CEA has become almost standard practice in the treatment of major burns. Despite Fiona's efforts we have not managed to set up a National trial. I believe this concept is now no longer viable and I would urge all units to evaluate the use of CEA by developing their own randomised clinical study. The SBIS in NSW is about to embark on a trial at the three units in Sydney.

Most of the units now have active clinical and laboratory research programs. It will be important to develop a collaborative approach to research between the units. Open discussions of projects between units will stimulate new ideas, provide assistance and minimise the chance of duplication.

May I thank the members of the Board for their work during the year and particularly pay tribute to Jillian Custance at the ANZBA Secretariat. She knows ANZBA business like the back of her hand, and the great success of the EMSB program as well as the smooth sailing in financial waters is due in no small way to Jillian and other members of our secretariat. I look forward to seeing you for an early morning jog on the beach at Bondi in September, clinging to the rail feeling seasick on the harbour but more particularly at the conference!

JOHN HARVEY,  
President, ANZBA.