



Presidents Chapter Report For 2007 Annual General Meeting

Just once, I wish that I could say things have been quiet. But, we all know that the burn care fraternity will not sit still and, that this year was no different. The big issues:

- Julian Burton Burns Trust (JBBT)

No one likes conflict, at least not in our professional lives! So, thanks to Peter Maitz, in particular, for restoring a prosperous relationship between ANZBA and JBBT.

The reason that this item is foremost is not because we are 'getting along' again. Rather, JBBT has risen to the aid of ANZBA by supporting the national data registry project. The details of this support will be forthcoming in Perth.

JBBT has once again offered scholarships and assistance to the Perth ASM so please check the website for details if you wish to access this offer.

Last, but not least, Peter, myself and Julian will be meeting before the conference to discuss possible JBBT projects and our views on the priorities for funding for 2007/08. It is imperative that you supply me (cc to Jillian Custance) with a summary (including budget and significance) of any project that you think is worthy of funding by JBBT before this meeting on September 10th.

A sincere thanks to Julian and the JBBT for their support.

- National Data Registry (NDR)

Monash University Epidemiology Department provided a successful tender earlier this year and prepared to progress the database. Soon after, we hit a snag i.e. funding was denied by the Victorian Trauma Foundation. As mentioned above this problem has now been overcome and we are back on track to develop the NDR. Please come with ideas for improvements and interactive discussion regarding the database on Wednesday September 12th. Of note, we will nail down a steering committee of interested, dedicated members who are willing to make the NDR work for ANZBA and its supporters.

A warm congratulations to Natalie Picton, our database coordinator and link between Monash and ANZBA. She is expecting a bundle of joy next year and will continue at home with the bub.....just kidding! Best of luck Natalie.

Get involved at the ASM please ladies and gentlemen!

- Allied Health Guidelines

The AH Guidelines were circulated extensively for comment for several months. Response was minimal which I think suggests that the document is of a high standard and has achieved the aims set down by the authors.

The document is near completion and will be tabled for ratification by the Board in Perth. Thank you to those who have taken the time to provide feedback.

Thank you to my co-authors for their 'labour of love' as this project (all 200 pages!) was completed on top of our normal workload without extra funding or support. Perhaps the next version will receive a bit more grease!

- Guest Assistance Programme (GAP)

We are expecting the 2007 GAP recipients, Dr Ashraf ul-Huq and Ms M Rahmann (nurse) to provide us with some interesting insight into burn care in Bangladesh. They will be joined by Dr Chandini Perera, Ms Amara Perera (PT), Ms W.M.A.P. K arunathilake (OT) and Jaya (nurse) from Sri Lanka who are supported by WA Burns Service, Perth Sri Lankan Singalese Buddhist Society and other sponsors. They will also have a two week observational visit hosted by the WA Burn Service. Please make them feel welcome!

In future years, potential GAP recipients must be sponsored by an ANZBA member and apply for funding using the application package (to be accessible on the website). At the ANZBA Office Bearer's meeting in February / March of each year the successful recipients will be decided upon. Priority will be given to our immediate neighbours to develop closer links and mutual support for developing burn services (who may also refer patients into the Australian Health System).

Please don't forget support the GAP when next you pay your association fees. It is a worthwhile scheme and any support would be gratefully appreciated and, assist the long term sustainability of the GAP.

- ISBI Conference

Just prior to this mail out, the WA Burns Service prepared and submitted a bid on behalf of ANZBA to host the 2012 ISBI Conference. The bid document can be accessed and reviewed via the web at:

<http://www.pcb.com.au/conference/isbi/>

username: isbi

password: 2012

A huge thank you to Denise Bradley from the Perth Convention Bureau for her assistance with the presentations and bid document.

- Burns Education in PNG

Heather Cleland (Vic) reports that a short assessment visit may take place in October this year with a view to progressing to a more treatment / education trip in the future. We will keep you posted.

- National Burn Care Network / National Model of Care

Finally, some progress! At the July AHPC meeting just passed, the document written to support an efficient activation of AUSBURNPLAN 2004, was finally accepted. This is a big step forward. It has provided a timely link to events of several months ago, for ANZBA to push for a national model of burns care (promoting standards of burn care and staff education).

HOUSE members were asked in May to provide information regarding their clinical practice with a view to developing an evidence based model of care including a national skin bank funded by the Commonwealth Government. I collated their responses and the Commonwealth review process related to this has ramped up again at time of writing. I will keep you informed of the progress of these two intersecting issues which may be the first steps to developing a National Burn Network supported by national burn care standards (and ultimately an accreditation process).

- Perth ASM – Partnerships in Action

Thank you again to those who submitted abstracts. The scientific programme is set and it is jam packed with high profile local and international speakers fitting with the theme of the meeting. See the Congress West website for details.

I am pleased to announce the inaugural Henrietta Law Memorial Bursary will be awarded for the 'Best Allied Health Presentation' this year.

Equally impressive, is the inclusion of a new award category this year with the inaugural Smith and Nephew 'Murray Clark Science and Research Award'. The award is open to presentations from clinicians and scientists, who bring basic science to the bedside.

The change in focus on poster presentations this year has meant that the KCI Best Poster Award will not be awarded. Instead, all poster and oral presentations will be eligible in the four award categories – medical, nursing, allied health and science / research.

Good luck everyone! Don't forget to tack on a few days (or more) to explore Perth and WA. Ships ahoy!

If any members have any queries about the matters discussed please don't hesitate to email me on dale.edgar@health.wa.gov.au.

All the best.

Regards

DALE EDGAR
President, ANZBA.