



Presidents Chapter Report For 2008 Annual General Meeting

ANZBA President's Annual Report 2008

It seemed like only yesterday we hosted the Perth ASM but here we are again at the pointy end of the ANZBA year trying to take stock:

- **ANZBA ASM in Melbourne – Burns Prevention and Care: *Focus on the Evidence***

Congratulations to the recipients of the ANZBA Conference support. The application process was different this year and we believe more likely to achieve the goals of the scheme. Please feedback any queries to myself or Jillian. For next year, the application kit will be found on the website. Get ready for a great week in Melbourne and start thinking about project ideas for 2009 in Wellington, NZ and 2010 in Darwin, NT.

- **Allied Health Exchange – Rehab Summit in US**

Frank Li (PT- NSW) and Tanja Healey (OT – St Aust) attended the Burn Rehabilitation Summit in San Antonio, Texas in May with support from ANZBA Education Fund (and for Tanja, the ABA Visiting Professional Fund). Both enjoyed their time (and the local hospitality) immensely, including the observational visits to a number of burn centres around the US. I was disappointed not to be able to attend myself as this was an important networking opportunity for ANZBA as well as the individuals. We look forward to hearing about their experiences in detail in Melbourne.

- **National Model of Burn Care (NMBC)**

The NMBC was documented in 2004, in parallel to AUSBURNPLAN. In 2008, it was flagged for rework and updating as the document has not been attended to, by the Australian Government, as we had hoped. This process has commenced. My aim is to have it ratified at a Commonwealth level before the end of my tenure. This important project will assist ANZBA to position itself as an important 'player' as an (inter)national health lobby group and must be completed in a timely manner. The outcome of this work will also focus ANZBA on how we wish to interact with our neighbours according to the *WHO Burn Prevention and Care Guidelines*.

- **EMSB Branching Out**

Not wanting to steal Peter Maitz's thunder, it is important to recognize the expansion and importance of EMSB to ANZBA. For those that are unaware, EMSB has been franchised recently to South Africa and The Netherlands. Progress is being made in PNG and there are opportunities developing in Bangladesh and South Korea. At 'home', it is likely that EMSB will be supported in 2009 by a Commonwealth Rural Support Scheme for specific presentation to health professionals in this sector. In preparation for this new collaboration, the EMSB content will require rework and there is likely to be a short project on offer to this end. Please feedback to Jillian, Peter or myself if you would consider a (flexible) secondment to complete such a project. Watch the website for a job description / application kit.

In other positive news, EMSB now has increased recognition by RACS. The course was been deemed 'compulsory' for Plastic Surgery trainees in NSW earlier this year and, thanks to the efforts of Heather Cleland, is now a (strongly) 'recommended' component of all plastic surgical trainees within the National Training programme.

- **Bi-National Burn Registry**

Three teleconference meetings of the Steering (2) and Reference (1) Committees have occurred and the NBR upgrade project is well and truly progressing. Desleigh Gilbert, the NBR Coordinator, has facilitated the establishment of both committees and an interim report

of activity is available. The ANZBA ASM in Melbourne signifies 25% completion of the project timeline. All proposed milestones have been met as planned. A number of face-to-face discussions in Melbourne will wrap up issues flagged in the teleconferences and we will present the first full report of progress to the Board and AGM.

A formal national media launch of the NBR will occur in October. At time of writing, the notification of local hospital CEO's, State and Commonwealth Health Ministers was in motion. Hopefully, I will be able to provide the first round of feedback from that correspondence to the members in Melbourne.

- **Bi-National Burn Unit Staffing Survey**

The objective of the workforce project is to establish current staffing levels in burn care in Australian and New Zealand (NZ) with a view to making recommendations about optimal staffing levels. Nineteen burn units were surveyed across all disciplines with a high response rate from nursing and allied health. Margaret McMahon will present the detailed results in Melbourne to the Board, AGM and audience.

- **Allied Health Guidelines**

Edition 2 is now posted on the website for all to access. Tanja Healey (AH Chair) has facilitated the review of the first two chapters of the re-developed Edition 3 – *In Search of the Evidence*. The plan is to ensure that this document will dovetail into or be supported by the NMBC and JBI initiatives.

- **ANZBA Research Travel Grant**

At the Office Bearer's meeting it was decided to redefine the Education Fund into a 'Churchill Fellowship' style grant. The funding support amount was increased to \$10,000. Application details for travel in 2009 will be launched at the Melbourne conference.

- **Joanna Briggs Institute – Burns Care Node**

This project was unsuccessful in gaining funding support from The Burns Trust in 2008. A funding model was therefore developed whereby individual Burn Services provided support for the two-year project, thanks to Sheila Kavanagh (RN – Sth Aust). A panel of reviewers has been established and at time of writing, a project coordinator TBA. I am sure there will be a flurry of activity after the ASM!

- **Research Advisory Committee Developments - BAP**

The Research Advisory Committee, henceforth affectionately known as the BAP (Burns Advisory Panel), met by teleconference in May and will meet face-to-face in Melbourne. The terms of reference are now ratified and ANZBA and The Burns Trust, wish to move forward supporting the three pillars of burn research – *prevention, care and education*. The BAP application framework will be launched at the Melbourne conference. Please come armed with small, medium and large research and quality improvement ideas!

- **Website Upgrade – www.anzba.org.au**

Thank you to the MD website committee for its work during the year to progress the ANZBA website upgrade. Apart from the facelift, the major changes include user-friendly access with a focus on provision of contact, referral criteria and treatment information for professionals and the public. Each discipline will be responsible for their section of the website in order to engage members, other health professionals and the public. A good idea to discuss this at respective forums at the ASM! The aim is to direct queries to the website to save time and provide consistent information. Thank you to all members who provided feedback during the upgrade process. However, keep your ideas coming as the website now has a feedback option.

With the website upgraded, I want to focus on the establishment of the Research Register. A committee was formed in Perth to progress this idea but the website upgrade was a handbrake. My vision is that in 2009 a repository with all ANZBA member publications and ongoing research projects will develop. The Register will aim to indicate the past and present

burn research activity and provide a catalyst point of contact to inspire multicentre, collaborative projects.

- **Burn First Aid Education in Schools**

Two primary projects continue and will come together at some point. We will hear more about the burn first aid education program provided by teachers for South Australian school children in Melbourne, I am sure. The results of this pilot will aid implementation of the national first aid and disaster survival education which was supported in the top 8 recommended projects at the Commonwealth 2020 Summit in no uncertain terms due to the tenacity of Fiona Wood. 2009 should see some exciting progress with respect to burn prevention and first aid across Australia! As an organization it is important that we are at the forefront of health policy in this area and optimize the power of the NBR.

- **Improving Burn Care with Our International Partners**

Please consider (now) who you might support in the Guest Assistance Programme (GAP) for 2009. Priority will be given to professionals in our region and they must submit their application before the Office Bearers meeting. Go to ANZBA website to access the application kit.

This year, we look forward to engaging discussions and presentations from Dr Kambue and nurse, Stephanie Damong from PNG. Thanks to INTERPLAST, who have supported one of the attendees, ANZBA funds will stretch a bit further to include observational visits to both Melbourne and Sydney for the GAP attendees. The collaboration with INTERPLAST is encouraging and many thanks to Peter Maitz for his work on this project.

- **RACS Conference in Hong Kong**

The RACS meeting in Hong Kong was a successful one from a collaborative point of view. We look forward to hearing more about the activity of ANZBA members in Melbourne. Thanks to John Harvey for his efforts in organizing and promoting ANZBA at the meeting. RACS recognition of the importance of ANZBA member input, with respect to clinical guidelines and lobbying, has been further strengthened through this endeavor.

- **Financial Matters**

Thankfully, our consolidated funds were topped up again due to the Perth ASM profit and EMSB proceeds, after being raided over the 2007 Christmas period. Our cash turnover has increased significantly this year with EMSB expansion and the management of the NBR funds. This year the Board supported the shift of consolidated funds from Wilson HTM to a better performing (low risk) fund. This will provide us with a modest increase in interest funds to render the Education Travel Fund increase almost cost neutral. The EMSB's expansion will lead to an increase in operating cashflow which will benefit ANZBA significantly with the potential to build up consolidated funds over the next few years. I hope that we will be able to capitalize on this opportunity in the form of new education and research support strategies and organizational goals.

Any specific queries regarding any of these matters, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Cheers

Dale

Dale Edgar
WA Burn Service, Royal Perth Hospital
dale.edgar@health.wa.gov.au