



The University of Sydney

Alumni

MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

e-Newsletter # 5 – April 29, 2009

1. Continuing Medical Education (CME) Seminar and Symposium

We encourage alumni from all eras to join us for these meetings, to renew contact with your colleagues, and to enjoy the opportunity for social gatherings with other alumni. The Symposium on Saturday, 23 May will also give those from beyond inner Sydney the chance to meet with friends and colleagues.

Please contact your friends and colleagues, book a table at the MAA Dinner, and encourage others to join us. Mini-reunions are another option that evening!

As we are keen to develop better mentoring of younger colleagues and students, and to welcome our guest speakers at the Symposium, we would be delighted if some alumni would offer to sponsor them to the MAA Dinner (contact Diana Lovegrove (d.lovegrove@usyd.edu.au) or Paul Lancaster (pallancaster@gmail.com)).

1.1 Victor Coppleson Continuing Medical Education Seminar (12 May, 6.00pm)

The speaker at this Seminar will be **Ian Hickie**, Professor of Psychiatry, and Executive Director, Brain & Mind Research Institute, University of Sydney. His topic will be: **‘The mental health of nations’** (see brief summary below):

‘Most Governments of Developed Nations have now recognised that a key issue for future health, social and economic policy is the lifetime mental health of citizens. Forty per cent of the current health-related disability burden is due to brain and mind disorders. This burden is greatest in early adulthood and later-life. To advance mental health, deliberate applications based on new understandings of the critical genetic and social determinants are required. Further, the way in which key opportunities exist across the whole life cycle is now more fully understood. Developing a framework for capitalising on these opportunities relies on partnerships across health, education, social welfare and other broad community supports. Specific examples of the ways in which strategies in the pre-natal period, early childhood, primary school, adolescence, early adulthood, mid-life and later life will be presented.’

Bruce Robinson, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, and Paul Lancaster, President, Medical Alumni Association, will welcome guests. All alumni and Faculty members are invited.

Venue: Seminar Room 100, Law School Building, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney

Refreshments: 5.00-5.50pm – Ground Floor (formerly Burkitt Library), Anderson Stuart Building (entrance opposite New Law School Building, Eastern Avenue, University of Sydney). View a new exhibition on the plague over drinks and cheese with colleagues!

Parking: Since the opening of parking for the New Law School Building, parking congestion in the evening has eased somewhat. You may find places near the City Road entrance.

Please confirm your attendance by contacting Jacqueline Wells, Office of Postgraduate Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, tel. (02) 9351 4551; fax (02) 9351 6646; email j.wells@usyd.edu.au

1.2 Victor Coppleson Continuing Medical Education Symposium and Medical Alumni Association (MAA) Dinner (Saturday, 23 May)

We warmly invite all alumni to participate in this CME Symposium and/or MAA Dinner at the Australian National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, on Saturday, 23 May. You have the option of registering for both the Symposium and Dinner or for either event.

This initial CME Symposium is being held at the Australian National Maritime Museum to coincide with a major exhibition '*Charles Darwin – voyages and ideas that shook the world*', which opened there in March. You will be able to see this exhibition too.

Please contact your friends and colleagues and take this opportunity to meet up and enjoy a day of clinical updates and overviews of controversial topics. The medical talks will be complemented by a session celebrating the bicentenary of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of '*On the origin of species*'. Two authors of books on Darwin's voyage in the Pacific on the Beagle and his stay in Sydney, Iain McCalman and Frank Nicholas, will give illuminating talks:

Darwin's Armada: How four voyagers to Australasia won the battle for evolution and changed the world, Iain McCalman (Penguin, Australia; Norton, USA; Simon & Schuster, UK; 2009)

Charles Darwin in Australia, Frank Nicholas and Jan Nicholas (Cambridge University Press, 2008).

For those coming from outer Sydney and beyond, accommodation is readily available at hotels close to the venue for the Symposium and Dinner. If you decide to stay overnight, why not invite friends or family to join you on Sunday to view the

exhibition. If you are looking for a longer stay for yourself and partner, the Sydney Writers' Festival starts on 18 May and concludes on 24 May (see www.swf.org.au).

The program for the Symposium and registration forms for the Symposium and MAA Dinner on 23 May are attached.

Registration - \$100 (also, if required, \$100 for partners); Dinner - \$110 (not including alcoholic drinks, which will be reasonably priced).

Accommodation is available close to the Australian National Maritime Museum at Ibis, Novotel and Grand Mercure Hotels (quote CME230509 when making your booking). **Discounted parking** will be available at Harbourside, Darling Harbour.

For further information about the life and work of Victor Coppleson (1915), go to the Australian Dictionary of Biography:

<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A080122b.htm> , and to ABC Radio National: <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/ockhamsrazor/stories/2008/2437871.htm> .

1.3 Medical alumni meeting in Los Angeles, 20 August. This meeting will be held on the day before the start of the annual 3-day conference of the Sydney University Graduates Union of North America (SUGUNA) in Los Angeles. We have already sent emails or mailed information to alumni in the United States and Canada.

As our records of contact details for alumni are often incomplete, please inform your friends and colleagues in the US and Canada about this meeting. Other alumni who may be travelling in the US at the time are also welcome to participate.

See <http://www.usyd.edu.au/alumni/networks/suguna/conferences.shtml>

For further details, contact Trish Harrison (trish1010@aol.com) or Diana Lovegrove (d.lovegrove@usyd.edu.au).

2. Selecting and teaching medical students

Once again, as for PBL tutors, we had an excellent response to the Faculty's request for Multiple Mini-Interview (MMI) interviewers. We are most grateful that more than 20 alumni have expressed interest in taking on this role!

3. University of Sydney Library Services for Alumni

'The University of Sydney Library is pleased to support University of Sydney Alumni with your continuing information needs.

We can offer:

- Borrowing rights from any University of Sydney Library
- Access from your home or workplace to a limited number of electronic journals and the Macquarie Dictionary Online
- Access, within our libraries, to all our electronic databases and ejournals
- Links to high quality and trusted websites and free online resources selected by our subject experts

To take advantage of these services library membership is required. Students completing their studies in semester two 2008 and all future graduates are entitled to 12 months of alumni Library membership at no cost. To take advantage of this free membership you need to have applied for your membership within the first year after you have completed your studies. Second year and older alumni enjoy Library membership at the reduced rate of \$80(incl. GST) per year.'

For information on how to obtain membership, go to:
http://www.usyd.edu.au/card_centre/applications/alumni.shtml

4. Seminars, lectures and activities linked to the Faculty of Medicine

4.1 Medical Humanities Nights

- **May 18:** Film Night with Dr Michael Robertson: 'The Elephant Man'.

Please meet at 6 pm at the Medical Foundation Building K25, cnr Missenden and Parramatta Roads, Camperdown, where there will be coffee, tea, biscuits and wine. You will need to get buzzed in to CVELiM. Call Claire on 0430 116 117 if you need directions.

For further information about future seminars, or to be placed on the email list for their newsletter, please contact: Claire Hooker at claireh@med.usyd.edu.au.

4.2 Medical Education Forums

- **Friday, 29 May:** Medical Education research update - looking at a recent paper from the medical education literature.

A Medical Education Forum is held monthly in Kerry Goulston Seminar Room, Level 5 Kolling Building, Royal North Shore Hospital. This Forum is from 12.30 to 2pm. Light refreshments are provided.

'The Medical Education Forum gives clinical tutors (and others) the opportunity to hear about development and research in medical education and to discuss educational issues in an informal environment'. For further information, contact Kirsty Foster, Senior Lecturer in Medical Education (tel. 9926 4658, or email kirstyf@med.usyd.edu.au).

5. Other University of Sydney events in 2009

- **European Alumni Reception, Paris** – Wednesday 1 July 2009, 7-9pm at Cercle de l'Union Interalliée, 33 rue du Faubourg Sanin-Honoré, Paris, France. To register your expression of interest, please contact: Claire Hannagan; tel: +61 2 9036 9278; email: rsvp@usyd.edu.au
- **UK Summer Reception, London** – Thursday, 2 July 2009, 6.30-8.30pm. Venue: Great Hall St Bartholomew's Hospital West Smithfield, London EC1A 7BE

- **Great Hall 150th Anniversary, 25-27 September 2009:** this is a preliminary notice that a spectacular *Son et Lumière* will be held in the Great Hall to celebrate the 150th anniversary.
- **Spring Back to Sydney annual alumni reunion at the University of Sydney: Saturday, 19 September 2009.** Spring Back to Sydney is now open to ALL alumni, irrespective of graduating year.

6. History of health and medicine

6.1 Faculty of Medicine Online Museum and Archive

Everyone will enjoy this fascinating new overview of the Faculty's history. It will bring back many memories of people, places, and experiences from student days to the present! We congratulate Lise Mellor, Research Manager, History Projects and Publications, on her work in building this wonderful resource for the Faculty, alumni and other users. The notes below are taken from the Dean's note to the Faculty:

'For some time the Faculty has been investing in an Online Museum and Archive. I am delighted to let members of Faculty and other colleagues now know that the Online Museum and Archive is now running live off the Faculty's main website: <http://www.medfac.usyd.edu.au>. The museum is the first of its kind for a university in Australia, combining a range of text, images, sound and video that highlight the history and achievements of our Faculty and alumni. The project began in 2007 after the Faculty's 150th celebrations and has been in development during the last two years.

The site is designed in a Wiki format to allow for the data to be cross-referenced and searched in ways that the University CMS format can't manage. However, it sits behind the usual CMS pages of the Faculty site and users can move in and out with ease.

Some features of the site: historical overview of the Faculty; biographies of Faculty staff, alumni and benefactors; lists of graduates since 1856; digitised publications, including Senior Year Books from 1922 to 1975; examination papers from 1880s to 1950s; virtual tours of buildings; virtual exhibitions; artefacts online; Medical Heritage Trail; and a photo gallery.'

http://www.medfac.usyd.edu.au/museum/mwmuseum/index.php/Faculty_of_Medicine_Online_Museum_and_Archive

If you are interested in submitting an article, biography or photographs and documents of historical interest you can contact Dr Lise Mellor on 9114 1164 or lisem@med.usyd.edu.au.

6.2 Medical bibliophiles

- [The Benevolent Society Gordon Bradley Lowe \(1915\) collection of obstetrics and gynaecology](#)

‘This collection was donated to the State Library by the Benevolent Society of New South Wales and consists of approximately 250 works on obstetrics and gynaecology. All were published before 1900 with the earliest dating from the sixteenth century.

The collection contains a number of notable items including *Childbirth* by Jacques Guillemeau (published 1635) and *A set of anatomical tables* by William Smellie (published 1754).

The books in this collection are fully described in *Obstetrics and gynaecology: short-title catalogue of books published before 1900 and available in Australia...* by Ian Cope, Frank M. C. Forster and Sheila Simpson.

Location: Rare books, State Reference Library RB 2337. There is a supplement at RB 2338.’

- [The Cervantes collection](#)

‘**Ben Haneman (1944)**, a Sydney specialist physician, donated this collection of 1591 items to the State Library of New South Wales in 1997. It contains works by the great Spanish writer Cervantes and includes 1100 different editions of *Don Quixote*, critical and biographical works and realia.

The special editions include an edition with paintings by Salvador Dali, a first edition of the second part of *Don Quixote* dated 1620 and a 1789 edition published during the French Revolution. Fifty languages are represented including Hebrew, Afrikaans, Welsh and Portuguese.’

6.3 Regional medical histories and historical collections

Can you assist? Historian Elisabeth Edwards in Orange is disappointed that she did not hear from anyone about her request for information. As noted in the previous e-Newsletter, Liz is researching and writing a history of medical services in Orange, to be launched at the opening of the new Orange Base Hospital towards the end of 2010. Please contact her if you have information on medical and specialist services in Orange, and those who have lived and worked in Orange. Call her on 6362-8647 or email: lized@netwit.net.au .

6.4 RACP Library Lecture Series

On Monday 15 June, Dr Charles George will speak on ‘The idea of disease’. On Monday 7 September Dr Bruce Storey will examine ‘The history of paediatrics in Sydney’. Finally, on Monday 23 November, there will be a lecture on ‘Wine and health’ by Dr Phil Norrie.

All Monday lectures are held at the Education Centre, Level 8, 52 Phillip Street, Sydney, at 6.30pm. Entry is \$10 and wine and cheese accompany discussion afterwards. Bookings are essential on (02) 9256 5413 or racplib@racp.edu.au

7. Alumni news

Chris O'Brien AM (1976), Director of the Sydney Cancer Centre at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital until diagnosed with brain cancer in 2006, tells me that his autobiography 'Never say die' has sold over 75,000 copies! It was launched by the Prime Minister in October 2008.

Friends and colleagues of Chris in Sydney will know that his persistent advocacy has been effective in obtaining major funding for an expanded comprehensive cancer centre called 'Lifehouse' at RPAH, announced by the Prime Minister just over a week ago.

Chris has now had 5 operations and radiotherapy and is continuing with chemotherapy.

With best wishes to you, Chris, from all your friends and colleagues!

Herbert Schlink (1907). With snow falling early in the season, many alumni may not be aware of the pioneering role of one of our alumni, Sir Herbert Schlink (1883-1962), in developing Australian skiing.

'Schlink enjoyed annual skiing holidays from 1909 and in 1926 made the first winter crossing from Kiandra to Kosciusko. Foundation member and long-term president of the Kosciusko Alpine Club (1909-20) and its successor, the Ski Club of Australia (1921-62), he was a member of the Ski Club of Great Britain (1910-62) and an honorary member of the Kandahar Ski Club (Gold K) from 1928. In 1960 the Schlink Pass between Guthega and Geehi was named after him. Among his other activities he was a fellow of St John's College (1928-62) and of the Ancient Monument Society, England (1958), and a member of Royal Sydney Golf Club. He was a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, London (1929) and of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, London (1951), and was knighted in 1954.'

8. Health and medical news

Diana Freeman, Events & Communications Co-ordinator at the Menzies Centre for Health Policy (previously Australian Health Policy Institute), provides an excellent service by scanning national newspapers and other sources for news items on health and medical issues.

You can obtain these useful daily bulletins by contacting Diana at:
Healthnews@mailman.med.usyd.edu.au or calling her on 02 9351 2818.
Alternatively, subscribe (it's free!) on the website:
<http://mailman.med.usyd.edu.au/mailman/listinfo/healthnews>

8. Tributes, obituaries and death notices (year of graduation or higher degree in brackets)

Since last year, we have included on the alumni website obituaries of our alumni, academics and other doctors who may be known to many colleagues. These were initially published in the Sydney Morning Herald or other newspapers, or written by colleagues or family members.

The **tributes** in recent months include: Graham Douglas (Doug) Tracy AO (1948); Max Emory Lake OAM (1946); Padraic Grattan-Smith (1944); Reginald Bowman (1951); William Joseph Quilty (1959); Emeritus Professor Ralph Beattie Blacket, AO (1941); Kevin Francis Hamilton Hume (1942); David Skeffington Johnson (1968). Ella Spencer Donovan (1936) (see <http://www.alumni.med.usyd.edu.au/news/tributes.php>).

Obituaries: David Norrie Fleming Leake (OAM, 1932). Med J Aust 2008; 189: 228.

Vale to other medical friends and colleagues. Death notices of medical alumni in the Sydney Morning Herald or elsewhere in recent months include (most recent first): Eileen Collins (1977); Minna Golomb (1954); Bruce RM Emmerson (1952); Kurt Singer (1958); Philip Blake Humphris (1952); Robert Hart (1955); Stephanie Jean Sweeny (nee Liddell) (1962); Robin (Rob) Frederick George Arnheim (1941); Judith Elderton (nee Murray-Jones) (1947); John Brock Westphalen (1950); John Neophyton (1964); Susanne Korten (1955); Kevin Maxwell Fuller (1956); and Andre Haski (1962).

Please send me details of other published obituaries in medical journals or other newspapers and the names of other colleagues who have died recently and have not been mentioned above.

8. Reunions

Planned reunions and their organisers are noted in Radius. If your graduating year has not had any reunions, please let me know and we will try to contact representatives from your year.

9. Keeping in touch

We would like to have more content from our alumni on the Medical Alumni Association website: <http://www.alumni.med.usyd.edu.au/>. Please let me have your ideas!

Update your contact details on the University's website: http://www.usyd.edu.au/alumni/in_touch/index.shtml or send an email to: alumniadmin@vcc.usyd.edu.au and Diana Lovegrove, Alumni Relations and Events Manager, Faculty of Medicine (d.lovegrove@usyd.edu.au); tel. (02) 9114 1163.

Paul Lancaster
President, Medical Alumni Association, University of Sydney
Email: pallancaster@gmail.com Tel. 02-9660-0576.

29 April 2009

**Victor Coppleson Continuing Medical Education Symposium
Medical Alumni Association, University of Sydney**

**Australian National Maritime Museum
(2 Murray Street, Darling Harbour)**

Saturday, 23 May 2009: 10.30am – 5pm

Registration and refreshments: 10.00-10.30am

Session 1: 10.30am-12.30pm – Chair: John Yu

- **Welcome:** Paul Lancaster, President, Medical Alumni Association
Bruce Robinson, Dean, Faculty of Medicine
- *Blood pressure: are we better at treating it?* **David Tiller**
- *What's new in diabetes?* **Stephen Colagiuri**
- *Prostate cancer screening: where are we now?* **Alex Barratt**

Lunch: 12.30-1.30pm

Session 2: 1.30-3.00pm – Chair: Paul Lancaster

- *Well salted in early life – Darwin, Hooker and Huxley – scientists at sea* **Ian McCalman**
- *Charles Darwin in Australia* **Frank Nicholas**

Afternoon tea: 3.00-3.30pm

Session 3: 3.30-5.00pm – Chair: Peter Castaldi

- *Update on familial cancer* **Judy Kirk**
- *Challenges to society with the new genetics* **Kris Barlow-Stewart**

Speakers:

Kris Barlow-Stewart, Associate Professor, Director, Centre for Genetics Education,
Royal North Shore Hospital

Alex Barratt, Associate Professor, School of Public Health, University of Sydney

Stephen Colagiuri, Professor of Metabolic Health, University of Sydney

Judy Kirk, Genetic Oncologist, Westmead Hospital

Ian McCalman, Professorial Fellow, Department of History, University of Sydney

Frank Nicholas, Emeritus Professor, Animal Genetics, University of Sydney

David Tiller, Professor, Assoc. Dean, School of Rural Health, University of Sydney

Medical Alumni Association Dinner: 7.00-11.00pm

Venue: Terrace Room, Australian National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour

Parking will be available at Harbourside, Murray Street, Pyrmont.