



The University of Sydney

Alumni

MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

e-Newsletter # 10 – November 2009

1. Victor Coppleson Continuing Medical Education Seminar - Tuesday, 17 November

This is a seminar and tour not to be missed!

The final Victor Coppleson Seminar for 2009 will be held in the Kolling Building, Royal North Shore Hospital, on Tuesday, 17 November. As well as the presentations by Michael Field and Kirsty Foster, this Seminar will offer an ideal opportunity for our alumni and Sydney Medical School academics and researchers to see the excellent educational facilities at RNSH.

5.30pm Arrival, drinks and refreshments - Level 4 (Ground Floor) Foyer, Kolling Building, Royal North Shore Hospital

6.00pm **'A state-of-the-art Clinical School building: see for yourself'**, outlining the design features and educational functions of the Kolling Building - Professor Michael Field and Dr Kirsty Foster - Level 5 Auditorium

6.30 - 7.30pm Conducted tours around the education-related spaces of the building, including lecture theatres, tutorial rooms, skills and simulation centre, and other facilities

7.30pm Departure.

For parking, turn off the Pacific Highway at Reserve Road, St Leonards and proceed to parking station at the top of the hill.

Please confirm your attendance at the Seminar on 17 November 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 ; <http://www.opme.med.usyd.edu.au> .

2. Victor Coppleson Symposium and Seminars in 2010

We would like to have your comments on this year's seminar program - the suitability of topics presented and speakers, timing of seminars in the evening, and venues. We would welcome your suggestions on the program for seminars in 2010, especially topics and speakers from Sydney Medical School. To enhance participation by alumni, academic staff and researchers, we are proposing that some seminars could be held on evenings after scheduled Sydney Medical School meetings.

We also intend to hold a Symposium for alumni on Friday and/or Saturday, 12-13 March 2010, in conjunction with the SMS/MAA Dinner on 12 March (see below). Please send me suggestions for speakers and topics - email: pallancaster@gmail.com .

3. Student mentoring

After my note about student mentoring in the previous MAA e-Newsletter # 9, I received calls from Emeritus Professor Richard Gye AO (1955), former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and Professor Len Johnson (1969). Professor Gye noted that he had attempted to introduce a mentoring program in the early 1980s and gave reasons why this had not succeeded. Len Johnson, a paediatric haematologist/endocrinologist, has been working in the United States for most of his professional

career. He gave me many helpful comments about the successful mentoring program at the University of California San Diego.

We much appreciate such comments and suggestions. These will be discussed at the Medical Alumni Association Council meeting on Wednesday, 18 November. We will consider various options for setting up a program for mentoring students within Sydney Medical School. If you have some suggestions, we would be delighted to welcome you at that meeting (to be held in the Edward Ford Building at 5.30pm). Otherwise, please let me have your suggestions by email or a telephone call.

4. Sydney Medical School / Medical Alumni Association Dinner - Friday, 12 March 2010

Following a successful Medical Alumni Association Dinner in May this year, and after discussion with Bruce Robinson, Dean, we will hold an SMS/MAA Dinner in the Great Hall on Friday, 12 March 2010. More details will follow in the MAA e-Newsletters.

5. New book on war surgery

In his Foreword to John Wright's recently published a book 'War surgery. A partnership of heroes', Phillip Knightley, award-winning author and journalist, wrote: 'Dr Wright takes us on a gripping tour of battlefields over the centuries and explains the slow evolution of the skills needed to save lives, from treating gunpowder wounds with boiling oil in the sixteenth century, to amputations without anaesthetics in the 18th, to the high-tech operating theatres dealing with the victims of the Iraq war in the 21st. (His chapter on this is so realistic it reads like a script for a medical TV drama.)'

James K Sutherland, US Army medic at Omaha Beach in World War 2, and later a distinguished journalist, said: 'This is quite a book. A tremendously ambitious job. I never expected it would be that comprehensive, spanning a century and more of battle surgery. You would know better than I, but I have never seen a work like this one, half technical/medical and half social/cultural, and wonderfully illustrated. Most interesting. Congratulations!'

The book (soft cover, 301pp, xlii) is available to alumni at the discounted price of \$30 (plus postage) from John Wright (1955). He can be contacted on 02 9357 1106, or by email: rebjohj@netspace.net.au .

6. Obituaries and death notices (year of graduation in brackets)

The obituary of George Vincent Hall AO (1939), written by John Hickie AO (1948), was published in the Sydney Morning Herald on 6 November. For obituaries of our alumni, see <http://www.alumni.med.usyd.edu.au/news/tributes.php> .

Other recent published death notices of medical alumni included: John Gilbert Rigney (1959); Geoffrey William Theodor (Theo) Jackson (1957); Stephen Graham Mallarky (1940); Kenneth George Poyzer (1948); Laddie Alexander Govorko (1952); Clement Joseph Maloof (1958); and Joan Evelyn Storey (1944).

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

16 November 2009