

MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

e-Newsletter # 14 – March 2010

1. SMS / MAA Dinner, Medical Humanities Symposium, Public Lecture by Prof Elizabeth Blackburn - all on Friday, 12 March

It's still not too late to book for these events on Friday. We have an excellent program of speakers for the Medical Humanities program in the afternoon (see email of 1 March for more details), followed by the public lecture by the Nobel Prize-winning Australian medical scientist, Elizabeth Blackburn, and then the SMS / MAA Dinner in the evening. You have the option of attending one or all of these events! At the dinner, we will have alumni from all decades, including a few from outside Australia, and others who will have ventured out from their rural settings.

Any new offers to assist more students to join us at the dinner would be gratefully accepted.

Our speaker, Tanveer Ahmed, an alumnus from the year 2000, is a psychiatry registrar and opinion columnist for the Sydney Morning Herald. He has also acted as the national representative for doctors in training within the Australian Medical Association, performed comedy and co-hosted a prime time gameshow, and sits on a number of boards including the Advertising Standards Board - which regulates the advertising industry - and the advisory council of the Smith Family. In 2007, a PM's committee chose him as one of a hundred future leaders of Australia under the age of 40 and more recently a popular men's magazine selected him as one of Australia's 'young men of influence'. See his website for more: <http://www.tanveerahmed.com.au/> At the dinner, we will also enjoy music from flute and piano.

Change of venue for Prof Elizabeth Blackburn's Public Lecture. Due to the enormous amount of interest that this lecture has generated, the venue for this event has been changed to the larger Eastern Avenue Auditorium, Eastern Avenue, the University of Sydney. Places for this event are limited. RSVP is essential to alumni.rsvp@sydney.edu.au; booking enquiries to 02 9036 9278. If you are unable to attend for any reason, please contact alumni.rsvp@sydney.edu.au, T (02) 9036 9278, so that your place can be offered to another guest.

Free parking. For these events on 12 March, free parking is available in the New Law School. After coming into the University's main entrance from Parramatta Road, take the first turn on the left and proceed to the parking area beneath the New Law School. Other parking places are available for 'pay and display' tickets.

We hope that you will join us for this dinner and arrange tables with other friends and colleagues in your graduating year, in your hospital or practice, or in your Sydney Medical School department, as some have already done. Please contact Diana Lovegrove by Wednesday, 10 March, at the latest if you wish to register for any of these events: diana.lovegrove@sydney.edu.au or call (02) 9114 1163.

There is no charge for the Medical Humanities Symposium or for the public lecture.

2. Student mentoring and home hospitality for new students

Student mentoring was discussed at the Sydney Medical School Dean's Advisory Committee meeting in January, then at the meeting of SMS Heads of School on 11 February. We will shortly inform alumni and clinical tutors who have volunteered about how mentors and students can meet. This will be organised through each of the regional Clinical Schools. We will also be in touch with those alumni who have kindly offered to invite students to their homes.

If you are willing to be a mentor for a first-year GMP student, or if you can offer a welcome to students in your home within the next few months, please get in touch with me (see below).

3. Alumni news

In response to previous MAA e-Newsletters, I quite often receive interesting news and notes from alumni wherever they are living - here in Sydney, in regional Australia, or across the world. I am happy to include in future e-Newsletters an edited version of such peripatetic comments that I hope may be of interest to others. Also, in my local travels, I meet friends and colleagues and hear news of other alumni activities. I hope that a section on 'Alumni news' will give you an opportunity to keep more in touch with what our colleagues are doing. More lengthy personal stories should still be submitted to Beth Quinlivan for publication in the 'Case notes' section of Radius. I am most grateful to those colleagues who inform me about deaths and obituaries of colleagues that I may have missed or that appear in other published sources.

4. Medical Alumni Association: Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 17 March at 5.30pm

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17 March at 5.30pm in the Conference Room, Edward Ford Building. Please contact Diana Lovegrove (diana.lovegrove@sydney.edu.au, or call (02) 9114 1163) if you wish to receive the agenda for the meeting. We are renewing some key positions on the MAA Council and are always seeking nominations of enthusiastic new members for the Council. If you are interested in being nominated, please come to the meeting.

5. University of Sydney Green Paper from Dr Michael Spence, Vice-Chancellor and Principal

The University's Green Paper received considerable publicity in the media last week. The Green Paper is a stage in the consultation process and discusses the strategic opportunities for the University for the years 2011-2015. You may wish to link to the Green Paper at http://sydney.edu.au/about/strategy/green_paper/. Emeritus Professor Ann Sefton AO is chairing an Alumni Task Force which will compile alumni responses.

6. Alumni awards

The University of Sydney Alumni Council works with the Alumni Relations Office to select the winners of the Alumni Awards for Achievement in Community Service. These awards are won by graduates who have made an outstanding personal and professional contribution to the community at large. In 2008, a number of new categories were introduced to recognise contributions to specific areas - Community Achievement, International Achievement, Professional Achievement, and Young Alumni Achievement.

Each year, the University of Sydney Alumni Council awards the Convocation Medal. This award is presented to an outstanding recent graduate who has also contributed exceptionally to the life of the University. For further information, see <http://www.usyd.edu.au/convocation/awards.htm>.

In discussions with the Dean, Professor Bruce Robinson, he is keen that Sydney Medical School should develop its own awards. Recipients of SMS awards would then be nominated for the University's alumni awards.

7. Sydney University Graduates Union North America (SUGUNA) - 2010 Annual Conference, 12-15 August 2010

The SUGUNA Annual Conference will take place in Chicago, Illinois, Thursday August 12 to Sunday August 15, 2010. This promises to be another successful meeting with excellent presentations, exciting social events and many networking opportunities, all in the midst of a world class location. The vibrant city of Chicago is one of the most popular conference and tourist cities in the US. And August is the perfect time to experience Chicago's beautiful parks and lakefront, its remarkable architecture, world-class museums, Michigan Avenue shopping, and its legendary blues scene. The conference itself will be held at the American Dental Association headquarters building which is situated at 211 Chicago Ave, one block from Michigan Ave. Accommodations will be at the Affinia Chicago, a Cityscape Hotel, at 166 East Superior Street, Chicago, a few steps away from the Magnificent Mile. Walk to the Water Tower, head the other way and you're at Navy Pier— the Affinia Chicago is the official hotel of Navy Pier. Walk over to the theatre district or down by the lake, the Wrigley Building or Tribune Tower. This really is a magnificent location!

In 2009, the organisers held a half-day for medical alumni. Further details of any such meeting of medical alumni will be included in future MAA e-Newsletters. The conference is also open to alumni who may be planning to visit North America in August. For further information, see the SUGUNA website:

<http://www.alumni.sydney.edu.au/s/965/Alumni.aspx?sid=965&gid=34&pgid=658>.

If you have any specific initial queries about the conference, please contact the Alumni Relations Office at alumni.office@sydney.edu.au or on +61 2 9036 9222.

8. Death notices and obituaries (year of graduation in brackets)

Obituaries. Recent obituaries published in the Sydney Morning Herald included Ronald James Hoy (1939); Charles David Badham (1944); Ernest Sydney Finckh (1946); Clara Campbell (DPM, 1956); and Vincent Frederick Munro (1961). The obituary of Joffre Bartholomew Cowle (1956), written by Jim Roche (1956), was published in the Medical Journal of Australia on 4 January 2010. For obituaries of our alumni, see <http://www.alumni.med.usyd.edu.au/news/tributes.php>.

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): John William Vickers (1954); Paul Cambourn (1943); John Dennison Musgrove (1952); Peter Henry Markham Barnes (1959); Ingrid Carlton (nee Dzendolet) (1967); Joseph Isidoro Gangemi (1971); Hugh Cairns Anderson (1951); Pamela Dorothy Patterson (nee Nisbet); Frans Willem De Wilde (1974); Dudley Clarence Williams (1939); Bevan Leslie Reid (1951); Victoria Lydia Velens (1954); Antony Livio Pasquale Baccarini (1950); Bruce Simon Glass (1965); Oswald Joseph Davies (1948); Charles David Badham (1944); James Ernest Macken (1959); Prudence Ann McPhillips (Dr Prue McLachlan, 1953); Bruce Carlyle Pirie (1939); and Norman James Royle (1940).

Paul Lancaster
President, Medical Alumni Association, University of Sydney

9 March 2010