

## MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

### e-Newsletter # 15 – April 2010

#### 1. Student mentoring and home hospitality for students

Student mentoring is being organised through each of the regional Clinical Schools. If you are willing to be a mentor for a first-year GMP student, please inform me and nominate the most convenient Clinical School where you could meet students initially. We will also be in touch with those alumni who have kindly offered to invite students to their homes.

#### 2. The University of Sydney 2011-2015 Green Paper

The University and the Alumni Council are seeking your comments on the Vice-Chancellor's Green Paper, which discusses the strategic opportunities for the University for the years 2011-2015. Among the numerous recommendations in the Green Paper, it is proposed in the chapter on *Enabling change* that the School of Medical and Health Sciences would bring together Sydney Medical School, Sydney Nursing School, and the Faculties of Health Sciences, Dentistry and Pharmacy.

You may wish to link to the Green Paper at:

[http://sydney.edu.au/about/strategy/green\\_paper/](http://sydney.edu.au/about/strategy/green_paper/). Emeritus Professor Ann Sefton AO is chairing an Alumni Task Force which will compile alumni responses. Please send your comments on the Green Paper via email to [alumni.office@sydney.edu.au](mailto:alumni.office@sydney.edu.au) by **12 April**.

#### 3. Medical Alumni Association Council

At the Annual General Meeting held on 17 March, **Cate Storey (1972)** was elected as the new President of the Medical Alumni Association and **Andrea Avolio (2006)** was elected as Vice-President. Warmest congratulations to both of them!

Other elected members of the MAA Council are: Andrew Child (1966), Judith Cowan (PhD 1985), Charles George (1966), Paul Lancaster (1966), Giselle Manalo (MIPH 2002), Jon Noonan (Medical Society President), and Ann Sefton (1960).

#### 4. Invitation to unveiling of portrait of Emeritus Professor Ruthven Blackburn AC

The Chancellor, Professor Marie Bashir, will unveil the portrait of Emeritus Professor Ruthven Blackburn AC in the Kerry Packer Auditorium at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital at 5pm on Wednesday, 14 April. This unveiling will be followed by a reception. All alumni and SMS staff are most welcome to attend this function. Please inform Professor Warwick Britton ([wbritton@sydney.edu.au](mailto:wbritton@sydney.edu.au)) if you wish to do so.

#### 5. Alumni news

As noted in the previous MAA e-Newsletter, 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.

- **History of The Women's Hospital Crown Street.** A group of obstetricians and gynaecologists, including Struan Robertson (1952), Ray Hyslop (1957), Peter Crowe (1947), David Woodhouse (1971) and others, has raised initial funding to begin work on the history of this major teaching hospital, which closed in 1983. We would be delighted to hear from any colleagues who have reminiscences of the hospital or who would like to contribute financial support for this significant project. More details

of the project will be given in the next few months.

- **Kate Steinbeck (MB, BS 1974; PhD 1992)** has just been appointed Australia's first university-supported Professor of Adolescent Medicine, and the inaugural Chair of Adolescent Medicine at The Children's Hospital at Westmead. For more information, and to read the full story, please visit:  
<http://www.usyd.edu.au/news/84.html?newsstoryid=4602>
- **Ian Stewart (1967)** has acquired a small collection of doctors' brass plates, complementing his bookshop in Wagga. He is tracing biographical information about each of the doctors. Ian wonders whether any other medical colleagues share this interest in collecting doctors' plates. If so, you can contact him:  
[ianstewart@dragnet.com.au](mailto:ianstewart@dragnet.com.au) .
- **Active medical nonagenarians!** At the recent public lecture by Professor Elizabeth Blackburn, we were delighted to see Ruthven Blackburn (1937) and Rowan Nicks (MD, 1985), both in their mid-90s! Another colleague, Malcolm Stening (1936) has just completed the manuscript for a book on the active service during World War 2 of his Class of 1935.
- **Dunera Boys.** If you are visiting Canberra, the National Library of Australia has an interesting exhibition *The "Dunera Boys: 70 years on"* This Collection-in-Focus exhibition reveals wartime stories of survival and achievement and coincides with the 70th anniversary of the arrival from Britain of HMT *Dunera*. The ship carried over 2500 German, Austrian and Italian "enemy aliens" to Australia for internment. Many internees were of Jewish heritage and had escaped to Britain from the horrors of Nazi Germany in the 1930s. They were then confined to the *Dunera* for an appalling eight week voyage and later to camps in rural New South Wales and Victoria. Does anyone know of any Dunera Boys who graduated from Sydney Medical School?

## 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. Categories include 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. Entries close on Friday 30 April so don't delay! For further information, please contact Andrea Besnard via [email](mailto:andrea.besnard@usyd.edu.au) or by phone on +61 2 9351 1963.

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

An afternoon program "One health", open to all those attending the SUGUNA meeting in Chicago, will be held on Thursday, 12 August. This program is in conjunction with a luncheon to celebrate the centenary of the Faculty of Veterinary Science.

Bruce Robinson, Dean of Sydney Medical School, is planning to attend this year's SUGUNA meeting and is looking forward to meeting with alumni based in the US and Canada. The SUGUNA conference also welcomes 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](mailto:alumni.office@sydney.edu.au) or on +61 9036 9222.

## 8. History of Medicine

**8.1 History of Medicine Library Lecture.** The next lecture will take place on Monday 19 April, at 6.30pm at the RACP Education Centre, Level 8, 52 Phillip Street, Sydney. A/Prof Cate Storey will give the talk "**Punching above their Weight: Australian medical graduates excel on the world stage**".

Australian medical graduates have excelled in many fields, both in clinical medicine and in medical research. How do we measure excellence? The Nobel Prize is regarded as being the pinnacle of human achievement, and if this is the measure then Australians have done extremely well when we consider that Australia is by world standards a relative newcomer to medical education, and has a relatively small population from which to draw medical graduates and finance research activity.

Eight Australians have won the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine. In this discussion Cate Storey will illustrate the achievements of several men of Australian science who gained fame on a world stage. The first was one of Sydney University's earliest medical graduates (1892), Elliot Grafton Smith, who, supported by an emerging scientific community of researchers in the basic medical sciences in Sydney, travelled to the UK and later became one of the most influential neuro-anatomists of his time (434 publications). The brief stories of two of our Nobel Prize winners will also be told; those of Macfarlane Burnet and J.C. Eccles. Their achievements in medical science illustrate the history of institutions, of collaborations and of supportive mentors, through which so much has been achieved by Australian medical graduates on the world stage. Entry is \$10 and bookings are essential for catering purposes, on (02) 9256 5413 or [racplib@racp.edu.au](mailto:racplib@racp.edu.au).

**8.2 Medicine in antiquity: Syria Tour in late September/October 2011.** The Centre for Values, Ethics and the Law in Medicine will be running an exciting tour to Syria in conjunction with the Centre for Continuing Education. This tour, led by Dr John Tidmarsh, president of the Near East Archeology Foundation (NEAF) at the University of Sydney is being specifically designed for those with an abiding interest in the Medical Humanities and medical history.

This 14 - 18 day Study tour is designed as an introduction to the rich history and archaeology of Syria. Along with both guided and individual exploration on millennia-old site showcasing the region's historical splendour, we experience the fascinating contemporary landscape and cultures of the area. Commencing in Damascus the tour will travel ancient caravan routes to Palmyra, Roman roads to Apamea, Crusader paths to Crac Des Chevaliers & finally to Aleppo, arguably the oldest continually inhabited city in the world. In Damascus a visit to the Science & Medical museum, housed in a 12<sup>th</sup> Century hospital just off the *Souk* in the old city is a highlight. As an optional extra an extension into Jordan and the Red rose city of Petra will be available.

The tour will be a major component of the course Medicine and Antiquity, which may be undertaken for formal academic study as part of the Medical Humanities program at the University of Sydney, or as a professional development course. (It is not required or advised in order to enjoy the tour!)

**Dr. John Tidmarsh** (MBBS, FRACP) has a BA (Hons), MA (Hons) and PhD. John is president of the University of Sydney's Near Eastern Archaeology Foundation, and a former lecturer in the Department of Archaeology. He is also co-director of the University's excavations at Pella in Jordan, and a member of the ANU/University of Melbourne excavations at Jebel Khalid in Syria. He has led numerous tours to Oman, Iran, Turkey, Syria, Jordan and other countries in the eastern Mediterranean.

Full details of this tour including pricing and exact dates will be available later in 2010. If you would like to register your interest in this tour please contact Dr Claire Hooker at VELiM [claireh@med.usyd.edu.au](mailto:claireh@med.usyd.edu.au) or Lissa Sharp at the Centre for Continuing Education, email: [Lissa.sharp@sydney.edu.au](mailto:Lissa.sharp@sydney.edu.au) or phone 02 9036 4766.

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

**Obituaries.** Recent obituaries published in the Sydney Morning Herald included Prue McPhillips (1953); 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 included (most recent first): William Gerald (Bill) Lucas (1951); John Raymond Warn Walsh (1951); Francis John Coyne (1952); John Raftos (1945); John William Vickers (1954); Paul Cambourn (1943); John Dennison Musgrove (1952); Peter Henry Markham Barnes (1959); Ingrid Carlton (nee Dzenolet) (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).

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