

MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

e-Newsletter # 31 – August 2011

1. Alumni news and events

1.1 Thursday, 1 September, 5 to 6.30pm. Lecture: '**Non-communicable diseases and sustainable development - from New York to Rio**'

One of the world's leading public health figures, Sir George Alleyne will give a Sydney Ideas address on an issue of critical worldwide importance - non-communicable diseases and sustainable development. Sir George has been both the Director and Director Emeritus of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the World Health Organization. For seven years he was the United Nations (UN) Secretary General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean. Most recently Sir George has been involved in initiating a landmark UN meeting on non-communicable diseases, to take place in September. His talk will underline the need for decisions made there to inform future meetings on sustainable development.

The talk is being co-presented by the University of Sydney's new centre dedicated to researching obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases and the Health and Sustainability Unit at the University's Boden Institute. Sir George will be welcomed by Associate Professor Ruth Colagiuri, Director of the Unit.

His presentation will be followed by discussion and comments from a panel, chaired by Professor Robert Hill from the US Studies Centre and comprising:

- Professor Geoff Gallop, Director, Graduate School of Government, the University of Sydney
- Dr Michael Spence, Vice-Chancellor and Principal, the University of Sydney

Great Hall, the Quadrangle, Camperdown Campus. Cost: Free

[Register online](#)

1.2 Graduate Connections Breakfasts

6 September: David Mortimer AO - '**An insight into contemporary corporate directorships**'

22 November: Amanda McCluskey - '**Managing investments for the long term in an increasingly short term world**'

Time: 7:15-8:45am Venue: Four Seasons Hotel Sydney, 199 George Street, Sydney \$35 for alumni, staff and students. See:

<http://www.alumni.sydney.edu.au/s/965/index.aspx?sid=965&gid=1&pgid=340>

1.3 Australian Doctors Orchestra, Concert, Sydney Town Hall, Sunday, **18 September**

This afternoon of music will include Brahms Piano Concerto No 1 and the Enigma Variations. Adrian Sheen at Nepean is organising the event and tells me that 2,000 friends are needed to fill the Town Hall!

Each year, the Australian Doctors Orchestra plays in different venues, for different charities.

This year, the Australian Doctors Orchestra (ADO) will be performing at the Sydney Town Hall on Sunday 18th September at 2.00 pm. Doctors from throughout Australia come together to play for the Australian Doctors Orchestra which has performed annually since

1993. This year the ADO is supporting “Youth Off The Streets” and “Children’s Hospital Institute of Sports Medicine”.

The concert programme is: Walton: Crown Imperial; Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 1 - Soloist: Ben Martin; Elgar: Enigma Variations; Conductor: Warwick Stengards

The programme will be hosted by the ABC’s Simon Marnie. It will also be an honour to have the Chancellor of the University of Sydney and Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir (1956 alumna) attending,

Booking via: www.ado.net.au Ticket prices: \$35, \$25 concession, \$15 students.

The concert will be preceded by a **cocktail party** on **Saturday, 17 September** (6-8pm), at Government House, Macquarie Street, in the presence of the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, CVO.

For tickets (\$100 each), contact Adrian Sheen: acsheen@pnc.com.au - payment by credit card.

1.4 Celebrate with **Sydney University Medical Society (MedSoc)– 125 years!** Monday to Saturday, 10 – 15 October 2011

For their 125th year SUMS will be hosting a film festival for all to enjoy. We encourage all alumni to attend the film festival and the Lambie Dew Oration at the University in October. Further details will be posted on the SUMS website but for now – save the dates below!

Monday, **10 October** 6pm for 6.30pm- Film – 6.30 pm Mash – 9pm – **Bride of Frankenstein**

Tuesday, **11 October** 6pm for 6.30pm – Trivia Night - Film –7.30pm **Doctor in the House** – 9pm – **Elephant Man**

Wednesday, **12 October** 7pm MacLaurin Hall – **Lambie Dew Oration – Professor Jim Bishop** / Film : 9pm **Flatliners**

Thursday, **13 October** 6pm for 6.30pm – Great Debate and Film –7.15pm **One who flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest** 9.30pm **As Good As It Gets**

Friday, **14 October** 6.30pm – Films– **Red Dragons** 6.30 **Silence of the Lambs** 8pm Hannibal 10.15

Saturday, **15 October** – 6.30pm – **Celebrating MedSoc in all its Splendour – Med revue excerpts etc.**

Please check the website for finalised details closer to the date:
<https://sydneymedsoc.org.au/>

1.5 **Monday, 7 November – S T Lee Lecture** Orator: Professor Robert Beaglehole

Topic: The presentation will be based on Professor Beaglehole’s comments and reflections from the United Nations High-level Meeting on noncommunicable disease prevention and control, especially aspects of relevance to the Asian-Pacific region.

Venue: New Law Lecture Theatre 101, Main Campus, University of Sydney. More details in future newsletters.

1.6 Sydney Ideas. You will find an extraordinary variety of talks on many themes at the University of Sydney. See:

<https://mail.google.com/mail/?hl=en&tab=wm#inbox/13218fa612aa8cc2>

1.7 Controversies and Leadership in Health Seminars

There has been excellent support from alumni who attend these seminars. You can listen to some provocative discussions, especially the one on public or private health care (see below).

These 90-minute seminars are primarily intended for Sydney medical students but are open to all. Alumni are most welcome. The seminars are on controversial topics with outstanding speakers who have a strong record of leadership. All seminars are held in the Footbridge Theatre, University of Sydney, Parramatta Road, Camperdown. There will be time for audience participation. Registration is not necessary.

Tuesday, 25 October, 5-6.30pm: 'The Campbelltown Hospital crisis – an isolated incident or destined to be repeated?'

In December 2003, 10 senior specialists at Campbelltown Hospital blamed politicians publicly for the crisis in patient care at their hospital. Speakers are: Professor Brad Frankum, Clinical Dean, University of Western Sydney & Physician, Campbelltown Hospital; The Hon Craig Knowles, Former NSW Minister for Health; Dr Andrew McDonald, MP, Member for Macquarie Fields and former head of Paediatrics, Campbelltown Hospital; Dr Martin Van Der Weyden, Editor Emeritus, Medical Journal of Australia; MC - Professor Neville Yeomans, Former Dean, University of Western Sydney.

Links to previous seminars:

['Are we training too many doctors?'](#) - 3 May:

['Doctors in politics'](#) - 16 May:

['Doctors and the Drug Industry'](#) - 2 August:

['Doctors in Court'](#) - 8 August: (fast forward at the beginning to avoid background chatter!)

['Public and Private Hospitals, the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly'](#) - 15 August:

1.8 RANZCOG casebooks. Dr Judith Godden is writing a commissioned history of Crown Street Women's Hospital, Sydney 1893-1983. She is keen to see as many as possible RCOG/RANZCOG casebooks using Crown Street cases. The RANZCOG Archives are also anxious to collect as many casebooks as they can (contact Ros Winspear <rwinspear@ranzco.edu.au>). If you can help regarding the casebooks or with any other Crown Street information or material, please contact Judith.Godden@uni.sydney.edu.au or ph: 02 9876 4352 or 0408 967 937.

1.9 Tributes to Stan Goulston (1939). Following the note about Stan's death and funeral last week, many alumni sent appreciative messages about how he had influenced their lives and careers.

'What a precious man and gift has Stan been to so many of us humans for so long' - 'He was always a revered figure when I was at PA but I did not know about the poetry. It is always inspiring to read the stories of our teachers and colleagues and reflect on the marvelous contributions they made to our profession. We are fortunate indeed. My condolences to his

family and regards to all who join to celebrate a remarkable life' - 'It is very rewarding to keep in touch with the parts of us that medicine does not enhance, as in Yvonne Cossart's comments re grand rounds and poetry'.

'I was greatly saddened to hear of Stan's death. He had a great influence on me - as a mentor and teacher and in my development as a general physician and a psychiatrist. He in fact initiated my entry into psychiatry and supported my early grants for postgraduate research. He well and truly deserves a book and if anyone is willing to take that on (I am not sure he would approve), I would be willing to add my bit - some of my anecdotes are respectfully amusing.'

'I was one of his students, a fact I will always treasure' - 'I remember him well during my 6 years at RPAH...always a gentleman' - 'I did not know Stan well but I always warmed to his humanity' - 'He was our tutor in Medicine. I think he despaired of us even passing!'

'Dr Goulston was really outstanding teacher, clinician and master bedside educator. He had lasting impression and utmost respect from all his students. Despite more than four decades after learning from him, I still see him vividly in my mind. It is really very sad we are losing our teachers, friends and colleagues with our advancing age.'

'One does not forget learning from a Goulston' - 'end of a grand era!'

These individual messages from alumni were sent to Stan's nephew, Kerry Goulston (1959), and to Stan's four daughters and their families.

1.10 Sydney alumni and the media. You can listen to 'Mornings with Margaret Throsby' on ABC Classic FM and hear interviews about their careers and lives of some prominent academic alumni. In recent months her guests have included Rebecca Mason (1975) on 4 May, and Michael Besser (1971) on 12 May - http://www.abc.net.au/classic/throsby/2011_05.htm , then John Rasko (1986) on 9 August, and Graeme Stewart (1970) on 15 August - http://www.abc.net.au/classic/throsby/2011_08.html

2. Sydney's medical mosaic

2.1 Mitchell Notaras (1957) was another of our colleagues who died recently, while visiting the **Greek island of Kythera**. 'Mitchell was the son of a Greek immigrant. His father came from the island of Kythera and settled in Grafton, New South Wales. The family became prominent citizens in the town. Mitchell was educated at Grafton High School and Newington College in Sydney. Drs Mulhearn and Harris, both of whom were doctors in the town and had sons who later joined the staff of RPA, stimulated Mitchell's interest in medicine. After graduation, Mitchell spent two years as a resident medical officer at the hospital. During that time he became interested in surgery and met various visiting surgeons, including Rodney Maingot, with whom he was associated at a later time in London. He then travelled as Ship's Surgeon to England and obtained jobs at Hammersmith, St Marks and University College Hospital. After obtaining his Fellowship he became Senior Lecturer and Consultant Surgeon at University College Hospital. Mitchell was appointed Consultant Surgeon at Barnet and Edgeware General Hospitals where he met and assisted Australian trainees. He visited and lectured in many countries and was named visiting Professor in Norway, Brazil and the Sudan.'

He founded a scholarship in perpetuity in colorectal surgery at the University of Sydney by his donation of \$1.1 million.

See: <http://www.kythera-family.net/index.php?nav=3-10&cid=21&did=6427>

Other medical alumni from the Greek island of Kythera include the Kalokerinos brothers - James (1948), Archivides (Archie) (1951), and Emmanuel (1952). From my own era at Sydney Medical School, colleagues of Greek ancestry include Greg (1965) and Vasilios (1971) Berdoukas, John Chirigakis (1965), Peter Papapetros (1965), and George Poulos (1966).

So, how many other alumni have Greek ancestry? Who was the first one to graduate from Sydney Medical School?

2.2 Who was Sydney's first Chinese-Australian medical alumnus?

In writing a report in Radius several years ago, the earliest alumnus of Chinese origins whom I could find was Earl Ming-Teh Lu (1952), who came to Sydney from Hong Kong, then practised in Singapore <http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/alumni/radius/2008/dec.pdf> (p. 25). As well as his surgical career, he was an artist and was 'considered one of Singapore's most prominent art patrons and philanthropists.' Read more about Earl Lu: http://infopedia.nl.sg/articles/SIP_1255_2006-12-02.html

I recently found some information about a Chinese-Australian alumnus, Walter Yum, who graduated three decades earlier in 1921, the year before the first Senior Year Book was published. Walter was born into a large family of Chinese Australians living in Sydney. Soon after graduating, he worked at Many Peaks Hospital in the hinterland of the Boyne Valley between Bundaberg and Gladstone, then in Gladstone.

2.3 What about **alumni** whose families came **from many other countries**, usually reflecting migration to Australia during the 20th century or, more recently, international students? Please inform us if you would like to assist in tracking our alumni from all around the world.

3. History of Medicine

3.1 Congratulations to Warwick Anderson who has been awarded an Australian Laureate Fellowship by the Australian Research Council. Warwick is a professorial research fellow in the Department of History and the Centre for Values, Ethics, and the Law in Medicine (VELiM). A historian of biology, medicine and public health, he will use his Laureate funding to throw new light on Australia's growth as a nation and build on his fascination with ideas about race, human difference, and citizenship in the 19th and 20th centuries.

'My Laureate fellowship will reveal an intense scientific debate about what it meant to be human in the southern hemisphere during the 20th century, placing Australian racial thought in a new context,' said Anderson, a self-confessed 'intellectual vagabond' who first trained as a medical doctor but whose passion for the history of medicine has led to extensive studies in historical aspects of tropical medicine and human biology. 'These southern hemisphere debates were often distinct from those taking place in the North Atlantic. Through comparative study of issues ranging from skull measuring to early genomics, I plan to show the distinctive character and scope of racial ideas in southern settler societies, and assess their global impact.'

See: <http://sydney.edu.au/news/84.html?newsstoryid=7481>

3.2 Q Station Lecture Series - Sunday, 11 September at 11am

'Wine and health': Philip Norrie

Philip Norrie is a general practitioner in Sydney's Northern Beaches region. In 1986, he started to pursue his great interest in wine and health by researching the biographies of more than 180 doctors in Australia who have founded vineyards. This resulted in a book called 'Australia's Wine Doctors' (1994). From this basic research have come four other books, namely 'Vineyards of Sydney' (1990), which re-wrote the history of Australia's earliest wine industry; 'Lindeman' (1993), the official Company history of the Lindeman wine group; 'Penfold' (1994), the history of Australia's largest wine company; and 'Leo Buring' (1996), the history of Australia's first wine authority.

Summary. Wine is man's oldest medicine, having been used by the medical profession for over 5,000 years. Wine should also be regarded as a food. Historically, it has been regarded as such and has been an integral part of the healthful Mediterranean diet for thousands of years. Wine also has important religious connections, being used to represent the blood of Christ in Holy Communion. Based on his research on the history of medicine, the history of wine, and the history of wine as a medicine, Philip Norrie will talk about how wine 'helps you die young as late as possible' and about the history of Australia's wine doctors.

Venue. Q Station is located at North Head Scenic Drive, Manly. Entry is free but reservations are essential. Complimentary tea, coffee and water will be available. During the weekend of 10-11 September, there will be Community Open Days at Q Station.

The Visitor Centre at Q Station now has some excellent new displays and memorabilia that tell the stories of quarantine, infectious diseases and public health. Additional beverages, snacks or refreshments may be purchased from the Visitor Centre Kiosk.

If you are driving to the Quarantine Station, follow the directions to North Head. After passing Manly Hospital, go through the stone arch 'Parkhill'. Follow this road until you reach a roundabout and turn right into Q Station complimentary parking area. The shuttle bus regularly picks up from the waiting room there and will transfer guests to near the Lecture Theatre. Be sure to leave sufficient time to be transported within Q Station by arriving early and enjoying the ambience!

For bookings, phone 9466 1500. Please note that this Q Station Lecture will be at 11am.

3.3 RACP Library Lecture Series 2011

All lectures are held on Monday evening at 6.30pm at the RACP Education Centre, Level 8, 52 Phillip Street, Sydney. Entry is \$10 and there are refreshments with discussion after the lecture.

Below are the dates, speakers and topics for the forthcoming 2011 lectures:

12 September: Prof Malcolm Macmillan: **Alfred Walter Campbell: an almost forgotten neurohistologist and neurologist.**

7 November: Dr Ross Jones: **Humanity's Mirror: 150 Years of Anatomy in Melbourne.**

Contact the Librarian, Liz Rouse, on (02) 9256 5413, or racplib@racp.edu.au for further information and bookings.

3.4 Saturday, **3 September**, 2-4pm: **'The long reach of Cecil Cook's career'**

Speaker: Barry Leithhead for Australian & New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine meeting.

Venue: Conference Room (4.5), Kerry Packer Education Centre, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

RSVP: Peter Hobbins - peter_hobbins@bigpond.com or call him on 9569 5561.

3.5 History of Science talks

Tuesday, **6 September**, 6pm: **Know Thyself! Anatomy and Curiosity at European Wax Museums ca. 1900**

Speaker: Eva Åhrén, Dept. of History of Science and Ideas, Uppsala University, Sweden

This talk focuses on itinerant and permanent wax museums in northern Europe around 1900, spanning from simple fairground attractions to elaborate up-scale establishments: the meaning of "anatomy" in this context; their display of physical anomalies and pathologies; the relation between popular and professional anatomy museums; exotic displays of the racial Other; and the example of Julia Pastrana, the hirsute Mexican woman whose embalmed body was put on display for more than a hundred years after her death in 1863.

Venue: Macleay Museum, Gosper Lane off Science Road

RSVP: macleay.museum@sydney.edu.au

8 September, 5.00-6.30pm **Spectacles of layering & transparency in 19th- & 20th-century anatomy**

Dr Michael Sappol, The National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Maryland USA

Biopolitics of Science Seminar Series, Thursdays 5.00 - 6.30 pm

The Refectory Room, SW corner of the Main Quad, downstairs, The University of Sydney

4. Reunions for graduating year of:

1946 - Friday, 23 September 2011 - contact Alan Young: alanyoun@bigpond.com

1957 - Saturday, 22 October 2011 - contact Al McKay: almckay8@bigpond.net.au, 02 4883 6967 (final year in 1956)

2001 - Saturday, 12 November 2011 - contact Sarah Walker: slw007@gmail.com or Marisa Magiros: marisamagiros@hotmail.com

1986 - Saturday, 12 November 2011 - Contact Susanne Benjamin: susanne.benjamin@email.cs.nsw.gov.au

1992 - Saturday, 25 February 2012 - contact :John: drjfk@bigpond.com or Silvia: angusandsilvia@optusnet.com.au

1962 – Saturday, 10 March 2012 - contact: Diana Lovegrove at MAA: diana.lovegrove@sydney.edu.au

1967 - Saturday, 17 March 2012 - contact: Steve Andersen: stea@ozemail.com.au

1952 - Friday, 23 March 2012 - Contact: Monica Bullen: monicabullen@bigpond.com

1955 - Saturday, 14 April 2012 - Contact: John Wright: rebjohj@netspace.net.au

1972 - Saturday, 29 September (weekend) 2012 - contact: Harry Merkur:

hmerkur@bigpond.net.au

1973 - Saturday 6 April 2013 Contact: Phil Cocks: pcocks@ozemail.com.au

It is wonderful to see so many reunions being planned in the months ahead. As we all know, these should be publicised as early as possible, ideally about a year in advance. While we often depend on email contact these days, it is not always easy to obtain email addresses for everyone. When organising the 1966 reunion in January this year, we eventually had email addresses for 80% of our year. That required a huge effort by several rather obsessive members of our year, and assistance by others. Many of our colleagues still prefer to receive mailed invitations.

Please contact Diana Lovegrove (diana.lovegrove@sydney.edu.au) if your graduating year is due for a reunion and this has yet to be organised.

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

While obituaries of some medical alumni may appear in the Sydney Morning Herald or medical journals, we often have very limited information about the lives of other alumni who have died recently. If you have any comments about those colleagues, please send them to me, or request their family members to contact me, so we can remember them by more than a simple record of their death.

Obituaries. Recent obituaries published since mid-2011 in the Sydney Morning Herald and elsewhere included:

George Bryce Soutter (MB, ChB, Cape Town, 1959):

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/obituaries/artistic-paediatrician-cared-for-disabled-20110809-1ikre.html>, written by his partner, John Yu (1959)

Noel Rothero Van Dugteren (1947): The NSW Doctor, August 2011, written by George Repin (1952)

Robert Anthony MacMahon (1954): <http://www.smh.com.au/national/obituaries/surgeon-raised-survival-rates-for-premature-babies-20110718-1hlkc.html>

Phillip Sydney (Ferdie) Hunt (1961): <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/passion-for-surgery-helped-countless-patients-and-his-students-20110724-1hvkc.html>

Gillespie Neil McGilp Orr (1944), FRCS: Med J Aust 2011; 195 (2): 96, written by Jim Roche (1956)

Brian Edward McGuirk (1966), DPH (1990), FACOEM, FAFMM - Med J Aust 2011; 194 (12): 662, written by Nikolai Bogduk (1977)

Rowan Nicks AO (MD, 1985): <http://www.smh.com.au/national/obituaries/surgeon-took-heart-from-training-others-20110711-1hajr.html>

Rowan Nicks AO, OBE (MD, 1985): 'NZ-trained heart surgery pioneer dies in Sydney aged 98' - http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10730648

Nicholas Anthony Packham (1959):

http://www.stjohnscollege.edu.au/pdf/eagle/eagle_3_june.pdf (p.8-9)

George Repin notes: 'Noel Van Dugteren was Medical Secretary of the NSW Branch of the AMA from 1977 to 1983, after five years as Deputy Medical Secretary. One of his significant achievements, with Dr John Guyot, was to secure the benefits of incorporation for self-employed medical practitioners, thus allowing them to set up superannuation schemes.'

For other obituaries of our alumni, see:

<http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/alumni/news/tributes.php>

Vale to other medical friends and colleagues. **Death notices of medical alumni** in the Sydney Morning Herald or elsewhere in 2011 included (most recent first): Neil Mackay Miles (1960); Stanley Jack Marcus Goulston AO (1939); Douglas Firth Pettinger (1947); Eric Schiller (1948); Douglas James Penney (1956); Mitchell James Notaras (1957); Gillespie Neil McGilp Orr (1944); Noel Rothero Van Dugteren (1947); Walter Barry White (1946); Thomas Neville Rowlands (1940); Gordon William Browne (1942); Anton (Tony) Samuel Jacobus Sietsma (1957); Beverley Wynifred Kay (1952); Douglas Ash (1953); Edward John Bennett (1950); Colin Bateson Saunders (1952); John Ridley Solomon (1953); Carroll Brady (1947); Noel Ronald Douglas Higham (1942); Raymond Henry King (1947); Thomas Edward Bowen (1962); Geoffrey Shepherd Walker (1955); Anthony David Shirley (1941); George Rowan Nicks AO, OBE (MD, 1985); Nicholas Anthony Packham (1959); Francis Doyle (1952); John Kenmore Donovan (1952); Bruce Hunter Dolman (1941); Ian Ramsay Beavis (1953); Gwenneth Jean Benz (1962); Ian Stafford Doust (1954); Philip Oystaggh (1956); Jean Flora Lee (Livingston) (1941); Jean Wright (1954); Judith Elizabeth Dey AO (1943); George Charles Wilson AM (1943).

The link to previous MAA e-Newsletters is:

<http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/alumni/news/newsletters/2010/index.php>

6. Updating your University records. A link has been set up where alumni can make changes to emails and addresses:

<http://surveys.med.usyd.edu.au/limesurvey/index.php?sid=14261>

Please inform me about alumni news and activities that would be of wider interest. We would much appreciate your efforts in encouraging other alumni who do not receive the newsletters to register their email addresses (see above in section 6).

Paul Lancaster

Medical Alumni Association Council and Alumni Council, University of Sydney

Email: pallancaster@gmail.com Tel. 02 9660 0576

31 August 2011