

27th April, 2016

President's report for 2015-2016

One of the pleasures of writing the President's report for the AGM is that it forces one to take stock and look back on the year, at which point one thinks "Did PSANZ really do all that?" Of course, it is you, the members, who do all of the work behind the scenes that is resulting in an increasing level of activity by PSANZ in many areas, not only our own sub-committees but also in the roles we play in national, trans-tasman and international arenas. I am always amazed by how willing very busy people are to put up their hands to take on additional tasks and, on behalf of the Society, I would like to thank you all for your considerable contributions.

PSANZ refresh

This year has seen members vote on a new logo which hopefully is very familiar to you now. I hope you agree that this provides an up-to-date but lasting look that builds upon the previous logo and history of PSANZ.

We anticipate launching our new website at the 2016 congress. This has entailed a large amount of work for a small group who have worked hard with the developers to meet deadlines. Many thanks to them all for their efforts. We hope that the new website will be provide much more functionality for members and be a resource that you are keen to use. Please do provide feedback to our secretariat, who will be maintaining the website, at admin@psanz.com.au.

PSANZ sub-committees

We also have worked with our branches, committees and Special Interest Groups to harmonise the structure of PSANZ so that all of these groups now have 'Sub-committee of PSANZ' status with updated Terms of Reference. The previous terms have been replace with this one term. It is terrific to see the vibrancy in these sub-committees, reflecting in the work they do.

This year we have welcomed a new sub-committee, the *Understanding and improving long-term outcomes for high-risk babies* sub-committee, which will hold its first meeting at the 2016 Congress. For further information, contact Dr Karli Treyvaud (karli.treyvaud@mcri.edu.au) or Professor Peter Anderson (peter.anderson@mcri.edu.au).

The activities of the sub-committees are too many to mention but include contributions to national and international policy and guideline committees such as ILCOR, the National Blood Authority Patient Blood Management Guidelines, the Clinical Laboratory Science Institute Newborn Screening Guidelines, a leading role in the Lancet Stillbirth Series, guidelines on antenatal corticosteroids,

successful meetings of several of the specialist sub-committee groups and substantial activity from our Early Career Researchers. I would particularly like to thank the ECRs, led by Rob Galinsky, for their enthusiastic embrace of the special sessions at the 2016 congress. Without the energy and hard work of the ECRs, this initiative would not have come together – we will have 48 *Hot Topics in the Tropics* sessions running over the three days.

PSANZ relationships

This year, the IMPACT Network for Mothers and Babies Health became a founding member of the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance (<http://www.clinicaltrialsalliance.org.au>). Congratulations on this achievement, which places IMPACT at the table of an important initiative in Clinical Trials. Many congratulations to Dr Katie Groom, who was elected as a member of the ACTA Board.

PSANZ is working on advancing several other relationships, including moving towards a Memorandum of Agreement with the ANZNN (Australian and New Zealand Neonatal Network) and the RACP. We were asked to nominate a PSANZ member to serve on the RACP Council and, following a call for nominations, Dr Jane Alsweiler was elected to serve in this role.

Awards and the Geoffrey Thorburn Visiting Lectureship

Following feedback from members, we refashioned the Geoffrey Thorburn Visiting Professorship into the Geoffrey Thorburn Visiting Lectureship. The 2015 programme featured three visiting lecturers: Dr Chris McKinlay; Professor Ben Mol, and Dr Brett Manley with symposia in Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide featuring local as well as the GTVLs. Feedback for the new format has been very positive in the first year and we propose to continue this format at present. Some of these lectures are available online (<https://vimeo.com/140867395>, <https://vimeo.com/140865038>, <https://vimeo.com/140859658>).

2015 also saw the first award of the PSANZ-PRS Mont Liggins Early Career Research award, which was won by Dr Elisha Josev. Elisha travelled to the Perinatal Research Society meeting in Colorado and gave an outstanding presentation that was very well received. There could only be one winner, but the quality reflects the overall extremely high standard of research and presentations at PSANZ that almost all international invited speakers comment upon.

PSANZ Board

At the AGM, terms of some Directors and Office-bearers come to an end. This is both sad and exciting – sad for the Board to be losing the skills and enthusiasm of people who have contributed enormously and exciting to be welcoming new talent and enthusiasm in their place. Of course,

ending a term on the Board does not mean any diminution in overall contribution to PSANZ – indeed, some people will have more time to devote! I would particularly like to acknowledge Associate Professor Vicki Flenady, whom most of you will know. Vicki has been a member of the Board for many years, including a term as president, and is an inspirational person to have around. I know Vicki will continue contributing in many ways, as will the other members of the board who are stepping down: Dr Robert Guaran, our treasurer, Kay Jones and Associate Professor Michael Stark. I would like to thank them all for their contributions.

I would also like to welcome new members to the Board (highlighted in blue) and to thank continuing members for their support and selfless hard work on behalf of the Society as I step down as President and hand over to Professor Jonathan Morris at the end of this AGM:

PROFESSOR JONATHAN MORRIS, Incoming President, Professor of Maternal-Fetal Medicine at the University of Sydney

DR LYNN SINCLAIR, President-Elect, Clinical Nurse Consultant Newborn Services and Conjoint Senior Lecturer, University of New South Wales, Associate University of Technology Sydney

SUSAN HEATH, Treasurer, High Risk Pregnancy Clinical Midwifery Consultant, Westmead Hospital

DR JULIE BROWN, Secretary, Senior Research Fellow, Liggins Institute and Cochrane Collaboration, University of Auckland

DR ADRIENNE GORDON, Senior Lecturer in Neonatology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and University of Sydney, NSW

PROFESSOR PETER ANDERSON, Principal Research Fellow and psychologist, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, University of Melbourne

DR KATIE GROOM, Senior Lecturer in Maternal-Fetal Medicine, University of Auckland, NZ

DR VICTORIA KAIN, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Griffith University

SLYVIA GRIGG, a chartered accountant with huge experience in financial affairs and governance

PROFESSOR FRANK BLOOMFIELD, Past President, Director of the Liggins Institute, University of Auckland

DR ROB GALINSKY (CO-OPTED FROM THE ECR COMMITTEE), Research Fellow, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland

In the past twelve months we have changed our Secretariat from Quality Care to Corporate Communiqué. I would like to thank and acknowledge Wendy Crockford from Quality Care for her contributions to the Society. Welcome to Jen Boden and her team from CC who are known to many of us as they currently also act as our Professional Conference Organisers. The contact email

address remains the same: admin@psanz.com.au. Feel free to introduce yourself to Jen, Ben and the team from CC at the Congress – they will be delighted to put names to faces.

A key task for the Society moving forward is to grow our membership base. Ours is a wonderful Society – one of the few truly multidisciplinary societies, and I know it is the envy of many of our international colleagues. Please do consider how you can contribute to your Society, not only through attending the annual congress but also through our sub-committees and by bringing new members on board, particularly those in the earlier stages of their career, so that PSANZ can work together for a healthier future and can continue to contribute to advancing perinatal care.

Frank Bloomfield

President