

Meeting Report

Continued from Page 2

Toowomba / John Hunter, and included looking at things such as nurse practitioners). Development of changing roles is now moving over into the MTRP process, which is itself only in the embryonic phases.

MTRP

The Medical Training Review Panel (MTRP)—otherwise known as the Mouse-trap—consists of a scattered committee of 38 Important Persons.

There are 3 subcommittees:

1. Data collection subcommittee - AMWAC - chasing the colleges to establish the actual numbers of graduates, since no one seems to know who or where the doctors are.
2. College selection and appeal processes - to develop a best practice model.
3. HMO subcommittee - looks at CMOs and training and accrediting second and third year residents. This is relevant to us. The meeting is Wednesday 14 May, and John Egan, el-Presidente, will be pushing like hell to get to Melbourne to be there.

(By the way, Steve's recent submission regarding a pilot programme for CMO trainees was rejected because this area now falls under auspices of the MTRP.)

Also the Minister is supposedly about to announce a review of GP training addressing the pressing issues of older entry and external entry and recognition of other training. (*I'll believe it when I see it - Ed.*)

Treasurer's Report

We now have over 70 financial members. We are debt free at the moment and have a modest \$2,278.00 in the bank to fund issues of the *Bulletin*, mail outs and the Web Site (as soon as Dr Webber gets her act together to send further issues to that Web address.)

General Issues

The AMA safe hours campaign is up and running with a grant from the federal government to get started. Flyers will be provided to the CMOA.

The letterhead is done and will be available by disk to anyone who wants to load it onto their PC and print it out at need. (Contact Mary G T if you need a copy).

Mary Nagle, apropos of our brief to disseminate information on educational opportunities for CMOs spoke about her experience with the Masters of Psychological Medicine.

Ian Biggs came forward about a disturbing situation that has evolved for the CMOs at Mt Druitt hospital, and ASMOF will be approached to elucidate the industrial position of casual CMOs with regard to involuntary changes in hours and award conditions.

A motion was presented that we use association funds to support a mail out through Australian Medical Publishing to reach all of the CMO's on their database. This will cost \$336.00, but will be worth the money. *Supported unanimously.*

It was decided that, in accordance with our brief to inform a wide community of CMOs that every second meeting would be held in a rural centre. The next meeting will be held in Albury on Tuesday 19th August. A visit to the hospital under the care of Dr Michael King, will look at CMO workforce issues in a rural setting.

Credits

Editor:

Mary G T Webber

Design & Typesetting:

Karyn at
Flying Colours Printing
*...using an incredibly fast and powerful IBM type computer that I didn't have to take out a second mortgage to buy.
So there!*
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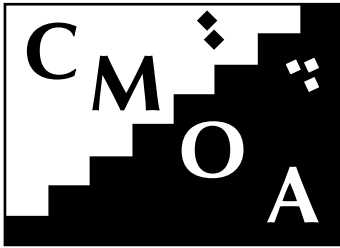
The views expressed within this publication are those of the authors, who enjoy freedom of speech and use it regularly. They are therefore occasionally neither wise nor politically correct. Neither do they necessarily represent the view of the CMOA.

Apology

A note in the last issue of the *Bulletin* promised articles on *Error in Medicine*, and a *Blueprint for the Medical Workforce*. At the time that I wrote that, I had no idea that I would be not only taking up a new position, but also moving to a new city.

I apologise to you all, but I simply have not had the time to write those promised articles. Hopefully, as my life settles down somewhat over the coming months, I will be able to complete them. You will note that I have not made any such rash promises this time. We'll just see what happens. Meanwhile, all contributions are welcome.

Mary G T Webber



CMO Bulletin

Newsletter of the Career Medical Officers Association Inc

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President's Address

Continuing Progress

Another three months and the third edition of the *Bulletin*. As you can see in the following pages there have been many developments that are relevant to CMO's (and therefore the CMOA) over this period. I would like to highlight those aspects that are crucial to the Association.

1. HMO Working Group - MTRP

We have a place on the HMO Working group of the MTRP (Medical Training Review Panel). With the help of friends in high places and some dogged persistence, we are now represented on a committee that has the potential to affect the careers of most of us (for good or evil) *in the near future*. (Full report on page 6 & 7.)

The critical point is that this group was set up by the Federal Government to recommend proposals for a National Training Model for Hospital Medical Officers including those CMO's working within the hospital context. It does not need much imagination to suggest that this group could also focus on the enlarged cohort of CMOs working in community settings, and its ideas and recommendations will be of great relevance to the CMOA.

2. Emergency Medicine

Contact has been made with the National and NSW State Presidents of the Australasian Society of Emergency Medicine (ASEM) in the persons of Dr Keith Edwards and Dr Rob Edwards (not related), and also with the national President of the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine (ACEM), Dr Chris Baggoley. All of these contacts were pleasant and informative and suggest that, for 70% of our membership who are working in Emer-

gency Medicine, the future is brighter than we may have imagined. Dr Rob Edwards has stated that; "We believe that CMO's who work in Emergency Departments are, *and will continue to be*, an important part of the emergency medicine workforce in this country." (My italics). He goes on to say that "...we would like to encourage CMO's to become members of the Australasian Society for Emergency Medicine."

CMO's may not be aware that the ASEM is open to *all* doctors with an interest in emergency medicine (application form in this issue - I strongly recommend that you join if this is your area of interest), however the College (ACEM) is only for FACEM members.

3. Rural Meetings

In view of the large number of CMO's in rural practice it was decided at the last meeting to hold every alternate meeting in the country. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 19 August at Albury Base Hospital, and all CMO's are invited and encouraged to attend. Michael King, our Treasurer will be our genial host. It will be a great opportunity to meet other CMO's in an informal setting, particularly if you live in the vicinity of Albury.

Finally, please contact any CMO's who you know or work with and encourage them to become members (and have a say in their future). Any names and addresses we receive will be included in our mailing list.

All the best, and hope to see you in Albury

*John Egan
President*

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