

Joe Lynch - National Secretary Annual Report - January 2010

Outgoing Executive and Council Members

David Adams. During his time as President, Dave made a big contribution to the Society. He was drafted in at short notice in 2004, with his nomination being formalised at the following AGM. When his term ends at the forthcoming AGM, he will have served 5 years in this position. As this was one year longer than the Constitution previously allowed, last year the members voted a Constitutional amendment to allow particularly energetic and successful Presidents such as Dave to be re-nominated for two extra years. One of his main initiatives was to initiate the Society's name change to AuPS. Although this cost the Society 30 or so long term pharmacologist members, it gave it a much needed stronger identity. Perhaps some further sharpening of the Society's strengths and unique characteristics may be needed if it is to prosper long term among the proliferation of increasingly specialist societies. Dave also instituted quarterly newsletters and the practice of mid-year Council meetings. This is later initiative is proving to be an invaluable opportunity for members of the Executive and for conference local organisers to exchange ideas and to clarify their roles and responsibilities.

Stefan Bröer has officially served as Treasurer for the maximum allowable period of 5 years (3 years initial term + re-elected for 2 more). Unofficially, he served for almost an extra year on top of this, taking over when the previous incumbent resigned soon after the 2004 AGM. Stefan has been an exceptionally efficient Treasurer and I will miss his prompt and invariably correct advice and information. I am particularly grateful to him for compiling a set of instructions which will make the job of future treasurers much easier.

Anuwat Dinudom is stepping down after serving as Editor for 3 years. Anuwat has proved to be highly competent and conscientious in this time-consuming role, and has often provided me with timely advice concerning my own responsibilities.

Council members. There has been a large turnover in Council membership. The 3-year terms of the elected Councillors, Livia Hool, Giuseppe Posterino and Jamie Vandenberg are terminating at the forthcoming AGM. Derek Laver has just completed a 3-year term as Webmaster. The elected student Councillor, Stefan Gehrig, is also standing down after serving 2 years. I thank them all very much for their contributions, particularly Livia, who has taken on the time-consuming task of coordinating the special interest groups, and Derek, who seems to update the website almost weekly.

Incoming Executive and Councillors

A year ago I was quite daunted about the impending large turnover in membership, as it seemed that an enormous amount of corporate knowledge would be lost. However, now that the new Executive and Council is known, I am greatly relieved. David Allen has accepted Council's nomination to be the 10th AuPS President (subject to ratification by the AGM). Dave has previous experience on the AuPS Executive having been Treasurer for 4 years from 1999-2002, during which time several crucial innovations were made including online banking and the rationisation of the then

complex Society accounting system. I am sure Peter Thorn will make a meticulous and efficient Treasurer, no doubt with some initial help from Stefan. Dave Davey has always been a pillar of knowledge and sound advice, and I am delighted that he remains on the Council by not only being reappointed as IT Manager but also by accepting Council nomination to his former position as Editor. I am not looking forward to the time when Dave eventually steps down altogether. I am delighted that Annick Anselin has accepted our nomination as Webmaster and am looking forward to interacting with her and the 4 new elected Councillors, Dan Markovich, Matt Watt, Yue-Kun Ju and Robyn Murphy.

Constitution Changes regarding President Election

Council has felt strongly for some time that AuPS should institute a 'President-elect' system, to facilitate the transfer of information from one President to the next. This requires a change to the Constitution, and we will be voting on this at the forthcoming AGM.

50th Anniversary of the Society

This significant milestone will be celebrated by an historical function to be held at Sydney University on Monday 1st February, with talks by Paul Korner (former President 1985-87) and Uwe Proske. I wish to acknowledge the enormous amount of work put into this by Roger Dampney and Ann Sefton. In addition, Dave Adams and I have managed to attract quite a large proportion of honorary members to the conference dinner to be held on the subsequent evening.

Upcoming Meetings

Planning for the December 2010 Adelaide Meeting, which will be held as a joint meeting with ASB, is well advanced with Andrea Yool chairing the local organising committee. The December 2011 Meeting, planned as 3-way joint meeting with ASCEPT and HBPRCA in Perth is also well advanced in terms of planning, with Don Robertson as the AuPS Local Chair. I think these will be excellent meetings being co-hosted by diverse Societies with common interests to AuPS.

J.W. Lynch
29/1/2010