



MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION e-Newsletter # 32 – September 2011

1. Alumni news and events

1.1 Celebrate with Sydney University Medical Society (MedSoc) – 125 years! Monday to Friday, 10-14 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. All events are free!

Monday, **10 October**, 6pm for 6.30pm: Film – 6.30pm 'Doctor in the house'; 9pm: 'Bride of Frankenstein' - Law Lecture Theatre 101

Tuesday, **11 October**, 6pm for 6.30pm: Trivia Night - Film – 7.30pm: 'The Elephant Man'; 9.30pm: 'As good as it gets' - Law Lecture Theatre 101

Wednesday, **12 October**, from 6pm: **Lambie-Dew Oration** – Professor Jim Bishop AO **'Australia's future health'** - MacLaurin Hall/ Film: 9pm 'One flew over the cuckoo's nest' - Old Geology Building, Lecture Theatre (near Footbridge Theatre)

Thursday, **13 October**, 6.30pm: Great Debate; Film – 7pm: 'Red dragons', 9pm: 'Silence of the lambs', 11pm: 'Hannibal' - Law Lecture Theatre 101

Friday, **14 October**, 6.30pm: End of celebration week, drinks and nibbles; Film - 7pm: 'Mash' (screened on ceiling) - Grandstand Pavilion, University Oval.

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

1.2 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:

<http://lectopia.usyd.edu.au/lectopia/lectopia.lasso?ut=1279&id=36085>

'Doctors in politics' - 16 May:

<http://lectopia.usyd.edu.au/lectopia/lectopia.lasso?ut=1278&id=36243>

'Doctors and the Drug Industry' - 2 August:

<http://lectopia.usyd.edu.au/lectopia/lectopia.lasso?ut=1279&id=42452>

'Doctors in Court' - 8 August:

<http://lectopia.usyd.edu.au/lectopia/lectopia.lasso?ut=1278&id=42884> (fast forward at the beginning to avoid background chatter!)

'Public and Private Hospitals, the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly' - 15 August:

<http://lectopia.usyd.edu.au/lectopia/lectopia.lasso?ut=1279&id=43186>

1.3 **Cruise for a Cause on Sydney Harbour!** - Thursday, **27 October**, 6-9pm

The Hon. John Fahey AC, Patron, Sydney Burns Foundation and Professor Peter Haertsch OAM, Chair, Sydney Burns Foundation, warmly invite you to Cruise for a Cause on Thursday, 27 October 2011, 6-9pm. Tickets cost just \$150 pp (incl. GST) and cover canapés and drinks for the evening. Bring a loved one or a group from work. This is your opportunity to support the newest Foundation at Sydney Medical School, the Sydney Burns Foundation. Be part of the revolution in the treatment of disfiguring burn injuries. A silent and live auction will be held on the night. The Elite Cruise company have kindly donated the use of the magnificent Blue Room, an 85ft Glass Vessel for the evening. Visit the website at: <http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/foundation/sydneyburns/index.php> for further information about the Sydney Burns Foundation. Don't miss out! RSVP before 7 October.

1.4 **Alumni in Victoria - meet Dr Michael Spence**, Vice-Chancellor, University of Sydney, in **Melbourne**, on Sunday, **30 October**

The Australian Boat Race is being held in Melbourne again on Sunday, 30 October 2011, when the Universities of Sydney and Melbourne will go head to head on the Yarra in a race of tradition and rivalry! For the first time this year, our alumni in Melbourne are invited to join the Vice-Chancellor on a University of Sydney hospitality boat to watch the race. Please see the link below for more information, or if you happen to be in Melbourne the weekend before Melbourne Cup, do join us!

<http://usyd-alumni.e-newsletter.com.au/pub/pubType/EL/pubID/zzzz4e7971d17e260120/nc/zzzz4e8291c18c37a486/interface.html>

1.5 **S T Lee Lecture** - Monday, **7 November**, 5.30pm

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 Cost: Free

1.6 Sydney School of Public Health Lunchtime Lecture - Tuesday, 8 November, 1-2pm

Guest Speaker: Richard Southby, Distinguished Professor of Global Health

Topic: **Introducing Leadership Concepts into Health Professional Education**

Venue: TBC Cost: Free

1.7 Public Seminar: Applicants for Co-Director, Menzies Centre for Health Policy - Thursday, 24 November, 3pm – 6pm

Background: The selection process for a new Director (also appointed as Professor of Public Health) is now well under way; applications close on 3 October. All shortlisted candidates are required to give a public seminar, outlining their views on health policy and visions for the future.

Venue: Edward Ford Building (Lecture Theatre tbc), University of Sydney.

Confirmation of the speaker list and lecture theatre location will be confirmed the week beginning 21 November. Please RSVP by 17 November to: mchp.admin@sydney.edu.au

1.8 Sydney Health Policy Network Guest Lecture - Monday, 28 November, 6pm

Guest Speaker: Gregor Henderson, independent adviser in mental health and wellbeing, Scotland, UK.

Topic: 'Time to Move to the Next Stage?' Why we might benefit from taking a wider public health and wellbeing approach to mental health policy and its implementation

Venue: New Law Lecture Theatre 101 Cost: Free

1.9 Sydney Health Policy Network Conference - Tuesday, 29 November, 8.30am – 5.30pm

Outline: The Conference will be split into two sessions. The first session will provide attendees with an overview of the new national health funding and governance arrangements. The second session will explore what these new arrangements mean for mental health in Australia and the prospects for ongoing reform.

Guest Facilitator: Gregor Henderson Venue: New Law Lecture Theatre 101 Cost: \$250 pp inc GST

1.10 Sydney Ideas. You will find an extraordinary variety of talks on many themes at the University of Sydney. See: http://sydney.edu.au/sydney_ideas/

1.11 More tributes to Stan Goulston (1939). Following the note about Stan's death and funeral, many alumni sent appreciative messages about how he had influenced their lives and careers. Here are several more edited notes from our colleagues.

William Doe in London (1965): 'I was very fond of him and appreciated his wise counsel when I was President of the Gastroenterological Society, on RACP Council and on the Australian Drug Evaluation Committee (ADEC). An outstanding private consultant physician, he gave generously of his outstanding clinical, educational and leadership skills to the development of gastroenterology and postgraduate medical education in Sydney and nationally as President of the RACP and Chair of ADEC.'

Alan Skyring (1953): 'I had the great pleasure and privilege of working with Stan Goulston at RPAH and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) for many years and I can fully endorse all the things that have been said about this wonderful man. But I am puzzled at the lack of emphasis given to the Military Cross that he was awarded during his service in Egypt in 1940-41. As I understand it, the Military Cross, like the Victoria Cross, is awarded only for acts of outstanding bravery in the face of the enemy and one wonders how often this award goes to a member of the Medical Corps. Knowing Stan as I did, I can believe that beneath that gentle, caring, thoughtful exterior there were qualities that would make him capable of such behaviour.'

1.12 Sydney alumni and the media

Stephen Leeder (1966) - 'Are we training ever more medical foot soldiers to fight in the foolish wars over care of the chronically ill with nurse practitioners?' - <http://www.australiandoctor.com.au/news/ff/0c0724ff.asp>

Jessica Wilson (2010) - <http://www.smh.com.au/national/postgraduate-education/the-long-road-to-medicine-20110901-1jnma.html>

Tanveer Ahmed (2000) - <http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/dare-to-accept-we-are-different-20110923-1kp91.html>

Graeme Stewart (1970) - Multiple sclerosis and vitamin D - <http://www.msra.org.au/files/msra/docs/SMH.pdf>

Ken Hillman (1973) - Care of the elderly - <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/health/icu-doctor-wants-more-elderly-to-die-at-home/story-fn59nokw-1226125907793>

Graham Mann (1978) Melanoma genome - <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/health-science/push-to-unlock-melanoma-genome-secrets/story-e6frg8y6-1226124022012>

You can listen to 'Mornings with Margaret Throsby' on ABC Classic FM and hear interviews about their careers and lives of some prominent alumni - most recently, on 26 September, Tanveer Ahmed (2000) - <http://www.abc.net.au/classic/content/2011/09/26/3323644.htm> and, on 2 September, Ivan Goldberg (1971) - <http://www.abc.net.au/classic/throsby/stories/s3309026.htm>

2. Sydney's medical mosaic

2.1 **Greek-Australian alumni.** The August newsletter included some notes about Mitchell Notaras (1957), who died recently, and other Greek-Australian alumni. In response to my questions in that newsletter about other alumni with Greek ancestry and who might be the first one to graduate from Sydney Medical School, Jim Markos (1978) in Launceston replies: 'In the current issue, someone asks the question whether there are other University of Sydney medical graduates of Greek ethnicity. I am sure there are lots and there were several in my graduating year (January 1978), including myself. Greek names are easily recognizable (at least by Greeks) so it would be easy to determine numbers from graduation lists (but perhaps not for female graduates if married and changed surname). I was born in Greece in 1954 and my family migrated to Australia in 1957.'

'I believe it is an advantage to have a close knowledge of two different cultures. I think it promotes tolerance because of the numerous differences which automatically remind one that there are other ways to look at life. Medicine itself is a great discipline to promote

international harmony because we all know that the human body is the same irrespective of the cultural differences.'

2.2 Multi-Cultural Fridays in Launceston

Jim Markos (1978) also informs us about his highly innovative educational program for encouraging discussion among hospital staff about other countries and their culture. What a brilliant idea! He would like to know whether similar programs exist in other hospitals.

'I work as a respiratory physician in Launceston. One of our many special attributes at the Launceston General Hospital is that about 50% of my colleagues - there are approximately 120 specialist staff members - were also born overseas, compared with the national average of 25% of the population. In recognition of this, I started an event through our hospital medical staff association (of which I am a Past-President and current Secretary) in 2009 called Multi-Cultural Fridays.

We stage an evening function each few months on a Friday, from 6pm to 8pm, where we showcase a country by way of a half-hour presentation by colleagues with that nationality. The presentation includes demographics, customs, photos, music, video clips, food and wine. One presentation finished with live traditional dancing (yes, it was Zorba on the Greek night). We have traditional food and wine served after the presentations. The countries we have covered so far are India, Sweden, Bangladesh, Germany, Australian outback, Pakistan and Greece. The sessions are very popular and well attended. I would be interested to learn if any one has tried this concept anywhere else in Australia or aware of it being done overseas.'

Please let us know. In the meantime, this seems an excellent program for most of our hospitals!

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

In the August 2011 newsletter, I suggested that Walter Yum (1921) was our first Chinese-Australian alumnus. John Yu (1959) has kindly informed me about his uncle, Joshua Young-Wai, who graduated before Walter Yum. 'Family folklore says that he was the first Chinese medical graduate of the University of Sydney but that may not be reliable.' Indeed, it was!

Joshua Young-Wai graduated in 1914 (ChM in 1918 - often some years after graduation because young alumni had to pay an extra fee to receive it!). His father was the Minister of the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Sydney who first came to the goldfields of Ballarat in 1867. Joshua received the Mathematics Prize at Scots College one year and played rugby for the Old Boys! He was an RMO and Registrar at Sydney Hospital (1919-1921), practised at 22 College Street, and lived at 12 Dover Street, Summer Hill.

2.4 Please inform us 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. Medical Humanities

3.1 Master of Medical Humanities degree, University of Sydney - notes from John Carmody

'In 2003 the Faculties of Medicine and Arts at the University of Sydney began an imaginative

new course-work degree, the Master of Medical Humanities. This was the inspired idea of Dr Jill Gordon (1971) who has, over her career, splendidly combined medicine and the humanities.

The program has attracted world-wide interest, though it is probably true to say that it is less well-known in Australia than it ought to be. Certainly it has attracted an interesting and thoroughly-engaged enrolment over its nine years' existence - many of them medical people who are retired or approaching retirement and thinking about how to exercise their fine minds when they do so - but by no means every student has a medical background. One excellent participant whom I recall had a career in publishing, but just thought that the course sounded fascinating.

In fact one of its most vitalizing aspects - as I have discovered over the years in which I have organized Medicine and Music, one of its components - is the fact that students studying in the graduate medical course can undertake one of the MMedHum subjects as part of their own Personal and Professional Development program. The mix of people with a long professional and life experience with enthusiastic younger participants is an especially rich one: it certainly enlivens the class sessions.

There is a diverse list of elective options in the range of subjects which are offered: these include such themes as Medicine and War, Medicine in Antiquity, Medicine and Music, History of Medicine and Bodies on Display: Medicine, Museums, Art. Each has its own surprises. In Medicine and Music, for example, we deal with some introductory scientific material to allow an understanding of how we perceive and respond emotionally to music (including the challenge to musicians to express the emotional content of the music which they perform), and then there are sessions on illness and disease which particularly affect musicians, performance anxiety, the history and philosophy of music therapy, aspects of popular music (with a focus on the enduring concern of older generations that it is injurious to health). There is also a session devoted to the - rarely flattering - ways in which doctors and diseases have been depicted in opera.

The program is now a responsibility of only the Faculty of Medicine and it is administered by Dr Claire Hooker, herself a distinguished historian of medicine and science, who is based in VELiM (the Centre for Values, Ethics and the Law in Medicine which is located in the Medical Foundation Building, 92-94 Parramatta Road, Camperdown). Dr Hooker's e-mail address is: claire.hooker@sydney.edu.au. As she is on maternity leave during 2011, enquiries should, in the meantime, be addressed to: Dr Estelle Noonan, Co-ordinator and Lecturer in Medical Humanities, estelle.noonan@sydney.edu.au [phone: 9036 3417].

The web-address for the course is: <http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/humanities>.

John Carmody (john.carmody@sydney.edu.au), a pharmacologist and physiologist formerly in the Faculty of Medicine at UNSW, now co-ordinates the Medicine and Music program.

3.2 Arts and Medicine and Health: developing a research agenda - Tuesday, 11 October 2011, 9am to 1pm

The Auditorium, Medical Foundation Building, The University of Sydney (K25), 92-94 Parramatta Rd Camperdown, 2050

Medical Humanities and the Arts and Health Foundation invite you to hear six speakers representing different universities within New South Wales present on a diverse range of programs that link the Arts and Medicine and Health.

Those speaking are: Professor Stewart Dunn and Dr Paul Heinrich (University of Sydney and Pam McLean Communication Centre, Royal North Shore Hospital) - 'Theatre, drama and medical education'; Alison Liew Creighton (BabyLab Research Centre, University of Western Sydney) - 'Song and mother-child bond'; Paul Bennett (Broken Hill University Department of Rural Health) - 'The community and medical education'; Professor David Bennett (University of Sydney, Westmead Childrens' Hospital) - 'Youth Arts Program at the Adolescent Medical Unit'; and Kris Smith (Associate Lecturer, School of Drama Fine Art and Music, University of Newcastle) - 'The use of digital media in the "Self-Portrait" Phase of the "Growing up with Cancer" ARC Project - a study of how cancer influences the transition from adolescence to adulthood'.

This symposium is free but please RSVP by 3 October to: maggiej.morgan@gmail.com or enquiries to: Dr Margaret Morgan 0403 818748.

3.3 Hektoen International, a journal of medical humanities

The Chief Editor of the journal is George Dunea, President and CEO of the Hektoen Institute in Chicago. George is a Sydney alumnus (1958). The journal is now accepting short articles, poetry, and artwork for its upcoming issues. Submission deadlines: October 15, 2011 for the Winter issue; January 15, 2012 for the Spring issue

The journal accepts: scholarly articles for a general audience of the intellectually curious, essays sharing a personal perspective on general or controversial topics, personal narratives, short fiction, poetry, and art in any medium.

Please submit to journal@hektoeninternational.org - see also: <http://www.hektoeninternational.org/aboutus.html>

4. History of Medicine

4.1 Q Station Lecture Series - Sunday, 23 October, 2-4pm

'Vitamin D and health': Rebecca Mason

'The first Australian heart transplants - before real ethics were thought of': John Carmody

Summary. Vitamin D is not strictly a vitamin, as it is made in skin by the action of the ultraviolet part of sunlight, which alters a chemical normally found in skin. Its characterization as a vitamin was an accident related to the way it was discovered in the 1920s. Vitamin D is present in some foods, but is not plentiful. Vitamin D is needed to make a hormone essential to effectively absorb calcium from the diet and which is also important for bone and muscle function. There is emerging evidence that adequate vitamin D also helps to reduce the risk of a range of adverse health outcomes, from depression, through diabetes and some cancers. Yet, our modern lifestyle, as well as understandable concerns about skin cancer, mean that many people in the general population, and even more who are sick or elderly, don't have enough vitamin D.

Rebecca Mason, a medical graduate from Sydney University, has research interests in vitamin D, bone and skin. She is on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Bone and Mineral Research, is a member of the International Commission on Illumination's technical committee on Sunlight, Health and Vitamin D and the Cancer Councils of Australia Working Party on Sun and Health. In 2009, she received an award from the 14th International Workshop on Vitamin D for 'career contributions to vitamin D research'. She is Head of

Physiology and Deputy Director of the Bosch Institute, University of Sydney, a Board member of Osteoporosis Australia and Immediate Past President of the ANZ Bone and Mineral Society.

Summary. When the first Australian heart transplant was performed in 1968, notions of professional ethics were primitive. As taught in medical schools, its concerns were courtesies to colleagues and the same was probably true of legal education. Notions of ethics had probably never been considered in the media.

John Carmody was for 40 years a physiologist and pharmacologist in the Faculty of Medicine at UNSW. He now has two honorary positions at the University of Sydney, one of which involves him with the co-ordination and part of the teaching in the course Medicine and Music in the MMedHum program. For more than 30 years he has worked professionally as a concert music and opera critic, a book reviewer and broadcaster. Some of that work has involved medical and scientific history and, in fact, he has also been a member of the NSW Working Party of the Australian Dictionary of Biography for 20 years and has contributed about 20 entries to that reference publication.

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. 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 these Q Station Lectures will revert to the usual time of 2-4pm. Walk and see the wildflowers blooming at North Head!

Anne Clarke, Ursula Frederick and Anna Williams, who gave a previous Q Station talk, have published a related article: **'Wish you were here: historic inscriptions from the North Head Quarantine Station, Manly'** - Australasian Historical Archaeology 2010; 28: 77-84.

4.2 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.

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.

4.3 'The Evolution of Haematology at St. Vincent's Hospital Sydney, 1857-2010' - new book

This book by Jim Biggs (1955) and Alan Concannon (1966) 'documents the history of haematology at St Vincent's Hospital over the last 153 years through historical facts, imagery and personal stories'.

The price which is \$30 per copy + postage. The book is soft cover, with colour illustrations and 326 pages. To purchase the book, call Mairi Payten or Annabel Horne on 02 8382 2677 or email mpayten@stvincents.com.au

5. Reunions

Peter Crowe (1947) notes that his year held a successful lunch at the Automobile Club for their 64-year reunion on 24 September. Twenty-five from his year attended, as well as wives, widows and carers.

Peter Rogers (1946) reports that 21 graduates recently held their reunion in the Old Med School (Anderson Stuart Building) - 'drinks in the quadrangle, visits to the dissecting room and the museum, and lunch when the Dean met us on our visit there. Impressive is the fact that one-third of those who graduated are still alive! Average age 89!!' See attached photo taken by Maureen Rogers, Peter's wife.

In his opening speech at the reunion, Peter referred to the Dean's foreword in their Senior Year Book. Remember, you can find the **digitised Senior Year Books for the years from 1922 to 1980** on the Sydney Medical School website at:

http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/museum/mwmuseum/index.php/Senior_Year_Books

Reunions for graduating year of:

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: Barbara Slater bblslate@bigpond.net.au or Shailendra Sinha sinhasklw@gmail.com

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. But, importantly, 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.

6. 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:

Edwin Carlyle (Carl) Wood AC (MB, BS, Melb, 1952):

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/obituaries/most-important-clinical-researcher-in-his-field-20110927-1kvbr.html> and <http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/carl-wood-ivf-miracle-worker-for-families-20110927-1kvce.html>

The following letter about Carl Wood, IVF pioneer, was published in the Sydney Morning Herald:

'Wood's innovation should be a model' - 'Yesterday's splendid tribute to the life of the IVF pioneer Professor Carl Wood provides a salient example of the world leadership that many Australians have achieved ("Most important clinical researcher in his field", September 28). One sentence stood out for me, in the context of the current debate about the "smart society" to which we might aspire: "In the absence of any teaching of the initial IVF developments in Britain, Wood and his team became the base for training and technological guidance for the world." Note that Wood's world leadership became a beacon to which others were drawn, as well as an opportunity to place our country at the centre of the world in this important medical field. Yet, as Alan Trounson goes on to say, support from the public purse was not forthcoming and Wood had to rely on his own resourcefulness to support his endeavours. Surely if we are seeking models for the creation of the "new economy", based on innovation and intellectual achievement, governments could do far worse than to study the life's work of Carl Wood and support its imitation at every opportunity.' Phil Jacombs, Seaforth

John Michael Buckingham (1971): Med J Aust 2011; 195 (6): 359, written by Michael Gillespie (1979) and Stephen Deane (1972)

George Rowan Nicks AO (MD, 1985) - Med J Aust 2011; 195 (5): 294, written by John Masterton and Brian Morgan (1953)

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

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): Richard Henly Picker (1967); Stanley Victor Cohen (1948); Denise Vial (nee Wallis) (1960); Douglas Harry Cohen (1942); John Henry Temple Ellard (1952); Roger Selwyn Barrow Hudson (1944); (Jonathan) Peter Halliday (1951); 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 Oystragh (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/2011/index.php>

7. 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 7).

If you are fortunate enough to have one, enjoy your long weekend (Labour Day in NSW, ACT and SA; Queen's Birthday in WA) and spring your clocks forward for daylight saving (where applicable)!

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30 September 2011