



# RADIUS

*Newsletter of the University of Sydney Medical Graduates' Association*

*Volume 12, Number 1*

## Editorial New Links with Vietnam

*by Kerry Goulston*

Once again we greet our colleagues across the world; we are conscious from your letters of the geographic spread of Sydney medical graduates.

In this edition we bring you the regular features and some sent in to us from members. Keep them coming - your fellow graduates are keen to hear from you.

The term has started again - with the inevitable rain in Orientation Week. Already the third year students are full-time in the clinical schools (and some in rural attachments). They report that they are very busy but greatly enjoy the clinical experiences and the opportunities provided for them.

Gemma Figtree, one of the final year students from the undergraduate program, has been awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and Carole Harris from the graduate program has been selected to visit Vietnam this year, working on a project on tuberculosis as a Young Australian Ambassador. We congratulate both of them warmly.

The MGA's call for active membership has been well supported, however more financial members are still being sought.

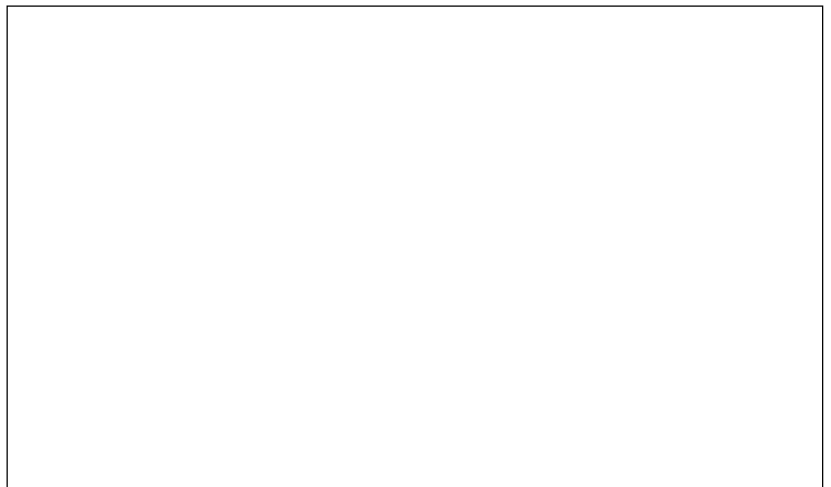
A date has not yet been set for this year's Lambie-Dew Oration, but we shall endeavour to publicise the event widely when the details become available.

The Editorial Team

Led by the Australian Ambassador to Vietnam, Mr Michael Mann, Professors Bruce Robinson, Phillip Yuile and myself traveled to Hanoi and Danang in Vietnam in November, 1998 to establish links with the Hanoi Medical School. We met with Professor Than That Bach, Dean of Hanoi Medical School to initiate educational and research collaboration. In 1999 it is planned that three young Vietnamese specialists will work in Sydney for 3 months. A week-long postgraduate teaching course in Hanoi is also planned and will be conducted by specialists from the Northern Clinical School.

The program of exchange commenced in December with the arrival of five Northern GMP students in Hanoi: Asha Bowen, Warwick Yonge, Jodie Bradshaw, Melanie Figtree and Marian Chinnock. Their arrival was met with great enthusiasm from the Hanoi Medical School, particularly the senior pathologist, Dr Duong. The hospitals visited included Bach Mai, Viet Duc, the National Institute of Paediatrics and K Hospital. The students gained an insight into diseases not often seen in Australia, such as Dengue Fever and tetanus, an appreciation of the challenging economic and technical conditions that both doctors and patients exist under in Vietnam, as well as a greater understanding of Vietnamese culture.

Grateful thanks are extended to North Shore Private Hospital and the RSL, who funded the scholarships for this program. All delegates are greatly obliged to Mr Michael Mann and Professor Than That Bach for their interest and hospitality.



The Australian delegation meets with the staff of ????? Hospital

# A Message from the Dean

by Stephen Leeder

Felipe Fernández-Armesto is a member of the Modern History Faculty of Oxford University. He is author of *The Times Atlas of World Exploration*, a tome not lacking for breadth of vision! He has now joined the ranks of those who have written a book with the title 'Truth'. 'Truth has had a chequered history,' he observes. 'Has it a future?' He believes it does. One element of that future, he suggests, lies in 'turning back to tradition. No one should ever feel ashamed of turning back to tradition. Memory of what previous generations have learned is the foundation of all possible progress.'

I feel strongly that it is easy to underestimate the powerful persistence of positive traditions in medicine. These traditions include the best of the doctor-patient and teacher-student relationships. The recruitment of people motivated to care in medicine is another.

There are several very positive things about being a medical educator. For me, as dean of this large Faculty of Medicine, one of my greatest pleasures is noting the generosity of our teachers, the vast majority of whom are unpaid. Anyone who believes our profession has lost its idealism should drop me a line - I can provide convincing evidence to the contrary. A second great pleasure, not directly (but definitely indirectly) related to education, is admiration for the creativity and achievement of my colleagues in their research work which flows over into what and how they educate. A third, and dominant, pleasure comes from contact with our medical students fired as they are with intelligence, flexibility and optimism for the future. In November last year we held a senior staff retreat at Terrigal to consider research directions within our Faculty. Several students came. We had several

informal groups, a couple of which our students facilitated. I received a note from a senior member of staff afterwards asking that in future all such groups should be facilitated by these students!

Another example: last year a second year student, Alex Berry, convened a small group of students who expressed interest in contributing to processes that might attract more ATSI students into the GMP. This initiative has the ongoing support of the Koori Centre and a submission to the Commonwealth Dept of Health has been rewarded by a grant of almost \$85, 000 for one year. Caroline Davy, Education Support Officer with the Dept of Educational Development and Evaluation, will be visiting rural universities and other sites to promote the GMP, while students will be developing guidelines and support materials for ATSI students unfamiliar with the GMP and the processes of applying for admission. The recent appointment of a lecturer in indigenous health, Shane Hearn, into the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine adds further

**Radius** is published by the University of Sydney Medical Graduates' Association (MGA) twice each year.

Circulation: 10,000

**Editors:**

Ann Sefton (Associate Dean, Curriculum Development), David Duke (RPAH), Nick Barrett (RNSH)

All correspondence should be directed to the Editors by one of the following means:

**E-mail:** [anns@physiol.usyd.edu.au](mailto:anns@physiol.usyd.edu.au)

**Mail:**

Faculty of Medicine, Edward Ford Building, A27, University of Sydney, NSW, 2006

**Pager:** (02) 9214 0259 carried by MGA President

**Radius** appears at the Faculty of Medicine's web site:

<http://www.med.usyd.edu.au>

expertise to the group. We hope to develop mechanisms for attracting and supporting ATSI students well beyond the life of the grant.

I read a portfolio at the end of 1998 prepared by one of our first year students in which she referred to the dedication, high-quality communication and personal generosity of one of her teachers, a surgeon, to his patients. It was an inspiring account. After five one Friday late last year a breathless final year student handed me his report from his Option Term (the office was shut). I read it with admiration and interest, revealing as it did his intense commitment in assessing a non-urban asthma education program. In February I attended an evening function at Royal North Shore Hospital at which several medical students presented extremely positive reports on elective studies in Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Vietnam which enthused the audience. Perhaps there is hope for less developed countries after all.

With expressions of attachment to the finest traditions of medical concern and the values that underpin it, I believe we can take much hope for the future and the place of truth within it. I do not mean by that to

belittle the deep concerns felt in the profession for the structure of the health care system, the intrusion of what is often judged to be excessive control, matters of adequate remuneration, or the significant threats to equity of access of care that many people sense are growing. As an academic I can empathise with each of these worries. But it is to secure a base on which to build responses to these concerns that I refer to the evidence that I encounter of the preservation of traditions of generosity, care, interest and concern at many levels throughout our profession and among our students.

To discard the truth we feel and the truth we are told - ingredients of tradition - is a terrible act, writes Fernandez-Armesto. It amounts to 'a diminution of humanity, as if amputation and lobotomy were simultaneously self-inflicted in rage at the errors of mind and sense.' Strong words indeed, but reassuring to those who share the view that the central core of medicine matters more than peripheral management, and that values such as generosity and care, distantly established in our profession and traditional in form, really do count.

## Medical Graduates Association Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the MGA will be held on Wednesday 28 April 1999 at 6pm in the conference room of the Old Burkitt Library, Anderson Stuart Building, University of Sydney. There will be twelve (12) council positions available. Persons eligible for nomination are any graduate of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney. Persons seeking council positions need to be nominated by two (2) persons who are also graduates of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney. Nominations need to be in writing on the form below. Nominations should be addressed to the President, MGA care of the Faculty of Medicine, Edward Ford Building, University of Sydney.

I ....., (nominator) and I ..... (seconder),  
wish to nominate ..... for the position of council member of the University of Sydney Medical Graduates' Association.

.....  
Nominee's signature      Nominator's signature      Seconder's signature      Date

# President's Report

## Goals Achieved

by Katrina Loveridge

Welcome to another edition of Radius. I hope this issue provides a little information of the present happenings at the University and within faculty and also an update on old colleagues and recent events.

A photograph of one of the chairs for the Graduates' Room.



This year the MGA has been able to establish grants in aid for students in financial need. The first grants will be awarded in April. These grants are aimed at providing medical texts that are part of the course curriculum. Next year we hope to extend these grants to include computer hard ware as so much of the course now centres on this medium.

Annual subscriptions have also allowed us to progress with the refurbishment of the Graduates' Room in the Old Anderson Stuart Building. As with all renovations, in reality, the time scale is always longer than anticipated. It is now hoped that the room will be completed by mid year. It is expected that this room will be a centre for graduates

but will also provide a source of income for the Association as a stately dining room. The Medical Graduates are asking for donations, as part of the annual subscription, to fund each of the chairs for that room. Each chair would have a named plaque attached in recognition. A picture of the prototype of the chair is below.

A 30 year reunion dinner is currently being planned for early March 2000. For further information please contact Stuart Spring on (02) 9360 4100, fax (02) 9331 7977 or email [sspring@stvincents.com.au](mailto:sspring@stvincents.com.au). The Medicine 1979 (NBL) Reunion; New date: 19th June. Contact Marcella Roman 02 4735 6166 (W). This year we also hope to have a more active involvement in the various year reunions, particularly in their organisation. Please contact us for further information via the MGA pager on (02) 9214 0259.

It is pleasing that we are making slow progress toward a truly productive alumni association. However we do need your financial support and we urge you to help the University by becoming an active member of the MGA.

Your Bookshop  
specialising in mail orders  
at 15% discount

THE MEDICAL SOCIETY BOOKSHOP

1800 065 778

(02) 9351 2482

[bookshop@medsoc.usyd.edu.au](mailto:bookshop@medsoc.usyd.edu.au)

or visit us on-line at

<http://www.medsoc.usyd.edu.au>

# The Dean's Lectures, 1999

The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor Stephen Leeder, is pleased to announce the 1999 series of lectures. These public lectures are held each month commencing March and will cover a range of topical issues in medicine and public health.

Seating is limited. Admission is free and open to any member of the Faculty, the health and medical professions and to the public. Bookings **are not** required.

Transcripts, tapes and lecture notes will not generally be available.

**Where:** Stephen Roberts Lecture Theatre, Eastern Ave, University of Sydney

**Time:** 6.30 - 8.00pm

## 27 April (Tuesday)

The Future of Medical Practice - how computers will revolutionise health care

Professor Michael Kidd, Department of General Practice

A/Professor Ross Lazarus, Sub Dean Information Technology  
Dr Enrico Coiera, author: *A Guide to Medical Informatics, the Internet and Telemedicine*

## 26 May (Wednesday)

Medical complications of pregnancy: the placenta as friend or foe.

Dr Annemarie Hennessy, senior lecturer, Renal Medicine, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Dr Lisa Simmons, Department of Cardiology, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

Professor Dennis Yue, Endocrinology, Department of Medicine

## 30 June (Wednesday)

Aging: from Cell to Society

Professor Allan McLean, Geriatric Medicine, Canberra Hospital  
Professor Tony Broe, Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Research Unit, Concord Hospital

Professor Hal Kendig, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences

## 28 July (Wednesday)

The Glucose Revolution: Implications of the Glycaemic Index of Foods for the Prevention and Treatment of Diabetes.

A/Professor Jennie Brand-Miller, Human Nutrition Unit, Department of Biochemistry

A/Professor Stephen Colagiuri, Director of the Diabetes Centre and Head, Department of Endocrinology, Metabolism and Diabetes at Prince of Wales Hospital

Dr Gareth Denyer, Senior Lecturer, Department of Biochemistry

## 25 August (Wednesday)

Animal to human transplantation: from science fiction to science fact.

Dr Jeremy Chapman, Director, Renal Medicine, Westmead Hospital

Dr Phil O'Connell, Renal Medicine, Westmead Hospital

## 29 Sept (Wednesday):

Where is the human genome project taking us?

Prof Grant Sutherland, Department of Cytogenetics and Molecular Genetics, Women's & Children's Hospital, Adelaide

Catriona Bonfigliani, recent Reuters Fellow in Medical Journalism, Green College Oxford

## 27 Oct (Wednesday)

Iodine Deficiency Disorders in China and Tibet: a massive problem - a simple solution.

Professor Cres Eastman, Director, Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research, Westmead Hospital

## 24 Nov (Wednesday)

Keeping your house in order: house design in asthma prevention

Dr Euan Tovey and Dr Guy Marks, Institute of Respiratory Medicine, Allergen Diagnostic Project

Enquiries to A/Professor Simon Chapman, (02) 9351 5203, fax (02) 9351 4381, email: simonc@pub.health.usyd.edu.au

---

## Appeal for Active Membership

Title ..... Name ..... Date of birth.....

Address.....

Phone ..... Email ..... Year of Graduation .....

Area of Practice.....

Ordinary Membership \$40

Chair Donation with plaque in MGA Room \$2000

Honorary Membership (Graduation 1948 or earlier) No Fee

Donation (Donations above \$40 can be nominated toward particular articles) \$.....

Nominated project  Anderson Stuart Building

Grants in Aid Fund

Other .....

Please make cheques payable to the Sydney University Medical Graduates' Association. Return this form and cheque to The President, MGA c/- Faculty of Medicine, Edward Ford Building, A27, University of Sydney, NSW, 2006

# Postgraduate Committee in Medicine

## Course Calendar 1999

### April

#### **Malaria Diagnosis Workshop**

When: Friday 9 April, 9 am - 5 pm

Where: Room 559, Blackburn Building, The University of Sydney

#### **Perinatal Update - Merimbula**

When: Saturday 17 April

Where: Black Dolphin Resort Motel

### May

#### **Men's Health Update for GPs**

When: Saturday 1 May, 9 am - 5 pm

Where: Room 351, Faculty of Education, The University of Sydney

#### **Smoking Cessation Seminar**

When: Wednesday 5 May, 6.30 - 9.30 pm

Where: The University of Sydney

#### **Short Courses in Occupational Medicine — Controversial pain syndromes**

When: Tuesday 25 May, 6.45 - 9.30 pm

Where: Room 424, Faculty of Education, The University of Sydney

### June

#### **Smoking Cessation Workshop**

When: Saturday 5 June, 1 - 5 pm

Where: The University of Sydney

#### **Cardiology Update for GPs**

When: Saturday 19 June, 9 am - 5 pm

Where: Room 351, Faculty of Education, The University of Sydney

#### **Clinical Medicine Update for GPs**

When: Sunday 27 June, 9 am - 5 pm

Where: Room 351, Faculty of Education, The University of Sydney

### July

#### **Recent Advances in Breast Imaging and Diagnostic Techniques**

When: To be advised

Where: To be advised

#### **Short Courses in Occupational Medicine - Legal imperatives for evidence based occupational medicine**

When: Tuesday 27 July, 6.45 - 9.30 pm

Where: Room 424, Faculty of Education, The University of Sydney

#### **Travel Medicine Seminar**

When: Sunday 18 July, 9 am - 4.30 pm

Where: Room 351, Faculty of Education, The University of Sydney

#### **Oral Medicine**

When: Saturday 24 July, 9 am - 5 pm

Where: Room 351, Faculty of Education, The University of Sydney

#### **Perinatal Update - Cowra**

When: Saturday 31 July

Where: To be advised

### August

#### **Paediatric Postgraduate Weekend for GPs**

When: Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 August

Where: New Children's Hospital, Westmead

RSVP: Ph: (02) 9845 2091 or 9845 2092

#### **Perinatal Update - Maitland**

When: Saturday 21 August

Where: To be advised

#### **ENT Update for GPs**

When: Sunday 29 August, 9 am - 4 pm

Where: Room 351, Faculty of Education, The University of Sydney

### September

#### **Update in Gynaecology Symposium**

When: Saturday 11 September, 9 am - 5 pm

Where: Room 351, Faculty of Education, The University of Sydney

#### **Short Courses in Occupational Medicine - Revolution in the labour market: Implications for OHS practice**

When: Tuesday 21 September, 6.45 - 9.30 pm

Where: Room 424, Faculty of Education The University of Sydney

#### **General Revision Course**

When: 27 September - 1 October

Where: The University of Sydney

### October

#### **Perinatal Update - Port Macquarie**

When: Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 October

Where: To be advised

### November

#### **Recent Advances in Breast Imaging and Diagnostic Techniques**

When: To be advised

Where: To be advised

#### **Psychiatry for the GP - Bathurst**

When: Sunday 28 November, 9 am - 5 pm

Where: Charles Sturt University, Bathurst

For more information please contact:

Postgraduate Committee in Medicine

Coppleson Building D02

The University of Sydney NSW 2006

Ph: (02) 9351 3526; Fax: (02) 9351 4160

Email: pgcm@med.usyd.edu.au

Internet: <http://www.pgcm.usyd.edu.au>

# The Postgraduate Committee in Medicine

by Jim Lawrence

The Postgraduate Committee in Medicine (PGCM) as part of The University of Sydney's Faculty of Medicine plays a vital role in meeting the continuing education needs of medical graduates. During 1999 the PGCM is conducting courses ranging from half-day updates, evening and weekend courses, to the week long General Revision Course. The PGCM's leadership in developing and delivering informative and topical education is acknowledged Australia wide.

The major emphasis is on CME for General Practitioners. However, diversification of the PGCM in 1998 saw the department move more into the Specialist Education area. An example was in Gynaecology with a weekend program run entitled Pelvic Surgery: Advances and Controversies attended by 200 international delegates and speakers. This successful joint venture saw profit shared between the Pelvic Surgery Unit and the PGCM.

The growth of the PGCM would not be

possible without the very strong support of members of Faculty in delivering the wide range of programs offered.

The PGCM has its own site on the Internet. This site contains information on all our courses. The pages are updated regularly and are a good place to check last minute changes or additions to course details.

The Committee is particularly concerned to assist Sydney Graduates and would welcome suggestions for programs or other educational activities, which they saw as desirable. A strong administration team led by Ms Suzie Power is supported by the Honorary Director Professor Jim Lawrence whose office is located in the Coppleson Building, and an enthusiastic program Committee.

The PGCM would like to announce that in 1999 University of Sydney Medical Graduates will be offered a 10% discount on courses offered.

The Postgraduate Committee in Medicine is based in the Coppleson Institute at the University of Sydney and can be reached on :

Phone: (02) 9351 3526

Fax: (02) 9351 4160

Email: [pgcm@med.usyd.edu.au](mailto:pgcm@med.usyd.edu.au)

Internet:

<http://www.pgcm.usyd.edu.au>

*For the right advice, contact*

## ***Soli B. Contractor***

Phone: (02) 9437 7491 A.H. (02) 9968 1010

SOLI CONTRACTOR PTY LTD

ACN: 001 998 278

Office: Level 4, 486-494 Pacific Highway,  
St Leonards, NSW 2065

Postal Address: PO Box 147, St Leonards, NSW 2065

Adviser for

AMP Life Limited ACN 079 300 379, 33 Alfred Street, Sydney, NSW 2000  
GPO Box 4134, Sydney, NSW 2001

AMP General Insurance Limited ACN 0088405 632

Advice on dealing in securities is provided by  
Soli Contractor, as Proper Authority Holder for  
AMP Financial Planning Pty Limited ACN 051208 327  
Licenced Securities Dealer  
Level 11, 33 Alfred Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

**Wealth Creation**

**Wealth  
Enhancement**

**Wealth Protection**

**Wealth Disposition**

**Income Continuation  
Insurance**

**Superannuation**

**Life Insurance**

**Retirement and  
Investment Planning**

**Fire and General  
Insurance**

# The Class of 1948

by *Harding Burns*

Members of the class graduating in Medicine 24 September 1948 met at the University, October 9, 1998 to celebrate their fiftieth reunion with a banquet in the MacLaurin Hall. The chairman, Professor D. Tracey, AO, and the planning committee – Burns, Harvey, Nash, O'Sullivan, B.J. Smith and Waugh, welcomed the graduates, their spouses and guests. Gilbert Lynch who was a member of the organising committee died on 16 September 1998. Bruce Hammett was a corresponding member of the committee. We assembled in the Nicholson Museum, to drink champagne and greet one another with obvious pleasure. The marvellous collection of ancient artefacts attracted less attention than the voices and faces of men and women who may not have seen one another since the 10- or even 30 year reunion or only infrequently.

At dinner the company of 84 were reminded that the last 50 years since we sat at the feet of Neville Burkitt, E.A. Briggs and others and later walked the wards with distinguished clinical teachers were the best of times and the worst of times, but they were our times. The 50 Year Book, the idea of Peter Harvey,

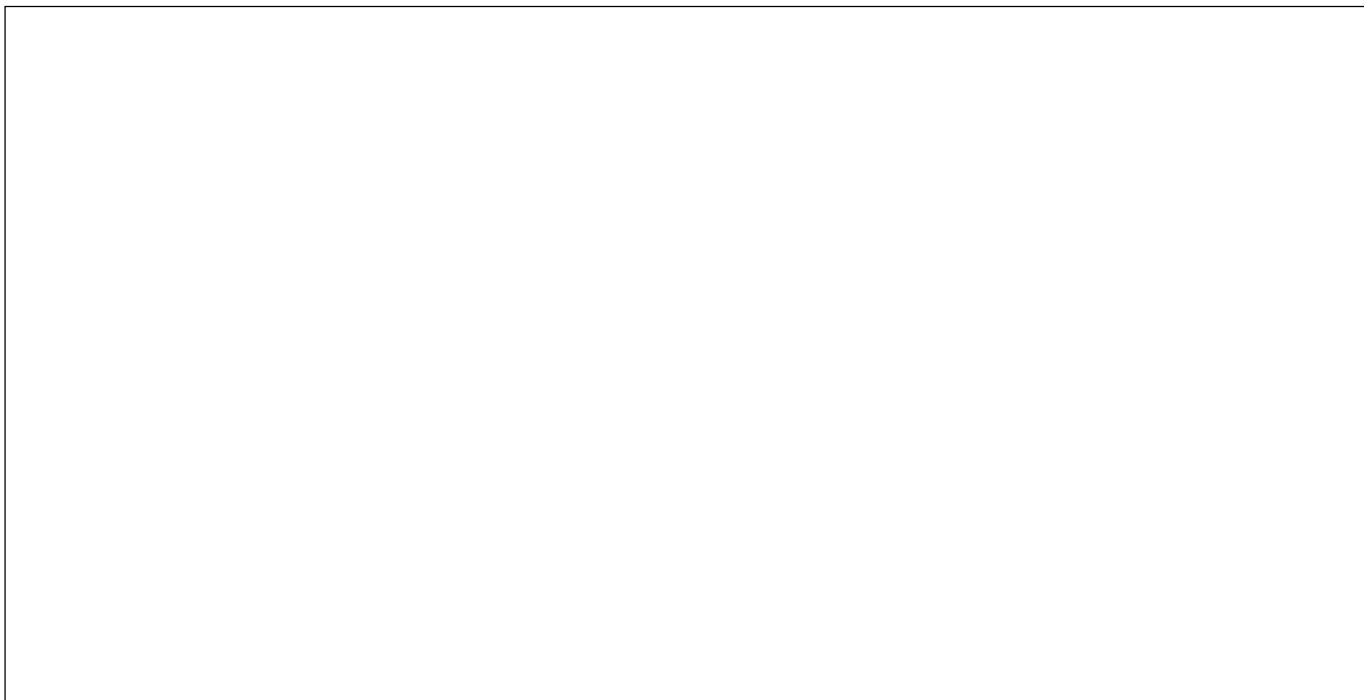
executed by B.J. Smith, describes how we responded to the spirit of the times and left our mark on medical and social life in NSW and beyond.

Bob Walsh SJ recalled absent friends, some of whom sent affectionate and enthusiastic messages. We reflected on the names of the number who have died, some in this reunion year and even in the month leading up to the reunion.

One hundred and sixty three undergraduates entered Medicine 1 in 1943. In 1948 after a shortened six-year curriculum, the Dean, Professor H.R. Dew presented 128 graduands, to the Chancellor, Sir Charles Bickerton Blackburn in the Great Hall. Although there were no first class honours awarded, our members have occupied chairs in medicine, surgery and psychiatry, among our number are the only woman NSW president of the AMA, consultants in university hospitals and men and women with 30 or more years experience in general practice and careers in the church.

Our guest, Associate Professor Michael Field, Associate Dean for Curriculum in the Faculty of Medicine, outlined the deliberations by Faculty, and the reviews of national experience, which led to the

The Class of 1948.





adoption of the present Graduate Medical Program, which offers opportunities for admission of graduate students with broad experience and skills. There have been two successful years of performance in the new course, which aims to train students to be effective and compassionate doctors.

Joan Asher thanked Professor Field and commended these new initiatives of Faculty. Our year, and in many cases, years

of parents before us, had accepted the curriculum presented to them and worked hard as students and later as doctors. Practice was imminent and direct. We have been patient –orientated. We had the example before us of service to the community and in hospitals, and service to our profession.

The 50 Year Book, “50 Years On”, consists of 54 biographical notes, especially covering the years since 1948, and describes a wide experience of graduates in general and specialist fields in medicine, family and country life, including beginnings in Barnardo’s London and Vienna, as well as in suburban Sydney and rural NSW.

Doug Tracey at the close of the evening asked us to be grateful for the support and companionship that we have all had over 50 years. We left the Quadrangle feeling very happy.

The next afternoon we met again for a Harbour cruise arranged by Tom Nash, a fine gusty day, a sumptuous lunch and much talk and reminiscence. Peter Harvey commended the committee. Tracey and Nash have foreshadowed another reunion soon.

The photographs of 1943 show youthful faces easily recognisable among the group of vigorous septuagenarians in 1998.

The Class of '48, fifty years on.













