

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT – 2020

I would like to welcome the members of ASA to our virtual digital AGM and thank you for your attendance. It is my pleasure to present the President's Report for 2020.

This has been my first year as President during this term, and I thank the Society, and its members for the privilege. I would like to thank this year's committee members for their contribution to the society and personally for their support and assistance.

Usually I would be presenting this annual report at the ASA Conference to you all in person. Unfortunately, due to the global pandemic all our lives and plans have changed.

Our ASA+COASTN 2020 Organising Committee have been closely monitoring the constantly evolving situation in relation to COVID-19. Our primary concern has always been for the safety, health, and wellbeing of our participants, many who are currently working tirelessly on the front line in our health systems around the world.

In the current climate, it would not be feasible to proceed with the annual conference as we had planned, therefore we made the decision to reschedule the 2020 conference to the same time next year in 2021.

The ASA+COASTN Conference will now be held from **Monday 30 August – Wednesday 1 September 2021** at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington.

Many of you will be disappointed, as are we. The conference organising committee has put together a wonderful program and we very much look forward to sharing this with you in early 2021.

We thank you for your understanding during this challenging time, and we hope that you will consider being a part of our re-scheduled conference in 2021.

Planning and organisation for the 2020 (now 2021) conference in Wellington has taken an enormous amount of effort from a group of dedicated people. While there will be opportunities to properly thank the organising committee and Kate and her team from Conference Design during the conference, I would like to acknowledge them now.

We all hope that international borders will reopen in 2021 and we look forward to seeing again our friends and representatives of our International MOU and Accord partners and hope they can continue to travel to Australia and New Zealand to support our conferences.

Our colleagues from Europe (EHAC), North America (AAMS), the Society of Aeromedicine Malaysia (SAMMs) and China (CAMRA) provide a valuable insight into the aeromedical industry from a global perspective and always share valuable learnings for us all.

This year has seen progress made in areas the committee has agreed are in the long-term strategic interests of ASA including a general review of ASA membership and its services and improvements to the monthly committee meeting agenda and minutes structures to direct focus on to key tasks.

The Society's annual scholarship of \$3000 was awarded to Adam Spicer who is completing the Graduate Certificate in Aeromedical Retrieval at James Cook University with the intention it will assist in the improvement of aeromedical services in Tanzania.

Disappointingly we continue to receive relatively few applications. I would encourage the vigorous promotion of this fantastic facility and for more members to take advantage of the opportunity.

It is very pleasing that ASA's financial position remains healthy. Our conference in Perth last year returned a modest profit which we shared with FNA, our co-hosts. ASA has managed to keep its membership fees low and in recognition of the additional burden to our members during the COVID 19 pandemic, waived the annual membership fee for individual members for the 2020 financial year.

My sincere thanks go out to the members of the ASA Committee for their valuable contributions to the Society over the past year:

- Di Fuller, Secretary, and Vice President, New Zealand
- Dave Greenberg, Treasurer, New Zealand
- Mark Buick, Immediate Past President, New South Wales
- Graeme Field, New South Wales
- Andrew Berry, New South Wales
- Paul Gallagher, New South Wales
- Paul Ingram, Western Australia
- Chris Webber, New South Wales
- Simon Cradock, South Australia
- James Koens, New South Wales

I would also like to thank Catherine Jones for her diligent administrative support over the last 12 months. It is greatly appreciated.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my best wishes to the incoming Committee and thank those taking on new roles.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Waters". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D" and a cursive "Waters".

David Waters
President ASA 2020

1st September 2020 – Wellington, New Zealand

Recommendation - that the 2020 President's report be accepted.