



## **PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013**

It is my pleasure to present the President's Report to the 2013 Annual General Meeting.

The Society's annual conference was held in Cairns last year. The programme, based on the theme "Exploring New Heights: Education and Research", attracted over 160 delegates and 25 very generous sponsors and exhibitors. Many thanks to Dr Minh Le Cong who picked up a significant share of organising the conference and championing the introduction of the Simulation Cup which received very positive feedback from the delegates.

Planning for this year's programme in Melbourne, Victoria will ensure another successful conference. My thanks to the local organising committee, who have put a great deal of time and thought into ensuring that we have a memorable conference.

We have made further important progress in building stronger international relationships over the past year. During the Cairns Conference, the Society signed a Memorandum of Understanding with The Society of Aeromedicine Malaysia to promote information sharing, consult on strategic priorities and areas of common interest and to participate in training initiatives and events

Also, during the Cairns Conference the Society, along with the Association of Aeromedical Services, the European HEMS and Air Ambulance Committee, the MedEvac Foundation and the Society of Aeromedicine Malaysia, developed a statement of principles. The aim of these principles is to improve aeromedical services for patients through information sharing, participation in education and collaboration in research. The "Cairns Accord" as it became known, was signed in Seattle in October 2012. The Accord reflects our continuing commitment to work closely with colleagues not only in our region, but also in north America and Europe. I would like to warmly welcome our international guests attending the Melbourne Conference.

The Society's annual scholarship was awarded to Paul Ingram from RFDS Western Australia. Paul used his Scholarship to attend a medical conference in the US.

The Scholarship is awarded to members of the Society to assist their professional development and, through reporting back to members, provides benefits to others in the Society.

The Scholarship of up to \$A3,000 can be used to attend a relevant international conference or undertake a professional development programme within the region. Further, the successful candidate may be able to take advantage of our reciprocal relationships with our Accord partners, and attend their respective conferences free of charge.

My thanks to David Waters who has put in an enormous effort to produce a draft standards document for aeromedical services. The document covers key service areas such as capability, operations, equipment, communications and helipads. I commend the document to you and the Society welcomes any comments or feedback you may have on the document.

During the year, the Society undertook a survey on both its membership and its sponsors. A summary of the results has been distributed to the membership and is also available on our website. The new incoming Committee will be working over the coming months to build on the ideas and suggestions put forward.

Plans are already underway to hold a joint Conference with the Australasian Society of Aerospace medicine in 2014. The Society's executive has held a number of meetings during the year with representatives from ASAM and in July 2013 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the two Societies. Also of significance is the news that ASAM has agreed that Kate Smith Events will be the professional Conference Organiser for the joint Conference. Work has already commenced to establish a Local Organising Committee with the Conference to be held in Brisbane, Queensland in early September 2014.

I must also acknowledge Kate for her diligent work with the Society in her continued role as conference organizer and in helping to shape this Society's future.

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

David Waters, Vice President, New Zealand  
Geri Malone, Secretary, South Australia  
Chris Webber, Treasurer, New South Wales  
Andrew Berry, New South Wales  
Mark Buick, New South Wales  
Brian Burns, New South Wales  
Russell Clark, New Zealand  
Sally Edmonds, Western Australia  
Paul Gallagher, New South Wales  
Paul Smith, New South Wales  
Margaret Tabone, New South Wales

All members have played a valuable part in the work of the Committee. However, in particular I would like to record my appreciation to Andrew Berry for his leadership of the Society over many years, to David Waters for the development of the draft standards paper, Chris Webber for keeping our accounts in order, and to Geri Malone for her tireless work as secretary.

Thanks also to Catherine Jones for her administrative support over the last 12 months.

In conclusion, I extend my best wishes to the incoming Committee in further progressing the work of the Society and in improving the vital link we provide to our patients.



Graeme Field  
**PRESIDENT**

29 August 2013  
Melbourne, Victoria.