

Report to the HPMI on the Combined ANZAME-APFM Meeting Held at the Legends Hotel, Surfers Paradise 29 June 2006 to 2 July 2006

The theme of the meeting was "Fill the Gaps", and was attended by approximately 180 enthusiastic people from across all states and New Zealand.

The APFM provided major funding for the Copleston Orator, Prof. John McLachlan, currently Director of Undergraduate Medicine and Professor of Medical Education at Durham University, UK. He is currently Editor of the Medical Education Journal. Apart from Plenary Sessions most of the meeting was occupied by small group sessions (or Pearls) which were well run by experienced Chairs who kept discussion moving.

The enormous variety of backgrounds of the attendees is always the heart and soul of these meetings, and is the reason why they are always well attended and so stimulating. Prof. John McLachlan spoke on the Scholarship of Discovery, and it is being made available on the ANZAME website - it should be compulsory reading for anyone interested in the challenges facing all of us in the business of Health Profession education.

The commonality of challenges in our particular areas of education came out repeatedly throughout the meeting, and the opportunity for networking with a wide range of Educators is of course unique in the Australian context. A quick glance at the programme demonstrates the enormous efforts being made by so many people to extend our knowledge and methodology in both undergraduate and graduate education. As I noted last year, there was a very poor representation from our University and Faculty - so far as I could see, there was only one paper (from our Stroke Unit at JHH) - I find this astounding seeing that for so many years this centre has been a source of so much new and exciting work in the field of education in the broadest sense. Have we become complacent - or just bored? I am aware that there certainly are talented people in our Faculty who have things to contribute, and I hope that at next years ANZAME-APFM meeting we do have some exposure to the rest of the country!

Prof. McLachlan is planning to return to Australia next year, and I would urge that we make every effort to have him visit Newcastle - he is a provocative and challenging speaker and I have no doubt that a visit will be well received.

Alan Hewson, Director of Studies