

MINUTES OF THE OTAGO MEDICAL SCHOOL ALUMNUS ASSOCIATION (INC)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 5.15pm

PRESENT

Emeritus Professor JG Mortimer (in the Chair), Emeritus PJ Molloy, Dr JV Allison, Dr J Adams, Emeritus Professor B Heslop, Mr J Heslop, Professor D Roberton, Emeritus Professor W J Gillespie, Emeritus Professor A K Jeffery, Professor AJ Campbell, Dr RJM Gardner

APOLOGIES

Dr A Wright, Dr P Jackson, Associate Professor DG Gerrard, Professor R Walker, Professor H Nicholson, Mrs E Hendry, Dr X Walker

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs S Skinner

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

The minutes of the annual General Meeting held on 17 September 2007 were approved as a true and accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer presented the financial report indicating that there was a net surplus (expenditure) for 2008 compared to the balance in 2007. This was due to a few donations.

Subsequent to the end of the Financial Year to 31 March 2008, the Alumnus Association had also contributed to a gift (computer) for Mrs Ellen Hendry as she had resigned from the university and was now residing in Cromwell, although continuing as Alumnus secretary. The Alumnus Association wishes her well on her relocation.

Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer reminded the committee of the recent book launch - honour and recognition was given to Dr Dorothy Page for the book '*Anatomy of a Medical School*', and also Wendy Harrex for the contributions of the Otago University Press. It was noted that the Historical Fund would fund 50% of the dinner (\$1000 approx) and in the near future the University Press would be forwarding an invoice for the additional costs including photos [for \$5000 - \$7000]. This financial commitment was put to the vote and seconded by Dr J Adams.

Professor D Roberton confirmed the Divisional Office had purchased a number of extra copies of the book "*Anatomy of a Medical School*" and would be distributing them to between 20-30 Schools, District Health Board's and Libraries etc.

Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer presented a special copy with slipcase of the '*Anatomy of a Medical School*' by Dr Dorothy Page to Emeritus Professor PJ Molloy for safekeeping and future display. Emeritus Professor PJ Molloy accepted on behalf on the Alumnus Association.

**The financial report was endorsed. Moved: Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer
Seconded: All**

President's Report 2007 – 2008.

The Executive of the Association has had one meeting only, since last year's annual general meeting. This was called on March 6, 2008 to address the departure from Dunedin of our long serving secretary Ellen Hendry, related staff changes, progress with the preparation and publication of the Faculty History and tasks arising from closure of the University Photographic Unit.

Alumnus Association Website.

[Accessed via www.otago.ac.nz and [search] Alumni and Friends,[search] Divisional Alumni Programmes, Division of Health Sciences, School of Medicine, Otago Medical School Alumnus Association [<http://medicalalumni.otago.ac.nz>]

This site has yet to reach its desired potential, and probably needs regular oversight by one of our local alumni. It should provide good communication with our members, particularly since the demise of The Bulletin in 2004/2005. Members will have also noted the listing of many medical class reunions and other items of medical interest in the University of Otago Magazine.

Faculty History Project.

Emeritus Professors Keith Jeffrey and Graham Mortimer continued their role with the group overseeing this project until its final meeting on July 1, 2008 when the book was with the Otago University Press. "Anatomy of a Medical School. A history of Medicine at the University of Otago 1875 – 2000" is to be launched in the Council Chamber on August 19 with the Association hosting the subsequent celebratory dinner. Alumni have been able to preorder copies at a reduction from the retail price.

Honorary Archivist.

This post, which has only ever been held by the late John Hunter, remains unfilled. The process whereby Faculty records [particularly those in digital format], important documents and photographs will be prospectively archived for access by future historians of the School has not yet been established. The Association would be receptive to any approach from the Faculty for working expenses for this ongoing and important task. Those who wish to explore the Association Archives in the Hocken Collections can do so at <http://hakena.otago.ac.nz> and then [Broad Search] "Otago Medical School" or "Alumnus Association, Otago Medical School".

University Photographic Services.

Dr Peter Schwartz and more latterly Professor Bill Gillespie have continued with the sorting and retention of the remaining items of interest from the unit which closed in 2006.

Class Reunions.

These seem to be increasing, with eight planned reunions listed in the Magazine of June 2008. Administrative assistance for these was initiated by the Association's secretary but is now efficiently provided by the Alumnus and Development office in the Registry. Reports of some of these most successful events have been provided for the Alumnus website.

The Hunter Centre.

This important new teaching facility, named in recognition of the late Professor John Hunter is now complete and will be formally opened on September 5, 2008. The Association will be providing appropriate exhibits for display there, affirming the contributions of John Hunter when Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and the first Assistant Vice-Chancellor of the Division of Health Sciences. Our congratulations go to Barbara Lee who has served the Alumnus Association well while Assistant Registrar within the Faculty and has now been appointed Manager of the Hunter Centre.

Alumnus Staff.

The Dean of Faculty as part of a review of general staffing is considering how best to provide an Alumnus service within the Faculty Office. In the meantime Ellen Hendry has continued in the role of Executive Secretary and the position of clerical assistant to our Curator of Artefacts, Emeritus Professor Pat Molloy, has remained vacant. Shirley Skinner continues to serve as Treasurer and is also assisting in other ways. We extend our thanks to all of those and unnamed others who assist the Association in its work.

Way Forward.

The best way forward for the Association needs comprehensive discussion now that the History Project is complete. It may be timely to re-address the objects and rules established in 1975 and significantly modified in 1991. This task falls to the incoming President and executive. I have been honoured to hold the post of President since 1999 and look forward now to a new initiative and direction for the Association which still has much unfulfilled potential!

**Graham Mortimer, President,
Otago Medical School Alumnus Association. August 2008.**

Discussion

It was reported, the Alumnus Association website could be accessed via the Alumni and Friends at the University but was not easily accessible and unusually difficult to navigate and it was probably time to update and revise the Medical link for graduates. Dr Mac Gardner volunteered webpage advice if needed.

Professor WJ Gillespie and Dr Peter Schwartz were thanked for the excellent work this year with the sorting and retaining the items of interest from the Medical Photographic Unit closure in 2006.

Emeritus Professor PJ Molloy continued his role in guiding reunion tours through the Medical School and indicated that a few reunions were already booked in for Labour weekend and 2009.

The committee endorsed the President's report unanimously.

Honorary Curator of Historical Artefacts Report

It has been a good year for the Collection. Donations were received from:

- Prof L Wright - instruments and memorabilia of his career.
- Hillside Engineering (The old Railways Workshop) - old accident First Aid equipment. This will form the basis of a display on Industrial Health in the cabinet in the Lecture Theatre.
- Exhibits have been lent to Te Papa and The Settlers Museum.
- Communication has been sporadically maintained with other Collections around New Zealand.

Emeritus Professor P J Molloy

The committee endorsed the Honorary Curator's report unanimously

Discussion

The Committee discussed the shortage of space in the Medical school for future displays and recommended an "Industrial Medicine" display cabinet for items of interest recently collected from Hillside workshop.

It was also suggested that we should contact the Otago Settlers Museum and the Otago Museum concerning possible storage and displays of early Otago Medical History.

Dean of Faculty Report

Report from the Dean, Faculty of Medicine, for the Annual General Meeting, Medical Alumnus Association, 1 September 2008

The following is a brief update on some of the activities of the Faculty of Medicine since the last AGM of the Medical Alumnus Association in 2007.

History of Medicine: Anatomy of a Medical School

The history has been completed, and is now available for purchase.

(Otago University Press: <http://www.otago.ac.nz/press/>)

Congratulations are due to Dot Page for a superb book: she has shown great expertise and perseverance, and the book is a landmark in the history of medicine at Otago.

The Faculty of Medicine thanks the Alumnus Association for initiating and seeing through the development of the History during the last several years. The Faculty also is very grateful to the Association for the very significant contributions to the funding of the History.

The formal launch of the book was in the Council Chambers on Tuesday 19 August. It was hosted by the Vice Chancellor, and there was an excellent attendance by former and current staff. Otago University Bookshop had a stand at the launch, and sold 53 copies that evening.

There was also a dinner after the launch at the University Staff Club, hosted by the Alumnus Association and the Faculty, to thank Dot for her authorship and for the production of an outstanding publication.

This is a very valuable addition to the information about the Faculty, and makes for very interesting reading. There has been a very positive response from the press, with two articles in the Otago Daily Times (one on Wednesday 29 August, reporting the launch, and a further in depth interview with Dot Page by Elspeth Mclean on Saturday 30 August).

Hunter Centre:

The Hunter Centre was opened for use at the commencement of the second semester this year. It is an excellent facility which has been built during the last year following purchase of Stewart Lodge and Campus Close by the University in 2007.

The Centre is used for small group teaching in medicine in years 2 and 3, and for seminars and lectures in dentistry, pharmacy and physiotherapy.

It has a small pathology museum, and anatomy museum, which will be developed further over the next few months. It has excellent IT facilities, including widespread use of LCD screens in tutorial rooms. There is wireless access for computers throughout, a roving librarian to assist with electronic access to library resources, and an excellent Union cafeteria.

The formal opening of the Centre, by the Vice Chancellor, will be on Friday September 5th at 5pm. The opening will be preceded by a mihi, and then there will be a speech by the Vice Chancellor. Members of John Hunter's family have been invited to the opening, and there will be a display of his robes and portrait.

Barbara Lee, formerly the Assistant Registrar to the DSM and OSMS, has taken on the role of Manager of the Hunter Centre. I recommend visiting the Centre – it is an excellent facility, and the cafeteria and open areas are proving very popular – the coffee is recommended! Barbara's office is in the Centre, and I know that she will be pleased to see visitors.

Development of the medical curriculum:

In 2007, the revised Health Sciences First Year programme was commenced. This consists of seven compulsory papers, and an optional eighth paper, usually in a Humanities subject.

In 2008, entering year 2 medical students commenced an extensively revised year 2/3 programme. This has a strong emphasis on learning in a clinically relevant context from the day of entry to medical school. Core components of the Programme are:

- i. The Integrated Case Programme: a series of cases for study, each lasting 2 weeks, and with a tutorial based approach with independent learning
- ii. The Health in the Community Programme: learning, including experiential learning, related to healthcare processes in the community. Students also visit volunteers in their own homes to understand health care needs in the home, and they visit community health facilities.
- iii. Clinical Skills Programme: this is a formal programme for the early development of clinical skills, including history taking and basic examination skills. This also is undertaken in small learning groups.
- iv. The Module Programme: this is a more formal programme of lectures, seminars and laboratory based practicals, which interacts in particular with the health needs outlined in the Integrated Case Programme.

The new programme has progressed well. The extensively revised year 3 programme is nearing completion and the first students will commence the new year 3 programme in the first semester of 2009.

Attention is now being given to the Advanced Learning in Medicine (year 4/5 programme), in order to allow the teaching opportunities in these years to take advantage of what we hope will be much better prepared students as they commence year 4 in 2010.

Rural Medical Immersion Programme:

This is a new programme which commenced in pilot form in 2007. The programme is one in which a small number of medical students spend the whole of their year 5 programme in a rural environment.

The Centres being used in 2008 are Queenstown, Greymouth, Dannevirke and Balclutha. Two further centres are being added for 2009 – these are likely to be Blenheim and Masterton. By 2009, 20 year 5 students will be involved in the programme.

The programme has been overseen by Pat Farry, and has been very successful, with significant numbers of students expressing interest in the programme.

Medical Student numbers:

In late 2007, Government announced a further 40 domestic medical student entry numbers for New Zealand. Twenty of these places were allocated to Otago, and the medical student domestic intake for year 2 for 2008 was 210 places (from 190 in 2007). The total class intake for 2008, including international students, was 245.

The intake of domestic students in 2008 had the following characteristics:

HSFY	153	(72.9%)
Graduate	57	(27.1%)
Maori	17	(8.1%)
Pasifika	5	(2.4%)
Rural origin	51	(24.3%)

The newly established Medical Training Board has been tasked with estimating medical workforce projections for New Zealand for the future. It is likely that there will be a further increase in domestic student places soon.

Australian Medical Council Accreditation, 2008.

The Faculty's curriculum in undergraduate medicine is being accredited by the AMC in 2008. The written submission was provided to the AMC in May of this year, and the Accreditation Assessment Team visited the Faculty and its campuses between Aug 11 and 15 2008.

The written submission consisted of 5 volumes, including a student submission.

Initial feedback from the Accreditation Assessment Team on our curriculum development approaches has been very positive. The Assessment Team will complete their report in the next four weeks, and it will then be submitted to the Medical School Assessment Committee of the AMC, before being approved by the full Council of the AMC in November. The Faculty expects to hear the outcome of the accreditation assessment in mid November.

Staff appointments:

Professor John Nacey completed his second term as Dean of the University of Otago, Wellington at the end of January 2008. Professor Peter Crampton was appointed as his successor after an international recruitment search, and commenced as Dean at UOW in February 2008.

Associate Professor David Perez has been Director of the year 2/3 programme and has overseen the introduction of the new course. He has now been appointed as Associate Dean and Director of the year 2/3 programme, and will commence as Associate Dean, with an extended time commitment, in October of 2008.

Don Robertson

Dean, Faculty of Medicine
PVC, Health Sciences
1 September 2008

Discussion

Emeritus Professor JG Mortimer reiterated the launch of the book ‘*Anatomy of a Medical School*’ as a successful evening with some members attending an after launch dinner at the University Staff Club hosted by the Alumnus Association and the Faculty.

Emeritus Professor B Heslop indicated that she would be keen to write an anecdotal/funny book as lots of the information she gave Dr Dot Page for the Faculty history could not be recorded as to the nature of the stories but they still needed to be recorded in another type of book.

If anyone has any interesting or funny stories please email these to Emeritus Professor B Heslop: b.heslop@xtra.co.nz or send to
1 Hart Street,
Belleknowes,
Dunedin

Professor Don Robertson extended a welcome to ‘come and view’ the Hunter Centre (named in memory of Professor John Hunter) and visit the Pathology Museum and indicated that an Anatomy Museum was proposed for the future.

The Hunter Centre will be formally opened on 5 September with the Hunter family as invited guests.

After Professor Robertson had finished his report Emeritus Professor AK Jeffery asked if the Medical school was being used as a training venue for students with the purpose of accessing Australia for employment. Professor D Robertson response was that the Health Science first year (HSFY) students were 91% NZ citizens with the exception of 4 students (1 Australian and 3 from other Asian countries). Also 39% were Male and 61% Female.

The Committee was very appreciative of Professor Robertson's report.

Election of Office Bearers

The rules of the Association state that the committee shall consist of the President ex officio, the Secretary-Treasurer ex officio and five (5) other members.

Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer indicated this was his last and final AGM for the Alumnus Association after 9 years in office and 10 AGM's. Although he enjoyed his time in office it was time to step down and let someone 'new' lead the Associations affairs.

There was one nomination, Emeritus Professor W J Gillespie, [by Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer] (seconded by Dr J Adams and Emeritus Professor AK Jeffery), who accepted.

Election of Executive Committee Membership: Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer, Dr J V Allison, Emeritus Professor A K Jeffery, Emeritus Professor P J Molloy, Emeritus Professor W J Gillespie, Mrs E Hendry and new attendee Dr Mac Gardner.

Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer handed the AGM over to the newly elected President, Emeritus Professor W J Gillespie

President Emeritus Professor W J Gillespie thanked Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer for his contribution to the Alumnus Association over the last decade.

In introduction, he noted that he believed that he was the only academic to have been employed on all 3 campuses within the University of Otago. As President, he would like to see re-establishment of a newsletter to profile the Alumnus Association with emphases on undergraduate students, individual schools, recent graduates, and science in the past, today and future.

In respect of strengthening the alumnus profile on all three campuses of the Faculty, he planned to visit Wellington in the near future and would highlight the Alumnus

Association to the Wellington School of Medicine. A visit to the Christchurch School of Medicine was also likely.

Emeritus Professor AK Jeffery moved a vote of thanks for 10 years of service by Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer to the Association and for his support to Dr D Page and the book "*Anatomy of a Medical school*"

Moved: Emeritus Professor AK Jeffery
Seconded: Dr J V Allison

General Discussion

Newsletter/Bulletin?

Emeritus Professor AK Jeffery was very much in favour of resurrecting the Bulletin/Newsletter and produced a printout of the 'School of Business' newsletter as an example of what can be produced and developed either on a webpage or hard copy. The committee were in agreement that the 'senior' members of the group would support a hard copy newsletter and even though the 'younger' graduates were more computer literate the booklet would then be available either way. Could the Medical school be doing more to recruit members?

Dr Xaviour Walker (a graduate of Otago University) had earlier in the day e-mailed a letter supporting the Alumnus Association and encouraging the existing committee on how to expose the rich history of the Otago Medical School to young graduates. This information would be circulated to committee members and discussed at another meeting. (attached to these minutes)

It was agreed by those present that the Association needs to continue to look for new challenges and horizons as it is part of the Faculty of Medicine and it needs to look at opportunities to expand further, particularly to our other schools.

What happens to bequests?

The subject of the bequests to the Medical School and whether they are actually forwarded to the Medical school as we may not be aware of this happening, Professor Don Robertson replied bequest are usually specified to a specific cause and they are used as instructed.

Professor W J Gillespie thanked everyone for attending the meeting and looked forward to the year ahead.

Next Executive Meeting to be advised

Meeting closed 6.30pm

**Alumnus Website – <http://medicalalumni.otago.ac.nz>
Medical Alumnus feedback for AGM. From Xaviour Walker.**

I hope things are well. I just had a few thoughts I would like to pass on to the AGM which I have been thinking about ever since I attended the Alumnus AGM in 2004 when I was involved with OUMSA and the 1954 50th reunion.

I feel that many medical students or graduates do not really know or are exposed to the rich history of the Otago medical school. Few students would know the Rhodes scholars or the many remarkable people that have gone through the school. In fact I was amazed to here the personal stories of the class of 1954 about their personal experiences in practicing and different things they did during their lives.

One of the favourite past times we used to do while waiting for Gowland lectures was to look at the old class photos along the anatomy walls and recognize relatives, old GPs family friends or try and find people like Jack Lovelock or Arthur Porritt. In essence I feel that we need to connect back to this generation going through medical school and it's graduates.

I realise this has been the enormous and huge task of the alumnus and one that has been incredibly helped by the work by many dedicated people and also with the new book written by Dr Dorothy Page. However I feel that there are other things we could do. Some of the ideas that could be perhaps could be looked into e.g. with student summership

i.) Creation of a ongoing database of all medical graduates

This database could be set up on such a program as wikipedia

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page e which is the largest growing source of information on the Internet.

Each year could classified and using wiki is 'open' to edit' so each year group can edit/review. There could be options of putting passwords on if needed or linked to the Alumnus website.

e.g.

1975

1976

...

Then under 1975

- would have briefly about the year and the people in the class

- if you click on a person it gives you the option to write a profile about them and also link to other articles or video clips.

Under Otago Medical school you could link to notable alumni.

An example of the use of wiki

e.g

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard_Medical_School>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard_Medical_School

The following of alumni is not only crucial for historical purposes it adds to the 'prestige' of the course and the University - which in turn is good marketing for the University. For example looking at any hospital in the US they have a full list, photo and profile of all residents, staff and have tracked the whereabouts of their graduates. For example few people realise that many of the Dunedin staff/Otago graduates realise trained/worked at the Mayo clinic, Mass General, Oxford or who know that Harold Giles and Archie McIndoe were the world's first true plastic surgeons and were Otago graduates. I think we should in a humble way be proud and advertise these achievements.

ii.) The ongoing collection of history - written, photos audio and video (both formal and informal)

I think Dr Page has already said this - there is so much history to write! I feel also there are many unwritten stories that we should use and need to get and make available. The use of itunes for academic use/lectures, etc and 'you tube' <<http://www.youtube.com/>><http://www.youtube.com/> or googlevideos <<http://video.google.com/>><http://video.google.com/> for history has massive potential. I just read in the Guardian that the London museum and different world archives are now using You tube <<http://video.google.com/>><http://video.google.com/> to put various old video clips on for people to use. The exciting development of the University using itunes as a media source is one such example.

iii.) Having adequate University funds allocated to the preservation and display of history

Proper infrastructure, planning and collection needs proper funding to do it justice and professionally. Linking in with funding/co ordination with other organisations could be beneficial if not already done e.g. NZ historical trust, NZ on air, Maori/Pacific/rural/army, etc on various subtopics.

iv) Continued connection with the past

One of the great developments of the University is having regular open lectures to the public. I have been to the alumni yearly lecture and these have always been excellent and these could be expanded perhaps. We also at the inaugural NZMSA medical Leadership development seminar in Wellington in 2006 had old alumni such as Sir Tom Davies, Dr Michael Shackleton and Brig Dr McMahon. Students still talk about meeting them and immensely enjoyed the experience of hearing them talk, having dinner with them and informally talking to them and getting their advice. I still remember hearing about a student who was interested in Physics being completely lost for words when talking to Sir Tom about his time in NASA and his articles in Nature,

Having informal specific medical alumni/student/recent graduates evenings could be organised regularly with the local and national medical students associations/NZMA.

v) Structure of medical Alumnus

Although I can not comment on this as it's not my place to, I feel having input from younger graduates/working staff and medical students would benefit and strengthen the organisation. I don't believe we should wait to get involved with history or the alumni when we retire but should make it a living, appealing and exciting part of where we have come from - perhaps using the different media outlets of the Internet is one of these ways of getting people involved.

Sorry if these comments have already been said/are being done or are not appropriate. I just felt better getting these thoughts out as I really appreciate the work the alumni does and the role it has in preserving our past.

Unfortunately I am overseas at present but welcome any comments.

With kind regards
Xaviour Walker
Class of 2006

