

# THE ALGOMETER

*'Fostering quality pain management in New South Wales'*

Issue 3 – June 2010

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 3rd edition of *The Algometer*. Following the recent elections the official office bearers for 2010 - 2012 were appointed at the first meeting of the NSW FPM Regional Committee on Monday 24 May, 2010. I have taken over the Chair of the Regional Committee from Khor, including the job of newsletter editor. I would like to thank Khor on behalf of all of us for his vision and hard work in getting the committee going and chairing it for the first 2 years. I am pleased he is staying on the committee to keep giving us all his great ideas.

## Updates

### NSW FPM Regional Committee elections

At the meeting on the 24 May 2010 official office bearers were appointed. The following is a list of the 2010 – 2012 NSW FPM Regional Committee members -

Guy Bashford	Ex-Officio
Charles Brooker	Elected member/Chair
Ray Garrick	Ex-Officio
David Gorman	Elected member
Chris Hayes	Ex-Officio
Lewis Holford	Elected member/FPM Rep to ANZCA NSW RC
Martine Holford	Elected member/Deputy Chair
Kok Khor	Elected member/Secretary/Treasurer
Marc Russo	Elected member
Glen Sheh	Elected member
Paul Wrigley	Elected member

## Meetings

### NSW FPM Regional Committee CME Meeting – Thursday 16 September 2010

This has been delayed from earlier in the year. The venue is Kam Fook Restaurant in Chatswood and the format is planned to be case discussions regarding opioids. The title is *'Renaissance in Opioid Therapy - Trying to be Wiser and Safer'*.

**FPM Spring Meeting 'Transitions in Pain' - Friday 8 October - Sunday 10 October 2010 - City Hall Newcastle**



Registrations are now open for this and hopefully most of us will be able to come. Please encourage trainees to attend. To download the brochure see the Faculty website –

<http://www.anzca.edu.au/fpm/events/2010-spring-meeting/2010-spring-meeting.html>

### **AMA Careers Evening**

Pain medicine was represented on Thursday 18 March 2010 at the AMA careers evening on the critical care evening which included ICU and Anaesthesia. This is a different format to the previous arrangement of attending Randwick Racecourse on a Saturday. Although there is a more limited group of individuals attending it does allow for a much better exposure of the specialty because of presenting to the whole group.

### **Fellow Recruitment**

The early recruitment process seems to have occurred successfully in most hospitals although it was interesting to note the widely different degrees of bureaucracy experienced by the different units. Almost a randomized controlled trial of different systems with the same clinician request!

The next step is to have a meeting of Directors and SOT's to discuss a co-ordinated appointment process for 2011. This meeting is planned for Friday 23 July 2010 and I encourage all Directors and SOT's to attend.

### **ACI Clinical Network – Pain Management Clinical Network**

The GMCT has now been renamed the NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation and the Board has agreed to the formation of a pain management clinical network. Two of our regional committee members (Chris Hayes and Paul Wrigley) are the co-chairs of the interim executive. Their second meeting was held on Monday 17 May 2010 and proposed priorities that are in line with the Pain Summit held in March. They have included these priorities in the newsletter which is available on line -

[http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/gmct/news/pdf/news\\_2010\\_06.pdf](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/resources/gmct/news/pdf/news_2010_06.pdf)

## National Pain Summit

The National Pain Summit, opened by the Federal Health Minister, the Hon. Nicola Roxon, was held on Thursday 11 March 2010 in the Great Hall, Parliament House, Canberra. Over 130 organizations were represented and several key recommendations were made. You can access these via <http://www.painsummit.org.au>. Interestingly a national organization was called for but this appears to be occurring on a state by state basis at the moment and hopefully the federal government will take the lead. On the website you will see the recent media release regarding the Queensland budget:

“The funding of \$39.1 million in operational funds will be made over four years for the staged implementation of a hub and spoke persistent pain (also known as chronic pain) service network across Queensland. The funding demonstrates the Queensland Government's strong support for the recommendations of the National Pain Strategy, released in April, following the National Pain Summit.”

## Contacting the NSW FPM Regional Committee

Submissions, news and other items of interest from fellows to *The Algometer* would be welcomed. Please email Charles Brooker – [charles.brooker@sydney.edu.au](mailto:charles.brooker@sydney.edu.au) or Annette Strauss at the Sydney ANZCA office – [nsw@anzca.edu.au](mailto:nsw@anzca.edu.au)

Charles Brooker  
**Chair, NSW FPM Regional Committee**