



March 2008

## A Message from the President

Dear Members,

As the ANZHNS enters into its 10<sup>th</sup> year, I thought it was timely to poll the membership on its opinion regarding the current and potential directions of the group. A survey was emailed to all members. The ANZHNS has 167 members plus 22 joining after the AGM. However 27 of these members have no contact email address, and a further 7 were undeliverable, meaning that 133 members were contactable. We had only 27 replies, or 20%, which is an insufficient proportion on which to base major changes in direction.

Any group is only as credible as its collective membership. The ANZHNS membership contains the majority of the most experienced H&N clinicians in Australia and New Zealand. In my opinion, this gives us the credibility to make a major impact on the current and future care of ANZ H&N cancer patients.

I think we need to develop a mission statement for our group – for example:

The members of the ANZHNS will act to ensure that all ANZ H&N cancer patients receive state of the art, evidenced based cancer management, delivered via a multidisciplinary approach before, during and after treatment; with emphasis on maximising cure rates and improving functional outcomes for H&N cancer patients.

To enable this mission we would need to

1) develop consensus for current state of the art care, i.e., National Guidelines for management of ANZ H&N cancer patients.

We would then need to assess the proportion of ANZ H&N patients who actually receive the recommended treatment. Thus we would need to develop a

2) national database, and/or  
3) patterns of care study.

Our surgically dominated society has the potential to make a really significant contribution to H&N research. Molecular biology has a huge potential to impact on establishing new prognostic markers

and subsequent patient selection for (hopefully) targeted H&N cancer treatments. We need to ensure that

4) every ANZ H&N surgeon has access to a tissue bank.

Some of these activities are currently being conducted at State levels, but clearly a national input is crucial for a national approach to H&N cancer. I don't underestimate the effort that would be required to enable even one of these potential new directions. Grants would need to be written for administrative infrastructure support as well as for implementation of potential projects.

Alternatively, we could begin with forging strong relationships with established cancer research organisations, eg TROG (Trans Tasman Radiation Oncology Group: Cancer Research) to benefit from their experience - as significant infrastructure work has already been completed within that ANZ organisation.

Alternatively, one could assume that the majority of the members are happy with the current status quo. We have been very successful in forging communication and interaction between the many disciplines within the ANZHNS. Over the past decade the atmosphere of professional respect has strengthened within the group, and there has been improved understanding of each others areas of expertise. Our annual scientific meetings are of an international standard and well attended. It will be an excellent forum to discuss these issues – **the AGM is currently scheduled for Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September, 4.30-5.30.** I urge all members to attend and voice your opinions regarding the future direction of our society.

*A/Prof June Corry*



A/Prof June Corry  
President

### Executive Committee Members

A/Prof June Corry  
*President*

Dr Swee Tan  
*Vice President*

Dr Gary Morgan  
*Treasurer*

Dr David Wiesenfield  
*Secretary*

Dr Chris Milross  
Dr Ben Panizza  
Prof Alison Perry  
Dr Sandro Porceddu  
Dr Guy Rees  
Dr Lyndell Kelly

Dr Bob Smee  
*Chair Membership Committee*

Dr Del Hinkley  
*Chair Nominating Committee*

Dr Suren Krishnan  
*Chair Grants Committee*

Address correspondence to:

ANZHNS  
PO Box 329  
St Leonards NSW 1590

Ph: +61 2 9902 8135

Fax: +61 2 9438 3760

Website: [www.anzhns.org](http://www.anzhns.org)

Email: [enquiries@anzhns.org](mailto:enquiries@anzhns.org)

**Date for your diary: 10th ANZHNS Annual Scientific Meeting**

4-6 September 2008, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Melbourne

The provisional program including Call for Abstracts will be available in early April (see the website)

Website: [www.surgeons.org/headneck2008](http://www.surgeons.org/headneck2008)

Enquiries: [conferences.events@surgeons.org](mailto:conferences.events@surgeons.org)

## 10th ASM - Translation & Communication



It is with great pleasure that I invite you all to attend the 10th ANZHNS Annual Scientific Meeting to be held at the Grand Hyatt in Melbourne from the 4-6 September 2008.

The theme of the meeting is 'Translation and Communication' and it will be a special meeting for several reasons.

We have an outstanding list of international speakers for your edification, interaction and enjoyment. Our invited ENT Surgical speaker is Professor Greg Wolf, Principal Investigator on the landmark Veterans' Affairs larynx preservation study in the USA. His innovative research, with "before his time" collection of tissue for translational research correlation with clinical studies, will be exciting and informative.

Professor Paul M Harari is the invited Radiation Oncology speaker from Wisconsin, USA. His pioneering laboratory and clinical studies of epidermal growth factor receptor inhibitors in combination with radiation lead to the landmark study of radiotherapy and Cetuximab in HNSCC and the approval of the first molecularly targeted agent in combination with radiation.

Our third international guest speaker Assistant Professor Cathy Lazarus, from New York, is an extensively published and highly respected speech pathology researcher. She will be sharing her considerable expertise in H&N cancer research, particularly dysphagia rehabilitation, where her work is well recognised and often quoted.

As the tenth meeting of the ANZHNS, it will be a time to reflect on how far we have come as a multidisciplinary group, and where we want to head in the future. We will be inviting all our previous Presidents to attend this meeting, and to share their collective ANZHNS memories.

The meeting will be in the centre of Melbourne, a vibrant multicultural city with lots to see and do, an abundance of gourmet delights, and many wonderful day trips for attending partners.

I hope you will not only attend, but invite many of your colleagues to come and enjoy this landmark 10th ANZHNS meeting.

A/Prof June Corry (Convener)

### Upcoming Conferences & Courses

- ☞ Conjoint Annual Scientific Congress of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and the College of Surgeons Hong Kong, 12th–16th May 2008, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre  
Enquiries: [college.asc@surgeons.org](mailto:college.asc@surgeons.org), Website: [www.surgeons.org/casc2008](http://www.surgeons.org/casc2008)
- ☞ 7th International Conference on Head and Neck Cancer, July 19–23, 2008, San Francisco Marriott, San Francisco, CA, USA. Website: [www.ahns.info/meetings/](http://www.ahns.info/meetings/)
- ☞ **10th ANZHNS Annual Scientific Meeting**, Thursday 4th–Saturday 6th September 2008, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Melbourne  
Enquiries: [conferences.events@surgeons.org](mailto:conferences.events@surgeons.org), Website: [www.surgeons.org/headneck2008](http://www.surgeons.org/headneck2008)
- ☞ Surgery of the Thyroid and Parathyroid Glands, Harvard Medical School, November 7 - 9, 2008  
Website: [www.cme.hms.harvard.edu/courses/thyroidsurgery](http://www.cme.hms.harvard.edu/courses/thyroidsurgery)
- ☞ World Congress on Thyroid Cancer  
May 27-31, 2009, Sheraton Centre, Toronto, Toronto, Canada  
Enquiries: [help-ENT0909@cmotoronto.ca](mailto:help-ENT0909@cmotoronto.ca) Website: [www.thyroid2009.ca](http://www.thyroid2009.ca)  
Phone: 416 978 2719, Fax: 416 946 7028
- ☞ 4th World Congress of the International Federation of Head & Neck Oncologic Societies (IFHNOS)  
June 15- 19, 2010 Seoul Korea. Website: [www.ifhnos2010.org](http://www.ifhnos2010.org)