



**University of Otago Medical School
Alumnus Association Inc**

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**MINUTES OF THE OTAGO MEDICAL SCHOOL
ALUMNUS ASSOCIATION (INC)**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2007 at 5.15 pm

PRESENT

Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer (in the Chair), Emeritus Professor P J Molloy, Dr J V Allison, Dr J Adams, Emeritus Professor B Heslop, Mr J Heslop, Professor D Robertson, Professor W J Gillespie, Associate Professor J J Reid, Emeritus Professor J Blennerhassett, Professor R J Walker and Emeritus Professor A K Jeffery

APOLOGIES

Emeritus Professor L Wright, Dr A Wright, Associate Professor D Gerrard and Professor J Nacey.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs Ellen Hendry

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6 September 2006 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 we had given the Faculty of Medicine a \$5,000 donation for the University Press to assist with the publication of the Faculty's History. Monies were also spent on having class photos, which are currently stored in the Faculty of Medicine's strong room, scanned onto CDs for safekeeping, and for the cleaning of bronze plaques, which have now been erected on the walls of the first floor of the Dunedin Hospital. It was suggested that an extra set of the photos on CDs be made for the Hocken Library and the University's Alumni & Development Office. There were no donations received

this year. When donations have been received in the past, most were from Class Reunions. It was suggested that classes should be reminded about donating any excess funds from Class Reunions to our Association and Emeritus Professor Pat Molloy said he could do this when he took the classes on the "Tour of Old Haunts". A suggestion was also made that we could ask them to donate to a scholarship for a deserving student and perhaps this could be included in any information the University's Alumni & Development Office sounds out in the initial stages of organizing a reunion

*The financial records were endorsed. Moved: Emeritus Professor P J Molloy
Seconded: Emeritus Professor B Heslop*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Professor Mortimer reported that there had been no meetings since the last AGM. He was pleased to report that Professor W Gillespie is keen to assist with the sorting of glass slides and Associate Professor P Schwartz with the photos left over as a result of the closure of the University's Photographic Unit. This will be a big job as the photos are not recorded by the name of the person, but by the name of the person who requested them – there is no patient or disease identification. There is also old projector equipment, which needs to find a good home. Brian Connor was to check with the local Photographic Society if they had a need for this equipment. Dunedin needs a Science Museum, especially in light of the wonderful display undertaken by Roly Mills last year for the Physiology Department Centenary which was only able to be displayed for one weekend and then disassembled. At this point Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer thanked Ellen Hendry for her work for the Association.

Presidents Report 2006 – 2007

The Executive of the Association has not met since the Annual General Meeting on September 6, 2006. This has been a quiet year in regard to any Association innovation, but our established activities have been sustained.

Alumnus Association Website <http://medicalalumni.otago.ac.nz>

This provides access to all of the Association's Bulletins published from 1976 to 2004/2005. No new Bulletin material has been forthcoming this year. The website is now providing good coverage of upcoming and completed Class Reunions and a number of obituaries of particular relevance to the School, the most recent being that of Professor Ian McDonald who in 2000 received an Hon D.Sc. from the University. The Otago Magazine also features articles covering our Alumni, their achievements and their reunions.

Honorary Archivist

This post has remained vacant since the death of Emeritus Professor John Hunter. The last of his collected papers were received and sorted during the year. These have since been made available to Dr Dorothy Page, Faculty Historian, prior to being lodged in the Hocken Collection, where our Association Archives can be accessed at :

<http://hakena.otago.ac.nz> and then [Broad Search] "Otago Medical School" or "Alumnus Association, Otago Medical School".

Faculty History Project

This history is now being written in its final form. Professor Keith Jeffrey and I represent the Association on the oversight group, which hopes to establish a publication timeline at its next

meeting. It is clear that this work is to be a very substantial and significant review of our School. Professor Robertson will report further.

University Photographic Services

The substantial archives of this unit have been partially sorted. A number of missing Medical Class group photographs were thereby retrieved which allowed us to complete our collection of albums in chronological order. The new History Unit of the University scanned all of these onto CDs for archival and historical purposes [up to 1955] and our Association has funded the scanning of the remainder [up to 2001].

We have yet to address the sorting and retention of the remaining items of interest which do fortunately remain in safe storage.

Class Reunions

These continue and provide enthusiastic subsequent reports. The 1951 graduating class decided that its 55th reunion was its last [after six reunions] and generously donated the residuum of its bank account to the Association for general purposes. This class report states “Sir Charles Hercus, the Dean, dubbed us *The Vintage Year*, as no one failed the finals and the class proudly stuck to that title”.

The Hunter Centre

The University has confirmed that the building on the NE corner of Frederick and Great King St's has been acquired and will be developed for Health Science purposes and named after John Hunter, the first AVC of Health Sciences. The Association is in discussion about a suitable display in this centre affirming his contribution.

Way Forward

The completion of the Faculty History project will close one phase of the Association's objects. Many of its other activities could be provided by staff of the Faculty, or the Alumnus and Development Office of the University. The latter already assists with our database and class reunions. The question then arises as to whether our current low-key activity warrants the continued existence of the Association and its nominal executive committee. Unless some major new initiative **and** new executive leadership now emerges, perhaps it is time to consider winding up the Association. The process for this is defined in sections 32 – 35 of the [1991] Rules of the Otago Medical School Alumnus Association [Incorporated].

Alumnus Staff

Ellen Hendry, as our executive secretary, continues to be the key person in our Association. She provides most of the services and much of the initiative. She is ably assisted by Shirley Skinner [Treasurer] and Abbey Donald [Clerical Assistant] . Emeritus Professor Pat Molloy [Curator of Artefacts] and Associate Professor Peter Schwartz [Honorary Research fellow] have continued their tasks with diligence. Dr John Allison's services as Honorary Editor have not been utilized this year. We extend our thanks to all of those above and unnamed others who have assisted the Association in the past year.

Graham Mortimer, President,

Otago Medical School Alumnus Association. August 2007

The Committee endorsed the President's report unanimously

Honorary Archivist, Faculty of Medicine

Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer advised the Committee that there has still not been an Archivist appointed. This is a Faculty appointment. Discussion evolved around how the archives could be sustained and should it be by electronic records. Professor Robertson suggested that we meet with Sue Pharo, the University Librarian. The whole situation of storing our records needs to be discussed with our Schools in Christchurch and Wellington as well as there will probably also be an overlap with Schools and their respective DHBs. These files need to be linked separately. It was noted that Dr Pat Cotter is writing a formal record of every Doctor who has practised in Canterbury and that it is almost complete. Also of note was the willingness and great assistance given by the Hocken Library when searching for records/photos. Emeritus Professor P Molloy advised the Committee that the Otago Settlers Museum is currently working on an Exhibition on Medicine in the 1950's and that the Hocken was very helpful in searching for information during this period. Emeritus Professor A K Jeffery indicated that the Department of Health had some fantastic photos of the Medical School and former students and wondered if we actually had any of these photos ourselves.

It was noted that Dr Graeme Woodfield is currently writing a book on Sir Arthur Porritt, who left Otago Medical School in second year after he was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. Mr Heslop is hopeful that the Association will receive a free copy once the book has been published.

Professor Don Robertson will address the future Archivist role.

Honorary Curator of Historical Artifacts

Emeritus Professor P Molloy said that the historical work was plodding along nicely. He indicated that we do not get many donations anymore but that Associate Professor Peter Schwartz was doing some descriptive work for about an hour a week which was very valuable. He is keen to expand his role and has had recent discussions with Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer and Ellen Hendry. Abbey Donald continues to do a great job and is currently photographing the items in all of the display cabinets. These will then be put onto the Association's catalogue database. The Association has lent Te Papa some items in regards to a display they are setting up on the Influence of the Scots in NZ and their influence on medicine. A set of dissecting instruments from 1912 has been lent to them and these have been insured for the sum of \$1500 and will be displayed in the Te Papa Museum for approximately 2 years. Correspondence relating to this loan are stored in the Association's filing cabinet.

Of note - Emeritus Professor Douglas Taylor is currently writing an article/book on Professor John Malcolm.

Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer then handed Emeritus Professor P J Molloy a commemorative bottle of beer and satchel given to him during the 1975 Medical School Centenary celebrations for safe-keeping.

A few contributions came in this year, notably paediatric equipment from Dr Donald Malcolm. Associate Professor Peter Schwartz continues his descriptive cataloguing of the items in the Alumnus Room in the Hercus Building and is keen to expand his role in more proactive ways. Mrs Abbey Donald continues her work photographing the collection and entering the results with a description onto a computer disc. Interest has been expressed by a tourist guide, to include the collection in his tour. The Otago Settlers Museum also wish to

borrow some items for an exhibition later this, or early next, year. The plaques of the old Ward names have been mounted on the wall in the Lecture Theatre foyer, first floor, Dunedin Hospital.

Emeritus Professor P J Molloy

The Committee endorsed the Honorary Curator's report unanimously

Historical Project

Professor Robertson reported that Dr Dorothy Page was now on her final draft of the Faculty's History and this is now due to go to Professor Barbara Brookes from History Department for further comment and editing. The final copy needs to be with Otago University Press by December this year (2007) with the launch anticipated to be between May – July 2008. Otago University Press will print 10000 copies with 400 copies being discounted to Alumni – the cost is to be confirmed but is either \$49.95 or \$59.95.

It is my pleasure to provide the following brief report in relation to activities in the Faculty of Medicine during 2007.

Funding for medical student education:

In mid 2006, the Faculty of Medicine and the Division of Health Sciences, University of Otago, provided a submission to the Tertiary Education Commission in conjunction with the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Auckland. The submission provided information on the true costs of delivering our teaching programmes for medical and dental students, and outlined curriculum developments that were considered necessary to further improve the programmes. The submission was well received by the Tertiary Education Commission.

In December 2006 Minister Cullen announced increased funding for medical and dental student education in New Zealand. The new funding rates from TEC are NZ\$32,458 (years 2 and 3) and NZ\$38,283 (years 4, 5 and 6) per Equivalent Full Time Student (EFTS) for medicine, and \$46,427 per EFTS for dentistry. This represents an increase over previous funding rates of NZ\$13,566 for medicine and NZ\$14,353 for dentistry (all amounts are GST exclusive). Student fee contributions add a further NZ\$9,582 per EFTS (ex GST). The funding became available from January 2007.

Medical student numbers

A Ministry of Health taskforce, the Health Workforce Taskforce, provided a report in May 2007 which recommended that there to be consideration of an increase in the number of New Zealand domestic medical graduates 'in order for New Zealand to move towards achieving ongoing self sufficiency for its medical workforce'. The Ministers of Education and Health announced on 23 August 2007 that there will be an increase in the numbers of domestic student funded places in medicine of 40 from 2008 (this will increase domestic entry places from 325 in total to 365). The Taskforce also recommended the institution of a (national) Medical Training Board, which will regularly review workforce and entry numbers.

Curriculum:

A new Health Sciences First Year programme has been implemented within the Division of Health Sciences at the University of Otago in 2007. This is a compulsory programme of 7

papers/ subjects (with an optional 8th humanities paper/ subject) as a University based prerequisite for entry to medicine and other health professional courses. It has a strong human biology and health focus. Initial feedback is that this programme is very successful. A full evaluation of the new programme is being undertaken.

A new Year 2/3 programme in medicine is being introduced in 2008. This will build on the learning from the new Health Sciences First Year programme, and will have a strong clinical emphasis, with case guided learning, clinical skills development, and a health in the community programme.

Funding has been provided for the recruitment of Clinical Skills programme directors, new senior lecturer positions, and Directors for Hauora Maori programmes at each of the three campuses (Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington). The Hauora Maori Directors will be part of a Centre for Hauora Maori.

Capital development:

The redevelopment of the physical facilities at the University of Otago, Wellington School of Medicine is complete and is of a very high standard. This has provided a new library, 2 new lecture theatres, seminar and tutorial rooms, cafeterias and meeting spaces, and offices. The building was officially opened by the Prime Minister, the Hon Helen Clark, on Tuesday 11 September in the presence of the Vice Chancellor and the Council of the University.

The facilities at the University of Otago, Christchurch School of Medicine are being redeveloped. This includes new laboratory space, new offices, and refurbished lecture theatres and tutorial rooms.

A new education centre, to be named the Hunter Centre in honour of Professor John Hunter, is being built at the Dunedin Campus. This will provide high level facilities for teaching in the 2/3 programmes, with small group tutorial facilities, IT facilities, seminar rooms, clinical skills facilities, cafeteria and common use areas.

Other initiatives in 2007 have been:

*A pilot **Rural Medical Immersion Program** in general practice. During 2007, six year 5 students have undertaken the majority of their year as placement in a rural general practice environment. This initiative will expand to 12 students in 2008 and 20 in 2009.*

***Cross Campus integrated weeks** in years 4 and 5. During 2007 a programme of 2 separate weeks for each of year 4 and year 5, called **Faculty Integrated Weeks**, has been instituted where common learning themes, lectures and research presentations have been presented using whole class live videolinking between Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington.*

History of the Medical School

Associate Professor Dorothy Page has completed the drafts of the History. The work covers the period from the establishment of the Otago Medical School in 1874 to 2000. The drafts

have been reviewed by the Medical History Group (Professors Graham Mortimer, Barbara Brookes, Keith Jeffery, Don Robertson, Associate Professor Ted Nye), the Vice Chancellor, and Geoff Rice, a historian from the University of Canterbury. The book will be a superb history of the School. The manuscript length will be approximately 140,000 words, and the manuscript contains mini biographies highlighting the contributions of many of the important leaders of the School through the years. The book will be in hard cover, with 1000 copies in the initial print run. 400 copies will be available to Alumni at a discount price.

It is anticipated that the launch of the History will be in the mid part of 2008.

Don Robertson

Dean, Faculty of Medicine

Pro Vice Chancellor, Division of Health Sciences

After Professor Robertson had gone through his report he advised members that the new Hunter Centre would be for all health science professional students, which included Pharmacy, Dentistry and Physiotherapy but the predominant use of the building would be 75 – 80% medical student usage. The Association will no doubt want to have some input into displays, mainly Emeritus Professor J Hunter's gown and mortarboard and a copy of his portrait. We have to remember however, this will be a public space and open for most of the day so ensuring these articles are well protected from any vandalism is of utmost importance.

The Committee was very appreciative of Professor Robertson's report and it will be put onto the Association's website along with the minutes and other Executive reports.

Way Forward

Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer indicated that we still need new blood and ideas and to date this has not been forthcoming. He feels that when the historical project is completed, there will be no focus left. We don't do much in the way of policy and planning and we need to ask ourselves if there actually is a need for a formal Executive – what is our future?

Emeritus Professor B Heslop indicated that she would be keen to write an anecdotal/funny book. A lot of the information she gave Dr D Page for the Faculty's history could not be recorded in such a formal book and perhaps there was a need for some of this information, which has been left out, to be recorded in an another type of book. Dr J Allison would be happy to be the Editor. **If anyone has any stories, please email these to Emeritus Professor B Heslop: b.heslop@xtra.co.nz**

1 Hart Street
Belleknowes
Dunedin

She would be very glad to receive these.

Emeritus Professor A K Jeffery said it was still sad to see the demise of the Annual Newsletter. Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer said that the Newsletter hadn't formally been stopped and the print version was still definitely the preferred option, however, we realized it was a very expensive way of doing things today. Professor

Robertson then told the Committee about the Health Sciences monthly newsletter called Pulse, which is sent out electronically. This has topics of interest marked by bullet points and when a person clicks on one of these it takes them to a link.

Professor Robertson indicated that we need to interact with the University's Alumni and Development Office. Perhaps the Association should focus on assisting with a specific cause e.g. providing a scholarship for a BMedSc(Hons) or a PhD. This could be done via Class Reunions and they could call the scholarship e.g. Class of '71 Scholarship etc. He indicated that \$5000 would fund a BMedSc(Hons) scholarship. The Association hasn't done any personal fundraising since the late Emeritus Professor J D Hunter's historical one. Mr J Heslop said that they set up a Surgical Education Trust outside the University's jurisdiction to assist with scholarships, Trusts etc. and it was monies well utilized. Perhaps the Association could look at subsidizing the cost of the history book for its own members.

Emeritus Professor A K Jeffery said he would still like to initiate a Dining Club. He suggested that we bring a prominent figure to talk about a historical topic. He just heard a retired Professor from Edinburgh, Professor McIntyre speak and said it was brilliant, although it was a costly exercise if we were to consider doing something along these lines. It was noted that Auckland has a very strong Historical Society. Professor R J Walker suggested that Emeritus Professor A K Jeffery might like to tag such an event in with the Dunedin School of Medicine's annual dinner and the Dean, Dr J Adams supported this idea. Alternatively we could look at combining such an event with the launching of the book. The Committee decided that Emeritus Professor A K Jeffery could be the Convener and other members to assist him.

We need to find a medically qualified person to be responsible for the Association's website and be able to chase up obituaries and news and items of interest. Professor Gillespie indicated that he had some experience with Dreamweaver and might be able to assist us with this.

Donations

No discussion

Election of Officers

The Committee agreed that all existing members be rolled over for another year. It was felt important that the President remain in this role until the History had been completed. Professor W J Gillespie indicated he might be interested in taking over as Chairman-Elect once this has been achieved.

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.

Should this Executive Committee be required to meet between AGM's, the Chairman proposed the following membership:

Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer, Mrs Ellen Hendry, Professor W J Gillespie (President Elect), Professor D M Robertson (Dean, Faculty of Medicine), Dr J V Allison (Honorary Editor), Emeritus Professor P J Molloy (Honorary Curator of Artefacts) and Emeritus Professor A K Jeffery (in lieu of Honorary Archivist).

Committee Members for 2007-2008

President: Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer
Secretary: Mrs Ellen Hendry

Accounts Clerk:

Mrs Shirley Skinner

Professor T C A Doyle, Associate Professor D Gerrard, Professor A J Campbell, Dr J V Allison, Emeritus Professor J B Blennerhassett, Associate Professor G T Wilkins, Professor M W Tilyard, Professor R J Walker, Emeritus Professor B Heslop, Mr J Heslop, Emeritus Professor J L Wright, Emeritus Professor P J Molloy, Professor P Joyce, Professor J Nacey, Professor H Nicholson, Emeritus Professor A K Jeffery, Professor D Robertson, Dr J Adams, Professor W J Gillespie, Dr A Wright, Dr P Jackson, OUMSA President and current sixth year class representatives of our three clinical schools.

General Business

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

Emeritus Professor J G Mortimer thanked those who attended and the meeting was closed at 7.10 pm

ALUMNUS WEBSITE - <http://medicalalumni.otago.ac.nz/>