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From the Desk of the President

Dear Colleagues,

This will be my last communication of the year. I would like to send the best wishes of the College to you all and especially those of you in the Western and Northern faculties who may have been affected by the cyclone.

In writing this communication I have revisited my letter of December 2011. In this letter we introduced our plans for 2012 and I will now update you on these.

SECRETARIAT

I would like to thank Litia and Fatima for all the hard work they have done in setting up the secretariat. There have been more than a few challenges in establishing the office. I believe we all underestimated the amount of day to day work required for a membership that now exceeds 180 with new applications coming in all the time. The secretariat has also taken on the work of the Children's Heart Foundation and already this year Litia and Fatima have processed six patients. Litia is continuing her work on the website, a new constitution, procedure manuals etc.

FINANCES AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In spite of falling behind on some of the necessary work we are determined that by the Annual General Meeting in March all the necessary infrastructure of the secretariat will be in place, a full set of audited accounts including a budget will be available and a calendar of projects will be tabled for discussion. In addition there will be some elections to take place.

The AGM is pencilled in for March 31st and I would ask you to make an effort to attend. Details will be available in early January.

PROGRESS ON PROJECTS

The planned education workshop has still not eventuated but a lot of groundwork is complete and this is now planned for the last week of January 2013.

In last year's letter I stated that the College's main concern was the lack of interest from the general membership in College affairs and this continues to be a problem. As a result we have been unable to form the committees necessary to move forward with planned projects. This is particularly so in regard to continuing education and postgraduate programs now necessary under the Decree.

I am calling again for submissions from members regarding this issue. Please refer to the Education Workshop document that Litia has sent you. A good start to the year would be for members

to just take 30 minutes of their time to forward a submission.

FACULTIES

The Central and Northern faculties have been active this year and have held a number of Journal Clubs and seminars. Their executives have been active in national activities and I thank them for this.

I would like to thank Dr Ram Raju for kick starting the Western Faculty and we look forward to their active participation in the college next year.

Plans for the conference were initiated by the national body but have now been handed over to the Western Faculty. We wish them well on running what will be our 21st Anniversary.

FIJI MEDICAL COUNCIL

Following the special general meeting in March submissions were made to the minister regarding the resolutions made by members at that meeting. Unfortunately, none of our submissions were successful. Indemnity remains compulsory for doctors in general practice. The regulations for entry into general practice were amended but not as a result of the college recommendations. My appointment to the council was not approved. However, we have been asked to submit the college nominees for January 2013 and are now awaiting approval.

INDEMNITY

Your indemnity cover expires on January 31st, 2013 and your practice licence will be issued on February 28th, 2013.

Upon applying for your licence renewal, an insurance certificate for 2012 will not be acceptable.

You will need to submit a renewal certificate to the council for 2013-2014 and a receipt of payment. The College is unable to offer credit for 2013 as we are still collecting premiums from those of you who have not yet paid.

Please submit your preferences for Lumley or Medical Protection Society to Litia **as soon as possible**.

It will take at least three weeks for you to receive the necessary paperwork from these providers before you can be invoiced and indemnified for 2013.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Lastly, I would just like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year.

May you have a safe and enjoyable festive season.

December 1st

World AIDS Day

Excerpt from WHO website

World AIDS Day on 1 December brings together people from around the world to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and demonstrate international solidarity in the face of the pandemic. The day is an opportunity for public and private partners to spread awareness about the status of the pandemic and encourage progress in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care in high prevalence countries and around the world.

Between 2011-2015, World AIDS Days will have the theme of "Getting to zero: zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS related deaths". The World AIDS Campaign focus on "Zero AIDS related deaths" signifies a push towards greater access to treatment for all; a call for governments to act now. It is a call to honor promises like the Abuja declaration and for African governments to at least hit targets for domestic spending on health and HIV.

For more information visit the WHO website

<http://www.who.int/en/>

Upcoming World Health Events

International Day of Persons with Disabilities
3 December 2012

Human Rights Day
10 December 2012

World Cancer Day
4 February 2013

International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
6 February 2013

International Day for Ear and Hearing
3 March 2013

FCGP PRESIDENT FOR ANOTHER TERM

Dr Rosemary Mitchell, President of the Fiji College of General Practitioners (FCGP) has been confirmed for another term of two (2) years to begin from June 8th, 2013.

As per the FCGP constitution nominations were called for the position of President in September 2012, to allow a President-elect to take office from January 1st.

At the closing of the nomination period only one nomination was received from the FCGP membership, that of Dr Rosemary Mitchell.

Dr Mitchell has welcomed the challenge of another term, and hopes that it will give her sufficient time to see through the changes that she has begun to put in place in her short time as President.

NEW FACULTY COMMITTEES

At the Annual General Meeting of the Central Faculty, Dr Lalita Devi was voted in as President and Dr Shalini Kumar reprised her role as Secretary/Treasurer.

The Central Faculty is the largest of the three (3) FCGP faculties and caters for members from Nausori through to Pacific Harbour, with a current membership of eighty eight (88) doctors.

The Western Faculty has a new committee following a meeting of members on Sunday December 2nd.

Confirmed in their new roles at the meeting were Dr Ram Raju as Chairman, Dr Zen Low as Vice Chairman and Executive Council representative, Dr Mohammed Ali Qureshi as Treasurer and Dr Iane Penjueli as Secretary.

Dr Devika Kumar was also confirmed as the Conference Director for the Annual Conference 2013.

BOOKS AVAILABLE

A limited number of copies for two books are available from the Secretariat office. These are:

1. *SIMPLI LIMA, The Lima Way to Understand Common Mental Illnesses in Primary Care* by Dr M Parameshvara Deva
2. *Comprehensive Management Guidelines for Sexually Transmitted Infections - 2nd Edition* compiled by the Ministry of Health

If you wish to pick up a copy, please feel free to collect it from the Secretariat office and those who wish to have it sent to them, please call the Secretariat to make arrangements for delivery.

Children's Heart Foundation

The FCGP Secretariat took over the operations of the FCGP—Children's Heart Foundation (CHF) from the 1st of October, 2012. The CHF was previously managed by Mr Gyan Singh who handed over before migrating to Australia early in November.

The Children's Heart Foundation is a charitable arm of the FCGP and facilitates treatment of local children with heart problems at the Frontier Lifeline Hospital in Chennai India. As a registered charitable trust, the CHF relies on donations, primarily from the Vodafone ATH Foundation, to fund the airfares and treatment cost for the children.

To date the CHF has managed to facilitate treatment of over sixty children since its inception in 2007. If you wish to make a donation to the Foundation, please contact the Secretariat for details on how you can do that.

Contact us:

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