

President's message



Dr Matthew Andrews

It is a great personal honour to be elected as the ASUM President for the next two years. I trust my term will be one of continued advancement for the Society and for the practice of medical ultrasound throughout Australia and New Zealand.

I am a general radiologist working in private practice. I have a special interest in ultrasound, having undertaken an Abdominal Imaging Fellowship, which was predominantly ultrasound, at University of California, Davis in the early 1990s. I became a member of ASUM shortly after my return to Melbourne and have been a member of the ASUM Council for the past six years.

Thanks David Rogers

I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, David Rogers, who for the past two years has presided over a society that has gone from strength to strength. ASUM is providing an ever-widening range of local educational resources, including the Annual Scientific Meetings and Multidisciplinary Workshops and this *Ultrasound Bulletin*, which provide cutting edge, world-class ultrasound science and practical skills. In addition, the Diploma of Medical Ultrasound (DMU) and Diploma of Diagnostic Ultrasound (DDU) continue as highly regarded ultrasound practice qualifications. The Certificate of Clinician Performed Ultrasound (CCPU) has been launched and is set to expand as it is embraced by more clinician groups. The ASIA-Link Program, with its many facets, is raising the profile of

ASUM, resulting in mutual benefits to ASUM's members and the many Asian societies with which we have formalised affiliations. The CADUCEUS liaison with Denmark and the BMUS (British Medical Ultrasound Society) Presidential Exchange programs have established ASUM's interaction with European Societies.

A strong future for the Society

Several years ago, I thought that ASUM's future was limited as the constituent member groups that utilise ultrasound seemed to be heading down a path of managing ultrasound issues, including education and training within their own disciplines. I am pleased to have been proved wrong, as ASUM's role in delivering all facets of medical ultrasound services has, in fact, expanded greatly. ASUM is unusual in that it is an imaging modality-based society, in contrast to most others, which are organ-system based. This provides one of ASUM's great strengths in that it draws its membership from a wide and ever-expanding range of backgrounds as ultrasound applications grow. The technological and scientific developments in ultrasound are inspiring new uses of ultrasound both on a referred and a clinician-performed basis. New scanning techniques are continually applied by sonologists and sonographers. In

addition to its traditional constituency of sonologists, sonographers, scientists and trade, ASUM is now providing clinical ultrasound instruction to clinicians, such as accident and emergency physicians, surgeons of many subspecialties, obstetricians, gynaecologists and anaesthetists. These services are culminating in the ASUM College of Ultrasound Project, examining the feasibility of ASUM providing a dedicated ultrasound education institution.

The collaboration of so many different medical craft groups under the one society in conjunction with sonographers, scientists and trade representatives is unique. The team approach within the ASUM reflects the best standard of ultrasound service provided to patients and clinicians. Each constituent group provides its expertise to the combined end-product and ASUM is proud to be the umbrella bringing these groups together. On a personal level, ASUM membership provides a diverse forum in which to exchange ultrasound knowledge and enables individual member's insight and contact with a broad range of ultrasound practice. In my own case, the personal and professional friendships I have developed through ASUM have been of enormous benefit.

Challenges

ASUM's challenges over the next two years will include progression of the many activities mentioned above. In addition, major specific challenges will include:



The opening ceremony at the 36th ASM (l-r) Matthew Andrews, David Rogers and Andrew Ngu



- i) The World Federation of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB) Meeting in Sydney in 2009 will be a major planning priority for the ASUM. I urge all members to take advantage of holding such a prestigious meeting in our sphere, whether it is through playing a role in organisation, making presentations or simply by attending;
- ii) ASUM's move into its new premises will provide an exciting morale boost to the Society as its home base will reflect its expansion and many new facets;
- iii) ASUM intends the College of Ultrasound Project will incorporate and expand many of the educational activities current provided by the Society; and
- iv) The CCPU will expand to provide relevant certification to more clinician groups requesting ultrasound education and training.

Finally, I look forward to collaborating with the ASUM Council, the CEO and Secretariat and the membership in advancing the practice of



The ASUM BMUS Presidential Exchange: Dr Grant Baxter (left) and Dr David Rogers

medical ultrasound in Australia and New Zealand over the next two years. I would also like to increase dialogue and cooperation with other groups such as medical colleges, sonographer and scientific bodies, overseas societies and Government health departments. We are fortunate to

have a huge wealth of ultrasound educational resources and I would like ASUM to be a facilitator in utilising these in an efficient and effective manner.

Matthew Andrews
ASUM President

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