

Dear SDrA Members and Fellows,

The first six months of 2010 has been very exciting and challenging for Sports Doctors Australia. We have been exploring and developing new directions and consolidating and strengthening existing relations.

At the beginning of my presidency I outlined my two main priorities which I would focus on during my term. The first is to highlight and expand the SDrA reputation as a provider of high quality sports medicine education to our peers and colleagues, medical and allied health students, those undertaking post graduate training in medicine and allied health and of course to the general community. The second is to strengthen existing professional relations we have with other likeminded professional organisations as well as establish links with those we are not yet involved.

I can reassure you now that both these priorities are being implemented and are well on track. We continue to make an educational impact within universities, sporting organisations, hospitals and within the community. We are also actively involved with presenting at national and international conferences and meetings where sports medicine is a significant theme. Some upcoming conferences where SDrA is actively involved include GP10 being held in Cairns, Queensland between 6-9 October 2010, visit www.gp10.com.au for more details and to register. We will also be presenting at The Australian Conference of Science and Medicine in Sport (Sports Medicine Australia's annual conference) being held in Port Douglas Queensland between 4-6 November 2010, for more information visit www.sma.org.au/asics-conference .

The SDrA committee established to work towards a professional relationship with RACGP lead by Neville Blomeley and supported by Gavan White, Gareth Thomas and Brendan de Morton has been working tirelessly. Updates on their progress may be found on our website.

The formation of a recognised professional relationship with a large established medical college can only be of benefit to our organisation. The RACGP has excellent infrastructure, educational resources, links with other relevant groups and political strength all of which are bonuses to a group such as us with relatively small member numbers. Joining forces with RACGP is a natural progression given many of our Members and Fellows are already Members or Fellows of RACGP. Most of our Members and Fellows perform their role as a Sports Doctor following a Primary Care model subsequently RACGP is an appropriate joint venture to pursue.

There is also the potential for this relationship with RACGP to evolve into one where a more formal educational pathway in sports medicine may exist for doctors in primary care requiring more advanced skills and knowledge in sports medicine but not wishing to pursue specialty training through the Australasian College of Sports Physicians. This educational pathway may be a tripartite venture between SDrA, RACGP and the University of Queensland

As this venture is a professional one with some significant changes in current function and processes of all groups, progress, although occurring at the anticipated rate will be slow. There are good reasons for this rate of progression as business plans and curricula need to be developed and current regulations need to be either modified or developed. Updates will be placed on our website on a regular basis.

Our relations with Sports Medicine Australia remain strong. It is a priority that we remain part of a multidisciplinary professional sports medicine group such as SMA. It is also important that we work as a team with the other discipline groups of SMA. We all have common goals and directions and unifying our strengths within an organisation such as SMA will only benefit SDrA and indeed each discipline group of SMA and the community as a whole. Nello Marino, CEO of SMA National is a great ally. He ensures we have administrative infrastructure and he promotes and supports our group at a wider level.

It is only logical that discussions and a more formal relationship occur between SDrA and the Australasian College of Sports Physicians. SDrA recognises and accepts that ACSP is the sports medicine specialist medical group within Australasia. It must be recognised that we are both doctor organisations pursuing a passion in sports medicine. Our backgrounds, training, focus and emphasis are different although our ultimate aim is the same. We both strive to promote sports medicine at a professional level within Australia and we both want to provide the Australian population with the highest level of sports medicine care available.

I have personally met with Andrew Garnham, President ACSP, on multiple occasions to discuss our roles and directions. I have great respect for Andrew and his College and believe a professional synergy is developing which will only enhance what both groups have and what both groups have to offer.

Both Andrew and I anticipate that both groups will eventually share knowledge and resources by way of jointly developing sports medicine information packages for the general community, sporting groups and medical and allied health professionals, as well as conducting joint presentations at

conferences and meetings. This is indeed a very exciting potential venture where we will be able to produce high quality educational material combining the different skills mix of each group.

As I'm sure you can see, the SDrA website has been completely revamped and redeveloped through the efforts of Gavan White. It is much easier to navigate, has many more useful functions, is up to date and also provides many useful links. I would encourage each Member and Fellow of SDrA to forward any comments and above all make a contribution either by way of an article, case study, commentary or question.

Finally, it is important for each of our Members and Fellows to remember that you are not alone. SDrA is a group of like minded professionals who all strive for common goals, face the same challenges and obstacles and receive the same satisfaction from the work we undertake. We provide a support network through our website; please use the website to contact other members of our group, to raise issues of concern or as a forum for clinical questions and problem solving. SDrA is in the process of significant change which can only be of benefit to you and the way you practice sports medicine.

Shane

A/Professor Shane Brun

President Sports Doctors Australia

26 July 2010