



Australian Military Medicine Association

Annual Report
1999-2000

Australian Military Medicine Association

August 2000

Patron

Major General J. Pearn
Surgeon General Australian Defence Force

President

Nader Abou-Seif

Vice-President

Russell Schedlich

Council

Secretary	Fabian Purcell
Treasurer	Graham Boothby
Public Officer	David Emonson
Journal Editor	Andrew Robertson
Member	Janet Scott
Member	Beverley Wright

Secretariat

Leishman & Associates

On behalf of Council, I am pleased to present the annual report of the Australian Military Medicine Association together with the Balance Sheet and related Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2000.

Nader Abou-Seif

President's Report

I am pleased to report that a number of initiatives developed over the last one to two years have started to provide beneficial results. The overall position of the association is sound and I feel that the association can look forward to the coming year with confidence.

Membership. After the review of our membership list in the previous 12 months, this last year has seen a steady growth in our membership. The number of financial members has grown and our contact list is more reliable than for a number of years.

Financial Issues. This last year has seen the completion of the change in our financial year from a calendar year to a financial year basis. We have seen a turnaround in our balance sheet from the loss of the previous two years that was partly due to this change of AMMA financial year to a surplus. This should allow us to continue to support research in Military Medicine and assist with other educational activities. The last few months have also seen AMMA prepare to deal with the introduction of the GST and I am pleased to report that the implementation of statutory requirements has gone smoothly.

Journal. Three issues of the journal have been produced in the last twelve months. The format has changed to allow a more comprehensive journal. Andy Robertson has done an outstanding job in his first year as editor. In my President's Messages, I have encouraged our membership to participate in making the journal a better publication. There is a vast repository of knowledge in our membership and your continued support will ensure the continued high standard of our journal. It is planned to maintain a production schedule of three journals a year at this time and every attempt will be made to ensure prompt production and distribution.

Technology. The last twelve months has seen a greater use of the AMMA website for both dissemination of information and as an interface to contact the association. A number of memberships and Conference registrations have taken place through our site at <http://amma.trump.net.au/>.

Research. This has been the first year of our new Research Grant Program that allows for a greater number of awards to be issued in a number of categories. As discussed in the journal the

award of prizes was widened to include a prize for the best journal article, to the best article in a peer review journal by an AMMA member and the best article on a military medicine related subject to be announced at the Annual National Meeting in October. The Research Grant would also continue with its present guidelines but in a reduced amount. AMMA maintains a commitment to encouraging research and original contributions in all fields of Military Medicine. At last years National Conference, the Weary Dunlop Award was awarded to Rosalind Header and the Research Grant to Ian Caterson.

Liaison. Council have been in contact with the Aviation Medicine Society of Australia and New Zealand with the aim of arranging a co-located or joint meeting. Unfortunately a proposal to proceed with a meeting together next year was not able come to fruition. Council remains committed to pursuing a future joint meeting with AMSANZ. Preparation for liaison with the professional colleges has been undertaken, and it is to be hoped that this will enlarge our membership base and also help to provide a further focus for those with an interest in military medicine in the wider health community.

Council. As in previous years, Council continue to meet four times per year, twice in person - once at the National Conference - and twice via teleconference. In addition the members of Council are in frequent contact throughout the year to discuss issues as they arise. Again, I would like to thank all members of Council for their efforts and support throughout the year. The efforts of the council members are important to the smooth and efficient performance of the association. I would like to thank all those who have served on council during my time as President for their help, support and vision for the future of AMMA.

Our year, therefore, has again been one of steady progress and solid rather spectacular growth. We are still a young organisation and the support of an enthusiastic membership remains vital for the future growth and development of the association.

AMMA remains an independent organisation that I hope will remain a focus for all those with an interest in Military Medicine. Your active participation and contribution in AMMA's activities remain an essential component in our continued growth and strength. In this way our ability to provide for and represent the interests of our membership will be guaranteed. With your support, we can have just cause for confidence as we look forward into the future. Once again, I thank you for your support during my presidency.

Nader Abou-seif
President

Treasurer's Report

I present the attached audited Income and Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet for the financial year ending 30 June 2000.

The following highlights should be noted:

- A rise in income for the year of \$18, 475
- Containment of costs rise for the year of \$449
- A resultant significant turnaround in the operating surplus from a \$5,000 deficit to a nearly \$13,000 surplus.

The membership income rise was largely due to a clean up of membership register and follow up of fee defaulters and timing of the payments relative to financial year end. This last year included many payments for the previous year memberships.

The \$10,000 donation is from our major sponsor SmithKline Beecham.

In the expenses, successive treasurers have used various names for council meetings. They have been variously categorised as council meetings, committee meetings and 'face to face' meetings to differentiate from teleconference meetings. I have attempted to clean this up and in future will only refer to council meeting costs.

A major rise in bank fees has been avoided by increasing the use of the largely fee free Australian Defence Credit Union account.

There has been a rise in secretariat costs and is associated with the increasing complexity of running the organisation. Preparation for the GST, maintenance of the web site, responding to e-mails, assistance with the journal and mailings and general membership administration and finally, keeping the council well organised are the main activities of the secretariat.

There are no major budgetary changes forecast for the next financial year and no change to the membership fee is recommended.

Graham Boothby
Treasurer

Secretariat

Total membership of AMMA as at 16/10/00 stands at 361.

The Association welcomed 34 new members in the last financial year. Ten resignations were received from 1/7/99 to 30/6/00.

Membership breakdown is: ACT 30, NSW 102, NT 6, QLD 44, SA 43, TAS 13, VIC 89, WA 19, USA 6, UK 2, NZ 2, PNG 1, ITALY 1, GERMANY 1, SAUDI ARABIA 1 and unknown 1.

Journal

Australian Military Medicine, the official journal of the Association, was published three times since the last Conference:

December 1999	Vol 8 No 3	40 pages
April 2000	Vol 9 No 1	56 pages
August 2000	Vol 9 No 2	60 pages

A total of twenty-five articles were published representing original scientific works, scientific reviews and historical pieces, with additional material in the form of editorials, abstracts, information pieces and a variety of AMMA news and information. Given the wealth of articles in the Military Medical community, a deliberate decision has been taken to expand the Journal. This expansion is initially to 60 pages and then steadily beyond that as articles allow.

The format of the journal has now stabilised into one that is compact and easy to read. The "AMMA Update" has become a regular feature, providing information on the Association and its members in a consistent format and location. The Assistant Editor, Karen Gisler, compiles this from information from a variety of sources.

More contributions from members in the form of articles and small items are, as always, welcome.

Andy Robertson
Editor

1999 Conference

The 8th Annual Scientific Conference of the Australian Military Medicine Association was held at the Stamford Plaza Hotel, Adelaide, from the 8th to the 10th of October 1999. Over 90 delegates from both the Permanent and Reserve Defence Forces, as well as civilians with an interest in military medicine, were treated to a range of scientific and topical papers during the three days of proceedings.

Official Opening

More than 60 AMMA delegates attended a cocktail reception held at Government House. The Governor of South Australia, His Excellency, Sir Eric Neal officially opened the conference and then treated his guests to a grand, yet relaxed evening including a tour of Government House.

Social Programme

The Conference Dinner was held on the Saturday night in the Bradman Room at Adelaide Oval. A fun night was had by all with a Quiz Night successfully run by the one and only Quiz Master Russ Schedlich.

Conference themes:

The End of the 1900s: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

- History of Australian Military Medicine

- Prevention – Better than Cure?
- Provision of Health Care in War and Peace
- Weapons of Modern Warfare
- The Aftermath
- Towards the Future

Keynote Speaker

Dr Mike Hill from the NSW Department of Health spoke on Civilian approaches to CBR Defence.

'Weary' Dunlop Award

The 'Weary' Dunlop Award is presented annually for the paper judged the best original work at the AMMA Scientific Conference. The 1999 award was presented to Miss Rosalind Hearder for her paper titled "Careers in Captivity: Australian POW Medical Officers in WWII".

Sponsorship and Trade Display

The AMMA received support from the following sponsors.

Major Sponsor

- SMITH KLINE BEECHAM

Exhibitors

- GMS MARKETING
- SANOFI-SYNTHELABO
- LAERDAL PTY LTD
- ROCHE DIAGNOSTICS
- ESSEX PHARMA
- DRAGER
- MULTIGATE
- UVEX SAFETY

AMMA Incentive Schemes

For a number of years now the Australian Military Medicine Association (AMMA) has offered research grants totalling \$2,500 annually as an incentive to Association members to engage in research in military medicine and to contribute to the body of scientific literature pertaining to the area. While there have been a number of excellent pieces of work produced under the sponsorship of the Association, the number of research proposals received by the committee for consideration for the grant has been very small.

With this situation in mind, the AMMA Council reviewed the research grant program and agreed that it should be revised and more broadly targeted. As such, from 1 July 1999, AMMA will offer three prizes to members for original scientific literature on military medicine related topics in addition to offering a research grant (under the current rules but for a reduced stipend). The three prizes to be offered are:

- **The AMMA Journal Editor's Prize (\$750).** This will be awarded for the best original paper published in the AMMA journal in a financial year. The journal editor will be the sole judge and has the right to not award a prize in the event that articles do not meet an adequate standard.
- **The AMMA Patron's Prize (\$250).** This will be awarded for the best original paper on a military medicine related topic written by an AMMA member and published in a peer reviewed journal in a financial year. The Surgeon General of the ADF will judge all papers submitted to the AMMA secretary for consideration for this prize by 1 August immediately following the financial year in question.

- **The Australian Military Medicine Prize (\$500).** This will be awarded for an essay written by an AMMA member on a health related subject to be announced at the annual AMMA scientific meeting each year. Essays for consideration for the prize must be submitted to the AMMA secretary by the end of the financial year. The AMMA Council will judge them. No Council member may enter an essay into this competition.
- **The AMMA Research Grant.** This will continue under its current rules. However, the amount of the stipend for this grant will be reduced from \$2500 to \$1000 to be offered annually. The adjudication of the judge's of each prize will be final and no appeal or correspondence questioning such decisions will be entertained. Further information on these prizes and grants is available through members of the AMMA Council.

Summary of AMMA Awards

Award	Amount	Criteria
AMMA Journal Editor's Prize	\$750	Best paper by an AMMA member published each year in the AMMA Journal. Judged by AMMA Journal Editor
Research Grant	\$1,000	To remain in current form. Judged by Council
AMMA Patron's Prize	\$250	Best article published in a peer-reviewed journal by an AMMA member – must be a health-related article. Judged by AMMA Patron (Open to Council Members)
Australian Military Medicine Prize	\$500	Best essay by AMMA member on topic, which will be announced at the annual scientific meeting/conference. Judged by AMMA Council. (Not open to Council members)
Deadline: 30 June For published articles, publication will be in a specified year. Copies of articles published in other journals must be forwarded to Council to be considered.		

"Weary" Dunlop Award

The "Weary" Dunlop award of \$500 is given annually for the best paper presented at the Annual Conference.

At the 1999 Conference, Rosalind Hearder received the award, for her paper: Careers in Captivity: Australian POW Medical Officers in WWII

Research Grant

Each year, the Association awards one or more Research Grants to a total value of \$1,000 to assist members in undertaking research in the field of military medicine.

In 1999, Council awarded the Grant to: Ian Caterson.

Library

The Association's Library is physically located at Maritime Headquarters in Sydney. Loans are available for periods of up to 12 weeks by contacting the Librarian on 0409 775 109.

AMMA on the Net

AMMA's Web Page contains information about the Association, its office bearers and activities, and includes links to other military medical organisations and associations.

The page is located at: <http://amma.trump.net.au/>

Financial Statements

Financial statements and balance sheet were presented to the Annual General Meeting in Hobart..

New Members

During 1/7/99 –30/6/00, AMMA welcomed the following new members

Francis	ALCANTARA
Anthony	ANKER
Lynette	BANNER
Alex	BORDUJENKO
Jay	CLEMENS
Orazio	CUSANO
Sharon	DANIELS
Adrian	ESTERMAN
Nick	FORD
Karen	GISLER
Peter	GRAY
Jackson	HARDING
Jo	HARDING
Michael	HILLS
James	HOLLAND
Adam	KESTEL
Douglas	KING
Suzanne	LANGLOIS
Peter	LEGGAT
Geoffrey	MATTHEWS
Gerard	MEIJER
Gordon	MORRISON
Michael	O'CONNOR
Christopher	QUE HEE
Jey	RANDHAWA
Michael	READE
Thomas	SMITH

Jim	TAYLOR
Peter	THOMAS
Timothy	WAGNER
Patrick	WEINRAUCH
Brian	WHITE
Alan	WRIGHT
Ian	YOUNG