A minute with
Dr Pat Giddings,
CEO

While 2009 was a challenging year, the future looks like being even busier for RVTS. The 2011 intake will jump from 15 to 22 registrars, a 45 per cent increase. By 2014 we’ll be juggling a total of 90 registrars.

We’ve been busy behind the scenes with long-term strategic planning to ensure a smooth transition through and beyond our next growth spurt. Many hours have been spent pacing the corridors, thinking caps atop our heads, pondering the most effective ways to increase staff levels, manage more CTVs and facilitate larger workshops, while still retaining the family atmosphere that past registrars rave about.

A major milestone of 2009 was the enrolment of our first international registrar, Paula Ferguson in Tabubil, Papua New Guinea. The most visible event of the year was our new website going live, which is attracting interest from around the globe.

The superior training we provide was recognised by both ACRM and RACGP with confirmation of accreditation as a quality training provider. Roll on 2010.

A minute with
Dr Louise Baker,
Acting Senior Medical Educator

It was a huge year: 90 teletutorials and 25 study groups were completed, with additional external facilitators providing fresh ideas and new perspectives. The computer learning tool Elluminate was also trialled and received positive reviews.

A record number of supervisors attended the workshops, providing a vast knowledge pool to draw from, while exam preparation sessions specific to ACRRM and RACGP helped prepare registrars for D-day. The three-year teletutorial plan is now complemented by a three-year workshop plan, making coordination of activities more streamlined.

Out in the field, our growing band of clinical teaching visitors are benefiting from a revised CTV handbook and an orientation system designed to streamline orientation and improve service consistency.

A minute with
Dr Andrew Wilke,
Registrar Liaison Officer

Last year was a busy, demanding, but immensely satisfying year. For those who took a ride on the exam roller-coaster, assessments featured prominently. There have been MCQ, KFP and AKTs to contend with, and that’s all before being stamped, checked from 360 degrees, attending the OSCEs and getting lucky with some MiniCEX! Thank goodness for those Tuesday-night study groups.

On the lighter side, comic highlights include arm wrestling with fellow registrars, beach-side lunchbreaks at Bondi, restaurant terrorism at Southbank, split drinks in Sydney Harbour and ‘that’ precordial body slam, to name just a few. On the darker side, it was somewhat disconcerting to learn what some registrars and facilitators get up to whilst muted on teleconference; people just don’t sound the same anymore!

A minute with
Dr George Cerchez,
Supervisor Liaison Officer

Having undergone a ‘rigorous selection process’ (a case of everyone else taking one step back), I find myself in the new position of Supervisor Liaison Officer.

After attending some national supervisors’ meetings the differences between RVTS and other GPET organisations have become apparent. RVTS is a unique program, so it’s no surprise our supervisors’ needs are also unique.

Being in a new role, I find myself a painter with a blank canvas. I see the role as predominantly providing feedback to RVTS management on behalf of supervisors, but I’ll also be acting as a conduit for information exchange between supervisors. Ideally, liaison should be a two-way process, so when the time comes, please liaise.
2007 Cohort
1. Peter Bennett, Indulkana SA
2. Kit Bills, Agnes Water QLD
3. Colin Case, Augathella QLD
4. Dan Harris, Alice Springs NT
5. Rachel Harvey, Glenden QLD
6. Abbus Hussein, Texas QLD
7. Igor Ignatovitch, Quilpie QLD
8. Younes Ismail, Coonamble NSW
9. Rodney Jones, Utopia NT
10. Ruth Johnston, Cherbourg QLD
11. Ranjit Kumar Panda, Julia Creek QLD
12. Rosemary Lee, Tiwi Islands NT
13. Brad Murphy, Eidsvold QLD

2008 Cohort
14. Ismael Albadran, Grenfell NSW
15. Aiad Al-Essa, Berrigan NSW
16. Paul Barac, Cherbourg QLD
17. Mark Demian, Nelly Bay QLD
18. May El-Khoury, Trundle NSW
19. Andrew Jamieson, Groote Eylandt NT
20. Amitosh Mondal, Tenterfield NSW
21. Mike Nixon, Minjilang NT
22. Hamid Raoof Kateb, Harden NSW
23. Paul Saad, Baradine NSW
24. Alex Stevenson, Queenstown TAS
25. Andrei Schapov, Mount Newman WA
26. Andrew Wilke, Charleville QLD
27. Emilie Willcox, Palumpa NT

2009 Cohort
28. Fred Aiello, Barcaldine QLD
29. Vincent Cornelisse, Mundubbera QLD
30. Jessica de Chastel, Injune QLD
31. Paula Ferguson, Tabubil PNG
32. Aaron Frazer, Innisfail QLD
33. Imran Hussain, Emerald QLD
34. Shingai Jaravaza, Tara QLD
35. Anupam Kumar, Clifton QLD
36. Simon Madin, Kintore NT
37. Pasi Maphosa, Miles QLD
38. David Norus, Dorrigo NSW
39. Stiaan Mostert, RFDS Mount Isa QLD
40. Tatiana Pavlovskaya, Leeton NSW
41. Adam Pritchard, RFDS Kowanyama QLD
42. Anna Tervit, Yarrabah QLD
43. Lis Young, Maningrida NT
2009 in Stats

102,142 kilometres travelled for teaching visits

486,000 seconds of teletutorials

1,668 breakfasts consumed at workshops

115,333 coffee beans consumed by Albury office staff

70,001 photocopies printed

209 cities represented in RVTS website traffic

809 flight sectors flown by RVTS-ites

Supervisors
Ismail Alhadaj, Jerilderie NSW
Paul Appleton, Bellbrook NSW
Maher Alsabti, Tocumwal NSW
Kathleen Atkinson, Cairns QLD
Jim Berryman, Wynyard TAS
Don Bowley, Mount Isa QLD
Peter Burrows, Toowoomba QLD
George Cerchez, Evandale TAS
Max Chalmers, Darwin NT
Bruce Chater, Theodore QLD
Neil Chorley, Southport QLD
Peta Cornwall, Mackay QLD
Jennifer Delima, Alice Springs NT
Tom Doolan, Kilcoy QLD
Jim Edie, Kingaroy QLD
Kayte Evans, Ballina NSW
John Hall, Oakey QLD
Peter Harding, Toowoomba QLD
Tom Douch, Young NSW
John Heinrich, Toowoomba QLD
Rod Martin, Armidale NSW
Rory Howard, Cairns QLD
Martin Kelly, Ernabella SA
Scott Kitchener, Toowoomba QLD
Ashraf Labib, Trangie NSW
Minh Le Cong, Cairns QLD
John Lock, Roma QLD
Tim Lloyd-Morgan, Childers QLD
Cath Love, Crafer West SA
Peter McKenna, Innisfail QLD
Rick Newton, Tullamore NSW
Patrick O’Neill, Mareeba QLD
Dennis Pashen, Mount Isa QLD
Andrew Reedy, Millmerran QLD
Geoff Stewart, Berry Springs NT
Chester Wilson, Charleville QLD
Ralph Reeves-Saunders, Sarina QLD

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Brisbane Workshop

The Brisbane education workshop in September 2009 was our biggest yet, bringing together 38 registrars, 20 supervisors and a few bleary-eyed admin staff. Highlights included a stream of interactive presentations, a plethora of clinical cases, and a flurry of speed dating. Those who survived the trauma simulations at Royal Brisbane Hospital and retrieval medicine with Queensland Emergency Services returned with smiles the size of dinner plates. A dull moment? Never!

The hotel’s South Bank location proved a huge hit and the families enjoyed outings to the Queensland Museum, The Workshops Rail Museum, and Gold Coast icon, Dreamworld. As always, registrars took the opportunity to share knowledge and experiences and to catch up socially, which sometimes involved funny hats and spilt drinks.

Sydney Workshop

While the families enjoyed outings to the Bondi pool, Powerhouse Museum and Sydney Wildlife World, the 2007 cohort groaned their way through a fitness assessment. The diagnosis: too much chocolate cake. But new fitness regimes had to wait until after sunset drinks on a harbour cruise. Several legless dummies required treatment at the St. Vincents Hospital’s Simulation Centre the following morning, and were expertly attended to by bright-eyed RVTS registrars, who all got an early night.

It was all smiles at Tony Skapetis’s lecture on dental emergencies, and the ultrasounds were lubricated for a session with Lynette Hassell. And who could forget the carnage of Pete Burrows’s emergency medicine skills stations. Memories...

Conferences

RVTS staff were kept busy on the conference circuit during 2009. Highlights included NRHC in Cairns (loved the reef) and RDAQ on the Gold Coast (loved the beach). GPET in Adelaide (loved the meat-pie floaters) was our biggest showing with Dr Pat Giddings and Dr Louise Baker providing presentations. We work hard, we play hard, then we work some more.
Training Doctors in Remote Communities for Remote Communities

Remote Vocational Training Scheme Ltd
PO Box 37
Albury NSW 2640
Phone: (02) 6021 6235
Fax: (02) 6041 5149
www.rvts.org.au

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