words from the president (Robert Marshall)

Dear AMSAnauts,

The year is certainly getting very busy for all of us here at AMSA HQ, as we divide our time across the range of activities that make up this remarkable organisation.

Most notably, our advocacy efforts on the biggest issues are really taking shape as politicians, academics, universities, bureaucrats, doctors and students alike are realising the extent of the issues facing medical student education and training. Most notably the overload of medical students caused by successive and rapid increases in student numbers has finally reached a bottleneck that will likely see some international students missing out on an internship.

We will continue to push for an internship for all Australian medical graduates, recognising not only the impact this problem is having on individual students but also the larger impact that turning away Australian-trained future doctors will have on the medical workforce.

However, it is also time for us to remind the people who are making decisions about medical education that this is not simply a numbers game. The quality of training, from clinical rotations to internship positions and beyond must be ensured. We hear from many students about the struggle to get access to patients and teaching during clinical terms, a problem that has been worsening over the last few years. We are working hard to ensure that Australia’s high standards of medical education are not threatened by the current strain on the system. The increases to student numbers must be matched by an increase to funding and resources for the medical education sector.

If you have an opinion on the quality of clinical teaching, we want to hear it! Talk to your local AMSA Rep about coming along to a ThinkTank meeting or get in touch with us directly. Details are on the new AMSA website: www.amsa.org.au

It’s your AMSA, so make the most of it!

Rob

media & advocacy

As always, AMSA has been busy advocating for you on the issues affecting your education, training and wellbeing. The month kicked off with AMSA’s submission to the Australian Government’s Student Income Review, and continued with articles in state and national publications regarding medical student wellbeing and rural internships. AMSA’s recent media release on the closure of the UQ Physician Assistants program continued our commitment to ensuring quality clinical training for all medical students.

AMSA’s ears are always open to thoughts and ideas from all students – if there’s an issue you’d like more information on, or would like to raise with AMSA, please don’t hesitate to contact your AMSA rep, or the executive directly.

In the lead up to AMSA’s second Council meeting for the year, now is the perfect time for you to let AMSA know about the issues affecting your education, training and wellbeing.

Your AMSA rep will be running ThinkTank meetings over the coming months – if you’ve got something to say, get along and have your voice heard.

AMSA also featured this week on Triple J news, speaking about the need for quality supervision and training on rural placements.

keeping you connected

Planning an elective in Rural or Indigenous Health? Applications for AMSA’s Rural and Indigenous Health Elective Bursaries are closing soon! Info here!

LIMECONNECTION IV Bursaries are available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students to attend the upcoming fourth biennial LIMECONNECTION in Auckland, entitled ‘Medical Education for Indigenous Health: Building the Evidence Base. More info here.

National Leadership Development Seminar (NLDS) AMSA’s National Leadership Development Seminar is a unique opportunity for students from across Australia to explore the concepts associated with leadership alongside prominent figures involved in Australian health and politics. Applications will open in June – for more information, visit www.amsa.org.au/NLDS

National Rural Leadership Development Seminar Applications for the AMSA/NHRISB National Rural Leadership Development Seminar are opening soon! Held from August 4th - 6th in the Barossa Valley, NLRLDS is designed to up skill and inspire students within the field of rural health! Keep your eye on www.amsa.org.au/NLRLDS

Know an inspirational teacher or student? Nominate them for AMSA’s National Teaching or Student Award! More details here.

Heading to Convention? Do something good and head along to the MIPS AMSA Breakfast Club; as Orange Turns Pink in support of the National Breast Cancer Foundation.

upcoming events

AMSA Global Health Conference June 29 – July 3
AMSA National Convention July 3 – 10
National Leadership Dev Seminar Sept 11 - 14
National Rural Leadership Dev Seminar August 4 - 6
National Blood Drive / Vampire Cup July / August
Other Conferences • AsMSA/IFMSA Joint Conference June 25 – July 2 • IFMSA General Assembly (Copenhagen) August 1 - 6

congratulations

AMSA congratulates Murray Haar for receiving the 2011 AMA Indigenous Peoples’ Medical Scholarship. Murray is a third year Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, and Bachelor of Science student at the University of New South Wales and has a keen interest in cardiology and mental health. Valued at $9,000 for each year of study, the scholarship provides support and encouragement for Indigenous students studying medicine. For more information on this and other scholarships head to amsa.org.au/content/scholarships-bursaries