words from the president

G’day Rangers,
Just when you thought we were coming to the end of the year with highly successful Convention, GHC, and NR LDS events finally wrapping up for 2011, we are proud to present yet another incredible conference for Australia’s medical students to sink their proverbial teeth into, the AMSA National Leadership Development Seminar.

This captivating three-day event hosted in Parliament House (Canberra) by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, serves as proof that our voice is being heard loud and clear on The Hill.

In fact, one of AMSA’s greatest strengths as an organisation is representing medical students on the big issues that affect our education, wellbeing, clinical training, job certainty, and overall medical school experience. We are in a strong position to do this because the people that are making the decisions want to know what the future medical workforce thinks about these issues. Ministers (both of the ‘Health’ and ‘Prime’ variety), politicians, bureaucrats, media outlets, Universities and other key stakeholders all look to AMSA for the answers to the difficult questions: how do we ensure the quality of clinical training with the larger cohort of medical students coming through the pipeline? What will happen to graduating International students if they can’t be offered internships in the coming years? Why on Earth are people still planking?

And we, in turn, look to you, the medical students of Australia who we seek to represent and advocate on behalf of, in order to improve the experience of medical school, and ultimately to make better, happier, and healthier future doctors.

So it really is time to step up and let us hear what you think. The AMSA NLDS is one way to have your voice heard, but there are many others. Your AMSA Rep would love to hear from you so they can pass on these comments, questions and suggestions to the upcoming AMSA National Council.

You can also contact the AMSA Exec at any time by using the ExecDirect function of the website, and don’t forget to keep an ear to the ground for upcoming opportunities, events, ThinkTank meetings, fellowships, prizes, podcasts, AMSAtv and so much more!

Your AMSA Rep’s contact details (along with everything else) can be found on the AMSA website: www.amsa.org.au

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

media and advocacy

2011 is rapidly passing by us, and the call for policy for AMSA’s 3rd Council for the year has gone out! Is there an issue you want to see AMSA advocating on? The first step is the creation of policy – get in touch with your AMSA rep with any ideas you want them to bring to AMSA Council. Having your voice heard is the first step towards positive change!

Want to be have your say in the creation of a National Medical Student Fitness to Practise Policy (see our most recent AMSAtv episode)? If so, get in touch with Andrew Webster (AMSA Vice President External affairs) at vpe@amsa.org.au to get involved.

ThinkTanks around the country are currently discussing Refugee & Asylum Seeker Health, as the AMSA Global Health Committee looks to form a policy on the issue. Get in contact with your AMSA rep and/or Global Health Group to get involved in this topical discussion.

keeping you connected

The past 8 weeks have seen medical students extending their elbow joints and donating blood as a part of the AMSA National Blood Drive! We’ve seen an amazing number of donations (920 in total in fact), and there has been fierce competition amongst MedSocs in the battle for the AMSA Vampire Cup. We’re pleased to announce that MEDUSA (Deakin University) are the winners of the 2011 AMSA Vampire Cup, with UWSMS (Uni of Western Sydney) and GUMS (Griffith University) taking out 2nd and 3rd place respectively. Check out all of the final results here!

Congratulations to Patricia Ly (UNSW) who has been elected as the new Regional Chairperson (Australia) for the Asian Medical Students’ Association (AMSA). For more information about AMSA, check out their new Facebook page and have a read of 2011 AMSA/IFMSA Joint Committee report.

Have you ever considered surgery? Well, you’re not the only one. Check out your local Surgical Interest Group (SIG) and share the curiosity with fellow interested students. If you’ve already done some surgical research, perhaps present it to experts in the field!

Want to gain some valuable peer review skills? The eMedici Peer Review Study aims to assess and compare the quality of peer review of electronic case-based material by clinical undergraduate students, with JMOs and consultants. To participate, you will be asked to review three cases online, and answer a short survey on each case. Participants will also have the opportunity to win a $500 restaurant voucher. The study closes Monday 31st October. For more information please visit www.amsa.org.au/emedici

The latest edition of Panacea, AMSA’s biannual magazine, has been released – get your electronic copy here!

AMSA Convention 2013 Regional Bids are still open. To find out more, email Golsa Adabi at company.secretary@amsa.org.au or visit the amsa website. Applications close 4th October 2011.

upcoming events

National Leadership Development Seminar
11 - 14 Sept
AMSA 3rd Council
8 - 10 Oct

There are too many other events for medical students to list here – find out about all the opportunities available to you at the AMSA website!