

# PROVINCIAL FELLOWS

## ConneXion

## MARCH RANZCOG COUNCIL REPORT

Provincial Fellows may already be aware of the election at the March Council by the RANZCOG Board and Ninth Council, of Professor Stephen Robson as the President of the tenth RANZCOG Council (2016 - 2018). Steve won the ballot from a list of four highly qualified and very worthy candidates and is to be congratulated on his success. Having spent some of his formative, professional years working in central Queensland, Steve is well aware of the demands of provincial practice. He will be well known to most Fellows as the Editor of the *O&G* and as such, along with his many other roles including Chairman of the Women's Health Committee, has made an immense contribution to the College in particular, and to women's health in general.

### HONORARY FELLOWSHIP

During the President's At Home in Council week, Professor Ray Rodgers from The University of Adelaide's School of Paediatrics and Reproductive Health at the Robinson Research Institute, was presented with an Honorary Fellowship of the RANZCOG for his work on ovarian function and his particular interest in Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS). Ray's work demonstrates the need for ongoing basic scientific research into all aspects of women's health, which is easily forgotten by those of us working exclusively as

clinicians. We may all become aware of the fruits of his research over time, especially relating to the aetiology of the condition and his push to change the name to better reflect its cause and effect.

### COUNCIL FORUM

The March Council Forum was addressed by Mike Hickinbotham from SocialCorp.com.au on the power of, and use of social media as well as other aspects of our connection with colleagues, patients, the general public and the media through the world wide web. His invitation to speak to us was prompted by the recent social media, and subsequent mass media, response to the (controversial) debate topic at the TAS/VIC Annual Scientific Meeting held in Launceston in February this year. This drew College attention to the need to be involved with this space to better inform about such matters through social media and hence be in a better position to control a similar situation and disseminate accurate information. Council's attention was drawn to the need to update our website, particularly to allow better access through hand held devices. For Fellows not involved in social media sites such as Facebook, Mike's recommendations may seem controversial but it would appear that we may all need to engage in some way in the future in social media or risk the space being invaded by others less informed than ourselves.

## RURAL OBSTETRICS AND ANAESTHETICS LOCUM SCHEME (ROALS)

I reported in the December 2015 edition of *ConneXion*, that the Department of Health (DOH) had usurped control over the rural locum situation to combine all such services into the Rural Locum Assistance Programme (Rural LAP), and had put this out to tender. Aspen Medical has been successful in winning the tender. For information or enquiries about Rural LAP please visit: [www.rurallap.com.au](http://www.rurallap.com.au).

## PRACTICE VISITS

Practice Visits have recommenced with six visits arranged during May and June. Provincial Fellows will be informed of the success or otherwise of this somewhat limited program, particularly whether it is financially sustainable.

## PERINATAL AUDITS

It has been decided to reintroduce Perinatal Audits for provincial sites. This has been partly prompted by the recent enquiry into maternity services in Bacchus Marsh, Victoria. For this project to be successfully implemented it would need to be on a user pays basis. Each visit would be to a unit, rather than an individual Fellow, with the hospital involved covering the costs of the visit. Units interested in a Perinatal Audit should contact Elizabeth Perini at College House via [eperini@ranzcof.edu.au](mailto:eperini@ranzcof.edu.au) to register their interest.

## SELECTION AND ELECTION OF PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES

A submission is soon to be presented to the Board regarding the selection and election of Provincial Representatives on State Committees and Council. We hope to engage with a larger number of Fellows in geographic areas RA 2 - 5, the group eligible to vote for Provincial Fellows in elections. There has been increasing difficulty getting Fellows to be part of these committees and it is to be hoped by franchising a greater number of Fellows, Council

and Committee positions can be more easily filled and elections will become competitive.

*Dr Tony Geraghty*

**Chair, Provincial Fellows Committee**



Next RANZCOG Council  
July 2016  
(Dates to be advised)

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# Provincial Fellows Clinical Webinar Series

Below is the program for the 2016 Provincial Fellows Clinical Webinar Series. We are pleased to offer this program of topics important to rural practitioners, presented by Fellows of the College with expertise in these areas. Provincial Fellows will be emailed details of each webinar in the month it is scheduled.

We look forward to your participation.

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
26 April 2016 8pm AEST	<i>Managing Male Infertility</i>	<b>Professor Steve Robson FRANZCOG</b> Obstetrician/Gynaecologist John James Medical Centre, Deakin ACT
31 May 2016 8pm AEST	<i>Current Trends in Laparoscopic Surgery</i>	<b>A/Professor Anusch Yazdani FRANZCOG, CREI</b> REI Subspecialist Director of Clinical Research and Development QFG, VMO Mater, Wesley, St Andrews and Greenslopes Hospitals, Brisbane QLD
28 June 2016 8pm AEST	<i>Management of 55 Year Old with a 6cm Ovarian Cyst</i>	<b>Professor Yee Leung FRANZCOG, CGO</b> GO Subspecialist Professor, School of Women's and Infant's Health, University of Western Australia, Perth WA
26 July 2016 8pm AEST	<i>The Recent Cochrane Review on Transvaginal Meshes</i>	<b>A/Professor Chris Maher FRANZCOG, CU</b> CU Subspecialist Senior Lecturer University of Queensland, Brisbane QLD
30 August 2016 8pm AEST	<i>Ultrasound Assessment of the Fetus in the Third Trimester</i>	<b>Dr Patricia Lai FRANZCOG, COGU</b> OGU Subspecialist Obstetrician/Gynaecologist Sydney Ultrasound for Women, Sydney NSW
27 September 2016 8pm AEST	<i>Topic is TBA</i>	<b>Professor Susan Waker FRANZCOG, CMFM</b> Obstetrician / MFM Subspecialist Mercy Hospital for Women, Melbourne VIC
25 October 2016 8pm AEST	<i>Menopause Management</i>	<b>Professor Martha Hickey FRANZCOG</b> Head of Department Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology University of Melbourne, Parkville VIC Head of Menopause Unit Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne, Parkville VIC
29 November 2016 8pm AEDT	<i>Obesity and the Management of Gestational Diabetes</i>	<b>Professor Jodie Dodd FRANZCOG, CMFM</b> Obstetrician / MFM Subspecialist Women's & Children's Hospital, Adelaide SA

# 2017 PROVINCIAL FELLOWS ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Dates, location and venue for the 2017 Provincial Fellows ASM are in the process of being negotiated. Provincial Fellows and Diplomates will be notified as soon as these details are in place and approved by the RANZCOG Board. Details will also be available via the RANZCOG website. We look forward to an engaging and inspiring meeting.

## Advertising Trainee Positions

**Do you have an Australian or New Zealand training position you would like advertised?**

To keep Fellows and Trainees informed of training positions available around Australia and New Zealand, templates to advertise positions are available to download from the RANZCOG website via [www.ranzcog.edu.au](http://www.ranzcog.edu.au).

*Please note that only the minimum information requested on the template can be included. Please ensure all information is correct.*

These positions are advertised on the College website and in the Training and Assessment Bulletin at no cost.

## Thinking of Retiring?

**Retiring Provincial Fellows get the word out!**

**Senior registrars may be looking for opportunities to move into an established rural practice upon your retirement.**

If you have an opportunity that may be appealing to senior registrars, contact Elizabeth Perini via [eperini@ranzcog.edu.au](mailto:eperini@ranzcog.edu.au) with details about the practice, town and any other important and relevant information.

We will advertise your opportunity in the Training and Assessment Bulletin at no cost.

Advertisements in other College publications will incur the standard College advertising fees.