



Society News

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Editor: Dr Peter Arvier
Email: emergmed@bigpond.com

President's report

ASEM 25th Anniversary

This quarter of a century milestone provides an opportunity for the emergency medical community to take stock and reflect on some pretty amazing achievements.

That we all owe an incredible debt to those foundation pioneer emergency physicians who opened the Australasian Society for Emergency Medicine so long ago, should be obvious to all. Placed in their position, which few of us would have had the audacity, foresight, drive and perseverance to forge a membership association whose grand plan was the redesign of Emergency Medicine (EM) in Australia and New Zealand? Certainly in those days, it could easily be said that the base level of service provided at Australasian Casualty Departments from unsupervised junior staff and peripatetic ward HMOs, was pretty low and couldn't get much worse. Or perhaps overseas developments in EM, particularly in the USA and UK, pointed our EM pioneers in the right direc-

tion of future possibilities. Whatever the exact inspiration, those ASEM foundation members put their backs to the task and got on with the job creating our Society, establishing Australasian Scientific meetings and commencing the hard road towards specialty development.

That road was complicated and required; the development of an Emergency Medicine learned College (the ACEM); structures to support the training and examination of specialists to be; as well as a coordinated political lobbying campaign aimed at changing the hearts and minds of governments, hospitals, our medical peers working in other specialties and the broader community at large. An article in this ASEM Newsletter written by Dr Edward Brentnall sheds unique insight regarding those heady days. ASEM today still has a strong membership base which allows it to: maintain a website; write and distribute quarterly ASEM Newsletters; assist in the man-

agement of Emergency Medicine Australasia (the conjoint journal of ASEM/ACEM), contribute to best paper prizes at scientific forums and; support a number of emergency medicine related educational activities annually.

So as current President, all that remains for me to do at this point is to congratulate ASEM on its 25th Anniversary and thank all ASEM members and councillors (past and present included) for their efforts over the years promoting EM in Australasia.

*Dr Rick Lowen President
ASEM*



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ASEM Annual General Meeting 2006

All ASEM members should by now have received notice for the AGM and election of Council members to be held in Sydney (during the ACEM 2006 Annual Scientific Meeting). The meeting will be held at 12.30 pm on Wednesday 22 November at the Hilton Hotel (the conference venue).