

AFOEM interview series

This series provides insight into the careers of retired and actively serving physicians in occupational medicine. On this occasion, I had the pleasure of speaking with our highly esteemed colleague from Perth, Dr Michael Lucas.

Farhan: *Michael thanks for joining us, a pleasure to have you, please tell us about yourself and your medical training?*

Michael: I graduated from UWA in 1984. I completed a 2 year residency at RPH, travelled for a year, and then completed a 4 year Family Medicine Program, during which I undertook further studies in sports and occupational medicine, obtaining a Licentiate with the RCPI Faculty of Occupational Medicine and Fellowships with the College of GPs and our own Faculty. I completed a Grad Dip and a Masters in Occupational Health and Safety at Curtin University before completing PhD studies under the supervision of Prof Lin Fritschi at UWA and Adj Prof Lesley Day at Monash.

Farhan: *Please tell us how you developed an interest in Occupational & Environmental Medicine?*

Michael: As an undergraduate I was intrigued by the history of medicine, further inspired by visits to Padua and the museum at the College of Surgeons in Edinburgh. Occupational injuries featured prominently in my early work career and I became increasingly involved in industry before combining this with a medicolegal career. In recent years I have undertaken work opportunities in WA, Victoria, SA and Tasmania.

Farhan: *Please share with us your achievements, memories and highlights of your career?*

Michael: I was a recipient of the Ramazzinni prize in 1999. I have been an undergraduate mentor for UWA medical students, a provider for an occupational medicine student elective and a supervisor and examiner for the RACGP and AFOEM. I have had the honour of being the State Chair of the WA committees of ANZSOM, AFOEM and the RACP and was an inaugural state representative on the RACP College Council. I have served as an Expert Member on the WA Commission for Occupational Safety and Health and most recently stepped back from the role as WA AFOEM Federal Representative. I worked for many years as an Occupational Physician/Advisor to the Licensing Branch of the WA Department of Transport.

I currently spend my consulting time between WA and Victoria, most recently via telemedicine. My time off is spent trekking – most recently in Patagonia, visiting my 92yo mum with whom I travelled to Russia last year...riding my Harley motorcycle and doing tapestries.

Farhan: *Do you have a message for Trainees and Fellow Occupational Physicians?*

Michael: Treat every day and every opportunity as a learning experience. Grow in what you do. For me, being a physician is a humbling experience, one relatively few people get the opportunity to appreciate and enjoy. Interact with your wonderfully knowledgeable colleagues and be proud of

your colleagues, our Faculty and our College. Despite the demands, occupational medicine is a wonderful career path.