The following Communiqué highlights the key issues discussed as part of the 02-2015 AChSHM Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 20 May 2015.

GOVERNANCE

AMC/MCNZ Accreditation

The College underwent an accreditation assessment by the Australian Medical Council (AMC) and the Medical Council of New Zealand (MCNZ), and has been granted accreditation for six further years with recommendations to work towards throughout the accreditation period. The Committee requested an update on accreditation-related activity for its next meeting.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

The Committee has been quite active recently with a number of consultative documents circulated for feedback, including a proposed Rule 3 Exemption for HIV and STI Testing and the RACGP Female Genital Cosmetic Surgery Toolkit.

Restrictions to Testosterone Prescribing

From 1 April 2015, restrictions to the prescribing of testosterone products became effective. The new restrictions stipulate which specialists can provide authority, including “Treatment by or in consultation with a registered member of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine.” As the term “registered member” is not recognised by nor does it exist within the RACP, a letter has been written to PBAC suggesting this wording be amended.

Medicare Item Numbers

Proposed new Medicare item numbers for Sexual Health Medicine have not been approved in the 2015-2016 Federal Budget. A letter will be written to the College President to determine how to progress this matter.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Terms of Reference for the Training Committee – Sexual Health Medicine were approved. The Education Committee will now function under this new name in line with the education governance changes. Nine new Fellows have been admitted to the Chapter in the last year, two of which were Overseas Trained Physicians (OTPs). There are also two new Sexual Health Medicine trainees.

Criteria are being developed for a new award modelled on the AFPHM John Snow Scholarship. It will be targeted at medical students and junior doctors, with conference registration as the prize. Sexual Health trainees have been consulted on the concept of having a Trainees’ Day attached to the 2016 Annual Scientific Meeting and are very supportive. Trainees have also provided a list of recommended session topics.

FRACP Pathway

An update on the implementation of the FRACP pathway for Addiction Medicine was provided. The College has been informed of changes to the regulatory and assessment processes for recognition of new specialties by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). While it remains unclear at present what the new operational processes will be, it has become far more complex to establish a new medical speciality and there will be challenges for existing specialities trying to make
changes. Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine (AYAM) are currently exploring the most appropriate means of achieving recognition as a new medical specialty.

**FELLOWSHIP**

**Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM)**

After the cancellation of the 2015 Annual Scientific Meeting, initial planning for the 2016 meeting has commenced. The proposed dates are the 27 – 28 February in Brisbane with the inaugural attachment of a Trainees’ Day.

**Penelope Lowe Trainee Breakfast**

The annual Penelope Lowe Trainee Breakfast will take place at the 2015 Australasian Sexual Health Conference on the morning of Wednesday, 16 September 2015 in conjunction with the Australasian HIV & Aids Conference in Brisbane.

**ASHA Update**

ASHA continues to grow and has welcomed new collaborators. ASHA activities in 2015 have included a submission to the Human Rights Commission regarding the ‘Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Intersex Rights Snapshot Report’ consultation. Continued promotion of the Australian STI Guidelines for Use in Primary Care has seen an average of 150 visits to the website per day from Australia and also a wide range of other countries. These guidelines will be incorporated into the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM)’s clinical guidelines portal in mid-2015, allowing access to health professionals in remote/regional areas.

ASHA are holding an evening social event at the World STI & HIV Congress on Monday, 14 September 2015 from 6pm-8pm and registration details will follow shortly. Planning has commenced for the 2016 Australasian Sexual Health Conference, to be held from 26 – 28 October 2016 in Adelaide.

**AMD e-Bulletin**

Positions vacant can be advertised in the AMD e-Bulletin, which is distributed fortnightly on a Friday. Requests for advertising should be provided to shmed@racp.edu.au as soon as possible and with sufficient notice, including a link to the advertisement online. The deadline for content is Wednesday the week prior to the Friday edition.

**Dr Lynne Wray**
President, Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine