Welcome to the spring quarterly update from Paramedics Australasia SA chapter committee. This quarter has been extremely busy for not only this chapter, but all chapters and the national board. Registration ramped up with consultations, the survey, submissions and ongoing discussions with government and interested parties. Scholarships and offers of CPD sponsorships were abundant. Hopefully you will find this newsletter informative and brings you up to date on what you may have missed. Happy reading, from the PA SA Chapter Committee.

**CPD Events**

**EMSA 2012**

The biennial Emergency SA Conference (EMSA) was held in Adelaide on the 24th and 25th August. This conference has become a key event for the SA Chapter of Paramedics Australasia, the College of Emergency Nursing Australasia and the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine.

This year’s event saw almost 200 Emergency Doctors, Nurses, Paramedics, Students, General Practitioners and others from South Australia and interstate come together for learning opportunities and a chance to practice skills with EMSA’s strong stream of clinical workshops.

Keynote speakers this year included Dr Seton Henderson who travelled from New Zealand to talk about the Christchurch Earthquake and the expansive medical response that occurred as a result, this was followed by a discussion on SA Health’s Emergency Management Unit and their active processes that can be enabled in the event of an emergency, particularly earthquake. Detective Superintendent John DeCandia from SA Police gave an informative discussion on the background of outlaw motorcycle gangs that could be helpful to emergency personnel.

The second day saw Professor Jack McLean from the Centre for Automotive Safety Research give a perspective on road trauma and medical response, followed by Professor Russell Gruen discussing haemorrhage control in severely injured patients, including the emerging role of tranexamic acid (anti fibrinolytic drug).

Both days had two streams of presentations on a range of topics from general updates in ARC Guidelines and burns management, a look at forensics and emergency care, bariatric care, trauma systems, emergency childbirth, psychological and psychiatric emergencies, stroke and reperfusion therapy, assessing suspicious head injuries in children and general discussions on making better clinical decisions.

The third stream covered practical clinical workshop sessions on difficult/surgical airways, ventilator skills, ENT emergencies, toxicology and the use of the snake venom detection kits, and hand injuries and use of nerve blocks. The unique aspect of these workshops is the collaborative nature, where doctors, nurses and paramedics work side-by-side to practice and use their skills.

The final session for the conference was an entertaining debate arguing the statement “Ambulance Diversion is a Drug and a Perfect Therapy for ED Overcrowding”.

One of the unique qualities of EMSA conferences is the networking opportunity for everyone involved and the collaboration between the three emergency care disciplines. EMSA aims to break down the barriers and encourage everyone to work together and learn together for better emergency medical care.
29 October MAD Event
Have you ever wondered the where’s and why’s about the Mucosal Atomization Device (MAD)? On Monday the 29th October Dr Tim Wolfe, the inventor of the MAD will be in Adelaide to talk about the thoughts, the reasons, and the concept behind developing the MAD. Dr Wolfe has a distinguished career in both the medical field and EMS services in the USA as well as starting the company that developed the device. This evening is free to all attendees, event time and location are on the PA Website. If you are unable to attend this evening Dr Wolfe is a key note speaker at the PA National Conference in Hobart so those of you who attend the conference will able to catch him there.

WCH Paediatric Emergency and Trauma Day
PA SA Chapter Committee offered 6 positions to attend the Women’s and Children’s Hospital Annual Paediatric Emergency and Trauma Day to be held on the 7th November. Due to the quick and overwhelming number of applications, we have now granted a total of 8 positions – 4 to PA SA members and 4 to FUSPA students. The sponsorship will be $100 each for the 4 PA SA members, which is the full cost of registration and $30 each for the FUSPA students, which is the cost of student registration. As part of this sponsorship each successful applicant will be required to supply a 500 - 750 word report of one of the sessions being held at the trauma day. These reports will be used either in the PA Response magazine or in the SA chapter quarterly update which is sent to all members. Each successful applicant has been nominated a session to write the report on when they received the email that they have been successful. This annual event provides an excellent way to upgrade skills, knowledge and interact with the other medical agencies. Congratulations to the successful applicants and again thank you to all members who submitted applications.

Scholarships and Sponsorships

Rod Kershaw ASM Scholarship
Later this month the 2012/13 Rod Kershaw ASM Scholarship has now been released. The scholarship is a joint cooperation between Paramedics Australasia SA Chapter and the SA Ambulance Service (SAAS). This scholarship is open to all PA members who are employed by SAAS and it provides up to $7000 towards interstate or overseas travel. The concept behind the scholarship is to research any area, clinical or non-clinical, that can have an impact on the way the paramedic / volunteer / ambulance workforce within SAAS and Australia wide carry out their business. The research could be on education and training, clinical processes, trials or international research that Paramedics and SAAS could become part of, just to name a couple of areas. This year’s recipient, Grant Gallagher, is travelling to Israel to carry out his research. Grant describes why;

Standing within the Negev Desert and just a few kilometres from the massive concrete walls that separate Israel from the Gaza strip, is a perfect place to interview volunteer ambulance officers about why they continue to volunteer their time. More importantly, what can we learn from these volunteers and their ambulance service (Magen David Adom) so as to better support SAAS volunteers and ambulance volunteers around Australia?

The Rod Kershaw ASM Scholarship web page on the PA website has be updated shortly and now includes a Frequently Asked Questions page put together by Glen Cuttance, a previous scholarship recipient. To access the web page you will need to sign into the members’ only section of the PA website at www.paramedics.org.au/kershaw. If you have lost or forgotten your log in details and password, please contact the SA membership coordinator at 1993jc@gmail.com.

SARRAH Scholarships
Over the last couple of months, country paramedics, volunteers and students have had access to 3 scholarships run by Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH), they include the scholarship for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander health worker, Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship and Support Scheme (NAHSSS) Allied Health Undergraduate (Entry-Level) Scholarship and the NAHSSS Postgraduate and CPD scholarship. PA members, SAAS staff and degree students have been successful in obtaining scholarship funding in the previous round of offers in 2011.

Paramedic Registration
There was a fantastic response to the Paramedic Regulation/Registration Survey. Thank you to all who put effort into completing the survey and especially to those who completed a Paramedic Registration Submission. A total of 4424 surveys were received Australia wide but due to a number being incomplete only 3841 survey responses were able to be used. From an SA perspective, 688 were received, (150 from paramedical degree students and 538 from paramedics). This survey was the largest of its kind in Australia and 86% of all respondents indicated that Option 4, full registration, was their preference. Again from an SA perspective over 92% of those who completed the survey opted for full registration. This was only the first step in this process of Paramedic Regulation and Registration. The survey results, the information from the consultation forums and from the submitted consultation papers will now be reviewed and then a report will be submitted to the Federal Government for them to make a decision. PA is still lobbying politicians of all persuasions to support paramedic registration. The consultation paper that PA National submitted can be found on the PA website at www.paramedics.org.au follow the link from Publications then Submissions.
What Has PA Achieved and What Does It Offer?

The PA SA committee members are often asked “What has PA achieved and what does it offer?”. In this quarterly update I will highlight some of those achievements and the benefits that have come from the hard work done by both the national board and from the various chapter committees over the last couple of years. This list is not all inclusive.

What has PA Achieved?

Reports and submissions (major)

- NHHRC submission on health reform
- Inquiry into St John Ambulance (WA)
- ASNSW Management & operations
- Statutory regulation of the health professions (NZ)
- Health workforce innovation and reform (HWA)
- Health practitioners prescribing pathways
- Public risk and paramedic regulation - NRAS registration

Meetings and liaison activities with

- Ministers and Shadow Ministers in all jurisdictions
- Directors General and Directorate staff in Health Departments
- ADF Joint Health Command
- AGPN – liaison and participation in events
- AHCRA – participate as full member of Alliance
- NRHA – participate as member of governing Council
- SARRAH – close working relationship e.g. Scholarships, lobby

Membership of key bodies

- Australian Resuscitation Council
- HWA Standing Advisory Committee for Health Professions
- HWA Interim Council of Future Health Leaders
- National Rural Health Students Network
- Founding member of International Paramedic

Working cooperatively / inter-professionally

- National Council of Ambulance Unions (Aust)
- Heart Foundation
- Regular discussions with RCNA, CENA, CRANA, Others

What does PA Offer?

PA through its various meetings, submissions and interagency cooperation has increased government bodies’, medical and allied health professionals’ understanding about the field of pre-hospital care and paramedicine. Paramedics and volunteers are no longer looked upon as “ambulance drivers” by these peak bodies. PA has for many years been in the forefront of paramedic professionalism and driven the push for registration. PA supports research, both nationally and chapter based, through full scholarships and limited financial support. PA provides regular CPD events and support for CPD funding and through interagency cooperation PA members have access to other allied health care agencies’ CPD events. Through negotiation PA has had the paramedic workforce (paramedics, volunteers and students) recognised by SARRAH and we now benefit by having access to various SARRAH scholarships. PA runs an internationally recognised conference each year and has E-Learning and E journal (ePHC) located on the PA website. PA has established a chapter in New Zealand, have become a founding member of International Paramedic and the PA logo is now being used in Europe with some colour modification. There is also the quarterly Response magazine and members have access to discount medical books and equipment.

PA E-Learning

In addition to the range of E-Learning courses currently available, a new envenomation module is currently being developed and almost ready to be launched. Remember to use this eLearning to remain up to date with PA’s Continuing Professional Development Program and to further refresh your current knowledge base. Access to the E-Learning area of the PA website is a members only access, you will therefore need your PA login and Password. Please contact the membership coordinator at 1993jc@gmail.com if you have lost or forgotten these details.

IT

If you are unable to make it to the PA national conference in Hobart this year, don’t forget to follow @ParaAustSA on Twitter for updates on the PA Conference. If you’re at the conference and see or hear something worth sharing - tweet it with the hashtag #PACONF2012.