



AMC Welcomes New Office Bearers and Directors

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) Annual General Meeting in Sydney on 20 November has marked the appointment of a new President and Deputy President of the AMC.

Associate Professor Jillian Sewell AM was welcomed as the new AMC President and Professor David Ellwood as the new Deputy President.

Associate Professor Sewell is a principal paediatric specialist and Deputy Director of the Centre for Community Child Health at the Royal Children's Hospital, Associate Professor in the Department of Paediatrics at the University of Melbourne, and a leader in paediatric education. Professor Sewell has been a Director and member of Council since 2009. She is the former Chair of the committee responsible for accreditation of specialist medical programs, the AMC Specialist Education Accreditation Committee, and now chairs the AMC Recognition of Medical Specialties Advisory Committee.

Professor Ellwood is Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Griffith University School of Medicine and Director of Maternal–Foetal Medicine at Gold Coast University Hospital. Professor Ellwood also chairs the AMC Medical School Accreditation Committee.

Associate Professor Sewell has paid tribute to her predecessor Professor Robin Mortimer AO for his many years of service to the AMC, and particularly for his leadership as President over the past three years. Associate Professor Sewell said “The AMC is internationally recognised for its work in the key areas of accreditation of medical programs and assessment of international medical graduates. In the last three years, the AMC committed itself to national and international review, to build on its strengths and address areas of weakness. The AMC is a stronger organisation for having undertaken these reviews, and we are seeing the benefits in a range of new activities, and strengthening of some of our existing functions.”

The Council heard reports on new work by the AMC in the following areas:

- Indigenous Health: the AMC established an Indigenous Planning Advisory Group to assist the development of a more visible and effective strategy for the AMC to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Maori health organisations, students, medical practitioners and medical educators across its accreditation, standard setting, policy and assessment functions to support the AMC purpose. The Group has made a number of recommendations to Council and an implementation plan will be developed early in 2016.
- Medical student professionalism – the AMC established a multi-stakeholder working party to address issues arising for health services when students who demonstrate unprofessional behaviour and/or appear unfit for practise are undertaking clinical placements or graduating and beginning internship. The working group has sought to develop guidance of value to education providers and that would ensure accreditations appropriately assess whether programs of study, and their respective education providers, provide persons who complete the program with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes necessary to practise the profession in Australia.

The Council also elected three Directors and noted the appointment by AMC Directors of new chairs for two of its standing committees. The Directors elected by Council are:

- Dr Greg Kesby (New South Wales)
- Dr Kim Rooney (Tasmania)
- Emeritus Professor Napier Thomson AM (Victoria)

The Directors ex officio are:

- Professor Kate Leslie (new Chair, Specialist Education Accreditation Committee),
- Emeritus Professor David Prideaux (new Chair, Board of Examiners)
- Professor David Ellwood (Chair, Medical School Accreditation Committee)
- Associate Professor Jillian Sewell AM (Chair, Recognition of Medical Specialties Advisory Committee).

The Council's Annual General Meeting has also reviewed the achievements for 2015. Associate Professor Sewell said, 'The AMC relies on the contributions of many individuals who are members of its committees, expert working groups, senior examiners, and accreditation assessors. We are fortunate to have members from the medical profession, members who are educators, community members, and members of other health professions to participate in our standards setting, accreditation and examination processes.'

The highlights for 2015:

1. The achievement of a number of significant milestones in the AMC's assessment and examinations functions including:
 - enhancing the work of the Vernon C Marshall National Test Centre (NTC) with the installation of video monitoring and recording technology to monitor examination processes and standards in real time
 - implementing new computer-tablet technology to score clinical examinations in real time as well provide for monitoring the performance of examiners
 - undertaking research and collaborative discussions with national and international organisations aimed at augmenting AMC examination and assessment programs
2. International engagements including:
 - Contributions of AMC assessors to the development of a medical school accreditation process for China
 - Support for the Association for Medical Education in the Western Pacific Region
 - Presentation to the Association for Medical Education Europe on reform through accreditation
3. Completion of a significant number of accreditation assessments, working group reviews and standards review including:
 - Accreditation assessments of primary and specialist medical programs and intern training accreditation authorities
 - Review of the Standards for Assessment and Accreditation of Specialist Medical Programs and Professional Development Programs.