



AUSTRALIAN MILITARY MEDICINE

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Australian Military Medicine Association

Statement of Objectives

The Australian Military Medicine Association is an independent, professional scientific organisation of health professionals with the objectives of:

- promoting the study of military medicine
- bringing together those with an interest in military medicine
- disseminating knowledge of military medicine
- publishing and distributing a journal in military medicine
- promoting research in military medicine

Membership of the Association is open to doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, paramedics and anyone with a professional interest in any of the disciplines of military medicine.

The Association is totally independent of the Australian Defence Force.

President's Message

Nader Abou-Seif

Welcome to 1997 and what promises to be a full year in the Australian military medicine calendar.

Health services tend to be something the community takes for granted, and military health services are not excluded from this attitude. Indeed the only time mention seems to be made is when things fail to reach the expected standard of excellence. The most recent example of this has been in the recent contribution to the search and rescue efforts for two shipwrecked lone yachtsmen in the Southern Ocean. The efforts of the search and rescue team received well deserved recognition, however the part played by the medical teams involved received very little comment. I would like to redress this and use this opportunity to congratulate those involved on their efforts.

It is part of the role of AMMA to encourage and acknowledge achievement in the fields of military medicine and I believe that the commitment to excellence is something which is ingrained in our military medicine community.

The skills and talents in our Association are also something which we wish to encourage. Part of our role is achieved through awards and grants to members of AMMA who have made or wish to make a contribution to the knowledge of military medicine. Once again, as the deadline for applications for the AMMA Grant draws near, I encourage you all to consider how AMMA may help you pursue your areas of interest and expertise, while enhancing the base of military medicine informa-

tion in this country. Details of the grant requirements and the application procedures are found elsewhere in this journal.

On a similar line, it is not too early to consider the upcoming 6th National Conference to be held in Melbourne at the Hotel Sofitel on August 29-31. Previous conferences have justifiably earned praise for the range and depth of the topics discussed, and participation in the conference as either a presenter or delegate should be pencilled in to your diaries from now. This is the main event in the AMMA calendar and indeed is becoming the premier event in the Australian military medicine calendar.

My message this month currently reads like a request for contributions to the Association, and indeed this is an ongoing requirement for AMMA's continued growth. The quality of the Association is wholly dependent on the input of its membership, and AMMA will be able to deliver more to all of us if we all continue to contribute to its activities. AMMA is driven by its membership, not by any other Association or affiliation. Our aims, as stated in the journal, are only achievable with your active involvement.

I look forward to 1997 being a year of consolidation as well as continued growth in the history of the society. I rely on your involvement to achieve these goals.