

## Inside this edition

During the recent Australasian Military Medicine Association (AMMA) conference in Adelaide in early November, I was fortunate to stumble upon a nearby antiquarian bookshop, where I found a copy of Surgeon Rear-Admiral T.T. Jeans "Reminiscences of a Naval Surgeon", where he details his career as a naval medical officer and surgeon between 1895 and 1925. I hope to review his career in a later issue, but I was struck by some of his descriptions of treating wounded on 25 April 1915 onboard HMS Euryalus:

"Steam boats, dashing inshore, towed away the disabled transports' boats and brought many alongside us, full of dead and wounded. From seven a.m. until nearly ten o'clock that night, Dr Devereux Marshall, Staff Surgeon, R.N.V.R. (of the Moorfield Eye Hospital) and myself worked without ceasing. The whole of one side of our battery-deck became crowded with wounded; and in the sick-bay, under the foc's'le, it almost was impossible to move about until many of those brought there, in the first rush, died and were carried aft. To add to our troubles, the ship went to action-quarters, skylights and deadlights were screwed down, the electric light failed when the 9.2 inch overhead commenced firing, and we had to work for some time by candle light." (p. 251)

As a Journal dedicated to military and veteran's health, we need to constantly reflect on how we can better provide military health services in both conflict and peace, remember the challenges face by our forerunners in this field, and continue to master

the new techniques, methods and research that can make us better practitioners in this field. While our submissions numbers continue to slowly grow, we always are looking for more good military and veterans' health articles. Now that we have moved to full Open Access, with recognition by the Directory of Open Access Journals, authors may like to consider the wider exposure that publication will bring to their articles, particularly as publication is peer-reviewed and without any authors fees or other costs. We are also interested in operational articles, highlighting the issues and lessons learned in the field, which we will put through an accelerated peer review process.

In this issue, we are presenting the abstracts from the recent AMMA Conference and two excellent articles, including an original article on simulation in military training and a historical article on arsenic, which formed the basis of a number of early chemical weapons.

As we move into 2014, we will have further themed issues and ask prospective authors to consider whether they may have suitable articles for these themed issues. In particular, we are very keen to get articles for our special World War One issue in April 2014. Other military and veterans' health articles are always very welcome and we would encourage all our readers to consider writing on their areas of military or veterans' health interest. I would also like to wish all our readers a safe New Year.

Dr Andy Robertson, CSC, PSM  
Editor-in-Chief

## President's message

Welcome to the latest edition of JMVH in which we showcase the talents of our conference authors, publishing their abstracts from the 2013 AMMA / Repat Foundation Joint Conference.

Thank you to all the speakers for their contribution to a very successful program. In particular our Keynote Speakers COL Timothy Hodgetts (UK), Dr Brendan Nelson, MAJGEN John Cantwell and our Voices of Veterans Mr Bob Walter, Sgt Sarah Webster and Mr Bronson Horan. I think those that attended would agree that their presentations were inspiring and thought provoking.

Prior to the Conference, AMMA conducted an Aviation Medicine Workshop and we would like to thank Dr Elicia McGinniss, Dr Gordon Cable and especially Dr Adrian Smith for providing their time in putting together and delivering a great program. We will be conducting more workshops in 2014 so watch out for information on this.

Congratulations are noted to the following conference award winners. Weary Dunlop Award – Isaac Seidl, Poster Award - Dan Corkery, JMVH New Author's Award – Goran (Gary) Martinic, JMVH Editor's

Award – Susan Neuhaus and Sharon Mascall-Dare, The Repat Foundation Award (Best Veteran Paper) – Steven S. Coughlin, Rebecca B. McNeil, Dawn T. Provenzale, Erin K. Dursa & Catherine M. Thomas

Congratulations also go to Colonel Murray Hayes, RAADC for his winning image from the Battlefield Photo Competition titled "Hi Ho Hi Ho, it's off to theatre we go" which is featured as the cover photo for this edition.

During the conference the Association's annual general meeting was held and all council members were re-elected to their positions and I thank them again for their time and dedication to the association. We hope in the coming months to be able to report on developments with the Journal and sponsorship which will assist in ensuring the Journal's sustainability.

We wish you all a prosperous and Happy New Year for 2014 and hope to see you at the next AMMA Annual Conference at the Hilton Sydney from 17-19 October 2014.

Greg Mahoney  
AMMA President