



# Meridian

Newsletter of the Australian Chinese Medical Association of Victoria  
澳洲維省中華醫學會

15 May 2008, Volume 5 Number 2

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## Meridian Draws New Lines

*From the Editor*

This issue of Meridian celebrates the election of a new ACMAV committee, after our recent Annual General Meeting held on the 23rd of April, 2008. It also marks a new editor and a new design, which hopefully will meet with general approval, paving the way for further growth of the Chinese medical community in Victoria.

Along with the introduction of our new colour version, we hope to streamline the design of Meridian to maximise the reading experience and value to members.

Along with the Event Calendar and ACMAV Member Classifieds, we will continue to bring regular updates on ACMAV's charitable activities, educational functions,

and President's Message. We also hope to introduce regular columns in areas such as Finance and Practice Management, and expand our clinical content. If you have interesting cases or imaging, please feel free to submit it for the education of other members.

2008 promises to be a big year, and we hope that you will get to know your fellow members and committee both at the regular monthly ACMAV meetings as well as through our newsletter.

Please remember that it is your contribution that makes ACMAV and Meridian successful – so if you have the smallest urge to write something, please put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) and send it in!

## ACMAV Charitable Projects Forge Ahead

ACMAV has had a strong charitable focus for many years now, and things are progressing steadily for Projects Africa and Cambodia. Two 20-foot container-loads of medical equipment and supplies bound for Africa and Cambodia were loaded on March the 27th, and they are currently with the freighting companies awaiting shipment.

It would have been impossible for ACMAV to undertake this project alone without the help of the Rotary Club of Tempelstowe and Glenn Mills from another humanitarian group. It has taken us longer than we anticipated because of the Kenyan crisis as all shipping passes through that country, but hopefully things are back on track now.

Meanwhile, we continue to receive updates from the St Francis Nyenga Catholic

Mission Hospital in Uganda where a Water Purification Unit is being installed.

Vision Africa Australia and Global Development Group have helped to raise the money for the project which started off as a tentative plan for a \$6,000 Solar Pump and has transformed into a fully fledged Water Purification unit with Solar lighting to the Maternity and Children's Wards and operating theatre which come to over \$123,000.

This really goes to show the generosity of ACMAV members and the general public in helping the less fortunate people of the world.

*ACMAV is always on the lookout for suggestions and support for our charitable projects. If you know a potential donor or a worthy cause, please contact our office.*

## ACMAV AGM Results

The ACMAV Annual General Meeting was held on April 23rd at Cheng Moon Restaurant in High St, Kew.

*Dr Adrian Mar* was elected as president, with *Mr Andrew Bui* stepping down from his position.

Other election results included:

Vice-President: *Dr Theong Low*  
Secretary: *Dr Erwin Loh*  
Treasurer: *Dr Jun Yang*

Committee Members:

*Dr Albert Leung, Mr Jason Chuen,*  
*Dr Jason Oh, Dr Michelle Goh,*  
*Dr Nicole Yap, Dr Sally Ng.*



## President's Message

*It is with genuine excitement* that I take up the reins as ACMAV President, and I thank the membership for giving me this opportunity. Mr Andrew Bui has through his capable stewardship left our Association in a strong position in terms of membership and finances, and I am particularly grateful that he has overseen the consolidation of our community and charitable activities, and maintained a strong educational program.

My plan is to build on this platform and broaden the activities of the ACMAV. We are first and foremost an organisation which serves to support the professional needs of our members. Education will therefore remain a priority, and new formats and topics will be considered along with a variety of topics and speakers.

However what sets the ACMAV

apart from other medical groups is our shared connection with the Chinese community. For most members this is of course through their Chinese heritage, but for our non-Chinese members it is an interest in Chinese culture and the Chinese people (and no doubt the cuisine!) which draws them to our Association. Although we all have as patients a diverse ethnic mix, it is our understanding of the particular needs of the Chinese patient which gives us the necessary insight to enable the specific needs of this group to be addressed.

It is with this in mind that I will ask the incoming Committee to explore ways in which the ACMAV can offer support to Chinese speaking patients. One simple idea is to have a directory of Chinese-speaking members linked with our

website to enable doctors to refer to a native-speaking specialist. Another is to offer Chinese language health information via the local Chinese-speaking radio, TV and print media. Perhaps the Association can help in upskilling the Chinese language skills of its members.

I believe we must also look at the role of the ACMAV in providing support for doctors from China. The medical workforce landscape has changed, and it makes sense that our Association is the body which can offer a point of contact for those doctors newly arrived or visiting from overseas.

We should be proud of the charitable work done by our colleagues on behalf of the ACMAV, and it is my intention to continue supporting this work and if the opportunity arises then to broaden

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## Outgoing President's Message



our projects to East Timor and China.

Lastly, our activities should not all be serious and work-related. I intend to establish a Social Subcommittee to extend the range of "extra-curricular" activities on offer.

With a change in the executive I believe it is a good time to reassess the purpose and intentions of the Association; to consolidate our core activities and to broaden our outlook and agenda. In this way I hope to make the ACMAV more attractive to prospective members and to better utilise the experience and talents of our existing membership. I look forward to working with you all in this endeavour.

**Adrian Mar**

*On reflection* of my 2 years as President of ACMAV, I feel very humble and also privileged for the opportunity to serve the members and to uphold the ideals of the Association.



*Outgoing President Andrew Bui now has more time for leisurely pursuits, such as holidaying with his son.*

Without repeating my speech given at the AGM on 23 April, and also reported in the upcoming Qj Magazine, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the members of the Committee for their friendship and help in running a successful series of events for the Association.

I would also like to acknowledge their contribution of ideas and hard work in developing and improving the functioning of the Association. As mentioned in my President's report, I believe that the greatest asset that the Association has is its members and that includes the incoming committee members.

The future of Our Association is therefore in good hands.

**Andrew Bui**

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## Member Profile

Surgeon Gordon Low (羅安鼎) founded an outreach program through the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1992 and has not looked back since. Since organising two orthopaedic surgeons to visit China in 1993, “Project Guangzhou” has grown into “Project China” and has been responsible for 65 surgeons and specialists in 26 teams visiting 11 hospitals in China, offering services from orthopaedics and neurosurgery to paediatric, cardiothoracic, and cranio-facial surgery.

The program has also led to 40 Chinese surgeons and specialists from 13 different hospitals coming to visit Australia, where they have sometimes had more to teach than they have had to learn from us! Not only has Project China facilitated exchange placements for Chinese and Australian doctors – it has also provided valuable funds for these doctors to travel via the *Hui Yin Fong Travel Grant* established in 1995.

Project China has also despatched supplies to Chinese hospitals such as books, journals, medical and surgical equipment.

In many cases, friendships forged through exchanges to and from China have led to lifelong relationships, and no doubt contribute to the growing Australian-Chinese collaboration which ACMAV sup-



Professor Gordon Low. Photo courtesy of Guangzhou Morning Post.

ports so greatly.

While it is not uncommon for Australian doctors to have informal relationships with Chinese colleagues, 76-year old Gordon and his wife Rosie’s organisation and co-ordination have contributed greatly to fostering Sino-Australasian surgical relations. Often it is not at the

## ACMAV Educational Seminars

<b>Speakers:</b>	<b>Dr Ferry Rusli</b>	<b>Dr Greg Szto</b>
<b>Topic:</b>	Interpreting the Sick Liver	Cardiac Imaging
<b>Date:</b>	20 May 2008	25 June 2008
<b>Time:</b>	7pm for 7.30pm	7pm for 7.30pm
<b>Venue</b>	All People Chinese Restaurant 122 Burwood Hwy Burwood East (03) 9889 8198	San Choi Restaurant 298-302 High St Kew (03) 9818 0438
<b>RSVP by:</b>	Friday 23rd May	Friday 21st June

Check the ACMAV Website for event updates  
RSVP is essential due to limited places  
You can RSVP via web, email, mail, or fax to:

**Website:** www.acmav.org  
**Email:** office@acmav.org  
**Fax:** (03) 9899 6389  
**Mail:** ACMAV House  
862 Canterbury Road  
Box Hill South 3128

### I will be attending the:

- Hepatology seminar on 20 May 2008  
 Cardiac Imaging seminar on 25 June 2008

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professional level at which lasting bonds are formed, but in the simple things — like knowing that there is someone you can call, and that a door is always open with a friendly face to greet you.

Currently appointed as an Honorary Professor at the Guangzhou Children's Hospital, Gordon has recently been recognised in the 4th Guangzhou Friendship Awards for Foreign Experts, scoring an interview in the Guangzhou Morning Post. The awards, presented by the Vice Mayor of Guangzhou Xu Ruisheng, were held on March 29th at the Baiyun International Convention Center in northern Guangzhou. Gordon was one of 14 recipients of the award, whittled down from a field of 43.

*ACMAV is always on the lookout for interesting stories about its members for Meridian and Qi. If you have a professional or personal interest which others may find entertaining, or even if you would be happy just to answer a few brief questions about yourself, please let us know at [newsletter@acmav.org](mailto:newsletter@acmav.org)*

Mr Gordon Low, AM, MBBS (HK), FRCSEd, FRACS, is the Coordinator of Project China. He was born in China and educated in Hong Kong. He migrated to Australia in 1971. For his work with Project China, he was awarded the RACS Medal in 1994, and was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2003.

Anyone who wishes to obtain further information about Project China, or to make a donation, can contact the Project China Secretariat at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

Email  
[Project.china@surgeons.org](mailto:Project.china@surgeons.org)

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*Australian Chinese Medical Association (Victoria) Inc.*

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**Application / Renewal of Membership  
1st January to 31st December 2008**

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Office Address: .....

Phone: Home Office Fax Mobile

Qualifications: University: Year: .....

Academic Position (Hospital, University etc.): .....

Type of Practice  GP  Specialist  Hospital  Other .....

Specialty: ..... Special Interests: .....

Partner's Name: ..... Chinese Dialects Spoken: .....

I DO NOT give permission for my name (only) to appear on attendance lists provided to ACMAV sponsors.

Signature: ..... Date: .....

Entrance Fee (new members only)	\$55	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal of Membership
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## ACMAV Chinese New Year Celebrations

As always, the combination of good food, good company, and a lunchtime schedule made this a successful family event. No doubt the children seemed to enjoy it!

ACMAV celebrated the arrival of the Chinese New Year on the 24th of February, just a brief two weeks after the official new year on February 10th. This year the Yum Cha was held at Tai Pan Restaurant (全聚德酒樓) in Doncaster, and we were

joined by Hong-Hanh, Nhat and Sister Mary who thanked us for our ongoing support via Project Vietnam.

The coming year promises a change in ACMAV leadership, but clearly there will be no let up in our charitable activities, with ongoing overseas efforts in Vietnam and Africa, as well as local groups such as the Apollo Music Society.

### 鼠年到了!

*2008 brings in the Year of the Rat, a bringer of prosperity. As the first sign of the Chinese Zodiac, people born in the year of the rat are said to be alert, aggressive, ambitious, and attractive (to the opposite sex).*

*Natural leaders and perfectionists, they can sometimes be cunning, calculating, and unwavering in their belief that they are right.*

*The Year of the Rat also bodes particularly well for romance amongst people born in the year of the Sheep, Pig, or Rabbit.*



## Gastric Banding Seminar

On the cold and rainy night of March 26th, ACMAV members gathered at The Treasure restaurant in Forest Hill for some warmth and comfort.

They were pleasantly greeted by Mr Ernest Lim, General and Obesity Surgeon, to learn about the technicalities and benefits of gastric banding.

Ernest gave an excellent overview of the various procedures available for surgical weight loss and highlighted the impressive outcomes of these operations.

It was just as well that no one in the audience needed the procedure as the sumptuous chinese banquet would definitely not have fit through that gastric band!



The evening's speaker Mr Ernest Lim, with fellow classmates from Melbourne University Class of 1990. From back left: Yee Chan, Alex Poon, Michael Yee, Adrian Mar. Front: Ernest Lim, Nicole Yap.



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# ACMAV Calendar

For more details or to RSVP, please check the ACMAV website or call the ACMAV Office. ACMAV is always on the lookout for sponsors or event ideas. If you have a suggestion, please let us know!

Date	Event	Location
27 May 2008	Hepatology - Interpreting the Sick Liver	All People, Burwood East
7-9 June 2008	ACMA NSW ACCMA Annual Scientific Conference	Fairmont Resort, Leura NSW
25 June 2008	Cardiac Imaging	San Choi, Kew
3 August 2008	ACMAV Annual Scientific Conference: Paediatric & Geriatric Issues	Manningham Function Centre, Doncaster; Golden Dragon Palace
September 2008	Financial Management for Doctors	TBA
October 2008	Dermatology	TBA

## Mr Lean-Peng (LP) Cheah General Surgeon & Endoscopist



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# Classifieds

Meridian offers free classifieds to members up to 30 words. For non-members or larger advertisements please refer to our rates card available from the ACMAV Website or the ACMAV Office.

## Practice Announcements

Mr Jason Chuen will be commencing private practice as a Vascular and Endovascular Surgeon at Suite 16, Elgar Hill Medical Suites, 28-32 Arnold St, Box Hill. Also consulting at La Trobe Private Hospital. Bookings 8807 0388 or 9473 8835.

Dr Alberta Hoi will be resuming private practice as a Rheumatologist at Suite 16, Elgar Hill Medical Suites, 28-32 Arnold St Box Hill. Bookings 8807 0388.

## Miscellaneous

Dr Benny Foo is organising a group holiday to Russia departing 28 August and returning 15 September 2008. For more information call Julia at Port-to-Port Travel (02) 9337 6966.

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### Future edition Copy deadlines

30 July 2008  
 30 October 2008  
 30 January 2009

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