

15 November 2008, Volume 5 Number 4

# **ACMAV Conference 2008:** The Golden Age

The two golden ages in life were celebrated at the 2008 ACMAV Conference on August 3rd

by a packed program on paediatric and geriatric health. Almost 90 ACMAV members gathered at the Manningham Function Centre to participate in this annual event. To make the event particularly memorable, we were graced by two special guests: the Honorable Dr Nelson Martin, Health Minister of Timor Leste: and Dr Douglas Travis, the Victo-

rian AMA president, who officially opened the

The audience was entertained by a lineup of prominent speakers, including Associate Professor Mimi Tang on new insights into the prevention of allergic disease, Professor Colin Robertson on paediatric asthma, Ms Kay Gibbons on the ever-expanding problem of childhood obesity and Dr John Su on an illustrative guide to paediatric dermatology.

On the geriatric side, Dr Fay Chao shared her tips on optimizing pelvic health in the elderly, Assoc. Prof. Peteris Darzins thoroughly examined the assessment of decision-



"It's just like running an OSCE exam!"

making capacity, Assoc. Prof. Markus Schlaich powered through upto-date data on the treatment of hypertension in the elderly, Dr Helena Ng presented her original research on the impact of footwear on gait and balance in stroke patients, and Dr Benny Foo intrigued every-

body with his secrets to longevity.

To emphasize the importance of international aid work and highlight the roles played by ACMAV members, we also had Dr Jeffrey

Tan share his tale of an Australian-Mongolian Health Collaboration.

> Muffins and cakes, and a fill-Malaysian style lunch, kept audience fueled for the day, although ten lectures were still a lot to be taken in.

Around mid-afternoon, just as the coffee

Conference helpers preparing for the crowd. was wearing out and the post-prandial fatigue

was setting in, Dr Cynleen Kai kindly led us through a series of meditation exercises (based around three monkeys!) to refresh our minds and lift our spirits.

Conference dinner was held at the ornately decorated Golden Dragon Palace Chinese Restaurant and all of our guests were treated to a special night of performances by the Apollo Jazz Band from Melbourne University. Although the musicians were all young medical or paramedical students, their performance was both professional and sophisticated, and their special tribute to the ACMAV, "The Moon Represents My Heart" (a traditional Chinese song: 「月亮 代表我的心」), was a

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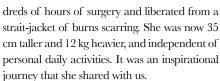
### **ACMAV News & Updates**

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particular highlight. Indeed, the music was so engaging that many forgot to eat their sumptuous supper!

Another special appearance on the night was Hanh Luong, the burns victim from Vietnam who was brought to Geelong for surgery by

Mr Ian Holten with the financial assistance of the ACMAV. Hanh had appeared at our 2006 conference dinner as someone severely disabled by her contorted body, but appeared this time as a triumphant young lady who had endured hun-



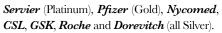
The overall success of the 2008 conference was only made possible by the dedicated work of the conference subcommittee, consisting of Drs Min Li Chong, Mee Yoke Ling,

Michelle Mok, Jun Yang and Leona Yip.

The entire ACMAV committee was also most supportive with Dr Jason Oh applying to the RACGP for CME points, Dr Theong Low inviting the East Timorese health minister, Dr Adrian Mar inviting the AMA (Vic) president, and all the other members contributing to the

> traditional bag-packing production-line on conference morning.

Of course, we also need to thank generous sponsors who helped us over the years with financial support for educational activities:



Finally, we thank all of our members who attended the conference and hope to have your support in upcoming years. In fact, planning for the 2009 conference is already underway – a secret insight into the theme: something global!

> Jun Yang 2008 Conference Convenor



Apollo Music Society members tune up to play at the ACMAV Conference Dinner

## **ACMAV In Brief**

#### **Apollo Health Music Society Pops Concert**

The Apollo Health Music Society held its annual charity Pops Concert at Melba Hall, at the University of Melbourne on 24th October. If these health science students practise medicine, dentistry and physiotherapy half as well as they practiced their instruments, it will be sweet music to the ears of the community at large.

The talent and

the majority of

nese/Asian back-

grounds - was on

colleagues

From

enthusiasm of our young whom are of Chi-

full and vigorous display. the rock band's earthy rendi-Solar-Powered Water Pump tion of a "3 in Uganda Doors Down"

classic to the sweet sound of the string orchestra playing Tchaikovsky's "Serenade for Strings in C", it was a night to feel the beat and savour every quaver!



A number of ACMAV members have children who are members of Apollo, and we hope to have an ongoing cooperation with the Society.

#### **Project Africa Update**

As part of fundraising activities to support Project Africa, ACMAV conducted a raffle which was drawn by guest speaker Dr Warrick Inder at our October Seminar Session.

As this issue of Meridian goes to print, Dr Alby Leung and Dr Hui-Li Wong are on their way to inspect ACMAV sponsored projects such as the solar-powered water President: Dr Adrian Mar

president@acmav.org

secretary@acmav.org

Vice-President: Dr Theong Low vicepresident@acmav.org

Dr Erwin Loh Secretary:

Dr Jun Yang Treasurer: treasurer@acmav.org

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pump at Nyenga Hospital in Uganda, and to deliver medical supplies to recipient hospitals in Uganda and Tanzania.

The winner of the raffle prize was Monash University 3rd Year Medical Student Amy Nguyen, who receives a generous prize of dinner for two sponsored by Symbion.

### President's Message



I witnessed a curious event at the Tullamarine International Departures check-in a few weeks ago. Members of the public who were lining up to check in to their flight to Ho Chi Minh City started approaching another lady in the queue, wishing her well and posing with her for a photo. This lady was Hanh Luong, the tragic burns victim whose treatment has been sponsored by the ACMAV, returning home after a lengthy series of operations. She was now well known amongst the local Vietnamese.

It says much about our Association's achievements, the fact that a desperately ill patient from a poor rural village in Southeast Asia could touch the hearts of a community in Melbourne, thousands of miles and a cultural divide away.

As doctors, we have the privilege of helping others in our day-to-day work.

However none of us on our own could have helped Hanh, had we known of her plight. There are some cases which require a collective and coordinated response.

Such a challenging case as Hanh's may never be undertaken again by the AC-MAV (partly since there is a decline in hospital participation in such projects), however the focus of the ACMAV Foundation is now being recognised both within the profession as well as in the community.

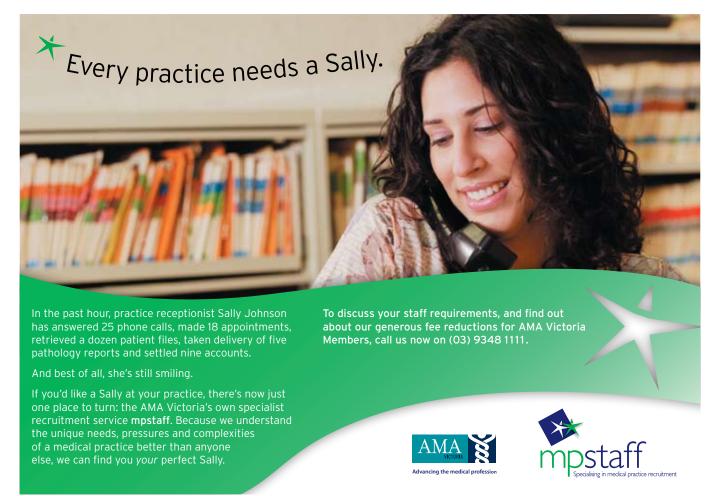
The AMA magazine VicDoc (November edition) has chosen to highlight the activities of the ACMAV, particularly Hanh's story, and this will lift the profile of our Association. This opportunity has also allowed us to launch the web-based ACMAV registry of Chinese doctors, which is aimed at providing better healthcare access to Chinese patients with special language or cultural

needs.

The contribution of individual Chinese-Australian doctors to our community is something in which we all share a common pride. The public recognition of our members in past Australia Day and Queen's Birthday Honours Lists, and the survey recently initiated by the Monash and Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University into the impact of Chinese healthcare professionals in Australia, serve to highlight the respect we hold in the community.

I hope that our members will also look upon the achievements of the ACMAV with equal pride. As an association of doctors, with an array of skills and experience, there is so much more that we can – as a group – achieve.

Adrian Mar



## **ACMAV Seminar Program**

# **Financial Management Seminar**

Perhaps it was the fear of falling stock prices. Or maybe it was the lure of the best Peking Duck in town. Whatever the reason, September's Dinner Seminar on "Financial Management" held at the Quanjude Restaurant was particularly well attended.

The evening's presenter put forward his professional observations of the vagaries

of the share market, and tried to deliver an upbeat message in the midst of the unfolding financial crisis: the patient was critically ill, but should make a recovery in the end! The seminar was a great success and provided Ms Vivienne Trinh and Mr David Chia from HSBC the chance to outline some special offers to ACMAV members.



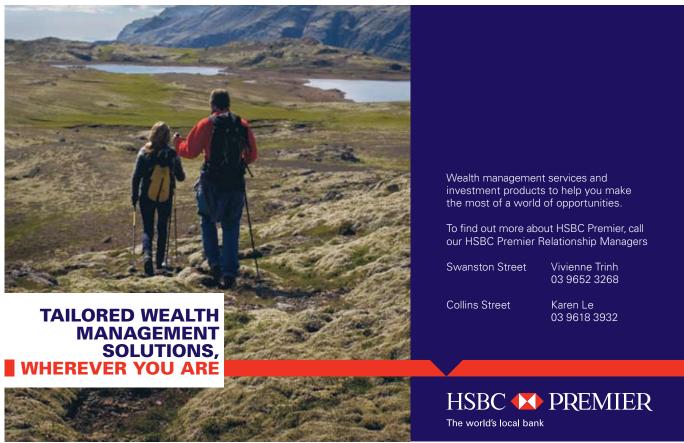
HSBC gave a stimulating talk at Quanjude.



Dr Warrick Inder from St Vincent's Hospital



Tooraking Restaurant was the venue for our October Seminar on Hirsutism.



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# Hirsutism Made Easy

With a scenic view over Toorak Rd, we assembled at Tooraking Restaurant to hear Dr Warrick Inder discuss the current perspectives in hirsutism, including diagnostic criteria and new management options for this condition.

We were also joined by Mr Gordon Low for a fascinating presentation on the status of the Chinese health system.

Mixed reviews were received regarding the cuisine served at this meeting. The AC-MAV committee is always on the lookout for appropriate venues and encourages suggestions from members.

Dr Warrick Inder, Endocrinologist St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne Suite 419, 100 Victoria Parade East Melbourne VIC 3002 Tel: (03) 9654 6788

# Chinese Lessons For Doctors

The first Mandarin for Doctors class was held on Saturday 25th October at the Chinese Associa-



tion of Victorian (CAV) language school. A small class of seven "students" received excellent and intensive tuition from CAV teacher Joseph Yao, with expert assistance provided by ACMAV members Dr Peggy (Peijian) Zeng and Dr Zemin Cao.

This first lesson focused on medical history taking across the range of specialties. Further lessons are planned, and all members are welcome to register. The ACMAV thanks Mrs Ramona Chua and the CAV for their collaboration in this project.









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### **ACMAV Social Events**

# **Porsche Drive Day**



ACMAV, in conjunction with Porsche Melbourne, is offering A C M A V members a

d r i v e day on Sunday the 7th of December to test drive the current range of Porsche models.

Members will meet at Porsche Centre, Victoria Parade at 9 am. A selection of Porsches will be available, ranging from the highly anticipated new Series 911 Cabriolet, to the family-friendly but gut-wrenchingly fast 4WD Cayenne.

The scenic route will include the touring roads to Daylesford, with a few stops along the

way for participants to exchange cars and experience the variety of the Porsche range. Lunch will be at the renowned and award-winning Daylesford Lakehouse and return to Porsche Centre by 4 pm.

This is an exclusive event for ACMAV members and partners only. Because numbers are strictly limited, please RSVP to the ACMAV Office or directly to Dr Nicole Yap by 23rd Novem-

In anticipation of overwhelming demand, we are likely to be organising further events in early 2009 – so make sure that your membership is paid up to be eligible for these exciting opportunities!

Nicole Yap

# **ACMAV Tennis Comp**

With thanks to the generous sponsorship of Symbion, we held our annual tennis tournament on 26th October 2008 at Melbourne

Park Tennis Centre.

It was a sizzling hot day. While the standard of play was not world class, the intensity of the competition definitely

matched the 30 degree heat.

The most unlucky loser was Theodore Tang, who was leading quite comfortably but unfortunately missed the final when he failed to convert the set point. Conversely, the luckiest

player was Yu Long Leow.

The well-deserved winners of the tournament were Douglas Gin and Trevor Lau-Gooey.

Runnersup were Victor Mar and Yu Long Leow.

I
believe
next year
c o u l d
p o t e n -

tially be the last ACMAV tennis tournament ever. Douglas Gin has the honour of organising it next year and I hope that there is a big turn out when the time comes.

YuLong Leow



Model shown is the new 911 Carrera S.

### The new 911 Carrera with PDK and DFI available now.

Combining Direct Fuel Injection (DFI) with the split-second efficiency of the new Porsche Doppelkupplung (PDK) double clutch gearbox, takes a clean 12.5% off the new 911's fuel consumption and sees it emit 15% less CO<sub>2</sub>. It's a neat equation that also delivers even more power. Guilt-free.

Porsche recommends Mobil II

Data relates to new generation 911 Carrera Coupe with PDK compared to previous model with Tiptronic S gearbox. Fuel consumption (combined cycle):  $9.8\ | 100\ \text{km}$  according to NEDC.  $\ \text{CO}_2$  emissions:  $230\ \text{g/km}$ .



#### **Porsche Centre Melbourne**

109 – 111 Victoria Parade, Collingwood VIC 3066 Tel: 03 9473 0917 Mon to Fri 8am to 6.30pm Sat 9am to 5pm www.porschemelbourne.com.au

### **ACMAV Noticeboard**



### Hanh's Farewell

After 2 years in Australia, Hanh Luong has finally reached the end of her journey and must prepare to return home. Home is Pleiku, some 10 hours drive north-west of Ho Chi Minh City where she had initially began her journey.

In her own words, she was sure that she would have been dead by now if not for the generosity of so many strangers in a distant land she called heaven.

Hence, a farewell party was organized by the Venerables Thich Phuoc Tan of Braybrook's Quan Minh temple. We had initially planned for a total of 22 tables but it was soon obvious that there were many more who had wished to attend the farewell and we eventually had 39 tables booked.

Hanh's journey from the depths of despair with constant pain and a hopeless future to one of independence and a future with hope was narrated by some of the carers on the night of 29th August at Happy Receptions in Ascot Vale.

Mrs. Hanh Tran from Adelaide described her first encounter with Hanh in Vietnam about 4 years ago and her hopeless attempt to obtain help in Adelaide until she sent Hanh's photo to me. Those photos were then forwarded to Mr Ian Holten in Geelong who



Dr Theong Low (left), Mr Ian Holten (back) and Venerable Thich Phuoc Tan (centre) farewell Hanh.

immediately agreed to help.

Ian spoke about the many hours of surgery to reconstruct Hanh's twisted body with a great slide presentation. One of Hanh's nurses from Geelong's St John of God's Hospital, Colleen, then spoke of Hanh's bravery and recovery after each of her procedures.

Many of the presentations were rather emotional with many in the audience shedding some tears. All this effort also raised a total of \$9175 for the ACMAV Foundation

Hanh is now safely back in Pleiku recovering from her latest procedure and no doubt will be a great ambassador for ACMAV and Australia.

Theong Low

## ACMAV Event 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
19 Nov 2008	James Bond Film Night	Balwyn Palace Cinemas, Balwyn
26 Nov 2008	Updates in Travel Medicine	Shark Fin House, Melbourne
9 Dec 2008	Porsche Drive Day	Melbourne to Lakehouse, Daylesford
7 Feb 2008	ACMAV Chinese New Year Yum Cha	Tai Pan Restaurant, Doncaster



# HEPATITIS B Network

### The Network offers you:

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For more information about the benefits of being part of the Hepatitis B Network please complete the fax-back section below and send to Helen Newman, Hepatitis B Network GP Programme Co-ordinator at Bristol-Myers Squibb on **03 9701 1526**.

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### The Back Page

# Abnormal Headshapes in Infancy | Classifieds

Abnormal head shapes in infancy are common. Deformational plagiocephaly is the

most common reason for an abnormal head shape. An epidemic of flattened occiputs have been seen since the onset of the Back to Sleep Campaign for SIDS.

A diagnosis can be made by ascertaining the side of the occipital flattening and then confirming that the ear and forehead on the same side are also pushed forward.

Management is best with tummy time when baby is

awake, positioning of toys to keep the baby off the flattened side, and also excluding neck torticollis which may require physiotherapy.

Deformity almost always improves with time and conservative management. Occasionally helmet therapy can be used to improve a situation but this needs to be started ideally before 6 months of age.

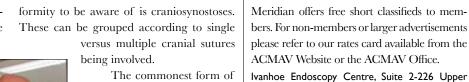
The other major form of skull de-

The commonest form of single sutural synostosis is sagittal synostosis. Babies will classically have long narrrow heads. Diagnosis can be confirmed on plain skull xray. Early intervention is now possible in this group of babies so early referral is encouraged!

The other two common forms of single sutural synostoses include metopic (triangu-

lar forehead) and unicoronal (recessed forehead on affected side).

Mr David Chong, Plastic Surgeon, was born in Malaysia and trained in Western Australia. He has recently moved to Melbourne after Cleft/Craniofacial and Aesthetic Fellowships in Dallas and Toronto in 2004-2008. He is currently consulting at Level 7, 766 Elizabeth St Melbourne, as well as Private Consulting Suites, Latrobe Private Hospital. More information or bookings: 9347 0680.



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Mr David Chong, Plastic Surgeon, is currently consulting at Level 7, 766 Elizabeth St Melbourne, as well as Private Consulting Suites, Latrobe Private Hospital. For bookings, call 9347 0680.

Dr Christopher Fong, Rheumatologist, wishes to advise additional consulting sessions at Epworth Eastern Consulting Suite 5a, Level 2, I Arnold Street Box HillVIC 3128.T:8807 7316 F:8807 7319. He continues to consult at main rooms Epworth Camberwell 888 Toorak Rd Camberwell T:8809 2444. F:9889 6756. Speaks Cantonese.



Plastic Surgeon Mr David Chong.



### Letters to the Editor

#### **Border Insecurities**

Dear Editor:

I am interested to hear from members who have received similar treatment when travelling. Recently I flew from New York to Ottawa, Canada for the day on my Australian passport to visit my sick 84 year-old uncle. I said "Good Morning Officer" to the Immigration / Customs person. There was no reply.

I was then treated as a possible illegal immigrant or terrorist. "Why are you here? Whom are you going to see? What is your uncle's name? Where does he live? Who is meeting you? How much money have you brought? When are you going back to New York? Where are you going from there? What do you do? Can you prove you are a surgeon?"

After some deliberation he came to the conclusion that I was not a threat to Canadian national security and let me in. Was my reception related to my Chinese ethnicity?

My 60 year-old sister, holder of a UK passport, received worse treatment when she was taken into another room for interrogation. I have heard similar treatment of Asians at Canadian borders

Victor Mar

Editor's Comment: "No doubt heightened terrorism alerts and stricter airport security are causing inconvenience to us all. Watching an episode of **Border Security** is enough to scare many potential travellers. Do you have a story to tell on this or another subject? If so, send us your Letter to the Editor, c/o the ACMAV Office."