

# The back page

## events

DATE	TOPIC	VENUE
April 18	Annual General Meeting	Malaya Inn
May 30	Lysosomal disorders	SunKee, South Yarra
June 9-11	ACCMA Conference	Gold Coast, QLD
June 27	Travel medicine	Sharkfin House, Melbourne CBD
July	TBA	
August 18	Charity Ball	Grand Hyatt Melbourne CBD

**ACMAV**

**President:** Dr Theong Ho Low  
president@acmav.org

**Vice-President:** Dr Nicole Yap  
vicepresident@acmav.org

**Secretary:** Dr Jason Oh  
secretary@acmav.org

**Treasurer:** Dr Helena Ng  
treasurer@acmav.org

**Past-President:** Dr Adrian Mar  
pastpresident@acmav.org

**Committee Members:**  
 Dr Jason Chuen Dr Nora Lee  
 Dr Chris Leung Dr Sally Ng  
 Dr Bec Nguyen Dr Sheng Tie  
 Dr Jun Yang Dr Sze Mei Yong

**Newsletter Editors:**  
 Dr Nora Lee & Dr Chris Leung  
 meridian@acmav.org

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**All correspondence:**  
 ACMAV House  
 862A Canterbury Rd  
 Box Hill South VIC 3128  
 Tel: (03) 9899 6380  
 Fax: (03) 9899 6389  
 Web: www.acmav.org  
 Email: office@acmav.org

**Printing Services:**  
 Ivy Printing, 4 West St  
 Brunswick VIC 3056  
 Tel: (03) 9383 6833

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# Meridian

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

March 2012, Volume 9 Number 1

## President's message



I trust that you have all had a spectacular start to 2012, the Lunar Year of the Dragon. Our traditional Chinese New Year Yum Cha was held at Plume, Maribynong. This was generously sponsored by Central Equity and MDA. Everyone had a great time, helped along by the festive food and atmosphere.

The biggest news to date is that we have finally obtained the planning permit for the ACMAV House redevelopment. The revised estimated construction cost is pending, following which we will survey for the appropriate financial backing. On completion, I have no doubt this will leave behind a huge legacy for ACMAV. It is with much anticipation that we await the first 'turning of the soil'. The Charity Ball subcommittee has been working hard behind the scenes to ensure that this second Ball will eclipse the first. Please leave 18<sup>th</sup> August 2012 free and come lend your support! We have obtained sponsorship commitments from several organisations and are aiming to bolster this before the big day. Please contact the Ball subcommittee ([charityball@acmav.org](mailto:charityball@acmav.org)) if you know of other potential sponsors. On a sadder note, since returning from our Starfish Mission, we have been informed that Amanda de Lange (founder of the Starfish Orphanage, China) has been diagnosed with cancer. She has returned to the USA for treatment. We wish her all the best for what is undoubtedly a challenging journey. The logistics of future Starfish Missions will be discussed in detail later in the year.

Finally, the 2012 ACMAV Annual General Meeting will be held on April 18 at Malaya Inn. This marks the end of my two-year tenure as President, which I have enjoyed every moment of. I am particularly pleased to have overseen the 2010 inaugural Charity Ball, the ACCMA National Conference, our Xi'An Starfish Mission, and the ACMAV House redevelopment process. My sincerest thanks to the ACMAV Committee and Membership for their support and enthusiasm.

~ Theong Low ~

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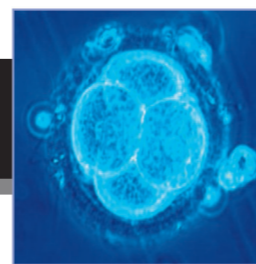
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ACMAV Seminar program

Infertility treatment



The first ACMAV seminar for 2012 was held on March 20th at Quanjude, featuring **Dr Kenneth Leong** from Monash IVF. There are many reasons why Australia's birth rate has fallen in the past eleven years, despite federal politicians naively urging women to 'have one for the country' as well— if it were only so simple. Dr Leong began with a brief overview of the basics of infertility, its varied causes and the appropriate initial investigations. Since the birth of the first 'test-tube baby' back in 1984, the success rates of in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) have progressed significantly. Although embryos can be transferred to the uterus any time between day 1 and 7 post-fertilisation, there is now a trend towards blastocyst transfer on day 5. This results in higher rates of implantation and development. For women under the age of 35, success rates are over 70% with a single blastocyst transfer. However there is a progressive decrement with older women, with 30-40% success. This probably corresponds with female fertility dropping markedly at around the age of 38 years. For any woman who is considering IVF, success also de-

pends on maintaining excellent general health, including adequate nutrition, smoking cessation and abstinence from alcohol. Another area of much interest is robotic gynaecological surgery. The Da Vinci Surgical System can enable minimally-invasive operations such as hysterectomy (for non-malignant causes), myomectomy, and sacrocolpopexy. The robotic hands have greater range of movement than a conventional pair of human hands and thus affords greater precision. The Da Vinci Surgical System also raises the possibility of real-time operations with the surgeon off-site, which would greatly assist in remote areas.



To complement this highly informative talk, all guests degusted upon a rich and tasty duck-based banquet—our thanks to the Quanjude chefs.

A special thank you also to **Monash IVF** and **Merck Serono** for supporting this event.



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