



# THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF TROPICAL MEDICINE

## ACTM Quarterly Newsletter – April 2020

The beginning of 2020 has proved a tremendous challenge globally and we are particularly grateful to our members who have worked so diligently to minimize the impact of the coronavirus on their patients.

The ramifications of this pandemic has been felt by all sections of the community and it is with great regret that we have cancelled the 2020 Southern Cross Travel Medicine Conference (SCTMC) and the Zoonosis meeting with ASID in September 2020.

Your Executive confirms that the 5th Southern Cross Travel Medicine Conference (SCTMC2020) has been postponed to 3rd – 5th September 2021 at Rydges Melbourne, and a new date for the ASID meeting will be advised in due course. We will again present a wide-ranging program of Travel Medicine and scientific aspects of tropical medicine.

Unfortunately, we must also defer the Regional Dinner Lectures that were being planned for mid-year. It is anticipated that these will be rescheduled for later in the year or held over to 2021.

Our annual executive strategy planning meeting and annual general meeting is being held on Wednesday 22 July via Zoom videoconference. The minutes from the AGM will be circulated to all of our members.

Travel Medicine Nurses Standing Committee - At the recent Council Meeting we invited our travel health nurses to form a standing committee within the Faculty of Travel Medicine. This will enable these well trained and experienced nurses to have their own group within the College.

Facilitating research in tropical medicine is one of the Major Aims of the College and we are currently investigating funding for a scholarship to encourage junior members to advance medical science.

In order to increase interest in the College, it was resolved to offer, for a limited period, honorary membership to students enrolled in post-graduate studies in tropical medicine. On completion of their degree they will then be invited to apply for financial membership of the College.

On a personal note, this has been an extremely difficult period for me. I sustained severe trauma after a collision on my farm motor bike. This resulted in major facial injuries and 2 weeks in the trauma ward of the Alfred Hospital. I am making a slow but sustained recovery.

Prof Geoff Quail, OAM  
President