



# THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF TROPICAL MEDICINE

## ACTM President's Communique

August 2020



Welcome to my first Newsletter to ACTM members as President. Firstly I am honoured to be President of the College and to be part of such a great leadership team in taking the College forward. In this newsletter, I will discuss the outcomes of recent AGM and will have a special "Focus on" in each edition. On this occasion, I will "Focus on" two aspects of College life – the Faculties and our College journal.

### Annual General Meeting

Following the ACTM AGM held last month, our constitution has been updated to include the Deans of the two Faculties on the Executive Board. Our Advisory Council reflects previous membership of Councillors and Representatives of Faculties and Standing Committees. I should note that the College Council approved the merger of three Standing Committees into the One Health, One World Standing Committee (Toxinology, One health One World and Parasitology and zoonoses). We welcome the new Standing Committee for Travel Health Nurses of Australasia. I congratulate all continuing and new office bearers, as well as retiring office bearers.

### Executive Board (7 members)

President	Prof Peter A Leggat, AM, RFD
Vice President	A/Prof Colleen Lau
Immediate Past President	Prof Geoff Quail, OAM
Honorary Secretary	Dr Richard Bradbury
Honorary Treasurer	A/Prof Richard Franklin
Dean, Faculty of Travel Medicine (Acting)	Dr Jennifer Sisson
Dean, Faculty of Expedition and Wilderness Medicine	Prof Marc Shaw

### Advisory Council (13 members)

#### Councillors (7)

Council Members	Prof Bart Currie
	Dr Kym Daniell
	Caroline Nash
	A/Prof Harunor Rashid
	Prof Joe Torresi
	Vacant*
	Vacant*

\* Call for expressions of interest for Councillors have been requested with closing date, 4 September 2020.

Retiring Councillors: COL Peter Nasveld and Prof John McBride



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## **Representatives of Faculties and Standing Committees (6)**

Faculty of Travel Medicine	Dr Deb Mills
Faculty of Expedition and Wilderness Medicine	A/Prof Jeff Ayton
Standing Committee Disaster Health	A/Prof Jon Hodge
Standing Committee on One Health, One World	Prof Bruce Gummow
Standing Committee on Publications	A/Prof John Frean
Standing Committee on Travel Health Nurses of Australasia	Catherine Keil

## **Presidential Citation – Prof Geoff Quail, OAM**

The College is indebted to Prof Geoff Quail, OAM, for his extraordinary service as President over the past 2 years from 2018 to 2020. Each retiring President, who becomes Immediate Past President for one year, receives a Presidential Citation. I have included the text of this citation below:

“Professor Geoffrey Quail, OAM, was elected as a Fellow of The Australasian College of Tropical Medicine on 1st of November 1993 and subsequently served as a College Councillor from 1996-2001, 2009-2014 and from 2015-2017 – a total of 12 years. Following his election as President-Elect in 2017, he became the Thirteenth ACTM President at the Annual General Meeting held in Brisbane, Australia, on the 23rd of July 2018. He has presided over a number of conferences held in conjunction with other organisations, where the ACTM was a key partner, as well as the Third and Fourth Southern Cross Travel Medicine Conferences (SCTMC) held in Brisbane and Sydney respectively. He also represented the College at a key Senate Enquiry and added a personal approach to College members through direct communications and supporting a College newsletter. Professor Geoffrey Quail, OAM, has by way of his knowledge, experience and academic abilities made significant ongoing contributions to the College as the Thirteenth President from 2018-2020.”

This is really a brief abstract of all the activities that Geoff has been involved with as President and we are pleased that we have the benefit of his advice on the Executive Board for another year. It is important for the College to continue the work that Geoff has started.

## **Focus on – The Faculties**

The College has two Faculties – The Faculty of Travel Medicine (established 2000) and the Faculty of Expedition and Wilderness Medicine (established 2010). Professional members of the College can join the Faculties with One College subscription fee arrangements. I encourage interested College members who are not currently Faculty members to consider joining.

At the Southern Cross Travel Medicine Conference in Sydney last year, the lapel pins for the two Faculties were launched. They are very smart and are based on the College pin. For Faculty members who would like pins should contact our Executive Officer, Jennifer Burgess [j.burgess@amaq.com.au](mailto:j.burgess@amaq.com.au). Also Faculty pages are now part of the College website.



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## ***Faculty of Travel Medicine***

As a consequence of the changes to the ACTM Constitution, upon becoming President of the College, I retired as Dean of the Faculty of Travel Medicine soon after the AGM. I welcome the Deputy Dean, Dr Jennifer Sisson, who becomes Acting Dean of the Faculty (see right).



The Faculty was officially launched in 2000, as the World's first Faculty of Travel Medicine. This year represents 20 years of the Faculty of Travel Medicine and it will be important to mark the occasion in some way during the COVID-19 era. Travel Medicine services have particularly been disrupted by COVID-19, as travel has been severely curtained internationally as well as domestically.

## ***Faculty of Expedition and Wilderness Medicine***

The first 10 years of the Faculty of Expedition and Wilderness Medicine has very quickly slipped by and it will be important to mark the occasion in some way during the COVID-19 era. Like the Faculty of Travel Medicine, there are plans for a face-to-face event being planned by the Faculty of Expedition and Wilderness Medicine. The Dean of the Faculty, Adj Prof Marc Shaw (see left), is presently looking at an expedition medicine event in Samoa. Much depends on our ability to travel and, like travel medicine, international expeditions have been somewhat curtailed as well. We continue to think positively. We are also endeavouring to reach out to like professional organisations around the world, who deal with expedition and/or wilderness medicine.



## ***Focus on – Tropical Medicine and Infectious Disease***

The College's official journal publication, *Tropical Medicine and Infectious Disease* (TMID), is now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year of publication by MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. It would be fair to say that it has come along away since the Inaugural issue in 2016. It is now attracting substantial content, particularly through special issues, and all content is open access. The journal is now indexed by a variety of databases, including SCOPUS and PubMed, but it also now indexed in Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) by the Web of Science. It will now be considered annually for indexing in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), which we would need to attract an impact factor. The Inaugural and current Editor-in-Chief is Prof John Frean from the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) in Johannesburg, South Africa, and he leads a very strong editorial board. The home page of the journal is available at: <https://www.mdpi.com/journal/tropicalmed>. Our memorandum of Understanding has recently been updated allowing for more substantial discounts on article publication charges for ACTM members.



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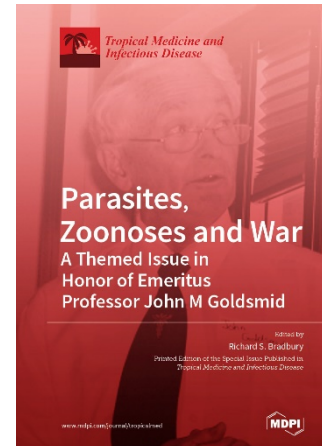
## **Special Issues**

I do want to make special mention of two special issues – one just published and one in progress, but there are some fantastic special issues in progress at present.

I am very pleased to advise that Dr Richard Bradbury, our Honorary Secretary, has recently had his special issue published by TMID entitled: “Parasites, Zoonoses and War: A Themed Issue in Honor of Emeritus Professor John M. Goldsmid”. It is now also published as a monograph and may be ordered as a Printed edition (see cover right):

[https://www.mdpi.com/journal/tropicalmed/special\\_issues/Goldsmid](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/tropicalmed/special_issues/Goldsmid).

John Goldsmid was the President of the College from 1998 to 2000 and Editor-in-Chief of the *Annals of the ACTM* from 2002 to 2008, which was a precursor publication to our present journal. The best publication in TMID each year is awarded the John M. Goldsmid Award.



John Frean and Lucille Blumberg, both from the NICD in South Africa have also joined me in a special issue on COVID-19, “COVID-19: Current Challenges and Future Perspectives”:

[https://www.mdpi.com/journal/tropicalmed/special\\_issues/COVID-19\\_challenges\\_perspectives](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/tropicalmed/special_issues/COVID-19_challenges_perspectives). We have five papers published already, including a contribution from the World Health Organization Special Program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (WHO TDR). This special issue closes on 31 December 2020.

**Prof Peter A Leggat**

**ACTM President**