



# The Australasian College of Tropical Medicine

## ACTM President's Communique

January 2023



Dear ACTM Executive, Advisory Council, and Members,

Welcome to the first ACTM President's Report for 2023. I hope that you all had a restful holiday break, and great start to the new year. The ACTM has some exciting plans for 2023, and I hope to see most of you participating and engaging with these College activities.

## Upcoming conferences

- **The 6<sup>th</sup> Southern Cross Travel Medicine Conference and 2<sup>nd</sup> Southern Cross Tropical Medicine Conference will be held from 1-3 September 2023 in Sydney.** Please save the date!! More information will be coming very soon. Following on from the very successful Southern Cross conferences in Brisbane last year, this year's conference will promise to be another excellent opportunity to share new knowledge and connect with colleagues. We will again provide opportunities for researchers (especially early career researchers and students) to network and present their research.
- **The Australian Society of Parasitology Conference** will be held in Darwin from 5-8 September 2023. This follows immediately after the Southern Cross Conferences, so international delegates might want to consider extending their trip in Australia!
- Prof Marc Shaw is busy planning the inaugural **Southern Cross Wilderness Medicine Conference** from 24-28 July, to be held in Samoa this year. More details soon!
- The **International Society of Travel Medicine Conference** will be held in Basel, Switzerland from 21-25 May 2023. The ACTM Executive will be well represented, with Prof Peter Leggat serving as the current President of the ACTM, Prof Colleen Lau as Associate Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, Prof Richard Franklin as one of the plenary speakers, and Dr Jenny Sisson running a workshop.

## Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

I am very pleased to announce that **Prof Marc Shaw** has been appointed as Chair of the CPD Committee. Since 2020, the ACTM has been running webinars on a wide range of topics related to travel medicine, tropical medicine, and expedition and wilderness medicine. Recordings are available in the Members section of the ACTM website. We plan to start the 2023 webinars again soon and hope to see many of you there. If you have any suggestions for topics or speakers, please let Marc know.



# The Australasian College of Tropical Medicine

## Membership

It's great to see that we have attracted many new members since the Southern Cross conferences last year. Remember that membership is free for postgraduate students, so please encourage them to join! We are working on simplifying the membership application process, and hope to have this finalised very soon.

## New Advisory Council members

I am very excited to announce our two ACTM Advisory Council members. **Dr Sarah McGuinness** is an infectious disease physician, travel medicine specialist, and NHMRC Fellow at Monash University. **Dr Lucia Romani** from the Kirby Institute is also an NHMRC Fellow, with expertise in neglected tropical diseases and global health. I look forward to working with both of them on ACTM initiatives.

## Travel Medicine Clinical Guidelines – Australia and New Zealand

Many thanks to **Dr Jennifer Sisson** who has been leading the development of the guidelines. The COVID-19 International Travel Guidelines are available here: <https://www.travelmedicineguidelinesanz.org> and other guidelines are in progress.

## ACTM Journal

Our journal **Tropical Medicine and Infectious Disease** now has an impact factor of 3.711. Check out the latest articles here: <https://www.mdpi.com/journal/tropicalmed>

## Communications Director

The ACTM are seeking Expressions of Interest for a Communications Director to promote the College and improve engagement with the travel medicine and tropical medicine community. This will be a volunteer position with a small remuneration, suitable for a graduate student in tropical medicine who is savvy with social media. Please see the **attached** Position Description. Closing date is **Friday 3 March 2023** by email [actm@tropmed.org](mailto:actm@tropmed.org) or feel free to call 07 3872 2246 if you require any further information.

## Work plans for the coming year

I look forward to working with the Executive and Advisory Council to develop our work plans and activities for the coming year, including our next Southern Cross conferences, local in-person meetings, CPD activities, special interest groups, member engagement, and membership recruitment. I would also like to see greater engagement between ACTM and the tropical medicine and infectious diseases research community, and encourage postgraduate students to join College activities. And other ideas and suggestions from Members are always most welcome.

Many thanks for all your contributions to the ACTM.

**Prof Colleen Lau**  
**ACTM President**