

## The PCDSA: One year wiser

The PCDSA is soon to celebrate its first year in existence. As I reflect on the challenges and rewards associated with the building and the running of our fledgling organisation, I am gratified by the overwhelmingly positive response we have received.

This first year has had challenges and obstacles to overcome, and some missteps along the way. Was it ill-conceived to have our inaugural conference a mere 4 months following the society's official launch? Perhaps waiting a little while longer would have saved a few sleepless nights, additional grey hairs and skipped heart beats, but going on the feedback from attendees and sponsors alike, the conference was a success. There will no doubt be trials and tribulations to address in the future, but almost 12 months on, we are stronger and better positioned to progress the PCDSA, having gained experience and learned important lessons.

My somewhat Pollyannaish dream was to unite all health care practitioners caring for diabetes in the primary care space and give a voice to the silent majority quietly working away. The reality has been somewhat more challenging, but I remind myself, and you our members who are the lifeblood of the organisation, of our remarkable achievements to date. In under a year, we have established and published four issues of the *Diabetes & Primary Care Australia* Journal with a unique focus: to deliver peer-reviewed articles providing information that is applicable in day-to-day clinical practice, to our multidisciplinary readership.

Contributors to the Journal have included diabetes educators, dietitians, endocrinologists, GPs, pharmacists, periodontists, podiatrists and psychologists, thus drawing from the talent of a varied mix of professionals. Our contributors not only reflect the diversity and eclectic nature of the multidisciplinary teams caring for people with diabetes, but they also mirror the diversity of our membership and readership. Authors have hailed from the length and breadth of the country, from metropolitan centres and academic institutions, as well as regional centres,

those in private practice, and those employed in the public sector. I extend my deep appreciation to our generous contributors who have provided the articles that grace our Journal.

As noted above, our inaugural conference in April 2016 was a great success as feedback has shown. The next conference will be in Melbourne, Vic, on 29th April 2017, where we will endeavour to achieve our goal of providing information that will help you to support community members to better manage their diabetes. I hope you will join us.

Over the coming year, the society looks forward to the development of an educational subcommittee with a brief to provide relevant education and updates, and to expand our ability to support our members. The steering committee and editorial subcommittee will continue to grow as allied health colleagues of the highest calibre are recruited. Laura Dean, Course Director of the Graduate Certificate in Pharmacy Practice, Monash University, is the newest member of the PCDSA editorial subcommittee, the first board member from a pharmacy background.

From the next volume, Rajna Ogrin, Senior Research Fellow at the Royal District Nursing Service Institute, will take the position of Editor-in-Chief, as I step down following our inaugural year. I would like to extend my gratitude to my colleagues in the editorial subcommittee who have supported, guided and assisted me during my time as Editor-in-Chief.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to the membership of the PCDSA for your support. This is your organisation: spread the word with likeminded, passionate health care professionals who will ensure we grow from strength to strength.

I am proud of our achievements to date but I believe the best is yet to come. As the society flourishes and becomes a force for change, our hope is that primary care practitioners and allied health care professionals will be seen and heard, ultimately influencing policy and improving support, care and management for people with diabetes. ■



**Gary Kilov**

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