



Medico-Legal Society of NSW Inc.  
ABN: 70 880 915 645  
GPO Box 1741, Sydney 2001  
T: 0488 220 386  
E: [executive@medicolegal.org.au](mailto:executive@medicolegal.org.au)  
W: [www.medicolegal.org.au](http://www.medicolegal.org.au)

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MEDICO LEGAL SOCIETY OF NSW INC. 2018**

We have had another successful 12 months of activity for the Medico-Legal Society of NSW.

We have maintained our traditional approach of four scientific meetings per year followed by dinner, however we have also introduced two cocktail style networking talks per annum, free for members.

Since last year's Annual General Meeting, 4 scientific meetings followed by dinners have been held. While attendance increased each meeting last year, attendance at meetings this year is even higher. The following traditional scientific meetings were held:

- 20 September 2017 – “Navigating privacy in the healthcare sector” in an engaging Q&A panel discussion with Alison Choy Flannigan, Dr Walid Jamal & Anan Boag chaired by Dr Julian Walter.
- 15 November 2017 – “Pitfalls of an expert” by Kylie Agland & Dr Lisa Brown.
- 14 March 2018 – “Complaints against doctors are doctors are on the rise! Why patients are complaining and what you can do” presented by Karen Stott and Rachel King.
- 6 June 2017 – “Prescription overdoses. Drugs of Addiction” and the panel chaired by Dr Julian Walter with Aleksandar Gavrilovic and Dr Ingrid Van Beek AM.

As president, I am very pleased with the great attendance rates. The Committee puts in a lot of effort to come up with interesting topics and engaging speakers. We also welcome and appreciate topic and speaker suggestions from members at any time. In fact this year's talk on patient complaints may have been the highest attended of our talks ever (155 people), and the topic was at the suggestion of Karen Stott (one of the speakers).

We held the Annual Dinner and AGM on Friday, 4 August 2017 at The Police and Justice Museum, Sydney. The guest of honour was Justice Stephen Walmsley. The toast to medicine was proposed by Prof Geoff Gallop AC and the toast to law was proposed by his wife, Dr Ingrid Van Beek AM. The evening was successful and the speakers very entertaining and interesting and all 3 speakers are long standing supporters of the Society and the professions.

The primary change this year was the introduction of two cocktail style networking talks, free to members, hosted in collaboration with law firms. Both were “sell-outs” and I personally hope that this format continues after my resignation from the Committee. The first networking talk was on 9 August 2017 hosted by NRF and presented by Professor Bob Pickett on “*Missing Body Murders, Forensic Profiling*”. The second networking talk was on 11 April this year and hosted by HWL Ebsworth, presented by barrister Ragni Mathur on “*Human Error or Criminal Culpability? The Line is Blurring*”.

Other innovations and changes this year have included:

1. We have changed venues to the Union University and Schools Club of Sydney which enables all attendees to be in one venue for both dinner and the lecture. It has also reduced the cost which has meant we have not, this year, needed to increase fees to members.
2. As mentioned above, we have trialed the first video recording of a talk and I encourage you all to watch and provide any feedback.
3. Membership subscriptions have increased by over 20% as have attendances at our events.
4. The Society has invested in a new website to provide a more secure platform, easier access to resources and publications, uploading of video recordings of lectures, and enable online payments for memberships and events.

In my view, all Committee members contribute significantly in various ways in a well functioning collegiate environment, identifying trends in medico-legal matters, choosing topics and advancing the aims of the Society. The major focus of the Committee remains upon identifying stimulating issues and material to present to the membership at our scientific meetings, but also to consider further educational offerings and social opportunities.

I would like to particularly thank Zoe Hamilton and Melinda Conry for preparing the presentation material in a form suitable for our website, our Executive Secretary, Kathryn McKenzie, for arranging the new venue for meetings and dinners and for maintenance of the website and, in particular, Scott Chapman for his continued efforts as our long-standing Treasurer.

Having been on the Committee for over 20 years, and President for two years, I resign from the Committee, but look forward to attending future events of the Society.

Keely Graham  
President  
Medico-Legal Society of NSW