



Medico-Legal Society of NSW Inc.
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PRESIDENT'S REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MEDICO LEGAL SOCIETY OF NSW INC. 2020

The 2020 Annual General Meeting is in a very different format to previous meetings due to restrictions placed on us as a result of COVID-19. Unfortunately, the Annual Dinner planned for 14 August 2020 had to be cancelled, we certainly hope and plan to return to having a dinner following the AGM in 2021.

In the past financial year we could only hold 2 in person Scientific Meetings and Dinners, the March meeting being cancelled a week before the event due to COVID-19, the March topic has been rescheduled for our next Scientific meeting on Sept 16th (format in person or via Zoom will be decided closer to the date). The June meeting was held virtually via Zoom, it received very positive feedback, and it gave people the opportunity to watch it live or after the event, the format worked well given the current social distancing requirements and is a potential option for some future events, but as it lacks the networking and interaction possible with the face to face meetings it will not become the normal.

Scientific meetings held over the last year were: -

- 17 September 2019 – “*Low value’ and ‘inappropriate’ medical care - what is the difference and how widespread is it?*” Presented by Dr Tim Badgery-Parker and Prof Julie Quinlivan with 80 in attendance.
- 14 November 2019 – “*Defamation and Social Media*” presented by A/Prof Al Muderis and Andrew Miers with 143 in attendance,
- 17 June 2019 – Webinar “*Medico-Legal issues arising from Covid 19*” Panelist - Sonya Black, Dr David Muscatello and Jack Marjot with 122 registered to attend.
- We also held a cocktail meeting on 30 October 2019 on “*Concussion in Sport*” presented by Dr Tom Harwood with 80 in attendance. This meeting was hosted by HWL Ebsworth for which the Society is very grateful.

The Society’s last Annual Dinner and AGM was held on Friday, 9 August 2019 at Establishment Ballroom, Sydney. The guest of honour was Dr Maurice Newman AC. The toast to medicine was proposed Judge Richard Weinstein SC and the toast to law was proposed by Dr Philip Truskett AM. Due to COVID-19 we have had to cancel the 2020 Annual Dinner that was booked for the 14th Aug 2020 at Doltone House Hyde Park, the deposit paid had been moved to the 2021 Annual Dinner on 13 August 2021.

The Society has made a small surplus this year of \$14,675 continuing on the trend from last year and is in line with the committee’s financial objective. Currently we have 250 active members which is made up of 78 Medical practitioners, 149 Legal practitioners and 23 non-voting members. There were 41 new members who joined the society during the year and 57 members from the previous year who did not renew.

I would like to thank all our committee members who continue to provide significant time and input to the running of our Society. In particular, I would thank Scott Chapman support of me over these last two years in addition for his very extended period of being the Society's Treasurer. Special thanks also to Helen Roberts who became our executive Secretary late last year and has made the running of the committee and Society so smoothly and efficiently. Identifying topics and speakers that are of interest to our diverse membership is always a challenge to which the committee has once again met'

The committee is always interested to hear of topics our Scientific meetings that would be worth considering.

It is a pleasure that I now hand over the Presidency to Mr. Scott Chapman who will expertly lead your Society over the next two years

David W Gronow
President
Medico-Legal Society of NSW