

November 1997 Newsletter

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President's Report

As presented at the 31st Annual General Meeting of the Society for Medical Biological Engineering (SA) Inc., Monday 8th September 1997.

The 1996/97 year for the SMBE has been a busy year for those members involved in preparing for the four day Australasian conference "Perm-it '97" held in Adelaide which started today. Involvement in this conference has been a major diversion from normal SMBE activities for several Council members although I am pleased to report not an all consuming one for Council as a whole. Due to the hard work of several Councillors the year has also seen a healthy technical program continue and also the opportunity for our local members to network through social occasions.

The technical program included:

"An evening of forensic science:

Dr James Wallman, Forensic Entomologist, University of Adelaide

Dr Sara Jones, Forensic Podiatrist, University of South Australia

Dr Lindsay Richards, Forensic Odontologist, University of Adelaide

18th September 1996, Bagot St. Nth Adelaide

"Equipment Design and Application Issues in Medical Retrieval"

Dr Gilligan, Director of Retrieval and Resuscitation, RAH

9th October, 1996, Bagot St, Nth Adelaide

"Workshop on AS3551"

Dr Joel Nobel, President and Founder, ECRI

Mr Alex Watson, Director of Biomedical Engineering, Prince Henry/Prince of Wales, NSW

Mr Rob Wilkins, Director of Biomedical Engineering, Nth Sydney Area Health Svce, NSW

4th November 1996, Bagot St. Nth Adelaide

"Improving Medical Device Safety: lessons from the past"

Dr Joel Nobel, President and Founder, ECRI

4th November 1996, Bagot St. Nth Adelaide

"Ventricular Assist Devices"

Dr John Woodard

11th February 1997, Bagot St, Nth Adelaide

"The Practical Application of Ergonomics theory to the Medical Workplace"

Mr Michael Patkin

5th March 1997, Bagot St. Nth Adelaide

"Telemedicine"

Dr Bruce Swanson, South Australian Health Commission

9th July 1997, Bagot St, Nth Adelaide

Several of these technical meetings were held jointly with the Institution of Engineers, College of Biomedical Engineering. My thanks go to Greg Smith for his involvement in organising these meetings.

Most technical events also include a social aspect by way of a get together over supper however the Council were once again keen to promote fellowship and networking by organising technical free Social Events.

These have included the two perennial and once again well supported functions of:

The Christmas Dinner

Governor Hindmarsh Hotel

10th December 1996

The Family Day

Kays Winer McLaren Vale

1st June 1997

A special thanks for the generosity of our commercial members and colleagues for their continuing financial sponsorship of the Christmas Dinner. In excess of \$900 support was received for this function allowing it to run at a slight profit with the cost to members on the night kept to \$7.50 per person. Also thanks to Mark Pirolla and Jo Harris for their particular input.

It was a privilege to undertake this first year of my Presidency with such a competent Council already in place. Most initiatives have been continuing ones from previous years. The Council has continued to foster collaboration with IEAust, improve the method of Newsletter production, ensure that the administrative functions (eg tenancy at Science park, financial planning and reporting, management of records etc) are well managed and strive to establish an interesting and varied scientific program. The momentum developed by long time contributors Adrian Richards (and Annie Richards for her efforts in collating and posting the Newsletter), Robin Woolford (Newsletter production), John Kirby (financial management), Tim Staker (secretarial) and Greg Smith (technical program) is an inspiration to the rest of Council. Each should in my view be thanked individually by all members for their contribution.

New initiatives by this year's Council include the development of a kit to provide to all students studying the biomedical engineering course at Flinders University, the development of an Internet home page for SMBE(SA) and involvement in this year's Australasian Conference. Perm-it '97 is a joint conference organised by the SMBE(SA), IEAust, ACPSEM and ARPS. The SMBE has taken a leadership role filling both the chairperson of the Organising Committee position and the chairperson of the Trade & Sponsorship Committee position. Additionally, involvement by several other members of the SMBE Council in development of the technical and trade programs has not gone without notice. Particular thanks to Jo Harris, Tim Staker, Mark Pirolla and John Kirby.

Adrian Richards continues to establish himself as a significant personality locally, nationally and internationally. Adrian's efforts in organising the trade and sponsorship aspects of Perm-it '97 have been accomplished with a minimum of fuss and to a level beyond even the most optimistic expectation. Additionally, Adrian has actively participated in development of a very comprehensive technical program and put personal effort into the organisation of Perm-it '97 well above all other contributors. Thanks once again Adrian for your effort, enthusiasm and attention to detail.

Each year the SMBE puts up for nomination and election half of its Council membership. This year the positions to be filled are Vice President (Greg Smith), Treasurer (John Kirby) and two Councillors (Jo Harris and Maureen Merrick). Thank you for your contributions over the last two years. To Jo and Maureen who I believe are not re-nominating thank you for the special effort you have made on behalf of SMBE members. I know you both intend to have a continuing involvement outside of the Council.

John Robson

President.

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