

## AFMBE UPDATE

It is timely once again to provide affiliates with an update on the activities of the Australian Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering. By far the most significant exercise in which we have been involved is the lodging of a bid to secure the International Biomedical Engineering/Medical Physics meeting for 2003. This triennial conference is the world's premier event in our disciplines attracting some 3000 plus delegates. The big news is that this bid, spearheaded by Professor Barry Allen, president elect of the ACPSEM was successful and this event will be coming to Sydney! Our major national affiliates, the ACPSEM and the IEAust college of BME, will play a major role in this exercise but ALL members of affiliated organisations are hereby formally invited to play a part in the organisation process. The task in hand is to structure robust organisational arrangements which will serve us well during the next 6 years of planning. Does this sound daunting? It certainly is far from a trivial exercise but the right group of individuals will ensure that it is a major success. If you are at all interested raise your hand now and become involved at this early stage.

At our AGM, held during the PERMIT 97 conference in September we were privileged to hold discussions with Professor Niilo Saranummi past president of the IFMBE who was attending the conference as a key note speaker. These discussions were very worthwhile and proved valuable in putting our international links in perspective. Niilo encouraged us to continue to play a role on the international scene by way of nominations to positions within the Federation and by submission of articles and items of interest to the IFMBE News of which he is now editor. Other points of interest discussed at the meeting included:

Election of officers which saw positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer remain unchanged. It looked for a while like Dr Richard Kirsner was to stand down from his position as secretary after 14 years of involvement but he returned from the meeting in Nice, France with renewed enthusiasm and will be continuing for another year. Les Marshall of the SMBE in WA, as our treasurer, has successfully restructured our financial arrangements and has things well on track after a small glitch following the passing away of the previous incumbent.

The re-activation of the Queensland SMBE with Ross Mangano of the Royal Brisbane Hospital recently convening a meeting of interested parties after a 6 year period of the Society being dormant. They aim to seek AFMBE affiliation early in their reincarnated life.

The nomination of Dr Richard Tremawan of the Christchurch Hospital as the AFMBE representative to the board of the IFMBE's Healthcare Technology Assessment Division. At the time of writing I am unsure of his success or otherwise but will keep everyone informed.

Attendance by Dr Nigel Lovell of the university of NSW as the AFMBE representative to the 48th WHO Western Pacific Regional Committee meeting held recently in Sydney. Watch an upcoming edition of the IFMBE news for his report.

On going dialogue on the location of annual conferences with 1998 being held in Hobart, 1999 in Queensland (with the actual location still under discussion) and for the year 2000 the possibility of Newcastle being discussed. The financial arrangements between the convening bodies is also under consideration.

This could be summarised by saying that there are plenty of things happening at the present time which serve us well on the global scene. We can always do more to raise our profile, and this will certainly be our

task in hand as we head towards the most exciting event here in Australia that our disciplines will experience for many years.

Adrian Richards

President, AFMBE, November 5, 1997

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