

Annual General Meeting 2005

The Annual General Meeting and annual dinner of OAMGA was held at the historical Oatlands house on 19th November 2005. The president Dr S Orekondy welcomed the members and formally opened the Annual General Meeting. The secretary Dr V Nagamma read the details of the activities of the year. The treasurer's report was also discussed in the Annual General Meeting. There was a discussion about the OAMGA's stand about the issue involving Dr Patel of Bundaberg, Queensland and its unfair adverse effects on the work of overseas trained doctors.

Members were informed about the public relation work by the executive committee, especially the president's interaction with the media about the real issues involved. It was noted that these interactions with media had a positive impact as far as the overseas-trained doctors in general were concerned. There was also a discussion about the financial status of our Association. It was felt that the new executive committee should deal with the issue involving banking and perhaps consolidate our finances into one or two accounts.

There was a discussion about the name of our association. Some members felt that the word 'Overseas' had some unusual connotation currently, particularly after the issue involving Dr Patel of Bundaberg. Many members felt that the time is right to consider the alternative names for our association. There was a brief discussion about the possible alternative names. No decision was taken but it was resolved that the new executive committee should solicit opinion from the members regarding this issue and also any potential alternative names. This issue would be taken up in the next year.

The minutes of the AGM 2005 were formally accepted without any alteration.

Subsequently, the current executive committee [2005] vacated their positions and process of election of the new executive committee was taken up. The returning officer, Dr KK Jasani, took the chair and informed the members regarding the candidates who had applied for various offices. Following members were elected unopposed for the positions in the executive committee.

The President-Dr V Nagamma, Vice-President- Dr Prabhat Sinha, Secretary- Dr Yadu Singh, Treasurer- Dr S Borkar, Joint Secretary Dr P Sawrikar.

The executive committee members were Dr S Orekondy [ex-officio], Dr P Singh, Dr S Bhatia, Dr H Rao, Dr N C Patel, Dr S Sunder, Dr R Iyengar, Dr H Kapila, Dr S Mohan, Dr H Tint, and Dr A Prakash.

After the election of the new executive committee, Dr S Orekondy [the outgoing president], congratulated the new executive committee members and thanked the members for their attendance. Annual General Meeting was then formally closed.

The Annual General Meeting was followed by our annual dinner. The outgoing president, Dr S Orekondy, welcomed the members, their spouses, and the guests for the annual dinner. He introduced the new Executive committee to the invited guests. He then handed over the proceedings to the master of the ceremonies [MC], Dr S Borkar, who ran the proceedings smoothly and beautifully. The prominent guests in the annual dinner were president of Vietnamese-Australian Med association, Dr Mukesh Haikerwal [federal president of Australian Medical Association], Dr Choong-Siew Yong [Vice-President of federal Australian Medical Association], President of AMA NSW, Mr. Len Pascoe [Australian cricket great], and Mr. Paul MCleay [MP and Parliamentary Secretary assisting the minister of Health, NSW Gov].

In his speech, Dr Haikerwal spoke about the important role of overseas trained doctors in the delivery of health services in Australia. He touched upon the issue involving Dr Patel of Bundaberg. He explained how AMA was aware of the unfair depiction of overseas trained doctors in some section of media. He detailed his efforts including his letter to all the Australian premiers and chief ministers, to help ensure that the Patel saga did not affect unfairly the hard-working overseas trained doctors all over the country.

He compared the Australian health systems with systems in other places in the world and outlined how our system was performing quite well and is a superior system. He exhorted the OAMGA members to join AMA if they are not the members already. Mr. MCleay in his speech emphasized about he need of the partnership between the Government leaders and the medical professional leaders. He outlined the belief of his government to the share / exchange the views with the leaders of medical profession, to develop a system which would perform in a better fashion.

Mr. MCleay inaugurated the OAMGA website [www.oamga.org.au] by clicking the button, with a thunderous applause from the members. It is envisaged that members would be able to access all relevant information including the dates of the CME programs from this website.

The speeches were followed by three course delightful Indian dinner which all guests and members along with their families enjoyed. Mr Pascoe, a great Australian Cricketer of the past years, gave a speech in a typical hilarious way which entertained the members, their families and guests. His speech was followed by an auction of various cricket memorabilia. A cricket bat signed by Sachin Tendulkar generated a very animated and intense bidding. After approx 20 minutes of bidding, it went for \$3000.

Finally, the dinner was followed by the entertainment program. Mr Kedar Nath, Ms A Kulkarni and Dr Savithri Rao sang beautiful, melodious and popular Hindi songs of yester years to the delight of the members and guests. The dinner and musical program continued well past midnight.

[Compiled by Dr Yadu Singh]