



# Overseas and Australian Medical Graduates Association of Australia

## Silver Jubilee Function

OAMGA celebrated its Silver Jubilee Function at the Waterview Function Centre, Bicentennial Olympic Park Sydney on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2006 in a grand and befitting manner.

This organization proudly represents many overseas medical graduates from countries of the Indian subcontinent who have worked hard to achieve the standards required in Australia. As many as 180 people attended the gala dinner function.

The important guests present were Hon Deputy Premier of NSW Mr John Watkins, Minister for Police and Transport, representing the Premier, AMA Federal President Dr Mukesh Haikerwal, Dr Vasantha Preetham, President of RACGP and Dr Andrew Keegan, President AMA NSW.

The function began with the President of OAMGA, Dr. V.R. Nagamma welcoming all members and guests. Dr. Yadu Singh the Honorary Secretary of the association elaborated on the events of the current year and CME activities and the overseas conferences in the past year.

Dr. Soji Swaraj presented a comprehensive video, which entailed the evolution of OAMGA. Highlights of the video included; the efforts of OAMGA in overcoming the medical registration problems of Overseas trained doctors, involvement with the Australian Medical Council to facilitate the examination process, OAMGA community services through Chandana TV promoting awareness of health issues and together with the Medical Stall at the UIA function where our members conducted spot tests for diabetes and blood pressure etc. Furthermore, the video also showed OAMGA taking part in making substantial contributions to various charities to name a few:

1. Fred Hallows foundation - \$10,000.
2. Gujarat relief fund - \$10,000.
3. Westmead childrens hospital - \$5000.

The Hon. John Watkins then addressed the gathering and expressed appreciation of the services by all the overseas trained doctors in NSW. He promised to extend the cooperation in future with OAMGA. The Hon. Minister also presented mementos as a gesture of appreciation to all the past presidents and secretaries for their invaluable contribution they made for oamga.

Dr. Vasantha Preetham the RACGP President addressed the gathering and emphasised the essentials of upholding the standards, and how she being a Indian Medical graduate from one of the best Medical Schools of India from Vellore had to go through the assessment process to qualify as General practioner and now the first Indian origin to be President of the RACGP college.

Dr. M. Haikerwal AMA Federal President addressed the meeting. Again he is of Indian origin an overseas Doctor donning the Presidency of an important Medical Organization in the AMA. He listed the AMA policies in relation to the funding issues by the state and federal Governments. He also stressed the significance of scrutinising the overseas doctors recruitment in areas of need.

This was followed by a sumptuous Dinner and Dr.Prabhat Sinha proposed the vote of thanks, after which the gathering was entertained by minto and his troupe in typical Bollywood fashion.

Dr Hemchander Rao