Dear Members,

Wish you and your family a very Happy New Year. As indicated in the letter of AGM notification to you all, the resolution proposing the name change of OAMGA the word Overseas has become hindrance to increase the membership. In the AGM the special Resolution was adopted by the majority of members after comprehensive discussion, the New name “Australian Indian Medical Graduates Association” (AIMGA).

From now on our association shall function with this name and necessary steps have already taken to inform Office of Fair Trading.

Your Faithfully

Dr N.C Patel
President
AIMGA
It is a great pleasure to be contributing to the first newsletter for 2009 for our newly named Australian Indian Medical Graduates Association.

When OAMGA(AIMGA) was first formed in 1984, medical practice in Australia was very different to medical practice today in 2009. Over the years we have adopted computerised practices and there has been an increased focus on chronic illness in the community, like diabetes, heart disease and cancer. Australia has also become an ageing population and the obesity issue has become paramount. AIMGA members have worked hard over the years to keep each other aware of current issues and best practice. We have listened to each other and learned from each other. We have also had an important role in the provision of high level services to the Australian community.

As medicine has changed over the last 27 years, AIMGA has also changed. We have consistently achieved over the last 27 years, but over the last 5 years, we have been increasingly active. The CME is major activity of our association last 15 years which will help to update latest information serve better to patients.

Our Annual General Meeting of the association was held on 14 November 2008, at Burwood Function Centre and the members of the committee was elected, It is very proud to say that first time 5 women elected to the executive committee this year.

The meeting was well attended. It was resolved by the majority of the members to the change the name of association from the ‘Overseas and Australian Medical Graduates Association’ to the ‘Australian Indian Medical Graduates Association’.

It is hoped that the name change will more accurately reflect the nature of the Association, that it will attract more Indian Australian medical graduates, and become the most recognisable peak body to overseas medical graduate practice issues and community health.

27th Annual Dinner
At the Annual dinner Meeting, Dr Nagamma was an excellent Master of Ceremony for the function. Memorable guests were presented with a token of appreciation from the Committee, including Dr Wu’s grand daughter Melissa Wu who is a Beijing Olympics silver medallist in Diving and Dr Harinath a well known GP and member of our association also one of the director the cricket Australia and chairman of NSW cricket Association.

Dr Brian Morton and NSW Senator Fierravanti-Wells for The Hon Malcolm Turnbull both spoke about the need for overseas trained doctors in Australia to ease the shortage of doctors, particularly in rural areas. Mr Onkaraswamy was also recognised for his wonderful work for AIMGA over the past two years.

Other VIPs in attendance included the representatives from the Arabic Medical Association, Vietnamese Medical Association, Burmese Association, Australian Doctors Weekly and the United Indian Association. and Mr Bellantonio Barrister was also in attendance.

AIMGA would like to thank the Bollywood dancing team led by Khurshid Irani, Olympian Melissa Wu and wonderful Burmese dancers. The AIMGA also like to thank Mr Bellantonio Barrister for his honorary services to this organisation since its inception.

Dr Harinath was the electoral officer and the results from the election are as follows:

The following members were elected as office bearers for the coming year.

President-Dr. N. C. Patel, Vice President-Dr. Srinivasa, Secretary-Dr. Sundar,
Assistant Secretary-Dr. U. Borkar, Treasurer-Dr. P. Dugal, Assistant Treasurer-Dr. Malti. Thakkar

Executive Committee Members:
Dr. Borkar, Dr. Orekondy, Dr. Murugesan Ganapathi, Dr. Jasani, Dr. H. Rao, Dr. P. Patel, Dr. Nagamma, Dr. Chaturvedi. Dr. Thakkar. Dr. Sawrikar.

Sub Committees for 2008-9:
CME: Dr Srinivasa, Dr Nagamma, Dr Malti Thakkar and Dr N C Patel.
AMA: Dr Rao, Dr Chaturvedi, Dr Dugal.
ADTO: (Australian Doctors Trained Overseas) Dr S Borkar, Dr Wu.
Membership Committee: Dr Sundar Dr N.C Patel, Dr Murugesan Ganapathi
Website: Onkaraswamy, N.C Patel.
Media Spokesperson: Dr Rao, Dr Orekondy and Dr N C Patel, Dr Chaturvedi.
Health Promotion and Medical Stall: Dr Sundar, Dr Prakash and Dr N C Patel.
Medical Board issues sub committee: Dr Chaturvedi, Dr Borkar, Dr Dugal and Dr Rao.
Newsletter: Dr Sundar, Dr Dugal and Dr Malti Thakkar.
Finance Committee: Dr Thakkar, Dr Usha Borkar and Dr Dugal.
Event Managers, Annual Dinner Committee: Dr Nagamma, Dr N C Patel, Dr Rao, Dr Sawrikar, Dr Borkar, Dr Sundar.
Public office: Administrative office Mr Onkaraswamy,
UIA REPS: Dr Rao and N C Patel, Dr Sundar.
Overseas Conference Committee: Dr Nagamma, Dr Borkar, Dr Malti Thakkar, Dr Sawrikar
Constitution Committee: Dr Rao, Dr Orekondy, Dr N.C Patel, Dr Borkar
Chandana: Dr Nagamma, Dr Dugal, Dr N.C. Patel, Dr Sawrikar

As we extend a hearty welcome to the new Committee, it is an excellent opportunity for us to thank our outgoing President Dr Wu and our outgoing Secretary Dr Malia, as well as all other office bearers whose commitment and contribution to the Committee last year was substantial and fruitful. Particularly notable among the contributions of office bearers is that of Dr Wu, who led the Committee with insight and in doing so, engendered respect from Committee members and the stakeholders of the Committee. Dr Prakash also offered substantial service in all aspects of AIMGA’s administration. We are delighted to welcome three new members, which will increase the representation of women on the Committee. No doubt the fresh ideas of the new members will be well received and appreciated in the coming year.

Dr Dinesh Powani:-
We are sad to announce the passing of Dr Dinesh Powani in 9th Nov 2008. Dr Powani served as AIMGA Treasurer 92-97 also a chairman of CME Committee. He had been a general practitioner for 35 years and had contributed much to the Australian community. The late Dr Powani is well remembered; he survived by his wife, son, two daughters and two grand daughters.

Dr Rabindranath:– for being instrumental in organising the Continuing Medical Education Committee in the 1980s. This was a turning point in AIMGA’s history and indeed in the development of the high standard of medical education in Australia. It is interesting to note that Dr Rabindranath is currently undertaking pro bono community service work in Pondicherry India, with kidney dialysis patients who would otherwise be unable to afford treatment.

The future for AIMGA looks bright. We have a strong Committee with diligent and actively engaged members. We have earned respect over the years and we are well positioned to increase our contribution to charitable organisations, Continuing Medical Education, and other activities undertaken in the usual course of business. We will continue to reach out to the community through the community run television station TVS on ‘Chandana TV’ and to provide input to the community on matters of importance within our brief.

With best regards,
The Newsletter Editorial Committee
Dr Sundar, Dr Dugal, Dr Thakkar