

NZSSD PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2007
31st Annual General Meeting,
Thursday 6 September, 2007 - Christchurch

1. Executive Members

The Executive moved to Dunedin after the last AGM in Palmerston North in 2006. It has been a busy year and I am very grateful to all of the members of the Executive who have worked hard to keep the Society active in meeting its goals. The first task was to appoint an Executive and I am proud of the group that we have managed to put together:

Officers:

Patrick Manning (President)
Jim Mann (Chairman)
Gavin Hendry (Treasurer)
Stephanie Farrand (Secretary)

Executive Members:

Kirsten Coppell
Victoria Stott
Jenny Rayns
Nick Tunnicliff (Industry Representative)
Murray Dear (Diabetes New Zealand Representative)
Barry Taylor (Paediatric Representative)
Kirsten Buks (Dietitian Representative)

Secretariat:

Victoria Farmer
Chris Booker

It has been of huge benefit to the Executive in having the assistance of Victoria Farmer and Chris Booker of the Edgar National Centre for Diabetes Research in Dunedin as the secretariat. This has provided the Executive with a single point of call for queries and has eased the workload on other Executive members. The Executive has met at least monthly over the last year. We have set up a telelink for members outside Dunedin to join in on the meetings and we are grateful to Nick Tunnicliff for assisting us with that. I want to thank all of the Executive members for their hard work over the last 12 months – work that is over and above their other commitments. Workload is an issue for NZSSD and I suspect will become more so in the future. It will soon get to the point where a permanent professional secretariat will need to be considered.

2. Expert Advisory Group

As you will all know, the Ministry of Health has established an Expert Advisory Group on Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease. Jim Mann was appointed to Chair this panel of experts. This is a very promising initiative and NZSSD has Paul Drury as a representative on this group. Whilst the Executive is not directly involved in the process we are asked for comment and we look forward to the outcome of the Group's deliberations. Clearly the establishment of such a group indicates that the Government sees diabetes as one of its key health priorities.

3. PHARMAC

Peter Moore was nominated by NZSSD for the Diabetes PTAC committee. This was accepted. The Executive has been in correspondence with PHARMAC on several issues including:

- Insulin detemir: specifically encouraging PHARMAC to consider funding detemir for patients with Type 1 diabetes who do not show improvement with insulin glargine.
- Insulin pump therapy: detailing our concerns that pump therapy is determined on a population rather than a need basis and that funding does not allow for increasing allocation of pump therapy over time.

4. Performa Meter

The Executive has been kept up to date by Roche Diagnostics on the problems they have encountered with their new meter. We have been impressed with the speed and seriousness with which they are addressing this matter. The new re-calibrated strips will be available shortly.

5. Website

The Executive wishes to thank Chris Booker for his hard work on the development of the Website. It now is very up-to-date with useful information on future meetings, position statements, award announcements and related websites.

6. Constitution

The Constitution has been signed off by the lawyers and we are now in the process of registering NZSSD as a charitable institution.

7. Awards

The Novo Nordisk awards were made earlier this year to: Rinki Murphy, Kavita Kumareswaran, and Jill Calveley.

The Eli Lilly award applications have been judged and the successful applicant will be announced at this meeting.

8. Conference grants

The Executive made \$15,000 available to non-physician members to apply for grants to attend this meeting. We are pleased to announce that we have made 49 conference grant awards of \$500 to members.

9. Newsweet

Ian McPherson is the new Editor of Newsweet. For various reasons there has been a delay in the production of the latest editions of Newsweet this year. Hopefully the next edition will be out in the near future.

10. National Diabetes Retinal Screening group

This group was established to develop guidelines on retinal screening for diabetes in New Zealand. They have produced a grading system and referral guideline that can be found on the Ministry of Health's website or via a link on the NZSSD website. Peter Dunn is NZSSD's representative on this committee.

11. Gestational Diabetes Technical Report

You will have all received information about this technical report which is published on the NZSSD website. It has been ratified by the NZSSD.

12. Physicians' Weekend

The annual Physicians' weekend was cancelled this year due to the proximity with this year's annual conference. It will resume next year and the Executive is grateful to Rob Leikis for his efforts in organising these meetings.

13. Diabetes Foundation

Rick Cutfield has been appointed as a director on the Diabetes Foundation Board. The Foundation is in discussions with a possible sponsor to provide funding so that a research scholarship may be able to be reinstated.

14. Meetings

A great deal of the Executive's time has been spent on business relating to the organisation of both this meeting and the 7th International Diabetes Federation (IDF) Western Pacific Region Congress which will be held in Wellington next year.

▪ ADA/ADEA/NZSSD Meeting Christchurch 2007

The Executive must thank Ali Copeman for her hard work in assisting Mike Pickford and the Local Organising Committee in putting together a great meeting here in Christchurch. The Executive also wants to acknowledge the work of the Local Organising Committee: Marilyn Cullens, Maggie Wilson, Helen Lunt, Jinny Willis, Trudy Brown, Penny Lloyd, Kristen Corselius, Maureen Reason, Tracy Ayles and Meredith Williamson. Garth Cooper and myself have been on the programme organising committee.

▪ 7th IDF Western Pacific Region Congress, Wellington 2008

The planning for this meeting is well underway. The Executive wishes to thank Russ Finnerty (the Chair of the Organising Committee) and the Board of Diabetes Congress Limited for their achievements to date. They have attracted superb sponsorship and are on target for a very successful meeting. Russell Scott must also be congratulated for putting together a very high calibre scientific programme.

Patrick Manning
President, NZSSD 2007