



Christian Medical and
Dental Fellowship
of Australia

CMDFA SA Annual Report 2021

It has been a joy to reflect on God's work in South Australia through CMDFA in the past year. Despite the ongoing challenges of living through a pandemic, there has been much to be thankful for and encouraged by.

Students/Conferences

Thanks goes to the conference committees and National Office for organising Vision and IMPACT conferences this year, and particularly to our student rep Olivia Jaeshcke at the SA end. Due to the online medium with hub groups meeting locally, we had a much higher attendance than we would normally see from South Australia. Both of these events were so encouraging and we pray that the students and recent grads who attended will continue to seek to serve the Lord through integrating their faith and practice. Interestingly, through word of mouth, we had a number of non med/dent participants including from physio, nursing and pharmacy.

Lunch and Fellowship Meetings

We have continued to hold several Sunday afternoon "Lunch and Fellowship" meetings. We were delighted to be able to meet face to face for the first time in 12 months at our meeting in February, but were back to Zoom format in July. God willing we will be meeting face to face on November 21st. We heard from Dr Dan Thomas (a previous Chair of CMDFA SA) on "Fighting cancer, Embracing Refugees: Perspectives on Healing", and from our friends Rose and Nigel, recently returned long term health workers in Myanmar. At our meeting in November we will be looking at "Self Care" - under our Father's Almighty care. When meeting face to face we have continued to offer a Zoom option so our rural colleagues can still join us – a positive outcome of Covid times!

Dental Group

We have a group of dentists who aim to meet together a few times each year, generally in each others homes. They have covered topics such as "Treating the Hard to Love", and "Gossip". Though a smaller gathering, these have also been a great source of encouragement for those who have attended.

Anthony Radford Oration

This year saw we held the 5th annual Anthony Radford Oration, in collaboration with Intermed and Tabor College. Anthony is well known in CMDFA circles, having had a long and varied career in Primary health care, missions and research. Emeritus Professor Paul Worley, Executive Director of Clinical Innovation at the Riverland Mallee Coorong Local Health Network and former Australian Rural Health Commissioner spoke of his passion to see excellent healthcare in rural settings and the need to attract and train a well qualified workforce. Paul challenged us to be like Queen Esther wherever God has placed us, willing to serve Him with our gifts, resources and position. Again, with the option of Zoom (though with some technical issues!) we were able to be joined by those beyond SA and even Australia.



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Other connections

This year it has also been a joy to make connections with a number of organisations (eg Tabor College, Engage/Work/Faith, Church Missionary Society, and SA Friends of Vellore) and have the opportunity to share what CMDFA is all about. Finding ways that we can work collaboratively for God's Kingdom in and through Healthcare - whether through prayer, serving cross culturally, or encouraging people to be generous with their money for those affected by COVID in India and Nepal - we trust God is at work in a whole variety of ways!

State Committee

We have a wonderful CMDFA SA state committee which comprises of Philippa Harris (Chair), Chrissy Lai (Secretary extraordinaire!), Derrick Selby (Treasurer), Yvonne Lai, Doug Shaw, Rohit Joshi, Catherine White, Olivia Jaeschke (State student rep/Adelaide Uni) and Mary Iengo (Flinders Uni). We were sad to lose Sneha Kirubakaran to Queensland part way through this year, but know she will keep serving the Lord and remain a CMDFA SA friend wherever she is!

It is an encouragement to be part of the wider CMDFA family. We continue to pray that God would lead us and use us for His purposes in Health Care here in South Australia, and beyond.

All for His Glory!

Philippa Harris CMDFA SA Chair