



Christian Medical and  
Dental Fellowship  
of Australia

## **Christian Medical and Dental Fellowship of Australia, New South Wales Branch. Chairman's Report October 2021.**

2021 has been a year of challenge for CMDFA both nationally, and at the state level. As a state committee we have centred our attention on the four pillars of fellowship, mentoring and pastoral care, teaching and advocacy. There has been minimal face to face activity. However, much has been achieved by means of our greater attention to prayer and intercession.

### **Committee Members throughout 2021.**

Ern Crocker (Chair), Richard Wong (secretary), Michael Nicholson (treasurer), Angela Wang (prayer secretary), Robert Claxton (saline Process), James Yun, (board representative), Michael Burke (saline and HealthServe), Sarah Appleby (student rep) Phyllis Tay (recent grads rep), Harvey Ward.

The committee has met monthly on Zoom. The Issues discussed have been largely defined by the on-going restrictions imposed to combat COVID. Major areas of interest have included:

- Ongoing Zoom weekly prayer meetings.
- Saline.
- Hybrid zoom/face-to-face supper meetings.
- A Webinar '*To Whom Shall We Go?*' in the latter half of the year.
- The possibility of a Zoom intern reboot in November.

### **THE YEARS ACTIVITIES:**

**Weekly Prayer Meetings.** Zoom prayer meetings for 2021 commenced on February 12 and have continued on a weekly basis. Attendance has consistently averaged 25-30, with people attending from across Australia and from abroad. Members on the mission field have attended as able, bringing praise and prayer points. The major thrust as previously has been toward issues associated with the pandemic and also ethical issues such as Voluntary Assisted Dying. But as the year has progressed, there has been a growing emphasis on fellowship and pastoral care, with time allocated for support of members personal needs. My sincere thanks to Angela Wang and Rob Claxton for their assistance.

### **Supper Meetings:**

1. **April 17, 2021. An Evening with Dr Nerida Moore.** April 17, 2021. (Zoom) Dr Moore, a Newcastle graduate spoke of her search for purpose and direction through medical school, residency, three tours of duty with Mercy Ships off the west coast of Africa, surgical training and advanced training in paediatrics.
2. **May 22, 2021. An Evening with the Lorenzo and Liliana,** prior their return to mission work in East Africa. Face -to- face and on Zoom hosted by Rosemary Isaacs.



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3. **June 19, 2021, An Evening with the John, and Sally Paget**, prior to their return to mission work in South Asia. Face-to-face and on Zoom and hosted by Rosemary Isaacs.

**National Webinar: September 18, 2021: To Whom Shall We Go? - Faith responses to the COVID Crisis**, based on the writings of prominent Christian writers in their new book, entitled *'TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?'* Cascade Books. Editors: Irene Alexander and Christopher Brown. Eminent theologians, academics and healthcare workers including our own Paul Mercer, addressed the issues of how to survive, spiritually, and to experience abundant blessing during and beyond COVID, inspired by Christ's immortal words From the Sermon on the Mount.

**FINANCES:** Michael Nicholson has again done a sterling job as treasurer. He has provided the following summary:

'NSW has run 2 major activities since the start of the new financial year on 1/7/2020:

1. A "Moral injury" conference in November 2020 and
2. A second webinar "To whom shall we Go" in July 2021.

Both were conducted on Zoom. Each webinar produced a small income: the Moral injury \$318.0 and To Whom Shall We Go \$227.95.

The Covid pandemic throughout this period has restricted the opportunities for income at face-to-face events - in particular the cancellation of our annual dinner and of several supper meetings

Funding of other activities has resulted in \$341.22 of expenditure over income for the period to date ( Income \$5003.54. Expenditure \$5344.76 ) partly offset by the NSW CBA account balance of \$297.80. The significant expenditure resulting in this loss was the cost of recording and editing of the talks for wider distribution than NSW at \$1800 each.

As previously, I wish to thank those who have been instrumental in making this a most successful and enjoyable year. These include committee members, our Chief Operations Officer David Brown, Marilyn Byrne, and our National Chair, Prof John Whitehall.

Dr Ern Crocker BSc (Med) MBBS FRACP DDU FAANMS  
New South Wales State Chair.