

## Editorial

It is with great pleasure that I welcome readers to the first online issue of *Focus on Health Professional Education*. It is a significant milestone for both the Association and its journal.

In 1972, the Australasian and New Zealand Association for Medical Education (ANZAME) was formed at the fourth national conference on medical education, held in Australia. Earlier conferences had prepared the way for this development, which coincided with the foundation of both the European Association for Medical Education and the World Federation for Medical Education. Early discussions of the purpose of the Association included the provision of a forum for all who shared an interest in the educational processes of *any* of the health professions. This was an approach advocated by Bill McCarthy, the first president of ANZAME. Although openness to all health professions was “on the table”, the early days of the Association were dominated by the medical profession. However, the name of the Association was frequently the subject of debate as the membership slowly expanded to include many other health professions.

In 1978, the Association *Newsletter* was transformed into the *Bulletin* and became a vehicle for publishing reports, opinion pieces and academic papers. Further milestones were marked in 1988 with the election of ANZAME’s first allied health president, Ken Jones, a psychologist, and then in 1995, Jenny Graham, an occupational therapist. Jenny was the first woman to hold that office. The debate about the name of the Association intensified.

Another debate had been developing within ANZAME during these years. It concerned the creation of a multidisciplinary education journal and centred on questions of whether the Association could afford to support such a publication and whether there existed sufficient authors, reviewers and editors to sustain the project. By 1999, this debate had been resolved, and in July of that year, the first issue of *Focus on Health Professional Education* was printed bearing the ANZAME logo. The second issue marked a further development, carrying the ANZAME logo, but this time with the subtitle ANZAME: The Association of Health Professional Educators. This mismatch of acronym with name marked a subtle transition in the name of the Association, completed in 2011, with a change to the acronym: ANZAHPE. The early history can be viewed at the web address below.

So it came to be, that in 2014, ANZAHPE presents an online journal dedicated to health professional education, which is supported by an increasingly diverse body of health professional educators. In light of all this, it may seem ironic that the lead article in this milestone issue is about professionalism in *medicine*. However, Richard and Sylvia Cruess have made a major contribution to the international debate about professionalism, and their enthusiastic participation in the 2012 ANZAHPE conference stimulated a great deal of discussion on this theme and the related concept of a “social contract”. Their rich description of the historical and political context of the development of the medical profession provides a basis for understanding

developments in many other healthcare professions. A case in point is the frank and fascinating description of the tensions and challenges in the emerging profession of paramedicine by Lazarsfield-Jensen and colleagues in this issue. Dunphy extends the discussion by promoting the role of health professionals as agents of change and the consequent need for faculty and students to develop relevant skills and personal resilience if that role is to be sustainable.

The issue of the sustainability of the journal itself remains. It is as dependent on authors, reviewers and editors as it was in the past. It is equally dependent on members to provide the financial basis for its production. Membership subscriptions guarantee *FoHPE's* continuing openness to all health professions and help preserve its freedom from market forces.

As ANZAME President David Prideaux wrote in Volume 1(1), "I urge you all to continue to subscribe, read and contribute to the journal."

**Tony Egan**

Editor

Focus on Health Professional Education

Promoting, supporting and advancing education in the health professions

<http://www.anzahpe.org/#!/history/c1rh1>

## Editor's note:

The conversion from a printed version of the journal to online production has been achieved through the collaborative efforts of members of the Editorial Board, particularly Pippa Craig and Andy Wearn, with exceptional support from the ANZAHPE Executive Officer, Jill Romeo, and the Digital Services Officer of the University of Otago Library, Allison Brown. ANZAHPE is fortunate to have had available the resources of the University of Otago Library and Information Technology Services in adapting the processes of the Open Journal System to the requirements of the journal.