This report summarises the activities of the Australian Society of Orthodontists Foundation for Research and Education (ASOFRE). 2010 has been a busy year and seems to have flown by.

The objective of the Foundation is to support Orthodontic Research and Education. It does this with:

1. The provision of support to all ADC accredited orthodontic programmes.
2. Support of research by providing Postgraduate Student Research Donations and Special Research Donations.
3. Administering awards to reward and encourage excellence.
4. Hold the biennial Foundation Meeting, for continuing education for the membership.
5. Administer the Jan Taylor Travelling Fellowship.
6. Progress the goals of the “Foundation for the Future” initiative through direct support from ASO members, the public and corporate colleagues, and administer and manage the Foundation investments and financial affairs on behalf of the Trustees (The Federal Council ASO Inc.).

Currently, the ASOFRE Trust deed is being revised and updated, and probably rewritten, to bring it into the 21st century. Our tax-exempt status is not in question but the vital issue is the compliance that must be undertaken with the ATO to maintain that status. The ASOFRE committee has been liaising with ASO Council on this matter.

The Melbourne Foundation Meeting, “Orthodontics for all Ages”, 4th – 6th March 2011, is progressing well. Registration via the ASO website will be available from about the beginning of December.

The Committee has searched our archives and has developed a definitive and hopefully accurate list of Awards Recipients since 1980. This is published in this Newsletter and will be published regularly as well as being available on the society website. We should be proud of these past and all future recipients, and follow their careers with interest.

We welcome our new contributors to “Foundation for the Future”. This continued support is essential as we continue to increase our capital base. A special thanks to Dr Rob Smith who recently made a sizeable donation to become a Patron of the Foundation. Our corporate partners also continue to be very supportive.

My great appreciation to my committee for their dedication to the broad spectrum of issues presented. Dan Vickers as Secretary, Ted Peel as Treasurer, members Helen McLean and Paul Hanrahan and Paul Schneider and Mike Razza as officio member, all make consistent and knowledgeable contributions, every step of the way.

Please read the very informative reports and interesting articles in this Newsletter.

John R Owen AM
Chairman and Patron, ASOFRE

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Chairman: Dr John Owen 08 9274 6861
Secretary: Dr Dan Vickers 02 9484 5154
Treasurer: Dr Ted Peel 02 9221 1611
Committee: Dr Paul Hanrahan, Dr Helen McLean, Dr Paul Schneider
Ex-officio: Dr Mike Razza (ASO President)
WFO Sydney Congress Speaker Donations

At the February 2010 WFO Congress in Sydney the following speakers very generously donated their speaker honorariums to the ASO Foundation Trust.

The ASOFRE sincerely thanks these individuals:

Dr Joe Geenty - Australia
Dr Mithran Goonewardene - Australia
Dr Chris Ho - Australia
Dr Peter Miles - Australia
Prof Wayne Sampson - Australia
Dr Colin Twelftree - Australia
Prof Michael Woods - Australia
Prof Athanasios E Athanasiou - Greece
Dr Naphtali Brezniak - Israel
Dr Friederich Byloff - Austria
Prof Jean-Pierre Joho - Switzerland
Dr Liana Lima Pinheiro - Brazil
Prof Julio R Saldarriaga - Columbia
Dr Jonathon Sandy - United Kingdom
Prof Kunimichi Soma - Japan
Dr Junji Sugawara - Japan
Prof Kazuo Tanne - Japan
Dr Atalia Wasserstain - Israel

Contributors

The Australian Society of Orthodontists Foundation for Research and Education sincerely thanks the following contributors for their support of the Foundation for the Future.

Corporate Patrons ($50,000+)
- Henry Schein - Halas $188,475
- Ormco Pty Ltd $115,000
- 3M Unitek $101,326
- TP (Australia) Pty Ltd $60,000

Corporate Sponsors ($10,000+)
- AB Orthodontics $19,750
- GAC Australia Pty Ltd $10,000

Corporate Donors
- Oradec (Australia) $4,150
- Peter J Martin $50
- Hillross Financial Services $2,040
- Sybron Dental Specialties $1,000
- Invisalign (Australia) $4,000

Patrons
- Dr T Baisi $25,000
- Dr P Buchholz $25,000
- Dr F S Fryer $25,000
- Dr M Goonewardene $38,000
- Dr A Kalafatas $38,000
- Dr K A Mezger $25,000
- Dr R H Olive $25,000
- Dr J R Owen $35,000
- Dr M Razza $38,000
- Dr R Smith $25,000
- Dr J Stamatis $37,000
- In memory of Janice Lorraine Taylor $100,000
- Dr H Wasilewsky $25,830

Group Patrons ($40,000+)
- Drs S Bobbera, A Wood $40,000
- Drs P Ferguson, B Trusler, T Shields $40,000
- Drs J Hawkins, T Peel, P Taylor, S Duncan $69,540
- Drs A Pollard, A Wong, S Amari, M Story $40,000
- Drs C Spry, P Hanrahan, G Stanton $40,000
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ASO-HSH Alliance

Since its commencement in July 2008 the ASO-HSH Alliance has provided tremendous support to Orthodontic Research and Education in Australia. To the ASOFRE Trust alone Henry Schein Halas has donated over $188,000. In addition considerable other funds and logistic support have been provided by HSH to the ASO both federally and in individual states.

Henry Schein Halas is now, by quite a large margin, the largest corporate supporter of the ASOFRE Trust Fund. However the ASO-HSH Alliance not only benefits Orthodontic Research and Education in Australia, it also financially benefits individual ASO members who have chosen to support the Alliance by purchasing more of their dental supplies from HSH.

The amount that can be saved and returned to members by purchasing their dental supplies from HSH is much greater than many members realise if they only glance at the benefits listed. It is the cumulative effect of putting together the volume rebate and Privileges rebate, in the form of department store gift cards, that adds significant value to the Alliance for individual members.

Enclosed with this newsletter is the ASO-HSH Alliance fact sheet which outlines the details of the Alliance and the benefits that can be gained for both individual members and the Foundation Trust Fund.

ASOFRE Award Winners

**Sam Bulkley Rocky Mountain Orthodontics Travelling Fellowship**

The Sam Bulkley RMO Travelling Fellowship was endowed by Rocky Mountain Orthodontics in the memory of the late Mr Sam Bulkley.

The purpose of the Fellowship is to enable newly graduated orthodontists in Australia to travel overseas to a Centre of Excellence, and thereby gain knowledge and experience not readily available in Australia.

A grant of $7500 is provided. This award is generously supported by AB Orthodontics and Rocky Mountain Orthodontics.

The winner of the 2010 Sam Bulkley RMO Travelling Fellowship is Dr Angie Phelan of the University of Sydney. Dr Phelan intends to visit the University of Michigan and New York University. USA.

**Elsdon Storey Research Award**

The Elsdon Storey Research Award is advertised annually and is awarded for the most meritorious research and essay.

Generally, the award is based on a degree thesis, carried out in Australia, leading to gaining qualifications as an Orthodontist. The prize consists of an inscribed bronze medallion and $5,000.

Dr Roslyn Mayne was the successful applicant for her research titled “Enamel damage during orthodontic adhesive removal from demineralised enamel”.

Dr Mayne studied at the Orthodontic Department at the University of Melbourne.

**Milton R Sims Award**

The Milton R Sims Award is offered on a biennial basis to those completing their graduate programs. It is awarded to the most meritorious student in the two years preceding each Congress.

The award is an inscribed gold medallion and $5,000. This award is generously supported by Ormco Pty Ltd.

The winner of the 2010 Milton R Sims Award, for those completing their studies in 2008 or 2009, was Dr Lam Cheng who studied at the Orthodontic Department at the University of Sydney.
## Honour Board of Award Winners

### The P Raymond Begg Research Award
- 1980 - Prof Milton R Sims
- 1984 - Prof Milton R Sims
- 1985 - Dr Simon Freezer
- 1993 - Dr Christopher Ho

### The Elsdon Storey Research Award
- 1987 - Dr Glen Staples
- 1990 - Dr Garth Brice
- 1993 - Dr David Lee
  - Dr Maureen Parlange
- 1996 - Dr John Cameron
- 2000 - Dr Jonathon Ashworth
- 2002 - Dr Howard D. Holmes
- 2003 - Dr Teriko Rex
- 2004 - Dr Daniel Ngan
- 2005 - Dr Deborah Harris
- 2006 - Dr Laura Barbagallo
- 2007 - Dr Crofton Daniels
- 2008 - Dr Sheryn Deane
- 2009 - Dr Gosia Barley
- 2010 - Dr Roslyn Mayne

### Special Merit Winners
- 2000 - Dr Rhonda Coyne
- 2003 - Dr Eugene Chan
- 2004 - Dr James Choi
- 2006 - Dr Kwok Li Ling
- 2008 - Dr Elaine Lim
- 2009 - Dr Robert Mayne

### The Sam Bulkley Rocky Mountain Travelling Fellowship
- 1987 - Dr Nino Douvartzidis
- 1988 - Dr Denise Lawry
- 1989 - Dr Lesley Short
- 1990 - Dr Robert Schwartz
- 1991 - Dr Anthony Collett
- 1995 - Dr Vicky Vlaskalic
- 1996 - Dr Kath Arneman
- 1997 - Dr Neil Lenz
- 1998 - Dr Craig Dreyer
- 1999 - Dr Gavin Lenz
- 2000 - Dr Rhonda Coyne
- 2001 - Dr Charles Sheridan
- 2005 - Dr Donna Lim
- 2006 - Dr Sivabalan Vasudavan
- 2007 - Dr Elaine Lim
- 2008 - Dr Alwyn Wong
- 2009 - Dr Shari Daniels
- 2010 - Dr Angie Phelan

### The Milton R Sims Award
- 2004 - Dr Eugene Chan (Inaugural)
- 2006 - Dr Daniel Ngan
- 2008 - Dr Laura Barbagallo
- 2010 - Dr Lam Cheng
Post-Graduate Students and their Research Projects

The following is a list of the post-graduate students studying orthodontics, with the title of their thesis listed. Each student, who is a member of the ASO, has their research supported by the ASOFRE with a yearly donation over the three years of their course. These funds are allocated at the discretion of the Head of Department.

University of Sydney

Arthressarat Sirisa-Ad
Animal study examining the biological response of PDL when injectable bone graft is injected close to a tooth.

Sabrina Michael
A histological study examining the integration of the Sydney Mini-Screw in miniature pigs.

Stephan McCullan
A Histological study into the osteointegration of the mini screw in rat bone blocks.

Serina Ma
An electromyographic study of responders and non respondents to mandibular advancement splints in obstructive sleep apnoea.

Kitirat Jungpakdee
The development of a polymer based self-ligating orthodontic bracket.

Kamal Ahmed
Testing the response of teeth moved through injectable bone cements.

Riaan Foot
The effects if the Sydney Intrusion Spring (SIS) during posterior Mx segment intrusion.

Jonathan Grove
The effect of vibration on tooth movement and root resorption.

Daniel Tan
The use of the Sydney Magnetic Clip (SMC) in conjunction with miniscrews.

Saad Al-Mozany
Treatment of class2 skeletal malocclusions using intraoral miniscrews.

Tiffany Huang
The extent of root resorption after application of ascending and descending magnetic forces -a micro CT study.

Olivia Rogers
The effect of mechanical vibration on the rat condyle during functional protrusion.

Vanessa Jiminez
Volumetric analysis of root resorption craters after application of extrusive light and heavy forces. Bone remodelling in various types of tooth movement using finite element analysis and its correlation with root resorption.

Angie Phelan
Magnetic attachments- force levels of magnetic attachments used in combination with removable sequential aligners.

University of Melbourne

Pantea Makhmalbaf
No title yet

Paul Dever
Can orthodontic tooth movement be monitored with a urine test?

Thomas Lo
No title yet

Francis Wong
Stability in the orthognathic treatment of cleft lip and palate.

Geraint Williams
Examination of enamel surfaces following clinical orthodontic cement removal with commonly used techniques.

Anna Theobald
The Effect of Extraction versus Nonextraction on the Buccal Corridor Ratio.

Brendan Fitzpatrick
The effects of denervation and beta 2 agonist administration on craniofacial form.

Katherine Georgalis
A cephalometric study of Class III orthodontic treatment: orthodontic camouflage vs orthognathic surgery.

Derek Allan
Post-treatment arch dimensions: a study of influencing factors.

Sanj Ratneser
Effect of different orthodontic cement removal techniques on sound, demineralised and remineralised enamel.

University of Adelaide

Balya Sriram
An evaluation of chairside caries tests in the prediction of white spot lesions in orthodontic patients.

Trudy Stewart
The role of Runx2 and VEGF during healing of the periodontal ligament: An immunohistochemical study using an ankylosic model.

Wee Han Tan
A longitudinal study of changes in tooth size and dental arch dimensions from primary to permanent dentition in Australian Aborigines.

Cherry Zaw
Biological response associated with corticotomy facilitated orthodontics.

Wayne Chen
An investigation into the role of periodontal ligament associated protein-1 in the maintenance of the periodontal ligament using an ankylosis model.

Antonio Gagliardi
Development of the curve of Spee in Australian twins.

Mun Jing Jong
Corticotomy enhanced orthodontic tooth movement.
Peter Foo
Facial aesthetics and psychosocial outcome assessment following treatment of non-syndromic cleft patients.

Sara Roberts
Evaluation of salivary flora acidogenicity under acidic conditions for prediction of cariogenic potential during fixed orthodontic treatment.

Dinesh Sanmuganathan
The role of the osteocyte in orthodontic tooth movement in the rat.

University of Queensland

Chin Wei Tan
Treatment effects of the Sydney Magnoglide in the correction of Class II Division 1 Malocclusion.

Lisa Sakzewski
Musculoskeletal Disorders in Australian Orthodontist and Dentist - Risk assessment and prevention.

Jason Yap
Evaluation of a novel approach in preventing the formation of white spot lesions around orthodontic brackets: an in vitro study.

Kerry Shooter
An evaluation of shear bond strengths of modern orthodontic brackets and adhesive.

Sirawish Sathapana
Age related changes in bone density in alveolar and basal bones of the human Maxilla and Mandible: a cadaver study.

Ing Wei Liuk
The association between palatally displaced canines and upper lateral incisors.

Jirawat Kiertiburanakul
The relationship between skeletal pattern and facial type on the dimensions and volume of pharyngeal airway.

University of Western Australia

Frank Furfaro
No title yet

Arti Patel
No title yet

Angela Ross
No title yet

Thushari Dewanarayana
No title yet

Sarath Senaratne
No title yet

Danny Yang
Isolation, cultivation and purification of human PDL stem cells to investigate the influence of chemical and mechanical stimuli on “in vitro” tissue regeneration.

Abdulaziz Alashrani
The effect of SLURP-1 on mouse pre-osteoblast differentiation and gene expression.

Graeme Bond
The effect of NGF on human osteoblasts.

Robert Hamilton
Retrospective evaluation of the post-operative stability of orthognathic surgical occlusal plane manipulation.

Benjamin Tai
Cone-beam computed tomography and conventional PA cephalometry.

The Jan Taylor Travelling Lectureship

For 2010 and 2011 the Jan Taylor Travelling Lectureship is sponsoring the Australian Heads of Orthodontic Departments to travel to the other Orthodontic Departments to give a series of lectures to post-graduate students. This will allow our Heads of Department to share their expertise around the country. For 2012 it is planned the Jan Taylor Travelling Lecturer will once again be a distinguished overseas academic. It is hoped that as well as giving lectures to the post-graduate students, the membership of the ASO will also have an opportunity to meet and hear the lecturer speak.
In June 1988 a further appeal letter was sent to members outlining the aims of the Foundation as well as the investment strategies of the Trustees. It was emphasised that the Foundation depended on the support of members and ASO Congress surplus to fund research projects. It was also noted that the member donations in 1987 were significantly lower than the previous year.

A report from the Foundation’s auditors Howarth and Howarth was tabled recommending a number of changes in the book keeping procedures to comply with acceptable accountancy practice. The assets of the Foundation as of 29th February 1988 were $215,354.

Following the next meeting of the Trustees in April 1989 it was announced that the next Donald Spring Memorial Lecture would be held in Canberra in 1990 and it would include an AGM of the ASO. Dr Lennart Weislander had accepted the invitation to be the principal speaker at the meeting from 10-11th March 1990 at the Canberra Convention Centre. Dr. David Thornton Taylor was co-opted to assist the Trustees arrange the Canberra Meeting. It was confirmed by Dr Richard Cook that the Lecture programme would not be repeated in Perth on this occasion.

There were four applications for the Sam Bulkley RMO Travelling Fellowship and it was awarded to Dr Denise Lawry. Research applications totalled $120,000. The Trustees had divided opinions as to whether capital should be protected and accumulated or adequate funds be provided to ensure the continuation of well funded orthodontic research in Australia.

After a lengthy debate a motion “that the Foundation recommends to the Federal Executive that the Foundations Levy be $50 per member to be included in the annual membership subscription”. The motion was carried and forwarded to the ASO Executive for ratification at the next A.G.M. A motion was passed that the Foundation contributes $35,000 toward funding research grants in 1989. Dr Bill Weekes confirmed that “inflation proofing” of the Foundation’s capital was no longer a major priority. Dr Weekes recommended $35,000 would be available for distribution to various research grants in 1991. It was also noted that two recipients of the Sam Bulkley RMO Travelling Fellowship had not fulfilled their obligations and it was resolved that the Secretary was to pursue the matter.

There were no applications for the P. Raymond Begg Award and Dr Garth Brice was announced as the winner of the First Essay Award.

Changes were recommended for the closing dates of the research applications to ensure that the funding could commence as of 1st January the following year. The Trustees elected to trial a “Teleconference” rather than a “face to face” meeting to ensure that these deadlines could be met.

In February 1989 the audited accounts reported assets of $246,302 and the separate Begg Award account was $22,908.

At the March 1990 meeting, under the chairmanship of Dr Don O’Donoghue, it was decided to divide the Position of Secretary/Treasurer into two positions with Dr Graham Roberts as Secretary and Dr Bill Weekes as Treasurer.

The notable decisions at this meeting were to ask KPMG to setup the framework for the Foundation to be accepted as a bona fide research institution. KPMG offered to provide investment advice however this was declined by the Trustees. There was a decrease in the Foundation’s capital due to the increased research grants and delayed receipt of the Foundation Levy from ASO (Inc). A profit of $8000 was anticipated from the Canberra Foundation Meeting.

Dr Weekes sought the Trustees’ attitude to provide partial funding for the establishment of Chairs in Orthodontics. Discussion ensued and it was decided that it would require a mandate from the general membership of the ASO for the Foundation to release funds for this purpose however the ASO Executive should be aware of this impending issue.

In February 1991 a Tele-conferlink was held by the Foundation under the Chairmanship of Dr O’Donoghue. Dr Weekes reported a balance of $278,314 with further funds of approximately $50,000 to be added during the year. He indicated that “inflation proofing” of the Foundation’s capital was no longer a major priority. Dr Weekes recommended $35,000 would be available for distribution to various research grants in 1991. It was also noted that two recipients of the Sam Bulkley RMO Travelling Fellowship had not fulfilled their obligations and it was resolved that the Secretary was to pursue the matter.

A letter was received on 3rd October 1991 from the Deputy Commissioner of Taxation approving the Foundation’s application for Tax Exempt status and waiving the obligation to submit income tax returns. Annual audit of the Foundation’s accounts was recommended.
Dr Cook, President of the ASO (Inc) advised the Trustees that a motion had been passed by the Representative Council at the previous Congress and it would be voted on at the Perth Congress AGM to the effect that “interest accrued on ASO accounts should NOT be donated to the Foundation”

It was reported that at least two states were attempting to establish a Chair in Orthodontics and the funding of these chairs would be a serious consideration at the Perth Congress.

It was proposed that the Foundation Meeting in 1992 be held at Hamilton Island Queensland and Dr Patrick Turley was invited to be the principal speaker as well as Dr Milton Sims.

At the September 1991 meeting of the Trustees Dr. O’Donoghue stood down from the Foundation after 9 years. Dr Bill Weekes was elected Chairman and he thanked Don for his outstanding contribution in the development of the Foundation over this period.

The Trustees agreed to maintain rather than grow the Foundation’s capital base at $300,000 therefore it planned to distribute the excess of $80,000 to research grant applications. This was the only reported occasion that the Trustees agreed to stabilize the accumulated funds rather than grow its capital. It was agreed that the Foundation would not donate funds specifically to establish a Chair in Orthodontics as the Federal ASO (Inc) had committed $25,000 to seed the formation of Chairs in NSW and Victoria.

It was noted that no applications for the P. Raymond Begg Award had been received since Dr Simon Freezer was the recipient in 1986. The Trustees agreed that the Orthodontic Departments should be approached more vigorously in regard to this matter as it was the ASO’s most prestigious research award.

Dr Basil Phillips, President ASO (Inc) advised that an opinion had been received that a Trust Deed was not required by the Foundation as the Foundation was formed and under the control of the Federal ASO (Inc) and governed by its constitution. However it was agreed by the Trustees that a second opinion should be obtained as it was important that according to the current tax laws that the Foundation was seen to operate “at arm’s length” to the parent body.

The following Tele-conferlink meeting was held in February 1992 and the planning of the Hamilton Island Meeting was finalised. It was agreed that $50,048 would be distributed for research funding. Dr Anthony Collett was awarded the Sam Bulkley RMO Travelling Scholarship. It was decided that future awardees of this fellowship would be required to submit a report for publication to the AOJ within 6 months of their return.

It was proposed by the Trustees that better surveillance on the use of the Foundation funds was required to fulfil its obligations as the trustee of the Foundation funds. It was resolved that the Secretary write to Australian Dental Research Fund Inc to obtain their guidelines to supervise research grants.

Dr Don O’Donoghue
Circa 1990
Gerry always had a great interest in the Foundation. Going back at least to the 1970’s he had expressed a desire to become involved in the running of the Foundation, but it was not until he was elected President of the Society in 1993, was he in a position to provide some definite input into its management. Sitting with the Trustees as an ex-officio member, he was then in a position to give the Foundation significant encouragement from himself personally and the Council for the next 3 years. Gerry was no mere ex-officio office bearer and gave his full support to the initiative of the “Foundation for the Future”, which was commenced in 2001. The aim of this fundraising was to raise enough money for a core capital that would remain intact and research could be funded by the income generated.

In 1998, 2 years after completing his term as Federal President, Gerry was elected a Trustee and in 2003 became Chairman, a position he occupied until 2007. During this time, under his guidance, the Foundation continued a programme of rigorous self assessment to maintain the high standard of the biennial meetings. Grant applications and regulations for the Foundation’s Awards were reviewed regularly, so as to reflect the changing climate of regulatory compliance. Of particular interest is that in 2001, the First Research Award was renamed the “Elsdon Storey Research Essay Award” to honour the memory of the late Professor Storey, one of Gerry’s teachers.

During Gerry’s time with the Foundation, it became the major provider of funds for orthodontic research in Australia and the core capital for research funds was increased from a little over $500,000 to in excess of $2 million. His endeavours greatly assisted in bringing, and maintaining, the performance of the Foundation to contemporary standards in all respects. At his behest, a Foundation newsletter was instituted and published every 6 months with Gerry as editor. The aim of the newsletter was to provide information to the ASO Membership regarding the activities of the Foundation and he also encouraged the University heads of departments to contribute articles relating to the research being carried out in their departments that was financed by the Foundation.

Gerry was the epitome of the ideal Foundation Trustee with an infectious enthusiasm that encouraged his fellow trustees to work as hard as himself. He was committed, driven and totally altruistic in his efforts to advance the causes of the Foundation, and by extension, advancing the standards of continuing education and orthodontic research in Australia.

JKH
Terminal Disease Does Not Stop Research

Courtesy of University of Western Australia News

In August 2009 Dr Tony Phan was successful in applying for a Special Research Donation from the Australian Society of Orthodontists Foundation for Research and Education. The title of his research project was “SLURP Family - Regeneration of paradental cells”. The following is an article about Dr Tony Phan published in the University of Western Australia News in March 2010. Dr Phan is inspirational and members of the ASO should be justly proud of the support they have given him.

One morning last winter, a young man lay sprawled on the pavement near the Oral Health Centre at QEII. He heard footsteps approach him, stop, then hurry on. Then he heard a truck slow down, then drive off. Neither the pedestrian nor the driver offered him any help and Tony Phan was in too much pain to ask for it. A few weeks later, he was luckier. He fell outside the Medical and Dental Library and was found by an oral surgeon. “He asked me if I was OK and, for the first time since my diagnosis, I was able to say to somebody at my workplace: ‘I have Motor Neurone Disease’,” Assistant Professor Phan said.

Tony Phan (30), the bright young molecular biologist who had devoted his life to medical research, had been too afraid to tell anybody at OHCWA and the School of Dentistry that he had a debilitating and terminal disease. “It was stupid I suppose,” he said. “But I had no idea I would get such brilliant support from my colleagues and from everybody in the University. "MND usually affects elderly people. But I’m not an old bugger – I’m a young bugger and I want to keep working as long as I can. I have a wife and children and a mortgage to support.”

A/Professor Phan noticed, about two-and-a-half years ago, that the muscles in his biceps kept jumping. MRI scans and blood tests showed everything was normal. It was nearly 18 months later that he was finally diagnosed with MND. He is now in a wheelchair, unable to lift his arms from his lap. He can just manage to walk about five metres with the aid of a stick. The father of two cannot feed himself or use a computer keyboard. He works with the aid of voice-activated software.

“Everybody has been so helpful,” he said. “Averil Riley, the occupational therapist from Safety and Health, has been involved with everything you see here that helps me to work: the electric wheelchair, the special computer software, the desk that I can fit my wheelchair underneath. My research assistant, Marisa de Pinho is brilliant. Our School Manager, Stephen Home, is a wonderful support; as are Head of School, Andrew Smith; before him, Paul Abbott; and Mithran Goonewardene. The School installed automatic doors so that I could get through in my wheelchair. And I’ve had terrific help from the Multiple Sclerosis Society. “But all the support in the world doesn’t change the fact that my life expectancy is three years from diagnosis. If I’m still alive in two years, I will be completely paralysed. “My career is no longer about getting promotions, but just keeping my mind active. I’m so glad I can still do my work. This voice-activated software enabled me to write an NHMRC grant totally on my own. I was pretty chuffed by that.”

But it doesn’t stop him from feeling frustrated and angry. “It has challenged the way I think about God and karma,” he said. “I don’t worry about myself but I worry about my wife Verity and my children. When it gets worse for me, it will also get worse for them.”

A/Professor Phan’s daughter Kayla is nearly four, his son Michael is six months old. Verity was already pregnant with Michael when her husband was diagnosed in March last year. “When my son was born, I couldn’t hold him,” he said. “I defined my role as a husband and a father in physical terms: I’m the one who fixes the taps, mows the lawn and carries the children. Now I have to see myself from a different perspective.”

He says his work is the only thing that distracts him from dwelling on his condition. He is supervising a PhD student, Danny Young, through a project to extract stem cells from teeth. “Every day, healthy teeth are extracted (usually from a crowded mouth) and thrown away. Here, at OHCWA, there are five or six every day. We’re extracting the cell population from them in the hope that we can purify and cultivate the cells and use them as stem cells.” A/Professor Phan has a vision for a stem cell library for research. “There are so many healthy teeth we could use, and there isn’t the controversy associated with embryonic stem cells,” he said.

His research has been featured on the front page of UWA news twice in the past five years: work on a potential therapy for osteoporosis that came from his PhD research; and the regeneration of dental tissue that might do away with false teeth. That research will become his legacy.

Dr Phan’s research has been supported by Special Research Donations from the ASOFRE.
The Committee of the ASOFRE congratulate our chairman Dr John Owen AM for being appointed a Member of the Order of Australia, in this year’s Queen’s Birthday Honours list, for service to the specialty of orthodontics and through a range of leadership roles within the dental profession. John received this award because of his many years of tireless and dedicated service to his profession.

**Special Research Projects**

In addition to supporting Post-Graduate Research Projects, the ASOFRE has for many years also supported research carried out by doctorate students, academics and specialist practitioners. Over the last few years this has amounted to over $100,000 being allocated to such ‘Special Research’. Some of the more recent projects are:

- **Dr S Kandasamy (UWA)**
  Determining condylar position with magnetic resonance imaging following the various bite position registrations.

- **Dr Tony Phan (UWA)**
  SLURP Family - Regeneration of paradental cells

- **Dr. Oyku Dalci (Uni of Syd)**
  Saliva composition/chemistry and pH associated with physiological root resorption in unerupted third molar teeth.

- **Dr Christine Bailey (Uni of Melb )**
  Function of single masseter muscle fibres in Sprague Dawley rats.

- **Dr Shari Daniels (UQ)**
  Releasing the mandibular neuromuscular envelope with botulinum toxin type A (Btx-A) : skeletal, muscular and dental effects.

- **Prof M A Darendeliler (Uni of Syd)**
  Pubertal growth stage prediction through salivary testing.

- **Prof Gang Shen & Dr Sheryn Deane (Uni of Syd)**
  A prospective randomised controlled crossover study of a tongue stabilising device on obstructive sleep apnoea.

**Foundation Meeting – Melbourne 2011**

The next Foundation Meeting will be held Friday 4th to Sunday the 6th March 2011 in Melbourne, at the Sofitel Hotel.

We have the internationally renowned keynote speaker, Dr Sebastian Baumgaertel from the USA. He will be supported by five well respected Australian speakers from research and dental and medical specialties. The program is rounded with presentations of fresh, cutting edge research by our Awards recipients, the AGM and by Award, AOB, ASOFRE and GAS presentations.

For the first time in many years, the meeting will flow on to Sunday morning. Dr Baumgaertel will instruct and supervise two limited attendance hands on sessions dealing with the placement of Temporary Anchorage Devices.

With the introduction of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, the Dental Board of Australia’s main focus through its mandatory continuing professional development standard is to encourage courses to be both scientific and clinical, and especially hands on. This is to ensure the maximum opportunity for practitioners to receive wide exposure and focussed training, to ensure competency in their practise of dentistry. I believe the Sunday will be very popular.

As always, we warmly invite you to the excellent Foundation Dinner on the Friday night, to mix with speakers, our Foundation for the Future colleagues and our corporate supporters.

Please mark the dates in your diary and appointment book. See you there!

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