From the technical zone

Assoc Prof George Larcos

and, in the first of a two part series, describe established and emerging echocardiographic techniques on the evaluation of systolic function.

"One of my players would have to be hit by an axe to get a penalty at the moment"

Sir Alex Ferguson

Sometimes in life, it's a little hard to work out what someone means. At other times, there's no doubt. Here at the journal, our philosophy is to bring clarity. Queenie Lo and Liza Thomas from Liverpool Hospital and UNSW look at the important issue of heart failure

At the other end of the body, ankle injuries are relatively common, not only for part-timers but also the serious and elite.

In this issue, Tim Wood gives us a sports physician's take on the ankle, and his review is published with a report of the role of ultrasound, written expertly by Cheryl Bass and Peter Marriott from Melbourne. I think you'll enjoy these articles.

When was the last time you saw a placental mass on an antenatal ultrasound? They're not all that common, but when found they present a range of diagnostic and management challenges, nicely encapsulated in another case report from Mary Norris of the John Hunter Hospital.

Oh, and Sir Alex Ferguson, what can I say? The mugs are on the pitch and the cups will soon be over at Eastlands.

Assoc Prof George Larcos
Editor

President's message

Prof Ron Benzie

Well we did it! The WFUMB 2009 Congress was a great success and an example of how a team is greater than the sum of its parts. Now, as the politicians love to say, it is back to business as usual. But is that really so?

One of ASUM's main roles is educational. We have just participated in the largest *educational* ultrasound

conference ever held in Australia. That did not happen easily. The work of so many volunteers from different professional groups ensured that the educational component of the Congress was of a very high order. Many sonographers afterwards took the time to let me know how much they personally valued the context of the seminars, workshops, lectures and plenary sessions. Some maintained that what they learned will be used in practice "in the real world".

The ongoing education of our members who come from such diverse backgrounds can be a challenge.

Every organisation has its internal difficulties. One of ours is to maintain our enthusiasm for lifelong learning beyond the mundane everyday work issues. Looking at new ways to spread the word about the value of ultrasound may include ASUM being more involved with teaching medical

students and with training indigenous Australians to be sonographers. Is not one surprised that there is not one indigenous sonographer in the whole country?

Broader vision can lead us into stimulating areas. There will be divergence of opinion as to how to reach our goals, however, without constructive dialogue between the various professional groups who make up ASUM, we will only have fragmentation, to the detriment of patient care.

Maybe now is the time for each of us to say "ASUM did something for us, now what can we do for ASUM?"

We look to you, our members to make a difference, to get more involved, to volunteer your time and effort. When did you last suggest to a professional colleague that ASUM is a multidisciplinary organisation worthy of their support?

A society's strength comes from its members not merely its office bearers.

Donations

ASUM thanks the following people for their kind support of ASUM's educational, professional and research projects

Prof John Harris
Dr George Kukawski
Mr Jeremy Ngoh
Mrs Kuljit Rani