

Executive Director's Report – George Owen

As you all know, we held our Scientific Meeting in November with International visitors from around the globe. Our Scientific Director, Brent Reynolds organized and convened the meeting, gathering together some of the worlds foremost authorities on research and clinical trial for the chronic injured spinal cord. The theme of the meeting was “Engineering repair of the chronic injured spinal cord”.

We had the pleasure of hearing presentations from Brent Reynolds, Jesse Owens, Stephen Davies and Jean Peduzzi, all of whom traveled from the US. Carlos Lima traveled from Portugal, Maiyadhaj Samsen from Thailand, Gustavo Moviglia from Buenos Aires and Jim Faed came across from New Zealand. We heard from local scientists Kathy Traianedes, Giles Plant, Rob Kapsa and Ann Turnley. Alex Collie, Peter Keller and Loane Skene spoke on the considerations of clinical trials.

The meeting was rounded off with a weekend of discussions which have resulted in great opportunities for us to collaborate internationally, particularly with those who are engaged in clinical research and whom have conducted clinical trials. We have been invited to attend a meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina in March and to help attract speakers to that meeting. This will provide an opportunity for us to continue these vital international contacts.

Our website is up and running again and we welcome your input or comments on this. A summary of the presentations made at the Scientific Meeting will be posted on the site in coming weeks.

We thank you for your support throughout 2009 and we wish you a very happy Christmas and a very safe and prosperous New Year.

StepAhead has had a great year and we are looking forward to a much better 2010.

Marry Christmas!

Mr George Owen
Executive Director, SAA