

Executive Director's Report – George Owen

The planned overseas trip that Barbara and I had scheduled for July has been delayed until August. It is going to be a rather quick whip around the four centers where we have research interests. The emphasis of our trip will be to discuss and plan further clinical trials. Up for discussion will be the components that are to be used, how to source them, how they are to be used and in what combinations. Our trip will just be to gain an overview and in particular to establish procedural requirements such as ethical standards and the requirements of various institutes clinical review boards. We will also view clinical and research facilities. There will also be an opportunity to see how we can leverage our funding into local sources of funding.

Speaking of fundraising, our fundraising at home principally through the efforts of the Lions Clubs of Australia has been outstanding over the May/June period with more than \$56,000.00 raised. Again I appeal to all out there to support their Lions Club and in particular to note the great opportunity that's available for metal recycling. Sims Metal Management continues to recycle metals of all descriptions and to credit the price they would pay for those metals to the Lions Australia Spinal Cord Fellowship which supports the StepAhead Australia research program. In order for these monies to be credited correctly you do have to quote one of the numbers below;

- Victoria and Tasmania LION02
- Queensland LION04
- South Australia & Northern Territory LION04
- Western Australia LION03
- New South Wales & A.C.T. LION16

Preparations have begun for our annual conference which will be held in November/December. The selection of scientists is in progress. We are particularly keen to expand on the theme of our previous conferences which is to bring together those actively engaged in a clinical trial and one of the main purposes of this is to introduce new blood into our group of scientists so that they can add new expertise and possibly new avenues of attack for this very complex problem of restoring the injured spinal cord. Please put the date in your diary as this conference is open to anyone who is genuinely interested, be they a scientist, clinician or someone with a spinal cord injury or their family.

Mr George Owen
Executive Director, SAA

Annual Scientific Conference 2011

This years' conference is to be held on Wednesday 30th November & Thursday 1st December at the Education Centre, St. Vincent's Hospital, Fitzroy. There is no fee for attendance however you must register your interest as places are limited.