

July e-news



The last month has been a busy one for the ASA.

Advocacy

Danny Eckert and Maree Barnes spent a day in Canberra, meeting with politicians, their Chiefs of Staff and Senior Advisers to promote the importance of sleep on the national health and research agenda. We met with people from the offices of Greg Hunt (Minister for Health), David Gillespie (Assistant Minister for Health), Fiona Nash (Deputy Leader of National Party), Arthur Sinodinos (Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science), Mathias Cormann (Minister for Finance), Derryn Hinch, John Alexander (Secretary of Coalition Health Policy Committee), Andrew Laming (Chair of Coalition Health Policy Committee). These meetings are to be followed up with more meetings in August. There will be a Parliamentary Event at 6pm on August 8, to which many politicians and stakeholders will be invited. We will discuss the importance of improving the sleep health of Australians through better sleep and alertness management in the workplace, improved sleep health programs in schools and improved sleep literacy in GPs.

At this event, the Sleep Health Foundation will launch their new Deloitte Access report on the cost of poor sleep and the Alertness CRC will give politicians an insight into their sleep and how to better manage it.

Nick Antic Professional Development Award

The first NAPD award will be made at the ASA meeting in Auckland in October. The purpose of this award is to give the recipient an opportunity to gain valuable experience or knowledge to support their development as a leader in the field of sleep. The call for applications will be go out shortly.

ASA ASM Auckland 2017

The next ASA meeting will take place in Auckland, October 25-28. Sarah Biggs and the conference committee has been working tirelessly with our Conference Organisers to put together another excellent meeting that will have something for everyone.

ASA Finances

The strategy of investing our funds in the stock market is on track, with the budgeted return on our investments meeting expectations. The Finance Committee, led by Marcus McMahon is monitoring these investments very closely to ensure that our money is productive.

New item number

The Clinical Committee has established a sub-committee to work on an MSAC application for a new item number for vigilance testing. This is an expedited review, however there is no indication as when this will be finalised.

Government Submissions

The ASA has been invited to submit comment on 2 recent proposals:

1. A proposal from the NSW Department of Health to change the definition of a private hospital, such that it would no longer include a stand-alone sleep laboratory. We pointed out that such a change would mean that these facilities are no longer subject to regulation and would be detrimental to maintaining standards in the field.
2. The Federal Health Department has established an inquiry into Private Health Insurance Funds and the declining rate of membership of these Funds. We will also be making a submission to this inquiry, due by the end of July.

World Sleep 2017 Prague, October 7-11

The ASA will have a symposium on Tuesday October 10, 7-9pm, entitled:
Biomarkers for Sleep Disordered Breathing: clinical, physiological, neurocognitive and genetic
The speakers will be:

- * Andrew Vakulin - clinical biomarkers
- * Danny Eckert - physiological biomarkers
- * Romola Bucks - neurocognitive biomarkers
- * Sutapa Mukherjee - genetic biomarkers

All those who will be at this meeting are encouraged to attend, it will be great session.