SOMANZ

SOCIETY OF OBSTETRIC MEDICINE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

2021 | ANNUAL REPORT

ABOUT SOMANZ

The objectives of the Society of Obstetric Medicine of Australia and New Zealand (SOMANZ) are to advance clinical and scientific knowledge of hypertensive diseases and medical disorders in pregnancy and to foster collaboration with other regional and international societies interested in hypertension in pregnancy and obstetric medicine.

The mission of SOMANZ is:

- To improve outcomes for all women with medical disorders related to pregnancy.
- To promote clinical excellence in pregnancy-related medical disorders through collaboration between health practitioners.
- To foster the highest levels of training and education in Obstetric Medicine.
- To provide a supportive academic environment and to encourage basic and clinical research.

Membership is open to any person who is engaged in research, or in the practice of the broad field of hypertension in pregnancy or obstetric medicine, or who has demonstrated particular interest in this area. There are a number of medical disorders seen only in pregnant individuals. The membership of SOMANZ is multidisciplinary and includes Obstetric Physicians, Obstetricians, General Physicians, Renal Physicians, Endocrinologists, Cardiologists, Haematologists, Pharmacists, Obstetric Anaesthetists, Advanced Trainees, Clinical and Basic Researchers, as well as a growing number of Midwives and other Nursing professionals.

SOMANZ conduct an Annual Scientific Meeting each year in Australia or New Zealand and currently have over 350 members. The meetings are usually in September or October, either stand alone or jointly with like-minded specialty groups.

There is a wide area of interface between obstetrics and internal medicine. With improved medical care over the last few decades, increasing numbers of women with significant medical conditions are becoming pregnant and electing to continue their pregnancy despite awareness of potential hazards. These women need physicians with a broad knowledge of the interaction between medical problems and pregnancy to collaborate with their obstetrician. The acquisition of appropriate skills in diagnosis and management to enable a physician to care for such patients requires specific subspecialty training.

SOMANZ has worked closely with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) to establish Obstetric Medicine Training under the Advanced Training Committee in General and Acute Care Medicine. Obstetric Medicine Training is now available at a number of accredited sites. More information can be found on the Society website at www.somanz.org.

SOMANZ COUNCIL

ABN 30 254 264 937

Helen Barrett
President (2020 – 2022)
Obstetric Physician and Endocrinologist, Brisbane, QLD
Joined the Council on 16 September 2016

Amanda Henry
Council Member
Academic Obstetrician, Sydney, NSW
Joined the Council on 16 September 2020

Stefan Kane
President-Elect and Honorary Secretary
Maternal Fetal Medicine Subspecialist Obstetrician, Melbourne, VIC
Joined the Council on 14 July 2018

Briony Cutts
Council Member
Haematologist and Obstetric Physician, Melbourne, VIC
Joined the Council on 16 September 2020

Josephine Laurie
Honorary Treasurer (2021-2022)
Obstetric Physician, Brisbane, QLD
Joined the Council on 16 September 2020

Natalie Hannan
Council Member
Scientific Researcher, Melbourne, VIC
Joined the Council on 16 September 2020

Amanda Beech
Honorary Treasurer (2018-2020)
Obstetric Physician, Sydney, NSW
Joined the Council on 16 September 2016

Jason Waugh
Council Member
Obstetrician, Auckland, New Zealand
Joined the Council on 16 September 2020

Angela Makris
Immediate Past President
(President 2018-2020)
Ex-officio Council Member until the AGM 2021
Nephrologist and Obstetric Physician, Sydney, NSW
Joined the Council on 25 July 2014

Suzie Neylon
Executive Officer and Public Officer
SOMANZ Secretariat, Sydney NSW

Natalie Cromer
Council Member
Haematologist and Obstetric Physician, Sydney, NSW
Joined the Council on 16 September 2020

REPORT FROM THE SOMANZ PRESIDENT

Helen Barrett, SOMANZ President

This year has presented some challenges for our Society, as it has for everyone, but we have worked together to achieve some good outcomes. I would like to share some of these achievements with you.

The Society membership continues to remain steady at around 400 members although there are still many members who are yet to pay their fees for 2021. We encourage you to spread the word and invite your colleagues to join SOMANZ as the Society continues to grow and develop new resources to assist its multidisciplinary membership.

Obstetric Physicians

There are now 114 Obstetric Physicians in Australia and New Zealand who have been recognised by SOMANZ either through the Grandparenting process from 2017-2019 or who have successfully completed the 12-month obstetric medicine training through the RACP advanced training pathway.

These physicians have been awarded the SOMANZ Obstetric Medicine Certificate in recognition of their experience and practice in general obstetric medicine. They have demonstrated a breadth of practice in obstetric medicine. In 2020 and 2021 SOMANZ awarded a further 20 advanced trainees who completed the obstetric medicine physician training. There are a further 20 who are currently in training and a total of 42 trainees have now completed 12 months of supervised Obstetric Medicine training at an accredited site and been awarded the SOMANZ Obstetric Medicine Certificate since 2014. The current list of recognised obstetric physicians is available on the SOMANZ Website.

Obstetric Medicine Training

SOMANZ continues to receive applications to accredit Obstetric Medicine Training Sites and Training Positions. Obstetric Medicine Training is supervised under the Advanced Training Committee (ATC) in General and Acute Care Medicine at the RACP, with input from the SOMANZ Obstetric Medicine Training Committee. There are now 17 sites accredited for either 6 or 12 months of Obstetric Medicine Training. Please check the SOMANZ website regularly for updates on training sites and available training positions.

I extend my thanks to the SOMANZ Obstetric Medicine Training Committee whose members include:

Rebekah Shakhovskoy (Chair)
Obstetric Physician / General and Acute Care Physician

Karin Lust (QLD)
Obstetric Physician / General and Acute Care Physician

Catherine Marnoch (NZ)
Obstetric Physician

Irena Idel (VIC)
Obstetric Physician / Nephrologist

Amanda Henry (NSW)
Obstetrician

Briony Cutts (VIC)
Obstetric Physician / Haematologist

Natalie Cromer (NSW)
Obstetric Physician / Haematologist (recent trainee graduate)

Josephine Laurie (QLD)
Obstetric Physician.

Rebekah Shakhovskoy as the current chair of the SOMANZ training committee, has represented Obstetric Medicine Training on the RACP ATC (Advanced Training Committee) in General and Acute Care Medicine. She has tirelessly coordinated both the trainees as well as the training sites. Rebekah has also created a living document clearly outlining the prospective nature of accrediting training and the criteria, all of which be found on the website.

RACP

The RACP Adult Medicine Division continue to engage with SOMANZ and regularly invites comment on their many education and policy activities.

SOMANZ were again successful in their application to participate in the RACP 2021 Specialty Society Webinar series and the college has facilitated the presenting, live streaming, recording and publishing of three lectures again this year.

Obstetric Medicine Update Course

As reported previously, SOMANZ were unable to run the planned "in person" Update Course in Obstetric Medicine this year due to the uncertainties around COVID and imposed travel restrictions. As an alternative, the SOMANZ Education Committee has presented monthly webinars with invited guest lecturers on a variety of relevant obstetric medicine topics and we hope you have had the opportunity to attend these. These are also available on the SOMANZ website for viewing following the webinar. We hope to run the Update Course on Obstetric Medicine in 2022 and this will be pitched at practitioners new to the field of obstetric medicine and for junior doctors pre-exam or even for those looking for an update.

Obstetric Medicine as a Sub-Specialty

I have made enquiries with Australian Medical Council about applying to have Obstetric Medicine formally recognised as a Sub-Specialty. There is a new and substantial application process which would require someone to be employed to manage the development of the submission. There is a two-stage process of an initial submission, and if that is approved, then a further review by an AMC committee for which we would be required to pay the costs of the committee. There are fees to have the application assessed with the initial

stage costing an estimated $10,000. Stage 2 would potentially cost around $60,000 plus. It is probably premature to be moving down this path now but the issue will remain with Council and we will continue to look at this option as our sub-specialty develops. We would need to raise a "Special Levy" to financially support the progress of an application.

Guidelines

The update of the management of hypertensive disorders in pregnancy guideline has commenced with Renuka Shanmugalingam leading the process and Angela Makris, the working group and the SOMANZ Council providing support. There is a report on the progress of this guideline update later in this annual report.

SOMANZ now has a strong suite of guidelines and position statements that can all be found on the Society's website and they include:

- **Pulmonary Embolism in Pregnancy and Post Partum (2021)**
- **Management of Nausea and Vomiting of Pregnancy and Hyperemesis Gravidarum (2019)**
- **The Investigation and Management Sepsis in Pregnancy (2017)**

The latest position statement just commenced is Cholestasis in Pregnancy. The need for this guideline or position statement was highlighted at the 2020 AGM and we are fortunate to have Professor Bill Hague to lead this project with support from a robust, multidisciplinary team and the SOMANZ Council and Membership.

SOMANZ are regularly contacted and asked for permission to use the intellectual property of their various guidelines which is most pleasing.

Council welcomes suggestions for further topics.

New Website

The new SOMANZ website was launched earlier this year to facilitate a new and more contemporary look and to increase the functionality of the site. The new site operates across many platforms including PC, Mac, Tablets and mobile technology like smartphones. It also supports and includes our Social Media feeds.

For those TWITTER savvy, you can follow us on Twitter at @SOMA_ANZ. We thank Stefan Kane for pioneering and managing this account for SOMANZ and welcome input from any members who have expertise and a desire to be involved in our social media and communications activity.

Nifedipine Supply

The Council have contacted a number of stakeholders in relation to the supply issues with Nifedipine. Bayer have been contacted but have provided generic responses simply stating that "The product has been discontinued and there is currently no plan to manufacture or supply this product in Australia or New Zealand". RANZCOG have raised the issue with the TGA and the Health Minister Greg Hunt. SOMANZ will continue to work with the interested parties to see if there can be any resolution to the supply issue given that there are no good alternatives to Nifedipine use at this time. SOMANZ council is also being represented by myself on the current Department of Health Review of the National Medicines Policy.

Special Interest Groups

SOMANZ has been contacted by various members to support the development of "Special Interest Groups" and Council are currently discussion ways in which we as a Society can support collaboration and research amongst our multidisciplinary members and these special interest groups that specifically relate to medical disorders in pregnancy.

Constitutional Amendments

At our recent Annual General Meeting, the circulated proposed amendments to the SOMANZ Constitution were considered and passed unanimously by the Members.

The current SOMANZ Constitution has almost reached its "use by" date but before commencing work on the development of a new Constitution, the Council is currently looking at the incorporation status of SOMANZ which at present is an incorporated association with the Department of Fair Trading in NSW. We are looking to see if this is the most appropriate entity type for SOMANZ given that these decisions were made some decades ago. The type of Constitution adopted by a Society is specific to its entity type so we cannot adopt a new Constitution before deciding on the most appropriate entity type. We welcome any feedback from our members on this important issue so please feel free to contact us. Council will keep you informed as we progress with our research on this issue.

Future Meetings

The SOMANZ 2021 ASM was held jointly with ADIPS this year over 23-24 July in a fully virtual format and there were some new challenges to design a program in the "virtual environment". The feedback indicates that it was a very successful program and we had a record attendance of over 500 delegates. Council would like to particularly thank Jade Eccles-Smith, the chair of the LOC and the organising committee for their excellent work on this conference.

All registered delegates have "On-Demand" access to the lectures until February 2022. If you were unable to attend, you can still register to access the "On Demand" lectures for a small fee. The details can be found on the website or email Suzie Neylon at the SOMANZ secretariat for further information.

The SOMANZ 2022 ASM will be held in Hobart, Tasmania at the Hotel Grand Chancellor from 14-16 October and we hope that all travel uncertainties are resolved by then!

Introducing SOMANZ President-Elect

As you may recall, SOMANZ created a President-Elect position in 2017. The President-Elect is a current council member and is nominated and voted on by the existing SOMANZ Council 12 months prior to a Council Election. This 12-month period is a preparation time, enabling the President-Elect to shadow the current President in preparation for taking over the lead role the following year. It is my very great pleasure to inform you that Dr Stefan Kane has been nominated and accepted the position of President-Elect. It is the intent that Stefan will be the next SOMANZ President commencing in October 2022.

The Immediate Past President remains on Council for 12 months once their 2 year term as President has ended. It is now time to bid farewell to Angela Makris who has given her time and expertise so generously over the past 12 months as our Immediate Past President. Angela served as SOMANZ President from 2018-2020 and also served on Council from 2014-18. We thank Angela for her 7 years of service to SOMANZ.

SOMANZ FINANCE REPORT 2021

Josephine Laurie, Honorary Treasurer

The Financial Statements for 2021 were prepared by Tinworth & Co, Chartered Accountants in North Sydney. A copy of the financial report was provided to all members by email with the agenda papers for the AGM held 10 November 2021 by Zoom and can also be located in the Member Only area of the SOMANZ website under the AGM.

The financial statements for 2021 report that the Society sustained a loss of $32,616 as at 30 June 2021 compared with a surplus of $54,853 in 2020. The retained earnings at 30 June 2021 were reported as $216,336 compared with $248,952 in 2020. The loss in this financial period was expected due to reduced income as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The income for 2021 was significantly less due to the cancellation of the 2020 Annual Scientific Meeting and consequently no income from this source which consistently represents a substantial portion of the Society's annual income. The Society made a large profit in the 2020 financial period due to the highly successful 2019 ASM held in Melbourne that attracted a record number of delegates and a record profit.

The subscription income in the 2021 financial period was also significantly less at 30 June than in the same period last year. This is often a timing issue and it is pleasing to note that there has been some income activity from membership payments since 30 June. The other significant factor affecting income was the COVID Cash Flow Boost provided by the ATO which was $15,000 in 2020 and only $5,000 in the current period.

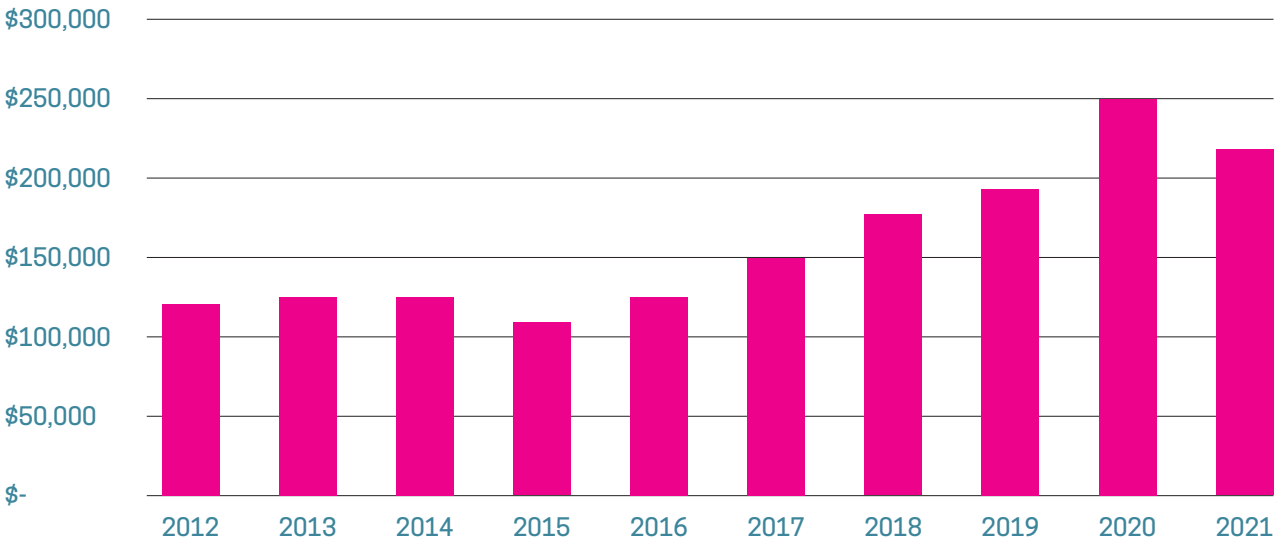
The expenses in 2021 were comparable with the previous year with the only exception being that no Research Grant was offered in 2020 due to the significant loss anticipated in the 2021 financial period. The Research Grant has been offered again this year and it was pleasing to see so many high-quality applications.

The forecast for the 2022 financial period should be similar to the usual cycle with a modest surplus at 30 June since the 2021 joint ASM with ADIPS provided a reasonable profit of $34,000 per society.

SOMANZ has just over 400 Members with 275 currently financial for 2021. There are 132 members still to pay the current year. The new website and database will now restrict access to "member only" features if your subscription falls into arrears so please ensure that your fees are paid and are up to date.

The Society funds remain in a healthy position even though there was a significant deficit in 2021 financial period. The Society's net assets at 30 June 2021 are $22,000 higher than they were 2 years ago at 30 June 2019 so although the Society took a hit this year, the finances remain healthy.

Net Asset Trend Over 10 Years



Graph A – SOMANZ Net Asset Trend Over 10 Year Period

MEMBERSHIP

The Society currently has 407 members listed on their database with 275 currently financial. Membership is continuous so those who fall more than one year in arrears are removed from membership and need to reapply.

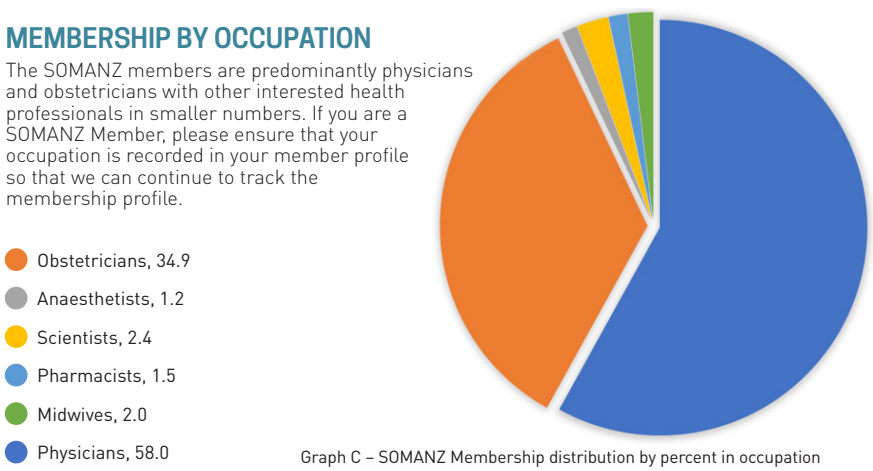
The membership is multidisciplinary and composed of a variety of specialist health professionals and researchers with an interest in all medical disorders as they relate to pregnancy. The majority are Obstetric Physicians and other specialist physicians, Obstetricians, Research Scientists, General Practitioners, Pharmacists, Registrars and Advanced Trainees as well as other interested health professionals.

The benefits of membership include:

- Discounted registration fees to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting
- Opportunities to participate in the organisation of the Annual Scientific Meeting
- Ability to apply for a variety of grants and awards that are only available to Members at the Annual Scientific Meeting
- Opportunity for junior members to apply for Educational Travel Grants to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting
- Access to selected ASM invited speaker presentations post-conference
- Ability to apply for the SOMANZ Research Grant (members only)
- Receive the Obstetric Medicine Journal quarterly both online and in hard copy
- Receive invitations to comment and participate in review of major clinical guidelines and position statements
- Receive regular electronic newsletters containing updates on the latest news and activities of the Society and the wider community
- Opportunity to nominate for SOMANZ Council
- Participate in other educational activities and projects conducted by SOMANZ and their affiliates.

MEMBERSHIP BY OCCUPATION

The SOMANZ members are predominantly physicians and obstetricians with other interested health professionals in smaller numbers. If you are a SOMANZ Member, please ensure that your occupation is recorded in your member profile so that we can continue to track the membership profile.

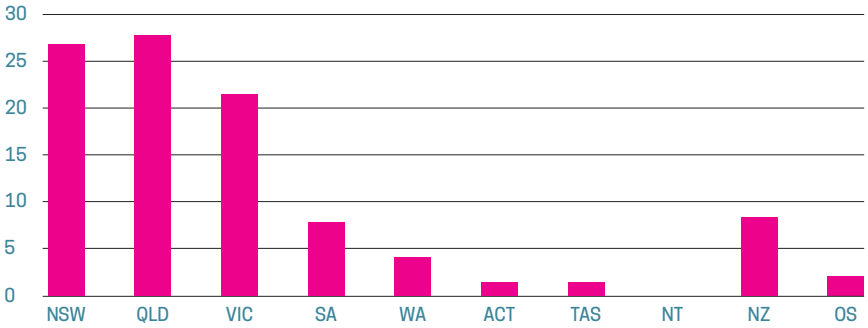


Graph C – SOMANZ Membership distribution by percent in occupation

MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION

The membership of SOMANZ is predominantly in Australia, however, 10% are from New Zealand and other overseas countries including Hong Kong, Ireland, Colombo, Liberia, China and India

Membership Distribution by State & Territory



Graph B – SOMANZ Membership distribution by state and territory (%)

The fees for annual membership for 2021 were:

Ordinary Members - A$220.00
(includes A$20 GST)

This tier includes independent medical practitioners in current clinical practice (eg. Physicians, Obstetricians, General Practitioners etc).

Allied Health, Researchers and Student Membership - A$110.00
(includes A$10 GST)

This tier includes Basic Researchers, Registered Nurses, Midwives, Registrars, Advanced Trainees, and Allied Health Professionals (medical or scientific)

Retired Membership - A$55.00
(includes A$5 GST)
This membership category is for existing members who consequently retired from all clinical practice.

Overseas Low-Income Membership - A$25.00 (no GST)

Medical Practitioners from countries outside Australia who can support their application with evidence that they are from a low-income country can apply for this level of membership. This level of membership has all the advantages and inclusions of Ordinary Membership but are unable to vote at Annual General Meetings or join the SOMANZ Council. They will have access to the Obstetric Medicine Journal online but will not receive the hard copy by post.

All fees are paid in Australian Dollars, however, the fees for all international members exclude the Australian GST component.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS 2021

SOMANZ has a small number of Members who have been bestowed with Honorary Life Membership. Our current Honorary Life Members are: **David Brender, Bill Hague, Barry Walters, Laurie Beilin, Eileen Gallery, and Stephen Gatt.**

SOMANZ are delighted to announce two new members who have been awarded Honorary Life Membership to SOMANZ in 2021 – **Professor Annemarie Hennessy** and **A/Prof Sandra Lowe.**

Annemarie Hennessy AM

Annemarie Hennessy is a Renal and Obstetric Physician with a research interest in Hypertension and Hypertension in pregnancy. She is the Dean of the School of Medicine and the Foundation Chair of Medicine at the Western Sydney University. In 2020 Annemarie was named Distinguished Professor by Western Sydney University. Annemarie is also an honorary Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

She is the group leader of the Vascular Immunology Group at the Heart Research Institute (HRI). She was the Director of the Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy (HDP) Unit at the Royal Prince Alfred Women and Babies (RPAWB) from 1998 until October 2006 and continues in an honorary capacity within the unit. She is active physician caring for women with preeclampsia, hypertension, and vascular and kidney diseases.

Professor Hennessy is also the Managing Director of PEARLS, a non-profit organisation established under the auspices of the Heart Research Institute, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and Campbelltown Hospital to raise funds to support ongoing research into the cause of preeclampsia in pregnancy.

She was honoured in 2015 with an Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to tertiary education and to medical research, particularly in the area of clinical hypertension and maternal health.

In 2016 Annemarie was honoured with the task of delivering SOMANZ's most prestigious lecture at the Alice Springs ASM - the Priscilla Kincade-Smith Lecture with her lecture titled "Pre-eclampsia, Lipids and Cardiovascular Outcomes in Pregnancy". She has been the Editor in Chief of the journal Pregnant Hypertension since 2016.

As well as her passion for medicine, Annemarie has played the violin since the age of six and has been involved with the Australian Doctors Orchestra since it began almost 20 years ago. She has performed in every NSW Orchestra

concert since 2004. She is also a proficient equestrian.

Annemarie Hennessey is an active and valued member of SOMANZ and is past president of the International Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy (ISSHP).

Sandra Lowe AM

Sandra Lowe is a Consultant Obstetric Physician at the Royal Hospital for Women in Randwick and the Prince of Wales Private Hospital. She is a Conjoint Associate Professor with the School of Women's & Children's Health, UNSW. She is a regular speaker at National and International conference of Obstetric Medicine and has a long-standing interest in teaching obstetric medicine.

She is a past president of the International Society of Obstetric Medicine (ISOM) and a founding co-editor of the Obstetric Medicine Journal. Sandra Lowe was a founding member of SOMANZ and was integral in the formation of SOMANZ in 2004. She served for many years as the Secretary-Treasurer of SOMANZ.

She is widely published and was the lead author of the SOMANZ Management of Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy Guideline, the SOMANZ Guideline for Management of Nausea and Vomiting of Pregnancy and Hyperemesis Gravidarum and the SOMANZ Position Statement on Pulmonary Embolism in Pregnancy and Post Partum.

Sandra was honoured to be awarded an AM as a Member of the Order of Australia in 2017.

Sandra's research and passion for teaching in obstetric medicine has enabled SOMANZ to grow and flourish and she is a most valued member of SOMANZ. We honour her today by awarded her with Honorary Life Membership of SOMANZ.

SOMANZ ADIPS ASM REPORT 2021

Lucy Mackillop

The planning of the joint SOMANZ ADIPS Annual Scientific Meeting for 2021 during a worldwide pandemic presented some unique challenges for both societies and their organising committees. After careful consideration of the travel restrictions on health professionals, state and territory border closures and the unpredictability of what conditions lay ahead, it was decided that a fully virtual format should be adopted. This was a new concept for both SOMANZ and ADIPS but the result was hugely successful with a record attendance of 560 delegates, predominantly from Australia and New Zealand, but also included registrants from the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Singapore, Canada, India, Switzerland and the United States. The meeting was held over 2 days with 52 oral presentations and 73 poster presentations.

We are forever grateful to Dr Lucy Mackillop (UK) and Dr William Lowe Jr (USA) who were our keynote invited speakers and participated in the virtual meeting, negotiating world time zones to interact live with our delegates. Dr Mackillop spoke on developing digital technologies in obstetric practice using a case study to illustrate the process, including the trials and tribulations, of developing a digital health application and how we can better utilise data capture in routine clinical care to gain insights that impact pregnancy outcome and health after pregnancy. Dr Lowe spoke on gestational diabetes and long-term maternal glycaemic outcomes as well as childhood metabolic outcomes following gestational diabetes.

Professor Stephen Tong from the Mercy Hospital for Women and University of Melbourne, gave the SOMANZ Priscilla Kincaid-Smith Lecture on drugs to prevent or treat preeclampsia, revisiting old treatments such as aspirin and presented his program of research to slow disease progression of preeclampsia.

The Australian Perinatal Network session covered preeclampsia, both clinical and scientific, and the HOW Collaborative session delved into haemorrhage, bleeding disorders and all things haematological. Neurological disorders in pregnancy were covered including epilepsy, stroke, MS, and cystic fibrosis as well as maternal and foetal outcomes following lung transplant. On respiratory we heard about obstructive sleep apnoea in pregnancy and were delighted to have Professor Lucy Chappell from the UK talk about COVID vaccination and equity of access in pregnancy.

The diabetes in pregnancy sessions covered practical tips in technology use, obesity and bariatric surgery, including balancing the risks and benefits as well as improving outcomes for offspring with fetal monitoring and maternal diet. Other diabetes in pregnancy topics covered included post-pregnancy intervention for the prevention of type 2 diabetes, the OGTT process and pre-analytical issues and an update from David Simmons on TOBOGM.

Our post conference feedback was very positive with many delegates reporting that they had not attended or participated in a fully virtual scientific meeting previously. As a part of the very modest registration fee, all delegates have post event access to the recorded talks until February 2022. The handbook, including abstracts, will remain available on the Societies' websites, and the abstracts will be published in *Obstetric Medicine* in due course.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the joint organising committee that included Jade Eccles-Smith, Lindsay Edwards, Natalie Hannan, Stefan Kane, Helen Barrett, Amanda Beech, Bethany Crinall, Arianne Sweeting, Sarah Price and Suzie Neylon. SOMANZ extends a special thanks to Jade Eccles-Smith who chaired the SOMANZ committee.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to Hobart for the 2022 SOMANZ Annual Scientific Meeting to be held at the Hotel Grand Chancellor 14-16 October.

SOMANZ ASM 2022

14-16 October at the
Hotel Grand Chancellor
Hobart, Tasmania

SAVE THE DATE

SOMANZ ASM AWARDS & TRAVEL GRANTS ASM 2021

The Society makes available a number of awards at the Annual Scientific Meeting. Applications are called for as part of the abstract submission process and are judged at the ASM.

SOMANZ PRESIDENT'S AWARD 2021

The SOMANZ President's Award was given to the best clinical presentation by a junior SOMANZ member at the Annual Scientific Meeting. The award was for A$1000.00 and was judged by an expert panel throughout the meeting and awarded on the final day.

The SOMANZ President's Award for 2021 was presented to:

Belinda Stallard: *"What do you want to know and how do you want to know about it?"* Consumer perspectives of pregnancy counselling and education in women with kidney disease: a national survey"

SOMANZ BEST POSTER AWARDS 2021

The SOMANZ Best Poster Awards were given to the best poster presentation given by a junior member during the Annual Scientific Meeting. There were two awards given – one for best clinical poster and best scientific poster. The SOMANZ Poster Awards were for A$750 each.

Best Clinical Poster Award

Jessica Philips: *"Incorporation of diabetic retinopathy screening into an antenatal clinic"*

Best Scientific Poster Award

Akhil Gupta: *"Shear wave placental elastography in women with pre-existing diabetes and other 'high-risk' pregnancies"*

SOMANZ ANDREW PHIPPARD MEMORIAL AWARD 2021

The SOMANZ Andrew Phippard Memorial Award was given to the best oral scientific presentation by a junior SOMANZ member at the Annual Scientific Meeting. The award was for A$1000.00 and was judged by an expert panel throughout the meeting and awarded on the final day.

The SOMANZ Andrew Phippard Memorial Award for 2021 was presented to:

Monica Zen: *"Association of Preeclampsia with Myocardial Injury Among Patients Undergoing Noncardiac Surgery: the PREECLAMPSIA-VISION study"*

SOMANZ TRAVEL GRANTS 2021

There were no travel grants offered in 2021 however the registration to the fully virtual ASM was discounted to $50.00 for all students.

SOMANZ INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL GRANT

SOMANZ introduced a new International Travel Grant in 2018 open to a medical practitioner from a low or middle-income country to attend our Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM). The grant covers travel to the ASM, accommodation for the duration of the meeting, registration and social functions and a small per diem allowance. The successful applicants also give a brief presentation on their medical facility.

No grant was offered in 2021 due to the global pandemic and worldwide travel restrictions.

SOMANZ RESEARCH GRANT RECIPIENT 2021

A/Prof Natalie Hannan

The SOMANZ Research Grant is designed to encourage research in the field of Obstetric Medicine. It is funded directly by the Society and a single award of A$10,000 is intended to be offered to SOMANZ Members annually or as often as finances permit.

The grant is designed to fund either clinical or basic science research projects in the field of Obstetric Medicine, including pilot studies. Ideally the project should be completed within the 12 months following receipt of the award and successful applicants aim to present their research findings at an annual SOMANZ meeting within 1-2 years of receiving the award.

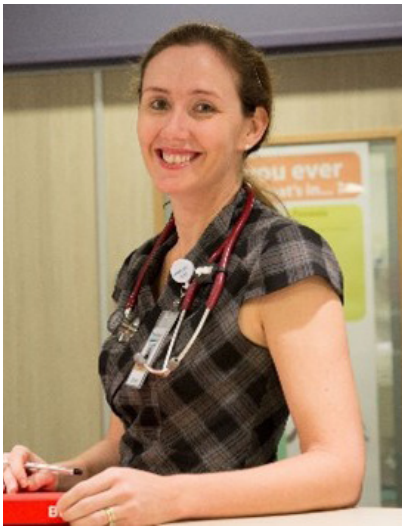
The recipient of the SOMANZ Research Grant in 2021 was A/Prof Natalie Hannan, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Mercy Hospital for Women, Heidelberg, Victoria. The grant title is "*New horizons in the treatment of preeclampsia: TNF-a inhibition with biologic therapies*".

Preeclampsia is a serious pregnancy complication. The stressed preeclamptic placenta releases excessive toxic proinflammatory factors, especially tumour necrosis factora (TNFa), into maternal circulation, causing damage to maternal blood vessels/organs. *Currently no effective treatment exists.*

Here, we aim to demonstrate that neutralising TNFa using innovative *biologic (antibody) drugs*, etanercept and certolizumab (used for inflammatory diseases in pregnancy) will reduce preeclampsia disease processes. We will test their effectiveness in advanced models of preeclampsia and demonstrate whether they decrease injury to the placenta and maternal blood vessels.

If successful, offers a breakthrough in the management of preeclampsia, improving outcomes for both mothers and babies.

SOMANZ TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT



Dr Rebekah Shakhovskoy

Following the election for SOMANZ Council in 2020, the SOMANZ training committee also underwent some changes. Dr Mark Morton stepped down from the training committee after many years of service and I would like to once again take the opportunity to thank Mark for the incredible legacy he has left, building the capacity and processes to train obstetric physicians in Australia and New Zealand.

The SOMANZ training committee are responsible for reviewing all accreditations and reviewing and certifying trainees progress throughout Obstetric Medicine training for the SOMANZ certificate. The following SOMANZ members are currently on the training committee, and I thank each and every one of them for their hard work over the last year – it has been a busy one! Many thanks also to Suzie Neylon, SOMANZ Executive Officer, for facilitating all of the work we do as a committee.

Rebekah Shakhovskoy (Chair)
Obstetric Physician / General and Acute Care Physician

Karin Lust (QLD)
Obstetric Physician / General and Acute Care Physician

Catherine Marnoch (NZ)
Obstetric Physician

Irena Idel (VIC)
Obstetric Physician / Nephrologist

Amanda Henry (NSW)
Obstetrician

Briony Cutts (VIC)
Obstetric Physician / Haematologist

Natalie Cromer (NSW)
Obstetric Physician / Haematologist (recent trainee graduate)

Josephine Laurie (QLD)
Obstetric Physician

Obstetric Medicine Training Sites

In late 2020 we welcomed two new sites for obstetric medicine training which has increased the number of accredited sites to 17 in Australia and New Zealand. The following is the list of current obstetric medicine certificate training sites and supervisors as of July 2021.

Accredited for 12 months Training for the Obstetric Medicine Certificate

1) National Women's Health, Auckland City Hospital (Dr Catherine Marnoch)
2) Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital (Dr Penny Wolski)
3) The Mater Mothers Hospital, Brisbane (Prof David McIntyre)
4) Mercy Hospital for Women, Melbourne (Dr Suet-Wan Choy)
5) King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, Perth (Dr Dorothy Graham)
6) Royal Women's Hospital, Melbourne (Dr Sarah Price)
7) Flinders Medical Centre (Half time position only) (Dr Bill Jeffries)
8) Women's and Children's Hospital, Adelaide (Dr Mark Morton)

Accredited for 12 months Training but Positions Currently Unfunded

9) Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, NSW (A/Prof Sandra Lowe)
10) Liverpool Hospital, Sydney, NSW (Professor Angela Makris)

Accredited for 6 months Training for the Obstetric Medicine Certificate

11) Cairns Hospital, Qld (Dr Nirjhar Nandi)
12) Campbelltown Hospital, NSW (Prof Annemarie Hennessy / Prof Kevin Pile)
13) Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Qld (Dr Sophie Poulter)
14) Lyell McEwin Hospital, SA (Dr Bill Jeffries)
15) Townsville Hospital, QLD (Dr Kunwarjit Sangla)
16) Joan Kirner Women's and Children's at Sunshine Hospital (Western Health), Victoria (Dr Briony Cutts)
17) Northern Health, Victoria (Dr David Langsford)

Obstetric Medicine Training Sites Reaccreditation

There were 9 SOMANZ sites due for reaccreditation for their obstetric medicine training positions in 2021, including 3 sites whose accreditation was deferred from 2020. The accreditation reviews of 4 sites have been completed to date with 2 more sites underway. All of the re-accreditation applications are reviewed by the training committee and either an in person or virtual review is recommended and carried out. The training committee members interview at least two supervisors and a current and past obstetric medicine trainee to ensure that we have a good understanding of the training experience from all perspectives. These interviews have proven to be very informative and a good opportunity to recognise areas for improvement, identify areas for commendation and also share some lessons learned. We also review the evaluation reports from the trainees following their completion of the term. Following the review, the SOMANZ training committee makes their recommendations to the SOMANZ Council which are then taken by myself to the General Medicine ATC for final endorsement. I would like to thank the executive support officers from the RACP who assist me through the General Medicine ATC with these applications and also with the overall supervision of the pre-fellowship trainees in obstetric medicine.

Obstetric Medicine trainees

Recognising the increasing demand for post fellowship training posts in obstetric medicine, in 2021 SOMANZ has implemented the post fellowship training pathway. At present there are 8 post fellowship obstetric medicine trainees in training positions around Australia and New Zealand with previous fellowships in the areas of nephrology, haematology, endocrinology, rheumatology and cardiologys. Details in regard to obstetric medicine training requirements for either advanced trainees or post

Continued over page >

fellowship trainees are clearly listed on the SOMANZ website training page.

In 2020, 10 Obstetric Medicine trainees completed their requirements to receive the SOMANZ Obstetric Medicine certificate and 10 trainees in 2021 thus far have also completed their requirements. We congratulate the following Obstetric Medicine Physicians on their achievement.

2020 Jane Tellam, Bianca Nightingale, Ana McCarthy, Michelle Bardin Lee Keng Tan, Akhil Gupta, Renuka Shanmugalingam, Michelle Cole, Melissa Whalan, Siaw Hui Wong

2021 Jade Eccles-Smith, Jessica Philips, Hannah Farquhar, William Lau, Suji Prabhaharan, Chani Tromop-Van-Dalen, Theepika Rajkumar, Erin Fanning, Amalina Yakub, and Mary Nangrahary

Obstetric Medicine Curriculum Renewal

The Royal Australasian College of Physicians is currently renewing the curricula for all of the Advanced Training programs. The Advanced Training Curricula Renewal project aims to:

- place more emphasis on competency in training
- align the training programs with the RACP curricula frameworks and models
- update and rationalise existing curricula content and training requirements

This is a great opportunity to update the obstetric medicine curriculum which is very (over)due for renewal. At this point in time, advanced training in general medicine including obstetric medicine training is likely to be in the second or third round of specialty development, most likely commencing in 2023. It will be very important to have contribution from all SOMANZ members as we renew the Obstetric Medicine curriculum, and I will keep you informed on developments with this project.

Thank you again to the training committee and SOMANZ Council for their ongoing commitment to improve education and training for obstetric medicine in Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Rebekah Shakhovskoy

Chair of SOMANZ Training Committee and SOMANZ representative on the RACP Advanced Training Committee in General and Acute Care Medicine

Senior Staff Specialist in General and Obstetric Medicine at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Queensland

Senior Lecturer – University of the Sunshine Coast, University of Queensland and Griffith University

SOMANZ UPDATE COURSE IN OBSTETRIC MEDICINE

The SOMANZ Education Committee, chaired by Professor Angela Makris, are planning to run a SOMANZ Update Course in Obstetric Medicine (UCOM). The 2-day course was scheduled to commence in May 2021 but due to all the uncertainties around COVID an "in person" meeting was not possible. The Committee conducted a monthly webinar series in lieu of the course this year and the recorded lectures can be located on the SOMANZ website.

It is hoped that the inaugural Course can be conducted in 2022, however, the webinar series will continue until such time as the course can be held in person.

The following topics were covered in 2021:

Topic 1: Cardiac Disease in Pregnancy
Presenter: Dr David Tanous, Cardiologist, Sydney, NSW

Topic 2: Skin Conditions in Pregnancy
Presenter: Dr Nina Wines, Consultant Dermatologist, Sydney, NSW

Topic 3: Teratogens during pregnancy
Presenter: Dr Debra Kennedy, Paediatrician and Director of MotherSafe, Sydney, NSW

Topic 4: Extreme Mothering: Who is too old and who is too sick?
Presenters: A/Prof Sandra Lowe and Dr Amanda Beech, Obstetric Physicians, Sydney, NSW

Topic 5: HELLP (H)US! Thrombotic Microangiopathies in Pregnancy
Presenter: Dr Danny Hsu, Consultant Laboraroy and Consultant Haematologist, Sydney, NSW

DO YOU HAVE A CLINICAL TRIAL OR STUDY TO ADVERTISE?

SOMANZ welcomes applications from members to include details of current Clinical Trials or Studies to be placed in the new "Resources" section of the SOMANZ website. All trials or studies must have ethics approval. Please send your requests to the SOMANZ Secretariat via **email to admin@somanz.org** for consideration by the Council.

SOMANZ HYPERTENSION GUIDELINE UPDATE

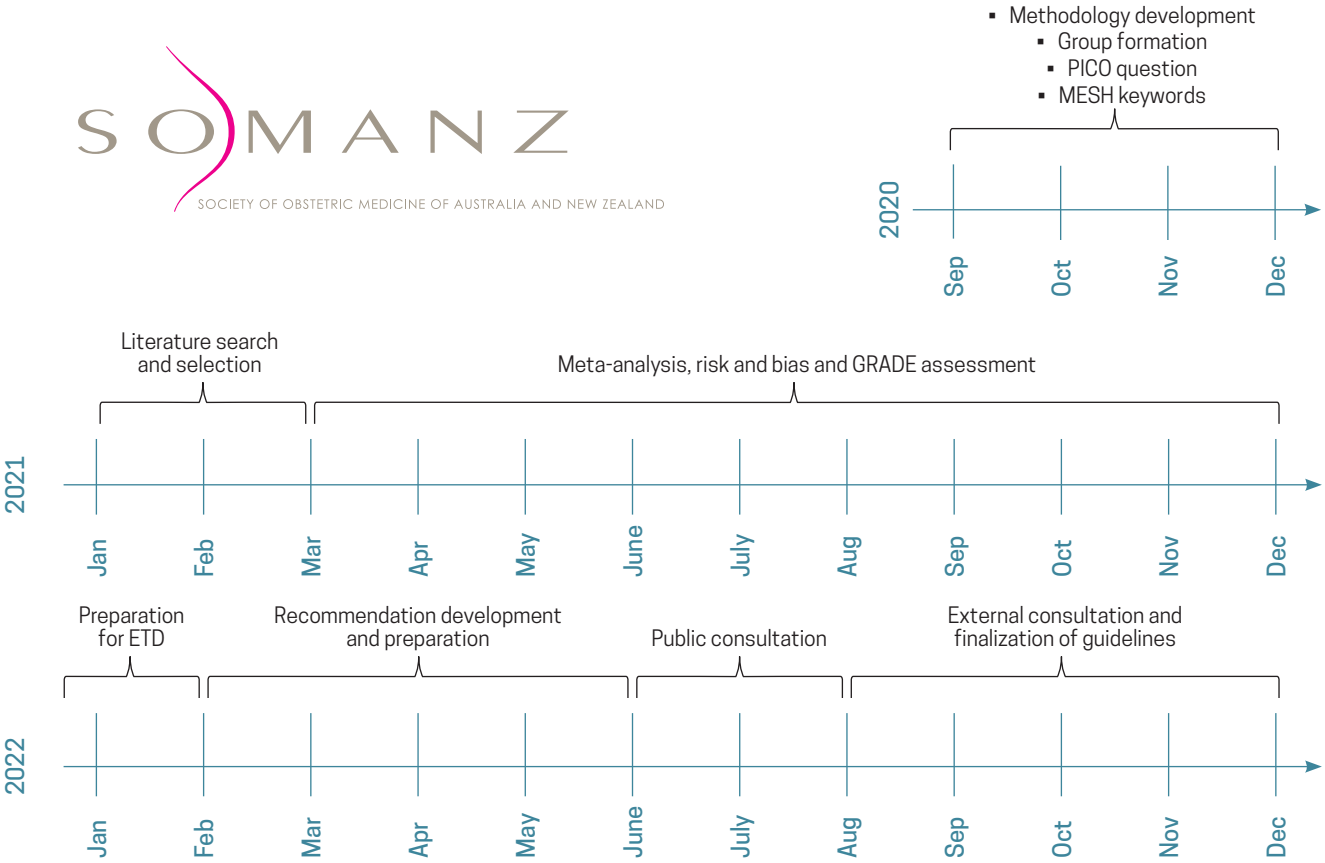
Angela Makris and Renuka Shanmugalingam

The current SOMANZ Hypertension in Pregnancy Guidelines (2014) was last updated in 2014 and has been very well received nationally and internationally with over 350 citations. Given recent new knowledge and evidence in the management of hypertension in pregnancy, this guideline is currently being updated.

In updating the 2014 guideline, SOMANZ has embarked on a new process of guideline development with the aim of obtaining NHMRC's endorsement of the new guideline. In doing so, the guideline development group have collaborated with NHMRC and the JBI Guideline Development team in working through the internationally used, GRADE methodology of guideline development. The methodology involves a comprehensive systematic literature review, risk of bias assessments of selected literature, meta-analyses of data, assessment of evidence quality and finally, a collaborative and objective review of the evidence in developing recommendations.

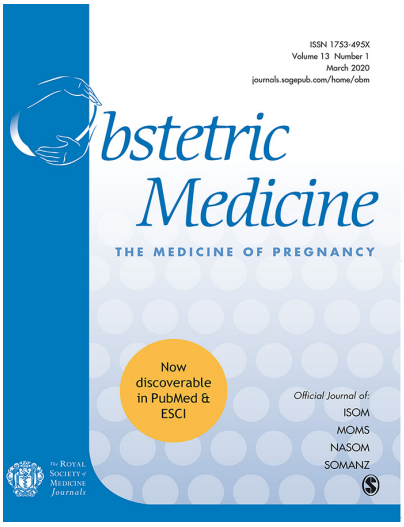
The guideline development group consist of a large multidisciplinary panel made up of physicians, obstetricians, midwives, intensivist, neonatologist, pharmacists, scientists, primary health care representatives, methodologist, First Nations Australians representatives and patient advocacy group representatives. The members of the group are representative of most Australian states and New Zealand and is led by Dr Renuka Shanmugalingam and Professor Angela Makris. The group was formed in November 2020 with its members working tirelessly over the last 12 months despite the challenges of the pandemic. The current progress with the guideline is demonstrated in the diagram below and is expected to be ready for public consultation in mid-2022. We look forward to presenting our updated guidelines at the next SOMANZ annual meeting in 2022.

SOMANZ
SOCIETY OF OBSTETRIC MEDICINE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND



Legends for diagram: **PICO** (Clinical questions abbreviated to Patient/population, Intervention, Control and outcomes), **MESH** (Medical subject headings), **GRADE** (Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluation), **ETD** (Evidence to Decision framework).

OBSTETRIC MEDICINE JOURNAL
DISCOVERABLE IN PUBMED



The Obstetric Medicine Journal is included in membership for SOMANZ both in hard copy and also electronically.

Obstetric Medicine is discoverable in PubMed and remains the only international journal addressing the specialised needs of obstetric physicians and other health care professionals committed to the expert management of women with medical disorders of pregnancy. This journal covers medical conditions which can have a profound effect on the outcomes of pregnancy for mother and child.

In touch with the controversies and challenges within the field, the journal serves as a source of information, a vehicle for the exchange of ideas and stimulus to further investigation so that more women can benefit from multidisciplinary expert care.

- Published 4 times a year with the latest articles published Online First
- Member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)
- Indexed in Scopus
- Accepted into PubMed Central (August 2016)

Benefits of publishing in Obstetric Medicine:

- Free to publish
- Average only 26 days from submission to first decision
- Fast online first and print publication
- International readership including all members of:
- ISOM: International Society of Obstetric Medicine
- MOMS: MacDonald Obstetric Medicine Society
- NASOM: North American Society of Obstetric Medicine
- SOMANZ: Society of Obstetric Medicine of Australia and New Zealand

Submit your manuscript at:
https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/obmed

Email the Publishing Editor, Jovie McMillan at jovie.mcmillan@sagepub.co.uk if you would like any further information or have a question about the suitability of your manuscript.

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SOMANZ RACP WEBINAR SERIES

In addition to the SOMANZ Update Course in Obstetric Medicine (UCOM) webinar series, SOMANZ also conducted a series of webinars throughout 2021 facilitated by the RACP. Members were invited to attend and participate live or to view the recording post event from the SOMANZ website.

These webinars are part of the Specialty Society Webinar Service pilot that is being undertaken by the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) in partnership with its affiliated specialty societies.

Topic 1: Epilepsy in Pregnancy
Presenter: Dr Caroline Airey, Neurologist, Brisbane, QLD

Topic 2: Sickle Cell Anaemia in Pregnancy
Presenter: A/Prof Kylie Mason, Haematologist, Melbourne, VIC

Topic 3: Inflammatory Bowel Disease in Pregnancy
Presenter: Dr Emma Flannagan, Physician, Melbourne, VIC

The recordings of these webinars can be viewed on the SOMANZ website as well as the RACP website.

LIST SERVE

The **OB/Med List Serv** is an international email discussion group. Membership on this list is provided as a membership benefit to members of ISOM, NASOM, and SOMANZ. List Serv offers members the ability to send an email message to a specific address and have that message distributed to the entire list in real-time. Discussions regarding challenging Obstetric Medicine cases, and the expertise of the worldwide leaders on the list has been invaluable to many. A summary of the first few years was published in the journal Obstetric Medicine.

You can also find this information on the SOMANZ website if you are a member of SOMANZ. See https://www.somanz.org/members/membership-account/resources-list-serv/

Listserve was started by Dr Michael P Carson, MD after completing his fellowship in 1998 and leaving Women and Infants Hospital of Rhode Island, he started the Ob Med Listserve in 1998 so he would have a way to communicate quickly with OB Med colleagues. The list has over 300 members and fortunately many leaders in our field.

Emails and responses regarding clinical questions are sent/received in real time.

To sign up go to this site to create an account:
http://lists.obmed.org/listmanager/listinfo/obmeddiscussion

NASOM Admin staff will confirm you're a member of one of the sponsoring organizations.

The emails are not frequent or overwhelming, the cases are interesting, and the expertise is top notch which gives me a huge sense of satisfaction.

A "how to" guide is also available should you need it.

Michael P. Carson, MD
President NASOM www.nasom.org
Professor Medicine & Associate Professor OB/Gyn HM-SOM
Director of Research Dept of Med. Raritan Bay Medical Center
Monmouth Family Medical Group: Sea Girt

NEW SOMANZ WEBSITE

The new SOMANZ website was launched early in 2021 and we hope that you will all agree that it has a more contemporary look and has greater functionality across all devices. We are continually updating information on the site and welcome feedback from our members about the current content or any content that you would like to see included in the future.

Please visit the website regularly to use all the valuable resources available to you as a member of SOMANZ.

If you have any feedback on the new website or have any contributions, please contact Suzie Neylon at SOMANZ on email sneylon@somanz.org

Suzie Neylon

SOMANZ SECRETARIAT

The SOMANZ Secretariat is located next door to the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in a leased office space at Level 1, 149 Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW.

For enquires regarding Membership, please email admin@somanz.org or to contact the SOMANZ Executive Officer, Ms Suzie Neylon email sneylon@somanz.org.

The SOMANZ Secretariat hours are 10.30am to 4.30pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

SOMANZ
Level 1, 149 Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW
Email: admin@somanz.org