

Volunteer Profiles -

Dr Dinesh Varma

Introducing:

Dr Dinesh Varma

Hospital/Practice:

The Alfred Hospital, Melbourne

Role Title:

College Councillor; Communications and Membership (C&M) Portfolio Leader; Communications and Membership (C&M) Committee Chair; ASM Management Committee Chair.

What is it?

The C&M Portfolio Committee is a standing committee of Council that aims to provide direction, support and guidance to the activities within the C&M Portfolio. This is a new committee of the Council that began its operations in early 2009.

How did you get involved?

As a federal Councillor, I had the option of becoming a leader of one of the portfolios of the Council. I put my hand up for the C&M Portfolio having just convened the 2007 RANZCR ASM in Melbourne.

What does it involve?

The Portfolio is still in its infancy stage and a lot has to be done to give it a robust shape.

We hold regular meetings and are in the process of finalising the operations and terms of reference guidelines. We are also putting together a strategic plan for the next three to five years.

Some of the areas where the Committee is actively involved are:

- To establish strategies to actively engage and support the Branch councils
- To oversee and monitor the activities of the committees and Special Interest Groups
- Support the editors of the College publications
- Coordinating, planning and implementation of the College website and educational portal.

What commitment is required?

As this is the first year of operations of the Committee, some work is required around putting together some documents, guidelines and terms of references. This will require coordination between the Committee members and the College Secretariat. Fortunately, I have very strong support from them and the team is keen to have everything in place at the earliest so that we can move forward towards achieving some of the objectives on the strategic plan.

We have regular meetings and keep the Council updated on the progress.



What skills to you need to have?

No special skills are required. You have to be inclined, committed and be prepared to put some voluntary time and work towards the functioning of the Committee. Some understanding of the various activities of the College is helpful.

What do you get out of it? Why do you enjoy it?

I hope that the efforts we are putting in as part of the Committee's strategic plan will help in improving communication with the Fellowship. Working toward some of those objectives and achieving them will be personally rewarding.

What difference has it made to you?

I have realised that many of our Fellows are not fully aware, and at times not well informed, of the numerous issues that the College is faced with. There are various ways to improve this and my efforts will be aimed in that direction.

Should other people become involved? How can other people get involved?

I would definitely encourage more Fellows to put their hands up for College activities. It is only with the support of the Fellows that the College will be a stronger body and be forceful in putting forward our views in the wider community of the medical profession.

Volunteer Opportunities

Our members are integral to the future of radiology and radiation oncology. The College encourages its Members to get involved. The College's mission as a Fellowship based organisation is to set, promote and continuously improve the standards of training and practice in radiology and radiation oncology, for the betterment of the people of Australia and New Zealand.

The College's ability to meet its mission and objectives is directly contributed to the members who volunteer their time and expertise in numerous ways. The College has many ways members can make a contribution to the radiology or radiation oncology profession. For further information please contact +61 2 9268 9704, email pamela.taylor@ranzcr.edu.au or visit www.ranzcr.edu.au/members