

Medicus July

Kumar's Lesson

Roughly 950 medical students from around Australia descended on Melbourne on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July for the week long annual Australian Medical Students Association Convention. The week was a mix of pleasant social evenings and hardcore academic content during the days. One of the standout speakers during the week was Professor Vinay Kumar; one of the author's of the *Pathological Basis of Disease* textbook series. Professor Kumar is no doubt familiar to all of the medical community as a late night companion during those long, long study sessions.

Professor Kumar participated in the entire convention – matching it with the best of them while and staying accessible to all who wished to converse and listen to his boundless tales of medical discovery. During his formal presentation he described his encounters with the original authors *Robbins* and *Cotran*, their sometimes humorous debates over inclusions and exclusions from each edition while hinting at the future trends in pathology research.

He summarised the talk by outlining what he termed 'Kumar's Lesson'. The lesson was comprised of seven points of advice which he felt would enrich the professional life of all the medical fraternity. They were as follows;

- 1) Be fearless; don't hesitate to take the road less travelled
- 2) Be rigorous; take no shortcuts – no matter how tempting
- 3) Remember that being right is more important than being first
- 4) Share your knowledge openly, and be prepared to continually learn from others
- 5) During your career, be respectful to your *junior* colleagues – (this stemmed from the respect he experienced from Robbins and Cotran)
- 6) Compete with yourself; not your colleagues

And finally,

- 7) REMOVE IMPOSSIBLE FROM YOUR LEXICON.

As individual students and practitioners alike it is hard to dispute that these small pointers can go a long way to not only enrich our professional lives but to also make us strive for more; to not settle for one's *best* but to acknowledge the *better* that lies just beyond our *best*.

The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of *Pathological Basis of Disease* is due out soon. However, due to the unfortunate infective addiction which Professor Kumar contracted during Convention (namely *Facebook*) the exact release date is now threatened with delay.

Kia Alizadeh

MSAND President

