



New year, new challenges



By Chantelle Ruoss

President of the Medical Students' Association of Notre Dame

As the academic year rapidly draws to a close, Medical Society elections are taking place around the country. It's an exciting process that provides the opportunity for students to become involved and engage in life outside their academic commitments.

With MSAND recently announcing the 2010 committee, it is timely to commend James Runciman and the outgoing 2009 committee for their commitment, dedication and hard work.

They have certainly set a precedent for future years having worked hard to ensure MSAND members enjoyed a rich assortment of social and academic events. In addition to this, they have also provided students with opportunities to develop as successful leaders and future medical professionals.

It is easy to forget that representatives of the MSAND committee are just your regular run of the mill medical students. While many members bring their own wisdom and experience from previous professional and academic backgrounds, there still remain many logistical challenges. Time management, working together as an effective team and accommodating a diverse student body, are merely some of the challenges representative committees constantly face.

With this in mind MSAND will commence a series of training sessions in the coming weeks for the 2010 committee, with an aim to prepare and up-skill each member for the year ahead. The first session will focus

on strategic-planning, advocacy and campaigning. Additional sessions based on teamwork, personal time management and general leadership will run throughout 2010, providing the committee with a fantastic skills-set that can also be used in many aspects of day-to-day life.

We are very fortunate to have the UWA Training New Trainers (TNT) team delivering majority of these sessions. The TNT program is an AMSA initiative that is focused on equipping medical students with comprehensive skills in teaching, motivating, organising and planning. The ultimate aim is to develop effective medical trainers and proactive members of the community. By providing each MSAND committee member with these skills, it is anticipated that members of MSAND and indeed the wider community that engage with MSAND, will benefit from a professional and cohesive team.

It is my hope that all MSAND members will enjoy 2010 as we continue to build on the fantastic foundation that has been established by previous committees. To be elected to a position on the MSAND committee by your peers is an honour and a privilege. While it provides additional challenges, it also provides a wonderful opportunity to learn, grow and develop as a representative and leader.

Congratulations to the new committee; I look forward to the challenges and rewards that the year ahead will undoubtedly hold.