



## ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

Australian Pituitary Foundation

The time has come to reflect on the journey the Foundation has taken over the past year. As always it has been a busy year. Sue and Eric Kozij and Catherine Wormald attended the Endocrine Society of Australia (ESA) and Endocrine Nurses Society of Australia (ENSA) Symposium in Christchurch in September 2007. The endocrine nurses of New Zealand were very interested in the Foundation and the work it undertook. New Zealand does not have an organization like the Australian Pituitary Foundation and they took every opportunity to come to the Foundation's booth and ask lots of questions as well as obtain resource material. A connection was created and promises to help the New Zealand endocrine nurses whenever possible. The Foundation looks forward to continuing this positive relationship with not only the ENSA and the ESA, but also with similar groups in New Zealand.

The main form of communication with members is of course the newsletter. The committee has received many positive comments and suggestions about the newsletter. The committee appreciates this feed-back, as it spurs us on to provide a resource that is helpful and informative. The Foundation would like to thank Ipsen for their continued sponsorship of the newsletter, a very important tool for members. The website which is sponsored by Novartis, provides another avenue for communicating with members and providing them with information. The Foundation would like to thank the following for information they have provided for either the website or the newsletter.

- Dr. Anthony Pane, Eye Surgeon and Neuro-Ophthalmologist - Queensland Eye Institute
- Dr. Sarah Olson, Neurosurgeon and Dr. Ross Cuneo, Endocrinologist - Princess Alexandra Hospital
- Dr. Ian Kuo, Endocrine Registrar - Westmead Hospital
- Deirdre Thorn and Colleen Ludeman-Robertson, Endocrine Nurses - St. John of God Hospital
- Ruth Huwar - Turner Syndrome Association of Australia.

These people provide valuable information in order to keep pituitary patients updated and aware of the latest medical developments. Many of these professionals also give their time voluntarily to present at the seminar days. These efforts are very much appreciated by Foundation members.

A big thank you has to go to members who donate money to the Foundation. Without these additional funds the Foundation would struggle to survive financially. We would also like to thank the pharmaceutical companies who have provided financial support over the year, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Pfizer, Eli Lilly, SciGen, Serono and Ferring. The Foundation could not have undertaken the Pituitary Awareness Week Seminars without their support. They enable the Foundation to continue to support its members and put in place new and improved services. The Foundation would also like to thank Priority, a Building Company in Brisbane for its generous donation towards a specific project.

Social gatherings are an integral part of human existence and provide opportunities for interaction with others in similar circumstances. To this end the Cushing's social group in Sydney is expanding and continues to meet a couple of times a year. Queensland continues to have regular events. Western Australia has organized events for their members as has South Australia and Victoria. Various volunteers have helped with these social support gatherings and the Foundation would like to thank them for their efforts. In particular some of these events have been lucky enough to have a guest presenter. We would like to thank Heidi Begley of the MEN1 Support Group, Mrs Ruth Huwar and Mr Allen Hibberd of the Turner Syndrome Association of Australia for their participation.

The directors have been working in conjunction with a website company in order to set up and run a members yahoo group. For those who do not have internet access a telephone support network is also being set up. Networking for members is a priority of the directors. In order to ensure that

the best information is provided to members the directors have maintained and developed relationships with various medical and health professionals. This takes many hours of work and time by directors, as well as the professionals.

The Foundation would not exist if it were not for the work of volunteers. The Foundation would like to thank Barbara, who puts in many hours maintaining the membership database and has been closely involved in advising the Foundation with respect to the website and database. The directors would also like to thank all those people who have volunteered their services to the Foundation in various ways from organizing social and education seminars, to folding and posting the newsletters.

Members often say one of the things they enjoy the most are the patient stories, so thank you to those who have been brave enough to provide them, whether in print form or talking about them to the media.

Thank you also to the committee for their contributions to the running of the Foundation. The Foundation would like to recognise and thank Elizabeth Howell in Western Australia for her service and dedication to the Foundation. Elizabeth has retired as the WA contact. The Foundation would like to welcome Emily McKenzie as the new WA contact for the Foundation.

I have not nominated as a director for the next year so this is my last report that I will present for the Foundation. I would like to thank the members of the Foundation for the privilege and honour of working for, and on their behalf.

*Some men see things as they are and say 'why?' I dream things that never were and say 'why not?' (George Bernard Shaw 1856-1950)*

Thank you.  
Catherine Wormald