



## ANNUAL REPORT 2008 – 2009

Over the past year the committee, state coordinators and volunteers have been busy working behind the scenes.

We are now putting the finishing touches to a sophisticated database which will assist the state coordinators in their work and, most importantly, make possible secure access for members to the Foundation's resources. This major development will significantly enhance the services that can be provided by the Foundation. Paid up patient members will have access to the current support register via a secure login on the website. In addition they will be able to download back-copies of previous newsletters and participate in a chat forum with other members for a more personal communication experience. The paid up health professional will also be able to download back-copies of the newsletter. Additional services will be added over time. In the meantime please take the opportunity to visit our website [www.pituitary.asn.au](http://www.pituitary.asn.au) which is updated regularly.

One of the main forms of communication with members is the newsletter. The newsletter contains information on activities run by the Foundation including the latest news about pituitary-associated illnesses and treatments. As part of the special service provided by the APF, healthcare specialists and others contribute the latest thinking on various subjects through articles and commentaries.

The Foundation would like to thank

- ◆ Dr. Nicholas Maartens, The Royal Melbourne Hospital: Steroid Therapy and the Pituitary
- ◆ Dr. John Wentworth, The Royal Melbourne Hospital: Steroid Therapy and the Pituitary
- ◆ Andrology Australia: The Pituitary Gland, Testosterone, Libido and Fertility in Men
- ◆ Jenny Nairn, Women's & Children's Hospital, North Adelaide: Adrenal Insufficiency and Treatment of Adrenal crisis in Children
- ◆ Jenny John, Consumer Health Forum Representative and APF member: Public Forum for Rare Medical Conditions Report.
- ◆ Various patients and families who have contributed "their story"
- ◆ Ipsen Pharmaceuticals who continue to sponsor the "Pituitary Connection"

The year has been active with many support and educational activities in the states. These have been well attended. On behalf of the committee I would like to thank the state coordinators for all the work that they do, not only supporting our membership but communicating with those in the general public who reach out for some information or comfort. Welcome to Melissa Syme who has just joined us as the coordinator for Tasmania. It is with regret that we see Jill Murray, our Victoria coordinator retire and thank Jill for making a difference. Many thanks to Sue Kozij (Qld), Loretta Schar (SA), Emily McKenzie (WA), Juliet Langridge (ACT) and our "proxy" NSW coordinator Russ Fairweather who is caretaker of the role for the moment. On that note the Foundation would like to invite expressions of interest from the membership regarding the role of coordinator in both NSW & VIC which are presently vacant.

You may be aware in 2003 the Children's Growth Foundation merged with the Foundation, with some members whose children have pituitary conditions moving to our membership, but unfortunately no-one to take up a formal role within the Foundation to co-ordinate paediatric support. Recent years through growth and a change in structure, with a small but increasing membership of parents, we have been introducing paediatric support and education. This year we have established a dedicated paediatric support group in Qld and NSW. We intend to expand into the other states as the paediatric membership grows. Of course we continue to support children and families through the overall support network of the Foundation.

The directors would like to thank all those people who have volunteered their services. In particular they would like to mention Barbara Elliott, who came to the Foundation 5 years ago through the Goodcompany Wish Exchange. Barbara has worked tirelessly supporting the executive committee and advising on business matters. Vicki Jaeger, our latest volunteer through the Goodcompany Wish Exchange. Vicki has been editing and producing some of our educational seminars to DVD.

This year the Foundation has received assistance from a number of Corporate sponsors in a philanthropic capacity. Website company Avalde, have contributed to the upgrade and maintenance of the website and also training of Sue and Barbara in the day to day content management. Baker McKenzie, Lawyers assist the Foundation in maintaining privacy policies and adherence. Sonray Capital Markets have contributed financially to the purchase of resource material.

Our appreciation must be extended to the doctors and nurses who look after member's medical health and also inform patients about the Foundation. Health care professionals donate their time and expertise to write medical articles and present at our seminars and educational forums – as you can imagine they are very busy, putting aside time to educate patients and others shows great commitment to the pituitary community.

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, Scigen, Novartis, Pfizer, Novo Nordisk, Merck Serono, Eli Lilly, Ipsen and Ferring. The Foundation could not undertake the Pituitary Awareness Week Seminars and various other support and educational activities without their financial support.

Once again the Foundation had a presence at the ESA with an information stall in the trade area. Last year it was held in Melbourne. Attending the ESA allows the Foundation to showcase its activities to doctors and nurses as the ENSA conference runs parallel with the ESA. Attending also gives opportunity for the Foundation to initiate discussions with pharmaceutical companies on issues such as adult growth hormone replacement and future educational programs. In 2009 the Foundation will once again have a presence in Adelaide and hopes to attend the APEG conference in November.

Finally, thank you to our dedicated directors who volunteer their time to the running of the Foundation. In my year as Chairperson, I have enjoyed the camaraderie, initiatives and strengths offered by these individuals. Eric Kozij, Sue Kozij, Russ Fairweather & I intend to continue directorship of the Foundation. Jill Murray will be retiring at the AGM and the Foundation would like to recognise and thank her for her service over the past 2 years. Loretta Schar became a director after our last AGM and is happy to continue, but as per the constitution must be voted in by the membership at this AGM. May I extend a warm welcome to Maryann Paterson and Lisa Clancy who have been nominated to become directors at this AGM subject to membership approval. Both have been associated with the Foundation for some time and have extended help in a volunteering role to the committee on previous occasions.

Thanking you all,  
Noel Hickey.