



## President's 2020 End of Year Message

As I write this, NSW continues to face certain restrictions for the Northern Beaches. For those affected our thoughts are with you. While the future is unclear, but one thing is for sure, and that is, complacency is everyone's enemy when it comes to this virus. I am glad to say that I have monitored audits on our COVIDSafe practises at work ever since SA came out of the first lockdown, but there have been the odd occasions involving very minor issues that could lead to a decreasing vigilance. So my main message today is ensure the people who work with you, and yourself, are almost obsessed with the College's COVIDSafe recommendations as published on the website.

Many of our members will be aware of changes occurring within other Colleges. The College has received correspondence from ACAM's new Board and I am delighted to say that collaboration with other stakeholders has been highlighted as a primary aim going forward. In addition, the College has received correspondence from the newly formed Cosmetic Nurses Association. The College welcomes the opportunity for open and productive discussions regarding the prevailing valued relationship with all health practitioners where there is a clear balance of each profession's scope of practice and common ground, especially focused on patient safety. As one of over 70 organisations of the Australian Ethical Healthcare Alliance groups, the College is committed to assist other professions on this topic while ensuring our members sustain the strength of our stakeholder position at levels of government, the general public and the medical profession per se.

Looking back on 2020, it's been a very mixed up year. For our Victorian colleagues it has been a veritable nightmare. Like most nightmares, it just didn't seem real by all accounts. I return once more though to the importance of vigilance and SA is a great example of what can happen when you have been COVID-free for an extended period of time.

By contrast, the College, in the face of all that has hit everyone, has stood strong, strong enough to have brought Australia CosDoc2020. OMG I am so proud of our team to have delivered what is quietly being called the best event of its type this year. But talk about busy! Many are reporting high demand for our services, including my own clinic, which has been fully booked, with the exception of a few spots here and there, right up until and beyond the Christmas break. Fitting everything in has been challenging, and the guitar sits lonely in the corner for now, as something has to give. Top all this off with the listing and sale of our apartment property and all the legal stuff that goes with it, the negotiations, packing, address redirections etc....

But the show must go on, and it does. The Board is currently in the process of drafting a Strategic Review for the near and not so near future pathways for the College. Inevitably this requires looking back before moving forwards, to ensure the tasks we have set ourselves to this point are either completed or carrying enough momentum towards completion. The most important task naturally is the finalisation and approval of the Registrar Training Program. Keturah of course has been the go-to Board Member for the RTP and I am making a desperate plea to anyone who has any past presentations they have tucked away in the archives, to send these to Keturah. The jigsaw puzzle so far has all the 'edge bits' done, and areas of the puzzle are forming a clear picture but we need more puzzle pieces so we can sit back and sigh, 'there, done at last'. So do please go now to your files and dig out stuff you thought you'd never use again, because WE NEED IT!

In the week leading up to Christmas Day, I will be undertaking a Certificate 4 Trainer and Assessor Diploma, and Keturah has either now finished hers or well on the way so the College will have two AQF qualified persons to fulfil another part of the College's educational obligations. I encourage others to have a go at this too. Not only will this be of terrific benefit to the College. There is a significant business advantage in promoting that you have been awarded official government recognised qualification of Trainer/Assessor in Cosmetic Medicine. It has always been my intention to devote some of my energy to the further development of our educational needs and come New Year I hope to take more active role to help drive the rollout of the RTP. We need more experienced people to contribute to the cause like this, while simultaneously enjoying the financial rewards that comes with well-deserved professional notoriety.

Once again, enjoy the freedoms that so many of our members have been deprived of this year as we lead up to the Christmas Holiday/ New Year's break. Be kind and tolerant to others, encourage and support those around us who have been less fortunate than ourselves. Stay safe, and protect friends and families, acknowledge the sacrifices for those who are prevented once more from being in the company of family and friends, particularly those who are isolated, or confined behind state borders when traditionally this is the one time of year the emphasis is upon being together. Take care on the roads and enjoy!

*Merry Christmas to you all, and I wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year!*