

MESSAGE FROM THE COLLEGE PRESIDENT – DR NEALE FONG

Dr. Neale Fong FCHSM

President of Australasian College of Health Service Management



I trust that you are well and as a leader or manager in the health sector wherever you are, you have taken time to ensure your own health and wellbeing in these extraordinary times. There is no more important

time than now to ensure that you have the resilience and reserves to travel through these uncertainties.

In the last issue this column focussed on the ACHSM's Certification Program and the importance of a credential for health leaders and executives. As I noted then, certification in a profession is an employment currency within the health sector that has traditionally excluded the leaders and managers. Through the introduction of these credentials, the College supports members and future members to have their body of knowledge and skills recognised and provides the platform for continuing development.

Today let me focus on the importance of lifelong learning and intentionally managing a career that hopefully will span decades, providing you with personal satisfaction and success. Committing to lifelong learning, as we mandate within Certification, is a commitment to your own development, and your own sense of staying curious and active within the profession.

A quiet and consistent focus on staying current is at the foundation of confident and competent leadership and ACHSM sees this as being at the heart of our offerings to the College members.

A platform and pathway for a long satisfying career in health leadership

While it is not comprehensive of everything the College does, I commend you to consider the flyer available on this link (particularly page 2) which provides a list of the programs, activities and services the College provides to support our members - as seen through a lifelong career lens. We encourage members to consider their career journey from emerging leader through to more senior roles and how they can access services and programs to support those career journeys.

<https://www.achsm.org.au/Portals/15/documents/membership/Certification-flyer-web.pdf>

Many of our senior College members are dedicated to helping others and this is in line with our College's philosophy to be both by and for health leaders. You will see this embedded in many of our offerings from Mentoring to Facilitated Learning Groups to Certification right through to our capstone Fellowship Program – members supporting members. I must emphasize that careers, like anything in life, are not perfectly linear – for example, we encourage senior members to consider not just being a Mentor but from time to time, becoming a Mentee. Both support their personal career journey.

The Journal

The Journal is an integral component of lifelong learning through peer reviewed articles and the College is thankful for the dedication of our Chief Editor, David Briggs and our journal partner, SHAPE, in ensuring this excellent publication continues to expand your knowledge horizons. I know you will find this edition informative and interesting, particular as we learn from international colleagues.

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