

Australian Autoimmunity Foundation, Inc

ABN 80 814 995 686 A registered health promotion charity

Newsletter Issue 8

10 February 2010

Doctors workshop and patient forum set for Queen's Birthday weekend in Canberra

This year's MP doctors' workshop will be held in Canberra over the Queen's Birthday weekend (June 12,13,14) in Canberra.

We will also be holding a patient discussion forum after the workshop. ACT patients and any from further afield are welcome to attend.

The full details of the programme, the venue and accommodation arrangements are still being worked on. As the details take on shape they will be advised in our Members' forum at

<http://www.ausautoimmunity.org.au/Forum/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=7>

Preliminary advices to all MP doctors will go out this week.

New access arrangements to the MP study site

Members in Phase 1 presently registered on the MP study site

www.marshallprotocol.com

[m](http://www.marshallprotocol.com) are now able to access and fully participate in the Phase 2/3 forums, primarily so that they can more fully see from the outset what the MP involves.

Melbourne Patient Networking meeting

Melbourne and other Victorian MPers have an opportunity to meet up on Sunday March 28. The venue is the Phyliss Hore Meeting Room at Kew Library, Cotham Road, Kew and will commence at 10.30 am through till 1.00pm.

There is off street car parking at the side of the library and wheelchair access. Entry to the meeting room is via the main library entrance foyer. Those wishing to BYO lunch can use the kitchen facilities attached to the meeting room.

Dr Marshall resigns as Patron of the AAF

In December, Dr Marshall resigned as Patron of the AAF. He no longer wanted to be associated with the AAF, at least for as long as the present Management Committee was in place. In departing he hoped that *"our Australian members will be able to help the AAF grow into an organization which understands that only with worldwide collaboration can we stay on track to our own recoveries, and best help others who are yet to commence that journey"*.

Dr Marshall's resignation was sent to us in draft form a day or so after he received our December newsletter which had mentioned the services of CIR, the group set up by former Directors of the Autoimmunity Research Foundation. He indicated to us that mention of CIR services would do irreparable

damage, a view we do not share.

Dr Marshall also took exception to the format of the doctors workshop we had organised last year.

After first endorsing the workshop as important and agreeing to his and Dr Greg Blaney's participation in it, he then, some few days before the event, requested that the programme be fundamentally recast. We did not agree to these changes for many different reasons – simple logistics, discourtesy to the other presenters who had by then mostly finalised their presentations, confusion amongst the potential attendees as to what was being presented and when, and finally simply poor medical research practice.

It is a normal part of all medical trials for clinicians to present their basic findings and medical case study records back to the medical researchers. The suggestion that any of the AAF committee want Dr Marshall to somehow “*slide off into the background*” is completely at variance with all of our actions and initiatives.

The AAF will continue to support patients who have been placed on the Marshall Protocol by Protocol by their doctor. We will continue to engage directly with Australian medical practitioners and Australian medical researchers to inform

them about these treatments and to encourage further trials in this area.

We hope to continue our collaborations with the Autoimmunity Research Foundation in the future, irrespective of Dr Marshall's resignation as our patron. We are genuinely at a loss to understand his resignation.

If any members would like to discuss this issue then feel free to post at the Members' discussion forum at www.ausautoimmunity.org.au/Forum

Webmaster wanted

Your committee is looking for a new webmaster. The role requires some familiarity with website organisation and updating, though not detailed programming expertise.

If you would like to volunteer please write to webmaster@ausautoimmunity.org.au

or contact our Secretary Vicki Ryan at vicryan@ausautoimmunity.org.au