The Management Committee held its annual Strategic Planning Meeting in the USA at the beginning of June. This was an opportunity to consider the progress we have made towards achieving our strategic goals and to plan for the Members General Assembly in September, as well as identifying future priorities.

We have achieved much over the past couple of years thanks to the dedication and support of our members, but there is still plenty to do to increase our presence and influence on the global stage and, in particular, to promote the significant benefits that robust and effective regulation can bring to the safe and effective care of patients. This will be my last newsletter as your Chair, but I know that my successor is determined to make sure that the Association continues to extend its impact both by offering value to its members and by being an advocate for the new forms of medical regulation that are emerging around the world. For too long professional regulation has been a backwater - increasingly it can and should be part of wider efforts to make sure patients receive the high quality accessible care they deserve.

This month marked an exciting milestone - the joining of our 100th member, the Washington Medical Quality Assurance Commission. We have since added two additional members bringing the total membership to 102. An expanding membership is not an end in itself but it does bring greater strength to our international community and will help us demonstrate the centrality of effective regulation of professionals in an increasingly globalised healthcare economy. I am confident that our growing IAMRA community will play an ever more crucial role in making sure that patients are treated by safe and competent doctors. I am sure you will join me in welcoming our newest members, associates and partners:

- Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (Associate)
- British Medical Association - UK (Partner)
- National Resident Matching Program International - US (Partner)
- Medical Sciences Council of New Zealand (Partner)
- General Chiropractic Council - UK (Associate)
- Medical Quality Assurance Commission - US (Member)
- Health Care Inspectorate - Netherlands (Partner)
- Missouri State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts - US (Member)
I have recently had the chance to meet medical regulators in Cambodia, Thailand, India and the USA. It was interesting and heartening to see that, regardless of how diverse these healthcare systems may be, there is a shared commitment among those responsible for regulation to look outwards and to learn from others. I very much hope that some of our colleagues in the South East Asia region will join our community as their experiences, challenges and achievements can be a source of learning for us all.

Meeting with the Sriraj Medical School, Madihol University, Thailand

Addressing the Annual Meeting of the Federation of State Medical Boards

I was also pleased to engage with many North American regulators when I addressed the Annual Meeting of the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) in April and spoke about the twin challenges facing the
We are now close to the IAMRA 2016 Conference in Melbourne. To make this community work we need a strong delegation from every member organisation - if you have not registered already I do hope you will do so. The Medical Board of Australia and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency have worked tirelessly with IAMRA to put on a brilliant and exciting programme - I very much look forward to seeing you there. If you have yet to register, there is still time to do so - you can sign up on the dedicated conference website: http://iamra2016.org/.

Best wishes

Niall Dickson

IAMRA Events

12th International Conference on Medical Regulation
Melbourne Australia
September 20-23, 2016

The conference will be presented by the Medical Board of Australia and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency - partners in regulating medical practitioners in Australia.

For more information, please visit the IAMRA 2016 conference website.
International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities,
400 Fuller Wiser Road, Suite 300, Euless, TX 76039