

RCPSG College Travelling Fellowship Award

Dr Vanessa K Field

**Asia Pacific International Conference in Travel Medicine (APICTM)
Melbourne, Australia
24-27 February 2008**

Report

In February 2008, with the support of the RCPSG, I was able to attend and speak at the Asia Pacific International Conference in Travel Medicine (APICTM) in Melbourne, Australia, and promote the Faculty of Travel Medicine (RCPSG) via its stand. Aboriginal dancers and the sounds of a didgeridoo welcomed delegates at the opening ceremony; a unique beginning to a unique event, as never before had an international meeting on travel medicine been held in Australia. APICTM 2008 represented a combined initiative of the International Society of Travel Medicine, the Asia Pacific Travel Health Society, the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine and the Australasian Society of Infectious Diseases.

National, regional and international experts gathered and examined current emerging health issues facing the growing and dynamic Asia Pacific region. A stimulating scientific programme, covering over 100 different topics, was successfully delivered to over 600 international delegates, over three days. These days began early with seminars and cases of the day over breakfast, followed by plenary and concurrent symposium, foundation workshop and free paper sessions, giving the new-comer and the experienced practitioner a variety of forums to explore and debate. Highlights included presentations on the emerging arboviral and zoonotic threats in the Asia Pacific region, preparation for Beijing 2008, remote medicine including The Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Antarctic, malaria including Plasmodium knowlesi, Japanese encephalitis vaccine developments, and Country In Focus sessions including those on Papua New Guinea/Oceania, Indochina and India/Nepal.

I am very grateful to the College for its support. I came away with a real flavour for the Asia Pacific region and a greater understanding of Travel Medicine issues there. My experience, and that of other members of the Faculty of Travel Medicine present at the conference, will help inform the Education and Professional Development Committee of the Faculty of Travel Medicine, and shape its Annual Symposium, this year focusing on South-East Asia, at the tri-centennial conference of RCPSG in November 2008.

Dr Vanessa K Field
April 2008