Pursuing the Aims of the IAG

The President of IAG, Gary Andrews, has been active in promoting the aims of the Association in several arenas worldwide recently. Visits were made to Switzerland, France, Denmark, and China. In Lausanne he attended a WHO meeting on the Psychiatry of Old Age; in Paris he convened a session on mental health and ageing and also had the opportunity to meet with representatives from Novartis to discuss developments in their relationship with the IAG. While in Copenhagen he met with the Danish Gerontology Association who have established a network of gerontological researchers that has much in common with the South Australian Research network on Ageing (SANRA; visit the IAG website for more details). Beijing was the site of an ESCAP planning meeting for the International Year of Older Persons. He paused in Sydney en route back to Adelaide long enough to be awarded a medal from the College of Rehabilitation Medicine of the Australian Geriatrics Association.

An exciting development is that in August 1998, Gary Andrews commenced a 1-year appointment with the United Nations. He is charged with overseeing the scientific aspects of planning for the International Year of Older Persons and will be based in New York. One of the key initiatives will be the development of a global research agenda on ageing. The next News from the IAG will contain details of some of the outcomes of his consultations.

A Growing Membership

The secretariat has received three requests to join the IAG. One was for an individual membership, from Mr. Leonid Semenovich Burmin of Bischkek City, Republic Kievskaya, Kirgizstan, and one each from the Philippines and Thailand. Mr. Leonid had been active in the now dissolved Kirgiz Republic Gerontology Association which is likely to be restored in some form in the future. The secretariat has encouraged him and his colleagues to re-form such an organisation, preferably between now and the next IAG World Congress in 2001. In the interim, the Executive Committee of the IAG recommended that he be given status as a ‘corresponding member’ of the IAG until such time as a national association is re-formed in the Kirgiz Republic.

Applications from the Philippine College of Gerontology and Geriatrics and the Thai Society of Gerontology and Geriatric medicine have been received recently and are under consideration by the executive.

Interested prospective members could review the requirements for membership in the IAG By-Laws on the web at <<www.cas.flinders.edu.au/iag>>.

Gerontology

Professors Ladislas Robert (France) and M. Powell-Lawton (USA) have agreed to write papers based on their Novartis lectures given at Adelaide World Congress for publication in Gerontology. Gerontology has a practice of publishing such lectures and may play another key role in conjunction with IAG and the UN in providing a forum for input from the broader ageing research community to development of the global research agenda referred to above.

On July 6, 1998, the Secretary General attended a meeting in Basel with coeditors of Gerontology, Prof. W. Meier-Ruge (Basel), Dr. J. Andrews (Shepperton, UK), Dr. M. Ermini (Basel) and Product Manager, Mr. Thomas
Nold to discuss future directions for the journal and IAG’s association with it. A broad range of issues was discussed, including the aim and scope of *Gerontology*, expansion of the composition of editorial boards to include a Behavioural and Social Science section, and planning of supplement issues. One of the major outcomes of these meetings was to confirm the continuing association of the IAG and *Geronotology*. A new and exciting development is the expansion of the scope of *Gerontology* to include a Behavioural Science section. This new section will augment the ongoing Experimental and Clinical sections. Prospective members of the editorial board for the Behavioural Science section are being recruited and further suggestions are welcome. An editorial describing the additional direction of *Gerontology* will be published in the first issue of 1999.

**World Congress 2001 – Vancouver**

Planning is proceeding apace for the next World Congress of the IAG, under the direction of IAG President-elect, Gloria Gutman. In accord with the August 1997 Council decision to institute an inter-congress loan to assist in early stages of congress organizing, the requisite funds were transferred from the Adelaide Congress Committee to the Vancouver Congress Committee in June. For a personal touch, the cheque was hand-delivered to Gloria Gutman by current President Gary Andrews at a meeting on rural ageing that they were both attending in West Virginia, USA.

**IAG Operational Matters**

There has been a good response to the call for details of membership that went out with the *IAG Newsletter* in March. The database has been updated accordingly and a list of members is available on the IAG Website. The secretariat would welcome amendments or corrections at any time.

We are steadily making progress on revisions to the IAG’s Manual of Operating Procedures (now known affectionately as MOP). If you would like to feed into the process we are open to all suggestions. Our intention is to have a draft document for consideration by the executive at its next meeting to be held in San Antonio in conjunction with the IAG Pan-American Congress, February 21–25, 1999.