AMSA National Convention – Hobart 2010

Report by Grace Hollands, 2nd Year Medicine

This year I attended the week long AMSA National Convention run by the Australian Medical Students Association. I packed my bags, boarded a plane ready to face a wild week of plenary speeches, workshops, Emergency Medical Challenges and the extreme Hobart weather. Amazing guest plenary speakers all revealed unique and inspiring insights into the many colourful aspects of medicine. These speeches ranged from the experiences of a Plastic surgeon’s work in darkest Africa, the miraculous surgical separation of the twins Krishna and Trishna and Australia’s very own clown doctors preaching laughter as the best medicine.

My personal highlight of the week was participating in the Emergency Medical Challenge. Myself and 5 others from Monash were faced with medical emergency scenes and as a team, we utilized our magnificent clinical skills to stabilize the situations to the best of our ability. The workshops were also particularly enjoyable – exposing new and fascinating parts of medicine in addition to presenting an opportunity to learn techniques that I will not be taught until later in the course. The workshop highlights of my week included learning how to insert the Mirena intra-uterine devise, learning how to take a sexual history, and having my phobia of spiders challenged by a psychologist who specialised in neuro-linguistics.

AMSA’s national convention is definitely not only academic – they run a tantalizing social program each night which particularly catalyses the formation of new friendships. I have returned from convention with a refreshed outlook on studying medicine as well as an awareness for the issues facing health globally and therefore us as future doctors.

So, for those of you who are up for a week of being inspired and challenged whilst meeting new people, and having an all-round amazing time, I advise you seriously consider attending an AMSA National Convention at some stage during your time as a medical student.