

AAVIS Editorial

AAVIS was established in 1997 by a small group of Australian gynaecologists with an interest in the new field of Ambulatory vaginal surgery pioneered by Petros and Ulmsten. In recent years AAVIS has developed into a multidisciplinary society which brings together like-minded individuals from a variety of disciplines, in particular gynaecologists, urologists and colorectal surgeons, all of whom share an interest in the complex problems relating to the female pelvic floor. Change occurs in everything we do, usually by necessity. The executive committee of AAVIS has recognised the importance of adapting to change - not only to engage more with its current members and to attract new members, but also to provide a more comprehensive knowledge base.

One of the most significant changes that has occurred is the way that we now use the internet. The internet is an excellent source of information - but it is information that we have to seek out for ourselves. The success of social networking forums such as Facebook and Twitter is a testament to the way we would like the internet to be - the information should find us. These facilities are encompassed in the concepts of Web2.0.

Because of the multi-disciplinary background of the specialists involved with AAVIS, Web2.0 features lend themselves spectacularly well to providing individual members with the facilities that allow them to share their knowledge. The Executive is very pleased to announce that the Society in general, but in particular the website, is about to undergo a dramatic transformation that will allow a whole host of exciting activities for members such as creating their own profiles and uploading their own media content, in particular videos. Members can then invite other members to share this content. There will also be discussion forums initiated by experts in their own field but allowing individual members to have their say. And there will also be blogs that permit a more informal discussion. Members will be able to sign up to a particular feature which means that they will be notified of new postings automatically. There will also be the usual features such as e-news letters about the latest research results and training news.

As with last year's annual meeting in Noosa, the presentations at this year's meeting will be webcast and will be available for on-demand viewing via the new website. In line with this exciting new development the Society will be undergoing a renaming and rebranding exercise to reflect its multidisciplinary stance. The Executive has decided to introduce a membership fee and is extremely confident that you will quickly appreciate the benefits of belonging to the Society. Content is king and because you will have access to an ever-expanding library of content it is also very confident that the membership database will grow exponentially. The aim is to continue to hold a conference every year, probably alternating between Australia and Europe, and one of the many benefits of membership will be a reduced conference fee.

The Executive looks forward to meeting all current and new members at the annual conference in Vienna and for the opportunity to informally discuss your ideas relating to the new online facilities.