



A message from the acnem President

A farewell, a welcome and a new era for acnem.



If you want to go fast, go alone;
if you want to go far, go together.”

– African Proverb

As Chair of the **acnem** board, I want to share some changes to the **acnem** team. After more than three years at the helm of **acnem**, our CEO, Andrea (Andi) Lott, is moving on. There have been health issues within her family in the last 12 months, and this is where her attention and care needs to be right now. As the Board, we are absolutely supportive of her decision. Andi has been a wonderful leader for the College, particularly as we navigated the changing landscape over the last couple of years. She has led a transformation in the College, a legacy that we want to honour and continue.

Our Board met last Monday, January 23, to acknowledge the outstanding stewardship by Andrea Lott in her time as CEO of the College. We wish her and her family all the best in her future endeavours. We will miss her, and I will personally miss her exceptional commitment and passion in steering **acnem** through some tough times these past three years.

Welcome to acnem’s new CEO, Di Strang

While Andi’s departure leaves us with the task of finding a new permanent CEO, we have the good fortune that Di Strang has agreed to temporarily step off the Board of the College to take on the leadership role as **acnem’s** Interim CEO. Her move into the operational role as CEO is effective immediately. Di has extensive experience and has held senior managerial positions in a variety of Integrative Medicine businesses within Australia. This transition will mean that **acnem** will be continuing its operation seamlessly – delivering our full calendar of events and education for 2023!

We are also welcoming to the **acnem** team Mikaila Beaver, who will take on the role of Partnerships Project Manager. Mikaila will be supporting our partners, sponsors and supporting organisations, and is already in contact with many of you as we prepare for our upcoming face-to-face events.

About Andi

Andi joined **acnem** in August 2019. She had barely got her feet under the desk when the bushfires swept across the Eastern states and then COVID struck, transforming **acnem** operations and presenting challenges that none of us were prepared for or had ever experienced before.

The **acnem** team, with Andi at the helm, managed to rapidly pivot and move our education offerings from face-to-face to online. Not only did we improve access through this time, we are proud to say we also delivered higher quality education and a greater range of courses and events than ever before.

Andi worked closely with the Board through this time, and would be the first to acknowledge and thank her wonderful **acnem** team, who together have moved mountains to adapt to the shifting demands of the last three years. It definitely takes a team!

Andi also drove the College's makeover in terms our new **acnem** branding, our website, the IT systems and processes. Much that was ineffective and outdated has been fixed, and members now have improved resources to draw on, and a solid framework for our future growth plans.

Andi expressed to the Board in her resignation that, although the decision to move on from **acnem** has been a very difficult one, she knows it is the right decision for her family. She reflected on the beautiful connections made with the team, the board, partners, members and stakeholders and will be watching from the sidelines as **acnem** continues to soar under our new leadership.

On a Personal Note

As Chair and President of the College through much of her time as CEO, I have a deeper debt of gratitude to Andi than anyone. I have been privy to the challenges she has faced both professionally and personally through the past two years, and I have seen her courage, her passion, her determination and her compassion throughout all the challenges during our time together.

Andi loved **acnem**. She still loves **acnem**. The College survived the greatest challenge of its 40 years because Andi was at the helm of a wonderful and responsive team of her own creation. We are now in a really exciting period of growth and opportunity thanks to Andi and the work she has done, and I will never forget Andi, her achievements and contributions.

But, sadly, it is now time for her to leave. To go home. To turn her attention away from our family at **acnem**, and to give her own family and herself the time, attention and love they all so deserve.

That is our wish for her that I know you will all share with me. We are **acnem**. These values are our DNA.

Farewell Andi. We salute you. May your life be joyful and healthy for you and those you love.

Mark

--

Dr Mark Donohoe
MB BS FACNEM FASLM