

**ALBERT
COATES
MEMORIAL
TRUST**



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MENTOR

Newsletter of the Albert Coates Memorial Trust

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Spring 2023

The Annual Sir Albert Coates Oration, in collaboration with Federation University Australia, is to be held on **Thursday 9th November, at 6.00 pm**, in the Geoffrey Blainey Auditorium, Federation University Australia, Chancellor Drive, Mt Helen.



This year's Orator will be **Associate Professor Misty Jenkins AO**.

Misty Jenkins is the Laboratory Head of the Brain Cancer Immunotherapy Laboratory at the Walter Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI).

Misty was born in Ballarat and studied at Melbourne University BSc (Hons) and PhD in Microbiology and Immunology.

She then attended the universities of Oxford and Cambridge as a postdoctoral research fellow.

She returned to Australia to conduct research based on Lymphocytes, the type of cells which can protect against viruses and cancer.

Specifically her research is using a new form of immune-targeted therapy that trains T Cells to fight against certain forms of brain cancer.

Her research grants have included major awards from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to continue developing CAR T cell therapies for glioblastoma. This work is in association with clinicians and neurosurgeons at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre (PMCC) and the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Misty has received many awards, including induction into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women in 2020, in recognition of her advocacy for gender equity, Aboriginal health and education.

In 2023, she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for "distinguished service to medical science as an immunologist, to the promotion of women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and to the indigenous community".

Her skills include a special ability to present complex research matters to lay audiences, and we are privileged to have her present the Sir Albert Coates Oration for 2023.

We look forward to seeing many of our friends and supporters.

The Oration will be followed by the Sir Albert Coates Dinner at 7.30 pm in the Albert Coates Complex, Building U, Federation University Australia, Mt Helen.

Booking details on page 3.

Lunch with the Speaker - Dr Christine Ball AM - "Chloroform, cobras and the evolution of modern anaesthesia" - Tuesday 27th June 2023 at 12.30 pm, at the Ballarat Yacht Club.



It was terrific to once again hold a 'Lunch with the Speaker' and Dr Christine Ball entertained and educated those in attendance, particularly the non-medicos, about the history of anaesthesia through the life of Dr Joseph Clover.

Dr Christine Ball is currently the 2020-2024 Wood Library Museum Laureate of the History of Anaesthesiology - an international honorary post, created by the Wood Library-Museum to honour those making singular contributions to anaesthetic history and to increase interest in the study of anaesthetic history.

The Wood Library-Museum was based on the personal collection of its founder, Dr. Paul Myer. Wood, a noted US anaesthetist. It has a commitment to the historical, educational and archival preservation of the heritage of anaesthesiology.

Christine has been the honorary curator of the Geoffrey Kaye Museum of Anaesthetic History in St Kilda Road, for the past thirty years.

Dr Geoffrey Kaye established the museum from his private collection of anaesthetic apparatus in 1946 – the collection is housed in a room at the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists. Dr Kaye was a pioneer in the fields of Australian anaesthetics and anaesthetic apparatus design. He served in the AAMC during the 2nd World War and worked for many years at the Alfred Hospital.

Christine's interest in Dr Clover began when she found an old case book of his notes presented by a British anaesthetist to Geoffrey Kaye – the date of the gift was inscribed 1936. The casebook belonged to Joseph Thomas Clover, who worked as a surgeon in London in the mid-19th century.

Clover, who was born in Aylsham, in Norfolk, in 1825, began as an apprentice doctor in Norfolk, before transferring to London to study medicine at University College London, in 1844, where Joseph Lister was a fellow student and became a lifelong friend.

During his studies, his parents and an uncle, Joseph Clover, a portrait artist, supported him financially.

Clover and his friends practised their techniques on each other and were always keen to watch and to perform autopsies to learn more about the anatomy of the human body.

Joseph Clover was present when early operations were performed, using ether and chloroform, by Robert Liston, and he later developed equipment for the safer administration of anaesthesia.

Eventually, Clover abandoned surgery and became a leading anaesthetist and is recorded alongside John Snow as a leading figure in the history of anaesthesia.

The case book notes discovered by Christine, were written at the time Clover was a student studying to be an apothecary and surgeon.

Through her research, Christine found that many of Clover's case books and papers had been distributed around the world; often in public collections like the Wellcome Library in London; some as gifts to other libraries and collections; and others had been sold and were now in private collections and their locations not known.

Chasing these down had been an interesting exercise.

And now the cobra - I am sure all present were keen to learn how the cobra appeared in the Joseph Clover story.

To summarise – two young London Zoo workers, who spent the evening drinking with a friend (who was returning to Australia) decided to go to work in an inebriated condition, without sleeping, the next morning.

One, Edward Girling, was so drunk, that in skiting around with a cobra, he was bitten between the eyes and rendered unconscious.

He was rushed to University College Hospital, where Clover and two of his colleagues tried to keep him alive, with their primitive resuscitation techniques, but he died.

Following his death, with the body in the mortuary, Clover recorded observations of the corpse which gave him more understanding of poisoning.

Christine's story of Dr Joseph Clover is recorded in an easy to read book, *The Chloroformist* published by Melbourne University Press.

She was interviewed on Richard Fidler's ABC program on Monday 9th August 2021 and it can be found here:

<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/conversations/christine-ball-doctor-joseph-clover-chloroformist/13480718>



Don Moss (left) Christine Ball and Ross Phillips at the luncheon.

Annual Sir Albert Coates Oration Dinner - 9th November 2023

The Oration will be followed by the Sir Albert Coates Dinner at 7.30 pm in the Albert Coates Complex, Building U, Federation University Australia, Mt Helen.

During the Dinner, several scholarship awardees will speak detailing the study they have been able to undertake due to the financial support from the Albert Coates Memorial Trust.

All are welcome but it is essential to book for the Dinner. The cost of the two course dinner will be \$70 per head.

Bookings may be made online through EFT
Payment: BSB 633 000
Account # 144 729 282

Please ensure you record your name with your online payment.

Phone Bookings and Enquiries to Neil Shiells:
0438 422 455
Email: bereng7@gmail.com

We look forward to catching up with all our loyal supporters.

The University of Melbourne/Royal Australasian College of Surgeons: Surgical Anatomy Scholarship

This year's awardee of the Surgical Anatomy Scholarship is Amy Sylviris.



In accepting the award, Amy writes:

As a junior doctor interested in surgical specialisation, I wanted to start off my training with a foundation in surgical anatomy.

However, through this course I have gained far more than I expected.

I met an inspiring team of teachers and demonstrators; I met like-minded junior doctors with a passion for surgery; and I gained an intimate knowledge of clinical anatomy that was lacking in medical school.

This award is an unexpected bonus to an already rich experience!

Thank you.

The Leckie Scholarship Awards 2023

Three nursing students at Grampians Health Ballarat were awarded scholarships for 2023.

left to right
Belinda Howlett,
Casey Moore and
Manju Jose.



The Leckie scholarships awarded, on behalf of the Albert Coates Memorial Trust, are all contributing to the expansion of Neo-natal Nursing at Grampians Health Ballarat.

Nepal Surgical Elective - Sir Albert Coates Trust Reflection

Over the summer, I was fortunate to partake in a Cardiothoracic and Vascular surgery elective in Kathmandu, Nepal.

As a final year medical student, the experience was an eye-opener, and I believe that it will have a significant impact on my future career as a medical practitioner.

My placement was based in Manmohan Cardiothoracic, Vascular, and Transplant Centre where I was able to interact and learn from a dedicated team of surgeons and junior doctors.

I took part in day-to-day ward rounds, clinics, and was able to scrub into surgeries I would not have the opportunity to as a medical student in Australia.

Whilst the medicine is the same, the healthcare system in Nepal is vastly different from that of Australia.

One of the most striking differences I noticed during my elective was the severity of illnesses of patients in the hospital.

Without a healthcare safety net, patients would not present to the hospital until absolute necessity, often times being at the extremes of their disease progression, stages we mostly do not see in Australia. It was at times confronting, however, the patients' resilience and faith in medical practitioners was awe-inspiring.

My supervisor, Prof Bhagwan, is well renowned for his charity, offering free cardiac surgery to children and the elderly in Nepal.

His name roughly translates to 'God' in Hindi and many of the residents and patients respected him as such.

The elective also allowed me to appreciate the values of Sir Albert Coates.

I was thankful for how eager the Nepalese doctors were to teach me and not only share their medical knowledge but also their life experiences.

I also witnessed the resilience of patients in the face of adversity and learned to appreciate what we are fortunate to have in Australia even more.

In addition to the medical experience, the cultural exposure was equally enriching. I had a very welcoming host family who on weekends took me on hikes, to a religious festival, and cooked delicious Nepalese cuisine. The hospitality and warmth shown by the Nepalese was heartwarming, and I felt humbled to be a part of their community.

Overall, this medical elective has been a life-changing experience for me, and I am incredibly grateful to the Sir Albert Coates Memorial Trust for providing me with the opportunity. The lessons learned during this elective will undoubtedly have a positive impact on my medical career.

James Grant

James was the University of Melbourne Rural Health award winner for 2022. The award was for \$2500.

James pictured with Surgeon, Mr Dinesh, and in front of his placement hospital - Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, Kathmandu, Nepal.



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Donations to the ACMT are tax deductible.

The Albert Coates Memorial Trust sponsors a range of student scholarships at Federation University Australia and the University of Melbourne.

In association with the Department of Health, Victoria, it also offers scholarships for the post-graduate training of rural emergency care nurses.

Scholarships are also offered at the Australian Catholic University (nursing/paramedics), at the University of Notre Dame (medical) and Deakin University (medical).

A Peri-Natal Scholarship is offered at Ballarat Health Services.

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