The APS has had a busy year with various activities:

**Diabetes workshops**

The 8th Annual APS Diabetes Workshop held in Canberra in October 2014 attracted over 150 delegates and built on previous success and popularity. The workshop highlighted cutting edge strategies in management of diabetes in children and adolescents including modern equipment, team based models of care and family based interventions. This interactive collegiate meeting has always been conducted in good spirit with lively discussion. The APS Diabetes Workshop will be in recess in 2015 we offered to combine with the ISPAD meeting in Brisbane on October 7-10.

The APS Diabetes Workshop will resume in Sydney November 2016. The workshop has proven to be a great source of professional development, suited for any paediatricians managing diabetes (including from regions or in training for general paediatrics or endocrinology), diabetes educators, dieticians, psychologists and social workers.

**APS Allergy Workshop**

The inaugural APS Allergy Workshop was convened by Dr Peter Goss and Dr David Bannister in Melbourne in February 2015 with 25 delegates and was a resounding success. The workshop will become an annual event and be a vehicle for professional development for paediatricians with a special interest in allergy.

The next workshop for paediatricians with special interest in allergy is on
Saturday 13th Feb at Quay West Melbourne.

The AGM and Paediatric Workshop
In 2015, the Australian Paediatric Workshop was an overwhelming success with over 50 delegates and a very high quality scientific program as well as practice management workshops. Themes included development of rural child health policy in Australia, children in detention, locum medicine, National Allergy Summit, physician resilience, maritime medicine, eating disorders, and much more.

APS Journal Club and Teleconferences
The APS Journal Club is held 6 times per year and chaired by Dr Michael Williams from Mackay.

Regular APS Teleconferences are another valuable interactive learning tool. The single theme phone teleconferences, chaired by Dr Mark de Souza are led by a tertiary specialist who is an expert in their field.

Advocacy
There has been discussion and pressure within the college and among APS members about the many things that rural paediatricians do which are different. We often feel ignored by top down plans imposed by state governments and major city teaching hospitals from the jobs of those in major teaching hospitals, which are simply un-implementable in more remote areas. A good example has been the roll out of best practice care for children entering Out of Home Care. This has required quite a lot of tweaking to make it common sense enough to work, with more flexible job allocation and time lines when services are thin on the ground.

A number of our members are involved on the working group planning the 17-19 Apr 2016: Caring for Country Kids conference. Since most of paediatrics takes place outside of hospitals we hope it will mostly be about primary health care for rural kids.