

## Why did you choose to be a Doctor?

I wanted to have a job that could help people, that was secure and portable (can go overseas and be a doctor). Though the job is less 'portable' than it used to be.

I am a Vascular Physician - trained as a nephrologist and went overseas to work in research. I returned to Australia and undertook renal medicine research.

After a time, I realized that research did not interest me as a fulltime and continued profession.

A vascular job came up at Concord and I decided to apply for the job. It was a research position at first but became clinical.



this issue  
Dr Tom Karplus

## From Nephrology, research to Vascular Physician

Dr Tom stopped by under his duties as ASMOF Secretary, thankfully he did not mind spending a few moments more with us while we 'picked his brain'.

*Looking back, are there any differences between the 'expectations' of the job and what your 'experiences' of the job are now?*

Vascular medicine is rare in Australia, so the job is developing. Consequently, it was difficult to have an 'expectation' of it. Is vascular medicine where I want it to be? No, but there is great room for improvement.

*Why did you get involved with ASMOF and the Union movement?*

Always knew of ASMOF and when I became a Staff Specialist I felt I should be a member of the Union. The Union had a good reputation, provided a lot of benefits and supported Staff Specialists. The more members the union had the stronger it would be, so I encouraged a great many of my colleagues to join as well.

*Why do you volunteer with ASMOF and how would you suggest someone gets started in volunteering with their Union?*

After being a member for a while, I wanted to contribute more than through fees. I was a councillor for a good few years. The Secretary position was a limited commitment in regard to time, and ASMOF was 'after hours' so I was happy to put my hand up for that.

*What is the proudest moment of your career so far?*

Its difficult to pick a moment. A key thing was

building up the vascular lab and recruiting the current staff. Of course, there are patient issues that are important to me but for privacy issues we can't speak about that.

*What can you see yourself doing in 10 years' time?*

The same thing I am doing now! There is still so much to do.

**"The healthcare system is not in a particularly good place at present... if I can help make changes to improve that, I will."**

*How do you achieve home/work balance?*

Its not too difficult for me because my hobby is bird watching – I am the current Birding NSW president. This provides me with a great outlet during down-time.

*Do you have one suggestion for JMO's that might help them endure training?*

I think that you do need to have a hobby of some sort to 'get away' from work and it is more beneficial if it has nothing to do with medicine. Again, the work/life balance. Otherwise you tend to obsess over the job.