

## Addition to By-Laws Proposed, (Nov 2015)

### CMDFA Speaker Choice Guidelines

Organisers of CMDFA events need to take great care to choose wisely who will be give the platform, particularly if a plenary speaker. The damage from choosing speakers unwisely, can be very significant, to the hearers and to CMDFA reputation.

Example: In 2015 at a CMDFA state event a non-Christian speaker was invited, a Professor, expert on a subject. The talk was informative but not specifically Christian. After the talk in discussion he informed one of the attendees, an Intern, that he was an atheist, and this caused her great discouragement, along with her colleagues, to the extent that she wrote to the CMDFA asking why a non-Christian speaker was chosen to speak at a CMDFA event, and how misleading it was that that not be made clear? An apology was clearly required and was sent to all who attended from the National Chair, admitting it was an error of judgement. This regrettable occurrence has highlighted the need for guidance to be given on speaker choice, and for CMDFA organisers of events to agree to hold certain standards.

**1. The safest and ideal path is to choose speakers from our CMDFA members**, people whom you know personally as godly examples in their lives and practice, who are committed to "Following Christ, integrating faith. Our members form a group of wise, godly and experienced resource people we can trust to understand the purpose of CMDFA events, particularly mentoring and modelling faith in healthcare practice. These are your 'go to" group for medical and dental speakers!

**2. If they are not a CMDFA member, then you have to ask 'Why not?'**. They may be knowledgeable , or a Professor, but more importantly, are they a model in their Christian life? **The speaker must be known personally by one of the organizers (a member) who can vouch for them as an evangelical believer and regular church attender.**

**3. Non-believer or person of unknown faith background - If you can't be sure of their faith background, please do not invite them as official CMDFA speakers.** Such speakers are unable to be mentors of Christian faith and healthcare practice, which is our distinctive.

**4. As a general principle, not just one person, but 2 or 3 experienced CMDFA members should be involved in the speaker choice.** If you're unsure ask other experienced CMDFA leaders you know for their opinion. Use our network to help you!

**5. If an organizer or adviser expresses a concern, and the potential speaker is not well known, then err on the side of caution** and do not move forward with that person. Better safe than sorry.

**6. It is important that organisers ensure every speaker is informed and understands the CMDFA Core Mission and Values, and that they agree to personally endorse it.** Speakers can be asked to sign that they agree with our statement of faith and understand what the CMDFA stands for .

**Please use the Speaker Invitation Commitment (template following)**

**7. Don't be in undue haste. Be prayerful.** Pray and ask God for His wisdom, talk to others, and pray some more. Sometimes meeting with a speaker in an 'no commitment' meeting, to see if there is a good fit can be a great idea.

## **CMDFA Speaker Invitation Commitment**

Name of invited speaker: ..... **CMDFA Member - Yes/ No (circle which)**

Name of CMDFA Member who has invited them: .....

Event date and Description: .....

**To the Speaker:** Please read the information below to introduce the CMDFA to you. After reading, if you can agree with the speaker commitment, thank you for signing and returning to the person who invited you.

**All members of the Christian Medical and Dental Fellowship of Australia affirm their commitment to the below Core Statements of the CMDFA. They are:**

### **1. CMDFA vision and purpose:**

- CREATING COMMUNITY amongst doctors and dentists and students
- ENCOURAGING GROWTH IN CHRIST in our members in the context of the shared vocation of healthcare
- STANDING FOR CHRISTIAN VALUES and providing a forum for developing and integrating Biblical values into daily healthcare practice, including articulating and standing up for Christian medical ethics
- FOSTERING MEDICAL AND DENTAL MISSION & WITNESS in Australia and overseas
- CONNECTING & MENTORING – Fostering friendships, role models and intergenerational mentoring as a valued part of the Fellowship. It is why many members join, and remain members their whole professional lives
- RESOURCING & EQUIPPING doctors, dentists and students through transformational events and quality publications
- BEING A CHRISTIAN VOICE - Our desire is that more and more Christian doctors and dentists choose to identify with the CMDFA by becoming members, adding their voice, their experiences and their willingness to be visible Christians in the marketplace of healthcare to ours, for the honour of Christ's Name.

### **2. CMDFA Basis of belief Statement:**

We believe in the Revelation of the One true God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), and the Gospel of redemption and regeneration through the incarnation, the death, and the bodily resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe in the indwelling of the Holy Spirit until Christ returns finally to fulfil all things in Himself as it is given to us in the Bible, which is the divinely appointed authority for faith and life.

### **3. CMDFA Declaration of Membership:**

"In joining the Christian and Medical and Dental Fellowship of Australia Inc. I declare my faith in God the Father, and in God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ who is my Saviour. I desire to be ruled by God the Holy Spirit speaking through the Bible, the divinely appointed authority in matters of faith and life."

### **4. CMDFA Motto:** Following Christ, integrating faith and practice.

### **Speaker Commitment:**

**I have read and understand what the CMDFA stands for, and can personally affirm the above Statement of Belief. (*Strike out inapplicable*): Though not currently / As a member of the CMDFA, I can affirm the sentiment of the Declaration of Membership and in speaking support the aims of the Fellowship.**

**Signed** ..... **Date:**.....