

## Mandometer treatment of Australian patients with eating disorders

Phillip Gray

**TO THE EDITOR:** Court, Bergh and Södersten raise the issue of why and how some therapies with prima facie evidence for their efficacy have a significant take-up by medical practitioners, while others are allowed to languish, sometimes for decades.<sup>1</sup>

It is 6 years since Bergh and colleagues conducted their Swedish trial on eating disorders, with significant encouraging results.<sup>2</sup> Again they report — albeit this time with a non-randomised but local sample — above-average outcomes.<sup>1</sup> Again, the fact that their patients had had previous treatments that failed renders the results compelling. We have to ask why no one has found the time, money or inclination to attempt to reproduce their findings or examine which elements of their intervention are successful. It would be ironic if the answer is that medical researchers are afraid of the unusual.

While Australian medical research and public health ignore this mandometer treatment, some private health funds have been prepared to contribute up to \$60 000 per patient for it, suggesting that they view it as better value for money than alternative therapies.

Phillip Gray, General Practitioner  
Queanbeyan, NSW.  
gray.qbn@effect.net.au

1 Court J, Bergh CEK, Södersten P. Mandometer treatment of Australian patients with eating disorders [letter]. *Med J Aust* 2008; 188: 120-121.

2 Bergh C, Brodin U, Lindberg G, Södersten P. Randomized controlled trial of a treatment for anorexia and bulimia nervosa. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* 2002; 99: 9486-9491. □

## South African medical graduates in Australia

Peter C Arnold

**TO THE EDITOR:** More than 2000 graduates of South African medical schools have migrated to Australia since 1948. Unlike many immigrants from Europe before and after World War II, all were fluent in English and most were able to start practising almost immediately.

In chronicling this unique migration and its contribution to Australian health care, I am trying to contact, by email, as many as possible of the 1800 South African doctors now practising here, as well as surviving spouses or children of the 100 or so who have died since arrival. As a 1961 graduate of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, I have a particular personal interest in this migration.

Assisted by a sociologist and a statistician, I have prepared an email questionnaire. Responses will be de-identified before analysis.

I would be grateful if graduates of South African medical schools would contact me by email.

Peter C Arnold, Former Chairman, Federal Council, Australian Medical Association, and Former Deputy President, New South Wales Medical Board  
Sydney, NSW.  
parnold@ozemail.com.au □

## Editor

Martin Van Der Weyden, MD, FRACP, FRCPA

## Deputy Editors

Bronwyn Gaut, MBBS, DCH, DA  
Ruth Armstrong, BMed

Ann Gregory, MBBS, GradCertPopHealth  
Tanya Grassi, MBBS(Hons), BSc(Vet)(Hons)  
Tatiana Janusic, BMedSc, DPH, FRACGP

## Senior Assistant Editors

Helen Randall, BSc, DipOT  
Kerrie Lawson, BSc(Hons), PhD, MASM

## Assistant Editors

Elsina Meyer, BSc  
Josephine Wall, BA, BAppSci, GradDipLib  
Katherine McLeod, BSc(Hons)  
Rivqa Berger, BSc(Hons), MA  
Suzanne Habjan, BSc(Hons), PhD

## Scientific Proof Readers

Christine Binskin, BSc  
Sara Thomas, BSc

## Editorial Administrator

Kerrie Harding

## Editorial Assistant

Laelie Macbeth

## Production Manager

Glenn Carter

## Production Coordinator

Peter Humphries

## Web Manager

Peter Hollo, BSc(Hons), BA, LMusA

## Web Coordinator

Robert Paris

## Librarian

Jackie Treadaway, BAComm(Info)

## Consultant Biostatistician

Val GebSKI, BA, MStat

## Content Review Committee

Craig S Anderson, PhD, FRACP  
Leon A Bach, PhD, FRACP  
Flavia M Cicuttini, PhD, FRACP  
Jennifer J Conn, FRACP, MCLinEd  
Marie-Louise B Dick, MPH, FRACGP  
Mark F Harris, MD, FRACGP  
Paul D R Johnson, PhD, FRACP  
Tom Kotsimbos, MD, FRACP  
Campbell Thompson, MD, FRACP  
Tim P Usherwood, MD, FRACP  
E Haydn Walters, DM, FRACP  
Bruce Waxman, FRACS, FRCS  
Owen D Williamson, FRACS, GradDipClinEpi  
Jane Young, PhD, FAFPHM  
Jeffrey D Zajac, PhD, FRACP

## Australasian Medical Publishing Co Pty Ltd

## Advertising Manager: Peter Butterfield

Media Coordinators: Deahn Taylor; Julie Chappell

The Medical Journal of Australia (MJA) is published on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month by the Australasian Medical Publishing Company Proprietary Limited, 277 Clarence Street, Sydney, NSW 2000. ABN 20 000 005 854. Telephone: (02) 9562 6666. Fax: (02) 9562 6699. E-mail: medjaust@ampco.com.au. The Journal is printed by Webstar Australia, 83 Derby Street, Silverwater, NSW 2128.

MJA on the Internet: <http://www.mja.com.au/>

None of the Australasian Medical Publishing Company Proprietary Limited, ABN 20 000 005 854, the Australian Medical Association Limited, or any of its servants and agents will have any liability in any way arising from information or advice that is contained in *The Medical Journal of Australia* (MJA). The statements or opinions that are expressed in the Journal reflect the views of the authors and do not represent the official policy of the Australian Medical Association unless this is so stated. Although all accepted advertising material is expected to conform to ethical and legal standards, such acceptance does not imply endorsement by the Journal. All literary matter in the Journal is covered by copyright, and must not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by electronic or mechanical means, photocopying, or recording, without written permission.

Published in 2 volumes per year.

Annual Subscription Rates for 2008 (Payable in Advance) to:

AMPCo, Locked Bag 3030, Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012

Individual Subscriptions (includes 10% GST)

Australia: \$A368.50, Medical students (Australia only): \$A60.00

Overseas: \$A474.00

Indexes are published online every 6 months.

Single or back issues contact: AMPCo (02) 9562 6666.

## Advice to Authors—

<http://www.mja.com.au/public/information/instruc.html>

28264 circulation as at  
29 October 2007



ISSN 0025-729X

## MJA Advertisers Index

### ACT Health

Medical officer vacancies 2009 . . . . . p175

### Merck Sharp & Dohme

Januvia . . . . . Outside back cover

### NAB Health

Medicare easyclaim . . . . . Inside front cover

### Solvay

Physiotens . . . . . p137

### The Weekend Australian

Health section . . . . . p183

### University of Melbourne

Sir William Upjohn Medal . . . . . p165

**2009 Dr Ross Ingram Memorial Essay Competition**



**Are you an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander with something to say about Indigenous health? TELL US YOUR STORY!**

The 2009 Dr Ross Ingram Memorial Essay Competition is open to any Indigenous person who is working, researching or training in a health-related field. The winner(s) receive \$5,000 in prize money.

Essays should be no more than 2000 words long, and must be submitted by Friday, 23 January 2009.

For more details on the competition and the prize, visit:  
<http://www.mja.com.au/public/information/RossIngramCompetition.html>  
<http://www.mja.com.au/public/information/instruc.html>  
 Ph: (02) 9562 6666 Email: medjaust@ampco.com.au