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On 17 September 2015, the Members of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine resolved, by special resolution, to change the name to the Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine. This name change was registered by ASIC on 25 September 2015. Our acronym (ASHM) and logo will remain the same.

I am really excited about this change, it has been a long time coming and really does reflect the multiple foci of our work at ASHM.

This new name better reflects the scope and reach of our work. In 2009 when ASHM became a company limited by guarantee the constitution was changed to indicate that the society works in the areas of HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health medicine. ASHM has used the by line: *supporting the HIV, viral hepatitis and sexual health workforce* for many years.

While ASHM had its inception in HIV, it has worked in a committed fashion in viral hepatitis since 1999 and it has always worked in the sexual health space, with sexual health physicians comprising a significant section of the membership.

ASHM remains a multidisciplinary society, committed to working closely with colleagues across the sector. The name change is not designed to encroach on the work of any other organisation. It will though allow the Society to promote its work to the viral hepatitis and sexual health workforce directly, rather than through the lens of HIV.

The name change received the following endorsements:

**Deborah Bateson, Chair, Australasian Sexual Health Alliance.** ASHM has provided a huge amount of support to ASHA and the broad range of health care providers working in the field of sexual health and this name change both clarifies and highlights this important role.

**Cherie Bennett, President, Australasian Sexual Health and HIV Nurses Association.** As the ASHHNA President and on behalf of the ASHHNA executive I am writing to advise ASHHNA endorses the suggested name change for ASHM. The executive agree the name change will better reflect the work of ASHM.

**Jill Benson AM, General Practitioner, South Australia.** ASHM has been providing support to the viral hepatitis and sexual health workforce for a long time. They now provide the education program in SA for GPs to become prescribers of medication for hepatitis B and hepatitis C. I think the name change reflects the breadth of work ASHM is already doing.

**Ed Gane, Head of the Liver Transplant Unit Auckland District Health and Director, ASHM Board.** ASHM has been supporting general practitioners to play a greater role in viral hepatitis medicine for a long time. I think this change reflects that, it is right that those clinicians should be encouraged to join the Society and put their stamp on it.

**Krispin Hajkowicz, Chair, Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases Special Interest Group on Viral Hepatitis.** ASHM has supported us to form the viral hepatitis SIG in ASID. We are together providing opportunities for ID physicians, particularly those in training to get exposure to learning about viral hepatitis. I hope this name change will make membership of the society more attractive to ID physicians with an interest in viral hepatitis.

**Jo Morgan, President, Australasian Hepatology Association.** ASHM has been providing training for nurses in hepatitis B and C for many years now. This name change will reflect the support that ASHM provides not only to the HIV sector, but also to the viral hepatitis and sexual health workforces. Hopefully this change assists more nurses to realise and access the opportunities provided by the society.

**Lynne Wray, President of the Australasian Chapter of Sexual Health Medicine.** The Chapter welcomes this name change as it more clearly reflects the important role that ASHM plays in education and training for a broad range of clinicians including fellows and advanced trainees of AChSHM, GPs, sexual health nurses and other clinicians who have special interests in the areas of STIs, HIV and BBVs. ASHM has worked hard to support the sexual health sector and this change of name clearly reflects an ongoing commitment to this work.

Kind regards

Levinia Crooks  
CEO, Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine



**ashm**

Supporting the HIV, Viral Hepatitis  
and Sexual Health Workforce

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