

GENERAL PRACTICE LINK - September 2008

WELCOME TO THE SEPTEMBER GENERAL PRACTICE LINK

The financial meltdown overseas continues to carry with it a lot of uncertainty, while here back home we have uncertainty of a different kind. The country is now in pre-election mode with the election date set for November 8.

So while the parties are battling it out, we've been busy finalising and distributing the IPAC Election Manifesto, which we hope has crossed your desk by now. If not, why not visit our website and print off a copy to read (www.ipac.org.nz)

In this issue, we've added a new section to our newsletter "Getting to know you..." where we profile one of our members. We hope you enjoy it!

Read on to find out what we've been up to during September, and if you have any feedback then let us know...email ipacnews@ipac.org.nz.

GETTING OUT AND ABOUT

The current priority for our Chair, Dr Bev O'Keefe, and CEO, Victor Klap has been to meet with members to further discuss how to advance the concept of a united general practice voice.

To date they have attended meetings in Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch, Auckland (4), Hutt Valley, Whanganui, Rotorua and Tauranga. Visits to our members and associated organisations continue, with meetings planned for October scheduled in Hamilton, Hawkes Bay, and the Hutt Valley (again).

These visits include meetings with the Boards and also with GPs, Practice Nurses and Practice Managers and are providing us with very useful grassroots feedback.

IPAC MANIFESTO

Our Election Manifesto has been sent out to members of parliament, government officials, and practices around the country, highlighting our priorities for a post election government, these include:

- Establish a General Practice Advisory Board reporting to the Minister of Health to provide strategic advice to the Minister to ensure New Zealanders continue to enjoy access to a viable, sustainable general practice.
- Increase funding to ensure affordable access to after-hours care.
- Target funding for those on low or assisted incomes.
- Invest in training more doctors and nurses to cover a looming workforce crisis.
- Foster an environment in which a general practice led quality and safety agenda for primary care and general practice can be developed.

We encourage you to read our Manifesto and, if you support our proposals, to advocate locally for them.

The IPAC Election Manifesto is available from the ipac website (www.ipac.org.nz).

IPAC (iCEO) EXECUTIVE GROUP

The iCEO Group has undergone some changes in the last month. An IPAC CEO Executive Group has been established with the iCEO Group. This group will have responsibilities around progressing IPAC Annual Plan objectives and specific projects as directed by the Executive through Victor Klap as CEO.

The IPAC Executive CEO group met on Friday, 26 September. Key items considered included:

- Long Term Condition (LTC) Framework – A presentation was made by Dr Jane O’Hallahan, Ministry of Health, on the proposed LTC framework. The presentation was part of their ongoing consultation with the sector. Copies of the presentation are available on request from Dominique Sutherland (dominiquesutherland@ipac.org.nz)
- Transition of Care Plus program to Care Plus Fund – The Ministry of Health paper outlining the framework for the next phase for Care Plus proposes significant changes to current arrangements. The iCEO Executive Group agreed to prepare a coordinated response to the Executive detailing concerns.
- IMAC Report on the cost of delivering childhood immunizations – the iCEO Executive Group will be strongly advocating for an increased fee.
- Maintaining value of first contact care capitation funding – The PHO Agreement states the value of capitation will be maintained to avoid fee “creep” but this is not happening. Currently there is no official process for establishing the amount of “creep”. The iCEO Executive Group will take this to PSAAP and progress further.
- General practice induction “tool-kit” – this was an idea generated by the iCEO Executive Group to help new staff at MoH and DHBs to improve their understanding of the general practice environment. The tool-kit will be developed and distributed to all members organisations for use at a local level.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7 November 2008 and will be a meeting of the full iCEO Group.

SAFE MEDICATIONS MANAGEMENT (SMM) PROGRAMME

In 2007 the Government established the Quality Improvement Committee (QIC) to oversee and promote a coordinated national approach to quality improvement in the health sector. QIC has endorsed five workstreams to help fulfil this objective and these workstreams have received substantial funding support from Government. One of these is the SMM programme.

IPAC has been invited to work with SMM to address a number of primary/secondary transition issues (including eReferral and eDischarge), and provide an impetus for agreement and adoption of a standard for eReferral, eDischarge and Medicines Reconciliation.

Fiona Thomson, IPAC Project Manager, has been appointed to work with SMM and she sees her key role being to engage clinical leaders from general practice, community pharmacy and residential care to provide the input on safe medication management.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...



Brett Roche is a GP at Birkenhead Medical Centre on Auckland's North Shore. Brett is also a member of the IPAC Executive.

1. What is the best piece of advice your parents ever gave you? *Never wear sandals. Ever. Never jog in speedos. Ever.*
2. What is your most embarrassing moment? *There's been a few, but peeing my pants in year 5 in primary school would be right up there.*
3. What is your favourite movie/tv series? *Tough one, but I would have to say 'Snatch' with Brad Pitt and Benicio Del Toro is my current fav movie, and 'Seinfeld' my all-time fav TV series.*
4. What is the best dining experience you've ever had? *Another tough one! Auckland has some fabulous eating places, but it's hard to beat the great little Italian restaurants in Melbourne which I always make an effort to dine at whenever I'm there.*
5. What is the most expensive item of clothing you've ever bought? *My \$600 black leather jacket I bought from Hunters and Collectors. Sadly stolen when my house was broken into a few years ago. Hmmm.*
6. Where is your favourite place in the world? *There's still much of the world I want to see, but of places I've visited so far I'll narrow it down to two: my fav place overseas is the south of France, beautiful weather, gorgeous cities and villages and delicious cuisine; in NZ it doesn't get any better than sitting on the deck of my sister's bach in Waiheke looking out over the water sipping an ice cold Heineken!*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

If you have a conference, workshop or other initiative running in 2008 and would like it mentioned in the General Practice Link email ipacnews@ipac.org.nz.

Australian General Practice Network (AGPN) Forum

29 October – 1 November, Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin, Australia
Real Health Solutions

www.gpnetworkforum.com.au or Trisha Wong at twong@agpn.com.au.

Innov'08

3 – 5 November, Wellington Town Hall, Wellington

Weaving Innovation into Health

For more information and to register please visit www.innov08.org.nz

Southlink Health Members Only

22-23 November, St David Lecture Theatre Complex, University of Otago, Dunedin

Southlink Health AGM & Conference

claire_ashley@southlink.co.nz

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We welcome your feedback on the Link and ideas for future issues. To have your say please contact ipacnews@ipac.org.nz.