

GENERAL PRACTICE LINK – JULY 2009

WELCOME TO THE JULY GENERAL PRACTICE LINK

As if the cold weather wasn't enough, we now have the Influenza A H1N1 (swine flu) to deal with! You will be aware that the numbers [with](#) swine flu are increasing. The Ministry of Health advises that this trend is likely to continue over the coming weeks and months. This kind of pandemic will affect your business. It is important you develop a plan, with your employees involvement, that allows you to respond flexibly. The Department of Labour website at www.dol.govt.nz has information and ideas on how to manage the pandemic, as well as the rights [and](#) obligations of employees. We urge you to have a look if you have no plan in place. We hope your practices are coping with the additional workload, and that you are keeping well and managing to avoid it.

The past month has been particularly busy for IPAC with the completion of our very successful June 27th network seminar, full PSAAP meeting on July 23rd, and ongoing work with QI4GP. We have also begun arranging our IPAC Leaders summit to be held later in August.

Enjoy this latest edition of General Practice Link.

IPAC MEMBER SEMINAR: “Clinically Led Networks – The Next Generation”

Our Member seminar was held on Saturday 27th June. Fifty representatives from member organisations were joined by guests from other national general practice organisations, pharmacy organisations, and the physiotherapy private practitioners association. The day focused on a detailed discussion on the National party's “Better, Sooner, More Convenient” policy discussion document, with particular focus on what we can do to respond to the government's challenge to “step up”. It was a highly interactive and constructive day, and the Executive looks forward to receiving the report in time for our August 5th meeting..

We had great pleasure in welcoming Hon. Tony Ryall who spoke to the gathering, and then joined us in the workshop for some time afterwards. IPAC has since written to the Minister regarding our feedback from members as to their priorities for the government, and for ourselves. That letter has been circulated to member organisations for your information.

IPAC LEADERS SUMMIT

On August 21-22 the IPAC Executive is hosting an IPAC Leaders summit in Rotorua to define the future direction of our organization. Clinical leaders from all our member organisations have been invited to participate, along with the IPAC CEOs executive group, the GPNA executive, and invited representatives from other network or national organisations with whom we work closely. Our Executive remains committed to striving for unity, and to working with other organisations to achieve this in the interests of general practice and our patients. We aim to have a clear direction for IPAC by our October AGM.

QI4GP UPDATE

QI4GP continues to gain momentum. IPAC and the RNZCGP continue to work closely together over this initiative. Currently we are seeking funding to support several major projects which would fit under the qi4gp umbrella. We are also speaking to a number of national forums on qi4gp over the next few weeks.

PSAAP UPDATE

On July 23rd, the full IPAC PSAAP negotiating team participated in the PSAAP negotiations, along with our partners the PHO Alliance team. The agreement that we would work in this way has enabled IPAC to have a clear organized general practice focus while the PHO Alliance has a wider PHO view. Conway Powell (lead negotiator IPAC) and Hamish Kynoch (lead negotiator PHOA) worked very well together, with Dr Harley Aish as the clinical lead. The joint team carries mandates for 39 PHOs at these national negotiations. While there were no major contentious issues on the table at this meeting, our team held their agreed positions on the issues that were on the agenda. The full PSAAP group meet again in November, and in the interim Conway Powell and Hamish Kynoch will attend PSAAP facilitators meetings.

SAFE MEDICATION MANAGEMENT (SMM) UPDATE

A National Medicines Chart has been developed by the Safe and Quality use of Medicines Group in liaison with the SMM team, and approved by the Steering Group to be piloted in two DHBs in an adult inpatient medical/surgical ward setting.

Hawke's Bay DHB, West Coast DHB, and MidCentral DHB will be the next three DHBs to implement Medicine Reconciliation in their respective hospitals. This will be done by December 2009.

GENERAL PRACTICE NURSING ALLIANCE (GPNA)

Ros Rowarth – personal reflections 20 years on...

This week marks 20 years since I started practice nursing, a career I came to by chance but have stayed in by choice.

When I started, I had no idea of the breadth of knowledge needed, to be a good practice nurse; neither did I realize then what an enormous privilege it is to be so closely involved in the lives and families of the people we care for.

I have delivered babies and, held the hands of people as they died some of them in the same families. I have given bad news and cried, given good news and celebrated. From birth to death, I have been a part of their lives

Twenty years on, I am now looking after the children of babies I delivered, and have some families of four generations that are all in the practice. What other field of nursing can give you that involvement?

The role of the practice nurse has grown and expanded in the last 20 years and we now have the opportunities and skills to contribute to many areas of health. We are multi skilled- specialist generalists who manage long term chronic conditions, suture wounds, cope with emergency situations, vaccinate babies and children, offer advice, comfort and counsel to many. Every day is different and nothing can be predicted.

We are increasingly recognized as an integral part of the general practice team with complementary skills, knowledge and attributes, professionals in our own right.

As nursing leaders we have a responsibility to be encouraging new nurses to consider practice nursing as a career choice. So often it is seen as a way out, an escape from shift work, somewhere to rest while they consider their next career move. This certainly doesn't mean they are less of a practice nurse but I would love it to be seen as a positive choice, a good career option... We need to be ensuring that student nurses and new graduates all have the opportunity to experience the joys and rewards that practice nursing brings

As with general practitioners, we are an ageing workforce and we must work together to ensure the future of this specialist area of nursing. The development of PDRPS, and the NETP programmers are an integral part of this, but just as important is the way we as experienced nurses, portray practice nursing, and how much we encourage new nurses to work with us.

Twenty years ago this opportunity fell in to my lap. How lucky can you get?

GPNA AGM

Brief update:

- We held our AGM by teleconference last month and that worked well. Thank you to all who attended.
- Office bearers are to be decided this week and will be updated on the next Link
- Our Leadership Day is postponed until Swine Flu is having less of an impact on our lives.

NATIONAL MAORI CANCER FORUM, 12 – 14 AUGUST 2009, Rotorua

When cancer rates for Māori men are 55.6% higher than non-Māori and 83.5% higher for Māori women than non-Māori* the announcement of a Māori Cancer Forum is both critical and opportune. You can help by ensuring your colleagues are aware of the forum and given an opportunity to attend.

To be held from 12 – 14 August 2009 in Rotorua , home of Te Arawa, the forum will provide the platform for the exposition of indigenous research, medicine, services and experiences from around the world. Bringing together people from all perspectives of the cancer journey to gain knowledge, skills and expertise to ensure excellence in cancer service and to reduce barriers to access of services for Māori and whānau affected by cancer, the speaker line-up includes some of the world's leading indigenous medical specialists.

International speakers include Dr Felicia Hodge of Center for American Indian/Indigenous Research and Education; Dr Gail Garvey and Dr Patricia Valery of Indigenous Research Programme, Queensland Institute of Medical Research and Matthew Town of Northwest Tribal Cancer Project, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board.

Registrations are now open, and forum details are available at www.maoricancer.co.nz.

** Robson B, Harris R. (eds).2007.Hauora: Maori Standards of Health IV. A study of the years 2000-2005. Wellington: Te Ropu Rangahau Hauora a Eru Pomare*

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...



Martin Seers - I spend about 80% of my time working as a GP at my practice of 16 yrs, in suburban Christchurch. I am the chair of Pegasus Health since October 07, since David Caygill left for the Electricity commission. I've been on the board of PH 12 yrs, and involved in projects before that. That also takes me to a number of other positions on the IPAC Executive, CDHB Clinical Board, and Healthy Christchurch Champions.

1. What is the best piece of advice your parents ever gave you? Probably to trust and believe in yourself – has always served me well.
2. What is your most embarrassing moment? Possibly my best man at my wedding – he knew me too well and was trying to embarrass me, successfully I might add!
3. What is your favourite movie/tv series? Slumdog millionaire – I am a bit of an Indiaphile – did my elective there and found it a fascinating place.
4. What is the best dining experience you've ever had? It was in "le train bleu, Gare de Lyon ", in Paris – an outrageous building and fabulous food. I almost missed this experience which got recommended by a passenger we got talking to. It was superb!
5. What is the most expensive item of clothing you've ever bought? Probably my 16yr old daughter's formal dress!! (probably not what you meant)
6. Where is your favourite place in the world? That's a tough one, but I have to say New Zealand, then Turkey a close second.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The 2nd Annual Clinical Governance for the NZ Health Sector Conference

29 & 30 July 2009

<http://www.conferenz.co.nz/2nd-annual-clinical-governance-for-the-nz-health-sector-conference.html>

Pharmac Seminar Series

Regular seminars, held at PHARMAC, Wellington

13 August – Current Themes in Cardiology

4 September – Sleep Problems and Mental Health Issues

14 September – Managing Respiratory Infections the “NICE” Way

28 September – Management of Acne

6 October – Medicines Management including in the Older Person

19 October – Common Paediatric Conditions in General Practice

<http://seminarseries.pharmac.govt.nz/seminars.php>

National Maori Cancer Forum

12-14 August, Rotorua

www.maoricancer.co.nz

Cutting Edge 2009

10-11 September

Te Papa, Wellington

www.cmsl.co.nz/go/cuttingedge

RNZCGP Conference 2009

9-12 September 2009

Claiming the space: The future of primary health care

<http://www.conference.co.nz/index.cfm/RNZCGP09>

The Australian General Practice Forum 2009

4-7 November 2009

RNZCGP Annual Scientific Conference – Myths and Realities

<http://www.gpnetworkforum.com.au/site/index.cfm>

If you have a conference, workshop or other initiative running in 2008/09 and would like it mentioned in the General Practice Link email ipacnews@ipac.org.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.

