

## **GENERAL PRACTICE LINK - October 2008**

### **WELCOME TO THE OCTOBER GENERAL PRACTICE LINK**

This month's televised leaders debate between John Key and Helen Clarke provoked much discussion. It could be said that this was the first time Helen Clark met her match in a television debate. Things are heating up, with the election this weekend. Don't forget to vote on November 8!

On a more personal front, we said farewell to two of General Practice most influential leaders. Read on to find out more...

If you have any feedback, please email us at [ipacnews@ipac.org.nz](mailto:ipacnews@ipac.org.nz).

### **GENERAL PRACTICE LEADERS FAREWELLED**

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October a formal dinner was held to farewell the leaving of Tom Marshall (dubbed the "father of organised general practice") and Paul McCormack (founding director and leader of Pegasus Health) from the IPAC Board.

The dinner was a grand event with Members and representatives from the NZMA, RNZCGP and RGPN. Many entertaining speeches eulogising Tom and Paul were heard throughout the evening, and much laughter shared.

We'd like to thank both Tom and Paul for their huge contribution to organised general practice and IPAC. We wish you all the best for your future endeavours.

See below for some fun snippets from Tom.

### **IPAC EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS**

The Executive Committee election was held on 18 October. We are thrilled to announce the re-appointment of Bev O'Keefe and Shelley Frost as IPAC Chair and Deputy Chair respectively for the 2008/09 term.

Congratulations also to Brett Roche, Alan Mangan on their election to the IPAC Executive, and Peter Didsbury, Martin Seers, Murray Tilyard, Shelley Frost, and Ros Rowarth on their appointment.

### **CURRENT ISSUES**

The PSAAP Facilitators met on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Key items discussed included:

- **PHO Performance Programme** – IPAC is concerned about Stage 2 Clinical Indicator CVD and Diabetes data. This data will be extracted and transferred from practice management systems and submitted to PHOs in an identifiable, individual patient form without clarity as to whether patient informed consent

processes are in place to support this transfer. This is an issue that has significant ethical and privacy implications for GPs.

IPAC has raised this issue at PSAAP and has also sought clarification from the PHO Performance Programme.

- **Immunisation** – IPAC believes DHBs have an obligation to increase payment to general practice for immunisations. This follows release of the DHB commissioned report reviewing the average cost of an immunisation. We have written to the DHBs lead CEO about this and also raised this at PSAAP on 23 October. We have asked for a formal response from DHBs and this will be considered on 3 December when PSAAP facilitators next meet.
- **First Contact Care Funding** – The national DHB-PHO contract includes an obligation which reads *'The government has made a commitment to maintaining the value of its investment in services funded under Parts A-I of the PHO Agreement'* This obligation was negotiated in 2003 between general practice and the Government when the access funding was first being introduced. This obligation is one of the cornerstones of the Fee Policy.

IPAC believes that the current adjustment process is not maintaining the value of capitation funding and that is a breach of contract. The current adjustment process also undermines the negotiated agreement between general practice and Government. This is a very important issue in the context of maintaining viable general practice, and lower cost or free access to primary care services. This also impacts on the sustainability of all PHO funded programs and management services.

Together with the PHO Alliance we have raised this issue at PSAAP. This will be further considered on 3 December when PSAAP facilitators next meet. It will also be brought to the attention of the incoming government post election.

We will report further on all 3 issues as developments occur.

## **SAFE MEDICATION MANAGEMENT (SMM) WORKSTREAM**

SMM is one of five workstreams under the National Quality Improvement Committee (see [www.qic.health.govt.nz](http://www.qic.health.govt.nz)). The lead DHB for SMM is Hutt Valley DHB and they have engaged IPAC to facilitate input from primary care around primary/secondary transition issues.

Fiona Thomson, IPAC Project Manager, attended a workshop in Wellington this week involving the four SMM working groups. Fiona participated in the Medicines Reconciliation working group which will be our initial area of focus and will involve general practice, community pharmacy and residential care. Nominations and volunteers for this primary care group will be gratefully received by Fiona at [fionathomson@ipac.org.nz](mailto:fionathomson@ipac.org.nz).

## IPAC MANIFESTO

We are pleased to report that the IPAC Manifesto received excellent media coverage following its release, with overall feedback being very positive. The manifesto will continue to form the basis of IPAC's advocacy.

If you haven't yet read the manifesto, please visit [www.ipac.org.nz](http://www.ipac.org.nz) and download a copy.

## GETTING OUT AND ABOUT

Over the past couple of months our Chair, Dr Bev O'Keefe, and CEO, Victor Klap have been travelling the country meeting with members to further discuss how to advance the concept of a united general practice voice.

This round of member visits is nearing conclusion, with South Link Health and Comprehensive Health Services visits scheduled for November.

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU...



Dr Marshall has been a general practitioner in Mt Eden for 42 years. He is a Board member of the Auckland Cancer Society and of IPAC, a Fellow and Accredited Director of the Institute of Directors and a former president of the New Zealand Medical Association.

1. What is the best piece of advice your parents ever gave you? *"Keep your eye on the ball"*
2. What is your most embarrassing moment? *Too many to rank them in order. However, watching Auckland fumble the Ranfurly Shield away last month is high up there. The Lord said to Moses, "Cheer up, things could be worse", so Moses cheered up and things got worse.*
- 3.
4. What is your favourite movie/tv series? *"Chariots of Fire" and I am enjoying professional rugby less and less as the years go by.*
5. What is the best dining experience you've ever had? *A meal in Paris in 1975, when we had run out of cash and had to use the rather new Diners' Club credit card. When we returned to London, the bill for the meal exceeded all our other*

*expenses of that weekend, including petrol, hotel, other meals and sundry purchases! What is more, it was worth it.*

6. What is the most expensive item of clothing you've ever bought? *A fur coat for Lorraine, on her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and that was worth it, too.*



*Tom and Lorraine, circa 1960.*

7. Where is your favourite place in the world? *Anywhere in New Zealand, but the Bay of Islands, Wanaka and, of course, Auckland (Eden Park is going to get better), for preference.*

## **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](mailto:ipacnews@ipac.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](mailto: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](mailto:ipacnews@ipac.org.nz).