

GENERAL PRACTICE LINK - MARCH 2009

WELCOME TO THE MARCH GENERAL PRACTICE LINK

Can you believe we are already in the second week of March? What a wonderful summer we have had - let's hope the warm weather continues until at least Easter.

Unfortunately the hot, dry summer has not been a good experience for all, particularly our Victorian colleagues who are dealing with the tragic aftermath of devastating wild fires. We have sent messages of support and our condolences to family and friends of colleagues who lost their lives in the fires.

The general practice landscape is moving very quickly under new health policy and having our Executive Chair, Bev O'Keefe on the ground in Wellington several days a week places us in a good position to have meaningful participation in policy development and implementation.

If the first quarter is anything to go by, it will be a busy but constructive year for Organised General Practice. We hope you enjoy this edition of General Practice Link.

IPAC STRATEGIC REVIEW

A number of factors including a new government, growing GPLF relationships and the departure of our long time CEO, Victor Klap, have prompted a review of our strategic direction and priorities. General Practice quality and safety (qi4gp), United General Practice and strengthening membership support are likely to have a prominent focus over the next few months, as is our response to the changed political landscape. We will test our ideas with you at the next Council meeting on 14 March.

HEALTH INFORMATION PRIVACY POLICY

The IPAC Health Information Privacy Policy has now been finalised with the endorsement of the Privacy Commissioner. The Policy document will be available to IPAC members along with a Privacy Toolkit (on DVD) for use by IPAC members and their practices. The privacy policy will then be mailed out to all practices.

SAFE MEDICATION MANAGEMENT (SMM) PRIMARY CARE WORKSTREAM

Membership of this Primary Care Transition Work Stream is now complete and the group has commenced work around clinical, process and information flow mapping around a range of primary / secondary transition points.

Initially the group will focus on simple but significant ways patient safety can be enhanced around transition as well as contributing to the development of the medicines component of electronic transfer of patient information. The work of this group is complementary to current activity on eReferral, eDischarge and GP2GP Electronic File Transfer.

PSAAP Update

Conway Powell has taken on the role as lead negotiator of the IPAC negotiating team. He brings huge skill, experience and energy to the role and is working well with the team. Conway represented IPAC at the PSAAP facilitators meeting on March 5th. He will be presenting to the IPAC Council at their meeting on March 14th.

GENERAL PRACTICE NURSING ALLIANCE (GPNA)

Nursing Leadership in Primary Healthcare Meeting

On 27th February several members of GPNA joined between fifty and sixty other nurses for a one day meeting at Te Papa, to discuss nursing leadership in Primary Healthcare. The day was organised by Mark Jones, MoH Chief Nurse.

Representation included NZNO, College of Practice Nurses, GPNA, College of Nurses Aotearoa, Plunket, Mental Health, Health line, DHBNZ, Maori Nurses, Primary Health Care Expert Advisory Group.

Aims of the day included:

- Improving collaboration and teamwork
- Improving communication
- Strengthening networks
- Identifying leaders and building an identifiable leadership structure
- Learning from each others successes
- Working on a unified voice for nursing

It was a day filled with excellent discussion and networking, and it is always good to discover there is more that unites us than divides us.

Annual Leadership Day

We are now organising our annual leadership day and AGM scheduled for the end of May. The theme will be around leading nurses in the new political environment and we will be sending out more information soon.

RURAL GENERAL PRACTICE NETWORK CONFERENCE

This year's conference from 26 – 29 March is held in Wellington city's centrally-located ConventionCentre and the theme is "Rural life, rural health – look what we've got!".

Pre-conference workshops cover "Ultrasound update for experienced doctors" and "Rural life - rural teachers". Sessions include those on ultrasound, suturing and general practice as a business, plus more. There is also a political session with Minister of Health Tony Ryall on the Saturday. Visit www.rgpn.org.nz to register or contact communications and membership manager Rob Olsen on 04 495 5887.

Meanwhile, nominations and applications are now open for the Peter Snow Award given in recognition of service to rural health in New Zealand. The award honours the life and work of Dr Peter Snow who died in March 2006. Dr Snow was a rural general practitioner based in Tapanui and the award celebrates his contribution to rural communities as well as supporting, encouraging and recognising achievement in rural health research projects, innovation and service. It is open to current and retired general practitioners, rural nurses and undergraduate and postgraduate trainees who are based in New Zealand. The award consists of **\$1000 and a medal** to be presented at the Network's conference. Applications close March 9. Peter Snow Award application/nomination forms are available at: www.rgpn.org.nz

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...



Ros Rowarth is a senior practice nurse at Ranolf Medical Centre, where she has worked for almost 20 years. She is also a director of the Rotorua General Practice Group and a member of the Practice Nurse Advisory Group, IPAC Executive, GPLF, ACC General Practice Liaison Group and a newly appointed member of the PHO Performance Programme Advisory Group.

She also works as an assessor for the RNZCGP Cornerstone Programme, and is chair of the GPNA.

1. What is the best piece of advice your parents ever gave you?
I don't know if this was the best piece of advice my parents gave me but it's the only one I remember. My father, an ex British Naval Officer told me I should always be able to tie a reef knot and a bowline with my eyes closed. I never thought to ask him why, have never needed to, but should the need arise, I certainly can.
2. What is your most embarrassing moment?
My most embarrassing moment remains horrifyingly clear – it's the early 80s, I'm on my way to a Jazzercise class wearing leotard, leg warmers and a headband, when the battery fell out of the bottom of my elderly MGB as I went around a roundabout, blocking the road and stopping the traffic!
3. What is your favourite movie/tv series? Boston Legal closely followed by Black Adder.
4. What is the best dining experience you've ever had? Not sure if this was the best but remains the most memorable 32 years on. I was eating roast duck and chestnuts in a cafe in Paris. It was disgusting and I haven't eaten meat since.
5. What is the most expensive item of clothing you've ever bought? My Red MX5, I see it as an extension of my handbag and therefore a fashion accessory.
6. Where is your favourite place in the world? My favourite place in the world- Round my dining room table on Christmas morning with all my children.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Rural General Practice Network

27-29 March, Wellington

"Rural Health, rural Life – look what we've got!"

pamm@rgpn.org.nz

NZMA GP CME Conference

11-14 June, Rotorua

General Practice Conference & Medical Exhibition

www.gpcme.co.nz

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.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE GENERAL PRACTICE LINK

The General Practice Link is designed to keep general practitioners, practice managers and practice nurses up-to-date on national issues affecting them, and to report on issues relevant to Organised General Practice. To receive this monthly newsletter directly, you can subscribe by emailing ipacnews@ipac.org.nz.

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