

## **GENERAL PRACTICE LINK - JANUARY 2009**

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

Welcome and best wishes to all members for 2009. We hope you enjoyed a relaxing break over Xmas and that this year will bring many interesting challenges and opportunities for organised general practice.

IPAC starts 2009 with the formidable task of replacing Chief Executive, Victor Klap, who has led the organisation so effectively since October 2000. Victor is taking up an exciting position with the Southern Cross Group but more on that later.

Happy reading and Happy New Year!

### **GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR**

Welcome to 2009 - a year that promises significant changes for IPAC!

Within a few weeks we are sad to be bidding farewell to Victor Klap, our highly respected CEO. However we are delighted that Victor's new role within the health sector may well enable us to work closely with him again. Following Victor's departure, Fiona Thomson, already an integral part of the IPAC office team, will become the interim general manager, with my support as Executive Chair during this time.

The new government has already heralded real change for IPAC. We are pleased to once again be engaged with government and to discuss with the Minister, alongside our GPLF colleagues, his plans for primary care networks, more clinical leadership, cost effective services and integrated care. IPAC's member organisations need to take advantage of these changes, and many are already poised to do so. Our role is to support you to do this.

United general practice remains high on our radar. In this climate of recession, reduction of waste and duplication and the need for increased efficiency, general practice too must look critically at its spending and the cost of the structures we currently support. The Minister has made it clear he does not want to speak to 5 different general practice organisations independently; general practice has made it clear it wants a single voice.

Our ability to make real progress for organised general practice in 2009 will ultimately depend on all our members working closely together to share ideas, support each other, and strengthen relationships as we explore new opportunities together to improve the health of New Zealanders through our networks.

I look forward very much to catching up with you during the year. Please keep in touch with us.

Bev O'Keefe

## **EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR VICTOR KLAP**

As mentioned above, Victor is leaving to take up a position with the Southern Cross Group as their Group Manager – Public/Private and Primary Care Partnerships. This is a well deserved opportunity for Victor, who leaves IPAC after eight years as the current CEO.

While we are sad to lose Victor, we see this as a new opportunity for general practice as one of his new responsibilities will be to explore how Southern Cross can develop a long-term and substantive relationship with general practice in New Zealand.

Victor's last day will be Friday, 13 February. Victor is working closely with the IPAC Executive to ensure a smooth handover. Dr Bev O'Keefe will take on an Executive Chair role and Fiona Thomson will take on the role of acting General Manager following Victor's departure.

## **HEALTH INFORMATION PRIVACY POLICY**

In New Zealand, "Health Information" is regulated by the Health Information Privacy Code 1994 (HIPC) and is applicable to all agencies that use and disclose health information. The key obligations in the HIPC are to clarify purpose and to maintain openness in information handling. The obligation of openness falls on the point of initial collection, which will often be the General Practitioner and general practice team. It appears various agencies have different interpretations of the HIPC and general practice may reasonably feel they are caught between conflicting ethical, legal and contractual requirements.

IPAC is developing a Health Information Privacy Policy which will provide general practice, and agencies general practice exchanges health information with, clarity around the collection, transfer and/or sharing of identifiable health information by providing a set of guiding principles.

The good news is we plan to release this late February, along with a general practice Health Information Privacy Toolkit which will include templates, practical examples of enrolment form disclosure statements, practice posters and informed consent and advice on when and what agreements general practice needs to have in place with other health agencies. The even better news is that both the Policy and Toolkit are being developed in partnership with the Office of Privacy Commissioner so we can be reassured we are protecting the confidentiality of our patient's health information and meeting the obligations of the HIPC.

## **GENERAL PRACTICE NURSING ALLIANCE (GPNA)**

2009 is starting with a flurry of activity for GPNA exec members.

We have our first meeting with Mark Jones, Chief Nurse New Zealand, in early February and we are very much looking forward to this. We hope it will be the start of a positive relationship as we all work together to develop the role of nurses within primary health care.

Following this, as part of the General Practice Leaders Forum, we have our second meeting with the Minister of Health. With three very experienced nurses currently in that forum, we feel we have a strong voice and are in a good position to be discussing some of the problems currently facing Primary Health care in general, and nursing in particular, and possible solutions, with the Minister.

Later in February is the nursing leaders' day. I believe this is the first time nursing leaders from a variety of organisations have been invited to get together and we see this as a very positive move.

There are some conferences coming up that shouldn't be missed.

The RNZCGP Quality Symposium is being held in Wellington 13/14th February and has a theme of Quality and Information which should be of interest to all of us working in Primary Health Care.

The Manawatu section of the College of Practice Nurses are hosting this years Conference in Palmerston North from 1st to 3rd May. Information is being posted regularly on their website

## **GETTING TO KNOW YOU...**

[Victor Klap has been the Chief Executive of IPAC since October 2000.](#)

1. What is the best piece of advice your parents ever gave you? [Treat others as you would like to be treated yourself.](#)
2. What is your most embarrassing moment? [There are a number I remember but they fail the 'do I really want to disclose this publicly?' test. An often repeated source of embarrassment has been where I confidently greet someone, certain I know their name, only to find out I've got it wrong. My apologies to anyone who reads this who has encountered me in this mode.](#)
3. What is your favourite movie/tv series? [I have 2 favourites, both starring Peter Falk of Colombo fame – 'Wings of Desire \(1987\)' by Wim Wenders and 'Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter \(1990\)'. The former a film about angels and the latter a great comedy.](#)
4. What is the best dining experience you've ever had? [Le Diapason in Paris last year when we celebrated Pip's \(my wife\) birthday. Stunning food, fantastic wine, great company, great city.](#)
5. What is the most expensive item of clothing you've ever bought? [A business jacket bought on impulse approx 10 years ago from Saks for \\$1100. Hardly worn and since given away!](#)
6. Where is your favourite place in the world? [Coronet Peak in any weather conditions so long as it has a decent base of snow. There is no place better.](#)

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **College of GPs Quality Symposium**

13 & 14 February 2009, Wellington

*Quality and Information*

### **Rural General Practice Network**

27-29 March, Wellington

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

[pamm@rgpn.org.nz](mailto:pamm@rgpn.org.nz)

### **NZMA GP CME Conference**

11-14 June, Rotorua

*General Practice Conference & Medical Exhibition*

[www.gpcme.co.nz](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:ipacnews@ipac.org.nz).