

PRESIDENTS REPORT JULY 2012

This year has been another busy one for AAAPC. The organisation is still growing, with 178 members currently. At last count 56% of members were GPs or of GP background, and 44% of our members are other primary health care or research or policy practitioners. This percentage is growing and we hope to encourage it. There have been 24 first time presenters at the PHCRIS conference this year. Kelsey Hegarty won the Distinguished Paper Award with her presentation on “Women’s evaluation of abuse and violence care in general practice; six and twelve month outcomes”.

We started the year with discussion with GPET about a forum to look at vertical integration and remuneration for GP supervisors of medical students. While this did not proceed, the whole issue remains an important one for the organisation and we will look for other opportunities to further discuss these issues.

IN the meantime we have been in discussions with HWA and HETI (the NSW organisation responsible for rolling out HWA reforms) about undergraduate teaching in primary care. It is important that each state organisation responsible for rolling out HWA money is aware of primary care – its structure and its role in the teaching of all types of undergraduate students.

On the research arena we have also been active. We wrote a submission to the McKeon review of research in Australia and a number of us made representations to the review in person as it visited the states. I would like to acknowledge the input of AAAPC members Marie Pirotta, Paul Glasziou and Sarah Dennis in this submission. We have also been promoting the role of Practice Based Research Networks whenever possible including to the McKeon review, as we see these as a vital way to carry forward primary care research. These practices are ones that are trained in and familiar with the basic mechanisms of research, such as the need for ethics approval and consent forms, the need to select patients according to guidelines etc.

We have also started negotiations with Julianne Babenoch from the Australian Practice Nurse Association about some sort of institutional relationship between ourselves and them. There are a number of issues on which we could work together. The details of this relationship are still being worked out, but in the meantime we welcome primary care nurses as members of our organisation, particularly those who have teaching and research roles.

The weblist has been an active one, and we spend some time and funds to make sure that members can raise issues and discuss them with others through this means. We see it as important to have a lively conversation about issues of importance to our members.

AS for next year – much of what happens will be up to you, the members to decide. We will certainly continue our work with HWA on the teaching side, and the promotion of PBRNs on the research side. We will continue to advocate for a broader PHC membership of all those interested in primary health care research and teaching. We look forward to strengthening our organisation..

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the committee that meets each month, and also particularly acknowledge Kitty Novy, without whom we couldn't have achieved all that we have.