

AAAPC President's Message Nick Zwar

The AAAPC Annual General Meeting held in Canberra during the Primary Health Care Research Conference marked the end of my first year as the organisation's president. I would like to extend my thanks to the AAAPC management committee for all their support over the year and to Kitty Novy for her sterling work in the administration of AAAPC.

It has been a challenging twelve months, especially since the announcements affecting primary care in the 2014 federal budget. While the announcement of the increase of the Practice Incentive Payment for medical student teaching in general practice was very welcome, some of the other budget measures are potential threats to research and teaching in primary care. With the help of the membership, AAAPC put out a press release on the implications of the 2014 budget for primary care teaching and research. These issues remain very much alive so this press release is included in the current newsletter.

A highlight of the year, and coming to fruition at the Annual General Meeting, has been the discussion about expanding AAAPC to include academic primary care colleagues from New Zealand. The changes to the constitution were approved at the AGM and we are now the Australasian Association for Academic Primary Care. This change will bring a broader perspective for primary care academics on both sides of the Tasman and foster opportunities for networking and possible research collaborations. By co-incidence the quality of primary care research being done in New Zealand was recognised by the 2014 AAAPC Most Distinguished Paper Award going to Professor Felicity Goodyear-Smith from the University of Auckland. Felicity and Professor Jeannie Haggerty from McGill University in Montreal contributed to an excellent AAAPC plenary session at the conference.

The other highlight of the conference and the year was the AAAPC dinner. According to the corporate memory of those present it attracted record numbers. On purely anecdotal evidence it was also one of the most enjoyable. Perhaps fortunately, little evidence to back this assertion is available on social media or other public domain. Thanks go to Jeannie Haggerty who gave the after dinner speech and again to Kitty for all her efforts in arranging the event.