

Inaugural Winner of Bridges-Webb Medal 2008

The Bridges-Webb medal is to recognise AAAGP members who have made and will continue to make international standard teaching and/or research contributions to academic activities in the general practice environment.

It was an amazing honour to receive the inaugural Bridges-Webb medal at the recent GP & PHC Research conference in Hobart. The news of my award had been received mid-morning during a busy consulting session on the Tuesday prior to my trip to Hobart. At first I wondered whether Dr Nelson was indeed the Leader of the Opposition wishing to make a time to see me - but no, it turned out to be Professor Mark Nelson with some surprising but very good news. Charles Bridges-Webb has touched many academic lives with his role-modelling of excellent research and research capacity building skills. My first-ever exposure to academic general practice was in Hobart at a RACGP conference in the early nineties. I still recall Charles' asking a very supportive question during my first paper presentation and his kind and encouraging words following the paper. It seemed very fitting that the award ceremony was held in Hobart with Charles' once again being the academic Statesperson that he is. Being recognized by my colleagues in such a way is a humbling and rewarding experience. I feel that academic general practice is beginning to thrive in this country and having awards, such as the Bridges-Webb medal, is testament to the health of the academy. May we continue to strengthen and grow it.

Prof Jane Gunn
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Prof Jane Gunn pictured receiving her award with Prof Charles Bridges-Webb and Prof Mark Nelson during the AAAGP Gala Dinner.