
AAAPC News - September 2023

Hello everyone,

This month, AAAPC has hit the ground running with new executive and subcommittee memberships coming into effect. Make sure you don't miss any news and announcements, including:

- Upcoming webinar October 17th
- New Equity focussed awards OPEN NOW
- Executive committee member introductions
- Subcommittee updates

And much, much more...

Happy reading!



Upcoming webinar 17th October

Join the AAAPC Primary Care Education Subcommittee **from 6:30pm AEDT or 8:30pm NZDT on the 17th of October**. We will hear from Dr Sharon James (Monash University) on preparing the GP nursing workforce.

The webinar will provide an overview of how nurses working in general practice prepare to work in this setting, meet the workforce knowledge and skill set needs and how we can keep them. Nurses need to want to work in general practice where there is interplay between clinical exposure, valuing these roles as well as the practicality and feasibility of doing so. Once nurses make the decision to work in general practice initiatives are needed to support their transition and retention to this setting.

[Register now!](#)

2023 AAAPC Equity Research and Education awards

The AAAPC announced a new member award in August to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our organisation. The award of up to \$5000 is to recognise AAAPC members who

require financial assistance in primary care research and/or education in First Nations or underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. **Applications close December 15.** Find out

how to apply on [our webpage](#).



AAAPC executive committee updates

Our new executive committee met for the first time in early September. After introductions, we discussed some ways in which we hope to work together over the next year. The committee reviewed an opportunity to co-sponsor a small research grant with RACGP, and is negotiating terms to ensure AAAPC values are represented. The committee

will meet again in mid-October to continue working towards goals set in [AAAPC's strategic plan 2023-2025](#). Introductions to our executive committee members will occur over the next few newsletters, starting with our new President and continuing executive committee members.



President - Tim Stokes

I'm Professor Tim Stokes, the AAAPC President for 2023-25. I'm a GP and the Elaine Gurr Professor of General Practice and HoD, Department of General Practice and Rural Health, Dunedin School of Medicine, University of Otago, Aotearoa New Zealand (NZ). My research expertise is in health care delivery and Implementation research in primary care, rural health and across the health system. I'm also a Co-Editor-in-Chief of NZ's Journal of Primary Health Care. I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve AAAPC as its first New Zealand based president. I look forward to increasing communication between Australia and New Zealand primary care to best learn from each other on how we can promote high-quality primary care education, research, and practice that supports health equity for all.

Secretary - Dimity Pond

I'm Professor Dimity Pond, continuing AAAPC Secretary for 2023/24. I am a GP by trade and have worked part time in general practice in Berowra for a few decades. I am also a GP academic, heading up the Discipline of General Practice at the University of Newcastle from 1999 until 2021. My research is around aged care and dementia, with a focus on how to better manage these in primary care and I work with Dementia



Training Australia as part of their GP education group. I am a Clinical Professor at the Wicking Dementia Centre at University of Tasmania; and Honorary Professor in Nursing and Midwifery at Western Sydney University where we explore how nurses and GPs can work together to improve care for older patients. It's great to be part of the Executive of AAAPC (again!) and work with all the primary care disciplines in this vibrant organisation. I strongly believe collaborative practice is the way forward for primary care and for our patients.



Membership Engagement subcommittee co-chair - Shakira Onwuka

I'm Ms Shakira Onwuka, continuing co-chair of the AAAPC Membership Engagement Subcommittee for 2023/24. I am a mixed-methods, early career researcher specializing in Implementation Science. With expertise in leading investigator-led trials and co-design studies, I am dedicated to advancing cancer prevention and screening, and making impactful contributions to enhance public health. My PhD focusses on the implementation of a decision aid to support the Australian aspirin guidelines uptake in general practice to prevent bowel cancer. My fellowship focusses on identifying implementation strategies for a national lung cancer screening program. I am looking forward to increasing the reach of AAAPC, expanding our membership, and ensuring value for our members.

Membership Engagement subcommittee co-chair - Flora Hui

I'm Dr Flora Hui, continuing co-chair of the AAAPC Member Engagement Subcommittee for 2023/24. I'm an optometrist and a researcher, completing my PhD in 2016 looking at how examining the eye could provide information on the health of the brain. Now, I work as a research fellow at the University of Melbourne and the Centre for Eye Research Australia, exploring new



treatments and diagnostics that could be used in the clinic and how we can make primary eyecare data more accessible for research. I am excited to continue working with the AAAPC Executive Committee and engage with our members to share AAAPC events and activities. I have a mission to increase our engagement and membership in different disciplines across primary care.



Editor – Katelyn Barnes

I'm Dr Katelyn Barnes and I'm continuing as AAAPC Editor for 2023/24. I am a dietitian by trade, but researcher by nature (and training). I completed my PhD in 2017 exploring what nutrition care in the fitness industry looked like and how it could be safer and more effective. Now, I work as a primary care researcher with ACT Health and Australian National University where I am exploring how primary care services and health systems are working (or not working) for patients and practitioners. I look forward to sharing with you all the exciting happenings within AAAPC and any extra opportunities in primary care as they arise. Connecting with and hearing success stories from AAAPC members is the highlight of my role - so please do get in touch when you have good news to share (email: katelyn.barnes@anu.edu.au)

Next month we will introduce AAAPC's new Vice President (Sarah Dennis), Treasurer (Anisa Assifi), and subcommittee chairs for the Conference (Phyllis Lau), Policy and Advocacy (Grant Russell), Primary Health Care Education (Frances Barraclough), Early and Mid-career Academics (Leah East).

Members Noticeboard

The AAAPC [members noticeboard](#) is the space to post national and international primary care opportunities: jobs, research projects, guidelines and resources – really whatever you like!



This month we have seen posts for: An upcoming rural health conference invitation and [a News GP article highlighting AAAPC](#).

Keep up to date with all the news by getting regular updates on noticeboard posts in your emails. Click [here](#) to subscribe, or navigate to the AAAPC members noticeboard (requires login) and click the subscribe button.

Using the noticeboard is as easy as 1 - 2 - 3!

1. Sign into the AAAPC website and go to the [Members Only Section >> Noticeboard](#)
2. Underneath the big blue rectangle there is a 'Subscribe' button you can click to to receive regular messages to your inbox.
3. If you would like to leave a message for other members, click the 'Create topic' button underneath the big blue rectangle.

AAAPC Subcommittee Updates



AAAPC has 5 subcommittees dedicated to advancing the building excellence in academic primary care.

[AAAPC strategic plan](#) and

Would you like to contribute to AAAPC in an official capacity? Build your networks and share your leadership expertise by getting involved as a member! Email your interest to secretariat@aaapc.org.au

Academic Policy & Advocacy: Met in September to discuss the need for increased advocacy work by AAAPC. The subcommittee discussed roles and functions for the next 12 months to ensure output, and will meet again mid-November to discuss AAAPC voice around the [MREF primary care research plan](#).

PHC Education: Has been busy working on their white paper on inter-professional education and has planned a webinar for next week! Join us online for primary care education focussed webinar on GP Nurse preparedness.

EMCA: Has met to move forward with the AAAPC mentoring program and is planning an EMCA network catch up soon - watch this space! If you are a member of the EMCA network, make sure to also join our special EMCA noticeboard in the 'members only' section of our webpage (requires login).

Conference: Has hit the ground running already with a plan for conference location and date, starting on a theme for the conference, and identifying ideal plenary speakers. These decisions will be taken back to the executive committee for approval mid-October. The committee will meet again in October to keep momentum surging forward ensuring a fantastic 2024 AAAPC annual research conference.

Membership: has reviewed the results of the 2023 membership survey and is creating a plan to better meet member needs including: more communication about AAAPC advocacy efforts, planning at least 3 webinars over the next 12 months, and planning an interactive online networking event outside of the conference. In addition, the ME subcommittee is working on a new professional (social) media presence -- keep your eyes peeled for AAAPC's launch on LinkedIn soon!

Upcoming Primary Care Opportunities

Australian Government open consultation - health professionals

Australian Government wants to hear from you! Voice your opinion on barriers and incentives for primary health care professionals to be working to their full scope-of-practice. Australian Government has an [open consultation](#) for health professionals on working to their full scope of practice. Complete the [survey online](#) by September 16. The survey includes large open text comments and does ask for some references where possible.

RACGP top-up scholarships

The RACGP Foundation is offering two PhD top-up scholarships to support outstanding GPs and GPs in training to undertake PhD research in 2024. The scholarships will provide \$25,000 per annum (FTE), with an additional \$5,000 per annum (FTE) for use towards professional development and research translation activities. Applicants will be expected

to hold a base PhD scholarship, or similar salary support, at an Australian university. DUE

November 3rd. Find out more [here](#).

International research funding opportunities

The **NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme** in the UK has a long-standing collaboration with the Australian NHMRC and advertise joint commissioned calls inviting collaborative international research proposals to address shared research priorities.

These collaborative commissioned calls are announced on the

[NIHR](#) and funding [NHMRC](#) websites. There is also opportunity to [suggest research topics](#) that could go through the NIHR prioritisation process for future funding consideration. Joint funding applications between the UK and Australia may be one way to provide opportunity and solidify international relationships in primary health care research. Please contact the Secretariat if you have a research idea and we can put you in touch with the Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC) in the UK who may be able to assist with facilitating collaboration with NIHR.

The **NHMRC-EU Collaborative Research Grant Scheme** supports Australian participation in international collaborative research under Horizon Europe. Several topics streams are available, with primary care applications for all streams. Find out more about how to

apply [here](#), via GrantConnect.

Australian primary care specific funding opportunities

A few primary care relevant grant opportunities that may be of interest for you or your team members:

- [Public Health and Chronic Disease Program Increasing Awareness of Endometriosis in Priority Populations](#). To ensure priority populations affected by endometriosis, their families/carers and wider population have access to evidence-based education resources, care and support. Due 7 September, 2023.
- MRFF [Emerging Priorities in Consumer Driven Research – 2023 Post-Acute Sequelae of COVID-19](#). Stream 1 has a focus on consumers in primary care. Applications close 1 November 2023.
- [MRFF 2023 Cardiovascular Health Mission](#). To develop and/or test tools, resources, and/or strategies that could be implemented to improve both the health care provision for and experience of consumers. Streams 5 and 2-4 have potential primary care opportunities. *UPDATED DUE DATE*: November 15, 2023.
- [MRFF 2023 Dementia aging and aged care mission](#). To improve access to preventive health interventions and improve quality of care for older Australians NHMRC Clinical Trials and Cohort studies. To support high-quality clinical trials and cohort studies that address important gaps in knowledge, leading to relevant and implementable findings for health. Due 15 November, 2023.

- [MRFF Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission](#). To improve quality of life for those who might not otherwise benefit from mental health research. Of the four streams available, primary care could fit within all. Due 29 November, 2023.
- [MRFF Indigenous Health Research Fund](#). Within this opportunity are three targeted calls aimed at exploring social determinants of health, interventions for cancer incidence reduction, or strategies for infectious disease reduction. Two more streams target small-scale projects to explore concepts of health and wellbeing within health systems and ways to support health care systems to support cultural and social determinants of health. Due 29 November, 2023.
- [MRFF Research Data Infrastructure Grant](#). To support strategic investments that establish and extend national research data infrastructure that supports health and medical research. Due December 1, 2023

Remember to subscribe to [GrantConnect](#). GrantConnect provides a centralised publication of all forecast and current Australian Government grant opportunities via an online portal. To receive personalised research grant updates, make sure to input your research key words (separated by commas) when you register!



WONCA 2023

The World Organisation of Family Doctors Conference will be held in **Sydney Australia** from **26-29 October, 2023**. Late breaking abstracts will open on May 24. [Find out more here.](#)

UoW Rural Health Conference 2024

University of Wollongong Rural Health Research Conference 15 & 16 March, 2024.

Abstracts open now and close December 18. [Find out more here.](#)



...Celebrating AAAPC Members



Congratulations to some of our members on successful publications:

- **Chris Barton** and team: [The impact of smoking stats on trusting general practitioners: a nationwide survey of smokers and ex-smokers](#). Journal of Public Health, September 2023.
- **Liz Halcomb** and team: [Tips on how to improve research productivity: How a proactive approach and blocking out time in a busy schedule will help you to maximise your output](#). Nurse Researcher, September 2023.
- **Annette Peart** and team: [‘Having the dog as part of our family gives us hope’: Experiences of the impact of assistance dogs on the occupational engagement of children with autism and their families](#). Australian Occupational Therapy Journal, September 2023.
- **Katelyn Barnes** and team: [Comparing dietary strategies to manage cardiovascular risk in primary care: Narrative review of systematic reviews](#). British Journal of General Practice, September 2023.
- **Lauren Ball** and team: [Measurable and immeasurable spread of knowledge for research impact: a reflection on the validated NutComp tool](#). BMJ Nutrition, Prevention and Health, September 2023.
- **Parker Magin** and team: