

# **REPORT – 2007 PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCH AND INFORMATION SERVICE (PHCRIS)**

## **2007 GENERAL PRACTICE AND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE RESEARCH CONFERENCE - SYDNEY 22-25 MAY 2007**

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Staff and Research Development Fellows from both the Discipline of General Practice and the University Department of Rural Health attended this year's PHCRIS 2007 General Practice and Primary Health Care Research Conference held in Sydney at the Convention Centre at Darling Harbour from 22-25 May.

The theme of this year's conference was "Working Together" and focussed on building partnerships and promoting collaborative endeavours between the research, policy, and practice elements of the primary health care sector.

Guest speakers were:

- Professor Chris van Weel, Professor, and Head of Department for General Practice/Family Medicine, Radboud University Medical Centre, Nijmegen, The Netherlands (sponsored by the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute).
- Professor Nicky Britten, Professor of Applied Health Care Research and Deputy Director of the Institute of Clinical Education, the Peninsula Postgraduate Health Institute, UK
- Professor David Currow, Foundation CEO of Cancer Australia, Chair of Palliative and Supportive Services at Flinders University
- Professor Nicholas Glasgow, Professor and Director of the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute, The Australian National University
- Professor Bonnie Sibbald, Deputy Director of the National Primary Care Research and Development Centre, University of Manchester (sponsored by the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute).
- Ms Myra Pincott, consumer representative, past president of the Country Women's Association.
- Ms Sallyann Ducker, Acting Assistant Secretary, Primary Health Care Policy and Analysis Branch, Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.
- Dr Chris Pearce, APHCRI Research Spoke team member and Australian General Practice Network board member.
- Professor John Wakerman, Director, Centre for Remote Health, a joint centre of Flinders University and Charles Darwin University.
- Associate Professor Libby Kalucy, Director, PHC RIS, Flinders University.

During the conference, the program covered more than 130 concurrent paper presentations, over 60 poster displays and four plenary sessions together with the AAAGP dinner and the formal Conference Dinner.

On Tuesday evening, together with other delegates from UTAS I attended the welcome reception held at the Sydney Convention Centre.

Of the five concurrent three-hour workshops held on Wednesday 23 May I attended the workshop: Applied Health Informatics: what is not being shared that should be? (Dr Douglas Boyle, Professor Siaw-Teng Liaw). The workshop aimed to identify opinions on which types and areas of clinical information sharing are advantageous (or not), and identifying types of information that are particularly sensitive. Each participant was given a workshop pack containing 18 cards and each member of the group was asked to provide a number of ideas in response to the questions (5) on each card. The initial findings and group outcomes were discussed at the end of the workshop. I understand that Dr Boyle and Prof Teng Liaw plan to publish a paper on the outcomes/results of these discussions.

With others on Wednesday evening I attended the AAAGP Dinner at which the guest speaker was Professor Chris van Weel from the Netherlands.

On Thursday morning I attended the AAAGP plenary session chaired by Professor Mark Nelson with presentations by:

- Rachel Humeniuk - Findings of the WHO ASSIST Phase 111 study in an Australian primary health care setting: a 5-minute brief intervention (B1) for illicit drugs reduces substance use
- Claire Jackson and Jenny Doust - Getting evidence into policy; integrated governance arrangements in health care.

After morning tea on Thursday am concurrent sessions took precedence with: Consumers in research 1 and after lunch: 1 Equity and access – a series of 15 minute paper presentations from a cross-section of primary health care and medical practitioner providers.

The conference dinner took place on Thursday evening with a fantastic cruise on Sydney Harbour (dinner and dancing enjoyed by all!).

Friday 25 May was again attending a number of concurrent sessions, among those presenting Lin Bowers-Ingram (a DGP RDP Fellow 2006 who had been invited to present at the conference). Lin's presentation of her paper: 'A survey of Tasmanian general practice nurses' communication needs' was very well received.

After lunch on Friday I attended a presentation by Kim Boyer: 'Astride the divide; from senior bureaucrat to researcher' Kim's experience of transition from working as a senior bureaucrat and CEO in the health sector to a part-time member and facilitator of an emerging rural health research team.

The closing plenary session commenced at 3.30pm with the Professor Mark Nelson (elected President AAAGP at this year's conference) introducing the Minister for Health and Ageing, The Hon Tony Abbott MHR, who attended to present awards. The Minister also announced \$10 million in Fellowships and Grants for primary health care as part of the Government's Primary Health Care Research Evaluation and Development (PHCRED) Strategy. Further information on these fellowships and grants is available at the PHCRIS website: [www.phcris.org.au](http://www.phcris.org.au)

The Minister formally closed the conference at 5pm.

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