



Australasian Faculty of
Public Health Medicine



The Royal Australasian
College of Physicians

Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine

Annual Report 2015



Contents

President's Report.....	3
Faculty Education Report.....	7
Policy and Advocacy Report.....	9
Faculty Prize Winners – 2015.....	10

President's Report

2015 marks 25 years since the formation of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine (AFPHM) and the induction of the original Faculty Fellows at the College Ceremony in Perth in 1990. As we mark our silver jubilee, we can be satisfied that we have developed into a mature, robust and effective organisation that very successfully undertakes its core roles in education, training, policy and advocacy. Exactly how we undertake those activities has changed considerably over the years and especially since the introduction of "One College" in 2008. It will change again in coming years, as the College further develops new structures and systems. We need to be actively involved in that process as we contemplate not just how the Faculty will function over the next 3 - 5 years, but how we will continue to function over the next 25. As I remarked in 2013 in a commentary on College reform:

Medical Colleges are unique organisations that occupy a special place in the professional training and development spectrum. They complement universities and work-place based training and exist only because of the collective action of members of the profession. The idea of a professional group undertaking, pro bono, activities to train young people, to ensure the ongoing competence of members and to provide advice and advocacy in the public domain is striking and precious. The ongoing health of Colleges depends on there always being a spirit of collegiality and the potential for involvement of all members. The twin principles underpinning a College's existence are collegiality and subsidiarity.

We owe our ongoing success to all those among you who have assisted in ensuring that the Faculty continues to fulfil its core functions, both currently and in the past. We also owe a large debt to the College staff who assist us. I mention specifically three key College staff who have supported us unstintingly throughout my period as President - Dominique Holt, Manager of Faculties; Kerri Clarke, Executive Officer; and Annette Barker, Faculties Administration Officer. Thank you Dominique, Kerri and Annette.

2015 has been another productive year for the Faculty. We have, through Council and its various committees, continued to support the core business of the Faculty, and we have delivered on a number of our key strategic priorities, as detailed below.

▪ College Governance

College governance reform continues. It is unlikely, given the Extraordinary General Meeting in July to consider 4 motions to change the Constitution, that there will be any further constitutional change process in the life of the current College Board (to May 2016). This means that the Board will remain as a 19-person body, with current Division and Faculty membership to continue as is for the time being.

A representative College Council, consisting of representatives from many different sections of the College including Faculties, has been created and will meet for the first time in September.

- **Faculty Committees**

I would like to again acknowledge the contribution of Fellows and trainees on Council and the various AFPHM committees and working groups. In particular, I would like to thank all my fellow Council members, particularly Lynne Madden who has served as Chair of the Faculty Education Committee (FEC) for the last eight years; and to welcome Robyn Lucas to Council as the new Chair of FEC, and Simon Crouch as Chair of the Trainee Committee.

In the past twelve months, I have had the opportunity to attend Regional meetings in most States and Territories (including a visit to New Zealand). This has proven to be a most useful mechanism to gauge the views of Faculty members and to discuss the key issues that concern us.

- **Planning Day**

The Faculty recently held our annual planning day to set our strategic priorities for the year; aligning them with the strategic goals of the College. The annual planning day is the key opportunity for the Council, lead Fellows, Regional Chairs and trainee representatives to reflect on achievements over the previous year and to set future priorities. AFPHM has developed an action plan that focusses on achieving tangible outcomes that support, foster and promote public health medicine. Some of these activities for 2016 include; scoping engagement opportunities with Indigenous doctors, developing implementation strategies for Global Health, and networking of training positions. The Annual Action Plan is currently being finalised and will be circulated to all Fellows and trainees in the near future.

- **Education/National Training Day**

The AFPHM National Training Days were held on Thursday 26 and Friday 27 March 2015 in Sydney. Led by Tony Gill, Lynne Madden and Anuradha Satyamurthy, 44 trainees attended the event that showcased a program on public health leadership, environmental risk assessment, ethics, epidemiology, communicable disease, policy and advocacy and climate change. The Faculty has already commenced planning for the 2016 event which will be held in Melbourne or Adelaide.

Lynne Madden has provided a comprehensive Education report below. I do wish to mention a notable aspect of last year's Faculty examinations - the introduction of a supplementary examination process. This was highly successful in allowing candidates near the pass standard to have a second opportunity to present their credentials and knowledge to the examiners. Congratulations to Nicola Spurrier and all those involved in the last examination process. Eleven new public health physicians successfully completed the examination.

- **Population Health Congress**

Jointly held with the Public Health Association of Australia, Australasian Epidemiological Association and the Australian Health Promotion Association, the Population Health Congress was held in Hobart between Monday 7 September and Wednesday 9 September. Contributions from leading researchers, practitioners and policy makers formed the core of the program, around which lively debates, workshops and networking opportunities occurred.

- **2016 Congress**

In 2016, the Faculty will organise a stream devoted to public health medicine as part of the College Congress in Adelaide. This stream-based approach returns the Congress program to its historical and successful model. The Faculty Congress Working Party, chaired by me and assisted by Robyn Lucas, Casey Nottage and College staff, has begun planning the sessions by sourcing potential speakers to fit within the overall congress theme Evolve, Educate and Engage. We are taking a broad approach to public health in developing our program.

- **Future Demand and Opportunities for Public Health Medicine**

The Faculty has commissioned a study on public health physician supply and demand, following on from *The Unique Contribution of Public Health Physicians to the Public Health Workforce* study conducted in 2010 and a subsequent scoping study in 2013. Those studies considered, *inter alia*, appropriate methods to investigate the current and future demand for, and supply of, the public health physician workforce and the adequacy of supply to meet future demands.

This new study, titled *Future Demand and Opportunities for Public Health Medicine*, aims to: obtain a more accurate quantitative estimate of the current public health physician workforce in Australia and measure the true contribution to public health work; develop estimates of the projected supply of public health physicians in Australia up to 2025; develop quantitative estimates of current demand for public health physicians in Australia that have high face validity and estimates of projected demand up to 2025; undertake analysis of the public health physician labour market (supply and demand) from 2015 to 2025; and, consider appropriate labour market policy options in response to labour market analysis findings.

Human Capital Alliance has been contracted to carry out the study, guided by Fellows and trainees of the Faculty.

- **Networking Project**

Led by Mike Ackland, the Faculty has been busy exploring the potential for establishing training networks across existing accredited advanced public health training settings. A survey will be sent in the coming months to all accredited public health training sites,



including Specialist Training Program (STP) posts, to help canvas the potential for the Faculty to establish these networks. This is an ambitious project, as networking has not historically been seen as the Faculty's role. This may need to change as we strive for an excellent training program with diverse training opportunities.

- **Global Health Curriculum**

The Global Health Curriculum Working Party has been re-established to progress implementation of the Global Health Practice curriculum. The curriculum provides a set of competencies that can be achieved through a combination of experience and learning. Coursework appropriate to meet these competencies is available through a number of Australian universities, and through international providers.

The working group is exploring the role the Faculty would have in implementation of the curriculum. I would like to acknowledge all the work done on this project by Rosemary Aldrich and Peter Hill.

Dr Greg Stewart
President, Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine

Faculty Education Report

The following are some of the many successes and achievements of the Faculty Education Committee over the past six years and reproduces in part the text of a recent President's post.

As you know the FEC is responsible for:

- the development and delivery of the AFPHM Training Program,
- CPD for the Fellowship, and
- oversight of the progress of Overseas Trained Physicians seeking entry to the Faculty.

Over the last six years the AFPHM Training Program has been vastly strengthened. The challenge now is to continue its progressive development, through the collective efforts of all in the Faculty involved in training. The Lead Fellows in Assessment, Teaching and Learning, Physician Education, and Accreditation make a special contribution as they lead the development of the Education and Assessment Programs and their delivery. In the current FEC, Robyn Lucas has been the Lead for Assessment (now Chair), Tony Gill the Lead for Teaching and Learning and Simon Slota-Kan Lead Physician Education. The many people who contribute to the FEC Subcommittees and the examiners and supervisors drawn from across both countries provide a community of practice that is gradually getting larger and stronger. There have been many innovations, for example Robyn Lucas has worked with the Assessment Subcommittee to strengthen the Assessment Program, expanding the types of assessment and introducing new processes for the delivery of the Final Oral Examination.

There is no doubt that for all three functions, but particularly for the development of the Training Program, the Commonwealth funding that the Faculty received through the Public Health Education and Research Program (PHERP) for three years made a substantial difference to what we achieved and demonstrates the need for adequate resourcing to underpin the delivery of training. This period saw the development, consultation and implementation of new Education and Assessment Programs. Workplace learning was enhanced through the introduction of Learning Contracts, the national roadshow for supervisor training, the introduction of accreditation of training sites and regular off-the job learning opportunities (through annual National Training Days and videoconferencing/webinar series).

These PHERP funds also allowed innovation such as the delivery of the Climate Change Advocacy Workshops in Australia and New Zealand, led by then AFPHM trainee Kate Charlesworth (now Fellow) and progress in defining the role of the Public Health Physician within the evolving public health workforce.

Further and current Commonwealth funding through the Specialist Training Program has seen the numbers of trainees grow to an extent that many of us hoped and advocated for and are so very pleased to see. At the last National Training Days in March we acknowledged that there were now 100 AFPHM trainees across all



jurisdictions in Australia. In July we celebrated our first AFPHM trainee in New Zealand.

Throughout this time the trainees through the Trainee Representatives have been a constructive, force pushing for improvement. The current Trainee Representative Satyamurthy Anuradha continues the tradition of both helping to shape delivery and providing robust feedback from the trainee group.

CPD has also matured and faces its own particular challenges. Michael Watson the current Lead for CPD is actively seeking to expand CPD opportunities for Fellows. The OTP function, is handled rigorously and with great compassion by Apo Demirkol Lead for OTP.

The FEC I believe can take particular pride in the role played in rebuilding relationships with our colleagues in New Zealand. By focusing on the three important functions - assessment, training, and physician education - we have re-established the essential roles that support New Zealand Faculty Fellows. Andrew Old the NZ Lead and Apo Demirkol the OTP Lead over this time, have actively helped to achieve this.

The FEC is an excellent team. I urge you when vacancies arise on the FEC to consider applying - come join the team! This is a space where many hands truly do make for much lighter work and the sustainability of these functions is essential to the quality of delivery.

It has been a great privilege and pleasure to fulfil the role of Chair working with the excellent Lead Fellows and Trainee Representatives who have made up the FEC over this time. I would like to acknowledge the essential support that the FEC receives through the Presidents of AFPHM and Council, and the skilled support through the RACP and Faculty offices. What I have presented here barely scrapes the surface of what has been achieved! I reflected with the current members of the FEC that it has been an interesting, challenging time, however extremely productive.

Professor Lynne Madden
Outgoing Chair, Faculty Education Committee



Policy and Advocacy Report

Over the year the Faculty Policy and Advocacy Committee (FPAC) has consolidated its collaboration with the College Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Committee (ATSIHC), had invited the ATSIHC chair to attend a FPAC committee and has nominated a FPAC representative on ATSIHC.

The committee has furthered work on developing a Health in all Policies (HiAP) position statement.

FPAC was involved in the establishment of the College's Climate Change Working Party and a number of AFPHM Fellows are now on the committee.

AFPHM's membership of the Social Determinants of Health Alliance (SDOHA) has been approved by the College.

FPAC has also contributed to the discussion of a number of public health relevant CPAC policy and advocacy issues over the year, e.g. health of refugees in detention centres, or proposed tobacco control legislation in Tasmania.

*Professor Christian Gericke,
FPAC Chair*

Faculty Prize Winners – 2015

▪ *Gerry Murphy Prize – 2015 Finalists*

Dr Gerry Murphy was a Founding Fellow of AFPHM and a Fellow of AFOEM, who passed away in December 1995. The family of the late Dr Gerry Murphy FAFPHM made a bequest to the Faculty to support an annual prize in his memory. The prize has been running since 1997.

- NSW Dr Anastasia Phillips
- ACT Dr Alexandra Greig
- QLD Dr Annie Preston-Thomas
- SA Dr Salenna Elliott
- VIC Dr Genevieve Cowie
- WA Dr Christina Bertilone
- TAS Dr Shannon Melody

▪ *John Snow Scholarship - 2015 Finalists*

The John Snow Scholarship is one of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine's (AFPHEM) programs aimed at strengthening and enhancing education in public health medicine at all levels of the career pathway.

- NSW Miss Amanda Cohn
- ACT Mr Alexander Cochrane
- QLD Mr Christopher Bailie
- SA Dr Ashish Vaska
- VIC Miss Sarah Rockefeller
- WA Miss Chloe Attree
- TAS Miss Cecilia Xiao
- NT Mr Daniel Vickers

▪ *President's Awards*

The AFPHEM President's Award for outstanding contribution to the Faculty was established by the Faculty Council in 2008. This year's award will be presented by the AFPHEM President during the Presidents dinner. The purpose of the President's Award is to formally recognise the outstanding contributions made by Fellows and Trainees to the Faculty.

- Education, Training and Assessment – Dr Mike Ackland
- Policy and Advocacy – Dr Bret Hart
- Trainee Commitment Award – Dr Ben Scalley