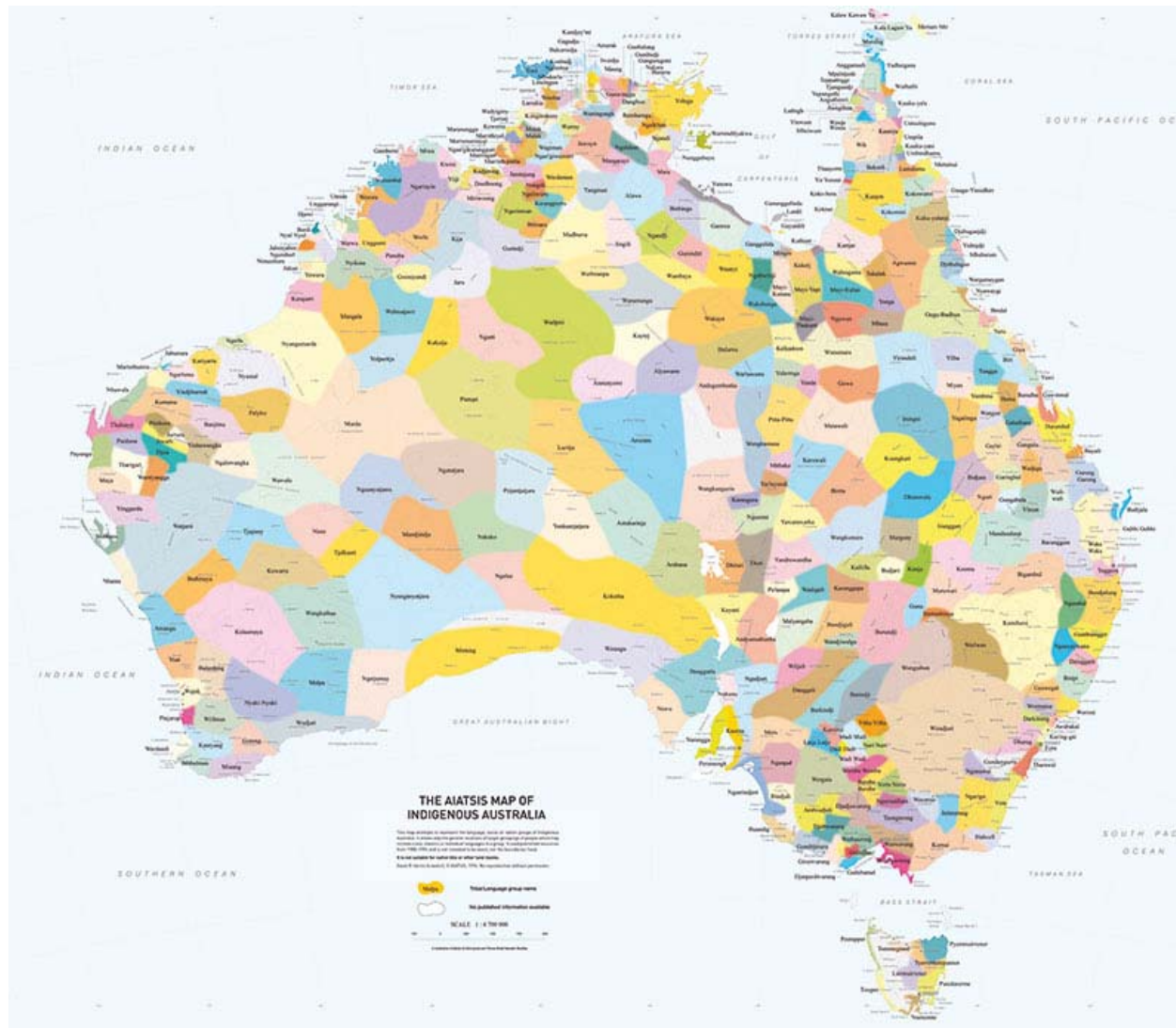


AFPHM John Snow Scholarship

A qualitative evaluation

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Introduction

- John Snow Scholarship (JSS) established in 2009 by AFPHM
- Aims:
 - to improve the profile of PHM among medical students and graduates by providing opportunities for professional networking between medical students and AFPHM fellows and advanced trainees
 - that the brightest and best medical graduates enter and complete AFPHM training, and practice as public health physicians

Introduction

- JSS objectives are to increase the proportion of medical students who:
 - are able to identify PHM as a medical specialty
 - are able to identify the AFPHM as the learned college for specialist training of public health physicians
 - consider PHM as a career option

Aim

To formally evaluate the perceived impact of the John Snow Scholarship on medical students who have received it, to determine if it is achieving the aims and objectives of the scholarship.



Methods

- Contact via publicly available details
- Semi-structured interviews via phone
- Ten interviews to date
- Questions
 - focusing on the JSS experience
 - perceived impact on their view of public health medicine, their work and their choice of specialty
- Thematic analysis

Preliminary results

Where are they now?

- Specialties
 - Public health
 - Physicians
 - General surgery
 - Dermatology
 - Emergency
 - Infectious diseases
 - General practice
 - Psychiatry
- Pharmaceutical company (biostats)
- MSF
- Airforce
- Deputy Mayor
- Further study
 - MPH or similar
 - Oxford/Cambridge

Preliminary results

Knowledge of PHM

- Many not aware of PHM specialty training or ACPHM prior to JSS
- Why not?
 - Lack of exposure
 - “Day in the life”
- Those that did know
 - Personal interest
 - Mentor

“... you never really met or (were) exposed to (public health) as a profession or a job. You might get a lecture and it might say this is a public health physician, but you never saw them in the workplace so to speak.”

Preliminary results

Awareness/knowledge of PHM/PHM physicians

“I didn’t have much of an idea about what public health medicine was... (the JSS) did change it...because I started from a very low knowledge base, and then subsequently knew quite a lot about the faculty and the training program and the people who were involved et cetera, so, I think it was a great for that, and it really did increase my knowledge and exposure to the faculty.

There’s also flow-on effects with that...the social network effects of me doing it as well, that probably meant that others were aware of it subsequently.”

Preliminary results

Perceived impact on clinical practice

“Yeah definitely. I think it's sort of made me more interested in the evidence-base and research that's behind things, but also not just thinking about the individual in front of you...what are the factors that may have led them to develop this illness or this disease and how could I change those factors or to think more broadly about the context that it's in.”

Preliminary results

Perceived impact on career choice

“It probably did encourage me to do public health. Like, it was in terms of like getting involved with it, and increasing my awareness of it.”

“I think that I met some inspirational and fantastic people, but I had a realisation through the process...looking at the competencies and thinking about how that fit with what I thought my future life would be, and also meeting and talking to some public health practitioners and thinking that, that probably wasn't what I wanted to do in the long term... that's probably not a desired outcome, but it was a very, very, valuable outcome for me as an individual.”

Preliminary results

Considerations for future

- Publicity of JSS
 - Participants publicity of
- Lack of ongoing contact and follow up
 - Suggested PH registrar or fellow mentors

Preliminary results

Considerations for future

“...link in students more directly with practitioners, so that you get a sense of what’s involved and ...the training opportunities...a bit of a road map that you could slot into - I think that was something that was very lacking for me. I just couldn’t see how it fit together...there wasn’t the kind of nurtured training environment.

...having some close links to people who might be suitable mentors, and they might be public health registrars, would make a lot of sense actually, given often they’re often more recently trained and perhaps closer in age.”

Limitations

- Self selected sample

Conclusions

Is the JSS meeting it's aims and objectives?

Identify PHM as a
medical specialty

Identify the AFPHM as
the learned college for
specialist training of
public health physicians

Consider PHM as a
career option

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