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**Australasian Faculty of  
Public Health Medicine**

## **Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine**

**Annual Members' Meeting Report**

**Auckland**

**Tuesday, 7 May 2019**



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## AFPHM President's Report

The 2018 Annual Members' Meeting Report was circulated for the meeting held at Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) Congress, in Sydney in May 2018. This report details the AFPHM's activities over the last 12 months.

I would first like to acknowledge our AFPHM members and committees who have been endlessly supporting our education, and policy and advocacy initiatives.

Professor Robyn Lucas has stepped down from her position as Chair, Faculty Education Committee (FEC) so that she can focus on her role as the AFPHM President-elect. Dr Tony Gill has recently been appointed to the FEC Chair position and will continue the education work that Professor Lucas has been leading.

The **Faculty Education Report** acknowledges the achievements of the FEC and its subcommittees. These committees support entry into training, supervision, and assessment for the AFPHM Training Program, and continuously seek to improve these processes.

Dr Tony Gill has led the development of the AFPHM National Training Days (NTDs) in his capacity as the former Chair, Faculty Training Committee. This event is for all AFPHM trainees to come together and further their knowledge on topics related to the AFPHM Training Program. For 2019, the AFPHM NTDs will be held at the RACP Melbourne Office on Saturday and Sunday, 15 and 16 June. Details regarding this event will be distributed to all AFPHM trainees shortly.

The AFPHM Trainees' Committee has been involved in the development of the AFPHM NTDs and have also put together a work plan detailing their priorities for the year. This includes improving communication with and between the AFPHM trainees, working with the Faculty Education, Training and Assessment Committees to improve processes related to submissions and receiving outcomes, and working with the AFPHM Council to build relationships with other public health-related organisations. The AFPHM Trainees' Committee is currently chaired by Dr Anthea Katelaris. I thank Dr Katelaris and all the members on the AFPHM Trainees' Committee for their active contributions and support towards the Faculty.

As highlighted in the **Faculty Policy and Advocacy Report**, the AFPHM Policy and Advocacy Committee (PAC) has been involved in the development of several cross-College policy and advocacy matters over the last 12 months. I would like to thank Dr Michael Douglas for holding the position of Acting Chair on the AFPHM PAC until Professor Jeanette Ward was appointed to this position in February 2019. Dr Douglas led the Faculty's policy and advocacy work during this period and provided a strong foundation for Professor Ward to continue leading the work in this area.

Thank you for the ongoing support all members in the AFPHM Regional Committees provide to the Faculty, particularly in supporting our trainees, continuing professional development activities and policy and advocacy work. I would like to thank the AFPHM Regional Committee Chairs for their ongoing efforts in building a stronger and

increasingly robust Faculty. Thank you to the Regional Education Coordinators for your enduring support to our trainees and supervisors at a local level. The below table shows the number of AFPHM Fellows and trainees around Australia and New Zealand.

AFPHM Trainees at December 2018		AFPHM Fellows at December 2018	
Region	Total	Region	Total
ACT	10	ACT	44
NSW	27	NSW	199
NT	4	NT	25
QLD	9	QLD	100
SA	7	SA	41
TAS	3	TAS	23
VIC	17	VIC	115
WA	8	WA	64
NZ	0	NZ	80
Overseas	3	Overseas	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>721</b>
Active	59	Active	562
Interruption	29	Retired	159

### AFPHM Future of the Faculty

In May 2016, the RACP Board approved the establishment of the AFPHM Future of the Faculty Working Group. This group examined and reported on critical issues that are pertinent to the Faculty. The final output was the [Future of the Faculty Report](#) which details key recommendations to achieve an ideal Faculty in 2030. This report was finalised on 31 July 2017 and was presented to the RACP Board in September 2017.

Following this, an external consultant was appointed to engage with members of the Faculty and College staff to examine how the recommendations outlined in the Report could be appropriately progressed. The [Future of the Faculty Progress Report](#) was finalised for the RACP Board in July 2018.

In December 2018, the RACP Board agreed to release of the *Future of the Faculty Report* and the *Future of the Faculty Progress Report* to the wider Membership and accept the three recommendations contained within the *Future of the Faculty Report*.

Several pieces of work have commenced to support the recommendations outlined in the *Future of the Faculty Report*. This includes consultations on devolution of policy and advocacy work to other College Bodies and formalising relationships with international bodies, specifically the Pacific Community (SPC), through the College's International Strategy. Both of these initiatives have already taken effect and I have been involved in advocacy and media about climate change on behalf of the College. Work with the SPC is also in progress (see below).

To date, this work has put the AFPHM in the right direction to continue moving forward and achieving the recommendations set out in the Future of the Faculty Report. Other recommendations are yet to be implemented and we will continue to pursue these. Discussions with the Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (AFOEM) and the Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (AFRM) will be held with the RACP Chief Executive Officer in due course to develop a plan to further facilitate this work.

### **Faculty Planning**

The AFPHM Council had their annual planning day in July 2018 to develop the 2018-2020 Work Plan. Progress on the activities included in the Work Plan is detailed below;

### **The Specialist Training Program (STP)**

The STP extends vocational training for specialist registrars into settings outside traditional metropolitan teaching hospitals. This includes regional, rural and remote and private facilities. The program seeks to improve the quality of the future specialist workforce by providing registrars with exposure to a broader range of healthcare settings. It also aims to have a positive influence on future workforce distribution.

For the AFPHM, STP positions are essential to our capacity to train and are an important contribution to our workforce strategy. The AFPHM Council monitors this program closely and discusses this at each meeting.

In 2015 the Australian Government announced the Review of the STP, which involved consultations with specialist medical colleges and other stakeholders. The Review has now been completed by the department and is available [online](#). The Government has accepted the recommendations of the review and will continue investment into the STP until 2020.

In line with the recommendations, the Government is currently reviewing the STP positions to identify those that no longer meet the STP aims and objectives. Providing funding to positions in private or rural settings is preferred. This poses several implications for public health training, particularly as there are limited opportunities for AFPHM trainees to undertake training in private settings and many public health doctors work with rural and remote communities while they are based in a metropolitan work place. Discussions have been held with the AFPHM and the RACP to ensure that we advocate for and support the AFPHM STP positions. There is also an onus on us all to promote applications for STP positions from non-government organisations and rural/regional areas in order to retain and potentially grow our STP position numbers. If 50% of a training position includes non-government or rural settings, this is currently considered acceptable from the perspective of the STP.

### **Development of the AFPHM Narrative**

The College has developed narratives for each of the Divisions, Faculties and Chapters. This is linked to the new branding of the College, 'Specialists. Together.', and links to the College tagline 'Educate, Advocate, Innovate'.



The AFPHM has developed a tagline, 'Health for All: Prevention, Promotion, Protection', and value sentences that relate to the work that Public Health Physicians are involved in. This will be circulated to all members in the coming months.

### **Supporting Pacific Island Countries Public Health Capacity**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the RACP and the Pacific (SPC) in September 2018. This is a master agreement to formalise the projects and work between our organisations.

A meeting will be held in June 2019 involving public health leaders from Pacific Island Countries, the NZ College of Public Health Medicine and the RACP (AFPHM). This meeting will enable us to listen to what the needs are for the SPC, what they would like to achieve and how we can convert this to a plan to work together. The goal of the meeting is to build on previous discussions and to plan some concrete initiatives through which AFPHM can partner with Pacific countries to support public health in the region.

### **Conclusion**

The capacity of AFPHM to deliver the work highlighted in this report is dependent upon the support of the AFPHM Fellows and Trainees. On behalf of the AFPHM Council, I thank you for your ongoing engagement. Finally I would like to acknowledge and thank the fantastic support provided by the College staff, particularly Rachel Smith, our executive officer for her outstanding work.

#### **AFPHM Council Members:**

President	Associate Professor Linda Selvey
President-elect	Professor Robyn Lucas
Chair, Policy and Advocacy	Professor Jeanette Ward
Chair, Faculty Education Committee	Dr Tony Gill
Deputy Chair, Faculty Education Committee	<i>Vacant</i>
Chair, New Zealand Committee	Dr John Holmes
Councillor (Australia)	Associate Professor Nicola Spurrier
Councillor (Australia)	Dr Abigail Yang
Councillor (Australia)	Associate Professor Peter Hill
Councillor (Australia)	Dr Kushani Marshall
Councillor (Australia)	<i>Vacant</i>
Councillor (New Zealand)	Dr Virginia Hope
Councillor (New Zealand)	Dr Paul Bohmer
Chair, Faculty Trainee Committee	Dr Anthea Katelaris
AFPHM Trainee Representative	Dr Nick Georges
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Medical Practitioner	<i>Vacant</i>



Maori Medical Practitioner

*Vacant*

**AFPHM Policy and Advocacy Committee Members:**

Chair	Professor Jeanette Ward
Member	Dr Michael Douglas
Member	Dr Jonathan Malo
Member	Dr Marianne Jauncey
Member	Dr Rosalie Schultz
Member	Dr Katherine Todd
Member	Dr Laura Edwards
Member	Dr Marion Carey
Member	Dr Sheena Kakar
Member (AFPHM Trainee)	Dr Sarah Khanlari

**AFPHM Trainees' Committee Members:**

Chair	Dr Anthea Katelaris
College Trainee's Committee Representative	Dr Laksmi Govindasamy
AFPHM FEC Representative	Dr Elizabeth Ellis
AFPHM FTC Representative	Dr Priya Janagaraj
ACT Trainee Representative	Dr Claire Behm
NSW Trainee Representative	Dr Anthony Zheng
NT Trainee Representative	Dr Nick Georges
QLD Trainee Representative	Dr Alexandra Uren
SA Trainee Representative	Dr Christopher Lewis
TAS Trainee Representative	Dr Therese Marfori
VIC Trainee Representative	Dr Michelle Gooley
WA Trainee Representative	Dr Caroline Crossley
NZ Trainee Representative	Dr Marianne Dowsett

*Associate Professor Linda Selvey  
President, Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine*

## Faculty Education Report

In 2018 the Faculty Education Committee (FEC) was chaired by Prof Robyn Lucas. The Education Committee included Dr Sharon O'Rourke as Lead Fellow for Continuing Professional Development (CPD), Dr John Holmes as Lead Fellow for Overseas Trained Physicians (OTP), Dr Tony Gill as Lead Fellow for Training, Dr Phil Hider as the New Zealand representative, Dr Stephanie Davis as Lead Fellow Physician Education and Prof Michael Ackland as Lead Fellow for Accreditation. Late in 2018 A/Prof Nicola Spurrier stepped down as Lead Fellow for Assessment, and was replaced by Dr Anuradha Satyamurthy. Dr Jocelyn Chan stepped down as the Trainee Representative during the year and was replaced by Dr Elizabeth Ellis (starting in 2019). The committee was well-supported by the AFPHM Education Officer, Ms Anusha Kumar; the FEC thanks Anusha for her work over the year.

Late in 2018, the RACP commenced the Curricula Renewal process for Advanced Training programs. The FEC provided input to a series of questions about the AFPHM curriculum including its ongoing relevance to public health medicine. Dr Phil Hider and Dr Stephanie Davis agreed to lead Curriculum Renewal for the FEC – this will gain more momentum in 2019.

Toward the end of 2018, the Department of Health indicated revised eligibility criteria for Specialist Physician Training (STP) posts. New expressions of interest were sought across the RACP for sites providing training in rural and private settings. As a consequence of this revised focus, a number of sites in urban (RA1) areas are at risk of being defunded. The FEC has worked actively with the STP unit to try to preserve the total number of public health medicine training positions provided under the STP funding.

The Trainee Representative has been able to represent the views of trainees at the Faculty Education Committee and work with trainees as part of the Faculty Trainees' Committee to make sure that the opinions and concerns of trainees are heard.

In 2018, the Faculty Training Committee continued to help administer the Faculty training program. The members of the Committee have made significant commitments in time in this role and there is always an ongoing need for refreshment of the Regional Education Coordinators who make up the Committee.

Overall the Faculty Training Committee reviewed:

- 43 Eligibility to Join Training applications,
- 49 MPH mapping applications,
- 22 applications to commence training (ATCT),
- 1 RPL applications,
- 131 Learning Contracts assessments,
- 101 Learning Contract Report assessments, and



- Monitored 131 trainees, noting a number of these have not commenced training.

The Faculty Training Committee, with the able assistance of the Faculty office organised and ran the NTDs in Sydney prior to the RACP Congress. As well, the Faculty Training Committee with significant support from the Faculty office continued to run trainee webinars. Although the College does provide a learning series, this is significantly clinically focussed and so does not provide our trainees with appropriate training. In 2018 the National Exam Preparatory teleconferences were reinvigorated and had significant input from a previous examiner, a new Fellow and other Fellows to improve their output.

The Faculty Assessment Committee continued the steady progress in introducing assessments so that eventually there will be effectively one each of Workplace Reports (WPRs), Oral Presentation Assessments (OPAs), Direct Observation of Practical Professional Skills (DOPPS) and Professional Qualities Reflections (PQRs) for each 12 units (one year) of training. The FAC undertook a comprehensive review of all assessment requirements, with mapping against the training competencies, in 2018. A new WPR marking rubric (similar to that for the RACP Research Project report) was being trialled through joint marking of WPRs using the old and draft new rubrics, over 2018. A final version will be introduced in 2019.

The 2018 Oral Examination was held at the College offices from 29-31 October, 2018. Dr Margaret Young was an enthusiastic Lead Examiner, with the examiner team including Dr Scott McKeown (TAS), Dr Doug Shaw (SA), Dr Paul Burgess (NT), Dr Apo Demirkol (NSW), Dr Phil Hider (NZ), Dr Stephanie Davis (ACT), Dr Anuradha Satyamurthy (QLD), and Dr Frank Beard (NSW). Prof Robyn Lucas was the Quality Assurance Fellow. Prof Mike Ackland led the development of examination questions, along with Dr Young. Training and quality assurance for examiners continue to be developed to ensure the Oral Examination provides a valid assessment of key competencies. There is a recognised need to update the calibration videos used for examiner training. As in previous years, each examination session included an Observer as an “examiner-in-training” to support both future Oral Examinations and regional mock examinations. Four observers attended over the two days of the Oral Examination. Fifteen candidates sat the Oral Examination and 12 passed (80%). No candidates were offered a Supplementary Examination. The 2018 AFPHM Sue Morey Medal for best performance in the Oral Examination was awarded to Dr Laila Parvaresh.

The main activities in relation to accreditation have been ensuring accreditation / reaccreditation of all advanced training positions across the country and participation in the College Accreditation Renewal Working Group (ARWG). All current AFPHM training sites comply with accreditation requirements. The accreditation renewal project has focused recently on finalisation of the training provider standards including a weighting of the relative importance of each of the standards.



MyCPD is available on several platforms and in 2018, 94.6% of Fellows completed and submitted Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Recently, the Faculty President wrote to AFPHM Regional Committees regarding clarification of how changes to MyCPD will impact AFPHM Fellows. The changes to MyCPD are designed to assist Fellows to meet the Medical Board of Australia's (MBA) framework for Strengthened Continuing Professional Development. As well as the traditional 'education' focussed CPD, the MBA will require all Fellows to participate in CPD activities that 'review performance' and 'measure outcomes'. More background to the changes is on the RACP website.

As a result of our training and experience in evaluation and collaboration, Public Health Physicians are well placed to adapt to the changes. The Faculty Education Committee has been working with the College to develop examples and practical tools to assist Public Health Physicians, particularly those in academic and non-clinical positions. The CPD Committee also recognises the need for resources to support those in part-time practice as well as those who have retired from active practice. As a result of this input, additional non-clinical activities will shortly be added to the list of examples in the MyCPD framework.

The RACP believes that the majority of Fellows will already be completing some activities that fit in at least two if not all three of the strengthened CPD categories. Where the new Framework presents challenges, the RACP CPD Unit is committed to providing support and advice to assist Fellows in meeting the new requirements. Fellows are able to contact the CPD unit to discuss what is possible.

The College has developed resources that Fellows can use to help them meet their CPD requirements. These resources apply to various scopes of practice, including private and non-clinical. The College is also in the process of developing additional resources to assist Fellows and will continue to work with the Faculty Education Committee to seek input and feedback on those resources.

One example of this resource development is participation by a small group of AFPHM Fellows in a pilot of customised multisource feedback run by the New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine (NZCPHM).

Over time, these requirements of the Medical Board will become clearer and the College will collect more resources to assist Fellows, including those in non-typical settings, in meeting requirements. It may be necessary for the Faculty to take up a role in facilitating the collective participation of Fellows in activities that meet the requirements of measuring outcomes. Fellows will be informed of these changes as they are developed through the monthly Bulletin, and the MyCPD College web page.

The Lead Fellow for Overseas Trained Physicians (OTPs) is a co-opted member of the College's OTP sub-Committee. The Lead is responsible for assessing applications from OTPs wishing to gain specialist recognition. The Lead Fellow reports on the application to the OTP sub-committee which make recommendations on the



equivalence and comparability of overseas training. The Lead Fellow reviews the progress of the small number of OTPs in Public Health Medicine who are undergoing either top-up training or peer review before gaining specialist registration.

The process for OTP assessment in New Zealand is similar but the Medical Council of New Zealand is responsible of arranging peer review and supervision following recommendations from the NZ OTP Assessment Committee.

The Lead Fellow in Physician Education focuses on equipping Fellows with skills in trainee support, supervision and mentoring. The major resource for this in the Public Health specific supervisor training program (SPDP Plus One). The SPDP Plus One training was delivered only once in 2018 (in the ACT). A scheduled delivery in Perth did not occur due to lack of interest by Fellows. It is important for Fellows to note that it will be a requirement of supervision after the end of 2020 for supervisors to have completed the three RACP SPDP training workshops. The RACP has produced a mentoring guideline; the draft AFPHM mentoring guideline will provide additional information and will be included in SPDP training.

The FEC welcomed the return of a trainee to a post in New Zealand to undertake advanced AFPHM training in that country. Collaborative links with the New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine (NZCPHM) have been fostered with Prof Robyn Lucas participating as the external examiner for the NZCPHM Final Examinations in 2018 and 2019. Other cooperative initiatives between the AFPHM and the NZCPHM will be explored in 2019.

As we move into 2019, the FEC welcomes a number of new faces, and thanks ongoing members for their work on the Committee. I have stepped down from the committee to focus on my role as President-Elect; Dr Tony Gill has been appointed the new Chair of the FEC. The FEC recognises and appreciates the heavy workload carried particularly by the Training Committee, but also Lead Fellows in each of their areas of responsibility in a time where there is active development of education at the College level. The FEC would like to thank all Fellows involved in assisting trainees in 2018.

*Professor Robyn Lucas  
2018 Chair, Faculty Education Committee*

## Faculty Policy and Advocacy Report

With a transition in chairing arrangements, the AFPHM Policy and Advocacy Committee (PAC) will short list their key priorities for the Faculty at their face-to-face meeting in June 2019.

Over the last 12 months, the AFPHM PAC has been involved in the development of several cross-College policy and advocacy matters. These are detailed below;

- Letter to relevant Commonwealth and NSW Ministers about ethical concerns with the 'Real Bodies' Exhibition – June 2018
- Submission to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's (ACSQHC) National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards (second edition) – June 2018
- Endorsement of a submission to add a smoking question to the Australian Census - Menzies School of Research, sent by AFPHM Fellow, Professor David Thomas – June 2018
- Endorsement of the Australian Consensus Statement of Shared Values and Ethical Principles for Collaboration and Interaction among Organisations in the Healthcare Sector – June 2018
- Submission to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's (ACSQHC) NSQHS Standards user guide for health services providing care for people with mental health issues – July 2018
- Submission to the Senate inquiry into the management of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in and around Defence bases – July 2018
- Submission to the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) on its consultation Paper for the 2019-20 Pricing Framework – July 2018
- Submission to the National Tobacco Strategy Consultation 2018 – September 2018
- Submission to the Food Regulation Standing Committee (FRSC)'s public consultation on labelling of sugars on packaged foods and drinks – September 2018
- Submission to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee Inquiry into the My Health Record system – September 2018
- RACP feedback to Proposed Public statement on reform of Australia's Alcohol and Other Drugs Treatment Services Sector – October 2018.
- Competency Standards Framework 'culturally responsive clinical practice' – Endorsement – Oct 2018.
- RACP submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Sleep Health Awareness in Australia – November 2018.
- Medical Association for Prevention of War (MAPW) - Request to support UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons – Approved - November 2018

- RACP endorsement of the Concussion in Sport Australia Position Statement – December 2018.
- RACP endorsement -Letter to WHO Director-General supporting the inclusion of Gaming Disorder in ICD-11 – January 2019.
- Media release and open letter to state premiers and chief ministers on pill testing – February 2019.
- RACP submission to the consultation on NSW music festival safety guidelines – January 2019.
- RACP submission to the Public consultation on proposed changes to the recommended use of pertussis vaccines in pregnant women – February 2019.
- RACP submission to the NSW Special Commission of Inquiry into the Drug ‘Ice’ - Limited Preliminary Consultation under the Terms of Reference – February 2019.
- RACP becoming a member of the Australian Gun Safety Alliance – February 2019.

Lead Fellows from the AFPHM PAC are currently developing a statement outlining the role of public health physicians and public health approaches in the health system, a key priority identified at the 2018 AFPHM Council planning day.

The Employment, Poverty and Health (EPH) project is a key project led by the Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (AFOEM) in collaboration with our Faculty. A Statement of Principles has been developed by the EPH Reference Group with the support of Policy and Advocacy Officer, Ms Renata Houen and Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer, Ms Claire Celia. The Statement of Principles encapsulates the role of doctors in addressing the social determinants of health. This includes promoting the health benefits of good work. This work is being launched by the AFOEM at the 2019 RACP Congress here in Auckland.

I would like to thank the Committee for working effectively under acting chair arrangements until March 2019 and look forward to finalising our AFPHM policy and advocacy priorities at our upcoming meeting in June.

*Professor Jeanette Ward  
AFPHM Policy and Advocacy Committee Chair*



## Faculty Prize Winners

### 2018 Gerry Murphy Prize Finalists

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

- ACT Dr Margaret Wilson
- NSW Dr Anthea Katelaris
- NT Dr Priya Janagaraj
- QLD Dr Alexandra Uren
- SA Dr Sonali Meena
- TAS Dr Therese Marfori
- VIC Dr Elizabeth Peach
- WA Dr Mohammad Akhtar Hussain

### 2018 John Snow Scholarship Finalists

The John Snow Scholarship is one of the AFPHM's programs aimed at strengthening and enhancing education in public health medicine at all levels of the career pathway.

- ACT Ms Josephine Davies
- NSW Mr Timothy Bemand
- QLD Mr Samuel Tan
- NT *No applications received 2018*
- NZ Mr Logan Williams
- SA Mr Sebastian Rositano
- VIC Ms Sabrina Yeh
- WA Mr Siddhanth Sharma
- TAS *No applications received 2018*

### 2018 AFPHM President's Award

The AFPHM President's Award for outstanding contribution to the Faculty was established by the Faculty Council in 2008. The purpose of the President's Award is to formally recognise the outstanding contributions made by Fellows and Trainees to the Faculty. The recipient of the 2018 AFPHM Presidents' Award is Professor Lynne Madden (NSW).

### 2018 Sue Morey Medal

The AFPHM Sue Morey Medal is awarded to a trainee who has shown outstanding achievement in the AFPHM Oral Examination. The medallist for the 2018 AFPHM Oral Examination is Dr Laila Parvaresh (NSW).