

It's your conference!

With the midwinter bulge of patients through your surgery seeming to build inexorably, and your practice colleagues going down with the same lurgies, you need to look out for No 1.

Take some time out – attend conference. Breathe deeply the, er, fresh clean air of Rotorua in September.

As our conference brochure so succinctly puts it: 'As Nature's wonderland, Rotorua offers a true balance between work and lifestyle...Iconic images of geysers and bubbling mud pools come readily to mind...in a land cloaked with native forest and studded with crystal clear lakes. The warmth of the people in this heartland of Māori culture embodied in a sensation called manaakitanga.'

And you get to learn as well as adding to those CME credits.

- A national forum with a full scientific programme, including the presentation of research;
- A wide range of professional development opportunities for GPs and all those concerned with general practice issues;
- Collegial, local, national and international networking, with the chance to debate the issues facing GPs in education, advocacy and quality.

As the venue for the annual general meeting, this Rotorua conference gives you an opportunity to directly affect the future direction of your College.

If the College is to better serve your needs we need to hear your views, to hear how you will be affected by the constant change in the health sector, particularly in primary health care. We will stimulate you, and hopefully you can stimulate us.

Our keynote speakers are leaders in their field and will provide interesting and challenging international perspectives on general practice and primary care.

The wide range of presentations and workshops will provide a programme which aims to explore not only the developing role of IT in general practice, but also computer-based medical education, current and future ideas for clinical care and information management, clinical updates, and particularly the chance to share and exchange ideas with your colleagues.

And to have fun.

There's a full partner and children's programme, with the small person's programme run by a local Nanny Agency. All the details are in the conference brochure.

So too is the social programme, including the arrangements for the conference dinner, noted as a 'formal' evening, complete with period entertainment and food. Period dress is definitely optional but feel free to explore the theme – come dressed as a Greek, or a Geek, and bring your dancing shoes,

A babysitting service is available; just tick the relevant box on the registration form.

Setting the scene for the conference will be that most eminent of New Zealanders, Her Excellency The Honourable Dame Silvia Cartwright, Governor General of New Zealand.

Then come the medical glitterati.

Professor Barbara Starfield's topic is *Old Successes, New Challenges for Primary Care*. From Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, her overriding concerns are understanding the impact of health services on health especially with regard to the relative contribu-

tions of primary care and speciality care on reducing inequalities in health.

Third of the big three on Morning 1, but definitely not least, is Darlinghurst GP Professor

Michael Kidd, head of the Department of General Practice, University of Sydney. He will focus on the *Wired* aspect, with his research interests in-

A wide range of professional development opportunities for GPs and all those concerned with general practice issues

Doc.com is not just for techno-freaks. *Practising in a Wired World* is the theme of Conference 2002 held in the superb conference venue of Rotorua from 26–28 September.

While the theme focuses on how the information revolution is impacting on general practice, the more traditional Quality and Clinical streams will be offered as usual.

Take this chance to review your own progress in achieving your goals in Primary Health Care.

Remember what conference is all about. It provides:

Along the road from the Beehive...

It's been business very much as usual in Wellington, despite the calling of the early election. The usual vacuum in decision making was quickly filled by a continuing round of meetings and discussions as major projects rolled onward, retaining momentum probably because there was to be no change of Government.

Your CEO and President met with Director General of Health Karen Poutasi and her deputy directors-general for a wide-ranging discussion of the issues facing all general practitioners.

We covered our concerns over the Cervical Cancer audit, Quality and

Safety issues within general practice, and the question of GP morale.

So many of these issues were covered at depth in our flagship document *The Value of General Practice*, and we have been heartened by subsequent feedback that a number of agencies and organisations are using it as an information resource.

The Okataina Group brings together all GP organisations and gives a wonderful opportunity to communicate, to strengthen relationships and exchange ideas. With ourselves, NZMA, IPAC, CareNet, First Health and Professors Les Toop and Tony Dowell, there was intense discussion

on the major areas of the IPAC funding proposal – which we strongly support – and on teamwork issues in general practice.

This year is a watershed for the work of the College as we move to establish a formal Māori faculty. You will have received advice of the special general meeting in Rotorua the day before the annual conference begins.

For your consideration is the recommendation of the Council of the College to form Te Akoranga a Maui, a Māori faculty within the College.

This is an important issue. We seek your support.

cluding the use of IT to improve patient care in general practice, the development of computer-based medical education and the use of the internet in health education.

It may be that you just haven't had the time to sit down and think about this sort of future; take this opportunity to hear options from the experts.

On Day 2, keynote sessions will feature David Russell, chief executive of the Consumers' Institute of New Zealand, Privacy Commissioner Bruce Slane and Health and Disability Commissioner Ron Paterson, which should provide a modicum of debate.

Morning 3, Saturday, starts a fraction later – after the conference dinner on Friday night – and features Professor Murray Tilyard and David Caygill.

The director of the College's research unit, Professor Tilyard is the Elaine Gurr Professor of General Practice and Head of the department at the Dunedin School of Medicine. His current areas of interest relate to general practice and the use of the internet.

So stimulation is assured. Your head will be buzzing, with the message and quality of the speakers and presenters, of course.

Can you afford not to be there?

Formation of Māori Faculty

Following the Treaty of Waitangi audit of the College, Council is to recommend to a Special General Meeting that a Māori faculty be formed.

You should have already received notice of the meeting, to be held from 6–7.30pm on Wednesday 25 September at the Millennium Hotel – the night before the conference proper.

If the membership ratifies the Council recommendation as anticipated, the Māori faculty will be launched at 4pm on Friday, just before the presentation of Fellowships and Awards and the traditional Oration – to be given this year by Tolaga Bay GP Paratene Ngata.

Postgraduate rural general practice education programme

The Clinical Training Agency have extend their contract with the College for the programme offering three-month rural general practice runs until 2004. This opportunity is now open to doctors in year two and three of their hospital years and to rural hospital doctors. For further information contact the Director of the programme Dr John Hillock on 025 228 6556 or email john.hillock@qmc.co.nz

Applications for 2003 Intensive Clinical Training Programme

There is considerable interest in the 50 Clinical Training Agency funded registrar positions available in 2003. Sixty-four applications were received by the closing date in July. Two of these applications are from Māori doctors interested in training in general practice. Applications for the other Stage I education option, the Seminar Programme, don't close until November 2002.