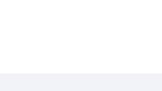


Welcome to the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network e-zine for 14 February 2020



In this issue: WONCA registrations top 1000 - Register NOW! • WONCA 2020: Q&As • Rural Research Day • Warm WONCA Welcome and much more...



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WONCA registrations top 1000 - Register NOW!



More than 1000 GPs, nurses, and health professionals have now registered to come to Auckland in April for the Asia-Pacific regional conference on family medicine. More delegates are expected to register in the coming weeks.

The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners, New Zealand Rural General Practice Network, and Te Ohu Rata o Aotearoa – Maori Medical Practitioners Association (Te OMA) are proud to be hosting the **WONCA Asia Pacific Regional Conference 2020** in Auckland from April 22-26.

This major primary healthcare event will see up to 1500 GPs and primary care practitioners from New Zealand and the Asia Pacific region gather in Auckland for five days of learning, debate, inspiration and celebration.

It has been 20 years since a WONCA conference was hosted in New Zealand – the last WONCA conference on New Zealand shores was held in Christchurch in 2000. WONCA 2020 marks the first time the conference has been held in Auckland.

With equity at the heart of the conference, WONCA 2020 promises to deliver an inspiring and diverse programme of plenary sessions, panel discussions, skills workshops and debates which explore the theme of: **Family Medicine - leading the way towards an advanced world of equity, quality and compassion.**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

WONCA Keynote and Plenary speakers confirmed to date

Keynote

Professor Papaarangi Reid (Tumuaki and Head of Department of Maori Health at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland); Professor Ian Couper (Stellenbosch University – rural health issues); Trish Greenhalgh (Nuffield department of primary care – quality in primary care); Alexander Ng (Tencent.com – digital technology); James Renwick (Victoria University of Wellington – climate change); Elizabeth Iro (WHO chief nursing officer and member of WHO leadership team - nursing) and Gilbert Enoka (mental skills coach).

To read the full profiles click [HERE](#).

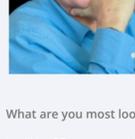
Plenary

Tony Dowell (Professor of Primary Health Care and General Practice at the University of Otago in Wellington and a GP in Wellington); Tony Fernando (a consultant psychiatrist and sleep specialist, who trained at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia); Paul Glasziou FRACGP, PhD (Professor of Evidence-Based Medicine at Bond University); Ben Hudson (GP in Lyttelton since 2005, and Head of the Department of General Practice, University of Otago Christchurch); Rae Lamb (active observer of and participant in New Zealand and overseas health systems in a variety of roles); Nikki Turner (academic General Practitioner and Director of the Immunisation Advisory Centre, University of Auckland).

To read the full profiles click [HERE](#).

WONCA 2020: Q&As

Ahead of this major conference, we chat with two of the keynote speakers:



Professor James Renwick, an expert in weather and climate research

What are you most looking forward to about speaking at the WONCA Asia Pacific Conference in New Zealand this year?

I think the theme of the conference, "Family Medicine leading the way towards an advanced world of equity, quality and compassion" is really wonderful and just the kind of thing we need in today's world. Climate change and environmental degradation threaten the health of all our communities, and the very basis of our social cohesion. To solve the huge problems the world faces, we need compassion, cooperation, and empathy – we all need to help each other as much as we can. I am passionate about doing my part to lead us towards a more equitable and sustainable future and I am excited to speak to such an engaged audience who are active in their own communities.

Could you please tell us what you'll be speaking about at WONCA?

I'll be talking about the realities of the changing climate and the urgency of what we need to do as a society to avoid the worst futures. I'll touch on why it's a public health emergency as much as an ecological crisis.

What are you hoping delegates will take away from your presentation?

A better understanding of the science of climate change, what has already happened and what we can all practically do to slow down the change. I would like to leave the delegates with a sense of hope and of purpose, to move the world towards a sustainable future.



Professor Ian Couper from South Africa, is Director of the Ukwanda Centre for Rural Health, Stellenbosch University, and has a wealth of experience in rural and remote medicine.

What are you most looking forward to about speaking at the WONCA Asia Pacific Conference in New Zealand next year?

It will be 25 years ago that I was last in New Zealand, having spent a few days in the North Island in 1995. Thus, I look forward to being back in your beautiful country. At the conference, I look forward to stimulating discussions and to sharing ideas with participants and fellow speakers.

Could you please tell us what you will be speaking about at the conference?

I plan to unpack the idea of collaboration – we like to use the word a lot, but what does it really mean? How do we collaborate? What are the issues that we need to consider when we talk about collaboration? I will suggest that one key issue is power. Another issue is the system in which we work. Both of these need to be addressed.

What are you hoping delegates will take away from your presentation?

Some insights into the way they function in teams, and one practical action they can implement to make a difference.

What are the challenges that face the rural health sector in Africa? Do you see any parallels with New Zealand's rural health sector?

Access to care is THE rural health issue – this is the basis for inequity. Human resource shortages are key to the access challenge. Collaborating in teams can make a difference to that, as it can in any context.

What else are you planning to do while you're in NZ?

I am participating in the annual Rural Health Research Day before the conference. After the conference, my wife and I will be visiting the South Island, because we have never been there before.

[Read about the other fantastic keynote speakers](#)

Rural Research Day

The Rural Chapter of the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners and the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network [Annual Rural Research Day](#) will be held on Wednesday, April 22. Follow the link for more information and to register: http://wonzanz2020.com/wonca20/additional_programme/rural_research_day

Warm WONCA Welcome



See WONCA welcome message from Network Chairperson Dr Fiona Bolden and College President Dr Sam Murton. Click on the photo and see the video!

Does your Rural General Practice Team go 'above and beyond'?

The search is on again for New Zealand's best Rural General Practice Team of the Year as judged by the community. Rural practices should have received packs containing award information and entry forms for patients/members of community to fill in. Now in its sixth year, the award will be announced at the WONCA 2020 Asia Pacific Regional Conference at the Aotea Centre, Auckland.

The inaugural award was won by Raglan's West Coast Health Clinic in 2015, followed by Martinborough Medical Centre in 2016, Ngunguru Medical Centre in 2017, Aotea Health (Great Barrier Island) in 2018 and Matamata Medical Centre in 2019.

Entries can be completed online or posted. However, to make collation and judging easier we would prefer as many entries as possible are submitted via the online [LINK](#). Patients can complete their postcard and post direct to P O Box 547, Wellington, 6140 or hand it to the practice receptionist who can then forward the entries in bulk.

Postcards can be downloaded from www.rgpn.org.nz or further hardcopies can be ordered from rob@rgpn.org.nz

Network named as finalist in inaugural NZ Primary Healthcare Awards

An NZRGPN designed and driven programme to encourage rural school students to take up rural health careers is one of two finalists in the Research and Education category at the first-ever New Zealand Primary Healthcare Awards.

Award winners will be announced at a formal, black-tie ceremony in Auckland on 29 February.

"I'm absolutely delighted that the NZRGPN has been confirmed as a finalist in the inaugural New Zealand Primary Healthcare Awards" said Chief Executive Dalton Kelly. "I'm really proud of the team for this acknowledgement. It recognises how, led by Rural Health Careers Programme Manager, Esther Maxim, we have really started to get some traction in encouraging rural students into healthcare careers."

More detail on the award is available here: <https://www.nzphawards.co.nz/finalists>

"This builds on last year's success with the NZRGPN winning the SEEK award for medium-sized recruiter of the year and sets us up well for another strong year," said Mr Kelly.

Burial and Cremation Act 1964 reform update

Following Cabinet approval, the Ministry of Health has formally commenced consultation on options to reform the Burial and Cremation Act 1964 and related legislation.

This work follows the 2015 Law Commission report Death, Burial and Cremation: A new law for contemporary New Zealand, which made recommendations to modernise the law that governs death, burial, cremation and funerals in New Zealand.

In response, the Ministry of Health has prepared a consultation document that identifies and considers options for modernising the legislation relating to death, burial, cremation and funerals in New Zealand. They are now seeking widespread feedback on the options developed.

The consultation document and related survey can be found [here](#).

The reform options proposed may have implications for the role of primary care providers as it includes proposals for medical referees and death certification, as well as being of general interest. Your feedback via the survey (follow the link above) or by email below is welcome. Detail on how to make a formal submission is included in the link above. Consultation closes April 10, 2020. Or you can send your feedback to rob@rgpn.org.nz by February 28, 2020.

Frustration as Northland patients wait weeks to see GPs

A chronic shortage of family doctors in Northland means some patients turning up at Whangarei Hospital's emergency department are sent away with a voucher for the city's private emergency clinic.

Most medical centres are so stretched they cannot accept new patients, and many have a two-week wait for appointments.

[Read more](#)

DHBs need to employ GPs directly to ease shortages

The Association of Salaried Medical Specialists says a chronic shortage of family doctors in Northland is no surprise. (Scoop)

[RNZ](#) is reporting that the shortage means patients are waiting up to two weeks to see a GP, while Whangarei Hospital is sending about eight non-urgent patients away each day with vouchers for free treatment at a private emergency clinic.

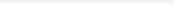
[Read more](#)

New patient resources for skin cancer

Most skin cancers are preventable. And if detected early, most can be successfully treated.

The resources can help you promote early detection to your patients

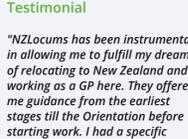
To order go to SunSmart.org.nz



Not a member? Join the Network!

The Network is the only nationwide membership-based organisation in New Zealand representing the interests of rural general practice.

Visit our website for additional information and an online application form or contact Rob Olsen on 021 472 556.



Testimonial

"NZLocums has been instrumental in allowing me to fulfill my dream of relocating to New Zealand and working as a GP here. They offered me guidance from the earliest stages till the Orientation before starting work. I had a specific contact in NZLocums who helped at every stage and was very responsive to any queries I had. The Orientation material and programme were invaluable in getting me familiar with the workings of the NZ health system. I cannot thank them enough."

Dr Nicole Yuen, Singapore

NZ Doctor stories - log-in required

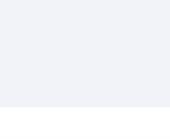
Emergency call tracking too limited, GP and St John agree

A rural PRIME GP and St John ambulance are backing the Privacy Commissioner's call to make it easier to locate emergency callers. Waimate Medical Centre owner, GPs and Primary Response in Medical Emergencies (PRIME) national committee member Sarah Creagan welcomes a proposal to allow emergency services to GPS-pinpoint a range of cellphone calls – not just those made to 111.

[Read more](#)

Links

- Ministry of Health online bulletins, click [here](#).
- Leaning on Fence Posts, Otago University rural research blog, click [here](#).
- Health Workforce New Zealand stakeholder bulletin, click [here](#).
- Mobile Health news, click [here](#).
- Medline (USA rural health) click [here](#).
- Death Documents Project (Ministry of Health), click [here](#).



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TELL US YOUR STORY

We are looking for health sector-related stories from around rural New Zealand. People, places, achievements and challenges. If you have a good yarn to tell contact Network communications manager Rob Olsen, email rob@rgpn.org.nz or 021 472 556.